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### **Towards a design for an Employer Survey on Skills Needs covering the EU28 countries**

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) are planning to conduct a sample of establishments covering the EU28 countries to assess the skill levels of employees within establishments by occupation defined at ISCO level 1 (nine groups); as well as identify gaps in skills for specific occupation groups. The questionnaire has been developed and piloted but there has been no real work on the survey design; although some rather important design parameters have been set. In this paper we will set-out the design problem that includes issues of: selecting a single occupation per establishment, the lack of occupation code information on sample frames, the lack of a frame at the establishment level in some countries, an already agreed effective sample size for each occupation group by country. We propose an outline design that attempts to tackle the various issues, which is currently being considered as a possible structure for the surveys. We also discuss the issue of estimating across the occupation codes to allow comparisons between countries.