

sharing knowledge

about vocational education
and training



Who we are

Cedefop is one of the European Union's (EU) decentralised agencies. Founded in 1975 and based in Greece since 1995, Cedefop helps the European Commission, EU Member States and social partners to develop and implement the right European vocational education and training (VET) policies.

Cedefop: helping develop the right policies to provide the right skills

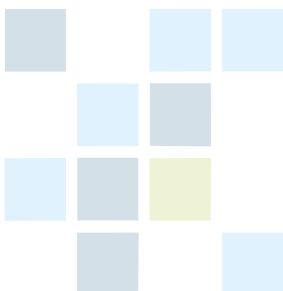
Why is that important?

Europe's strategy for 2020 is a route for smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through knowledge and innovation, setting an employment rate target of 75%.

The success of this strategy depends on the skills of Europe's workforce. Enterprises need people with the skills required to compete and provide high-quality goods and services.

People need the right qualifications to find jobs. People with low or no qualifications are nearly three times more likely to be unemployed than those with high qualifications. In the EU, around 75 million people, nearly a third of the working population, have low or no qualifications. Too many young people, around 15%, leave school without any qualifications.

To keep better track of developments in VET, in 2002 Cedefop set up **ReferNet**, a network of institutions across Europe, with all 28 Member States plus Iceland and Norway represented.



The network

Austria

ReferNet Austria (ibw, öibf)
www.refernet.at

Belgium

IBFFP – Institut Bruxellois Francophone
pour la Formation Professionnelle
(Bruxelles formation)
www.refernet.be

Bulgaria

NAPOO – Nacionalna agencija za
profesionalno obrazovanje i obuchenie
НАΠΟΟ – Национална агенция за
професионално образование и обучение
www.refernet.bg

Croatia

ASOO – Agencija za strukovno obrazovanje
i obrazovanje odraslih
www.refernet.hr

Cyprus

ΑνΑΔ – Αρχή Ανάπτυξης Ανθρώπινου
Δυναμικού Κύπρου
www.refernet.org.cy

Czech Republic

NÚV – Národní ústav pro vzdělávání
NVF – Národní vzdělávací fond
www.refernet.cz

Denmark

Professionshøjskolen Metropol
www.phmetropol.dk/refernet

Estonia

HTM – Haridus- ja Teadusministeerium
www.hm.ee/et/refernet

Finland

OPH – Opetushallitus/Utbildningsstyrelsen
www.oph.fi/tietopalvelut/kansainvalinen_koulutustieto/cedefop/refernet

France

Centre Inffo – Centre pour le développement
de l'information sur la formation permanente
www.centre-inffo.fr/refernet

Germany

BIBB – Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung
www.refernet.de

Greece

ΕΟΡΡΕΡ – Εθνικός Οργανισμός
Πιστοποίησης Προσόντων &
Επαγγελματικού Προσανατολισμού
<http://www.refernet.gr/>

Hungary

NOVETAL – Nemzeti Szakképzési és
Felnőttképzési Hivatal
<http://refernet.nive.hu>

Iceland

Menntamálastofnun – The Directorate of
Education
www.refernet.is

Ireland

SOLAS – An tSeirbhís Oideachais
Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna
www.solas.ie/en/Refernet/Default.htm

Italy

INAPP – Istituto Nazionale per l'Analisi delle
Politiche Pubbliche
www.isfol.it/refernet-italia and
www.inapp.org

Latvia

AIC – Akadēmiskās informācijas centrs
www.refernet.lv

Lithuania

KPMPC – Kvalifikacijų ir profesinio mokymo
plėtros centras
www.kpmpc.lt/refernet

Luxembourg

INFPC – Institut national pour le développement de la formation professionnelle continue

