



## Cedefop Newsletter no. 33 - July / August 2013

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### Main story

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### Joint seminar on the European social model by the European Parliament and four EU agencies

Cedefop is joining forces with three other EU agencies (Eurofound, ETF and EU-OSHA) on 25 September in Brussels to examine and highlight how each one is contributing to a strengthened European social model in its own unique way. The agencies will provide different perspectives on how the European social model can boost competitiveness in the context of the current crisis.

Considering the challenges for Europe's businesses, workers and young people, the agencies will present a multidimensional approach to a better and more sustainable future for the Europe of tomorrow.

The event will be held under the auspices of the European Parliament's Employment and Social Committee and will present the latest insights and work from the four agencies. In addition, experts from the world of work, academia and politics will be invited to debate the latest trends and consider how the EU social model can and does contribute to the improvement of the current social and economic landscape, ensuring a sustainable and competitive future.

**Cedefop** will demonstrate how Europe must get the best out of its people in order to be competitive. Not only does this require education and training systems to focus on people's skills, (key) competences and entrepreneurial spirit – but they also need an inbuilt capacity to respond rapidly to the changing needs of the labour market.

The **European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)** will highlight its research in a range of key areas: labour market analysis, how trends in working conditions and new ways of organising work can impact on productivity, measures to tackle the cost of youth unemployment, how public services are set to respond in times of crisis, the progress towards sustainable work and the key role of social dialogue in helping Europe on the path to recovery.

The **European Training Foundation (ETF)** will focus on the importance of the EU external relations context, providing clear evidence that improved education and training in the neighbouring countries of the EU enhance employability, competitiveness and entrepreneurship. The ETF will show how sustainable development through human capital development is essential for improved economic performance.

And finally, the **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)** will convincingly demonstrate that at enterprise level, effective management of health and safety makes sound economic sense. Healthy and safe workplaces with motivated managers and workers who are involved are more productive, contributing to a sustainable strengthening of Europe's competitiveness.

Click [here](#) for the event's draft programme (attendance by invitation only).

### News from Cedefop

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#### Korean VET officials visit Cedefop

Common research and policy issues as well as the renewal of the memorandum of understanding between the two organisations were at the heart of the President of the Korean Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET) Young-bum Park's visit to Cedefop on 9 July. Both organisations do research in very similar fields and many of their researchers have exchanged visits over the years. Cedefop Acting Director Christian Lettmayr and Head of Area RPA Pascaline Descy

discussed future cooperation with Mr Park.

The situation in Korea is very different from that in Europe. There is low youth unemployment and great loyalty of employees to their employers, which means there is not a lot of mobility between, say, the Korean electronics giants.

General education and higher education are greatly valued compared to vocational education and training (VET), as in most European countries. Nevertheless, Korea has done a lot to develop its VET system and has shown a keen interest in establishing a dual apprenticeship system. The German 'Meister' qualification has successfully been introduced in various VET courses in Korea.

Mr Park was accompanied by Jin Park who presented KRIVET to Cedefop's VET experts. Eleonora Schmid and Jasper van Loo from Cedefop explained to the visitors how the European policy process works and how Cedefop goes about its policy reporting tasks.

Following the visit, Ms Descy received an invitation to present Cedefop at the Vocational Competencies (Skills) Development Forum hosted by KRIVET and the Korean Ministry of Employment and Labour on 23 October.

While KRIVET is active in the field of research, the Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRDKorea) implements VET policies. HRDKorea Deputy Director JeongJae Seo visited Cedefop on 8 August. Head of Area Communication, Information and Dissemination Gerd Oskar Bausewein presented the work of Cedefop, Head of Library and Documentation Marc Willem demonstrated the various functions of the centre's online information services and Senior Expert Slava Pevec Grm gave a detailed introduction to the way the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) works.

Mr Seo told us that he was intrigued by how well the EQF system is being developing in Europe and wanted to find out more: 'I came to Cedefop to find out how the EQF system can be taken as a model and used for China, Japan and Korea in order to make mobility easier. We want to establish an Asia qualification network. This is an initiative of our institute based on the success of the system in Europe. I'm really happy with my Cedefop visit because I have gathered so much information.'



