

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: October 2017****Highlight of the month****Making labour market and skills intelligence policy relevant: How Cedefop supports countries**

In the challenging economic climate that followed the global financial crisis, the objective of strengthening links between education and training and the labour market became an increasingly important policy priority. Developing tools and systems to promote better anticipation and matching of skills to labour market needs is identified as a core part of this strategy and is also integral to the European Commission's New Skills Agenda for Europe.

Recent years have therefore seen an intensification of efforts by EU countries to strengthen their arsenal of labour market and skills intelligence (LMSI) tools and to improve the responsiveness of their education and training systems to skill needs of their labour markets. Read more in the new blog article published on the Skills Panorama [here](#).

News from Cedefop**Briefing note - Skills anticipation: looking to the future**

Skills anticipation can be a powerful policy tool for decision-making. Individuals would benefit greatly from knowing what type of education and training to follow; enterprises would know the skills they need; and policy-makers could adapt education and training systems to new skill needs. Translated versions of the briefing note will be published as soon as the translation revision is concluded. Find more [here](#).

Connecting people and jobs – a strong Cedefop presence at the ESCO conference

Stakeholders discussed at a conference organised by the European Commission in Brussels how the European classification of Skills, Competences, Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO) can contribute to reducing labour market imbalances and increasing occupational and geographical mobility in the EU. By providing a common language to stakeholders to describe skills, competences and knowledge in different occupations and qualifications, ESCO helps connect employment and education. It provides a language that both employers and jobseekers can use to match jobs to skills and qualifications. Cedefop's work and expertise featured strongly at the ESCO conference. Find more [here](#).

Cedefop: Promoting skills and careers without borders – WorldSkills conference

The 2017 WorldSkills competition took place in Abu Dhabi (15 to 19 October) with 59 national teams competing in 51 skills areas, spanning from cooking to mechatronics and bricklaying. For the first time, a separate conference was linked to the main skills competition. The idea was to gather organisations working in skills and create a platform for international dialogue. Cedefop, together with the European Commission and the European Training Foundation (ETF), contributed to the conference actively, organising three thematic sessions on the topic of 'Skills and careers without borders'. Read more on the event [here](#).

European Commission: More than 8 million ICT specialists employed in the EU in 2016

In the European Union (EU), 8.2 million persons were employed in 2016 as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) specialists, representing 3.7% of total employment. Over recent years, both the number and the share of ICT specialists in total employment have continuously risen to better adapt to an ever digitalised world. This profession is largely made up of men, accounting in 2016 for more than 8 out of 10 ICT specialists employed in the EU (83.3%), and of highly educated people, with more than 6 in 10 ICT specialists (61.8%) having a tertiary education or higher. Find more [here](#).

News from Skillsnet members**Eurostat: How is the European Union progressing towards its Europe 2020 targets?**

The Europe 2020 strategy, adopted by the European Council in June 2010, is the European Union's agenda for jobs and growth for the current decade. As a main objective, the strategy strives to deliver high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion in the Member States, while reducing the impact on the natural environment. To reach this objective, the EU has adopted targets to be reached by 2020 in five areas: employment, research & development (R&D), climate change & energy, education and poverty reduction. Find more [here](#).

ILO: What causes gender gaps in the labour market?

Despite the considerable progress that has been made towards achieving gender equality in the world of work, certain factors seem to be preventing it from accelerating. Gender gaps are one of the most pressing challenges facing the world of work today. Globally, women are substantially less likely than men to participate in the labour market, and once in the workforce, they are also less likely to find jobs than men. Indeed, their access to quality employment opportunities remains restricted. Overall, for example, women are more likely to work longer hours than men when both paid and unpaid work is taken into account. Find more [here](#).

OECD: Going Digital - the Future of Work for Women

This policy brief discusses the possible impact of digitalisation on women and men, and proposes a range of policies to ensure that technological change supports a closing, and not a widening, of gender gaps. Many believe that the ongoing digital transformation will strengthen the position of women in the labour market. More flexible ways of working may make it easier to combine paid work with caring responsibilities which are still more often taken on by women; automation is also more likely to replace less skilled jobs, giving women an advantage since they now outperform men on most measures of educational attainment. Read more [here](#).

France: training programmes plan for job-seekers extended to 2017

The "500 000 formations supplémentaires" plan, initiated in January 2016, was designed to provide training to one million job-seekers over the year, doubling the number of unemployed people accessing training. This target having been reached, the initiative is now being extended to mid-2017. The 500 000 plan was designed to alleviate the barriers faced by job-seekers in accessing training; these are greater in France than in other major European countries. Read more [here](#).

Spain: Youth guarantee system stimulus

The Youth guarantee initiative aims to support youth employment, ensuring that young people receive an offer of employment, education or training after they finish their studies or become unemployed. One of the first priorities of the new government in Spain on taking office in 2016 was to promote access to, and raise participation in, the national scheme. Find more [here](#).

