

# Trends and skill needs in tourism

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Tourism is very important for the European economy. It accounts for 5 % of direct employment and proportion of European GDP and has a tremendous multiplying effect over other economic sectors, enjoying forecast stable growth for the future. Tourism has one of the highest labour mobility rates across Europe, permitting discussion of the emergence of a truly European economic sector and a labour market with a truly European dimension. Thus, the discussion about new occupations and future skill needs for the sector in Europe has a particular significance. This publication is based on the proceedings of the international workshop Trends and skill needs in the tourism sector held in Halle, Germany, 29-30 April 2004, which highlighted the latest trends and skill needs in the hotel, catering and tourism sector from an international perspective.

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