



## REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

09/2025

22/07/2025

### Europe

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#### European Commission

The Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union July - December 2025 has two overarching priorities: A secure Europe and a competitive and green Europe.

<https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/>

The Danish Presidency will work towards a new declaration on European cooperation in vocational education and training to highlight the need for attractive vocational education and training offerings.

<https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/informal-meeting-of-education-ministers-11-129/>

20 years of Europass: Empowering careers across Europe with innovation and inclusion

[https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/20-years-europass-empowering-careers-across-europe-innovation-and-inclusion-2025-07-01\\_en](https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/20-years-europass-empowering-careers-across-europe-innovation-and-inclusion-2025-07-01_en)

State of the Digital Decade 2025 report: only 55.6% of Europeans have a basic level of digital skills, while the availability of ICT specialists with advanced skills remains low, with a stark gender divide, hindering progress in cybersecurity and AI

[https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/state-digital-decade-2025-report-urgent-and-bold-action-needed-2025-06-16\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/state-digital-decade-2025-report-urgent-and-bold-action-needed-2025-06-16_en)

Minimising the risks children and young people face online

[https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/minimising-risks-children-and-young-people-face-online-2025-07-14\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/minimising-risks-children-and-young-people-face-online-2025-07-14_en)

#### Cedefop

A new chapter for European social progress: Denmark takes the helm

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/new-chapter-european-social-progress-denmark-takes-helm>

Digital Skills Talks Series hosted by the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform: The session “From Policy to Practice: AI Literacy and the Future Workforce” brought together two key voices: Giulia Carsaniga, Policy Officer at the European Commission’s EU AI Office, and our Skills and Work expert Konstantinos Pouliakas.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/ai-literacy-work-bridging-skills-policy-and-practice-europes-digital-transition>



Driven by 2030 climate targets and the 2020 Osnabrück Declaration's commitment to just transitions to digital and green economies, EU Member States are quietly revolutionising vocational education and training (VET) systems — transforming them into engines of the green transition while tackling critical skills shortages.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/europes-vet-revolution-green-skills-economic-resilience>

### **European Training Foundation**

This working paper is the ETF’s first in-depth exploration of the links between critical raw materials and skills development.

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/critical-raw-materials-why-skills-matter>

### **European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA)**

Apprenticeships for the Union of Skills and the Clean Industrial Deal: Highlights from the 2025 EAfA High-Level Event

[https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/apprenticeships-union-skills-and-clean-industrial-deal-highlights-2025-eafa-high-level-event-2025-07-16\\_en?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/apprenticeships-union-skills-and-clean-industrial-deal-highlights-2025-eafa-high-level-event-2025-07-16_en?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

### **Euroskills**

EU Ministers to Gather in Herning During EuroSkills 2025

<https://euroskills2025.com/eu-ministers-to-gather-in-herning-during-euroskills-2025/>

### **European Research Network VET (VETNet)**

Retrospective: 6th International VETNET Conference “Crossing Boundaries”

<https://vetnetsite.org/2025/05/26/the-6th-international-vetnet-conference-crossing-boundaries-21-23-may-2025-palma-mallorca-was-a-great-success/>

### **European Lifelong Learning Magazine (ELM)**

Policy perspectives: Micro-credentials for megatrends: Nordic and German approaches

<https://elmmagazine.eu/micro-credentials-for-megatrends-nordic-and-german-approaches/>

### **European Labour Authority**

Labour shortages and surpluses in Europe 2024

<https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/publications/labour-shortages-and-surpluses-europe-2024>

## Eurydice

Recommended Annual Instruction Time in Full-time Compulsory Education in Europe – 2024/2025  
<https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/publications/recommended-annual-instruction-time-full-time-compulsory-education-europe-20242025>

## International

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### OECD

Trends in Adult Learning. New Data from the 2023 Survey of Adult Skills

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/trends-in-adult-learning\\_ec0624a6-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/trends-in-adult-learning_ec0624a6-en.html)



Advancing Adult Skills through Individual Learning Accounts. A Step-by-Step Guide for Policymakers

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/advancing-adult-skills-through-individual-learning-accounts\\_08e1bdaf-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/advancing-adult-skills-through-individual-learning-accounts_08e1bdaf-en.html)

OECD Employment Outlook 2025. Can We Get Through the Demographic Crunch?

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-employment-outlook-2025\\_194a947b-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-employment-outlook-2025_194a947b-en.html)

Empowering the Workforce in the Context of a Skills-First Approach

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/empowering-the-workforce-in-the-context-of-a-skills-first-approach\\_345b6528-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/empowering-the-workforce-in-the-context-of-a-skills-first-approach_345b6528-en.html)

## Countries

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### Denmark

Starting in the 2025/2026 school year, pupils in Years 8 and 9 will be able to opt for an apprenticeship as a junior master craftsman.

<https://www.uvm.dk/folkeskolen/fag-timetale-og-overgange/udskoling/juniormesterlaere>

Teaching controversial topics evokes strong emotions, but also creates motivation and engagement in the classroom.

<https://www.vive.dk/da/nyheder-og-debat/2025/undervisning-i-kontroversielle-emner-vaekker-staerke-foelelser-men-skaber-ogsaa-motivation-og-engagement-i-undervisningen/>

In Denmark, 28 percent of secondary school teachers and 19 percent of primary school teachers have already tried to avoid discussing controversial topics in class, according to a study by the Vive analysis centre. This particularly applies to topics related to Islam. Commentators are alarmed.

[https://www.eurotopics.net/de/341086/daenemark-auf-dem-weg-zu-ideologischen-tabus?pk\\_campaign=et2025-06-27-de&pk\\_kwd=341086](https://www.eurotopics.net/de/341086/daenemark-auf-dem-weg-zu-ideologischen-tabus?pk_campaign=et2025-06-27-de&pk_kwd=341086)



## Estonia

Reform of vocational education: By 2035, at least 40% of basic school graduates should choose professional secondary education.

