

Draft Programme

19 November 2026 (all times are CET)

09.00 – 09.30	Accessing the platform - technical check
09:30 – 09.40	Welcome Chair: Irene Mandl , <i>Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i> Opening speech Jürgen Siebel , <i>Executive Director, Cedefop</i>
09.40 – 09.50	Session 1. The European perspective Chair: Irene Mandl , <i>Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i> European VET policy – balancing multiple objectives Anna Barbieri , <i>European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</i>
09.50 – 10.15	Session 2. Balancing excellence and inclusion in VET systems across Europe Chair: Irene Mandl , <i>Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i> Presentation of findings from Cedefop's project on VET excellence and inclusion for the 21st century Anastasia Pouliou, Iraklis Pliakis, Vasileios Symeonidis, Cedefop Q&A
10.15- 10.45	Session 3 The way forward for research

Chair: **Anastasia Pouliou**, *Cedefop*

Interactive discussion: Reflections and perspectives from participants

- What are the key future needs that VET policies and systems should address?
- What are the key research gaps related to advancing excellence and inclusion in VET, and where is further evidence needed?
- What research is needed to understand and support the use of AI solutions and tools in VET? What are the key questions, for example around their use in assessment, guidance, recognition and other VET processes?

POLL

10.45-10.55

Health break

10.55 -11.00

Session 3.
Introduction to breakout sessions

Chair: **Anastasia Pouliou**, *Cedefop*

11.00-12.50

Parallel breakout session 1

Topic 1 - Advancing excellence in VET

The session will explore how the pursuit of excellence is shaping VET reforms, governance arrangements, pedagogical and policy implementation.

Chair: **Iraklis Pliakis**, *Cedefop*

Introduction to the topic
Presentation of research papers
Open discussion

11.00-12.50

Parallel breakout session 2

Topic 2 - Future approaches to inclusion in VET

The session will focus on how to widen VET participation, while supporting social cohesion and integration in the labour market.

11.00-12.50	Chair: Vasileios Symeonidis, <i>Cedefop</i> Introduction to the topic Presentation of research papers Open discussion Parallel breakout session 3 Topic 3 - AI in VET: Opportunities and challenges <i>The session will focus on whether EU Member States' VET policies and systems are future-ready, by integrating AI into VET, while promoting excellence, inclusion and accessibility.</i> Chair: Anastasia Pouliou, <i>Cedefop</i> Introduction to the topic Presentation of research papers Open discussion
12.50 – 13.00	Health break
13.00 – 13.20	Session 4. Chair: Irene Mandl, <i>Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i> Poster session <i>Selected authors showcase their research, findings/perspectives to conference participants.</i>
13.20 13.30	Session 5 Concluding remarks Irene Mandl, <i>Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i> and Anastasia Pouliou, <i>Cedefop</i>

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#VETexcellence #inclusion #FutureofVET

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