



## SKILLSNET e-bulletin: November - December 2018

### Highlight of the month



### Skills Forecast new thought-provoking blog “Four challenges on the future of work”

The blog article discusses four challenges ahead of Europe as coming out from the 2018 Skills Forecast and other Cedefop evidence. Cedefop Skills Forecast is a unique database offering estimations on future employment by sector, occupation and qualification across all member states. The issues addressed are:

Challenge no 1: How can we reverse falling participation rates?

Challenge no 2: Can we sustain a trend towards high value added industries?

Challenge no 3: How can we secure decent work for everyone?

Challenge no 4: How can we achieve a balance between over-education and under skilling? Read the blog [here](#)

### News from Cedefop

#### Cedefop’s future VET scenarios welcomed by policy-makers

Cedefop’s 6th Brussels seminar with the rotating EU Presidencies, on 13<sup>th</sup> of December was themed ‘The future of vocational education and training (VET)’. Organised in cooperation with the Austrian EU Presidency, it attracted over 70 participants from a wide range of Brussels-based organisations. Departing from a presentation of Cedefop’s analysis of European VET developments since 1995, a set of scenarios for 2035 were presented. Further information on the event and the relevant Cedefop study can be found in Cedefop’s page [here](#).

#### The risk of automation in EU labour markets: A skills requirements approach

An engaging publication by K. Pouliakas as part of the Cedefop’s project ‘Digitisation and the future of work’, provides an in-depth investigation of the determinants of ‘automatability risk’ in EU jobs, namely the propensity of EU employees to be in jobs with a high risk of substitutability by computers or other automation processes. Using relevant data on tasks and skill needs in jobs, collected as part of the European Skills and Jobs Survey – a survey of approximately 49,000 EU adult workers in the 28 EU Member States (Cedefop, 2015) – jobs are bundled according to their estimated risk of automation. Find it [here](#).

#### European Vocational Skills Week 2018 helps millions to discover benefits of vocational education and training

The 2018 edition of the European Vocational Skills Week, organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Austrian Presidency, came to an end with many more associated activities and events organised across Europe until December 2018. Thanks to 1512 events that took place all over Europe, the campaign has so far reached over 2.2 million people, 1.2 million more than last year. The week has been organised with the strong involvement and support from two EU Agencies – Cedefop and the European Training Foundation. The closing event included an awards ceremony and a presentation of the European Vocational Skills Week 2018 Ambassadors. To read more about the event, visit Skills Panorama News page [here](#).

#### Cedefop video: Vocational education and training - Future challenges

Cedefop has published a video on European vocational education and training’s (VET’s) future challenges! Learners, teachers, parents and policy-makers talk about their experiences, aspirations and plans to make VET a first choice. To view the video, visit Cedefop’s page [here](#).

### News from Skillsnet members

#### Three different approaches to helping fight skill shortages: Luxembourg, Ireland and Malta



**Luxembourg:** Cross-border apprenticeship is a concrete example of the European principle of free circulation, which opens up new chances and prospects for young people to broaden their professional and educational horizon, while helping to fight skill shortages. Luxembourg, France and Germany have recently been reinforcing cross-border apprenticeship by concluding bilateral agreements. These agreements give young people new perspectives and add to the flow of labour force, contributing to fighting skill shortages and securing sufficient supply of skilled employees on both sides of the border. It allows young pupils to carry out the theoretical part of their training in one country and the work-based part in a company in a neighbouring country. More [here](#).



**Ireland:** The Irish Government Economic & Evaluation Service noted that it is necessary to equip individuals with the foundations to pursue more specific programmes and meet important education and social objectives, given the characteristics of the labour market and low basic skills among certain cohorts of unemployed people. The Galway City Community Training Centre & Roscommon Education and Training Board provides training for early school leavers and lone/independent parents aged between 16 and 25. The initiative helped to improve learner attendance, created a break from formal learning and provided an opportunity to develop skills outside the curriculum. It also prepared learners to embark on further training for a career in the motor trade industry. More [here](#).



**Malta:** Malta is currently experiencing labour supply shortages, despite the rapid unemployment decrease and the continued increase in youth employment rates. The National Vocational Education and Training Policy (2015) recommended setting up a national VET steering group, aiming to bring together all main public and private VET stakeholders to coordinate the implementation and subsequent updates of national VET policy. The NSC set itself a 3 year strategic plan, identifying 3 priority areas: (1) bringing together the worlds of education and industry through work-based learning; (2) digital skills; and (3) research and development with the goal to create better conditions and incentives for lifelong learners. Various actions have already taken place related with each priority. More [here](#).



**Cedefop: 2018 European Skills Index Technical Report**

This technical report accompanies the release of the 2018 version of the European Skills Index (ESI) developed by Cedefop. The first part of this report outlines the scope, structure and results of the Index. The second part of the report discusses the analysis motivating some of the methodological decisions made in constructing the Index. The 2018 European Skills Index updates and refines the work undertaken for the Making Skills Work Index, published in 2016. The new Index builds on subsequent technical discussions with the European Commission Competence Centre on Composite Indicators and Scoreboards, experts in composite indices, and national stakeholders. As a result of those discussions and further statistical analysis, the Index underwent notable changes. Find the report [here](#).

**Cedefop Briefing note: What future for vocational education and training in Europe?**



To help in shaping future policies, a Cedefop project considers different routes and multiple options for vocational education and training (VET). An analysis of VET developments since 1995 has helped to outline a series of potential paths - scenarios – pointing towards plausible and consistent pictures of how VET can evolve by 2035, depending on today's decisions and policy choices. Using these scenarios, Cedefop intends to inform strategic discussions on future European cooperation on VET. Find the briefing note [here](#).

**Second Policy learning forum on upskilling pathways: a vision for the future**

Date: 14/02/2019 to 15/02/2019, Venue: Brussels, Belgium



Cedefop together with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), is organising on 14-15 February 2019 in Brussels, the Second Policy Learning Forum on upskilling pathways: a vision for the future. Cedefop's Policy Learning Fora (PLF) on upskilling pathways are a series of policy learning events on the topic aimed at providing a

platform for countries to come together to learn from one another and explore common challenges in upskilling adults with low level of skills. Amongst others, participants will have the opportunity to work together to reflect and discuss issues identified with low skilled adults; learn about various relevant countries approaches; reflect on different visions of upskilling adults and discuss evolving approaches to upskilling. More can be found [here](#).

**DARES Conference Labour Market Tightness and Needs for Skills**

Date: 18/12/2018, Venue: Paris, France



This conference aims to identify sources and measures of Labour Market Tightness and to explore the link with Skills Mismatch. The conference will offer presentations from researchers

and international experts who will present their most recent works and discuss them with the audience, with three main topics: (i) How can one define labour market tightness? May one assimilate it with hiring difficulties? Which indicators are used in France and in other countries? (ii) What are the sources of labour supply and demand mismatch? What is the link with the firms hiring processes? (iii) Is a skill mismatch-based approach more relevant than a job-based approach? How can one measure skills? The conference will be broadcast live on [this web page](#). Find more [here](#).

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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 [Xenia Danos](#) whenever you have any news to disseminate.