<https://hm.ee/kutsehariduse-reform>

Reform of vocational education: From the 2025/2026 academic year, amendments to the Vocational Educational Institutions Act will enter into force, which concern topics related to free and paid studies in state or local government vocational educational institutions.

<https://hm.ee/kutse-ja-taiskasvanuharidus/kutseharidus/uus-tasuta-ja-tasuline-kutseharidus>

Estonia expands free adult training to boost skills renewal and labour market participation

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/estonia-expands-free-adult-training-boost-skills-renewal-and-labour-market-participation>

Framework for micro-credentials in the Adult Education Act

<https://hm.ee/mikrokvalifikatsioonid>

## Finland

VET learner mobility on the rise

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/finland-vet-learner-mobility-rise>

## Guinea

Guinea validates its national strategy for quality apprenticeship

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/guinea-validates-its-national-strategy-quality-apprenticeship>

## Italy

Additional funding boosts upskilling and reskilling

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/italy-additional-funding-boosts-upskilling-and-reskilling>

## Luxembourg

At the end of the school year, 577 candidates in vocational training obtained their technician diploma (DT). The overall success rate is 91%, which represents an improvement of 7.25% compared to the previous school year.

<https://men.public.lu/fr/actualites/communiqués-conference-presse/2025/07/11-diplome-technicien.html>

The Diploma+ support programme for young secondary school graduates celebrates five years of success. Diploma+ is an apprenticeship that allows participants with a secondary school diploma or a technical diploma to acquire additional skills while waiting to enter the labour market or pursue higher education.

<https://men.public.lu/fr/actualites/communiqués-conference-presse/2025/07/01-remise-diplom-plus.html>

## Montenegro

Education Reform Strategy 2025-2035 includes development in the VET sector: Committed to the Osnabrück Declaration it focuses on aligning education programmes with the labour market needs,

enhancing vocational training and promoting lifelong learning.

<https://www.gov.me/clanak/usvojena-strategija-reforme-obrazovanja-2025-2035>

## Norway

Participation in higher vocational education in Norway is increasing. Historically limited to ISCED level 5, a recent reform allows institutions to offer education at ISCED levels 6 and 7.

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/fagskolene-skall-fa-mer-penger-og-storre-handlingsrom/id3091728/>

The government will pay part of the wages of industrial workers who want to upgrade their skills

<https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/regjeringen-skall-betale-deler-av-lonna-til-industriansatte-som-vil-fylle-pa-med-kompetanse/id3113452/>

## Spain

In.Pact Call for Contributions: Map of Innovative Practices in Youth Participation

<https://mundusgroup.com/in-pact-call-for-contributions-map-of-innovative-practices-in-youth-participation/>

## Slovenia

25 years of national vocational qualifications system

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/slovenia-25-years-national-vocational-qualifications-system>

## Sweden

A specific remuneration model for the training and further education of skilled workers

<https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2025/05/mojligheten-till-kompetensutveckling-for-yrkesverksamma-ska-oka/>

At the Youth Policy Council meeting, participants discussed, how young people who are struggling school can be better supported for the future and how the transition from education to working life can be made smoother.

<https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/ungdomspolitik/>

## Switzerland

Overview of training for teachers and trainers in Switzerland

<https://transfer.vet/uebersicht-ueber-die-ausbildung-von-lehrpersonen-und-ausbildenden-in-der-schweiz/>

Many young people are under pressure, but most of them still feel comfortable in apprenticeships.

<https://transfer.vet/viele-jugendliche-sind-belastet-aber-die-meisten-fuehlen-sich-in-der-lehre-trotzdem-wohl/>

Research project: AI meets personal advice: continuing education co-pilot for SMEs

<https://transfer.vet/ki-trifft-persoennliche-beratung-weiterbildungs-co-pilot-fuer-kmu/>

‘Vocational training 2040 – perspectives and visions’: the view of the Swissmem industry association

<https://transfer.vet/bildung-zwischen-politik-und-arbeitsmarkt/>

## The Netherlands

Documentary and petition aim to boost VET student interest in healthcare

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/netherlands-documentary-and-petition-aim-boost-vet-student-interest-healthcare>

Put the apprentice in the lead when it comes to apprentice well-being

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/zet-de-student-de-hoofdrol-als-het-gaat-om-studenten-welzijn>

Social partners achieve negotiator result for new collective labor agreement MBO

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/sociale-partners-bereiken-onderhandelaarsresultaat-voor-nieuwe-cao-mbo>

## UK

New action to tackle unpaid internships as Government seeks to protect younger workers. Call for Evidence launched into unpaid internships as some employers fail to pay young workers despite ban.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-action-to-tackle-unpaid-internships-as-government-seeks-to-protect-younger-workers>

Top apprenticeship employers celebrated for 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/top-apprenticeship-employers-celebrated-for-2025>

## Save the Date

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09/10/2025: Cedefop's Virtual Get-Together on NIPs implementation

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/virtual-get-together-nips-implementation>

25-26/09/2025: EQAVET Peer Review 'Training and skills needs of the labour market and link with EQAVET indicators': Belgium-fr

23-24/10/2025: EQAVET Peer Review 'Modularisation in VET': Czechia

26-27/11/2025: EQAVET Peer Review 'Improving access to lifelong learning for all': Finland

[https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/skills-and-qualifications/working-together/eqavet-european-quality-assurance-vocational-education-and-training\\_en](https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/skills-and-qualifications/working-together/eqavet-european-quality-assurance-vocational-education-and-training_en)



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