

01/2025



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Europe

European Commission

On 1 January 2025, Poland took over the six-month presidency of the Council of the EU. Regarding vocational education and training, the Polish Presidency will continue work on the implementation of the concept of vocational excellence.

It will also form, together with Denmark and Cyprus, who will then assume the presidency, the so-called trio of presidencies for the next 18 months. These three countries create their common programme which emphasizes security, democratic values and sustainable competitiveness.

<https://polish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme/trio-programme/>

Publication: STEM education: report highlights need for more policy efforts and research

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/news/stem-education-report-highlights-need-for-more-policy-efforts-and-research>

Cyber Skills Academy: Commission launches Industry-Academia Network to bridge cybersecurity skills gap. The new Network will bring together members of the Cybersecurity Skills Academy, higher education institutions, European university alliances and providers of vocational education and training (VET) providers in order to match the needs of the cybersecurity labour market with academic and vocational education programmes.

<https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/latest/news/commission-launches-industry-academia-network-bridge-cybersecurity-skills-gap>

Cedefop

IVET in focus: data-driven solutions for Europe's labour market challenges

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/ivet-focus-data-driven-solutions-europes-labour-market-challenges>

Cedefop Labour and Skills Shortage Index: addressing shortages to boost competitiveness

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/cedefop-labour-and-skills-shortage-index-addressing-shortages-boost-competitiveness>

Since October, Cedefop has published twenty six country-specific reports on the implementation of European priorities in vocational education and training.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/country-reports>

European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF): all EU member states are now on board

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/european-qualifications-framework-lifelong-learning-eqf-all-eu-member-states-are-now-board>

ETF

Peer learning event conclusion: adult learning in Europe benefits greatly from international cooperation

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/galaxy-different-solar-systems>

International

OECD

OECD Survey of Adult Skills: Adult skills in literacy and numeracy declining or stagnating in most OECD countries

<https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2024/12/adult-skills-in-literacy-and-numeracy-declining-or-stagnating-in-most-oecd-countries.html>

Understanding Skill Gaps in Firms. Results of the PIAAC Employer Module

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/understanding-skill-gaps-in-firms_b388d1da-en.html

How to fix global education. A Survey of National Policymakers in Developing Countries

<https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/how-fix-global-education-survey-national-policymakers-developing-countries.pdf>

UN World Population Prospects: The number of children in the world has stopped growing. The UN expects the world population to start falling before the end of the century.

<https://population.un.org/wpp/>

https://population.un.org/wpp/assets/Files/WPP2024_Key-Messages.pdf

World Future Skills Index

New QS World Future Skills Index evaluates global skills development across four key indicators: Skills Fit, Academic Readiness, Future of Work, and Economic Transformation. The US, UK, Canada,

Germany, and Australia have emerged as top performers.

<https://www.qs.com/reports-whitepapers/world-future-skills-index/>

ICEF

The national international education strategies of ten prominent study destinations

<https://monitor.icef.com/2025/01/tracking-the-internationalisation-goals-for-10-leading-destinations/>

Pew Research Center

A new Pew Research Center survey of 36 nations finds widespread public concern about economic inequality. And when asked what leads to this inequality, most people across the countries surveyed point to the intersection of wealth and politics.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2025/01/09/economic-inequality-seen-as-major-challenge-around-the-world/>

Our World in Data

Migrants send or bring back over three times the amount of money provided by global foreign aid. Cutting transaction fees could make this support even more effective in reducing poverty.

https://ourworldindata.org/great-global-redistributor-money-sent-brought-back-migrants-remittances?utm_source=OWID+Newsletter&utm_campaign=30c764a3c3-biweekly-digest-2025-01-24&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-0c7f305164-599304701

Countries

Finland

With an ageing society and a shrinking working-age population, Finland aims to attract an international workforce to meet its labour needs.

<https://tem.fi/en/talent-boost-en>

India and South Korea

India and South Korea have joined forces on a technical cooperation project that aims to improve mechatronics training in India.

