



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Supply and demand of skills: forecast reveals national variations within common European trends

***Skills supply and demand in Europe: medium-term forecast up to 2020, published today by Cedefop, shows that while general trends are common throughout Europe, there are substantial differences among Member States.***

The report updates Cedefop's 2007-08 forecasts with improved data and methods, and includes the medium-term impact of the economic crisis. Developments in the skills supply are categorised by **age, gender and country**; the demand for skills, by **qualification, occupation, economic sector and country**.

### **The skills supply: what qualifications will the European workforce have?**

For nearly all countries, the share of the workforce with high qualifications is projected to be greater in 2020 than in 2010; the share of people with low qualifications is generally projected to fall. Taken together, shares of medium- and high-skilled people are converging across Europe. But the share of those with medium-level qualifications shows greater variation between countries. [National forecasts on the supply of skills are shown in Figures 1-2 below.](#)

### **The demand for skills: what jobs will be available across Europe?**

The need to replace departing workers ("replacement demand") means that even occupations with net job losses will remain viable sources of employment - a total of about 73 million jobs). Net employment change ("expansion demand) in 2010-2020 is expected to add over 7 million new jobs, mostly in knowledge- and skill- intensive occupations (high-level managerial, professional and technical jobs). In terms of expansion demand, however, some occupations will experience losses. The **total number of job openings** (replacement plus expansion) is forecast at around 80 million, bringing total employment in 2020 to slightly less than its peak in 2008.

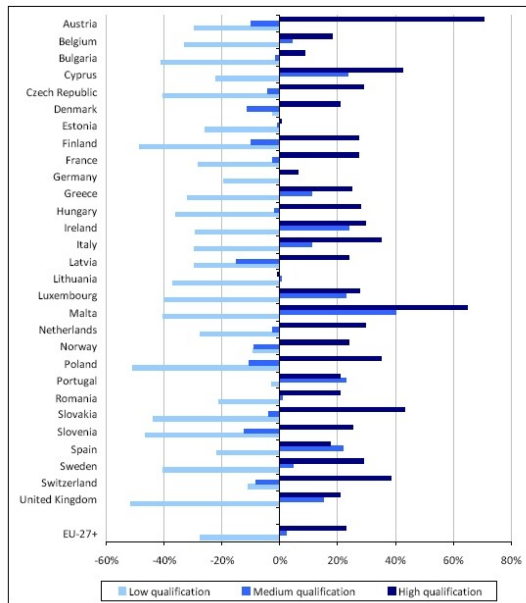
[National forecasts on the demand for skills are shown in Figure 3](#)

The complete forecast will be disseminated at the Spanish Presidency [conference](#) *New Skills for New Jobs for a more competitive Europe* (Barcelona 8/9 April).

### **Download the forecast**

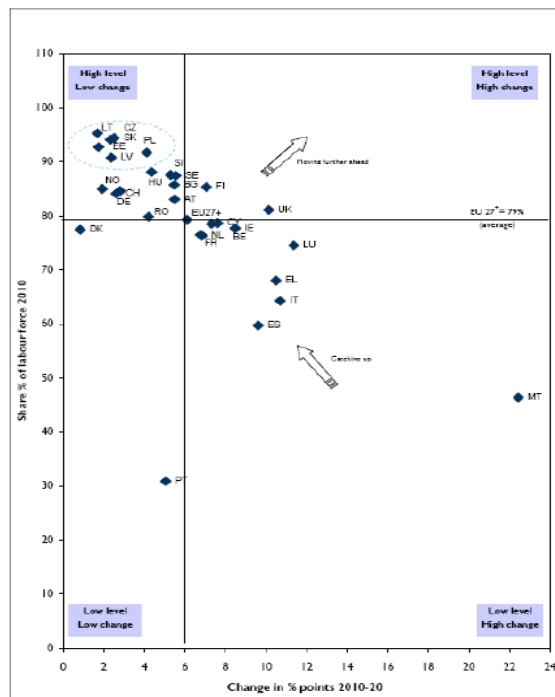
[http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/3052\\_en.pdf](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/3052_en.pdf)

**Figure 1 - Skills supply. Projected change in the labour force by qualification and by country, 2010-20.**



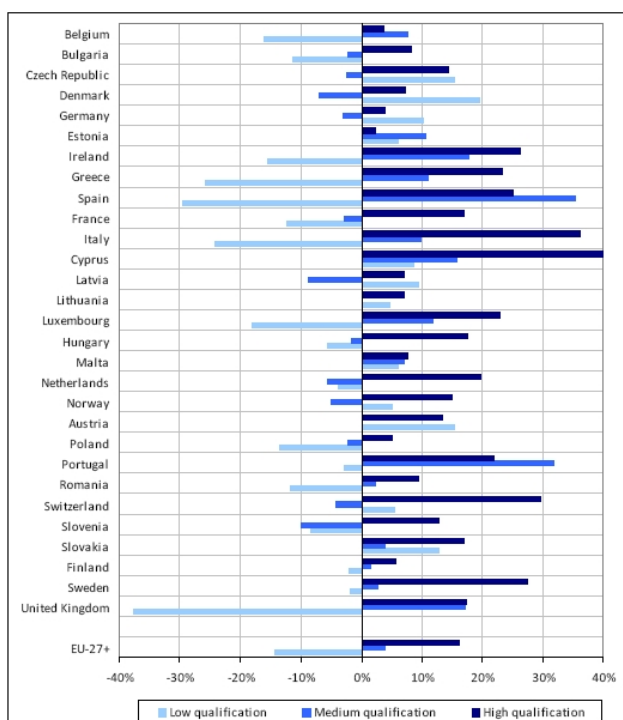
Source: Cedefop- Figure 14 in the full text of the forecast

**Figure 2 - Skills supply: Incidence of medium and high qualifications in the labour force by country. Projected level 2010 (%) and change in percentage points 2010- 2020**



Source: Cedefop - Figure 15 in the full text of the forecast.

**Figure 3 - The demand for skills. Changes in employment: Projected change in qualification structure by country, 2010-20 (%)**



Source: Cedefop. Cf. Figure 28 in the full text of the forecast.

Some projected changes by sector across the EU:

- Demand for service occupations such as sales, security, catering and caring will **increase** by more than two million.
- Demand for office clerks will **decrease** by around a million.
- Over four million job **losses** are projected for skilled manual workers.
- An **increase** of around two million is forecast for the demand for elementary occupations.

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### About Cedefop

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