

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: November - December 2016****Highlight of the month****Rise of the machines: Skills and jobs in the future world of work**

On 1 December 2016 the European Commission launched the **Digital skills and jobs coalition**, a new flagship initiative bringing together all stakeholders and Member States committed to reduce the digital skills gaps in Europe. Collecting data on digital skill needs and skill gaps in EU workplaces, **Cedefop's European skills and jobs (ESJ) survey** provides unique insights into the impact of digitalisation and changing technologies on the future of work and anticipated skill mismatches.

In the eighth 'insight from the survey', Cedefop expert Konstantinos Pouliakas examines implications of the '**Rise of the machines**' for the EU skills landscape. He shows that about 43% of EU employees have experienced a recent change in the technologies they use at work, putting about 11% of the EU adult workforce at a high risk of technological skills obsolescence. Yet, he argues that "concerns about widespread automation and robotisation may not materialise into a jobless world. Ultimately the future of work should depend on human acumen that will complement, and not be replaced by, artificial intelligence". Continued policy efforts such as the EU Digital skills and jobs coalition, but also national level initiatives that invest in the development of the digital skills of EU citizens are crucial so that individuals remain complements rather than substitutes of robots. Read the whole article [here](#).

News from Cedefop and the European Commission**European Commission organised the first European Vocational Skills Week**

From 5 to 9 December 2016, the European Commission organised the first European Vocational Skills Week to inspire people to discover, use and improve their talents and abilities through vocational training. It was one of the ten key actions proposed by the Commission under the New Skills Agenda

for Europe, presented in June this year. During the European Vocational Skills Week, the Commission showcased high-quality initiatives in the field of vocational education and training (VET) - ultimately to equip people with the skills they need in a fast-changing labour market. A number of almost 800 events took place across Europe – in all 28 EU Member States, EFTA and EU Candidate countries – demonstrating the crucial role of VET in supporting skills, jobs, innovation and competitiveness. The list of events per country can be found [here](#).

Cedefop's European skills and jobs survey microdata are now available online!

Cedefop has now made available for free public download the microdata file of the survey, the first European survey on skill mismatch. In spring 2014, a total of 48 676 adult employees in the 28 EU Member States were asked about their qualifications and the extent to which their skills were a good match with those required by their jobs. Find more [here](#).

**Skills Panorama celebrates its anniversary!**

It has been four years since the launch of Europe's unique portal of skills and labour market intelligence. And one year ago, Cedefop presented to the "world of skills" the brand new, fully revamped Skills Panorama! Read more on the achievements [here](#).

The 2015 Labour Force Survey data available on the Skills Panorama

The Skills Panorama team has processed the latest, 2015, data from the European Union Labour Force survey. These data updates offer a wide range of indicators related to the labour market and employment (e.g. unemployment, activity rates, higher education mismatch etc.). Check out the list of the LFS indicators [here](#).

News from Skillsnet members**Eurostat: 1 in 5 unemployed persons in the EU found a job**

Out of all persons in the European Union (EU) who were unemployed in the first quarter of 2016, 63.2% (12.6 million persons) remained unemployed in the second quarter, while 19.5% (3.9 million) moved into employment and 17.3% (3.5 million) towards economic inactivity. Economically inactive individuals are those neither employed nor unemployed (e.g. students, pensioners and housewives). Of all those initially in employment, 97.3% (170.8 million persons) remained in employment, while 1.2% (2.0 million) of those employed in the first quarter 2016 were observed to be unemployed in the second quarter of 2016, and 1.6% (2.7 million) transitioned into economic inactivity. Read more [here](#).

Labour mobility in the European Union: a need for more recognition of foreign qualifications

Labour market mobility in the European Union is increasing, but it remains too low to provide sufficient adjustment in the face of diverging labour market developments. This situation reflects non-policy factors, such as linguistic and cultural differences, but also policy barriers. In particular, difficulties in the recognition of professional qualifications are still a major hurdle. Improvements in foreign language proficiency take time and require long-term policies. Publicly funded language courses aimed at cross-border workers are a useful tool, and should be provided. Even more important is to improve foreign language proficiency at an earlier stage, for example by considerably expanding the Erasmus student exchange programme that currently benefits only about 5% of European graduates. Read more [here](#).

Second generation immigrants in the EU generally well integrated into the labour market

A series of Statistics Explained articles on second generation immigrants that have just been published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. A larger range of data is available in the Eurostat database. In 2014, 82.4% (or 251.7 million individuals) of the EU population aged 15-64 were native born with native background, 11.5% (36.5 million) were foreign-born and 6.1% (18.4 million) were considered as second generation immigrants, as 4.4% (13.3 million) had at least one parent born in the EU and 1.7% (5.1 million) had both parents born outside the EU. Read more [here](#).

