

## Skills for Europe's competitiveness

### Programme

**2 June 2026** (all times are CET)

<b>9.30 – 10.00</b>	<b>Participant arrival and registration</b>
<b>10.00 – 10.15</b>	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Ramona David</b>, Coordinator, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jürgen Siebel</b>, Executive Director, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) – video</li> <li>• <b>Elias Margadjis</b>, Head of Department of Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education – Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Cyprus</li> <li>• <b>Manuela Geleng</b>, Director DG EMPL.B.- Jobs and Skills, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</li> </ul>
<b>10.15 – 11.45</b>	<p>Session 1  <b>Skills development and learning for creating quality jobs and boosting competitiveness</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Ramona David</b>, Coordinator, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop</p> <p>Part 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ralph Hippe and Giulia Santangelo</b>, Experts in skills and workplaces, Cedefop: <i>Key insights from Cedefop surveys</i></li> </ul> <p>Part 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ylenia Curci</b>, Professor, FEMTO-ST: <i>Learning capacity of jobs and skills matching</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>11.45 – 12.00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

<p><b>12.00 – 12.45</b></p>	<p>Session 2.  <b>Panel discussion</b>  <b>Policy perspectives – setting the framework for skills strengthening competitiveness and quality jobs</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ramona David</b>, Coordinator, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Julie Fionda</b>, Deputy Head of Unit EMPL.B.2 Union of Skills, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs &amp; Inclusion, European Commission</li> <li>• <b>Christos Tsiamas</b>, Human Resource Authority, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus</li> <li>• <b>Brigitte van den Berg</b>, Member of the European Parliament</li> <li>• <b>Robert Plummer</b>, The Confederation of European Business, BusinessEurope</li> <li>• <b>Roman Agnes</b>, European Trade Union Confederation, ETUC</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>12.45 – 12.55</b></p>	<p><b>European Skills &amp; Vocational Education and Training Week (ESVW)</b></p> <p><b>An EU-wide platform to share insights, showcase best practices, and drive strategies on skills and VET</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Márcia Bizzotto</b>, Project manager, Department for Communication, Cedefop</li> </ul>
<p><b>12.55 – 13.00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ramona David</b>, Coordinator, Department for VET and skills, Cedefop</li> </ul>
<p><b>13.00 – 14.00</b></p>	<p><b>Reception hosted by the Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union</b></p>

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9.30-14.00 CET



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