

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: April 2017****Highlight of the month****First comprehensive compendium of guides on skills anticipation methods**

In a context of dynamic and complex labour markets, intelligence on current and future skill needs can support better matching of skills and jobs, which is important for every country. Cedefop, the European Training Foundation and the International Labour Office have combined expertise to develop a compendium of methodological guides on anticipation and matching of skill supply and demand.

The compendium brings together state-of-the-art international good practice and experience worldwide. The six guides complement each other. They include both qualitative and quantitative approaches, and advocate strong social dialogue and institutions conducive to a better grasp of skills needs of tomorrow. They target professionals, policy-makers, research commissioners, social partners and experts who need an overview of how different anticipation and matching methodologies can generate reliable labour market information and how information and evidence can be analysed and used for the development of policy interventions or adjustments in education and employment strategies. Find the guides online [here](#).

News from Cedefop and the European Commission**Cedefop: Call for national experts in lifelong guidance and careers education**

Cedefop is looking for national experts based across Europe to cooperate for the development of national lifelong guidance and careers education systems. Cedefop is looking for national experts based across Europe to cooperate for the development of national lifelong guidance and careers education systems. An expert is needed in each of the 28 EU Member States, as well as in Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Applications and supporting documents (CV and other documents demonstrating the suitability) should be sent by 28 April 2017 cob. Find more [here](#).

Cedefop: What do Europeans think of vocational education and training?

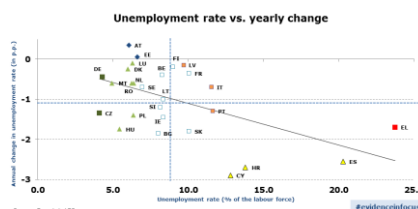
Cedefop's first opinion survey on vocational education and training (VET), launched in 2016, provides unique new data on how European citizens perceive its attractiveness and effectiveness. Most Europeans (71%) know what VET is and two in three (68%) have a positive opinion of it, while almost nine in 10 (87%) VET graduates are happy with the work-related skills they have acquired; finding a job is the number one reason among Europeans for choosing a VET path. Read more [here](#).

European Commission: European Semester Winter Package. Review of Member States' progress towards economic and social priorities

The European Commission publishes its annual analysis of the economic and social situation in the Member States, including an assessment of remaining imbalances. Member States are making headway in implementing the individual policy guidance they received last year around the "virtuous triangle" of boosting investment, pursuing structural reforms and ensuring responsible fiscal policies. This assessment of Member States' progress is part of the annual cycle of economic policy coordination at EU level and is known as the Winter Package of the European Semester. The package follows the economic forecast released last week. Read more [here](#).

Steady improvement of European labour market conditions according to Joint Employment Report

The European Council of employment and social policy ministers adopted the 2017 Joint Employment Report. The report takes a snapshot of the employment and social situation across the EU. It also highlights the extent of reforms carried out in the Member States over the past year. A draft version was presented by the Commission in November 2016 as part of the Autumn Package launching the European Semester. The report points out the steady improvement of labour market conditions in Europe. The unemployment rate kept falling and stood at 8.5% (10% in the euro area) in the third quarter of 2016. The employment rate in 2016 was, for the first time, above the levels recorded before the crisis. If the current trend continues, the 75% employment rate target set by the Europe 2020 strategy for 2020 could be within reach. The report also shows that, despite first signals of convergence among Member States, employment and social outcomes continue to vary significantly across countries. Read more [here](#).

News from Skillsnet members**European Commission: Creating jobs – reforms are producing results**

The 2017 Joint Employment Report and its Scoreboard of Key Employment and Social Indicators provide a snapshot of employment and social developments in the EU. This analysis provides a focus on unemployment and

Member States' efforts in the labour market to bring it down. The graph shows on the horizontal axis the average unemployment rate in the first half of 2016 and on the vertical axis the change compared to the same period of 2015. If a Member State is above the 0% line, unemployment goes up. Below and it goes down. In 26 Member States unemployment went down. The drop in unemployment continued in the last quarters of 2016. Overall, 20.9 million people were unemployed in 2016, compared to 22.9 million in 2015 (i.e. 2 million less). This decrease was driven by strong job creation, with 3 million more people in employment. Read more [here](#).

ReferNet Croatia reports on the digitalisation of schools

The education ministry develops and maintains the infrastructure for new technologies in the education and research system with support of the Croatian Academic and Research Network (CARNet) and University Computing Center (Srce). The latest step is CARNet's pilot project e-Schools: establishing a system for developing digitally mature schools, 2015-18. The main e-Schools project will commence in 2019-22. The main goal of the pilot project is to establish a system for developing digitally mature primary and secondary schools through piloting and evaluating ICT use in education and business processes in 10% of schools. Following the pilot, over two school years, a strategy for the implementation of a digitally mature schools system will be developed. Read more [here](#).

