

Thursday 25 November 12.30-13.15

Improving employment prospects through the provision in ICT training

Jan Muehlfeit - Microsoft

Nigel Gibbons - UniTech

Kristin Schreiber - DG employment

Jonathan Liebenau - London School of Economics

Birgit Elber - German Federal Employment Unit

Nigel Gibbons - UniTech

The presenter stated the fact that future economy will change how things are done, not necessarily what, highlighting the importance of new technologies in the productive methodology. Furthermore, it has been remarked that for the first time in history newer generations understand more than the previous ones on technical issues. In this context of changing priorities, the presenter went further to stress the importance of student programs.

An interesting fact that is presented is that within the next 5 years 90% of the jobs will need IT skills. In order to overcome future bottlenecks it's important to emphasize the necessity of selling ideas to the public.

As a closing remark of the introduction, Mr. Gibbons highlighted the importance of the EU cohesion funds for achieving an EU wide impact. Particular attention should be drawn to building national capacities.

Christine Schreiber – DG employment

DG employment has launched a new communication believed to be 'timely'; this is the 'New skills for the new jobs' communication.

The diagnosis starts by drawing attention to the fact that most of the coming jobs do not exist today. Nevertheless, current students and future workers are not adapting. For example, countries like India and China already consider that lack of workers with IT skills represent a constraint for further growth. It is stated that Europe must succeed in 'going from e-literacy to e-fluency'. Similarly, among the new skills, green skills will be required for fostering growth.

Ms. Schreiber highlights that there has been major progress accomplished on IT skills training in cooperation with Mediterranean governments, in spite of having political differences (i.e. Middle East and migration).

How to develop them? Identifying which will be the needs and anticipating. Such strategy presents the obvious difficulty of dealing with a moving target such as future market demands (including the short term). It is also mentioned that specific policies must be in place for targeting minority groups.

Nevertheless, it is stated that the engagement and good will of stakeholders is necessary for a successful application of the policies. The priorities to be dealt with are the following:

Matching needs and skills. Fostering communication between demand and supply of work.

Anticipation. By 2012 an EU wide panorama of required IT skills will be finished.

Recognition of qualifications among all Member States.

Jonathan Liebenau – London School of Economics

What sectors will be affected by e skills?

The presenter states that high skilled jobs will be more demanded, activating multipliers and producing knock on effects. He highlights the importance of cloud computing again and how it will allow developing further growth with an outsourcing model. In this way some sectors will lose and others win depending on their adaptability. According to his personal observations and analysis, the likely winners will be small engineering and computing enterprises because they'll have better access to software that would be otherwise out of reach.

Nigel Gibbons – UniTech

The presenter draws attention to the fact that the recession is driving a change. He acknowledges that there is a strong potential for SMEs. Nevertheless, he recognizes that awareness of these opportunities. The fact that 80% budgets are not well set for R&D explains such dilemma. Most businesses are too busy trying to cope with everyday routines; they have no time to educate themselves of their potential. Lack of knowledge of cloud computing is one example of such unexploited opportunity.

In this scenario, UniTech delivers the solution for businesses by nursing them through the change and transformation. In this way UniTech provide greater security. One concrete example would be to develop a consistent line of contractual development. Many companies are struggling to deal with costly individual contracts.

Birgit Elber - German Federal Employment Unit

This agency has developed a successful scheme. An important measure is to develop early preventive intervention. A basic tool is the facilitating software put in place by the Unit. It provides transparent information about changing issues concerning the market. This scheme allows the segmentation of the job market:

Qualified staff and university staff. Evaluation and research

Promote learning, new platform for e-learning. 7 to 8 million per year. Give an answer to low skilled people. Working of basic skills (i.e. typing with 10 fingers)

Among the main reasons for success are the possibility of learning at home, it's free for the user and it allows acquiring not only knowledge but also certificates. Furthermore it is presented on an open source software available in multiple languages.