REFERNET VETNEWS INTERNATIONAL

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Europe

European Commission

Commission presents European VET Strategy 2026–2030

On 5 November, the European Commission presented its VET Strategy 2026–2030. It prioritises high-quality training, stronger basic skills, closer business partnerships and greater learning mobility to address skills shortages and technological change.

https://education.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/documents/communication-on-a-european-strategy-for-vocational-education-and-training-2026-2030

Targeted training to close the AI adoption gap

The Commission highlights the need for targeted AI training for smaller businesses and workers in mid-career. Drawing on a Joint Research Centre brief, it distinguishes between jobs requiring upskilling within an occupation and those where changing tasks may require retraining. Priorities include short, flexible adult learning opportunities and support for teachers to use AI responsibly.

https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/ai-and-skills-europe-closing-adoption-gap-2026-10-23_en

European Parliament

Parliament calls for a stronger European VET strategy

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution calling for an ambitious European strategy for vocational education and training. MEPs emphasise investment, inclusive access, work-based learning and stronger involvement of social partners and VET providers. They

also call for better recognition of qualifications and learning outcomes gained abroad. The resolution sets out Parliament's priorities for the future European VET strategy.

https://oeil.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/en/document-summary?id=1920801

Cedefop

AI literacy becomes a priority across vocational pathways

A Cedefop analysis highlights AI literacy as a basic competence across occupations. Drawing on the joint report "Changing landscape of skills in the age of AI", it calls for technical understanding, critical assessment and ethical awareness to be embedded in VET and adult learning. Teachers and trainers also need support to assess tools, risks and bias.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/ai-literacy-new-basic-skill-europes-workforce

New regional index supports more targeted skills policies

Cedefop has launched RESET, the Regional Skills Ecosystems index, covering 244 regions in all 27 EU Member States. It combines 37 indicators on skills supply, demand, the skills environment and matching. Regional authorities, training providers and employers can use the tool to compare performance and identify needs that national averages may conceal.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/europes-skills-ambitions-need-regional-lens

European Training Foundation

Central Asian countries identify shared transport skills priorities

At the DARYA High-Level Group meeting in Ashgabat, five Central Asian countries identified priorities for skills cooperation along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor. Their proposed roadmap includes a regional qualifications framework for transport and logistics, shared labour-market intelligence and a pilot for international truck drivers. The priorities are intended to guide cooperation on recognition and validation of skills by 2028.

https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/skills-keep-trans-caspian-corridor-moving-etf-and-international-partners-meet

European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Conference connects citizenship education with vocational learning

EfVET's annual conference with its central theme "Global Citizenship Empowered by VET" examined how VET can prepare learners for participation in society alongside employment.

Discussions addressed citizenship teaching, learning mobility, international cooperation and learners' involvement in policy and institutional development.

https://worldskillseurope.org/index.php/media/news/spotlight-skills-competitions-efvet-annual-conference-2026

Regional care skills partnerships link training with job quality

At an EURegionsWeek workshop, EfVET and partners discussed how lifelong learning can support care careers. Recommendations included regional partnerships between authorities, employers, training providers and workers, protected time for training and clearer progression routes. Participants stressed that skills measures need to be accompanied by fair pay and supportive working conditions to attract and retain care staff.

https://efvet.org/rethinking-care-careers-efvet-brings-regional-perspectives-to-gender-equality-skills-and-wellbeing-at-euregionsweek-2026/

International

UNESCO UNEVOC

Industry partnerships that support lasting TVET reform

The discussion paper "Advancing TVET through industry partnerships and innovation" analyses how TVET systems can respond to rapid technological change, evolving labour markets and growing demands for inclusion and sustainability.

https://www.unevoc.unesco.org/en/articles/advancing-tvet-through-industry-partnerships-and-innovation-discussion-paper

Countries

Bangladesh

Talent Partnership reports training and skills assessment results

Bangladesh's EU-funded Talent Partnership, implemented by the ILO and national authorities, strengthens vocational skills and recognition to support access to employment in EU countries.

https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/ilo-presents-eu-bangladesh-talent-partnership-results-and-skills

Belgium

Easier access to VET learning and career support

The updated Walloon Training Catalogue brings together nearly 14,000 learning opportunities and support services from over 800 providers, helping users find vocational courses, career guidance and employment support.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/belgium-walloon-training-catalogue-simplifies-access-regional-training