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## Take a closer look at work-based learning with the Cedefop conference newspaper

The second edition of the Cedefop conference newspaper, with readers' comments, is out. The 12-13 June conference on work-based learning attracted more than 150 experts on vocational education and training from around the world, policy-makers from the European Commission and Member States as well as social partners.

Participants called for the implementation of European Union policy initiatives on developing apprenticeship and other forms of work-based learning across Europe in order to address rising youth unemployment.

In the second edition of *The Cedefop Times* you'll find an interview with Commissioner Vassiliou, articles on apprenticeship, skills mismatch, youth employment and scenarios for 2025, as well as readers' comments:

[http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/Newspaper\\_Interactive\\_COMMENTS\\_final.pdf](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/Newspaper_Interactive_COMMENTS_final.pdf)

For more on the conference, including videos, exclusive interviews and a picture gallery, click on the following links:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/articles/21606.aspx>

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/news/21522.aspx>

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## Cedefop-ILO-ETF expert seminar: Guides to skills anticipation and matching

On 4 and 5 July 2013, Cedefop in cooperation with the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) organised in Thessaloniki (Greece), an expert seminar on Skills anticipation guides. The purpose of this seminar was to discuss the drafts of four guides prepared so far (on forecasting and foresight, on sectoral anticipation, on intermediary agencies and on matching/LMIs) with experts in the field and potential users. The objective was to ensure their validity and usefulness for the target audiences.

Individual sessions were dedicated to each guide starting with a short presentation or introduction, followed by critical review of external discussant (expert) and by plenary discussion. The comments and

remarks of the seminar will enrich the final drafts.

The second day of the seminar discussed the potential of new forthcoming guides, i.e. on employer surveys and tracer studies. The discussion focused on the need and possible content of the guides yet to come.

The comments and suggestions made by the 40 experts participating in the seminar will help the further development and the finalisation of the guides on skills anticipation and matching, which will be presented to the greater public in the near future.



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### **New publication: Skills for a low-carbon Europe - The role of VET in a sustainable energy scenario. Synthesis report**

Cedefop's study Skills for a low-carbon Europe explores scenarios for achieving a sustainable and energy-efficient economy at the same time as employment growth.

#### **Links**

- [Download the publication](#)



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### **New briefing note: Opportunities and challenges for ECVET, the vocational credit transfer system**

Most countries see the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) as an instrument to enable cross-border mobility of vocational students. Hundreds of transnational pilot projects are in place, largely funded by the EU. However, Cedefop's report concludes that for ECVET to go a step further and contribute to recognition of learning outcomes and allow accumulation of credits towards qualifications, it needs to be firmly and fully integrated into national lifelong learning policies and aligned with evolving validation practices. The briefing note is available in nine languages (Spanish, German, Greek, English, French, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese) and in two formats: Pdf or eBook optimised for tablets and smartphones.

#### **Links**

- [Download the briefing note](#)



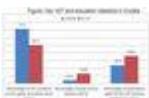
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### **New publication: Labour market outcomes of vocational education in Europe - Evidence from the European Union labour force survey**

This report aims to improve our understanding of labour market outcomes for vocational education graduates. A real need if we are to respond effectively to the current challenges of high unemployment.

#### **Links**

- [Download the publication](#)



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### **Croatia – Country statistical overview**

On 1 July 2013 Croatia became the European Union's 28th Member State. To mark the occasion Cedefop has prepared a statistical overview on vocational education and training (VET) and lifelong

learning in Croatia. Selected for their policy relevance and importance to achieving the Europe 2020 strategy's objectives, the indicators quantify key aspects of VET and lifelong learning and relate Croatia's performance to the EU average.

*The indicators are those in Cedefop's recently published country statistical overviews updated for Croatia with the latest available data. The full publication, provides data on other European countries, defines the indicators and explains other data issues and is available at: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/21408.aspx>*

### **Access, attractiveness and flexibility**

Indicators in this area show participation patterns in initial and continuing VET training by various groups such as age, gender, educational attainment, working status and type. Participation patterns are used as proxies to indicate the attractiveness of VET as a learning option.

