



Summary – Desk Research

In Slovakia, there is no genuine system and there were no reliable mechanisms developed for anticipation of skill needs so far. There is no institution and there are no specialists focusing on qualitative anticipation of skills needs. In October 2009, the government discussed the information on forecasting labour market needs and skill needs submitted by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family on its own initiative as a reaction to the EU „New Skills for New Jobs“ initiative. For the first time labour demand was forecasted according to three categories of education (low, medium, high). This forecasting was based on the econometric model of the Institute of Economic Research of Slovak Academy of Sciences and its forecasting of the macroeconomic development of the Slovak Republic till 2020.

The importance of prevention from mismatch between labour demand and supply and conducting periodical forecasting of demand and supply, the anticipation of skill needs on the regional and sectoral basis based on surveying skill needs in enterprises has been promoted by this governmental paper. Subsequently, the Centre of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, started to develop a system of forecasting labour market needs within the Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion national project XIV-2 „Created and Eliminated Jobs Detection System and Forecasting Labour Market Needs“ . Within ESF Operational Programme Education, the Ministry of Education announced launching a national ESF project „National System of Qualifications“ in the Context of Continuing Education Supported by Guidance and Counselling System.

A new Act on VET No. 184/2009 Coll. first ever exclusively focusing on VET, stipulates responsibility for the identification of labour needs. Subsequently, a Decree of Ministry of Education No. 282/2009 Coll. on Secondary Schools already set a list of so- called professional „sectoral assignees“- it stipulates what professional organisations are responsible for the respective fields of study as counterparts to education sector authorities and experts. Based on this, Sectoral VET Councils were established by professional associations/ chambers in cooperation with the respective sectoral ministry and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, with the aim to play a crucial role in particular in identification and anticipation of sectoral needs and translate them into so- called „plans of labour market needs“ in terms of numbers of graduates in respective study/ training branches for the following five years. Furthermore, they were expected to provide for inputs for education sector experts to align graduates profiles to professional competences required on sectoral working positions.

Self- governing regions assisted by Regional VET Councils and supported by Sectoral VET Councils expertise developed regional VET strategies in close cooperation with social partners. However, the plans of labour market needs need to feed a quality regional strategy as well as there is a crucial point related to the need to professionalize collection of labour market intelligence data and to elaborate a professional one or adopt and adjust already an existing know-how used by experienced bodies abroad.



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