Anticipating skills trends in Austria: The Skills Barometer

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Content

The Skills Barometer
"Skills": Definition and scope
Skills demand, skills development
Information structure
Approach and methodology
Sources
User Groups
Challenges

Skills Barometer



http://bis.ams.or.at/qualibarometer/index.php

Purpose: to inform on labour market trends
Current situation + future trends (4 yrs)
Occupations (OCC): current demand for labour, future employment
Knowledge, skills, competences (KSC): (future) demand for KSC
Key features:
Based on already available data and information
Supplemented by interviews with sector experts
Qualitative and quantitative information
Transparent (and "stable") information structure for texts and tables
In German only



"Skills": Definition and Scope

Classification of KSC: AMS-Kompetenzklassifikation http://www.ams.at/bis/bis/KompetenzstrukturBaum.php

Comprehensive thesaurus of vocational requirements, (~ 23.000 terms); including:

Knowledge, skills and competences; abilities
Transsectoral competences
"Soft skills": social competences, personal features, attitudes
Technical skills (19 areas) vs. transversal skills (5 areas)
Certificates (but no other type of qualification)
Subsumed: "(Berufliche) Kompetenzen" (vocational competences)
defined as:

Abilities, skills and knowledge, which are either indispensable or at least advantageous when carrying out concrete vocational activities.

Skills demand, Skills development

Three tier logic of the occupational classification:

__15 "areas" of occupation
__94 "fields" = groups of occupations
__530 occupations

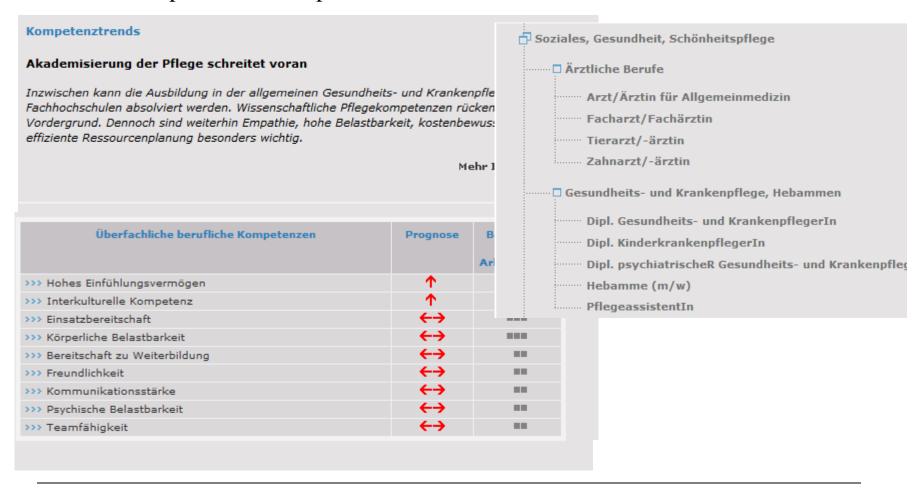
Skills are analyzed for the medium level:
__identify skills in demand for groups of OCC
__describe skills demand (text)
__allocate standardized KSC terms (tables); any level of detail
__rating in tables: current demand; future demand (4 years)

Skills are analyzed in relation to OCC; no assertion on

skills as such!

Description and Rating

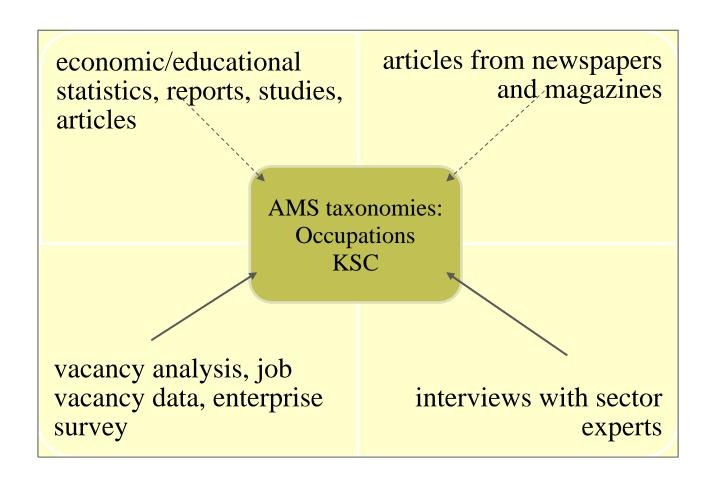
- e.g. Health care and social services > Nursing and midwivery
- > Skills Development: sector-specific skills, transversal skills



Approach and Methodology

Qualitative approach:
make use of existing sources
compile information: studies, statistical data, articles,
interviews with sector experts
compare sources, validate information > comprehensive overview
quality assurance
Specifics for research on skills:
Lack of quantitative data on skills development
Information is often on very broad levels – ,,soft skills in demand"
Information is often limited to (sub-)sectors
Different categorisations (or no standardized vocabulary)
•
Skill profiles are relatively stable

Sources



User groups

AMS staff members at all levels
Vocational counsellors, educational counsellors
Education institutions
Individuals looking for a career change, students
Job seekers
Journalists
Labour market and education experts

Challenges

Availability of sources differs between sectors
Level of detail
Currency and reliability of information
Different categorisations and classifications
Lack of quantitative data, esp. for skills
Comparability, quality assurance
Presentation of processed information for heterogenous user group

Wish list

Enterprise survey specifically designed for the Skills Barometer
Quantitative data, e.g. on skills demand, hard-to-fill vacancies,
Interviews with AMS counsellors, e.g. on skills gaps
Annual surveys; regularly updated sources
Data matching the classifications, e.g. employment data
Expert panel to validate and balance results
Improved dissemination

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Thank you for your attention.

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