#### **Key findings for Croatia**

- Initial VET is well represented at upper secondary level in Croatia, accounting for more than 70% of students enrolled at this level in 2011, well above the EU average of 50%. Young women are also well represented. In Croatia, 64% of young women in upper secondary are VET students compared to the EU average of 45%.
- Participation patterns in continuing vocational training (CVT) and adult learning in Croatia are among the lowest for European countries. In 2010, around 23% of employees participated in CVT courses, well below the EU average of 38%. However, a relatively high number of Croatian enterprises, around 57% provided training in 2010.
- In 2012, participation by adults aged 24 to 64 in lifelong learning, at only 2.4% in Croatia is well below the EU average of 9%. The European target is an average of 15% by 2020. Data from the Adult Education Survey (2007) suggest that, in Croatia, interest by adults in training is low. Some two thirds of adults not participating in training said it was because they did not want to. The EU average was 53%.

### **Skills development and labour market relevance**

This area includes indicators on spending which, although data are difficult to capture accurately, can indicate VET's role in skill development. It also include indicators that give insights into VET's contribution to different educational and labour market outcomes and the extent to which employees believe that employer-provided training has enabled them to do their job better.

#### **Key findings for Croatia**

- Company expenditure in Croatia on CVT as a proportion of labour costs in 2010, at 0.6%, was below the EU average of 1.3%. This fairly low figure is in line the low rates of participation. This is despite a very high proportion of employees (93%) in Croatia who believe that employer-provided training has enabled them to do their job better.
- In 2012, the percentage of 30-34 year-olds with a university-level or equivalent vocational qualification in Croatia was close to the EU average of 9%. More than a third of the tertiary-level education graduates in this age-group hold a vocational qualification, above the EU average of one in four.

### **Transition and employment trends**

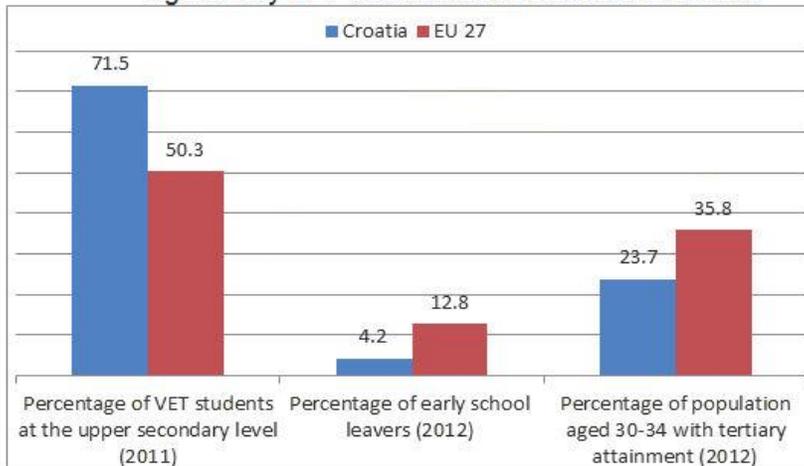
Indicators in this area aim to situate VET policies in a broader EU policy framework. Reflecting the focus on the labour market status of young people, the indicators include the two Europe 2020 strategy benchmark targets on early school leaving and educational attainment.

#### **Key findings for Croatia**

- In 2012, only 4.2% of young people left school early <sup>(1)</sup>, well below the EU average of 12.8% and better than the European target of an average of less than 10% by 2020.
- Labour market outcomes for young people are less favourable. In Croatia, in 2012, some 22% of 18 to 24 year-olds were not in employment, education or training, compared to the EU average of 17%. There are also wide differences with markedly more young men than women not in employment, education or training in Croatia than in the EU as a whole.