Cedefop's research on big data and skill mismatch at the global knowledge frontier

The pioneering research that Cedefop is undertaking to detect emerging skill needs in European labour markets and the policy implications of Cedefop's European skills and jobs (ESJ) survey were showcased at two international events held in Washington on 2-5 November. Since 2014, Cedefop has explored the use of a new tool for extracting information on skills and job requirements from online vacancies posted by employers in five EU countries. Read more [here](#).

Publications and reports on skills

Growing risk of social exclusion among early school leavers according to OECD's latest results and Cedefop's findings

OECD's latest results on early school leavers complement Cedefop's findings. Young people who leave school at 16 with low skills are facing increasing challenges in finding a job, and their chances may not improve even if the economy picks up, according to the recently published OECD report *Society at a Glance 2016*. Fighting early school leaving is essential, says the OECD. Governments must ensure that young people obtain at least an upper-secondary qualification so they can continue in education or gain vocational skills. Read more [here](#)

European Commission has just published a study on obstacles to recognition of skills and qualifications

This study has reviewed a wide range of evidence from across the EU in order to clarify the practical obstacles to the recognition of skills and qualifications and their underlying causes, and explore existing and potential solutions at both EU and national level to ensure a fair, efficient and effective recognition of skills and qualifications. The full study is available online only and in English. An executive summary is available in **English**, **French** and **German**. Read more [here](#)

Leaving education early: putting vocational education and training centre stage



Leaving education early: putting vocational education and training centre stage
Volume II: evaluating policy impact

This Cedefop study focuses on the contribution that vocational education and training (VET) can make to reducing early leaving from education and training (ELET). Published in two volumes, the first is dedicated to understanding better the learning pathways of young students, providing measurements of early leaving in VET, and understanding the role of VET in breaking the vicious cycle of early leaving and unemployment. The second volume reviews VET-related measures to tackle ELET, either by preventing learners

dropping out and/or by bringing those who have already left back to education and training. Find more [here](#).

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Eurostat: EU Industry accounts for just over 19% of total gross value added and 15% of employment

In 2015, industry was still the largest economic activity in the European Union (EU) in terms of output generated. Accounting for 19.3% of EU total gross value added (GVA), industry was immediately ahead of the economic activities "Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities" (19.1%) and "Wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation and food services" (18.9%). "Real estate activities" (11.2%) and "Professional, scientific and technical activities" (10.9%) had also a significant share of EU total gross value added. The respective shares of these economic activities have however followed contrasting trends over the last twenty years. Read more [here](#).

Forthcoming skills related events

2nd Cedefop Brussels Seminar: Competitiveness and strong vocational qualifications

Date: 13 December 2016, **Place:** Brussels, Belgium

The second in a series of Cedefop Brussels seminars. The discussion will focus on the issue of VET qualifications, in the context of the need for strengthening of vocational education and training which is an important part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe. The aim of the seminar is to increase awareness of the overall importance of VET qualifications in Europe and to launch a debate on way we set priorities in this area; how education and training work better together and to what extent can it be necessary to strengthen cooperation between countries, at European and international level. Cedefop and the Slovak Presidency hope that the seminar provides an opportunity to take forward this important discussion. Cedefop experts and the invited speakers will present the current research and policy analysis. Please find below the agenda of the event with details in that regard. Read more [here](#)

Cedefop's Policy Learning Forum: Skills matching policies for the long-term unemployed: Putting VET at the centre of activation

Date: 21 – 22 February 2017, **Place:** Thessaloniki, Greece

Call for the expression of interest

The aim of this Policy Learning Forum is to focus on the 'practical' elements of a successful skills matching policy for activation that relies on better integration of the long-term unemployed into sustainable jobs. The Policy Learning Forum will seek to 'put policy into practice', by promoting a deeper understanding of the underlying mechanisms and triggers that can underpin effectiveness. It will serve as a platform for collecting innovative EU examples of skills matching policies and practices (both public and private) that can tackle long-term unemployment. It will facilitate mutual learning between key stakeholders who are engaged in the design and delivery of VET and skills matching programs as part of activation policies. Read more [here](#).

The Skillsnet network

Skillsnet members have the opportunity to inform other members of our network about new projects, events, activities or publications related to early identification of skill needs throughout the year. If you are interested to inform other members, please submit your short article / information (max of 100 words) to **Ioannis Katsikis** whenever you have any news to disseminate.