www.refernet.lu

Malta

Ministry of Education and Employment

<http://education.gov.mt/en/refernet/Pages/main-page.aspx>

Netherlands

ECBO – Expertisecentrum Beroepsonderwijs

<http://ecbo.nl/refernet>

Norway

SIU – Senter for internasjonalsisering av utdanning

<http://siu.no/Videregaaende-opplaering/Samarbeid-med-land-i-Europa/ReferNet>

Poland

IBE – Instytut Badań Edukacyjnych

www.refernet.ibe.edu.pl

Portugal

DGERT – Direcção-Geral do Emprego e das Relações de Trabalho

www.refernet.pt

Romania

CNDIPT – Centrul Național de Dezvoltare a Învățământului Profesional și Tehnic

www.refernet.ro

Slovakia

ŠIOV – Štátny inštitút odborného vzdelávania

www.refernet.sk

Slovenia

CPI – Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje

www.refernet.si

Spain

FUNDAE – Fundación Estatal para la Formación en el Empleo

www.refernet.es

Sweden

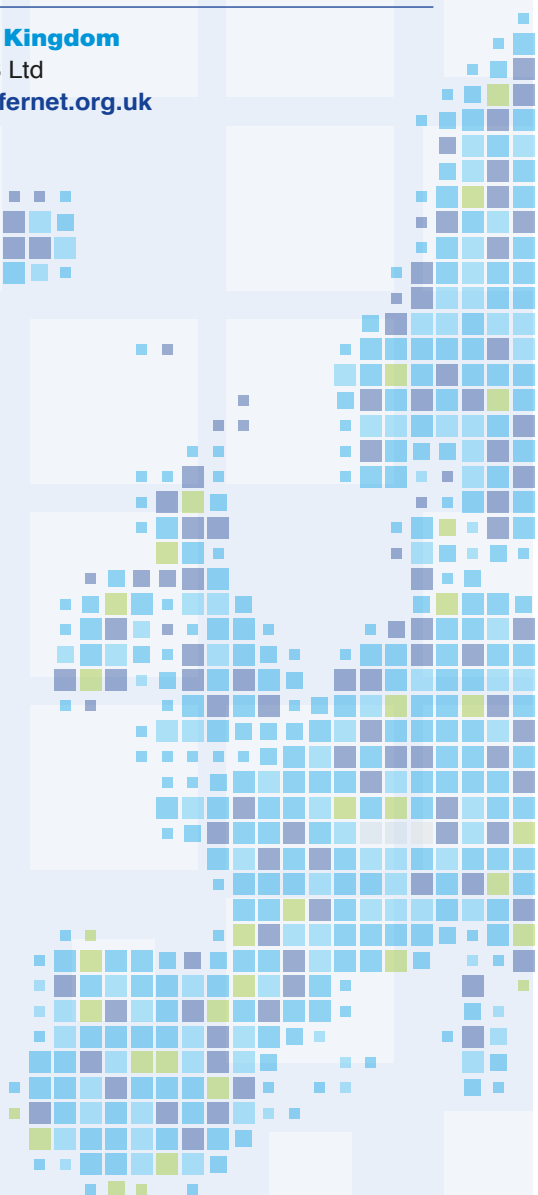
SKOLVERKET – Statens skolverk

www.skolverket.se/refernet

United Kingdom

ECCTIS Ltd

www.refernet.org.uk



What we offer

ReferNet collects information on, and monitors developments in, national VET policies and systems. This information is used for different purposes and products:

- **VET in Europe reports** describe national VET systems for young people and adults in all ReferNet partner countries, and are aimed at the wider public. They explain how qualifications are developed and which programmes lead to which qualifications. They also include information on how countries encourage VET provision and participation. *VET in Europe* reports are used to produce **Short description of VET** reports for Member States that hold the Presidency of the EU; these are available in hard copy for Presidency and related events.
- **Spotlight on VET flyers** are aimed at readers who need a concise overview of VET in a specific country. Along with basic information about a country's VET qualifications and programmes, Spotlights indicate progression routes, describe distinctive features of the system and present main challenges and policy responses. The flyer format makes them easy to read at a glance. Cedefop also produces animated videos based on the Spotlights of the Presidency countries.
- **Thematic perspectives** is a series of articles on themes that are relevant to Europe. Themes covered so far have featured among the highest priorities of the EU Presidencies and flagship initiatives: **early leaving from VET, apprenticeship, innovation, teachers and trainers, key competences, guidance**, etc. They complement the more general information provided in *VET in Europe* reports and Spotlights. Themes share a common structure, allowing for comparison across EU Member States, Iceland and Norway.
- **National news stories** provide updates on recent developments in VET and VET-related labour market issues in all partner countries. They complement the news in Cedefop's newsletters.
- **30 national websites** share and disseminate information produced by the ReferNet network and Cedefop in national languages, focusing on national VET issues.

ReferNet partners also contribute to major Cedefop projects, including (a) the **VET policy report**, which reviews VET and VET-related policy developments and reforms in priority areas agreed on by the EU Member States (plus Iceland and Norway), European social partners, candidate countries and the European Commission in the 2010 Bruges communiqué ⁽¹⁾ and the 2015 Riga conclusions ⁽²⁾; and (b) the **IVET mobility scoreboard**, a tool for monitoring developments in IVET mobility policies, identifying obstacles to mobility and suggesting ways forward.

All publications can be downloaded free of charge from Cedefop's portal.

⁽¹⁾ European Commission (2011). *Supporting vocational education and training in Europe: the Bruges communiqué*. Luxembourg: Publications Office. <http://doi.org/10.2766/13842>

⁽²⁾ European Commission (2016). *Developing skills for the labour market: the Riga conclusions: European cooperation in vocational education and training 2015-20*. Luxembourg: Publications Office. <http://doi.org/10.2767/495955>



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