Skills publications

Cedefop new publication: Investing in skills pays off



The economic and social cost of low-skilled adults in the EU. This Cedefop study seeks to provide a comprehensive and robust evidence base in relation to low-skilled adults in the European Union. It analyses trends in low skills among adults as well as characteristics, determinants and risks of being low skilled. Find the report [here](#).

Cedefop: First European opinion survey on vocational education and training (VET) published

The survey provides an unprecedented perspective on citizens' opinions on awareness, attractiveness, experience and effectiveness of VET in the European Union (EU). A total of over 35 500 face-to-face interviews were conducted with citizens of all EU Member States. Findings show that the vast majority of EU citizens (86%) have heard of VET. However, only half (48%) of respondents whose education was primarily general said they received information about VET when making a decision about their upper secondary education. Read more [here](#).

New OECD Skills for Jobs Database: Adapting to changing skill needs

In an era of fast changing skill demands, it is increasingly more important to understand and react to possible skills imbalances. The new *OECD Skills for Jobs Database* provides information about skills shortages, surpluses and mismatch across a wide range of countries. A set of country-specific reports provide evidence on the policies that have been implemented to address existing or anticipated imbalances. Find more [here](#).

European Commission: 2017 Employment and Social Developments in Europe review confirms positive trends, but highlights high burden on the young



The Commission published the 2017 edition of its yearly Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review. *This year's edition* confirms positive labour market and social trends and continued economic growth. With over 234 million people having a job, employment has never been as high as today in the EU, and unemployment is at its lowest level since December 2008. Since 2013, 10 million jobs have been created in the EU. Find more [here](#).

European Commission: Working Together for a Stronger European Labour Market

This report summarises the ideas and key messages from the first stakeholders' conference of the PES Network took place in Brussels on 26 and 27 of May 2015. The conference aimed at strengthening existing partnerships and developing new ones to work together for a stronger European labour market. The participants developed concrete ideas and proposal for working together in different areas, including PES modernisation, the implementation of the Youth Guarantee and bridging career transitions. Find more [here](#).

Stay connected to Skills Panorama



Published by
Department for Skills and Labour Market
Cedefop - European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
Europe 123, GR-570 01 Thessaloniki (Pylea)
PO Box , GR-551 02 Thessaloniki
Tel. (+30) 23 10 490079 Fax (+30) 23 10 490117
E-mail: ioannis.katsikis@cedefop.europa.eu
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/skillsnet/>

Forthcoming events

Conference: Engaging employers in building better quality jobs and creating a more responsive skills system

Date: 02/11/2017, **Place:** London, United Kingdom

This conference organised jointly by the OECD, Warwick University, the Work Foundation, and the Centre for Cities will bring together stakeholders from national government departments, cities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as well as business, NGOs and research institutions to discuss the key challenges facing the United Kingdom in building more and better quality jobs. During the event, the OECD will launch a new report on Better Use of Skills in the Workplace: Why It Matters for Productivity and Local Jobs. Find more [here](#).

Learning Exchange on 'Improving measures for integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market'

Date: 09 – 10/11/2017, **Place:** Zagreb, Croatia

While Croatia has taken a number of steps to integrate the long-term unemployed (LTU) into the labour market, the rate of unemployment for this group remains high. The Employment Committee (EMCO) has indicated room for improvement, in particular through the involvement of employers, the exchange of information and PES capacity. In addition, and related to integrating the LTU into the labour market, improvements can be made in labour market outcomes for older workers, which was the topic of a previous Learning Exchange held in Slovenia. Find more [here](#).

EU Datathon 2017: Reusing European Union open data for jobs and growth – EU Open Data Portal Datathon

Date: 16/11/2017, **Place:** Brussels, Belgium

The Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Publications Office of the EU are organising a Datathon with a focus on the reuse of data from the EU Open Data Portal, the access point to open data produced by the institutions and agencies of the European Union. The participants will have the opportunity to demonstrate how open data from public institutions can be used to address specific policy or societal challenges and generate jobs and growth. In particular, they are invited to focus on the following priorities of the Juncker Commission: 1) Jobs, growth and investment; 2) Digital single market; 3) Democratic change. Find more [here](#).

Skill needs forecasting expert workshop

Date: 23 – 24/11/2017, **Place:** Thessaloniki, Greece

Cedefop's project on future skills demand and supply has established a network of national experts in labour market forecasting, covering all EU Member States. These experts validate both the methods and the results of Cedefop's forecast. Find more [here](#).

European Vocational Skills Week 2017

Date: 20 – 24/11/2017, **Place:** various sites all over Europe

The first European Vocational Skills Week in 2016 showed us just how much so many people care about making sure vocational education and training (VET) is seen as an equal first choice to other routes in preparing for great careers. To capitalise on this energy and enthusiasm a Second European Vocational Skills Week will be organised on 20-24 November 2017. In her message by Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility argued that "we will continue our theme of "Discover Your Talent": inspiring people to galvanise their abilities through quality VET, at all stages of their lives, on-the-move, and equipped with labour market-relevant skills that lead to fulfilling personal and professional lives. 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.

