



REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

05/2026

02/04/2026

Europe

Cedefop

EVP Mînzatu visits Cedefop

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/skills-heart-europe-evp-minzatu-visits-cedefop>

Policy brief: Vocational education and training (VET) occupations in shortage. From evidence to coordinated policy responses

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/9209>

Call: Scientific and Technical Support to Assist Cedefop research and policy analysis in the areas of VET, skills, and qualification

<https://ted.europa.eu/en/notice/-/detail/116992-2026>

European Training Foundation (ETF)

The European Training Foundation (ETF), an EU agency, requests your feedback to assess your satisfaction with and use of its knowledge products and activities.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/fa809938-43b5-1ce3-32ff-066dc570c914>

Skills Lab Network of Experts: From skills anticipation to policy action

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/skills-lab-network-experts-skills-anticipation-policy-action>

Publication: The impact of AI on labour markets

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/impact-ai-labour-markets>

EUropean Employment Services (EURES)

Gain the skills European employers need with vocational education and training

https://eures.europa.eu/gain-skills-european-employers-need-vocational-education-and-training-2026-03-26_en



Eurydice

Report: Preparedness education in Europe 2025

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/17cb4a0c-12c2-11f1-8870-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Eurochambres

At the European Employment and Social Rights Forum 2026, organised by the European Commission's DG EMPL, Eurochambres CEO Ben Butters represented businesses in the session "Pact for Skills: Closing the skills gap for a competitive Europe". He underlined the need to scale what already works, particularly mobility and vocational education and training through Erasmus+.

https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/european-employment-and-social-rights-forum/agenda-2026_en

Eurochambres key messages on VET mobility at the international conference on cross-border experiences in vocational training and guidance within the Regio Lab in Strasbourg on 23 March: a) mobility is economic infrastructure for competitiveness; b) mobility must become the norm in VET

<https://www.by-cz.eu/ueber-uns/aktuelles/detail/internationale-konferenz-regio-lab-zur-grenzueberschreitenden-berufsbildung/>

VETresearch

Call for Papers: Special Issue of the Journal Education, Society & Cultures – "Second Chance Education in Europe: Critical Analysis and Future Perspectives".

<https://vetnetsite.org/2026/03/16/call-for-papers-special-issue-of-the-journal-education-society-cultures-second-chance-education-in-europe-critical-analysis-and-future-perspectives/>

International



OECD

This Adult Skills in Focus brief examines which skills workers use most frequently, how patterns of skills use have evolved over the past decade, and how they differ across workers and countries. The brief also discusses how better job design, workplace practices and targeted adult learning policies can help ensure that workers' skills are more fully

utilised in changing labour markets.

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/putting-skills-to-work_84449b02-en.html

What are the likely impacts of rising temperatures on students and how are countries adapting?

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/what-are-the-likely-impacts-of-rising-temperatures-on-students-and-how-are-countries-adapting_960244d5-en.html

Retrospective: Giving informal learning the recognition it deserves. This webinar presents findings on how to better define and measure informal learning, based on a project supported by Belgium (Flanders), Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

<https://www.oecd.org/en/events/2026/03/giving-informal-learning-the-recognition-it-deserves.html>

Countries

Austria

Apprentices analyse films

<https://www.diagonale.at/lehrlinge-analysieren-film/>

Cyprus

People, skills and inclusion are at the core of the agenda of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU. In a period marked by rapid digital, green and societal transformations, strengthening vocational education and training (VET) systems so that they leave no learners behind has become a strategic priority across Europe.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/inclusive-vet-practice-cyprus-contribution-europes-skills-agenda>

Czech Republic

National reforms in vocational education and training: accelerating progress in response to new EU priorities

<https://www.npi.cz/aktuality/96432-narodni-reformy-v-odbornem-vzdelavani>

PIAAC International Research Analytical Report: Why adult skills matter

<https://www.npi.cz/aktuality/96054-analyticka-zprava-piaac-proc-se-zajimat-o-dovednosti-dospelych>

Denmark

More people want to educate themselves in welfare education

<https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/flere-vil-uddanne-sig-inden-velfaerdsuddannelser>

<https://ufsn.dk/media/rdjl0vrs/hovednotat-15-marts-2026.pdf>



Estonia

Conclusion of the OECD Education Summit in Estonia

<https://hm.ee/uudised/oecd-kiitus-eestile-hariduse-tippkohtumise-lopus-tiiger-pole-peatunud>

New support scheme helps encourage adults with low levels of education to take up higher education

<https://hm.ee/uudised/uus-toetusmeede-tahe-aitab-tuua-oppima-madala-haridustasemega-taiskasvanuid>

Finland

New national policy guidelines for the development of VET

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/finland-new-national-policy-guidelines-development-vet>

