



The Future of Manufacturing in Europe is a Pilot Project proposed by the European Parliament and delegated to Eurofound by the European Commission (DG GROW). The project commenced in April 2015 and will run for four years.

Economic and labour market developments since 2008 have highlighted the fundamental importance of manufacturing for economies in the global era. Manufacturing has always been vital for research and development and a nation's capacity for innovation. Its importance is accentuated by the fact that demand for European firms lies predominantly outside Europe and that still almost 80 per cent of Europe's exports are manufactured goods. Moreover, this is a very opportune moment to think strategically about manufacturing, as there is much to suggest that we are on the cusp of a new industrial revolution.

These technological innovations will lead to a massive increase in manufacturing productivity. With wages making up an increasingly smaller proportion of the total value-added of products, wage levels become less critical to where production is based, relative to other factors such as energy costs. When the innovative link in supply chains is in the manufacturing process itself – something which is likely to be quite common with the emerging technologies – it is both highly desirable and feasible that this remains and develops in Europe, not least in order to keep R&D and other related services here as well. The immediate impact on employment is of course likely to be negative in that firms will employ a significantly lower number of workers in the actual production process but may have more positive impacts upon employment in other stages of the supply chain. The project will focus on the implications of various possible manufacturing scenarios for employment –throughout Europe.

The following modules make up the overall project:

- Quantitative scenarios for the future of manufacturing in Europe including the overall employment impact (including multiplier effects)
- Skills and tasks content impacts of these scenarios
- Assessment of the role of wages in the future of manufacturing in Europe
- An analysis of the key jobs for the future of manufacturing in Europe
- Assessment of the impact of new game-changing technologies in manufacturing in Europe
- To measure the extent to which European firms are relocating manufacturing activities to Europe with a re-shoring monitor
- Entrepreneurship and SME internationalization
- Mapping of existing industrial policy capacity in EU regions and the identification of some typologies of regional capacity and identification of good practices with regional seminars to disseminate these throughout the EU.
- Review of dual apprenticeship programmes in the EU and selected competing world regions including an identification of good practices and an assessment of the future viability of these.