Croatia

European funding links teacher training to modular curricula

ReferNet Croatia reports on a EUR 15 million ESF+ call supporting VET schools as modular curricula are rolled out. Funded schools must ensure that vocational teachers complete training in both occupational and pedagogical competences over two years. Mobile support teams and professional exchange complement the funding, with a focus on planning modules, aligning assessment with learning outcomes and strengthening work-based learning.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/croatia-2026-esf-funding-links-vet-teacher-training-modular-curricula-rollout-0

Denmark

New grants support the transition from junior apprenticeship to VET

The education ministry has announced grants to help vocational schools welcome learners progressing from juniormesterlære, the practical pathway in grades 8 and 9, and learners with similar profiles. Schools can develop induction activities, assess practical competences, work with employers on training agreements and train staff.

https://uvm.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/2026/oktober/261028-pulje-skal-sikre-en-god-start-paa-erhvervsuddannelserne-for-elever-fra-juniormesterlaere/

Estonia

Policy pointers seek wider use of skills forecasting

A new Cedefop report presents policy pointers for developing Estonia's OSKA skills anticipation system. Based on research, stakeholder consultation and peer learning, the report recommends closer links with policymaking, better data integration and more timely and regional information. It also identifies scope for stronger participation by SMEs, adult

learning providers and learners. The pointers are intended to support stakeholder discussions and future reform planning.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/estonia-advances-skills-governance-make-anticipation-more-agile-inclusive-policy-ready-0

AI Leap expands to VET

Estonia is extending AI Leap to upper secondary VET, providing teachers and learners with AI tools and learning resources to strengthen AI literacy and independent thinking.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/estonia-ai-leap-expands-vocational-education

Ethiopia

Local TVET capacity supports refugees and host communities

Refugees and host communities gain access to vocational learning aligned with local labour-market needs, supported by the ILO's PROSPECTS partnership. The PROSPECTS partnership combines learning materials with instructor development, curriculum review and certification. Training areas were informed by a local labour-market assessment.

https://www.ilo.org/resource/article/ilo-strengthens-local-skills-systems-refugees-and-host-communities-ethiopia

Hungary

Practical resources strengthen project work and career guidance

A Swiss-Hungarian cooperation programme has developed a methodological handbook on project-based teaching and assessment and a practical career guidance guide. Implemented in three disadvantaged regions, the programme links vocational schools with training partners and supports teachers and trainers. More than 200 good practices have been collected; planned activities include model project and examination tasks and continuing professional development.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/hungary-new-tools-strengthen-practical-learning-career-guidance

Italy and Czechia

Joint project connects AI skills intelligence with policy action

A new EU-funded cooperation under the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) will support Italy and Czechia in understanding how artificial intelligence (AI) and automation are reshaping jobs, identifying emerging skills needs, and strengthening the governance systems needed to turn skills intelligence into policy action.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/italy-czechia-step-skills-anticipation-age-ai

Lebanon

VET and career guidance support Lebanon's recovery

An ETF peer-learning activity has brought Lebanese education authorities, employers and partners together to examine career guidance and school-to-work transitions. As Lebanon updates its curriculum, participants explored closer coordination between education, employment services and the private sector. The exchange also highlighted learner wellbeing and support following severe disruption to vocational education.

https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/career-guidance-and-vocational-education-play-heightened-role-lebanons

Luxembourg

Mobile workshops bring vocational occupations into schools

Three SkillsTrucks are bringing practical workshops to Luxembourg's secondary schools during the 2026/27 school year. Students can explore wood and metal, cooking and pastry, or hairdressing and aesthetics with qualified craft trainers. The mobile workshops rotate between locations each trimester.

https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/luxembourg-skillstrucks-take-vocational-occupations-road-young-people

Netherlands

New collective agreement strengthens professional practice in VET

Employers and unions have approved the 2026–2028 collective agreement for Dutch vocational education institutions. Alongside pay provisions, it updates the professional statute to clarify teams' responsibilities for teaching quality, learner support, assessment and professional development. Social partners will also review professional development and support across employees' working lives.

https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/cao-mbo-2026-2028-definitief

Citizenship education reforms proposed

The Netherlands proposes clearer institutional responsibilities, revised citizenship requirements and compulsory VET examinations. Neither measure has been adopted. Consultation closes on 13 November; implementation is planned for August 2027, subject to approval.

https://www.mboraad.nl/nieuws/internetconsultatie-nieuwe-burgerschapseisen-geopend

