Towards a Common Infrastructure for Online Job Vacancy Data

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Abstract. With increasing penetration of the internet, the number of job vacancies advertised on websites is growing. Although online job vacancies (OJV) are primarily a tool for job matching, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the ESSnet Big Data engaged in projects to assess the feasibility of using OJV for labour market analysis and job vacancy statistics. The paper refers to the results of the feasibility studies of both projects identifying opportunities and limitations of OJV for the above mentioned purposes. In addition, it discusses opportunities of creating a joint system for analysing and processing OJVs. During the last two years there have been contacts between Cedefop and the ESSnet Big Data to discuss synergies between both projects. After an initial feasibility study, Cedefop is developing a Pan-EU system providing information on skills demand by 2020. At the same time, the ESSnet will enter into a second phase in November 2018 aiming a creating the conditions for a larger scale implementation of the project, focussing on OJV statistics. This paper outlines a possible partnership between Cedefop and the European Statistical System to create and manage a unique source of OJV data to serve multiple uses in the domain of labour market analysis and official statistics. It presents potential types of (statistical) data and variables based on the information contained in OJVs. Data limitations linked to OJVs nature and specificities will be stressed, too. There is high potential in combining the efforts invested in the Cedefop project and in the ESSnet Big Data to create a joint data collection and processing system on job vacancies that can serve objectives at European, national and regional levels. The paper intends to feed a discussion on the feasibility and the implications of creating a European system for OJV that can serve European and national needs.