

## REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

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Behind the scenes of ReferNet: For the 21st ReferNet annual plenary meeting, the ReferNet partners from the countries met in Thessaloniki, the headquarters of Cedefop, from 28 February to 1 March.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/21st-refernet-annual-plenary-meeting>

The annual get-together was filled with discussion rounds and presentations on national and European VET policies as well as on the ReferNet/Cedefop collaboration. However, there was still time for networking and bi-national talks as well as the traditional group photo.

European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas welcomed the participants to ReferNet's 21st annual plenary in a video.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/videos/margaritis-schinas-cedefops-refernet>

## Europe

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### EU

Study on implementing Erasmus+ 2021-2027: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/747259/IPOL\\_STU\(2023\)747259\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/747259/IPOL_STU(2023)747259_EN.pdf)

DIHK statements on the proposal for the council recommendation 'Europe on the Move' – learning mobility opportunities for everyone and the establishment of an EU talent pool

<https://www.dihk.de/resource/blob/113492/fa10eb54f016c6c432634ab368e055f7/eu-dihk-stellungnahme-lernmobilitaet-data.pdf>

<https://www.dihk.de/resource/blob/113494/760974e18a0668055351a5c2a91b6d28/eu-dihk-stellungnahme-talentpool-data.pdf>



### Cedefop

The 2024 results of Cedefop's European skills index (ESI) show that skills systems are on a converging course in Europe, even though there is still a long way until full convergence is achieved.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/skills-matching-and-activation-drive-convergence-european-skills-systems>

### ReferNet

The new ReferNet partners and national representatives were invited to attend the 21st annual plenary meeting of the network, which was the first annual meeting taking place under the new 2024-27 Framework Partnership Agreement.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/21st-refernet-annual-plenary-meeting>

### Eurochambres

On 5 March, Consumer Law Ready Next organised a Stakeholders Workshop, where Lead Trainers from EU member states discussed the training concept and upcoming trends, with a Training of Trainers scheduled for 26 March. Consumer Law Ready, an EU-wide training programme for SMEs, equips businesses with essential knowledge of EU consumer law, covering areas such as customer complaints, litigation prevention, and enhanced customer service.

<https://www.consumerlawready.eu/>

Global Economic Survey 2024 (GES2024)

<https://www.eurochambres.eu/publication/global-economic-survey-2024-ges2024-report/>

## International Organisation

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### World Skills

Launch of WorldSkills Africa, an initiative to advancing Vocational Education and Training (VET) across the continent

<https://worldskills.org/media/news/worldskills-africa-launched-today/>

Competition Preparation Week concludes with a clear roadmap to WorldSkills Lyon 2024

<https://worldskills.org/media/news/competition-preparation-week-concludes-clear-roadmap-worldskills-lyon-2024/>

European Commission hosts 'Champions of Excellence' event in Brussels

<https://worldskills.org/media/news/european-commission-hosts-champions-excellence-event-brussels/>

### V-Dem Institute

Democracy Report 2024

<https://v-dem.net/publications/democracy-reports/>

## Countries

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### Denmark

Harassment case is not unique: Female apprentices in construction

<https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/grov-chikane-mod-kvindelig-toemrerlaerling-moeder-haard-kritik>

It should be easier to deprive companies of their right to have apprentices, according to the union.

<https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/3f-laerlinge-chikane-skal-bekaempes-med-skaerpede-krav-og-hoejere-boeder>

Together with the Confederation of Danish Employers (DA) and the Confederation of Danish Trade Unions (FH), DEG has formed an alliance to combat unwanted sexual attention and harassment at vocational schools and apprenticeships.

<https://deg.dk/nyheder/fh-deg-forener-kraefter-kampen-mod-uoensket-seksuel-opmaerksomhed-chikane-paa>

Student organisations want to increase democratic involvement at vocational schools

<https://via.ritzau.dk/pressemeddelelse/13777401/elevorganisationer-vil-oge-det-demokratisk-engagement-pa-erhvervsskolerne?publisherId=13561702&lang=da>

HEI drop-outs: students' choice of higher education programmes and why they are increasingly opting out of some programmes: Notions of pay and working conditions make young people opt out of education as nurses and educators

[https://www.eva.dk/videregaende-uddannelse/ved-vi-om-unges-valg-studie-kvote-2?SNSubscribed=true&utm\\_campaign=nyhedsbrev&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Videreg%C3%A5ende%20uddannelse](https://www.eva.dk/videregaende-uddannelse/ved-vi-om-unges-valg-studie-kvote-2?SNSubscribed=true&utm_campaign=nyhedsbrev&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Videreg%C3%A5ende%20uddannelse)

More and more people are continuing their education for green skills in the construction sector. Thus, activity in the use of green AMU courses in the Building and Construction Industry Development Fund has increased by 143% from 2022 to 2023.

