

REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

12/2025

01/10/2025

Europe

European Council

The Herning Declaration on attractive and inclusive Vocational Education and Training for increased competitiveness and quality jobs 2026-2030: On 11 and 12 September 2025, the education ministers of the EU Member States signed the Herning Declaration under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

<https://danish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/new-declaration-to-strengthen-european-cooperation-on-vocational-education-and-training/>

European Commission

eTwinning annual theme 2025/2026 “Skills for life” as part of the European Commission’s Action Plan on Basic Skills (2025)

<https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/discover/news/etwinning-annual-theme-20252026-skills-life>



Cedefop

From Osnabrück to Herning: Ministers Endorse Ambitious VET Declaration

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/osnabruck-herning-ministers-endorse-ambitious-vet-declaration>

Making skills visible: how NQFs support transparency, trust and

inclusion in Europe

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/making-skills-visible-how-nqfs-support-transparency-trust-and-inclusion-europe>

Euroskills

The medallists of EuroSkills Herning 2025

<https://euroskills2025.com/the-results-are-in-here-are-the-medallists-of-euroskills-herning-2025/>

Eurochambres

Eurochambres' support statement on the Herning Declaration on attractive and inclusive Vocational Education and Training for increased competitiveness and quality jobs 2026-2030

<https://www.eurochambres.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Eurochambres-Support-Statement-on-the-Herning-Declaration-on-attractive-and-inclusive-Vocational-Education-and-Training.pdf>

Eurydice

The structure of European education systems

<https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/data-and-visuals/european-education-structures>

Teachers' and school heads' salaries and allowances in Europe

<https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/data-and-visuals/teachers-heads-salaries>

Eurydice Network celebrates 45 years of supporting European education cooperation

<https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news/eurydice-network-celebrates-45-years-supporting-european-education-cooperation>

International

Collaboration

The EU and ASEAN are joining forces to create a more connected and dynamic higher education



landscape through the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package – Higher Education Programme (SCOPE-HE): Recognising the importance of aligning vocational education and training (VET) programs with labour market needs, SCOPE-HE will bridge the skills gap by strengthening connections between VET institutions and the private sector, particularly in green transition and digitalisation sectors.

<https://euinasean.eu/scope-he/>

ETF

More than 100 experts from Central Asia and the European Union will gather in Astana for the International Conference on Youth Employment and Skills Development. The event is organised by the European Training Foundation (ETF) together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, under the patronage of the European Union.

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/astana-hosts-international-conference-youth-employment-and-skills-development>

Countries



Austria

In September 2025, the first higher VET qualification, 'HBQ – Technical Consulting for Energy Efficiency', will come into effect.

<https://ibw.at/news/startschuss-hbb-hoehere-berufliche-bildung,49.html>

The dual system in Austria depends on companies' willing and ability to train apprentices on a voluntary basis. The latest analyses on costs and benefits reveal that this investment pays off for many businesses, both economically and through various non-monetary benefits.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/austria-apprenticeship-training-pays-valuable-investment-companies>

Belgium

Counselling on the Dual Learning Action Plan for secondary education in Flanders: The aim of the Dual Learning Action Plan is to (further) develop dual learning as an effective learning pathway within secondary education.

<https://www.vlor.be/adviezen/samen-duaal-leren-versterken>

Cyprus

Launched the Centre for Lifelong Learning

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/cyprus-advancing-adult-skills-and-programme-accreditation>

Denmark

New project to reduce drop-out rates from vocational education shows "significant results"

<https://udviklingidanmark.erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/projekt-fastholdelse-gennem-social-baeredygtighed-paa-eud-psb>

Analysis of young people's views on recent VET reform

https://eva.dk/ungdomsuddannelse/epx/en-foerste-pejling-paa-de-unges-syn-paa-epx?SNSubscribed=true&utm_campaign=nyhedsbrev&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Erhvervsuddannelser

The Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union focused on quality, mobility and future-proofing of vocational education and training in Europe when the EU ministers of education met in Herning and Billund.

<https://www.uvm.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/uvm/2025/september/250912-ny-erklaering-skal-styrke-europaeisk-samarbejde-om-erhvervsuddannelser>

„The fight to protect European values begins in the classroom“: Speech published on 26 September in Altinget by the European Commission's Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness Roxana Mînzatu and Minister for Children and Education Mattias Tesfaye.

<https://www.uvm.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/uvm/indlaeg-og-taler-af-m/2025/250926-kampen-for-at-beskytte-de-europaeiske-vaerdier-begynder-i-klassevaerelset>

Estonia

Three major reforms are underway in Estonia that support the objectives of the Herning Declaration: Reform of vocational education and training with modernised curricula focusing on general competences, interdisciplinary learning and practical skills.

Reform of compulsory education, which will be extended to the age of 18 or until secondary education is completed.

Reform of the vocational qualification system by 2029 to link education and the world of work more flexibly and efficiently.

<https://hm.ee/uudised/herningi-deklaratsioon-seab-uued-sihid-euroopa-kutseharidusele-eesti-reformid-sammu-vorra>

Estonian apprentices brought home a silver medal and five championship medals from the European Skills Championships

<https://hm.ee/uudised/eesti-opilased-toid-euroopa-kutsemeistrivoistlustelt-hobemedali-ja-viis-meisterlikkuse>

New funding model modernises the remuneration conditions for VET school teachers: The remuneration basis for teachers at VET institutions is being aligned with that of teachers at general education schools.

