

**2nd POLICY LEARNING FORUM:****Defining and writing learning outcomes for VET qualifications***Cedefop, Thessaloniki 13-14 October 2016***Second working group session****Working Group 3****Developing a European network on learning outcomes for VET****Work flow**

The working group discussed issues related to a possible European network on learning outcomes for VET. Slava Pevec Grm moderated the session, introducing the thematic focus of the workshop and explaining the session flow. The participants were presented with questions for further exploring the topic of developing a European network on learning outcomes for VET. Participants split in 3 sub-groups to discuss the questions listed below. A representative of each sub-group shared the key messages discussed to all participants of WG 3. Andreea Rusu, Cedefop, was the rapporteur of the three working groups.

The discussion focused on the following questions:

- 1) What would be the added value and role of a permanent network addressing the definition and writing of learning outcomes in VET?
- 2) Who could be the main stakeholders in such a network?
- 3) Which main areas of work should be given priority if a network is to be established?
- 4) How could such a network be steered and coordinated? What would be the contribution of Member States, European Commission and Cedefop?

The key messages can be summarized as follows:**QU1 – Why? - What would be the added value and role of a permanent network addressing the definition and writing of learning outcomes in VET?**

- the general aim of such a network would be to **strengthen transparency** in writing and application of learning outcomes across Europe
- its role would be of **moderation** and **support** to groups and individuals involved in writing learning outcomes. It would be an active network, pushing for and facilitating sharing of information and good practices, and it would be a unique point of reference (a platform) to access/contact for expertise in the field
- it would enable/guarantee **continuity of work** at European level, allowing to keep track of developments and to have up to date information on where we are and where we are going with the work on learning outcomes in VET in Europe.

QU2 – Who? - Who could be the main stakeholders in such a network?

- it should be an **independent** network of practitioners, with its **own identity** (i.e. not like Europass)
- the main stakeholders:
 - ✓ **practitioners** involved in writing learning outcomes, who understand transitions and permeability and, ideally, who have an overview of the entire process
 - ✓ **employers and other social partners**, who understand the realities from the labour market
 - ✓ **researchers**
 - ✓ **learners** / representatives of learners
- there should be a mechanism to valorise the work of the network, and to ensure that the outcomes of this work reach policy-makers. A Nordic curriculum network was mentioned as an example.

QU3 – What? - Which main areas of work should be given priority if a network is to be established?

- the areas of work should emerge in a **bottom-up approach** and **coming from countries**, depending on who is interested in what
- the network would showcase **implementation of learning outcomes in countries**, as country-level realities should be made known to other countries
- it should be open to **piloting**, bringing together people with specific expertise and interests, sharing good practices and acting as an ‘incubator for innovation’
- the network could contribute to policy handbook on learning outcomes and develop general principles of writing learning outcomes.

QU4 – How? - How could such a network be steered and coordinated? What would be the contribution of Member States, European Commission and Cedefop?

- **steering/coordination** should be by an Agency, such as Cedefop, working directly with the Member States
- **national commitment** for participating to the network should be encouraged/ensured
- the network should have a clear **mandate** and **methodology** to follow (e.g. to present ideas to countries and to invite countries to participate)

Other points mentioned:

- pilot projects undertaken within the network could be financed through Erasmus+ Key Action 3 – “Initiatives for policy innovation”
- the network could act as a clearing house for projects for writing and application of learning outcomes funded from EU funds
- it was mentioned that the network should not be steered by the EC