



## REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

08/2026

18/06/2026

### Europe

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#### European Commission

EU Coordinators discussed the strengthened European Child Guarantee and support for vulnerable young people

[https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-coordinators-discussed-strengthened-european-child-guarantee-and-support-vulnerable-young-people-2026-06-12\\_en](https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-coordinators-discussed-strengthened-european-child-guarantee-and-support-vulnerable-young-people-2026-06-12_en)

Final meeting of the Special Panel on child safety online as Eurobarometer confirms link between social media use and wellbeing

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_26\\_1361](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1361)

#### Cedefop

Retrospective on the European Skills & VET Week 2026: Skills at the heart of Europe's competitiveness debate: "Adult learning and vocational education and training are strategic assets in responding to these challenges. Not second-best options, but genuine routes to relevant skills for all, facilitating growth for individuals, the economy and our societies." Juergen

Siebel, Executive Director, Cedefop

[https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/shaping-workforce-tomorrow-2026-06-03\\_en](https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/shaping-workforce-tomorrow-2026-06-03_en)

Cedefop Brussels Seminar — Skills for Europe's Competitiveness: The year-long campaign was launched on 2 June, during the 20<sup>th</sup> — co-organised with the Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/skills-heart-europes-competitiveness-debate>

Publication: New fields for apprenticeship. Insights for successful expansion of apprenticeships to new sectors and occupations that have not typically been accessed through apprenticeship training.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/3100>



## EfVET

From Rhetoric to Reality: European VET at a Crossroads

<https://efvet.org/from-rhetoric-to-reality-european-vet-at-a-crossroads/>

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## International

### VETresearch

Study by the Leading House GOVPET at the University of St Gallen involving 2,500 young people: girls' interest in IT careers increases when the field is portrayed realistically. Existing job profiles should be critically examined and presented in a more realistic light.

<https://transfer.vet/interesse-von-maedchen-an-it-berufen-steigt-bei-realistischer-darstellung/>

### OECD

This report presents the conceptual foundations of the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), now in its ninth cycle this time with a major focus on science. For the first time, PISA 2025 also assessed Learning in the Digital World as an innovative domain and included an optional assessment of English as a foreign language focused on reading, speaking and listening skills.

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/pisa-2025-assessment-and-analytical-framework\\_86c36975-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/pisa-2025-assessment-and-analytical-framework_86c36975-en.html)

The 2026 edition offers new and updated insights into the developments, challenges, and opportunities faced by public employment services worldwide. It also outlines potential developments in key components of labour market policies and includes country profiles of 78 public employment services from 74 countries.

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-world-of-public-employment-services-2026\\_4aebd080-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-world-of-public-employment-services-2026_4aebd080-en.html)

The 2023 Survey of Adult Skills, a product of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) measured social and emotional skills of participating adults. It discusses whether such measures of social and emotional skills, collected from adults' self-reports, can be compared across different countries and cultural contexts and provide recommendations for how the resulting variables should be used in analysis.

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/psychometric-properties-of-the-bfi-2-inventory-in-the-2023-survey-of-adult-skills\\_a5237063-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/psychometric-properties-of-the-bfi-2-inventory-in-the-2023-survey-of-adult-skills_a5237063-en.html)

## Gallup

The *State of the Global Workplace* report features annual findings from the world's largest ongoing study of the employee experience. The 2026 edition finds that global employee engagement fell to 20% in 2025, its lowest level since 2020, costing the world economy an estimated \$10 trillion in lost productivity.



<https://www.gallup.com/workplace/349484/state-of-the-global-workplace.aspx>

## Countries

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### Australia

Cuts to apprenticeship incentives are drawing criticism. Changes to the Australian apprenticeship funding system were announced in the 2026 federal budget. Employers' organisations warn that reduced funding could lead to a further decline in the number of new apprenticeship contracts.

<https://www.apprenticeshipsupport.com.au/about/who-we-are/news-and-events/changes-to-the-australian-apprenticeships-incentive-system-apprenticeships>

<https://www.australianindustrygroup.com.au/news/media-centre/2026/apprenticeships-cuts-are-a-crippling-blow-to-the-nations-pipeline-of-skills/>

In this webinar, the Minister outlined the priorities for skills and training in Australia emerging from the Federal Budget and what it means for industry, employers and the education and training sector.