- Latest data show that in Croatia some 24% of people aged 30 to 34 have at least a tertiary-level qualification, compared to 36% at the EU level and the European target of 40% by 2020. The trend, however, is clearly upward as the 24% rate in 2012 compares to just 16% ten years ago.
- Labour market outcomes for adults are also less favourable. In 2012, only 55% of adults aged 20 to 64 are employed in Croatia (the lowest level in Europe together with Greece), compared to the EU average of 68% and the European objective of 75% by 2020. However, fewer adults in Croatia have low levels of education, around 21% of people aged 20 to 64, compared to the EU average of 26%.

**Figure: Key VET and education statistics in Croatia**



<sup>1</sup> Persons aged 18 to 24 fulfilling the following two conditions: first, the highest level of education attained is ISCED 0 or 1, or 2 or 3c short, and second, the respondents declared not having received any education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey (numerator). The denominator consists of the total population of the same age group (18-24), excluding no answers to the questions "highest level of education or training attained" and "participation to education and training". Both the numerators and the denominators come from the Labour Force Survey.

## Links

- [Cedefop statistics and indicators section](#)
- [More statistics of the month](#)
- [On the way to 2020: data for vocational education and training policies - Indicator overviews](#)



## VET-Alert - Just published on Vocational Education and Training - July 2013 issue

Cedefop's "VETAlert" for July 2013 is now available for download:  
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/newsletter/vetalert-newsletter.aspx>

VETAlert is a monthly selection of publications on vocational education and training available from Cedefop's bibliographic database VET-Bib. Please subscribe to VET-Alert and you will receive this monthly review in your mailbox.



## VET-Alert - Just published on Vocational Education and Training - August 2013 issue

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VETAlert is a monthly selection of publications on vocational education and training available from Cedefop's bibliographic database VET-Bib. This time, we have added a specific section on VET legal

documents from selected member states.

Please subscribe to VET-Alert and you will receive this monthly review in your mailbox.

## EU Policy

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### Europe needs to bridge gap between education supply and labour market demand

Bridging the gap between skills supply and demand was a clear focus of the second day of the Informal meeting of the EU Competitiveness Council in Vilnius, as EU research ministers discussed what skills are needed now and in the future to ensure EU competitiveness in the field of science and innovation.

#### Links

- [Europe needs to bridge gap between education supply and labour market demand](#)



### Council of Europe and European Commission publication on learning mobility and non-formal learning

Mobility is considered to be important for the personal development and employability of young people, as well as for intercultural dialogue, participation and active citizenship. Learning mobility in the youth field focuses on non-formal learning as a relevant part of youth work, with links to informal learning as well as to formal education. Different stakeholders at European level, particularly the Council of Europe and the European Commission, but also individual member states, foster programmes and strategies to enhance the mobility of young people, and particularly the learning dimension in mobility schemes.

This book on learning mobility is a joint Council of Europe and European Commission publication and provides texts of an academic, scientific, political and practical nature for all stakeholders in the youth field - youth leaders and youth workers, policy makers and researchers. It should contribute to dialogue and co-operation between relevant players and to discussion on the further development and purpose of youth mobility schemes and their outcomes for young people.

#### Links

- [Learning mobility and non-formal learning in European contexts \(online version\)](#)
- [Learning mobility and non-formal learning in European contexts: Policies, approaches and examples](#)



### New information from Eurostat on youth unemployment and participation in education and the labour market

Eurostat publishes two articles on youth unemployment and on youth participation in education and the labour market.

The article on youth unemployment explains how youth unemployment in the European Union (EU) is measured and how youth unemployment rates are affected by the transition of young adults from education to the labour market. The second one focuses on the complex interplay between education and labour market participation in the European Union (EU) and its Member States.

#### Links

- [Participation of young people in education and the labour market](#)
  - [Youth unemployment](#)
-



## Research ministers to map what skills are necessary for competitive Europe

On 24 July research ministers of the EU member states, during the informal meeting of the Competitiveness Council in Vilnius, discussed what skills are needed now and in the future to ensure EU competitiveness in the field of science and innovation.

During the informal meeting, higher education and business experts along with the research policy makers were sharing ideas on how to map and develop the currently lacking skills and better match skill supply and demand, as well as how to promote competitive skills in the field of science and innovation.