<https://hm.ee/uudised/uus-kutsehariduse-rahastusmodel-kaasajastab-kutseopetajate-palgatingimusi>

New Zealand

Degree level apprenticeships panel follow up video on FAQ

<https://mailchi.mp/concove.ac.nz/tuhura-dla?e=aea25e015a>

Norway

New scheme enables industrial workers to take paid leave for short training, supported by government, employers and unions.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/norway-pilot-wage-subsidy-upskilling>

The films provide insight into career guidance for refugees and examples of pathways into working life and society in Norway.

<https://hkdir.no/ressurser/filmer-om-karriereveiledning-for-flyktninger>

Poland

New sectoral agreement programme aims to modernise vocational education and align it with labour market needs and future skills demand.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/poland-strengthening-vet-industry-partnerships>

Slovenia

To support schools in implementing recently modernised vocational programmes, a teacher training model for VET teachers – focused on competence-based vocational education – has been developed and piloted since January 2025.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/slovenia-teacher-training-model-marks-step-modernising-vet>

Spain

More women in Spain are enrolling in vocational education and training (VET), with recent data showing steady growth in participation and qualification rates across levels and professional branches.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/spain-rise-womens-vet-participation>

The Netherlands

The Association of Universities of Applied Sciences, the VET Council, the Universities of the Netherlands, JOBmbo, ISO and LSVb call on the Senate and House of Representatives: Reverse the cuts in CVET and further education and prevent further cuts!

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/oproep-onderwijskoepels-en-studentenorganisaties-hol-het-onderwijs-niet-uit>

National budget for 2026: VET Council fears cuts in the VET sector

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/mbo-raad-mist-de-nodige-investeringen-een-onmisbare-sector>

In the context of labour market infrastructure reform, public and private stakeholders have signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen public-private partnerships in labour market initiatives.

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/publieke-en-private-partijen-gaan-intensiever-samenwerken-aan-de-regionale-arbeidsmarkt>

Lifestyle VET students trend report published

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/trendrapportage-leefstijl-mbo-studenten-fundament-voor-een-vitale-toekomst>

Publication: Bottlenecks and solutions for guiding MBO students with additional support needs

https://www.nji.nl/publicaties/wat-speelt-er-bij-de-overgang-van-17-naar-18-jaar?utm_campaign=nieuwsbrief-jeugd&utm_source=nieuwsbrief-nji&utm_medium=email

Guide provides VET schools with concrete tools to prevent sexually abusive behaviour and promote social safety.

<https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/wegwijzer-wensen-en-grenzen-gepresenteerd-bij-de-mbo-raad>

The National Youth Council (NJC) has presented the National Youth Strategy, which provides an overview of the biggest problems facing young people and possible solutions.

https://www.nji.nl/nieuws/nationale-jeugdstrategie-voor-en-door-jongeren?utm_campaign=nieuwsbrief-jeugd&utm_source=nieuwsbrief-nji&utm_medium=email

In the Netherlands, 3 million people aged between 16 and 75 have difficulties with reading, writing or arithmetic. The appeal to the parliamentary committee contains three specific proposals: a vision and a structural approach by all ministries involved to reduce low literacy among adults, adequate and structural funding for adult education, and the involvement of those affected/experts by experience.

<https://www.lezenenschrijven.nl/over-stichting-lezen-en-schrijven/actueel/3-miljoen-mensen-doen-oproep-kom-met-masterplan>

USA

Austria's Apprenticeship Program Energizes Economy in Possible Model for America

<https://ibw.at/resources/files/2025/8/7/2881/presse-674.pdf>

Save the Date

07/10/2025: ConCOVE (Construction&Infrastructure VET) hosts free online webinar on new Bystander Guidelines developed to strengthen leadership, support implementation, and enable safe, practical action to eliminate sexual harassment

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z-v0lNYKTzufm0-6UW10vQ?utm_source=ConCOVE&utm_campaign=a023a846b8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_June11_Webinar_1_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bf0cb294b5-867ec7136f-570091455&mc_cid=a023a846b8&mc_eid=aea25e015a#/registration

09/10/2025: EU priorities in VET - from Osnabrück to Herning and beyond. Cedefop virtual get-together

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/eu-priorities-vet-osnabruck-herning-and-beyond>

20-21/11/2025: European Apprenticeship Conference EAKON. Talents&Company is hosting EAKON in Salzburg for the first time. This event brings together trainers, HR managers and education experts from across Europe to discuss the latest trends and best practices in apprenticeships

<https://www.eakon.at/>

27-28/11/2025: Business Circle Apprentice Forum – Shaping the future of apprenticeships

<https://www.businesscircle.at/events/lehrlingsforum>

1–3/07/2026: 10th Austrian Profession Research Conference (BBFK) in Innsbruck, Austria. Topic: Quo vadis working world? Vocational practice and vocational training under scrutiny. Conference organised by the University of Education Tyrol in cooperation with the University of Innsbruck.

Call for papers: **15 October 2025 to 31 January 2026**

<https://www.bbfk.at/>

21–23/09/2026 5th International Conference of the German Research Center for Comparative Vocational Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.), University of Cologne, Chair of Business Education and International VET Research, Prof. Dr. Matthias Pilz. Call for Papers: Sustainability in Vocational Education and Training (VET). Abstract for Call for papers **by 15 January 2026**

<https://vetnetsite.org/2025/10/01/call-for-papers-sustainability-in-vocational-education-and-training-vet/>



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