



Thessaloniki, 07 February 2025

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Cedefop celebrates 50 years of shaping learning and skills for Europe and 30 Years in Greece**

**Thessaloniki, 7 February 2025** – The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) celebrates 50 years of impact, empowering Europe's workforce with the skills to navigate a rapidly evolving world. This milestone is made even more special by 30 years in Greece, with Thessaloniki as its home—a strategic gateway where European policies connect with classrooms and workplaces, helping build a future-ready labour market.

To mark this occasion, Greek Minister of Labour and Social Security Niki Kerameus, alongside high-level representatives from the Greek Ministries of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, and the Interior, as well as Thessaloniki Mayor Stelios Angeloudis and key European officials, convened at Cedefop's headquarters to celebrate its legacy and reaffirm a bold vision for the future of vocational education and training (VET) in Europe—one where digital transformation, sustainability, and inclusivity drive progress and prosperity for all.

#### **A shared vision for Europe's future**

**Stelios Angeloudis, Mayor of Thessaloniki**, highlighted the city's deep ties with Cedefop: *"For 30 years, Thessaloniki has been home to Cedefop—an organisation that has grown alongside our city, fostering diversity, collaboration, and excellence. As we navigate global shifts in work and learning, Thessaloniki remains a gateway for knowledge exchange, innovation, and opportunity."*

**Mario Nava, Director-General, DG Employment, European Commission**, underscored Cedefop's impact: *"Cedefop's work has quietly shaped the lives of millions across Europe over the last 50 years—guiding policymakers, supporting businesses, and empowering individuals. From young learners to experienced workers, from SMEs to multinational companies, Cedefop provides the foundation for vocational education and training as a driving force behind Europe's competitiveness."*

#### **Looking ahead: A new era for skills and learning**

**Jürgen Siebel, Executive Director of Cedefop**, reflected on this milestone while setting the course for the future: *"This is not just a celebration—it's a turning point. For 50 years, Cedefop has shaped policies that equip people with the skills they need to succeed. But our work is far from done. As Europe faces new challenges—from digital disruptions to the green transition—Cedefop stands ready to lead, providing the evidence and insights that will drive innovation,*

*opportunity, and prosperity for all. Skills, learning, and VET are at the heart of Europe's future."*

As Cedefop enters its next chapter, it remains committed to ensuring VET and skills development are enablers of resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth. With cutting-edge research and data-driven policy advice, Cedefop will continue to shape the future of Europe—from classrooms to workplaces.

---

## About Cedefop

Cedefop is the European Union agency undertaking research and policy analyses to capture labour markets' rapidly changing skill needs, and of how vocational education and training (VET) is adapting to address them. The agency identifies, analyses, synthesises and presents quantitative and qualitative information on skills and labour markets. This skills intelligence is an essential asset to understand and comprehensively anticipate labour market trends and skill needs.

- Read Cedefop's press releases [here](#).
- Subscribe to Cedefop's other media products (newsletter, briefing notes, etc.) by [creating a user account on our website](#).

### Contact:

Communications Officer, Cristina Comunian: [Cristina.Comunian@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:Cristina.Comunian@cedefop.europa.eu)

Head of Dept. for Communication, Maurizio Roncaccia:

[Maurizio.RONCACCIA@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:Maurizio.RONCACCIA@cedefop.europa.eu)

Connect with us:

