

Concept note

Cedefop Forum “Launching the new lifelong guidance framework” 12–13 May, Thessaloniki

This forum addressing issues for policy brings together stakeholders in Europe who have an interest in finding and re-locating common ground with the help of this [shared framework](#), aligned with the aims of the Union of Skills and the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Herring Declaration, and related ambitions. The effort is aimed at enhancing the quality of policies, services and systems – through the winds of change – for the development of lifelong guidance, to adequately meet the changing information, guidance and advisory needs of a diverse population.

[The new framework](#) is for practical advice and inspiring policymaking and system reviews, of benefit to social partners and other public and private stakeholders, to guidance providers and service partners, practitioners and career educators across sectors, and service users/learners. It can also be a value to individuals and groups who benefit from understanding what to expect from career services, resources, activities, and tools.

It can aid data collection, reviews, and monitoring of the sectors and areas where guidance is embedded (see Cedefop’s [Inventory of systems and practices](#)). It can also facilitate connecting ecosystems to achieve policy aims that benefit individuals and society, such as fostering interest in lifelong learning.

Europe faces unprecedented challenges, where frequent social, economic and policy changes have become commonplace - societal shifts, transitions and transformations, coupled with evidence of mounting resource constraints. The event provides a timely opportunity to contextualise the new framework in a broader perspective. This includes its relevance for unfolding developments affecting careers and learning across the lifespan, within and beyond education and training, including VET’s rising attractiveness; as well as labour market, and civil society contexts.

An open [webinar was held in April 2025](#) previewing the work against the backdrop of Cedefop’s long involvement in the guidance field. Speakers discussed the changing expectations for guidance systems, calling for further cooperation, adaptation and innovation, while building on previous experiences in the countries, growing expertise, research and awareness of the benefits of guidance, and accumulated knowledge and know-how on the ground.

High-quality guidance and career support act together with other measures and policy fields recognised as helping achieve the aims of public policies supporting comprehensive skills development and social cohesion. They help connect and integrate other services and

areas essential to lifelong learning, in turn, fostering societies that are more resilient, productive, sustainable and fair.

During the forum, drawing on these wider perspectives and the structure of the [framework](#) and its essential messages, participants will hear from knowledgeable speakers and stakeholders, facilitating reflection. An appreciation for the advances already made will be highlighted, in addition to future opportunities and challenges. Focus will be placed on multifaceted implications for policy, implementation, research and frontline services across different contexts and for different actors in the wider and interlinked ecosystems.

Join us as we present this new framework and explore how it can help shape the future of lifelong guidance across Europe.

[#Lifelongguidance](#) [#Careerdevelopment](#)