

REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

01/2026

15/01/2026



Europe

European Union

Cyprus takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union: encouraging civic participation of young people

<https://cyprus-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/presidency/youth-at-the-epicentre/>

The employment rate of recent graduates from medium vocational education in the EU was 80.0% in 2024. Several EU countries have achieved the EU-level objective of at least 82 % for medium vocational education for 2025, but differences between the sexes persist.

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Employment_rates_of_recent_graduates

14% of young people in the EU dropped out of education

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20251215-3>

Have your say on skills mobility in the EU: public consultation launched on the Skills Portability Initiative



<https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/latest/news/have-your-say-skills-mobility-eu-public-consultation-launched-skills-portability>

Eurobarometer survey: digital skills are fundamental skills

<https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/latest/news/eurobarometer-survey-digital-skills-are-fundamental-skills>

ReferNet

Building on individual country Spotlights on VET, the 2024 compilation brings together the main features and data of VET in the EU, Iceland and Norway.

https://www.refernet.de/en/refernet_68663.php

Cedefop

The evolving role of national qualifications frameworks in the Union of Skills

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/making-qualifications-and-skills-more-visible>

Tender with closing date on 30/01/2026: This study aims to develop a user-oriented methodology to support the recognition of foreign VET qualifications across the EU.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/about-cedefop/public-procurement/comparison-recognition-developing-methodology-recognition-vet-qualifications-across-europe>

European Organisation for Adult Learning (EAEA)

The 2024-2025 country reports present the view of civil society on trends in adult learning in 12 countries. According to reports, adult education policies emphasise supporting the labour market, but the sector's problem is the lack of funding.

<https://eaea.org/2025/12/10/eaea-country-reports-2024-25/>

European Lifelong Learning Magazine

Validation and Recognition of Prior Learning 2026

<https://elmmagazine.eu/tag/validation-and-recognition-of-prior-learning-2026/>

International

International VET studies

Opportunity Structures in Vocational Education and Training National Studies and International Discussions

<https://rd.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/978-3-032-04410-5.pdf>



OECD

Governments should step up efforts to equip people with the skills needed in labour markets

<https://www.oecd.org/en/about/news/press-releases/2025/12/governments-should-step-up-efforts-to-equip-people-with-the-skills-needed-in-labour-markets.html>

Countries

Czechia

How DigiKoalice network connected schools across the Czech Republic

<https://digikoalice.cz/jak-digiakce-propojily-skoly-napric-ceskem/>

Report on the results of a research project to uncover the impact of AI on (higher) education in order to guide it

<https://spomocnik.rvp.cz/clanek/24075/MANIFEST-VZDELAVANI-VE-VEKU-AI.html>

Denmark

New study: Danish research into vocational education and training is developing – but lacks scope and direction

<https://eva.dk/ungdomsuddannelse/eud-og-eux/organisering-og-ledelse/forskning-i-erhvervsuddannelser/ny-undersogelse-dansk-forskning-i-erhvervsuddannelser-er-under-udvikling-men-mangler-volumen-og-retning>

VET school has systematized the work with learning interviews with companies about the student and shares their experiences.

<https://eva.dk/ungdomsuddannelse/eud-og-eux/trivsel-paa-eud-og-eux/trivselspartnerskab-paa-mureruddannelsen/laeringssamtaler-skaber-tryghed-og-klarhed-for-baade-erhvervsskoleelever-og-virksomheder->

The AI network of the Association of Danish Vocational Schools aims to support vocational schools that work with AI to create learning objectives for students.

<https://deg.dk/nyheder/chatbotten-er-med-timerne-nyt-netvaerk-skal-loefte-elever-underviseres-ai-faerdigheder>

Estonia

The competition for digital learning materials for vocational training, 'Digital Vocational Education', has been launched

<https://hm.ee/uudised/algas-kutsehariduse-digitaalsete-oppematerjalide-konkurss-digitaalne-kutseharidus>



Finland

Education Barometer 2025

<https://vapaasivistystyo.fi/jasenilta/bildningsbarometern-2025/>

Lithuania

EQAVET 2025 report highlights CVET quality in Lithuania

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/lithuania-eqavet-2025-report-highlights-cvet-quality-lithuania>

Slovenia

School leadership central to competence-based VET reform

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/slovenia-school-leadership-central-competence-based-vet-reform>

Switzerland

Thesis on international vocational training cooperation: Why vocational training cannot be exported – and yet attempts are made to do so (sometimes successfully)

<https://transfer.vet/warum-man-berufsbildung-nicht-exportieren-kann-und-es-trotzdem-versucht-manchmal-mit-erfolg/>

Column: Is AI changing the way we learn?

<https://transfer.vet/veraendert-sich-durch-die-ki-das-lernen/>

Study on empathy among teachers

<https://transfer.vet/unterrichten-ist-auch-eine-emotionale-aufgabe/>

The Netherlands

Interim evaluation of the MBO and Internship Pact Work Agenda

<https://kennispuntbpv.nl/nieuws/tussentijdse-evaluatie-werkagenda-mbo-en-stagepact/>

The Netherlands faces a major challenge in the labour market, notes Adnan Tekin, chair of the VET Council. Against this backdrop, calls for greater control over learning decisions are growing louder. This urgency is understandable, but the solution does not lie in coercion and certainly not in a one-sided focus on VET.

<https://mbo-today.nl/de-arbeidsmarkt-vraagt-om-vakmensen-niet-om-dwang-bij-studiekeuzes/>

Viet Nam

New Financing Agreement Marking Team Europe's Support For Viet Nam's Vocational Education Reform

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/vetvet-dec2025_en?s=184

United Kingdom

The European Commission and the United Kingdom have concluded their negotiations for the UK's association to Erasmus+ in 2027.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_3103

Save the Date

01/04/2026: Cedefop research conference "Using data from the web to shape next-generation labour market and skills analysis", organised in cooperation with Eurostat, and hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/using-data-web-shape-next-generation-labour-market-and-skills-analysis>

28-29/05/2026: Cedefop research conference "Harnessing web data for next-generation skills intelligence" in Thessaloniki. Including a new [call for abstracts](#)

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/harnessing-web-data-next-generation-skills-intelligence>



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