Iceland

Intellectual property industry becomes the largest export base in Iceland

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/iceland-intellectual-property-industry-becomes-largest-export-base-iceland>

Malta

AI supports VET students in Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/malta-ai-supports-vet-students-malta-college-arts-science-and-technology-mcast>

Nordics

Nordic population ageing at record pace according to flagship report

<https://www.norden.org/en/news/nordic-population-ageing-record-pace-according-flagship-report>

Poland

Career guidance in schools strengthened

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/poland-career-guidance-schools-strengthened>

Romania

Shifts in jobs and skills across sectors according to new study

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/romania-shifts-jobs-and-skills-across-sectors-according-new-study>

Switzerland

Study: Challenges in integrating generative artificial intelligence into vocational training

<https://transfer.vet/herausforderungen-bei-der-integration-generativer-kuenstlicher-intelligenz-in-die-berufsbildung/>

Swiss Leading House “Economics of Education”, Working Paper No. 252: The General Initiative would reduce many companies’ willingness to provide apprenticeships

<https://transfer.vet/genki-wuerde-die-ausbildungsbereitschaft-vieler-firmen-mindern/>

Study: ‘Competence Requirements in Higher Vocational Education and Training’. Same level of education – but in some cases very different requirements

<https://transfer.vet/gleiche-bildungsstufe-aber-teilweise-ganz-unterschiedliche-anforderungen/>

Swiss Education Report 2026: a comprehensive review of the education system

<https://www.wbf.admin.ch/de/newsb/xxagE43omx0pByMGNfRVe>

The development of vocational education and training systems throughout the 20th century, using Switzerland as an example: Vocational education and training as a state initiative

<https://www.zora.uzh.ch/entities/publication/5dcb8d79-4345-4d5a-ba99-31a58f5c01f5>

The Netherlands

Under the ‘From School to Sustainable Work’ Act, VET institutions are required to offer additional career guidance to certain groups of students for up to one year after they graduate. This additional career guidance is aimed at young people who need extra support in making the transition to further education or the labour market.

<https://www.nieuwsbrievenminocw.nl/actueel/nieuws/2026/03/18-mbo/handreiking-aanvullende-loopbaanbegeleiding-in-het-mbo-gepubliceerd>

Ukraine

The European Training Foundation and the World Bank held the joint workshop in Vienna on 25 and 26 March to review the findings of the Rapid Education Diagnosis for Ukraine.

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/rapid-education-diagnosis-workshop-brings-ukrainian-and-international-experts>

UK

A letter from the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions on current apprenticeship standards achievement rates.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-standards-achievement-rates-update-2026>

Comment on England's PIAAC results: Low-skilled adults are falling behind

<https://elmmagazine.eu/alex-stevenson-on-englands-piaac-results-low-skilled-adults-are-falling-behind/>

UK Government announces major employment drive to help unlock 200,000 new jobs and apprenticeships for next generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-employment-drive-to-help-unlock-200000-new-jobs-and-apprenticeships-for-next-generation>

There's one million NEETs in the UK. Are we doing enough?

<https://learningandwork.org.uk/theres-one-million-neets-in-the-uk-are-we-doing-enough/>

Save the Date

13/04/2026: OECD Towards a Skills Strategy for South America. Virtual kick-off event

https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HOf04ow0Sq6FlqCU5cPVkQ#/registration

27-28/04/2026: OECD Skills Summit 2026 „Unlocking Talent Across Generations“

<https://one.oecd.org/document/SKC%282026%291/en/pdf>

12-13/05/2026: Launch of Cedefop's forthcoming new framework for policy and systems development for lifelong guidance in Thessaloniki

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/new-framework-lifelong-guidance-enabling-learning-and-career-development-all>

Eurofound, Cedefop, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and the European Training Foundation (ETF) are organising a Tripartite Exchange Seminar (TES 2026) on digital and artificial intelligence and the role of social dialogue.

13/05/2026: Online introductory and preparation session

10-12/6/2026: Residential face-to-face session in Brussels, Belgium, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee

09/12/2026: Online follow-up knowledge sharing sessions

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/events/tripartite-exchange-seminar-tes-2026>

02/07/2026: Learning&Work Institute's Employment and Skills Convention 2026 in Manchester/UK. This annual event for the employment and skills sectors brings together delegates from across central and local government, employers, providers, and third sector organisations to tackle key issues in policy and practice.

<https://learningandwork.org.uk/events/employment-and-skills-convention-2026/>

18-20/05/2027: The 7th Crossing Boundaries Conference will take place at the Centre for Researching Education and Labour (REAL Centre), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

<https://vetnetsite.org/2026/03/29/save-the-date-the-7th-crossing-boundaries-conference-will-take-place-from-18-to-20-may-2027-in-johannesburg-south-africa-2/>



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