



European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

# European e-Skills Meta-Framework

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# Outline

- Why such a meta-framework?
- Clarification of terms
- The CEN/ISSS Workshop on ICT-Skills
- The work in 2005
- Outlook and linkages

# Cedefop

## Centre Européen pour le Développement de la Formation Professionnelle

### Mission:

As the European Union's reference centre for vocational education and training, Cedefop provides policymakers, researchers and practitioners with information to promote a clearer understanding of developments and so enable them to take informed decisions on future action. Cedefop assists the European Commission in encouraging, at Community level, the promotion and development of vocational education and training.

# e-skills ....

- ... are changing rapidly (and permanently)
- ... have potential impact on both productivity and growth of the economy
  - ><- shortages, gaps and mismatches threaten productivity development (ICT industry *and* user sectors)
- ... are essential in developing eEurope and eGovernment (eCitizen)
- .. have a wide range of target groups -> social inclusion!
- .. bring up qualitative gaps (young people, mobility, “offshore” outsourcing, recognition and certification of skills)

***“ICT is key to reaching Lisbon goals”***

**“Rethinking the European ICT Agenda”**



# Milestones up to now

After Bologna (1999 - ECTS), the Lisbon Strategy (2002) and the Copenhagen Process (2002 - ECVET):

- European e-Skills Summit (Oct. 2002)  
[www.e-skills-summit.org](http://www.e-skills-summit.org)
- European e-Skills Forum (March 2003 – June 2004)  
<http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/esf>
- Workshop on e-Skills Industry Certification (March 2004)
- European e-Skills Conference (Sept. 2004)  
[www.eskills2004.org](http://www.eskills2004.org)

→ <http://eskills.cedefop.eu.int/links.htm>

# Priority actions in 2005

... should be:

- The development of a long-term strategic approach
- The improvement of data availability about the ICT labour market
- The promotion of multi-stakeholder partnerships
- The design of innovative learning solutions
- The development of a **European ICT skills meta-framework**
- The reduction of the digital divide

# e-skills

The term covers:

- ICT practitioner skills
- ICT user skills
- e-business skills

The capabilities required for researching, developing and designing, managing, the producing, consulting, marketing and selling, the integrating, installing and administrating, the maintaining, supporting and service of ICT systems

The capabilities needed to exploit opportunities provided by ICT, notably the Internet, to ensure more efficient and effective performance of different types of organisations, to explore possibilities for new ways of conducting business and organisational processes, and to establish new businesses.

The capabilities required for effective application of ICT systems and devices by the individual. ICT users apply systems as tools in support of their own work, which is, in most cases, not ICT. User skills cover the utilisation of common generic software tools and the use of specialised tools supporting business functions within industries other than the ICT industry

Definitions from the European e-Skills Forum

# More terms

- Framework = a widely used classification scheme with a set of definitions  
= “is a construct which has a purpose, structure and content”
- Meta-framework = provides data about frameworks
- *Look-alike* approach versus *umbrella* approach

# The CEN/ISSS Workshop

- CEN/ISSS = the European Committee for Standardization (Comité Européen de Normalisation) with a special strand for:  
Information Society Standardization System
- Originally proposed by CEPIS, Cedefop and the Career Space consortium: WS on ICT-Skills
- Second phase started in February 2005
- CWA as the result in October 2005
- CEN Workshop Agreements are consensus-based specifications, drawn up in an open Workshop environment.

# CEN/ISSS WS on ICT-Skills

No realistic way for a legally binding agreement and formal engagement of the EU Member States



CEN/ISSS Workshop

**Objective** = to prepare, validate and agree a European ICT-skills Meta-Framework:

- a consensus-based agreement
- supported by the main stakeholders,
- the EU countries, institutions and statistical & labour market bodies
- builds an umbrella over existing frameworks

