

21st ReferNet
annual plenary
meeting

28 February
to 1 March 2024
Thessaloniki



21ST ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING
OF
REFERNET
CEDEFOP'S EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR VET
28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 2024
CEDEFOP – THESSALONIKI, GREECE

AGENDA

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.

Wednesday, 28 February 2024 (Cedefop)

Plenary meeting

10.30 – 11.00	<i>Registration of participants</i>
11.00 – 11.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Welcome and opening of the 21st ReferNet Plenary Meeting</p> <p>Jurgen Siebel, Executive Director of Cedefop</p> <p>Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Head of the Dept. for VET & Qualifications, Cedefop</p>
11.15 – 11.45	<p>Session 1. Latest VET policy developments</p> <p>Jan Varchola, Team leader, VET unit, DG EMPL, European Commission</p> <p>Lisa Rustico, Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation – ETF</p>
11.45 – 12.15	<p>Session 2. ReferNet: Scope and objectives of 2024-27</p> <p>Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet coordinator, Cedefop</p>
12.15 – 12.45	<p>Session 3. Implementation of European priorities in VET: Progress 2020-23</p> <p>George Kostakis, Dept. Coordinator, Dept. for VET & Qualifications, Cedefop</p>
12.45 – 14.00	<i>Family photo and lunch</i>
14.00 – 14.45	<p>Session 4. Cedefop Strategic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramona David & Jasper van Loo, Dept. Coordinators, Dept. for VET & Skills, Cedefop • George Kostakis, Dept. Coordinator, Dept. for VET & Qualifications, Cedefop
14.45 – 15.30	<p>Session 5. Stemming the tide: tackling early leaving from vocational education and training in times of crises</p> <p>Rena Psifidou & Anthie Kyriakopoulou, Experts, Dept. for VET & Skills, Cedefop</p>
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.00 – 16.45	<p>Session 6. Grasping the impact of the green transition on jobs and skills: an overview of practices in European countries</p> <p>Stelina Chatzichristou, Expert, Dept. for VET & Skills, Cedefop</p>
16.45 – 17.15	<p>Session 7. Analysing fields of study in online job advertisements</p> <p>Jiri Branka & Joana Napierala, Experts, Dept. for VET & Skills, Cedefop</p>

<i>17.15 – 18.30</i> <i>Rousseau</i>	Bilateral meetings and networking opportunities
<i>18.30</i>	End of first-day and transfer to dinner Dinner 19.00-21.00 - Venue: Avenue (Leoforos Megalou Alexandrou 6) – estimated time of arrival 19.00

Thursday, 29 February 2024 (Cedefop)

Plenary meeting

9.45 – 10.15	<i>Arrival of participants</i>
10.15 - 13.00	<p>Introduction to the thematic round tables Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet coordinator, Cedefop</p> <p>Session 8. Thematic round tables on EU VET priorities [Coffee break in between 11.50 – 12.10]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HR: Nino Buić, “VET curricula reform” ▪ FR: Vincent Joseph, “Strengthening the link between VET schools and the economic sector” ▪ PL: Beata Dziemińska-Skowron, “Sectoral Agreement for VET - Increasing the participation of sectoral organisations in the development of vocational education and work-based learning” 2. Flexible and inclusive VET providing progression opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BG: Petya Evtimova, “Developments in Bulgaria on Priority 2 - Flexible VET providing progression opportunities” ▪ LV: Paula Zvejniece, “Introducing flexible VET provision in Latvia” ▪ DE: Janine Grobe-Rath, “the German approach to Youth Employment Agencies” 3. VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AT: Wolfgang Slawik, “Digitalisation and green transition in VET in Austria, new developments” ▪ PL: Beata Dziemińska-Skowron, “Sectoral Skills Centres as drivers for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transition” ▪ CY: Anastasia Evangelou & Christianna Charilaou, “Development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Cyprus” 4. VET an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IE: Brian Gallagher “Transforming VET in Ireland” ▪ EE: Inga Kukk, “Reshaping upper-secondary VET programmes for flexibility and permeability” ▪ LU: Lara Peiffer, “Skill provision for the digital transition in IVET programs in Luxembourg”
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 14.30	<p>Session 9. Launch of the European Skills Index 2024 Ilias Livanos, Expert, Dept. for VET & Skills</p>
14.30 – 15.00	<p>Session 10. ReferNet visibility and communication actions Maurizio Roncaccia, Head of the Communications Dept., Cedefop</p>

15.00 – 15.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.15 – 17.15	<p>Session 11. Reporting on NIPs: tackling challenges and exploring solutions (Open space discussions)</p> <p>Irina Jemeljanova, Expert, Dept. for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop</p>
17.15 – 18.15 <i>Rousseau</i>	<p>Bilateral meetings and networking opportunities</p> <p>Debriefing with newcomers</p> <p>Ioannis Katsikis, Sylvie Bousquet, Chryssa Zekou, Philippe Joureau, ReferNet Team, Cedefop</p>
18.15	End of second day

Friday, 01 March 2024 (Cedefop)

9.30 – 10.00	<i>Arrival of participants</i>
10.00 – 10.10 <i>Europa</i>	Reporting on NIPs: Summary of the Open space discussions Irina Jemeljanova, Expert, Dept. for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop
10.10 – 12.10	Session 12. Learning Café on the comparability and recognition of qualifications - Workgroup discussion Carita Susanne Blomqvist & Zelda Azzara, Experts, Dept. for VET & Qualifications, Cedefop
12.10 – 12.45 <i>Europa</i>	Session 13. Refer-Networking... Introduction: Sylvie Bousquet Ioannis Katsikis, Chryssa Zekou, Philippe Joureau & ReferNet Members
12.45 – 13.00 <i>Europa</i>	Conclusions of the Meeting & ReferNet Award ceremony Loukas Zahilas, Head of the Dept. for VET & Qualifications, Cedefop
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 – 16.30	Cedefop Farewell event [<i>Coffee available</i>]
16.30	End of the 21st ReferNet plenary meeting