

## REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

08/2025

23/06/2025

### Europe

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#### European Commission

Council adopts position to improve and enforce working conditions for trainees and combat bogus traineeships

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/de/press/press-releases/2025/06/19/combating-false-traineeships-council-agrees-its-position/>

Start of the application round for the next citizens' forum on intergenerational justice

[https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/intergenerational-fairness\\_de](https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/intergenerational-fairness_de)

The European Commission has launched a public consultation and a call for evidence on the new Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. Both the consultation and the call for evidence will remain open for 12 weeks, until 10 September 2025.

[https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-seeks-views-new-action-plan-implement-european-pillar-social-rights-2025-06-18\\_en](https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-seeks-views-new-action-plan-implement-european-pillar-social-rights-2025-06-18_en)

The State of the Digital Decade 2025 report offers a comprehensive overview of the EU's digital transformation: Just over half of Europeans (55.6%) have a basic level of digital skills, which are fundamental for societal resilience to online threats, including those affecting information integrity, mental wellbeing and minors. While technology advances, digital transformation has intensified vulnerabilities and inequalities, especially affecting minors and mental health. The availability of ICT specialists with advanced skills remains low and with a stark gender divide, hindering progress in key sectors, such as cybersecurity and AI.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/2025-state-digital-decade-package>



#### Cedefop

Cedefop's survey on Microcredentials for labour market education and training: The study seeks to enhance our understanding of the evolving landscape of (micro)credentials outside formal education and training systems and clarify the conditions and the most crucial elements for making learning for employment visible. Deadline: 27 June

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/projects/microcredentials-labour-market-education-and-training>

The Educational Research Institute - National Research Institute, home of the ReferNet Poland team welcomed their colleagues and partners to the 2025 partnership forum organised jointly with Cedefop. ReferNet Germany/BIBB participated in this event by providing insight into current developments in German VET through a presentation on the topic of *Earning while learning in Germany: highest increase in apprentice pay in 2024*.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/2025-refernet-partnership-forum-warsaw>

Recognising all learning: the expanding role of national qualifications frameworks

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/recognising-all-learning-expanding-role-national-qualifications-frameworks>

Tracking green trends in the labour market with the Skills-OVATE tool. Key findings : Sectors with the highest pervasiveness of green skills, Among the top 50 green skills identified in job ads are: Corporate and social responsibility, Environmental engineering, Green computing, Natural history and Chemistry and environmental science. Greenness varies across Europe's regions, with national labour markets in the west and north showing the highest concentrations of green skills.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/tracking-green-trends-labour-market-how-skills-ovate-tool-informs-skills-intelligence>

## EQAVET

Latest developments in Vocational Education and Training - 2025 EQAVET Annual Network Meeting overview

[https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/latest-developments-vocational-education-and-training-2025-egavet-annual-network-meeting-overview-2025-06-20\\_en](https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/latest-developments-vocational-education-and-training-2025-egavet-annual-network-meeting-overview-2025-06-20_en)

## Eurochambres

Challenges in relation to entrepreneurial, digital and green skills gap: The *EntreComp4Transition* project has released a new Policy Recommendations Report.

<https://entrecomp4transition.eu/wp-content/uploads/EntreComp4Transition-Policy-Recommendations-The-Sustainable-Way-to-the-Twin-Transition.pdf>

## International

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### UNESCO-UNEVOC

This infographic is designed to support the celebration of World Youth Skills Day 2025. It highlights key global insights on youth empowerment, digital skills, and the transformative role of AI—featuring statistics on gender gaps, digital access, and economic engagement.

[https://unevoc.unesco.org/pub/wysd\\_2025\\_infographics.pdf](https://unevoc.unesco.org/pub/wysd_2025_infographics.pdf)

## ILO

The ILO and the Government of the Republic of Korea have partnered to launch a new project aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing the workforce skills of young people to meet the evolving demands the construction sector.

