

Cedefop Fifth CareersNet Annual Meeting

New directions for partnerships in lifelong guidance and career development

6 and 7 December 2022

Short meeting synthesis and news from CareersNet

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Cedefop hosted the [CareersNet's fifth annual meeting on 6 and 7 December 2021](#), *New directions for partnerships in lifelong guidance and career development*. The meeting was divided into a first day (6/12) with CareersNet members from 32 countries and CareersNet event partner, the Slovenian Government with the [Ministry of Education, Science and Sport Department of Educational Development and Quality](#), as well as invited organisations the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the European Commission. A total of 73 participants attended. Cedefop was honoured that the meeting was added to the Slovene Presidency calendar as an accompanying event.

When the meeting started, a captivating video of natural scenes in Slovenia perfectly transitioned the participants to the meeting's welcoming speakers from Cedefop and the Slovenian Ministry. Head of the Department for VET and skills (DVS), Antonio Ranieri [chaired the opening session](#) and introduced Cedefop's Executive Director Jürgen Siebel and Miha Lovšin on behalf of the [Slovene Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#) and of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

This year the first event day comprised a full session (Session 1) organised by our event partner with a set of five informative and thorough presentations demonstrating the landscape of lifelong guidance provisions in Slovenia, from guidance provided in primary and secondary schools to guidance in adult learning, higher vocational colleges, university career services and public employment services with the role of the National Contact Point for lifelong guidance and career development. Cedefop and participants greatly appreciated the speakers from Slovenia presenting their services and policies and highlighting user-centred approaches: [Karmen Vaupotič, Development and quality manager and PRIZMA Foundation for the Improvement of Employment Possibilities](#); [Alicia- Leonor Sauli-Miklavčič, Secretary General, Association of Slovenian Higher Vocational Colleges](#) (and CareersNet alternate expert); [Tamara Boh, Head of career centres, University of Ljubljana](#); [Julija Pirnat, Project manager of the national coordinating point for lifelong guidance and career development](#); [Tanja Vilič Klenovšek, Head of guidance and validation unit, Slovenian Institute for Adult Education](#). The set was preceded by an introductory [overview of the lifelong guidance and career development system and the role of the cross-sectoral national expert group in the country, presented by Ema Perme from the Ministry, who is also a new CareersNet core expert](#).

There were eleven presentations on 6 December with group discussions in breakout rooms for invited and network participants, while for the dedicated network sessions on 7 December three network experts referring to diverse national institutional settings and guidance systems (Estonia, Greece, Poland) (see [event page](#) for all available slide presentations) provided targeted inputs on mechanisms and tools for facilitating coordination, cooperation - toward better integrated career guidance and career development support.

Cedefop network and guidance coordinator and DVS team experts ([VET support policies – career guidance, validation and VET financing](#)) provided overviews on work published in 2021 such as the collection of papers from CareersNet following the [2020 annual meeting](#) theme [Digital transitions: rethinking careers practitioner professionalism](#). The second day included Cedefop's work in progress on [supporting careers and learning through evidence-based monitoring and evaluation in adult career guidance](#), and work starting in 2022 (individual learning accounts, with colleagues working in career

guidance, validation and financing) also briefly presented at [Cedefop's 11th Brussels seminar](#) in November 2021. Members also were taken through the new web portal to the LLG pages and a poll was conducted to survey members on who they believe uses [Cedefop's Lifelong guidance inventory](#) most, with researchers coming in first.

A DVS expert from [Skills and labour market](#) presented Cedefop work on [skills for the green transition](#), and implications for career guidance and career development policy (and ALMP) in light of the of European Green Deal (EGD) ([Session 3](#)). A new publication on the topic went online in December - [The Green Employment and Skills Transformation](#). One message of the forecast scenario is that policy needs to focus on extensive acceleration of up- and reskilling, particularly in providing workers who will need to change occupation, sector or geographic location, adequate access to career guidance and support with information provision and career capacity building to navigate the changes longer-term.

On the first day of the meeting CareersNet experts from Finland, Jaana Kettunen and Raimo Vuorinen, presented their analytical paper on the need for practitioners' strategic competency and the role of ICT from the 2021 collection [Digital transitions: rethinking careers practitioner professionalism](#). The paper underlines how strategic thinking and the role of ICT at the level of practitioner competency represent an example of *new directions for partnership* as systems and user needs become more complex.

Two speakers from the European Commission concluded the day with [a presentation from the outgoing CareersNet member for Germany Susanne Kraatz](#) sharing views from a new vantage point namely how the [EU strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-30](#) has implications for career guidance and career development provisions. [Aline Juerges presented](#) the latest [relevant EU level policy initiatives and developments that support and rely on diverse partnerships](#), emphasising that the willingness of actors to cooperate is essential. The recent experience of cooperating with Cedefop and with stakeholders on updating the [European guidelines on validation](#), also a career development support field, was cited as a concrete example.

As for the group discussions in breakout rooms, topics on both days focused on reinforcing multi-stakeholder, new and existing cross-sectoral partnerships with a wide variety of actors for effective lifelong guidance provision, and how to improve cooperation and communication for improved access to services for all users, of all ages. Users should be able to understand and link up the different opportunities for career learning and development throughout life, especially for adults in multiple career transitions they may experience, whether voluntarily through changing occupations, career tracks or engagement in new learning opportunities, or in light of forced choices and job loss.

Participants followed up on related topics discussed at the [third CareersNet meeting in Rome](#), and what has developed since the onset of the pandemic and in light of wider socioeconomic shifts and developments.

Network sessions on 7 December were attended by CareersNet new and continuing experts who gathered for their first annual meeting in the [new mandate period after the 2021 call for experts](#). Members discussed network management and delved further into the meeting theme with the short member inputs feeding into breakout room discussions.

Many of the existing national policies, practices, guidance system features and provisions elaborated upon during the event are featured in Cedefop's [online Lifelong guidance inventory of systems and practices 'country reports'](#) from 2020 and 2021. The more recent developments discussed and presented during the meeting will be integrated into the LLG Inventory in 2022 (expected by Q4). Country information can now be filtered by year (2020, 2021, 2022 forthcoming) showing targeted updates as needed and full updates every two years. Sections can be compared across countries, where information is available.

Cedefop is grateful to the CareersNet experts who volunteered as group discussion facilitators and reporters during the event, who provided their notes and made time for preparations, and to long-standing members who welcomed the incoming experts.