

The role of VET in breaking the vicious cycle of early leaving and unemployment

Abstract

VET institutions in some countries tend to be faced with high rates of drop outs. However, high quality, inclusive and flexible VET provision may prevent and remedy leaving education early. Cedefop study [Leaving education early: Putting Vocational Education and Training \(VET\) centre stage](#) shows that VET can be a safety net for those at-risk learners in general education offering an alternative pathway and securing their retention in education and training. Also, VET offering a more practical, work-oriented route towards a qualification can magnetize early leavers back to education and training.

Countries implement a variety of measures to address this phenomenon, many of them inspired by vocational educational training (VET) practices and pedagogies. Cedefop four-year research identified more than 350 VET-related measures to combat early leaving from education and training (ELET). Along with these measures, there are some new techniques and tools aiming to support policy and practice. Cedefop has recently launched a new [web toolkit for tackling early leaving](#) (www.cedefop.europa.eu/TEL-toolkit) aimed for policy makers and VET practitioners involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of VET policies and practices to tackle early leaving. This is a Europe-wide toolkit inspired by successful VET practices in helping young people to attain at least an upper secondary qualification.

It provides practical guidance, tips, good practices and tools drawn from VET to feed into activities and policies aiming at:

- helping young people at risk of becoming early leavers to remain in education and training and qualify;
- helping early leavers to reintegrate into education or training and the labour market.

The present intervention aims at presenting Cedefop findings (Cedefop, 2016)¹ and the new web toolkit, and critically discussing those factors that determine the effectiveness of VET in reducing ELET.

Irene Psifidou, Cedefop

Expert

Department for Learning and Employability

Contact:

Telephone: +30 2310490149, rena.psifidou@cedefop.europa.eu

¹ *Leaving education early: putting vocational education and training centre stage*

Volume I: investigating causes and extent

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/5557>

Volume II: evaluating policy impact

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/5558>