CEDEFOP VALIDATION WORKSHOP

Evaluating impact and success for VET policies to tackle early leaving from education and training

Brussels, 21 October 2015

While significant efforts have been made to assess and understand the phenomenon of early leaving at EU level in the past years, little is known about the specific role of VET in this context across the EU. However, it can be expected that VET is both 1) an education sector that is significantly affected by early leaving and also 2) a supply of pathways that are expected to provide successful options to those who are likely to drop out or have dropped out. That is why Cedefop launched a three year project to analyse the role of VET in reducing early leaving from education and training.

The project is currently in its second year. A first phase of this study was carried out in 2014 with the aim of developing a better understanding of the phenomenon of early leaving from VET. This included an analysis of the scale of the issue of dropping out from VET and the factors related to it. Findings have been published in a joint report with Eurydice on: “Tackling early leaving from education and training in Europe: Strategies policies and measures”\(^1\)

Building on what was learnt during the first phase, the current second phase focusses on understanding how VET policies and measures can effectively address the issue of early leaving from education and training. In summary, VET can contribute to efforts tackling early leaving by:

- Retaining young people at risk of early leaving in education and training and lead them towards a qualification;
- Reengaging young people who dropped out in education and training leading them either towards a qualification or towards another training programme that will ultimately result in a qualification.

This second phase of the study has three main aims:

- To improve the knowledge base on VET policies and their effectiveness at addressing ELET;
- To produce new evidence on what works and how;

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To draw evidenced based policy recommendations aimed at European policy makers, national stakeholders and other actors on how VET may contribute to reducing ELET at European, national/regional and different institutional levels. On this basis, this phase of the study explores the evidence base of a variety of VET policies and measures in order to identify their effectiveness across 15 countries of the EU and EEA. Crucially, the analysis examines the key success factors (and challenges) which impact on the effectiveness of these VET measures. These factors are examined within a framework that takes account of the broader context including the nature of the education and training system, the labour market and policy commitment as well as the nature of the measure itself and target group.

Preliminary results of the second phase of study will be available in October 2015 and presented during a one day workshop in Brussels in 21 of October. The workshop will be an opportunity for participants to discuss evidence-based measures in their country and in other countries in terms of what features lead to (or hinder) effectiveness of VET to address early leaving from education and training. An important consideration is also the potential transferability of lessons learned from these measures to other contexts.

The main themes of the workshop are:

- (Success and Challenging) Factors contributing to the effectiveness of measures involving VET to tackle early leaving from education and training;
- Potential transferability of lessons between national and regional contexts, taking stock of:
  - The crucial factors needed to see an effective measure be transferred to another context (within the country and cross-country);
  - The factors that constrain the effectiveness of measures when transferred to another context (within the country and cross-country)

The ultimate scope of the workshop is to draw relevant and useful possible recommendations to national and local policy makers and EU level policy makers to support the European Commission, Member States, social partners and other stakeholders in their effort to implement EU policies to reduce early leaving from education and training and to achieve the EU target by 2020.

The conclusions of this workshop together with the findings of the study will be published in 2016 in a Cedefop briefing note and a research paper, and your contribution will be acknowledged.


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