



## **Towards lifelong learning – Future-proofing VET skills and competences**

10th Cedefop Brussels seminar  
30 June 2021, 10.00-12.15 CET, virtual event

### **General information**

<b>Organiser</b>	Cedefop
<b>In cooperation with</b>	The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU
<b>Venue</b>	Online
<b>Participant profile</b>	Brussels-based stakeholders from the Permanent Representations of Member States to the EU, European Commission, the European Parliament, European business and sector associations, trade unions and employee organisations
<b>Working language</b>	English

Cedefop, together with the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, is pleased to invite you to its 10th Cedefop Brussels seminar. Organised in cooperation with the rotating EU Council Presidency, these seminars build on Cedefop research and analyses and address issues relevant to European debates on vocational education and training (VET) and employment.

### **Focus of the seminar**

The 10th Brussels seminar will address two key aspects related to the ‘future-proofing’ of VET skills and competences, both directly influencing the review and renewal of VET curricula and programmes in Member States.

The rapid changes in technology and labour markets increasingly require VET systems to combine initial education and training of young people with a renewed focus on continuous training of adults. Despite a general agreement across Europe on the urgency of this move towards lifelong learning, the implications for the content and profile of VET programmes are not immediately obvious. Cedefop has analysed the changing content and profile of VET qualifications and programmes in several projects (*Future of VET*, *Key competences*, *Comparing VET qualifications*, *Learning outcomes*, etc.).

### **Part 1: Balancing technical and transversal skills and competences**

It is easy to think of VET as exclusively regarding specialised, technical skills related to tasks or occupations. Though these skills play a key role and require continuous updating, they build on a basis of general knowledge and transversal skills and competences that enable the individual learner to adapt and evolve in complex and unpredictable life and work situations. In today’s fast-changing technological and labour market environment, these transversal skills and competences are becoming increasingly important and considered critical for future-proofing VET (and education and training in general). The EU key competences framework illustrates an effort to operationalise these skills and competences politically, providing a direction for their implementation and development.

### *1. Unpacking transversal skills and competences*

This introduction will report on the recent work in the context of ESCO and the European qualifications framework (EQF) to clarify and ‘unpack’ the extremely complex terminology of transversal skills and competences. The key message is that terminological confusion and complexity undermines dialogue, making progress in this area more difficult.

### *2. Implementing the EU key competences framework*

Based on Cedefop research, this intervention will report on the Member States’ efforts to implement key competences in VET.

### *3. Portuguese reflections on the role of key competences in VET and lifelong learning*

This intervention will present the status of key competences in Portuguese VET and lifelong learning, taking into account the role they play in promoting personal development, employability and active citizenship.

## **Part 2: The VET feedback loop**

While much attention is paid to forecasting labour market skill needs, the same cannot be said for the integration of these forecasts in VET and in lifelong learning. Based on Cedefop’s recent work for the project *Comparing and analysing VET qualifications*, challenges related to the review and renewal of VET content will be addressed.

The green and digital transitions are the core focus of the EU agenda for the next decade. The transition to an environmentally sustainable, circular and climate-neutral economy as well as to a more digital world, will have significant social, economic and employment impacts, further changing labour market skill needs and, consequently, VET and lifelong learning programmes.

This session will focus on the importance of strengthening the feedback loop between labour market (demand) and VET (supply).

### *1. Cedefop research findings on the review and renewal of VET qualifications*

### *2. Portuguese reflections on future-proofing VET qualifications and programmes*

This part will present measures and instruments put in place and further development in this area within the national system of qualifications (aimed to raise the qualification levels of the active population, as well as to structure initial and continuous education and training paths for young people and adults, adjusted to labour market needs).