



**4th Cedefop webinar of the
'Ambassadors tackling early leaving from VET' network
"Harnessing AI & Digital Technologies to Empower Young People at Risk"
11th March 2026, 10.30-12.30 CET**

Draft Concept Note

Introduction to the webinar

Cedefop is organising its fourth webinar for its network of ambassadors tackling early leaving from vocational education and training on the topic of "Harnessing AI & Digital Technologies to Empower Young People at Risk". The webinar is closely aligned with [Cedefop's 2026 call for papers on Harnessing artificial intelligence and digital technologies for inclusive and resilient vocational education and training](#), and aims to translate emerging research priorities into policy-relevant discussion and peer learning.

The theme aims to encourage discussion around both opportunities and risks associated with AI-enabled approaches, including issues related to equity, ethical governance, transparency, and the role of educators and practitioners in ensuring that digital transformation supports rather than undermines inclusion. The focus is on how artificial intelligence and digital technologies can support inclusion in vocational education and training, with particular attention to preventing early leaving from education and training, and supporting young people not in employment, education or training. The webinar situates these discussions within [Cedefop's call for papers - Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies for Inclusive and Resilient Vocational Education and Training \(VET\)](#) aiming to bring forward new evidence and support the transition towards Industry 5.0, emphasising human-centred, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient vocational education and training systems.

Participation in the webinar is open to members of the Ambassadors tackling early leaving from vocational education and training network.

Objectives and envisaged outcomes

The primary objective of this webinar is to provide a platform for Cedefop's network of ambassadors to engage with Cedefop's team and promote peer learning. In particular, to:

- discuss opportunities and limitations of AI-enabled approaches for preventing early leaving and supporting young people not in employment, education or training;
- learn from related research projects and good practices; and,



- gain insights into new resources available through Cedefop's VET toolkits.

Structure and content

The webinar will combine contributions from Cedefop's team with invited inputs from ambassadors, drawing on research, policy, and practice perspectives aligned with the thematic priorities of the 2026 call for papers.

Next steps

Insights and reflections generated during the webinar will inform the further development of Cedefop's VET toolkits and contribute to ongoing work on inclusion, digital transformation and resilience in vocational education and training.

The webinar will also serve as an opportunity to stimulate interest in, and awareness of [Cedefop's 2026 call for papers](#), with its **deadline for submission of abstracts on 15th April 2026**, encouraging dialogue between research and practice communities and supporting the generation of evidence relevant for European vocational education and training policy and practice.

Background of the network

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 wish to become an ambassador, you may apply [here](#).