<https://thepienews.com/india-and-south-korea-partner-on-vocational-education-initiative/>

Nordics

Publication: Supporting transformation towards sustainable lifestyles within adult education in the Nordic countries

<https://www.norden.org/da/node/91266>

Publication: Voices of Young Immigrants Inclusion in Education, Work and Society

<https://www.norden.org/en/publication/voices-young-immigrants>

A Nordic framework for patient safety knowledge and skills

<https://www.norden.org/en/publication/nordic-framework-patient-safety-knowledge-and-skills>

Strategies to Increase Diversity in Nursing Education

<https://www.norden.org/en/publication/share-care-strategies-increase-diversity-nursing-education>

Sweden

Report: Strengthening the Governance of the Swedish Skills System

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/strengthening-the-governance-of-the-swedish-skills-system_e1ecc914-en.html

South Korea

High performance, high pressure in South Korea's education system

<https://monitor.icef.com/2014/01/high-performance-high-pressure-in-south-koreas-education-system/>

UK

Sellafield graduates and apprentices win prestigious awards

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sellafield-graduates-and-apprentices-win-prestigious-awards>

A report finds that local areas are working hard to improve support for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), but systemic challenges are limiting their ability to prepare these young people for adulthood.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/longstanding-weaknesses-across-send-system-impacting-on-young-peoples-transition-to-adulthood>

Ofqual routinely analyses how attainment gaps for students with different characteristics and socio-economic status vary over time. This report presents the results of the analysis for the period 2018 to 2024 for GCSEs, A levels (referred to here as General Qualifications, GQ) and a subset of Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs).

<https://analytics.ofqual.gov.uk/apps/AllQualifications/Equalities/>



Education Secretary to announce plans for digital revolution in schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-outlines-plans-to-modernise-education-sector>

Prime Minister sets out blueprint to turbocharge AI. Artificial intelligence will deliver a decade of national renewal, as part of a new plan announced in January 2025.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-blueprint-to-turbocharge-ai>

Artificial intelligence: The first teacherless classroom in the UK

<https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/kuenstliche-intelligenz-das-erste-lehrerlose-klassenzimmer-in-gb-dlf-26570f94-100.html>

Ukraine

International forum in Kyiv on human capital: value, quality, development

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/international-forum-kyiv-human-capital-value-quality-development>

Presentation of the 'Global Innovation Strategy 2030': The strategy defines Ukraine's vision as an innovation-driven country and outlines key areas, principles, goals and tasks for innovation policy.
<https://winwin.gov.ua/en>

USA

Linking Training and Migration for the Green Transition

<https://www.cgdev.org/project/linking-training-and-migration-green-transition>

<https://www.bosch-stiftung.de/de/projekt/verknuepfte-wege-ausbildung-und-migration-fuer-die-gruene-transformation>

US President Donald Trump signs decrees that will directly or indirectly affect research and education policy: Measures to support disadvantaged populations in education and to promote relevant colleges and universities for these minorities have been withdrawn. New guidelines for the use of federal funds at colleges and educational institutions have been announced. All Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs in government agencies and federal agencies are being discontinued. The Stargate AI infrastructure project has been announced. A joint venture of companies like Oracle, OpenAI, MGX, and SoftBank has pledged investments of approximately €481 billion over the next four years. A primary focus will be on using AI for healthcare. An executive order on the development of safe and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been declared invalid. Withdrawals from the Paris Agreement on climate change and the WHO also have direct implications for research.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

<https://www.the74million.org/article/9-education-storylines-to-watch-as-trump-returns-to-the-white-house/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/key-directives-trump-dei-executive-order-government-private-sector-2025-01-22/>

<https://openai.com/index/announcing-the-stargate-project/>

Trump nominates founder of wrestling company critical of universities as Education secretary, but her confirmation hearing is not yet scheduled.

<https://www.forschung-und-lehre.de/politik/trump-waehlt-wrestling-managerin-zur-bildungsministerin-6775>

<https://www.the74million.org/article/education-department-stacked-with-staff-from-linda-mcmahons-think-tank/>

Assessing the inequality of access to instructional time across the United States

<https://www.educationnext.org/time-for-school-assessing-inequality-access-instructional-time-united-states/>

Data has been published in January 2025 for the National Training, Education, and Workforce Survey. The NTEWS provides data on the educational and training characteristics of the nation's workforce, with a focus on those in the skilled technical workforce.

<https://nces.nsf.gov/surveys/national-training-education-workforce/2022#survey-info>



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