<https://via.ritzau.dk/pressemeddelelse/13788773/byggesektoren-benyttter-sig-i-stigende-grad-af-gron-efteruddannelse?publisherId=6040993&lang=da>

### Finland

A new phenomenon in Vantaa upper secondary school: students are now resigning en masse as soon as they reach adulthood. Principal believes that the reason for this is the extension of compulsory education. Compulsory education was extended to the age of 18 in autumn 2021.

<https://yle.fi/a/74-20078033>

Vocational schools are reducing practical learning and want apprentices to learn directly in companies. However, there may be no work placements for apprentices.

<https://yle.fi/a/74-20077972>



### Hungary

The wages of VET teachers will continue to increase by 32.2 percent. Teachers' salaries have doubled in four years.

<https://ikk.hu/hirek/hivatalos-a-beremeles>

Amendments to the Training and Output Requirements for the Agriculture and Forestry sector

<https://ikk.hu/hirek/modositasok-a-mezogazdasag-es-erdeszeti-agazat-kepzesi-es-kimeneti-kovetelmenyeiben>

Charitable vocational training: Schools are painted by vocational students in the framework of practical education

<https://ikk.hu/hirek/karitativ-szakkepzes-1>

Hungarian success at the World Robotics Competition

<https://ikk.hu/hirek/magyar-siker-a-robotikai-vilagversenyen>

### Nordic Council

Publication: Economic vulnerability in different stages of life. Nordic knowledge base with key messages and a focus on gender equality

[https://www.norden.org/en/publication/economic-vulnerability-different-stages-life?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=transactional&utm\\_campaign=Norden Newsletter](https://www.norden.org/en/publication/economic-vulnerability-different-stages-life?utm_medium=email&utm_source=transactional&utm_campaign=Norden%20Newsletter)

### Norway

Challenges for the higher vocational education and training recognition scheme

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/norway-challenges-higher-vocational-education-and-training-recognition-scheme>

## Poland

Greening apprenticeships

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/greening-apprenticeships-poland>

Poland strengthens access to comprehensive career guidance services

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/poland-strengthens-access-comprehensive-career-guidance-services>

## Sweden

More study places on VET to combat skill shortages

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/sweden-more-study-places-vet-combat-skill-shortages>

## The Netherlands

The commitment of 1.6 billion euros to combat discrimination and inequality in MBO has not resulted in more equal opportunities for all students. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science must make tougher agreements with the MBO institutions about policy against inequality of opportunity. This is according to the Court of Audit.

<https://www.nji.nl/nieuws/verbeter-beleid-voor-gelijke-kansen-in-mbo>

MBO (VET) Council chairman argues for more customization and the provision of compulsory general education subjects embedded in the professional context.

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/geef-omscholers-als-eric-corton-de-ruimte-we-hebben-ze-keihard-nodig>

Many pupils in the lower years of secondary education have too low a level of arithmetic and mathematics. This limits their future options, according to the Inspectorate of Education.

<https://www.nji.nl/nieuws/rekenniveau-voortgezet-onderwijs-te-laag>

Npuls presents the magazine Lifelong development with microcredentials

<https://npuls.nl/actueel/npuls-presenteert-het-magazine-leven-lang-ontwikkelen-met-microcredentials/>

Young adults aged 25 to 35 are in worse economic shape than the same age group ten or twenty years ago. This is evident from an analysis by the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI).

<https://www.nji.nl/nieuws/jongvolwassenen-zijn-economisch-kwetsbaar>

## UK

Skills for jobs: implementing a new further education funding and accountability system

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1169158/Skills\\_for\\_jobs\\_implementing\\_a\\_new\\_further\\_education\\_funding\\_and\\_accountability\\_system.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1169158/Skills_for_jobs_implementing_a_new_further_education_funding_and_accountability_system.pdf)

The 7 purpose types for Community Learning will remain in place for Tailored Learning from 2024 to 2025.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-update-21-february-2024/esfa-update-further-education-21-february-2024#informationupdate-on-tailored-learning>

Official Statistics: Apprenticeships: February 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeships-february-2024>

Official Statistics: NI Participation in Full-time Education and Vocational Training

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/ni-participation-in-full-time-education-and-vocational-training>

A review of the assessment of reformed Functional Skills qualifications in English and maths

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-review-of-the-assessment-of-reformed-functional-skills-qualifications-in-english-and-maths>

## USA

SkillsUSA

<https://worldskills.org/media/news/we-are-worldskills-develop-us/>

## Save the Date

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21/03/2024: Cedefop's virtual workshop Building the European map of qualifications - Latest NQF developments

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/building-european-map-qualifications-latest-nqf-developments>



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