<https://www.australianindustrygroup.com.au/news/webinars/2026/a-conversation-with-the-hon-andrew-giles-mp/>

The latest data on Australia's apprenticeship system released by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER): In the 12 months to September 2025, trade

apprenticeship commencements are down almost 10%, while non-trade commencements (traineeships) are down just over 18%.

<https://www.australianindustrygroup.com.au/news/media-centre/2026/declining-apprenticeship-commencements-risk-holding-australia-back/>

Die Regierung des Bundesstaates Victoria kündigte ein Programm für 2.000 zusätzliche Elektriker-Ausbildungsplätze im Rahmen der Energiewende an.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2026/may/23/state-sponsored-apprenticeships-and-decriminalising-cannabis-on-the-bill-at-victorias-labor-conference>

## Belgium

VDAB's Competent 2.0 taxonomy provides staff with a standard reference for career guidance, job matching and training, ensuring consistency and transparency.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=28073&langId=en>

## Canada

Prime Minister Carney announces Team Canada Strong – a nationwide plan to recruit up to 100,000 skilled trades workers

<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2026/04/29/prime-minister-carney-announces-team-canada-strong-nationwide-plan>

National Champions are Honoured at the Closing Ceremony of the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto

<https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/national-champions-are-honoured-at-the-closing-ceremony-of-the-skills-canada-national-competition-2026-in-toronto/>

## Denmark

With the introduction of Denmark's new EPX programme in 2030, attractive campus environments will be key to success. Based on interviews with students and campus managers, the study highlights student involvement and the use of diverse staff expertise as critical factors. EPX is a new upper secondary programme that combines academic and vocational learning to strengthen pathways into both vocational and higher education.

[https://eva.dk/ungdomsuddannelse/epx/attraktive-campusmiljoer-skabes-med-eleverne-ikke-for-dem?SNSubscribed=true&utm\\_campaign=nyhedsbrev&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Erhvervsuddannelser](https://eva.dk/ungdomsuddannelse/epx/attraktive-campusmiljoer-skabes-med-eleverne-ikke-for-dem?SNSubscribed=true&utm_campaign=nyhedsbrev&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Erhvervsuddannelser)

This study focuses on first-year students' experiences with the new teacher education with a focus on teaching, student life and internships. The reform of teacher education has been agreed on in 2022.

<https://eva.dk/udgivelser/2026/jun/det-foerste-aar-paa-den-nye-laererruddannelse>

## Estonia

The career model introduced in March 2026 has been extended to include vocational education and training teachers and now forms a unified career system for all teachers: this means that career grades and the associated minimum pay rates apply to teachers in both general education and vocational education and training.

<https://hm.ee/uudised/karjaarimudel-laieneb-ka-kutseopetajatele>

Since 2026, a standardised career model has been in place for teachers in all types of schools, including vocational education.

<https://hm.ee/opetajate-karjaarimudel>

The Ministry of Education and Research and the Estonian Education Staff Union have signed a collective agreement for state schools for the first time.

<https://hm.ee/uudised/esmakordselt-solmiti-riigikoolide-kollektiivleping>

The AI-powered Decision Support Tool assists counsellors in designing the counselling process, allowing them to spot needs early, activate the appropriate services sooner and shorten the path to employment.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=28077&langId=en>

## Finland

Work in Finland platform addresses labour shortages and fragmented employer services for international recruitment by offering guidance to employers, along with services for labour-market integration.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=28060&langId=en>

## Greece

Greece's voucher based training programme aims to re- and upskill unemployed and employed individuals in high-demand sectors, with a particular focus on digital, green and financial skills, tackling skills gaps and mismatches between the workforce's skills and employers' needs.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=28058&langId=en>

## Latvia

Latvia's Education Accelerator leverages labour market demand data to shape education pathways and enhance high school students' career readiness. The initiative promotes public-private cooperation to build engagement with the private sector and bridge young people's career choices in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with labour market needs.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=28075&langId=en>



## New Zealand

Redesign of Vocational Education and Training System: Government's Vocational Education and Training legislation, passed in October 2025, disestablished Te Pūkenga, established 10 regional polytechnics and Industry Skills Boards from 1 January 2026.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/strategies-policies-and-programmes/tertiary-and-further-education/redesign-vocational-education-and-training-system>

<https://www.tec.govt.nz/strategic-initiatives/vocational-education-system/changes-to-the-vocational-education-and-training-vet-system>

## Norway

The status report on higher vocational education provides an overview of the sector through statistics and analyses covering students, vocational colleges, educational provision and finances for 2025.