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/ilo-and-korea-partner-advance-digital-green-skills-asean-youth>

## Countries

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### Australia

Pre-apprenticeship programs improve student outcomes, however, their impact varies according to student characteristics and training type.

<https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/publications/all-publications/understanding-the-value-of-pre-apprenticeships>

Student support: enabling the learner journey

<https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/publications/all-publications/student-support-enabling-the-learner-journey>

Statistical report on Apprentices and trainees 2024

<https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/publications/all-publications/apprentices-and-trainees-2024-september-quarter>

### Austria

Apprenticeship professions in Austria: The Job profile screening 2024 develops a list of priorities indicating the urgency with which each job description needs to be updated.

<https://ibw.at/forschung/publikationen/field/research/year/2025/>

### Denmark

The first partial agreement on a new institutional landscape has landed. At the Danish Vocational Schools and Upper Secondary Schools, the agreement is met with both support and concern.

<https://deg.dk/nyheder/ny-aftale-baner-vejen-for-epx-men-detajler-vaekker-bekymring>

A sub-analysis made on the basis of a larger survey on attractive youth environments across youth education, which has been carried out on behalf of the Danish Vocational Schools and Upper Secondary Schools confirmed an attractive youth environments at VET.

<https://deg.dk/nyheder/minirapport-attractive-ungemiljoer-paa-eud-htx>



Analysis on how students experience the first year of higher education comparing students with a vocational education to those with an upper secondary education.

<https://eva.dk/udgivelser/2025/jun/studerende-med-erhvervsuddannelse>

## Estonia

Legislative amendments will promote the next generation of teachers and bring qualified teachers to schools: It is planned to establish a career model for general education and vocational teachers and the related minimum wage, for which the government has planned at least 24 million euros. In addition, it is intended to give teachers three years to acquire a qualification while working and to create a uniform system for attestation of school leaders.

<https://hm.ee/uudised/kristina-kallas-seadusemuudatused-soodustavad-opetajate-jarelkasvu-ja-toovad-koolidesse>

## Italy

A new decree updates Italy's GOL (Employability guarantee) programme, removing access restrictions and improving implementation. The reform aims to help more people return to work through personalised training.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/italy-vet-access-widens-through-gol-reform>

## Nordics

Microcredentials in a Nordic perspective: The aim of the study has been to identify development in learning provided for labour market and society's objectives, and to examine the added value of this way of addressing current and future needs and requirements in the labour market and society in a situation of rapid and determining changes in jobs and lives.

<https://www.norden.org/en/publication/microcredentials-nordic-perspective>

Policy brief: Microcredentials in the Nordic region: An investigation of the occurrence and proliferation of microcredentials in the Nordic countries and self-governing areas

<https://www.norden.org/en/publication/microcredentials-nordic-region>

Young people are increasingly uninterested in working in Nordic food systems, yet the need for their involvement has never been greater. This is a major challenge throughout the Nordic Region.

<https://www.norden.org/en/news/concern-over-waning-interest-careers-food-production>

Nordic Council of Ministers approve funding for a Nordic-Baltic AI Center

<https://www.norden.org/en/news/nordic-council-ministers-approve-funding-nordic-baltic-ai-center>

## Norway

The status report for higher vocational education provides figures and analyses for the sector regarding students, vocational schools, educational offerings and finances for 2024.

<https://hkdir.no/rapporter-undersokelser-og-statistikk/tilstandsrapport-for-hogare-yrkesfagleg-utdanning-2025>

Teenage career development

<https://hkdir.no/en/reports-ongoing-surveys-and-statistics/teenage-career-development-in-norway-insights-from-pisa>

## Slovakia

VET school thrives within unique socio-ecosystem

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/slovakia-vet-school-thrives-within-unique-socio-ecosystem>

## Switzerland

Three out of four young people are doing well in apprenticeships – but some need more support  
<https://transfer.vet/drei-von-vier-jugendlichen-geht-es-in-der-lehre-gut-aber-einige-brauchen-mehr-unterstuetzung/>

