

# 21st ReferNet annual plenary meeting

28 February  
to 1 March 2024  
Thessaloniki



## 21ST ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING OF REFERNET CEDEFOP'S EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR VET

### AGENDA

Wednesday, 28 February 2024  
Plenary meeting

10.30-11.00

Registration of participants

11.00-11.15

Europa

Welcome and opening of the  
21st ReferNet Plenary Meeting

Jürgen Siebel, Cedefop Executive Director

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Head of the Department  
for VET and qualifications

11.15-11.45

Session 1.  
Latest VET policy developments

Jan Varchola, Team leader, VET unit, DG EMPL,  
European Commission

Lisa Rustico, Human Capital Development Expert,  
European Training Foundation (ETF)

11.45-12.15

Session 2.  
Implementation of European priorities in  
VET: progress 2020-23

George Kostakis, Coordinator, Department for VET  
and Qualifications, Cedefop

12.15-12.45

Session 3.  
ReferNet: scope and objectives of 2024-27  
Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet coordinator, Cedefop

12.45-14.00

**FAMILY PHOTO AND LUNCH**

14.00-14.45

Session 4.  
Cedefop strategic planning

- Ramona David and Jasper van Loo, Coordinators,  
Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop
- George Kostakis, Coordinator, Department for VET and  
Qualifications, Cedefop

14.45-15.30

Session 5.  
Stemming the tide: tackling early leaving from  
vocational education and training in times of crises  
Rena Psifidou and Anthie Kyriakopoulou, Experts,  
Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop

15.30-16.00

**COFFEE BREAK**

16.00-16.45

Session 6.  
Grasping the impact of the green transition on jobs  
and skills: an overview of practices in European  
countries  
Stelina Chatzichristou, Expert, Department for VET and  
Skills, Cedefop

### OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The new ReferNet partners and national representatives will be invited to attend the 21st annual plenary meeting of the network, which will be the first annual meeting taking place under the new 2024-27 Framework Partnership Agreement.

The aim of the meeting will be to:

- inform on the latest EU VET policy developments, the outcomes of the 2023 work plan and the preparation of the 2024 work plan;
- introduce the new partners to the processes and procedures of the network;
- reinstall a physical network dynamic of cooperation and shared reflection by convening in a physical open space, which will encourage creative reflection on how partners would like ReferNet to develop in the new 2024-27 period.

The event will be held from Wednesday 28th of February to Friday 1st of March 2024 at the Cedefop premises in Thessaloniki, Greece. It will be open to members of the network, experts in VET, stakeholders and representatives of EU institutions.



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#### Wednesday, 28 February 2024 Plenary meeting

16.45-17.15

##### Session 7. Analysing fields of study in online job advertisements

**Jiri Branka and Joana Napierala,**  
Experts, Department for VET and Skills,  
Cedefop

17.15-18.00

##### On demand meetings and networking opportunities

18.30

##### End of first-day and transfer to dinner

**Dinner**  
19.00-21.00 (estimated time of arrival 19.00)  
**Venue:**  
[Avenue](#) (Leoforos Megalou Alexandrou 6)

#### Thursday, 29 February 2024 Plenary meeting

09.45-10.15  
(coffee break  
between  
11.50-12.10)

Arrival of participants  
**Introduction to the thematic round tables**  
**Ioannis Katsikis,** ReferNet coordinator, Cedefop

10.15-13.00

##### Session 8. Thematic round tables on EU VET priorities

###### 1. VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

**CROATIA:** VET curricula reform, *Nino Buić*

**FRANCE:** Strengthening the link between VET schools  
and the economic sector, *Vincent Joseph*

**POLAND:** Sectoral Agreement for VET - Increasing the  
participation of sectoral organisations in the development  
of vocational education and work-based learning,  
*Beata Dziemińska-Skowron*

**ROMANIA:** Integrated mechanism for skills anticipation,  
graduate tracking, evaluation and monitoring of employ-  
ment active measures and VET policies, *Radu Gabriel*

###### 2. Flexible and inclusive VET providing progression opportunities

**BULGARIA:** Developments in Bulgaria on priority flexible  
VET providing progression opportunities, *Petya Evtimova*

**LATVIA:** Introducing flexible VET provision in Latvia,  
*Paula Zvejniece*

**GERMANY:** The German approach to youth employment  
agencies, *Janine Grobe-Rath*

10.15-13.00

###### 3. VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions

**AUSTRIA:** Digitalisation and green transition in VET in Austria,  
new developments, *Wolfgang Slawik*

**POLAND:** Sectoral Skills Centres as drivers for innovation  
and growth preparing for digital and green transition,  
*Beata Dziemińska-Skowron*

**CYPRUS:** Development of technical and vocational education  
and training in Cyprus, *Anastasia Evangelou and Christianna  
Charilaou*

###### 4. VET an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

**IRELAND:** Transforming VET in Ireland, *Brian Gallagher*

**ESTONIA:** Reshaping upper-secondary VET programmes for  
flexibility and permeability, *Inga Kukk*

**LUXEMBOURG:** Skill provision for the digital transition in IVET  
programmes in Luxembourg, *Lara Peiffer*

13.00-14.00

##### LUNCH

14.00-14.30

**Session 9.  
Launch of the European Skills Index 2024**  
**Ilias Livanos,** Expert, Department for VET and Skills,  
Cedefop



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#### Thursday, 29 February 2024 Plenary meeting

- 14.30-15.00** **Session 10.**  
**ReferNet visibility and communication actions**  
Maurizio Roncaccia, Head of the Department for communication, Cedefop
- 15.00-15.15** **COFFEE BREAK**
- 15.15-17.15** **Session 11.**  
**Reporting on NIPs: tackling challenges and exploring solutions**  
Open space discussions  
Irina Jemeljanova, Expert, Department for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop
- 17.15-18.15** **Bilateral meetings and networking opportunities - Debriefing with newcomers**  
Ioannis Katsikis, Sylvie Bousquet, Chryssa Zekou, Philippe Joureau, ReferNet Team, Cedefop
- 18.15** **End of second day**

#### Friday, 01 March 2024

- 09.30-10.00** Arrival of participants
- 10.00-10.05** *Europa*  
**Message by Vice President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas**
- 10.05-10.15** **Reporting on NIPs: summary of the open space discussions**  
Irina Jemeljanova, Expert, Department for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop
- 10.15-12.10** **Session 12.**  
**Learning café on the comparability and recognition of qualifications**  
Workgroup discussion  
Carita Susanne Blomqvist and Zeldia Azzara, Experts, Department for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop
- 12.10-12.45** *Europa*  
**Session 13.**  
**Refer-Networking...**  
Introduction: Sylvie Bousquet  
  
Ioannis Katsikis, Chryssa Zekou, Philippe Joureau and ReferNet Members
- 12.45-13.00** *Europa*  
**Conclusions of the meeting and ReferNet Award ceremony**  
Loukas Zahilas, Head of the Department for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop

- 13.00-14.00** **LUNCH**
- 14.30-16.00** *(coffee available)*  
**Cedefop farewell event for Sylvie Bousquet**
- 16.00** **End of the 21st ReferNet plenary meeting**

