

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: September 2016****Highlight of the month****SKILLS PANORAMA***Inspiring your choices on skills and jobs in Europe***How well does your country Make Skills Work?**

Cedefop introduces a new 'Making skills work' index which is a composite index aiming to provide an assessment of the route of skills across EU Member States, starting from development, going through labour market activation, and ending up in matching work needs. The index measures the comparative performance of the skills formation and matching system of each EU country and has three pillars:

- 1) 'Skills development' measures training and education activities;
- 2) 'Skills activation' measures the transition of people into work, and participation in the labour market; and
- 3) 'Skills matching' measures the degree of successful skill matching, i.e. the extent to which skills are effectively matched in the labour market.

The Making skills work index is available exclusively through the Skills Panorama website. Users can explore the information by country, by pillar and by each of the individual indicators comprising the pillars. Short commentaries on each country's performance along with a background factsheet are presented together with the index. Find out how your country **makes skills work** [here](#) and more about the Index on the new blog article of Ilias Livanos [here](#).

News from Cedefop and the European Commission**News from Skillsnet members****Skillset and match (Cedefop's magazine promoting learning for work) – September 2016 issue 8**

The September 2016 issue of Skillset and match, is now available to read and download. There are also interviews with Greek Alternate Minister for Labour Rania Antonopoulou, EC's Director of Skills Policy Detlef Eckert and Thessaloniki International Film Festival Director Élise Jalladeau. Don't miss a feature on how the Dutch are beating early school leaving. The Member State contribution comes from Slovakia, which currently holds the rotating EU Presidency. Download the

magazine [here](#).

Vacancy Notice: Expert in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning Policies (interagency and external)

Cedefop invites applications for the position of an expert in vocational education and training and adult learning policies, temporary agent, AD 5, M/F. More information can be found [here](#).

Skills Panorama new blog article: How far are EU countries from Making Skills Work?

EU Member States dedicate significant resources to skills development and employment policies, in particular on activation and matching. However, there has been no uniform measure across the EU to assess and compare the outcomes of these policies. Cedefop comes to fill in this gap with the Making Skills Work Index. Cedefop's Making Skills Work Index provides a macro-level comparison of Member States' skills development, activation and matching systems (the three pillars of the Index). Read more on new blog article of Ilias Livanos on the Skills Panorama [here](#).

Skills Panorama new blog article: How to form the skills of those who form the skills of others?

Learning at the workplace lies high in the EU policy agenda as a means of ensuring that enterprises have a workforce with up-to-date skills and competences. Given that about one-third of an individual's lifespan is spent in working environments, the workplace is an indispensable component of any lifelong learning strategy. Read more on new blog article of Irina Jemeljanova on the Skills Panorama [here](#).

European Commission proposes a Skills Guarantee as a part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe

Close to 70 million Europeans lack basic reading and writing skills. Even more cannot use numbers or digital tools properly in everyday life. Without these skills they are at high risk of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. In the New Skills Agenda for Europe, the Commission is therefore proposing a Skills Guarantee to help low-skilled adults acquire a minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and/or progress towards an upper secondary qualification or equivalent (EQF level 4). Read more [here](#).

15% of unemployed persons in the EU found a job in the first quarter 2016 compared with fourth quarter 2015

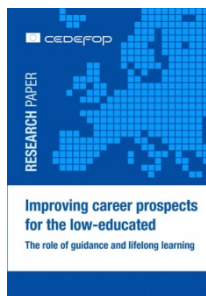
Out of all persons in the European Union (EU) who were unemployed in the fourth quarter 2015, 65.7% (13.0 million persons) remained unemployed in the first quarter 2016, while 15.4% (3.0 million) moved into employment and 18.9% (3.7 million) towards economic inactivity in Q1 2016. Of all those initially in employment, 96.2% (169.7 million persons) remained in employment, while 1.7% (2.9 million) of those employed in the fourth quarter 2015 were observed to be unemployed in the first quarter 2016, and 2.2% (3.8 million) transitioned into economic inactivity. Read more [here](#).

World Economic Forum: Which European countries work the longest hours?