The D-VET Hub supports digital transformation in VET. The potential of digital learning environments  
<https://transfer.vet/die-potenziale-digitaler-lernumgebungen/>

Longitudinal analyses by the Federal Statistical Office: Obtaining a secondary II qualification is strongly linked to socio-economic status.  
<https://transfer.vet/der-erwerb-eines-abschlusses-auf-sekundarstufe-ii-haengt-stark-mit-der-soziooekonomischen-situation-zusammen/>

Working Paper: Minimum wages strengthen companies' willingness to invest in further training  
<https://transfer.vet/mindestloehne-staerken-die-bereitschaft-der-firmen-in-weiterbildung-zu-investieren/>

Consulting tool in the field of basic skills training for adults  
<https://transfer.vet/triago-ein-beratungsinstrument-im-bereich-der-grundkompetenzfoerderung-erwachsener/>

## United Kingdom

Microcredentials: Good for Me Good for FE (GfMGfFE), the national initiative promoting social action in colleges, is launching a volunteering microcredential programme for students. Developed in partnership with educational charity NCFE, the programme is designed to recognise the contributions students make to their communities through volunteering – and to highlight the employability skills they gain as a result.  
<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/all-articles/rewarding-volunteering-good-for-me-good-for-fe-and-ncfe-pilot-microcredentials/>

## The Netherlands

Ministry of Education is sending the House of Representatives the research report 'Equal treatment of MBO students: The needs of MBO students central' by the Expertise Centre for Vocational Education (ECBO). The report examines the needs of students in secondary vocational education (MBO) for student life.  
<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2025/05/21/onderzoek-gelijkwaardige-behandeling-mbo-studenten>

Educational innovation movement MBO in2030 completed  
<https://www.nieuwsbrievenminocw.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/06/10/mbo-in-2030>

## Save the Date

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26/06/2025: A Global Conference on the New Social Contract - A Trade Union Perspective  
<https://www.ilo.org/meetings-and-events/global-conference-new-social-contract-trade-union-perspective>

02-03/07/2025: the Unit for Labour Market Analysis of the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) is launching the International Forum on Skills Intelligence (IFSI) in Post-Secondary and Higher

Education, a virtual event

<https://skillman.eu/blog/news-19/international-forum-on-skills-intelligence-ifs-i-in-post-secondary-and-higher-education-838>

09-10/07/2025: Skillman TVET Alliance Summit 2025: AS2025 will strategically align the Skillman Network's global expertise with the priorities of the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

<https://skillman.eu/as2025>

15/07/2025: UNEVOCs World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) "Youth empowerment through AI and digital skills"

<https://unevoc.unesco.org/wysd/>

03–05/09/2025: 8. VET Congress 2025: Opportunities and Challenges of Contemporary Career Transitions

<https://www.sfuvet.swiss/events/vet-congress-2025-opportunities-and-challenges-contemporary-career-transitions>

18/09/2025: Advisory group meeting: Citizenship education in VET

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/advisory-group-meeting-citizenship-education-vet>

25-26/09/2025: 4. Policy learning forum: Launching the European Vocational Teacher Survey (EVTS)

[Fourth Policy learning forum: Launching the European Vocational Teacher Survey \(EVTS\) | CEDEFOP](#)

01/10/2025: First Cedefop symposium on continuing skills development

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/first-cedefop-symposium-continuing-skills-development>

15/11/2025: Call for Submissions, Deadline for abstract submission for the 10th Stockholm International Conference of Research on Vocational Education and Training; 17-19/05/2026; part of the yearly academic events of VETNET (The European network of research in Vocational Education and Training)

<https://stockholminternationalvet.com/>

18-20/05/2027: 7th Crossing Boundaries Conference, in Johannesburg, South Africa

<https://vetnetsite.org/2025/05/26/save-the-date-the-7th-crossing-boundaries-conference-will-take-place-from-18-to-20-may-2027-in-johannesburg-south-africa/>



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