<https://hkdir.no/rapporter-undersokelser-og-statistikk/tilstandsrapport-for-hogare-yrkesfagleg-utdanning-2026>

## Slovenia

The Labour Market Platform centralises, analyses and forecasts labour market data, including professions, competences and employment trends.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=28072&langId=en>

## Switzerland

The long-standing target of a 95% upper secondary completion rate remains unmet, especially for young people from disadvantaged and non-German-speaking backgrounds. Educational inequalities emerge early and intensify throughout the education system.

<https://transfer.vet/bildungserfolg-darf-keine-frage-der-herkunft-sein/>

A 2026 study shows that social background continues to shape participation in tertiary education in Switzerland. While inequalities in access to academic higher education have declined over time, they remain more persistent in vocational tertiary education.

<https://transfer.vet/der-zusammenhang-von-sozialer-herkunft-und-teilhabe-an-tertiaerer-bildung/>

Study in the Canton of Bern highlights the need for action. How AI could boost cooperation between learning venues

<https://transfer.vet/wie-ki-die-lernortkooperation-voranbringen-koennte/>

## The Netherlands

The VABA (Improvement of the Connection between Vocational Education and the Labour Market) bill amends the Adult and Vocational Education Act. The proposal gives VET institutions more room to organize training flexibly and more in line with professional practice. KLIMmbo published a guide summarising the bill and its consequences.

<https://www.nieuwsbrievenminocw.nl/actueel/nieuws/2026/06/04-mbo/handreiking-klimmbo-over-wetsvoorstel-vaba>

When is generative AI permitted in vocational training, and when is it not? The new AI series provides vocational schools with guidance on establishing clear and common agreements regarding the use of AI in education and examinations.

<https://www.klimmbo.nl/nieuws/ai-waaiert-biedt-mbo-scholen-houvast-bij-verantwoord-ai-gebruik/>

Minister: No 'reversal scheme' in VET, but new language requirements are in the pipeline: Under a 'reversal scheme' for a specific group of international MBO students, they would be able to compensate for a lower level of Dutch with a higher level in another modern foreign language.

<https://www.klimmbo.nl/nieuws/minister-geen-omkeerregeling-mbo-wel-nieuwe-taaleisen-in-aantocht/>

In 2026, employers can apply for a professional training subsidy. This programme provides funding for VET that prepares people for work in socially important sectors and supports collaboration between VET schools and employers on professional training and lifelong learning initiatives.

<https://www.klimmbo.nl/nieuws/slim-scholingssubsidie-weer-open-voor-aanvragen/>

Regional Investment Fund VET invests in innovation and talent development

<https://www.nieuwsbrievenminocw.nl/actueel/nieuws/2026/06/04-mbo/regionaal-investeringsfonds-mbo-investeert-in-innovatie-en-talentontwikkeling>

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## Save the Date

29-30/06/2026: The skills nexus between productivity and job quality: Strengthening foundations for a competitive Europe. The event is part of the European Skills and VET Week, an initiative from the European Commission, organised by Cedefop.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/skills-nexus-between-productivity-and-job-quality>

01/07/2026: An overview of quality elements in apprenticeship schemes in the EU: This webinar, organised on 1 July from 11.00 - 12.30 CET by Cedefop and the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA), brings together European and national experts, policymakers, researchers and apprenticeship stakeholders.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/quality-apprenticeships-eu>

28–29/09/2026: Eurochambres Congress 2026: including the topic ‘Talent and Training’: ‘An expert’s insight into the skills gap in Europe and the challenges facing the labour market ... The discussion will focus on the role that the chambers can play in training, attracting talent and adapting the workforce.’

<https://eurochambrescongress.eu/agenda/>

21-23/10/2026: The EfVET Annual Conference will take place in Brussels, Belgium. This year's theme: "Global Citizenship Empowered by VET". The Call for Roundtables & Workshops is also open!

<https://conference.efvet.org/t2/tickets>



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