### Links

- [Research ministers to map what skills are necessary for competitive Europe](#)
- 



## Conclusions of the European Council (27/28 June 2013)

The European Council agreed on a comprehensive approach to combat youth unemployment, building on the following concrete measures: speeding up and frontloading of the Youth Employment Initiative; speeding up implementation of the Youth Guarantee; increased youth mobility and involvement of the social partners.

### Links

- [Conclusions of the European Council \(27/28 June 2013\)](#)
- 



## Launch of European Alliance for Apprenticeships

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships was launched by Commissioners Androulla Vassiliou (Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth) and László Andor (Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) at the 2013 WorldSkills competition in Leipzig, Germany. The Alliance will help to fight youth unemployment by improving the quality and supply of apprenticeships across the EU through a broad partnership of key employment and education stakeholders. It also seeks to change attitudes to apprenticeships. It will in particular identify the most successful apprenticeship schemes in the EU and apply appropriate solutions in each Member State.

### Links

- [Launch of European Alliance for Apprenticeships](#)

## Working with us

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### Labour market mobility and skill mismatch in EU labour markets

AO/RPA/KPOUL-GRUSSO/Mobility and Skill Mismatch/011/13

The purpose of the contract is to undertake a quantitative empirical investigation of the causal relationship between different measures of labour market mobility/transitions of individuals and the incidence and trend of their skill mismatch. To derive multivariate regression estimates of the relationship between skill development and accumulation (acquired via formal initial and continuing vocational education and training, and non-formal or informal learning), labour market mobility and skill mismatch. As a minimum requirement the study should use the European dataset that contains a longitudinal data collection component, namely the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Available data from the year 2004 until the most recently available wave released from Eurostat should be explored, covering all countries included in the dataset. The aim of this tender is to enhance the evidence-base and to assess the validity of policies emphasising skill development and labour market mobility as strategies for mitigating skill mismatch in EU Member States

This call has been published in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union, ref. 2013/S 132-227576 of 10/07/2013

Deadline of submitting tenders: **10/09/2013** (17h00 for hand-delivered tenders).

Requests for additional information/clarification should be received by **02/09/2013**.

The answers to such requests, if any, will be published under this banner, therefore please visit Cedefop's website frequently for updates.

If you are downloading these documents from our website, kindly send us an e-mail ([c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu)) notifying us.

■ Deadline:10/09/2013

## Attachments

-  [EN Clarifications 2 Mobility](#) (130.98 Kb)
-  [EN Clarifications 1 Mobility](#) (134.09 Kb)
-  [EN Tender dossier mobility and skill mismatch](#) (1209.87 Kb)

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## Governance and financing of apprenticeship

AO/RPA/PLI-ABARA/Apprenticeship/012/13

The purpose of this research project is to study VET governance structures and financing arrangements in five selected countries - Italy, Spain, Sweden, Latvia and Portugal - in the view of establishing or expanding apprenticeship.

This call has been published in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union 2013/S 136-235115 of 16/07/2013.

Deadline of submitting tenders: **09/09/2013** (17h00 for hand-delivered tenders).

Requests for additional information/clarification should be received by **30/08/2013**.

The answers to such requests, if any, will be published under this banner, therefore please visit Cedefop's website frequently for updates.

If you are downloading these documents from our website, kindly send us an e-mail ([c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu)) notifying us.

■ Deadline:09/09/2013

## Attachments

-  [EN Clarifications 1 Apprenticeship](#) (130.79 Kb)
-  [EN Tender dossier Apprenticeship](#) (1136.11 Kb)

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## Quality assurance of certification in vocational education and training

AO/ECVL/GKO-ARANI/QA&certification/008/13

This study focuses on the quality assurance arrangements that underpin the certification process in IVET (initial vocational education and training) with a view to generate trust and support the relevance of qualifications for the labour market and individuals. The study will examine to which extent the shift to learning outcomes influences quality assurance arrangements of IVET certification.

This call has been published in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union 2013/S 111-188916 of 11/06/13.

Deadline of submitting tenders: **30/08/2013** (17h00 for hand-delivered tenders).

