



5th Cedefop webinar

“Building inclusive futures for NEETs - VET solutions for Europe’s young people not in employment, education or training”

10th June 2026, 10.00-11.30 CET

Concept note and agenda

Cedefop hosts a dedicated webinar to present and discuss its recent research paper, [*Building inclusive futures for NEETs: VET solutions for Europe’s young people not in employment, education or training*](#) (Cedefop, 2026).

The research builds on Cedefop’s long-standing work on inclusion in and through vocational education and training (VET) and contributes to the ongoing European policy dialogue on empowering young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). For more information on the key messages of this research please see below.

The webinar serves as a platform to share key findings and policy messages from the Cedefop’s research, with a focus on how VET systems and policies address persistent inequalities among NEETs and support their sustainable re-engagement in learning and work. Particular attention is given to two cross-cutting factors shaping NEET risks and outcomes across Europe: gender and the urban–rural divide.

Bringing together research evidence, policy perspectives and practical insights, the webinar aims to:

- Present key evidence on the magnitude and dynamics of the NEET phenomenon in Europe, including long-term trends and territorial disparities;
- Highlight the role of vocational education and training (VET) in supporting the social and professional re-engagement of NEETs through holistic and individualised pathways;
- Discuss the implications of gender and territorial inequalities for the design of effective NEET policies and VET interventions;
- Showcase how Cedefop’s [*VET toolkit for empowering NEETs*](#) supports policymakers and practitioners in designing, implementing and evaluating inclusive measures; and,
- Promote peer learning and exchange among ambassadors working in different national, regional and local contexts.

The webinar supports Cedefop’s ongoing work on inclusion and lifelong learning and contributes to policy reflection on how to move from fragmented and reactive approaches



towards more preventive, coordinated and targeted strategies to support young people at risk of disengagement.

Participation in the webinar is by invitation only and is open to members of Cedefop's network of Ambassadors tackling early leaving from vocational education and training.

Webinar agenda

The webinar will start at 10:00 CET with a welcome and brief update on the latest news by Irene Psifidou, Ambassadors' coordinator at Cedefop.

The presentation of the research findings will be delivered jointly by Stefanie Ledermaier, Michalis Papazoglou and Irene Psifidou, Cedefop experts within the [VET for youth - Teachers and trainers team](#). It will highlight the main findings of the paper and discuss how VET can support the inclusion, re-engagement and labour market transitions of NEETs.

Following the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and exchange views during a dedicated Q & A session moderated by Zoi Kamopoulou, Cedefop trainee. The webinar will close with a short wrap-up and an outlook on next steps, presented by Irene Psifidou and finish at 11:30 CET.

Highlights on Cedefop's findings on NEETs

Cedefop's research paper [Building inclusive futures for NEETs: VET solutions for Europe's young people not in employment, education or training](#) draws on recent Eurostat data and on Cedefop's VET toolkits for tackling early leaving and empowering NEETs. It analyses the evolution of NEET rates over the past decade and examines how gender and territorial inequalities shape young people's risk of exclusion.

The report brings together evidence, intervention approaches, good practices and practical tools to show how holistic, personalised, and VET-centred measures can support re-engagement, skills development, and smoother transitions to work. The highlights below summarise the report's main policy messages for discussion during the webinar. They underline the role of VET as a strategic bridge between social inclusion, learning and labour market integration, and situate the findings within wider EU priorities.

- **VET must become the backbone of inclusive youth systems:** The report shows that VET is most effective when embedded in holistic, individualised pathways that combine outreach, guidance and mentoring, skills development, work-based learning and systematic follow-up.



- **Prevention and reintegration must be treated as one continuum:** Effective policy should ensure continuity from identification and prevention to re-entry or re-engagement, rather than treating these as separate policy challenges.
- **One-size-fits-all policies are no longer viable:** The diversity of NEET profiles demands precise targeting and differentiated levels of support. Policy responses need to reflect young people's varying distance from education, training and employment; policy precision is not only a matter of fairness, but also of efficiency.
- **Structural barriers, not lack of motivation, drive exclusion, especially for female NEETs and young people in disadvantaged locations:** Effective responses therefore need to be both gender-sensitive and place-based.
- **The most excluded NEETs require high-intensity, long-term support:** Future progress depends on stronger outreach efforts for engaging inactive, discouraged, and invisible youth. These groups often face multiple and overlapping barriers and rarely respond to short-term activation alone.
- **Continuity of support and cross-sector cooperation are the key to sustainable outcomes:** Successful VET programmes ensure seamless pathways from outreach to training, employment, and follow-up. Integrated delivery leads to stronger and sustainable outcomes, providing young people with coherent support rather than fragmented assistance.
- **Evidence to guide further action targeting NEETs, Cedefop toolkits enable scaling what works:** Cedefop's [VET toolkit for empowering NEETs](#) provides a valuable starting point by combining a range of different resources to help identify what works, where and for what reasons.
- **Achieving EU targets requires stronger delivery systems:** The report shows that the 9% target is within reach, but not through business as usual. Its forward-looking analysis suggests that, without stronger policy effort, several Member States risk stagnation or divergence, while further progress will become harder as those still excluded are increasingly the hardest to reach.
- **VET is critical to inclusive green and digital transitions:** Green and digital transitions can open up new opportunities for young people not in employment, education or training, but they can also deepen exclusion for those without relevant skills or access to support.

For more detailed information on the paper's highlights, please also consult our recent blog article "[Building Inclusive Futures for NEETs: How VET Can Unlock Europe's Potential](#)".



Cedefop's network on ambassadors

Cedefop's network of [Ambassadors tackling early leaving from VET](#) was established in 2017. It has been regularly enriched with new members ever since, currently representing 23 European countries, including EU-level experts. Our ambassadors bring together a range of diverse profiles, united in their ambition to promote inclusion by addressing early leaving from VET and supporting NEETs.

Through their activities and projects, ambassadors actively use and disseminate Cedefop's [VET toolkit for tackling early leaving](#) and the [VET toolkit for empowering NEETs](#). They also enrich the toolkits' resources by sharing good practices, tools, news, publications, and statistics. They receive two times per year a dedicated newsletter and are regularly invited to contribute to online discussions, webinars, and other related Cedefop events.

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador, you may apply [here](#).