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**POLICY LEARNING FORUM:****The definition and writing of learning outcomes in  
vocational education and training**

*Cedefop, Europe 123, 57001 Thessaloniki (Pylea)*

*24-25 September 2015*

A main priority for Cedefop is to support Member States and Social Partners in further developing and improving vocational education and training and lifelong learning policies and practises. To be able to do this in a systematic way, Cedefop will from 2015 organise a series of *Policy Learning Fora* (PLF) on a range of different issues. The first forum, on the 24-25 of September 2015, will address the ‘definition and writing of learning outcomes for VET qualifications’.

**Focus**

The PLF on the definition and writing of learning outcomes will focus on three concrete vocational education and training qualifications: for plumbing (heating and cooling), CNC machine operation and for tourism and travel. These qualifications represent the wide scope of knowledge, skills and competences covered by VET qualifications in Europe today.

- The plumbing qualification, while emerging from traditional crafts, is rapidly changing to match new technological, regulatory and political (‘greening skill’) requirements.
- The CNC machine operation qualification is at the core of modern industries and exemplifies the meeting of traditional industrial skills and the requirements of advanced technologies.
- The tourism and travel qualification represents the growing service sector and the challenges involved in developing the ‘soft’ skills and competences critical to the delivery of high quality services.

**Methodology**

The PLF on the definition and writing of learning outcomes will require active participation from all participants.

- Prior to the event, national representatives will be asked to submit a written input summarising the way the learning outcomes approach have been implemented in their

particular national setting. This written input will make sure that the PLF has a strong empirical basis on which to work.

- Participants will be involved in an active process of dialogue and exchange of experiences in the plenary sessions as well as in the working groups. Our aim is to present as many national approaches as possible and use this as a basis for identifying challenges and opportunities in defining and writing learning outcomes.
- The first working group session will approach the three qualifications in detail. Following an initial presentation of country cases, participants will work in groups of 2-3 to systematically exchange experiences and identify issues. The outcomes of this work will be discussed by the working group as a whole and eventually presented to the plenary.
- The second working group session will use the same methodology as above but focus on three transversal issues: terminological challenges; the challenge of expressing the content and profile of a qualification and the challenge of reviewing and renewing learning outcomes descriptions.
- The final plenary session aims to draw together the findings of the PLF and in particular identify issues to be addressed more systematically in the future – through new PLFs or in other forms of cooperation and policy support.

## Agenda

<b>Thursday, 24 September 2015</b>	
09:00-09:30	<b>Registration</b>
09:30-10:00	<p><b>Opening speeches</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Europa Room</i></span></p> <p><i>Chair: Loukas Zahilas</i></p> <p><b>Cedefop's policy learning fora – purpose and objective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Calleja, Director, Cedefop</li> <li>• Koen Nomden, European Commission</li> </ul>
10:00-10:30	<p><b>PLENARY</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Europa Room</i></span></p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Definition and writing of learning outcomes - Issues and questions</a></u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><a href="#">Jens Bjornavold and Slava Pevec-Grm, Cedefop</a></u></li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	<b><i>Tea/coffee break</i></b>

11:30-13:00	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Europa Room</i></p> <p><b>Learning outcomes as used by three countries for three qualifications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Between crafts, industry and the greening economy: Plumbing - heating and cooling, Aulika Riisenberg, Foundation Innove, EE;</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The case of CNC Machine Operation-Poland, Tomasz Saryusz-Wolski, Educational Research Institute, PL;</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">At the forefront of the personal service economy: Tourism and Travel, Kate Tetley, People 1<sup>st</sup>, UK.</a></li> </ul>		
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>First working group session – three qualifications</b>			
14:00-15:30	<p><b>WG 1</b></p> <p><b>The case of plumbing (cooling and heating)</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Hanne Christensen, Cedefop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation of focus questions</a></li> <li>• Presentation of 3 country approaches</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Christoph Theelen, Zentralverband Sanitär-Heizung-Klima, DE;</a></p> <p><a href="#">Enrique López, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, ES</a></p> <p><a href="#">Brigitte Bouquet, CNCP, FR</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial discussion</li> </ul>	<p><b>WG 2</b></p> <p><b>The case of CNC Machine operation</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Pedro Morena Da Fonseca, Cedefop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation of focus questions</a></li> <li>• Presentation of 3 country approaches</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Tomasz Saryusz-Wolski, Educational Research Institute, PL;</a></p> <p><a href="#">Roisin Sweeney, QQI, IE</a></p> <p><a href="#">Vitor Dias, CENFIM, PT</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial discussion</li> </ul>	<p><b>WG3</b></p> <p><b>The case of Tourism and travel</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Irina Jemeljanova, Cedefop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation of focus questions</a></li> <li>• Presentation of 3 country approaches</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Vasileios Karavitis, Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs, GR;</a></p> <p><a href="#">Darko Mali/Anica Justinek, Slovenian Institute for VET, SI;</a></p> <p><a href="#">Miroslava Klempova /Marek Harbulak, State Vocational Educational Institute, SK</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial discussion</li> </ul>