Norway

Proposed framework opens a route towards higher levels of vocational education

HK-dir and NOKUT have proposed new and revised learning-outcome descriptors for Norway's qualifications framework, including a vocational strand at levels 5–7. The work supports plans to enable higher vocational institutions to offer more advanced provision. The education ministry intends to consult on the descriptors in early 2027. The government aims to allow higher vocational provision at levels 6 and 7 and plans a further consultation during 2027 on accreditation, quality assurance, admissions and degree titles.

https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/fortsetter-utviklingen-av-fagskoleutdanningene/id3190752/

Higher vocational quality pilot gains more time for development and evaluation

Under Norway's extended higher vocational excellence pilot, the Centre for Experience-based Learning at Fagskolen Viken receives support for 2027 and 2028, while Fagskolen Rogaland's project continues to the end of 2027 without additional funding. The extension will support sharing of teaching practices and provide more evidence on effects across the sector.

https://hkdir.no/aktuelt/vil-spre-gode-losninger-i-hele-fagskolesektoren

Employer partnership creates an advanced vocational route for healthcare workers

Fagskolen Innlandet has received Norway's higher vocational education quality award for a programme developed with employers, students and professional organisations. The programme provides healthcare workers with more advanced clinical competence and supports changes in workplace responsibilities.

https://hkdir.no/aktuelt/ny-karrierevei-for-helsefagarbeidere-millionpris-til-fagskolen-innlandet

Spain

EUR 31.3 million for VET quality

Spain has allocated EUR 31.3 million to improve VET quality in 2026, supporting skills competitions, learner mobility, training projects and teacher development.

https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2026-21515

Manufacturing students apply circular economy principles to metal waste

Higher VET students have developed a project turning recovered metal into useful products. VET learners apply machining and manufacturing skills while planning recovery, sorting and

production processes and considering commercial viability. The project connects technical learning, resource efficiency and entrepreneurship.

https://efvet.org/reforja-manzanares-turns-metal-waste-into-new-opportunities-through-vet/

Switzerland

Hospitality reform starts with stakeholder feedback

Hotel & Gastro formation Schweiz is using responses from eleven stakeholder groups to inform its Hospitality VET 2030 project. Reported priorities include reliable mentoring, predictable working hours and training conditions.

https://transfer.vet/gastgewerbliche-berufsbildung-2030-erst-zuhoeren-dann-reformieren/

Conference highlights supportive everyday apprenticeship practice

The SGAB autumn conference explored how apprenticeship conditions can support apprentices' wellbeing, linking research with practical approaches to early identification and support and highlighting the role of trainers and workplace learning environments.

https://transfer.vet/gesundheit-entsteht-im-ausbildungsalltag/

Prospective vocational college teachers develop AI communication practice

Prospective vocational college teachers have developed an AI-supported communication training tool for learners in technical occupations.

https://transfer.vet/studierende-holen-gold-mit-ki-projekt/

Interdisciplinary vocational baccalaureate work needs stronger coordination

Practice at two Swiss vocational baccalaureate schools highlights how interdisciplinary projects develop study and communication skills, while revealing challenges in coordination, time and assessment.

https://transfer.vet/interdisziplinaritaet-in-der-bm-ein-ambitioniertes-projekt-zwischen-anspruch-und-realitaet/

Syria

Skills training and business support strengthen livelihoods in Syria

In Syria, new initiatives combine skills development, employment services and business support to help entrepreneurs build sustainable livelihoods.

https://www.ilo.org/resource/article/ilo-expands-decent-work-opportunities-returnees-and-communities-syria

Thailand

Green construction modules enter vocational curricula

Thailand has integrated green construction skills into vocational curricula with ILO support. Further digital and green training courses are planned for 2027

https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/thailand-integrates-digital-and-green-construction-skills-national-training

United Kingdom

Sector jobs plans set out new apprenticeship commitments

The UK government has published jobs plans for professional and business services and construction. Professional and business services employers commit to recruiting 22,400 new apprentices aged under 25 annually over five years. Construction measures include a new apprenticeship network to support recruitment and participation by smaller firms.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-100000-job-and-training-opportunities-a-year-to-give-young-people-a-route-into-britains-growth-industries-as-part-of-industrial-strategy

Save the Date

24/11/2026: The forum in Dublin will bring together employers, education and training providers, social partners and government to discuss construction workforce needs. Topics include international cooperation, changing skills requirements and the green and digital transitions. Organised by Ireland's further and higher education department, the event runs from 09:00 to 13:30 GMT.

https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/european-skills-and-vet-week/construction-sector-skills-forum-cssf-2026-11-24_en

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