

Medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe: detailed results and methodological approach

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Abstract

This session will present further detailed results from the Skillsnet project on developing a Medium-term forecast of occupational skill needs in Europe. This project has produced a comprehensive and consistent assessment of changing employment prospects across the whole of Europe. This session will provide a taste of the rich variety of results available from the project, as well as summarising the Framework developed and providing some details of the approach adopted. The latter highlights the many data and technical problems with which the research team has had to tangle and the solutions that have been adopted to deal with these. The new Framework established represents a new system for producing regular detailed and consistent, quantitative projections of future skill needs across the whole of Europe. Given the difficulties faced, a certain amount of pragmatism has been required, but this set of results provides a sound foundation to take the debate about changing pattern of demand for skills in Europe to a new level.

The Framework involves a modular approach comprising 4 main elements: a multisectoral macroeconomic model; occupational and qualifications expansion demand modules; and a replacement demand module. The advantages of a modular approach are that it facilitates the independent development and improvement of the different parts of the system. The project has highlighted a number of data issues, many of which can only be addressed by detailed dialogue between individual country experts and the relevant statistical authorities at national and international level. One of the conclusions from this project is the urgent need to address these concerns, in order that even better labour market information and intelligence can be developed in the future, to help guide the choices and decisions of all Europe's citizens.