



Cedefop's ambassadors for tackling early leaving from education and training [call for further support](#) to address the needs of learners at risk and ensure their equal access to quality distance learning.

The coronavirus pandemic disrupted the education and training of an entire generation of vocational education and training (VET) learners. Those already at risk – from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, migrants and from ethnic minorities, learners with disabilities and special education needs – often find themselves out of school. With schools being closed, they risk falling further behind, while further disruption to their learning is imminent if distance learning is not ensured. At the same time, they are at increased risk of violence, abuse and neglect, as families and households are locked down.

Examples of initiatives from seven European countries in Cedefop's [new report](#) show the efforts made to ensure that learning continues for all VET learners, as well as to support VET teachers and trainers who had to convert physical classrooms and working places into digital learning environments overnight.

According to the report, VET teachers and trainers face challenges such as no access to equipment and internet connection required to offer distance learning; lack of digital skills and competences to make efficient use of the platforms; poor experience in creating digital teaching content; no experience in e-learning and other distance learning pedagogies in VET, especially for teaching practical components; concerns over privacy issues, copyright and data protection.

The report also points out that learners at risk, not participating in distance education, disconnect for a longer period and may eventually drop out of their VET programme.

Prior to the pandemic, European countries had made significant progress in lowering the rates of [early leaving from education and training](#), results which should be sustained in the post-coronavirus era. Cedefop's [VET toolkit for tackling early leaving](#) has never been more important in supporting policy-makers and VET practitioners to prevent early leaving.

## Countries

---

 EU level  Germany  Greece  Portugal  Romania  Spain  Turkey  United Kingdom

## Beneficiaries

---

Learners at risk of early leaving from education and training

Young people with complex needs (e.g. health issues, in poverty, with caring responsibilities) Secondary education students  
VET students (school based) VET students (in work based learning schemes) Migrants / refugees  
Vulnerable groups

## Downloads

---

### Digital gap during COVID-19 for VET learners at risk in Europe (Full report)

[EN396.61 KB](#)

### Digital gap during COVID-19 for VET learners at risk in Europe (Summary in English)

[EN222.15 KB](#)

### Fossé numérique pendant la COVID-19 pour les apprenants de l'EFPP en risque de décrochage en Europe (Summary in French)

[FR229.12 KB](#)

### Brecha digital durante COVID-19 para estudiantes de FP en riesgo en Europa (Summary in Spanish)

[ES226.65 KB](#)

**Ψηφιακό χάσμα κατά τη διάρκεια του COVID-19 για τους εκπαιδευόμενους που διατρέχουν κίνδυνο πρόωρης αποχώρησης από την ΕΕΚ στην Ευρώπη (Summary in Greek)**

EL249.89 KB

**Divario digitale durante la pandemia di COVID-19 per gli studenti a rischio di abbandono precoce dell'leFP in Europa (Summary in Italian)**

IT228.03 KB

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/toolkits/vet-toolkit-tackling-early-leaving/resources/digital-gap-during-covid-19-vet-learners-risk-europe>