ReferNet Finland: Team Finland head the gold medal winners at EuroSkills 2016

Skills Finland and its partners train the Finnish national team for the international WorldSkills, EuroSkills and Abilympics competitions. Team Finland participated in EuroSkills 2016 which took place in Gothenburg. The team won a total of 12 medals, six of them gold, which gave them first place in the number of gold medals won. EuroSkills is a vocational skills competition and is part of the WorldSkills organisation. Team Finland has been participating in the WorldSkills competitions since 1989, the EuroSkills since the very first competition in 2008, and the International Abilympics since 2007. In 2005, Skills Finland organised the WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki. Read more [here](#).

OECD: What skills are needed for tomorrow's digital world?

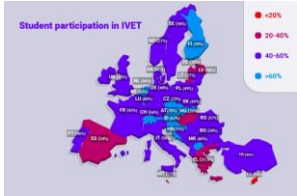
Information and communication technologies (ICT) are changing profoundly the skill profile of jobs. To thrive in the digital economy, ICT skills will not be enough and other complementary skills will be needed, ranging from good literacy and numeracy skills through to the right socio-emotional skills to work collaboratively and flexibly. The use of ICT in the workplace – affecting only a handful of jobs a few decades ago – is now required in all but two occupations in the United States: dishwashing and food cooking (Berger and Frey, 2017). In most OECD countries, over 95% of workers in large businesses and 85% in medium-sized businesses have access to and use the Internet as part of their jobs. In small businesses the share is at least 65% (OECD, 2013). Read more [here](#).

European Commission: In the past 60 years, European Social Fund helped millions of Europeans find a job & improve their skills

The year 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of the European Social Fund (ESF), Europe's oldest and main instrument to invest in people. Today it is an important driver of job creation, promoting better education, more modern public administrations and social inclusion, and therefore a key tool to ensure fairer opportunities for all citizens. Celebrations of the Fund's achievements and debates on the future of human capital funding in Europe kick off today with the conference "European Social Fund: past, present and future", hosted by the Maltese Presidency of the EU, ahead of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the meeting with the EU Social Partners in Rome which will be attended by President Juncker, Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Thyssen. Read more [here](#).

Skills related events

Cedefop: Data for European countries presented by indicators



Have you wondered how many students participate in initial vocational education and training (IVET) in European countries? Or how many enterprises provide training to workers? Or how many enterprises provide training to workers? Cedefop has selected a set of 36 indicators to quantify some key aspects of vocational education and training (VET) and lifelong learning. The selection is based on the indicators' policy relevance and their importance in achieving the Europe 2020 objectives. They account for the most recent challenges and opportunities arising from developments in the relevant statistical infrastructure and include evidence from the European Statistical System. Find more [here](#).

Joint Employment Report 2017: Main findings from the Scoreboard of key employment and social indicators

The Joint Employment Report takes a snapshot of the employment and social situation across the EU, and highlights the extent of reforms carried out in the Member States over the past year. Employment and social policies in Member States are analysed in the report, including by looking at three dimensions for each Scoreboard indicator: The difference from the EU and the euro area averages (providing a snapshot of existing employment and social disparities); the yearly change (indicating the historical trend); and the yearly change relative to the EU and euro area changes (indicating the dynamics of socio-economic convergence/divergence). Based on their performance, the Member States are classified in seven groups: best performers; better than average; good but to monitor; on average; weak but improving; to watch; and critical situations. Find more [here](#).

Eurostat: Employment up by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.2% in the EU28

The number of persons employed increased by 0.3% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.2% in the EU28 in the fourth quarter of 2016 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the third quarter of 2016, employment increased by 0.2% in both areas. These figures are seasonally adjusted. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, employment increased by 1.1% in the euro area and by 1.0% in the EU28 in the fourth quarter of 2016 (after +1.2% and +1.1% respectively in the third quarter of 2016). Eurostat estimates that, in the fourth quarter of 2016, 232.9 million men and women were employed in the EU28 (highest level ever recorded); of which 153.9 million were in the euro area (highest level since the third quarter of 2008). Find more [here](#).

European Commission: Hourly labour costs ranged from €4.4 to €42.0 across the EU Member States in 2016

In 2016, average hourly labour costs in the whole economy (excluding agriculture and public administration) were estimated to be €25.4 in the European Union (EU) and €29.8 in the euro area. In industry, labour costs per hour were €26.6 in the EU and €32.6 in the euro area, in services €25.8 and €28.7 respectively and in construction €23.3 and €26.1. In the mainly non-business economy (excluding public administration), labour costs per hour were €26.6 in the EU and €29.7 in the euro area in 2016. Read more [here](#).

Social Agenda 47: European Social Fund - Investing in people since 1957

The European Social Fund is sixty years old, like the Rome Treaty which created the European Economic Community. This issue of Social Agenda focuses on what it has achieved so far. As the mid-term interview with European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen in this same issue shows, human capital investment is also key to implementing the latest EU-level employment and social policy developments: The New Skills Agenda for Europe, the Youth Guarantee, the customised pathway put in place for the long-term unemployed, the Action Plan for welcoming third-country nationals including asylum-seekers and refugees, the European Semester Recommendations etc. Looking ahead, Social Agenda n°47 also explains how the European Pillar of Social Rights is taking shape. Find more [here](#).