# The steps

- Business plan + chairs + project team
- Kick-off meeting on 14 & 15 Feb. 2005
- Timing:
  - 5th May: Interim draft (basic inventory ) distributed
  - 17th - 18th May: second meeting in Brussels
  - 30th June: Updated version of draft CWA
  - 30th September: Final meeting in Brussels
  - **15th October**: Approval of CWA + final report
- Work should be an iterative and consultative process
  - > <http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/cen-ict>
  - > [http://www.uninfo.polito.it/WS\\_ICT-Skills/](http://www.uninfo.polito.it/WS_ICT-Skills/)

# Starting points

... as proposed by the 3 experts:

- a review on the background and history  
+ a set of working definitions
- a survey and review of existing European and international frameworks
- finally a set of recommendations => basis of the CWA

# First drafts

The purpose of the „EU Framework“ is „to enable transparency and comparability of profile models and profiles, belonging to different sources.“

The suggested European Framework is:

- not competitive to any of the existing frameworks
- a get together of existing frameworks
- a collection of ordered data, to disclose framework properties and characteristics.

It has to offer:

- identifiers, to disclose information about existing frameworks and other system
- links to other relevant initiatives.

# Working definitions

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Profile       | Descriptions of people's knowledge of ICT, skills and personal behaviour and attitude expected in a working environment with respect to ICT use, application or development   |
| Profile model | A model, underpinning the structure of a set of profiles.   |
| Framework     | <p>A framework is a construct which has a purpose, structure and content.</p> <p>The constituents of the framework may result from profile models. It is at this level that transparency and comparability are enabled.</p> |
| Identifier    | Description of a profile characteristic or profile model characteristic.  |

„The EU Frameworks’ first aim is to enable people to compare and contrast existing frameworks in the context of a working environment.“

# Frameworks in the survey

- Airbus
- APO ([www.apo-it.de](http://www.apo-it.de))
- Career Space ([www.career-space.com](http://www.career-space.com))
- CompTIA Career Passport (<http://tcc.comptia.org>)
- Computing Curricula 2004
- eCCO ([www.fondazionepolitecnico.it](http://www.fondazionepolitecnico.it))
- ECDL/ICDL ([www.ecdl.com](http://www.ecdl.com))
- EUCIP ([www.eucip.com](http://www.eucip.com))
- SFIA ([www.e-skills.com](http://www.e-skills.com) & [www.sfia.org.uk](http://www.sfia.org.uk))

# Outlook and linkages

- Active involvement of the Workshop community
- In July and August CWS finalized, incorporating the Workshop's input
- CWA published in October 2005
- Linkage to current work of the EC on an overall European Qualifications Framework (EQF)
- e-skills will stay on the agenda:
  - Preparation for a following phase of the CEN Workshop
  - European ICT skills and career portal

# Resources

- **2 Virtual Communities:**
  - > CEN-ICT: <http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/esf>
  - > e-Skills Forum: <http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/cen-ict>
- **Website for the CEN Workshop:**
  - > [http://www.uninfo.polito.it/WS\\_ICT-Skills](http://www.uninfo.polito.it/WS_ICT-Skills)
- **3 e-Skills Newsletters**
  - > <http://eskills.cedefop.eu.int/newsletter.htm>
- **e-Skills website of the European Commission**
  - > <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/ict/policy/ict-skills.htm>
- **e-Skills website of Cedefop**
  - > <http://eskills.cedefop.eu.int>

## More resources -> from the Cedefop Panorama series:

Anastasios E. POLITIS & Hans DANIELSON:

*ICT practitioner skills and training: graphic arts and media sector*

Alessandro CASTELLI:

*ICT practitioner skills and training: banking and financial services*

Georg SPÖTTL & Matthias BECKER:

*ICT practitioner skills and training: automotive industry*

Willi PETERSEN & Carsten WEHMEYER:

*ICT practitioner skills and training solutions at sub-degree and vocational level in Europe. Guidelines for ICT training and curriculum development*

Willi PETERSEN, Peter REVILL, Tony WARD & Carsten WEHMEYER:

*Towards a comprehensive European e-skills reference framework: ICT and e-business skills and training in Europe.*

*Final synthesis report*



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**Thank you for your attention!**

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