15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16:00-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion continues in small groups of 3-4 participants</li> <li>• <a href="#">Groups to present main findings and observations</a></li> <li>• WG to identify main challenges and opportunities (summarised in 5-7 key points)</li> </ul> <p><i>Rapporteur: Vladimir Kvetan , Cedefop</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion continues in small groups of 3-4 participants</li> <li>• <a href="#">Groups to present main findings and observations</a></li> <li>• WG to identify main challenges and opportunities (summarised in 5-7 key points)</li> </ul> <p><i>Rapporteur: Patrycja Lipinska, Cedefop</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion continues in small groups of 3-4 participants</li> <li>• <a href="#">Groups to present main findings and observations</a></li> <li>• WG to identify main challenges and opportunities (summarised in 5-7 key points)</li> </ul> <p><i>Rapporteur: H�el�ene Hamers, Cedefop</i></p>
18:00-18:30	Meeting of Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Working Groups		
18:45	Departure for the Dinner		

<b>Friday, 25 September 2015</b>			
9:00-9:30	<p><b>PLENARY</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Europa Room</i></span></p> <p>Similarities and differences – challenges and opportunities - key findings and conclusions from working groups – presentation by Stephanie Mayer, Federal Ministry of Education, Austria</p>		
<b>Second working group session – transversal issues relevant to defining and writing of learning outcomes</b>			
09:30-11:00	<p><b>WG 1 - Terminological challenges in writing learning outcomes</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Rena Psifidou, Cedefop</i></p>	<p><b>WG 2 - Content and profile of learning outcomes</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Richard Maniak, ECVET TEAM</i></p>	<p><b>WG 3 - Review and renewal of learning outcomes</b></p> <p><i>Chair: George Kostakis, Cedefop</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Introduction of focus questions by WG-chair</a></li> <li>• Experiences and observations from two countries</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Erzsébet Szlamka, Education Authority, HU;</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sarah Bonte/Hannelore Baeyens, Ministry of Education (Flanders), BE</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion in groups of 3-4 participants</li> <li>• <a href="#">WG to clustering conclusions from sub-groups in 5-key messages to be presented in plenary</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Rapporteur:</i> Vlasis Korovilos, Cedefop</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Introduction of focus questions by WG-chair</a></li> <li>• Experiences and observations from two countries</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Kati Lounema, Finnish National Board of Education, FI;</a></p> <p><a href="#">F. Javier Molina, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, ES</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion in groups of 3-4 participants</li> <li>• WG to clustering conclusions from sub-groups in 5-key messages to be presented in plenary</li> </ul> <p><i>Rapporteur:</i> Irina Jemeljanova, Cedefop</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Introduction of focus questions by WG-chair</a></li> <li>• Experiences and observations from two countries</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Tereza Halouzкова, National Institute for Education, CZ;</a></p> <p>Agnes Roman, ETUC, BE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion in groups of 3-4 participants</li> <li>• <a href="#">WG to clustering conclusions from sub-groups in 5-key messages to be presented in plenary</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Rapporteur:</i> Ramona David, Cedefop</p>
11:00-11:15	<b><i>Tea/coffee break</i></b>		
11:15-12:30	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair:</i> Loukas Zahilas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Key messages from working groups 1-3 regarding transversal issues</a></li> <li>• Tour de table and plenary discussion on overall conclusions and recommendations from PLF (45 minutes)</li> </ul>		
12:30-12:50	<p>Final observations from external researchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Karin Luomi-Messerer, 3S, Austria</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Volker Rein, BIBB, Germany</a></li> </ul>		
12:50-13:00	<p>Conclusions – How can we use the PLF methodology to support the work on learning outcomes?</p> <p>Carlo Scatoli, European Commission</p> <p>Jens Bjornavold and Slava Pevec Grm, Cedefop</p>		
<b>End of Peer Learning Forum</b>			