Requests for additional information/clarification should be received by **22/08/2013**.

The answers to such requests, if any, will be published under this banner, therefore please visit Cedefop's website frequently for updates.

If you are downloading these documents from our website, kindly send us an e-mail ([c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu)) notifying us.

■ Deadline:30/08/2013

## Attachments

 [EN Tender dossier](#) (1386.47 Kb)

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## ReferNet call for proposals Croatia-Denmark

GP/RPA/ReferNet-FPA/002/13

With the objective of completing the current European network for VET – ReferNet –, this call for proposals aims at:

(a) selecting one applicant from Croatia – as new Member State since 1st July 2013 – and one applicant from Denmark – following withdrawal of the current Danish partner – with which Cedefop will conclude a two-year framework partnership agreement and

(b) concluding, with the successful applicants, specific grant agreements for a work plan to be carried out in 2014.

The announcement of this call for proposals has been published in all official languages in the Official Journal, series **2013/C 208/08 of 23/07/2013**. The related link is: [Notices all languages](#).

Deadline for submission of proposals: **24/09/2013**.

Requests for additional information/clarification should be received by **16/09/2013**. The answers to such requests, if any, will be published under this banner, therefore please visit Cedefop's website frequently for updates.

If you are downloading these documents from our website, kindly send us an e-mail ([c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:c4t-services@cedefop.europa.eu)) notifying us.

■ Deadline:24/09/2013

## Attachments

 [EN OJ C notice EN](#) (606.16 Kb)

 [EN Call for proposals documents](#) (2415.27 Kb)

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## Expert in research and policy analysis on education, training and skills

Cedefop/2013/01/AD

Cedefop invites applications for drawing up a list of suitable candidates for the position of an expert in research and policy analysis on education, training and skills, grade AD 5, M/F.

Applications must be submitted on-line through the following link:

[On-line application form and text of the vacancy notice](#)

Deadline: **18 September 2013, at 15:00 Greek time**

■ Deadline:18/09/2013

## Agenda

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### 2013 ATEE Annual Conference - Educating for the future

■ Dates:22/08/2013 - 25/08/2013 ■ Venue: Halden ■ Country: Norway ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

The conference theme for the Annual Conference of the Association for Teacher Education in Europe to be held in August 2013 is 'Educating for the Future'. There will be three main topics:

1. What do we think are the most severe challenges facing humans and humankind and what consequences should it have for teaching and teacher education?
2. What can we expect of technological development and what effects will it have on the role of teachers and students and of how we organize education in the future?
3. How do we educate teachers to meet a rapidly changing world? How to educate for the unexpected?

#### Links

- [2013 ATEE Annual Conference - Educating for the future](#)
- 

### Work, wellbeing and wealth: active ageing at work

■ Dates:26/08/2013 - 28/08/2013 ■ Venue: Helsinki ■ Country: Finland ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

The vision of "an active life while ageing" is becoming one of the major social challenges in Europe. The European Union has launched the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) "More years, better lives – the potential and challenges of demographic change" in order to make a full impact assessment and development of appropriate answers to the upcoming demographic challenges. Among its five focus areas a research agenda on "Work and productivity" is under preparation.

The aim of the international conference is to bring together researchers, experts and European networks in the area and to present and discuss the major research and development needs and solutions.

#### Links

- [Conference website](#)
  - [Work, wellbeing and wealth: active ageing at work](#)
- 

### Celebrating informal learning and well-being in later life

■ Dates:05/09/2013 - 05/09/2013 ■ Venue: Norwich ■ Country: United Kingdom ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

This conference aims to open up debate, in particular to clarify the interaction between informal learning and well-being, to explore how it might be evaluated and to consider the implications for educational and social policy and practice in times of economic stringency.

