



#VETqualifications #recognition #learningoutcomes

Programme

2 JUNE 2025 (all times are CET)

The primary objective of the workshop is to investigate the feasibility of developing a methodology for comparing and recognising VET qualifications. In our discussions, we will focus on the recognition of foreign qualifications with an aim to facilitate citizens' further studies and access to the EU labour market. The discussions will be informed by the key findings from Cedefop's [ReferNet](#) survey, which examined the current comparison and recognition landscape of VET qualifications in Europe.

09.30 – 10.00

Online access and technical tests

10.00 – 10.10

Welcome and opening remarks

Chair: **George Kostakis**, Coordinator, Department for VET and Qualifications (DVQ), Cedefop

- **Jürgen Siebel**, Executive Director, Cedefop

10.10 – 10.20

Session 1. Opening speech

Skills portability in the Union of Skills

- **Koen Nomden**, European Commission

10.20 – 11.00

Session 2. Main findings of Cedefop's research

Approaches and tools for comparing and recognising VET qualifications

- **Vasileios Symeonidis**, Expert, DVQ, Cedefop
- **Carita Blomqvist**, Expert, DVQ, Cedefop

Q&A

11.00 – 11.10

HEALTH BREAK



2 June 2025



10.00-13.00 (CET)



Virtual event

11.10 – 11.20

Session 3. Keynote address

Recognition of VET diplomas in the EU

- **Brigitte van den Berg**, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Family photo

11.20 – 11.25

Session 4. Parallel breakout sessions

Introduction

- **Vasileios Symeonidis**, Expert, DVQ, Cedefop

11.25 – 12.30

Parallel breakout session 1

Approaches and criteria for comparing and recognising VET qualifications for learning and work

- Chair and introduction: **Vasileios Symeonidis**
- Speaker: **Julieta Vergara**, Foreign Credential Evaluator, The Swedish Council for Higher Education, Sweden
- Speaker: **Maria João Alves**, Head of Unit, Division for Qualifica Centres Monitoring, National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training, Portugal
- Rapporteur: **Anastasia Poulidou**, Expert, DVQ, Cedefop

Questions for discussion:

- Which methodological approaches are commonly employed when comparing and recognising VET qualifications?
- Which assessment criteria are relevant when comparing and recognising VET qualifications for different purposes?
- To what extent can common criteria and approaches be used for both further studies and employment purposes?

Slido for future priorities

11.25 – 12.30

Parallel breakout session 2

Using digitalisation and transparency tools to support comparison and recognition of VET qualifications

- Chair and introduction: **Zelda Azzarà**, Expert, DVQ, Cedefop
- Speaker: **Emilia Danowska-Florczyk**, **Piotr Mostowski**, Educational Research Institute, Poland
- Speaker: **Külli All**, Head of the Skills, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia
- Rapporteur : **Iraklis Pliakis**, Expert, DVQ, Cedefop

Questions for discussion:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of existing transparency tools for comparing and recognising VET qualifications?
- How could new digital developments support this process?
- What are the conditions and prerequisites for using AI in comparison and recognition of VET qualifications?

Slido for future priorities

11.25 – 12. 30

Parallel breakout session 3

Recognising foreign VET qualifications for employment purposes

- Chair and introduction: **Carita Blomqvist**, Cedefop
- Speaker: **Thomas Mayr**, Managing Director, IBW Austria
- Speaker: **Mirela Cacan**, Senior Adviser, Department of Recognition of Foreign Vocational Education and Training, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills, Norway
- Rapporteur: **Ernesto Villalba**, Expert, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop

Questions for discussion:

- What are the needs for comparison/recognition of the non-regulated sectors of the labour market?
- What is the significance of comparing and recognising qualifications for unregulated

professions from the perspective of employers and employees?

- How is the 'skills first' approach affecting the process of recognition of VET qualifications?

Slido for future priorities

12.30 – 12.40

HEALTH BREAK

12.40 – 12.55

Session 5. Reporting from parallel sessions and discussion

- Chair: **Carita Blomqvist**

Rapporteur 1: **Anastasia Pouliou**, Cedefop

Rapporteur 2: **Iraklis Pliakis**, Cedefop

Rapporteur 3: **Ernesto Villalba**, Cedefop

12.55 – 13.00

Session 6.

Concluding remarks

Vasileios Symeonidis, Expert, DVQ, Cedefop

END OF WORKSHOP

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