



Cedefop Newsletter no. 34 - September 2013

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Main story



European social model more important than ever

The importance of the social model to help tackle the current jobs crisis was the main theme at the joint EU agencies and European Parliament seminar on the European social model and competitiveness in Brussels on 25 September. In his speech, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Laszlo Andor, congratulated the four EU agencies – Cedefop, ETF, EU-Osha and Eurofound – on their contribution to the European social model adding that the event was an ‘excellent illustration’ of their work.

The seminar prompted a debate by MEPs of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, senior European officials, social partners’ representatives and the agencies’ directors on how the social model needs to evolve in order to be sustainable.

The debate, which was streamed live, was closely followed on social media and extensively reported on European publications and websites.

Links

- [Read more in the event's press release](#)
- [Browse through the picture gallery](#)

News from Cedefop



Cedefop conference pays tribute to study visits

More than 150 study visits organisers and participants, national agency representatives, social partners, members of the Lifelong Learning Committee and European Commission officials joined forces on 26 September in Thessaloniki to celebrate the success of the first peer-learning programme in the European Union, which is coming to an end, with the last visits taking place in June 2014.

Erasmus+ is the successor to the lifelong learning programme (2007-2013), part of which have been the study visits. Participants in the conference debated how the advantages of the study visits can be integrated in Erasmus+.

Links

- [Read more in the event's press release](#)
 - [Browse through the picture gallery](#)
-



New publication: Vocational education and training in Lithuania

This publication looks at one of the fastest growing economies in Europe and how it uses vocational education and training to help it grow further amid rising demand for skills.

Lithuania considers investment in human resources paramount. This requires making IVET more attractive to young people and, despite high educational attainment levels, encouraging more adults to develop their skills further. Improved vocational guidance, more professional development opportunities for VET teachers and more attention to quality assurance are some of the current priorities. Although mainly school-based, IVET includes some forms of work-based learning. Apprenticeship-type training exists but is not yet very strong. The intention to include non-formally acquired qualifications in the Lithuanian qualifications framework and use of European structural fund support are expected to help strengthen work-based learning routes.

Links

- [Download the publication](#)



New publication: Spotlight on VET Lithuania

All you need to know about vocational education and training in Lithuania in one place and in a concise form.

Some of the highlights:

- VET in Lithuania is school-based; however, practical training and training in enterprises constitute a major part of training.
- LTQF, which was introduced in 2010 and, like the EQF, has eight levels, covers all education sectors.
- From 2002, VET curricula in Lithuania have been competence-based, with clearly-defined learning outcomes.
- It is one of the main national aims to keep the share of early leavers below 9% by 2020.

Links

- [Download the publication](#)



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

Cedefop's "VETAlert" for September 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.

To receive this monthly review in your mailbox, please [subscribe to VETAlert](#).

EU Policy

Adult and continuing education in Europe: Using public policy to secure a growth in skills

This publication is a review of the findings of several EU-funded research projects under the 6th and 7th Framework Programmes for Research. The conclusions of the research projects reviewed in this publication propose a number of policy priorities to support adult and continuing education and to harvest the potential of existing scientific production. This paper surveys these conclusions and guides

policy-makers in developing policy interventions which both support the growth of adult and continuing education and exploit the wealth of research and research tools available.

Links

- [Adult and continuing education in Europe: Using public policy to secure a growth in skills](#)
-



Opening up education: innovative teaching and learning for all through new technologies and open educational resources

The new Communication calls on educational and training institutions to review their organisational strategies in order to, for example, improve their capacity to adapt, promote innovation and exploit the potential of technologies and digital content.

Open learning environments "require the leaders of educational institutions to play an active role by: providing a strategic vision; transforming siloed institutions into connected learning communities and rewarding professionals for innovative teaching approaches", the Communication notes.

Amongst the actions detailed for member states and institutions are: support for innovative teaching and learning environments and supporting teachers to strengthen their digital competences and creative teaching practices; expanding access to digital tools and resources to bring them closer to the potential users; and **exploring validation and recognition instruments to promote more flexible learning pathways and opportunities.**

Links

- [Communication on Opening up Education](#)
 - [SWD \(2013\) 341 Accompanying Commission Communication Opening up education](#)
-



Quality in the adult learning sector: final report

The results of this study should support the European Commission by contributing to a knowledge base, which will inform a number of future activities to be undertaken in the framework of European Cooperation on Adult Learning Policy. The specific objective is to "map and to analyse the scope, content and implementation of quality approaches, standards and other relevant recent developments such as the development and implementation of accreditation systems and institutions, in the adult learning sector".

Links

- [Quality in the adult learning sector: final report](#)
-

2012 EU Youth Report now online

The 2012 EU Youth Report is now available online. The publication, which is a joint report by the Council and the European Commission, summarises the results of the first work cycle of the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2012) and establishes employment, social inclusion and health and well-being as new priorities in the youth field for the next three years.