#### Links

- [Celebrating informal learning and well-being in later life](#)
- 

### EU Youth Conference and the meeting of the Directors General for Youth Affairs

■ Dates:09/09/2013 - 12/09/2013 ■ Venue: Vilnius ■ Country: Lithuania ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

EU Youth Conference and the meeting of the Directors General for Youth Affairs is run in each presidency on a yearly basis. The event is dedicated to the discussion of the youth policy priorities included in the agenda of the Trio (Ireland, Lithuania and Greece) and the Lithuanian national programme. The meeting involves delegations from 28 Member States, representatives of the European Youth Forum, representatives of the General Secretariat of the EU Council (in charge of youth matters), representatives of International Youth Organisations, EU candidate countries and the countries of the European Economic area.

## Links

- [EU Youth Conference and the meeting of the Directors General for Youth Affairs](#)
- 

## The European social model - a key driver for competitiveness

■ Dates:25/09/2013 - 25/09/2013 ■ Venue: European Parliament, Brussels ■ Country: Europe ■ Cedefop involvement: Co-Organiser

Ms Pervenche Berès MEP, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, will host the event, which will include keynote speeches, presentations by the directors of each agency and a panel discussion involving policy makers, social partners, academics and Members of the European Parliament. This will be followed by a reception in the European Parliament.

Attendance at the seminar is on **invitation only** - If you would like more information, please contact: 4AgenciesEvent2013@cedefop.europa.eu

Please bookmark this page to see future updates, documents and other material.

## Attachments



[EN Draft programme](#) (PDF 96.48 Kb 11/07/2013)



[EN Background document](#) (PDF 102.08 Kb 11/07/2013)

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## ARALE Conference

■ Dates:02/10/2013 - 02/10/2013 ■ Venue: Brussels ■ Country: Belgium ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

Awareness Raising for Adult Learning and Education (ARALE) project aims at collecting awareness raising and advocacy campaigns for adult education in Europe directed at the general public and policy-makers.

The ARALE Conference will present the results of the project and some best practise examples of awareness raising activities for adult education that were organised in Europe towards the general public, specific target groups and policy-makers. Workshops will allow the participants to discuss specific issues in smaller groups. The agenda is currently being drafted.

## Links

- [ARALE Conference](#)
- 

## Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe: Expert seminar on methodology and new ideas

■ Dates:03/10/2013 - 03/10/2013 ■ Venue: Cedefop, Thessaloniki ■ Country: Greece ■ Cedefop involvement: Organiser

Cedefop's skill supply and demand forecast is an important research activity producing high quality information on current and future labour market trends. Although Cedefop's forecasts have attracted significant interest from different experts, professionals and policy makers, it is not the only skills anticipation activity in Europe. Many Member States are developing their own forecasting and anticipatory systems. At the same time the European Commission supports financially other projects to understand the trends in the European labour market and the impact of the socio-economic transitions.

The main objective of the seminar is to present and discuss Cedefop methodology with experts from the field to get a critical view and inspirations for future work. The seminar should also create a platform for exchanging ideas and provide opportunity for mutual learning and eventually pointing out possible synergies or areas of future cooperation between ongoing initiatives.

For more information, please refer to the below agenda.

This is an open event but we expect participants to have expertise in the field of skills forecasting. Please note also that there is no registration fee to be paid, but it is up to each participant to bear own travel, accommodation and subsistence costs.

Should you wish to participate, please fill in the enclosed registration form and send it back to: [roula.panagiotou@cedefop.europa.eu](mailto:roula.panagiotou@cedefop.europa.eu). Places being limited, we will accept registrations on a first come first served basis.

## Attachments

 EN [Seminar draft agenda](#) (PDF 335.59 Kb 16/07/2013)

 EN [registration form](#) (DOC 262.00 Kb 16/07/2013)

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## Forecasting skill supply and demand in Europe: 2013 validation workshop

■ Dates:04/10/2013 - 04/10/2013 ■ Venue: Cedefop, Thessaloniki ■ Country: Greece ■ Cedefop involvement: Organiser

Cedefop is organising regular technical workshops to discuss and validate the plausibility of the forecast results for individual countries and overall for Europe. Results at the level of individual countries are increasingly used, along the EU aggregated level. This has led Cedefop to formalize a group of individual country experts. A call for experts was launched in the second half of March 2013 and new national experts were selected in April 2013 based on their experience and expertise. This will be the first meeting of the newly formed group of national experts with Cedefop representatives and the research team.

