



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Social inclusion: citizens need to better understand the benefits of training and upskilling

Our societies need to do more to communicate to citizens the benefits of training, upskilling and qualifications. This is the message of Cedefop Director Aviana Bulgarelli at the conference of the European Economic and Social Committee, [Education to combat social exclusion](#) held in Florence on May 20-22.

Education and training systems are increasingly focusing on inclusion issues, such as helping people to stay in school, allowing second chances to dropouts, better preparing for transitions between work and training, and addressing the needs of migrants, older workers and other vulnerable groups.

But as Ms Bulgarelli underlines, even the most up-to-date vocational education and training system is not a universal remedy for social exclusion. Other support measures, with the full involvement of the social partners, are equally important.

Measures to combat social exclusion include:

- Providing lifelong guidance and counselling for learners and workers. Cedefop's most recent publications on this topic are [Guiding at-risk youth, through learning to work](#) and [Access to success: Lifelong guidance for better working and learning in Europe](#)
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- The anticipation of future skill needs, such as the [European skill forecasts](#) Cedefop regularly publishes. These can be powerful tools for policy-makers, helping them to build better long-term skill strategies.
- Developing methods of documenting skills can play an important role in this process as the popularity of the Cedefop-managed [Europass project](#) clearly testifies.
- Creating systems for the [validation of skills](#) acquired outside formal systems: their value has been widely acknowledged, especially as a way of helping groups at risk.

- Finally, Cedefop supports [research](#) on the benefits of training, which will be the topic of its forthcoming 5th research report.

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About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training. Visit our new portal: www.cedefop.europa.eu