The 2012 EU Youth Report presents a comprehensive statistical analysis on the situation of young people in the EU under the eight fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy: Education and training, Employment and entrepreneurship, Social inclusion, Health and well-being, Participation, Culture and creativity, Voluntary activities and Youth and the world.

Links

- [EU Youth Report](#)



Production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, as regards statistics on education and training systems

This Regulation lays down rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 452/2008 as regards the collection, transmission and processing of statistical data in Domain 1 on education and training systems.

It shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States

Links

- [Production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning](#)

Agenda

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 on-going initiatives.

For more information, please refer to the below agenda.

Attachments

 [EN Seminar draft agenda](#) (PDF 456.35 Kb 16/07/2013)

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.

Attachments

 [EN workshoop agenda](#) (PDF 452.20 Kb 02/10/2013)

European Network for Intergenerational Learning 3rd Conference: 'Intergenerational learning cities'

■ Dates: 16/10/2013 - 18/10/2013 ■ Venue: Cuenca ■ Country: Spain ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

The conference presents the benefits of Intergenerational Learning to different aspects of life in a city, from social cohesion to employment.

Keynote speeches and workshop themes include:

- The return of the citizen to the neighbourhood: learning to be
- "It takes a village to raise a child – and to teach an old man new tricks": cities as spaces for learning to know
- Co-habitation – Development and urbanism, living standards, historical events
- "Why ain't we livin' together?" – cities as spaces for learning to live together
- Entrepreneurship – Forging new job opportunities

Links

- [Intergenerational Learning Cities](#)
-

Quality assurance in VET and higher education for improving their permeability

■ Dates: 22/10/2013 - 23/10/2013 ■ Venue: Brussels, EESC ■ Country: Belgium ■ Cedefop involvement: Co-Organiser

Cedefop, the EQAVET Secretariat and the EU Commission: DGEAC - the Higher Education Unit and the VET/Leonardo da Vinci Unit are organising a Seminar on the quality approaches of Higher Education and VET for responding to the current challenges they are faced with. In the Seminar particular attention will be paid to the issues both education sub-sectors share in view of initiating a more substantial dialogue on quality between them. More information will follow.

22nd Annual European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET) Conference

■ Dates: 23/10/2013 - 26/10/2013 ■ Venue: Athens ■ Country: Greece ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

The conference will explore several aspects relating to improving teaching and learning:

- The role of technology as a learning tool
- The role of coaching and mentoring in the learning process
- The inspired, motivated and entrepreneurial teacher
- The role of work experience; apprenticeships and transnational mobility in skills development
- How can VET contribute to the needs of industry and business life?
- Future labour markets in Europe – challenges for VET in the future
- ECVET in practice – creating a common European Transfer system

Links

- [22nd Annual EfVET Conference](#)

17th International Conference of EVBB: "For youth employment in Europe - Training concepts, projects, quality standards"

■ Dates: 23/10/2013 - 26/10/2013 ■ Venue: Athens ■ Country: Greece ■ Cedefop involvement: Participant

The European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (EVVB) is the European umbrella association of free and non-profit educational providers.

Its objective lies in the qualitative improvement of vocational education and training in European countries and an increase in the efforts being carried out in education at a European level.

Links

- [For youth employment in Europe - Training concepts, projects, quality standards](#)

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.

Meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (Culture & Sport)

■ Dates: 26/11/2013 - 26/11/2013 ■ Venue: Brussels ■ Country: Belgium ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council assists member states in ensuring high quality education and vocational training, disseminating the culture and history of Europe, encouraging mobility of students and teachers, promoting cooperation of member states in these areas.

Depending on the items on the agenda, members states on this Council are represented by ministers for education, culture, youth, and sports. The Council usually has its meetings three or four times a year.

Links

- [Meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council \(Culture & Sport\)](#)

Comenius – Grundtvig Conference: "Give voice to special needs"

■ Dates: 28/11/2013 - 30/11/2013 ■ Venue: Florence ■ Country: Italy ■ Cedefop involvement: Not applicable

The conference is aimed at highlighting the best practices ensuring the sustainability of the well-being expressed by people. Active inclusion and the fight against poverty of adults with fewer opportunities in education and training and their families should be central in the further developed through the initiative "European Platform for the well-being of all".

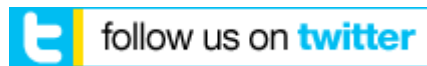
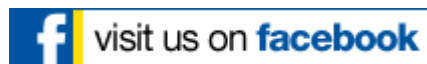
The main objectives of the conference are:

- to discuss the future of an inclusive education and training programme for different disadvantaged groups with particular focus on the EU Learning Programme
- to recognize the rights and capacity of excluded people to play an active role in society
- to identify patterns of under-representation among those currently involved in the EU Programme
- to share "what can we do together for people with fewer opportunities in education and training"
- to discuss about key barriers identified
- to exchange good practice and lessons for the future and recommendations on "how to encourage more participation of disadvantaged groups"

Links

- [Give voice to special needs](#)

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News from the Member States



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