The aim is to involve national experts closely into the process, drawing on their general knowledge and expertise, as well as obtaining substantial country specific insights.

The workshop will provide a platform to discuss:

- the latest results produced for individual countries;
- the working methods and new avenues for the development of the project.

This workshop is restricted to the nominated national experts.

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## Cedefop conference: The shift to learning outcomes and its impact: taking stock of European policies and practices

■ Dates:21/11/2013 - 22/11/2013 ■ Venue: Thessaloniki ■ Country: Greece ■ Cedefop involvement: Organiser

This Cedefop conference addresses the on-going shift to learning outcomes across European education and training systems. National systems are currently redefining standards and curricula, and reorienting teaching and assessment practices. In parallel, more and more countries are setting up systems for the validation of non-formal and informal learning. In light of recent developments, learning outcomes are more important than learning duration and location. Moreover, European initiatives such as the European qualifications framework (EQF) or the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET), which aim to increase transparency and comparability of qualifications, are also based on learning outcomes.

To many, this shift is an opportunity to create education and training systems better able to support lifelong learning, and promote a learning culture closer to the needs of the individual. Others, however, view this approach as problematic: they criticise it as overly bureaucratic, favouring standardisation over diversity and individual choice.

The aim of the conference is to:

- take stock of European learning outcome developments during the past decade;
- discuss how the shift to learning outcomes affects policies and practices in education and training.

## Thematic focus

The conference looks in detail at recent developments and discusses benefits and problems/challenges arising from the

current shift to learning outcomes. The three themes addressed are:

(a) learning outcomes as a prerequisite for flexible (lifelong) learning

The learning outcomes approach is considered crucial for creating flexible learning pathways allowing learners to progress according to their needs, based on already acquired skills and competences. Learning outcomes are expected not only to increase permeability of education and training systems but also to ease transfer from education to work, and vice versa. A combination of tools at national and European levels – such as qualifications frameworks, credit transfer arrangements and recognition arrangements – have been put in place to accomplish this. Discussions will focus on learning outcomes' contribution to increased transparency and permeability and their benefits for individual learners and employers;

(b) governance through learning outcomes

The shift to learning outcomes is considered a form of governance by many stakeholders. Introducing qualifications frameworks (at European, national and sectoral levels) and rewriting standards and curricula can be seen as examples of this, explicitly expressing society's and the labour market's expectations of teachers and learners. The conference will discuss opportunities and dangers associated with this governance approach: does it enable decentralisation and institutional autonomy? Can it be seen as a form of centralisation limiting the scope of local and institutional choice? Does this approach reflect the needs of the labour market for relevant, high-quality skills and competences?

(c) learning outcomes and teaching and training

Learning outcomes – as statements of expectations – are intended to orient and guide teachers and trainers responsible for or involved in the learning process. The extent to which this is actually the case is open for discussion, and the conference will present a range of examples showing possibilities as well as pitfalls in this area. An important aspect to be addressed is whether learning outcomes can be (easily) assessed. A clear reference for assessment is crucial for a positive impact of the learning outcomes approach on teaching and training.

### Expected outcomes

The conference is aimed at the wide range of stakeholders currently involved in the shift to learning outcomes. By providing an updated picture of developments in this field, it will support a common understanding of how to promote implementation, avoiding the dangers associated with this shift. The conference provides an opportunity for policy-makers, practitioners and researchers to exchange experiences in a field where all groups are or should be actively involved. More specifically, it will discuss the following challenges:

- applying the learning outcomes approach in a way that promotes future developments of European tools in the area of education and training and their implementation at national level;
- defining learning outcomes in a way that leaves room for individual and institutional interpretation and initiative while at the same time presenting clear directions and expectations.

The conference will feed into Cedefop's new research project 'the shift to learning outcomes' launched in July 2013. This project, which is a follow-up to the 2006-08 Cedefop project on the same topic, will provide a review and analysis of developments in the EU/EEA countries and the subsystems of education and training.

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