OECD: Employment ins and outs in OECD countries

Labour markets are in a continual state of flux. Workers get employed, leave a job and become unemployed, join the labour force or leave the labour force. The balance of these flows determines the overall employment rate. Analysing workers' ins and outs of employment is critical to our understanding of labour market dynamics, especially from a welfare perspective. Transitions into unemployment hurt well-being that can be very strong and persistent, while transitions into employment boost life satisfaction. Not all job losses, however, involve financial loss or substantial hardship for individuals and their families. Indeed, high labour market transition rates could reflect the capacity for constant renewal, career development and productivity-enhancing reallocation of jobs. Read more [here](#).

Forthcoming events

Making Inclusion Work: How work-based learning can bring excluded groups closer to the labour market

Date: 25 April 2017, Place: Brussels, Belgium

IPPR and J.P. Morgan have commissioned a collection of case studies from across Europe looking at how work-based learning can help bring marginalised groups into the workplace. As a result of this work we have identified a range of common themes and learning that will strengthen work-based learning programmes across Europe. This conference will explore the learning from the collection on more detail and look at what is needed to ensure work-based learning can bring excluded groups closer to the labour market. J.P. Morgan has supported this work as part of its New Skills at Work programme. Read more [here](#).

ITC / ILO Academy on Skills Development 2017

Date: 8 – 19 May 2017, Place: Turin Centre, Italy

This Academy is a unique learning, knowledge-exchange and networking opportunity for everyone who wants to make a difference in the area of skills development and TVET in developing and emerging economies. It is directed at policy makers, government officials, social partner representatives and other experts and practitioners working in national institutions and NGOs, but also at experts working at the regional and international level. The Academy aims at stimulating learning and knowledge exchange on policies, challenges and options for building effective, responsive and inclusive skills development and TVET systems. Read more [here](#).

ILO: International conference on jobs and skills mismatch

Date: 11 – 12 May 2017, Place: ILO, Geneva, Switzerland

Registrations are open for the ILO International Conference on Jobs and Skills Mismatch. Keynote speakers have been confirmed as Prof. Peter Cappelli from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and Prof. Seamuc McGuinness from the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin. Among conference participants and other speakers are experts from the ILO, UNESCO, OECD, CEDEFOP, ETF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the World Economic Forum. The conference will provide a global perspective on the topic by presenting insights from the Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Africa regions. Researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and other stakeholders active in skills development systems and labour market economics are welcome to register. Find more [here](#).

Stakeholders conference on the Digital Competence Framework for citizens (DigComp) and the Entrepreneurship Competence Framework (EntreComp)

Date: 12 May 2017, Place: Brussels, Belgium

An upcoming stakeholder's conference on the Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DigComp) and the Entrepreneurship Competence Framework (EntreComp) has been announced by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. The event will take place in Brussels on Friday, 12 May 2017 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The pre-registration form for the event is available. Find more [here](#).

ILO: Inter-regional Technical Forum on Skills for Trade, Employability & Inclusive Growth

Date: 30 – 31 May 2017, Place: Siem Reap, Cambodia

Call for the expression of interest

An inter-regional technical forum is being convened in Siem Reap, Cambodia to further discuss and build on previous knowledge sharing workshops on trade and skills and to highlight experiences in implementing the G20 Training Strategy. The Forum will be organized through the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA)-funded "Scaling up Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED)" project and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)-funded "Skills for Employment and Productivity in Low-Income countries" project. It will also provide an occasion to highlight effective skills and employability strategies to strengthen the links between training to productive and decent work. What's more, it will also focus on selected "building blocks" of the G20 Training Strategy for "A Skilled Workforce for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth" Read more [here](#).

OECD: Enhancing skills to boost growth in Hungary

Skill requirements in the labour market have significantly changed over the past two decades. The restructuring of the economy is making the labour market increasingly knowledge-based. Skill requirements in the labour market have significantly changed over the past two decades. The restructuring of the economy is making the labour market increasingly knowledge-based. The education system has reacted to this structural change, but as the pace has been relatively slow, many graduates remain without adequate skills and insufficiently prepared to apply knowledge in unfamiliar settings. Read more here.

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WCCE 2017 - IFIP TC3 World Conference on Computers in Education: Tomorrow's learning: Involving everyone

Date: 3 - 6 July 2017, (2 July 2017 Doctoral consortium) **Place:** Dublin, Ireland

The World Conference on Computers in Education (WCCE) is coming to Ireland this July, 2017. This conference occurs every four years, most recently in Poland and Brazil in 2013 and 2009. The 2017 conference will be held in Ireland, hosted by the Irish Computer Society who celebrates their 50th anniversary this year. The conference will focus on latest uses of technologies, on computing and technology learning resources, highlighting educational practice, thought-leadership for the future and cutting-edge educational research. WCCE 2017 will draw delegates from all over the world from a variety of fields such as policy makers, curriculum designers, educational resource developers, researchers, teachers, and teacher educators. Find more information on the WCCE 2017 website here: <http://wcce2017.com/>

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.

