

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: March 2016****Highlight of the month****Skills Panorama introduced a new section on 'Matching skills and jobs'**

Cedefop's Skills Panorama team has introduced a new section on 'Matching skills and jobs', offering a series of indicators on skills and labour market mismatches, including the key indicators from Cedefop's European skills and jobs (ESJ) survey. The new indicators allow the user to gauge issues around skill mismatches such as under-skilling, under-utilisation of skills or skills obsolescence among employees in the European Union. Other indicators explore labour market imbalances such as the long-term unemployment rate and the number of young people not in employment, education or training.

Visit the new section of the Skills Panorama 'Matching skills and jobs' to find out more about skill mismatches in Europe [here](#).

News from Cedefop**Investing in one's skills: Opportunities for EU citizens**

The 2008 economic crisis led to high levels of (youth) unemployment and highlighted the shortcomings of the EU in keeping up with the development of skills that foster employability and innovation. The European Commission recognises the need to take action and places the development of skills and the improvement of education and training systems at the centre of its priorities and new Investment Plan. Some relevant, key EU initiatives are presented in this Skills Panorama blog article which can be found [here](#).

Looking at the global map: Why Europe should worry about skills?

European economies rank amongst the most competitive in the world: a highly qualified and educated workforce, a developed infrastructure, and mature institutions have all served to attract foreign investment, promote European exports, and nurture domestic innovation, entrepreneurship and productivity. But the global economic map is shifting. What does this bode for Europe's competitiveness? And why are skills critical factors into the equation? Find out more in the Skills Panorama blog article [here](#).

Skills Panorama Analytical highlight: Focus on European job growth creators

Employment growth in the EU from 2013 to 2025 will be driven by service sector jobs, especially in higher-skilled areas such as professional services, business services and computing. It is anticipated that three million new professional jobs will be created, as well as over five million new technician and associate professional jobs. The full text of the Analytical highlight can be downloaded in a pdf format from the **Skills Panorama**.

Call for tenders: Production of Skills Supply and Demand Forecasts

Cedefop's skills supply and demand forecasts are widely recognised and results feed into key EU policy and strategic documents. Since 2005, Cedefop has developed sound methodology producing reliable results for the whole EU. The main objective of this contract is to ensure the production of regular European skills supply and demand forecasts, consistent in scope and level of details with the previous releases. The deadline for submitting tenders is on the 04.04.2016. More information can be found [here](#).

News from Skillsnet members**Matching job seekers and vacancies across Europe**

A law to revamp the European Employment Services (EURES) network with an EU-wide database of job seekers and vacancies was approved by Parliament in February. The aim is to help fight unemployment by better matching labour market supply and demand. Updated rules, already agreed with the Council, will also pay more attention to cross-border regions and young people. More information can found [here](#).

OECD Employment and Labour Ministerial Statement - Building more resilient and inclusive labour markets

During their meeting, Ministers endorsed new OECD Recommendations to promote longer working lives and to address the impact of mental health problems on health, education, employment and social outcomes. Additional information and the full Ministerial statement are available [here](#).

Commission presents reform of the Posting of Workers Directive – towards a deeper and fairer European labour market

The European Commission is presenting a targeted revision of the rules on the posting of workers. This revision translates a commitment of the Political Guidelines for this Commission to promote the principle that the same work at the same place. This revision translates a commitment of the Political Guidelines for this Commission to promote the principle that the same work at the same place should be remunerated in the same manner. It was announced in the 2016 Commission Work Programme. More can be found [here](#).

Teenage refugees are the future "workers and geniuses" in Europe, say YEYS delegates

Your Europe, Your Say! (YEYS) lived up to all expectations, as young people from the EU-28 and candidate countries shook things up with their enthusiasm and fresh ideas to help integrate migrants into European societies – the theme of this year's event. The refugee crisis has brought European citizens together in acts of incredible kindness, but it has also stretched European solidarity to its limits, exposing divisions among Member States and troublesome signs of discrimination and discontent. More can be found [here](#).



European Semester 2016: Country Reports published

The European Commission has published its annual analysis of the economic and social challenges in the EU Member States, the so-called Country Reports. The reports are a tool under the streamlined European

Semester of economic policy coordination to monitor policy reforms and to point early on to challenges that Member States should address. More information can be found [here](#).

System of unit labour cost, OECD - Updated: March 2016

Growth in unit labour costs (ULCs) in the OECD area accelerated to 0.5% in the fourth quarter of 2015 (compared with 0.2% in the previous quarter), the highest rate since the first quarter of 2014. Compensation costs rose by 0.5%, while labour productivity growth was flat. More can be found [here](#).

The role of cognitive skills in explaining wage differentials between socio-economic groups

Average wages can vary markedly between socio-economic groups. A well-known example is the difference in wages between male and female workers, the so-called gender wage gap. Other examples include the difference in wages between: native- and foreign-born workers; workers with different socio-economic backgrounds – for example those with high-skilled and low-skilled parents; workers of different ethnicities; and older and younger workers. These differences between groups of workers contribute to high overall wage inequality. More can be found [here](#).

EU Youth Conference: ‘Ready for life, ready for society’

Date: 4th – 7th April 2016, **Place:** Europe building, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

‘Enabling all young people to engage in a diverse, connected and inclusive Europe’ is the theme of the EU Youth Conference that will be held in Amsterdam. Young people and policymakers from all EU member states will meet to discuss how young people’s needs can be supported to enable the optimum development of their talents in our digital and multicultural society. There will be a particular focus on young people who face more challenges than their peers, for instance because they have mental health problems or a migrant background. More info on the event can be found [here](#).

Tackling the Skills Gap - The Golden Key to Economic Growth

Date: 26th – 27th May 2016, **Place:** European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht, Netherlands

This seminar has been especially designed for individuals working in the fields of education and training, economic growth, employment and the labour market at national, regional and local level. This includes managers and expert practitioners from ministries and government agencies responsible for economic growth, skills development and employment creation, regional development agencies, employment services, vocational training institutions, chambers of commerce, industry organisations, trade unions etc. More information can be found [here](#).

International Conference on Competence Theory, Research and Practice

Date: 19th – 21st October 2016, **Place:** Wageningen University Campus, The Netherlands

The field of competence studies has grown exponentially. It has gained wide interest in all sectors of education, in various types of organizations, in research and in consultancy. Competence-based education, training and development, competence management and core-competence strategy have been blossoming since the 1960s. More information on the conference can be found [here](#).

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The Skillsnet network



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