At 35 hours a week, France has the shortest working week in Europe. But this is only in legal terms: in reality, the French work more hours per week than the EU average. As strikes over reforms to labour laws cause disruption across the country, here's a look at how many hours workers in EU countries clock up each week. For the French, the difference between the number of hours required (35) and the number of hours actually worked (37.5) is 2.5 half hours, more than the EU average. But it's Greece that tops the list, though, with Greeks working a 42-hour week, according to 2013 data. In Portugal and Spain, people also work longer than the EU average. Find more [here](#).

European Commission: Consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Are our social rights fit for the 21st century? The Pillar will identify a number of essential principles to address the challenges in the field of employment and social policies. EC wants to involve everyone in shaping the European Pillar of Social Rights. EC welcomes contributions from citizens, social partners, organisations and public authorities, so have your say! Read more [here](#).



New Cedefop publication: Improving career prospects for the low-educated: The role of guidance and lifelong learning

This report draws both on literature review and an original collection of stories from biographical interviews of individuals in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and the UK. The narrative accounts describe the wide variety of experiences with initial and further education. The analysis focuses on

motivations for learning (or not) and the findings confirm that early negative experiences with schooling have a scarring effect inhibiting workers' willingness to re-engage in education later in life. Read more [here](#).

New issue published: Social Agenda 45 - Skills: a new agenda



Social Agenda n°45 focuses on the recently adopted New Skills Agenda for Europe which supports training, learning, re-training and upskilling in order to better equip citizens for the labour market. The initiative brings clarity to the recognition of education systems, qualifications and skills across Europe, and ensures better skills profiles for third-country nationals. Read the new issue [here](#).

European Commission has published the European Innovation Scoreboard 2016

The European Innovation Scoreboard – previously Innovation Union Scoreboard – provides a comparative analysis of innovation performance in EU Member States, other European countries, and regional neighbours. It assesses relative strengths and weaknesses of national innovation systems and helps countries identify areas they need to address.

The Regional Innovation Scoreboard is a regional extension of the European Innovation Scoreboard, assessing the innovation performance of European regions on a limited number of indicators. Find more [here](#).

ILO: World Employment and Social Outlook for Youth 2016: Youth employment: Working poverty and the gender gap



Work prospects for many young people still keep them in poverty, and if you are a young woman your chances of finding a quality job are even less likely. Authors of the ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook "Trends for Youth" report, Santo Milasi and Sheena Yoon explain. Find more [here](#).

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SKILLS PANORAMA
Inspiring your choices on skills and jobs in Europe



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Upskilling, re-skilling and employing refugees

Date: 3rd October 2016, **Place:** Centro Congressi Roma Eventi, Rome, Italy

Upskilling, re-skilling and employing refugees is a one day experts' forum which is co-organised by Cedefop and OECD. The forum will examine the role of VET and VET-related skill development strategies as part of pre-arrival (transition countries) and national solutions (host countries) aimed at early labour market integration of the current wave of adult people in clear need of international protection. More info can be found [here](#).

ILO Academy on Youth Employment

Date: 17 – 28 October 2016, **Place:** International Training Centre, Turin, Italy

The main objective of the Academy is to enhance the capacity of decision-makers (notably Ministries of Labour and other relevant Government institutions and workers and employers organisations) to develop comprehensive strategies for tackling the multi-faceted dimensions of the youth employment challenge, with gender mainstreamed. Desirous to expand the social dialogue and to provide a space for the views of the targeted group (the youth), the Academy also promotes the participation of representatives of youth-organisations. Read more [here](#).

Skills, jobs and sustainable development: global trends and local challenges: CEDEFOP-UNESCO global skills conference

Date: 20 – 21 October 2016, **Place:** UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

The conference will discuss the implications of global economic trends and market forces for anticipated skill needs and mismatches and the responses of education and training building on labour market intelligence. It will look at how information on global trends in skills needs is used by countries to review and renew their education and training provisions and how qualifications frameworks can facilitate coordination and dialogue between education and training as well as labour market actors across different regions of the world. More information can be found [here](#).

European vocational skills week 2016

Date: 5 – 9 December 2016, **Place:** Brussels and across Europe

This first European vocational skills week will take place from 5 to 9 December 2016 with events in Brussels and parallel activities in Member States, EFTA and EU candidate countries at national, regional and local levels. This is to improve the attractiveness and image of vocational education and training. A series of activities will take place in Brussels (press conference, 'VET for life' conference, workshops, European business forum on vocational training, closing event with award-giving) and across Europe. Cedefop will be actively involved. You can register your event [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.

