## Second Policy learning forum ([1])
## Unlocking the potential of learning at the workplace by, and for, teachers and trainers in VET
## Porto Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki (Greece), 9-10 April 2019

### Small group discussion - Theme and Methodology

Teachers and trainers in vocational education and training (VET) work in the context of innovation, globalisation, rapid technological and societal changes that set challenges to education and training systems across Europe and globally. Motivated and competent VET teachers and trainers can embrace these challenges and ensure quality and effective learning experiences of young people in VET, including apprenticeships and work-based learning.

The policy learning forum is a good opportunity to discuss and share experiences and solutions on planning and monitoring and diversifying ways of implementation, including innovative forms and formats.

The approach to the work in small groups is based on the Open space technology ideas ([2]).

Our overall/ultimate theme for the discussions is

> **How to build stronger bridges between the school and the workplace so that teachers and trainers benefit in their professional development and better support learners in innovative and effective ways?**

---

([1]) The forum's website: http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/events/second-policy-learning-forum-supporting-teachers-and-trainers-vet-future

([2]) The Open space is an alternative method of organising meetings which encourages participants to take on roles that they would not normally adopt. It is a highly democratic and self-managing meeting methodology. It is self-organising, where people participate in building the agenda, present the issues they care about, moderate the workshops and report on them. The Open space is a methodological tool that enables self-organizing groups of all sizes to deal with hugely complex issues, such as teachers and trainers professional development is!, in a very short period of time. More information can be found at:
http://www.openspaceworld.com/users_guide.htm

<u>The Methodology</u>

The sessions will be organised in the following steps:

1. <u>'Lightning talks'</u>

Selected participants will present their examples of policy and practice from their countries. These should serve as starting points for further discussion; all participants can propose other issues for discussion in the following steps.

2. <u>Introducing the theme and the process</u>

On Tuesday after the lunch break, a Cedefop moderator will introduce the theme and explain the working process.

3. <u>Creating agenda and schedule</u>

After the moderator explains the "rules of the game", he/she will invite participants to propose their issue, burning question or great idea. Proposals will be collected in A4 sheets of paper and will be put on a notice board to create the agenda.

Small groups will be formed depending on the number of proposals received.

4. <u>Selecting small groups/issues</u>

The agenda (issues are fixed on the wall/bulletin board) is set; a space and timeframe are allocated for each issue. The participants are invited to explore it, mill around and decide what to attend, which issues to contribute to, what to learn from.

There will be round tables spread around the conference rooms available for small groups to settle around. Groups can also choose other hotel premises for discussion, even sitting outside.

5. <u>Discussions in the small groups</u>

In every group, the participant who proposed the issue to be discussed becomes the host, presents it in more detail and takes responsibility to make sure it is debated.(S)he should be assisted by a rapporteur in recording the results (i.e. suggestions, ideas, or questions). At the beginning of their discussion, the participants may establish some communication rules to facilitate a productive exchange of ideas.

6. <u>Displaying results of workshops on a Bulletin Board</u>

Cedefop will provide templates for reporting the outcomes. The results from each group will be placed for public display on a Bulletin Board. This will allow participants to keep track of what is going on in other groups and leave their comments if they wish. If the groups see similarities, they can negotiate and join the discussion with another group.

7. Moving among groups

Participants are free to move to any group. If at any time they feel that they are not learning or contributing, they have the right to move to another one, to have a coffee, to take a break. It is their responsibility to make sure that no time is wasted.

8. Presenting the outcomes of the discussions

At the end of the discussion, the participants will make sure that all their deliverables are on the Bulletin Board. The Cedefop moderator(s) will summarise the outcomes and present them in the plenary, raising the issues to be addressed in the panel discussion.

The outcomes will also be published after the forum.