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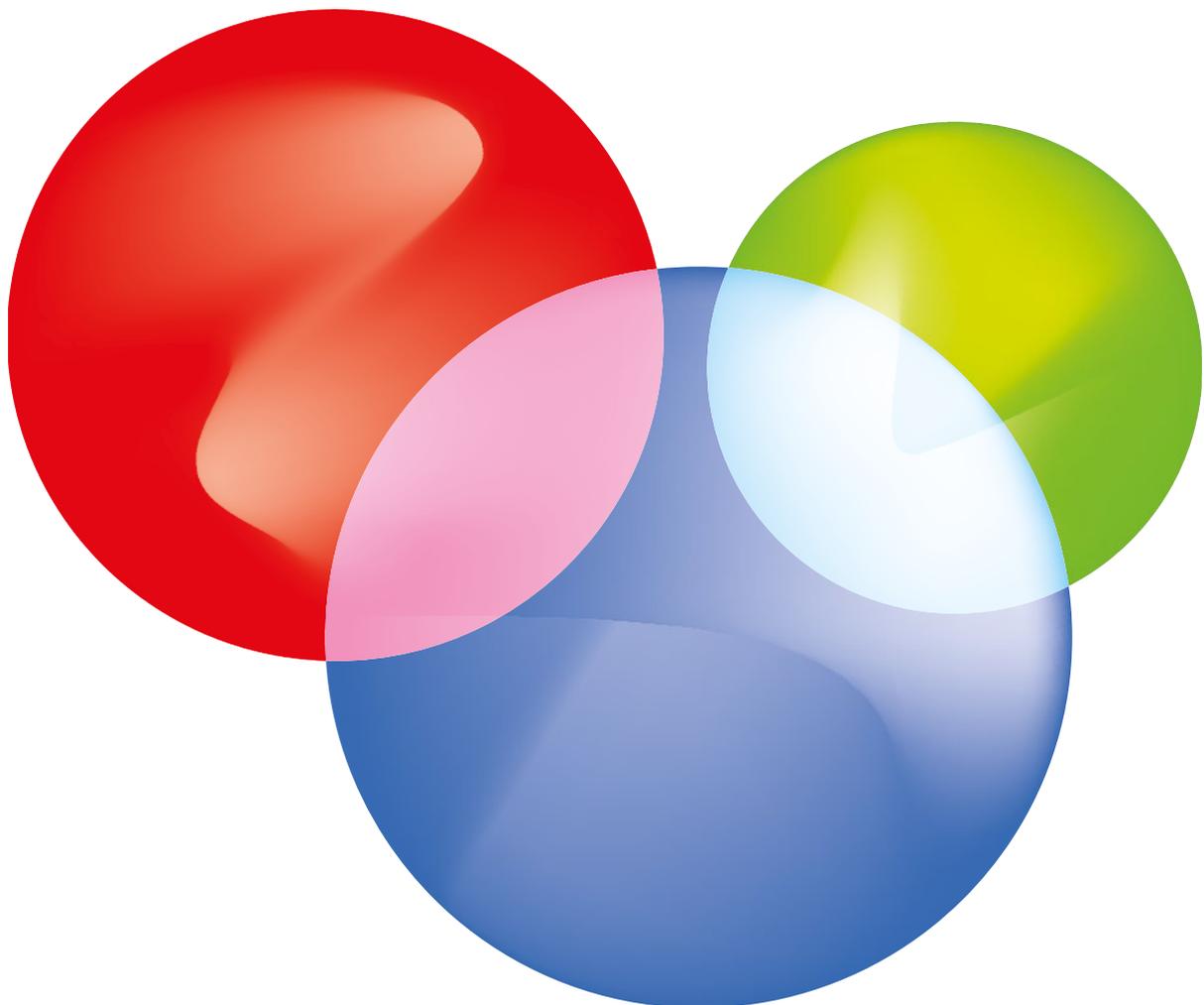
European Centre
for the Development
of Vocational Training

EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK 2020

Future of vocational education and training (VET)

Expert online technical workshop

**26 and 27
November 2020**



#FutureofVET

INTRODUCTION

The workshop provides an opportunity for policy-makers, stakeholders, experts and researchers to discuss the challenges and choices facing European VET today. Building on systematic research carried out by Cedefop in recent years, the workshop complements the ongoing political discussion on the future of European VET evidenced in the July 2020 Skills Agenda, the [proposal for a VET Council recommendation](#) and the 2020 Osnabrück declaration.

The workshop will build on the findings of the recently published Cedefop report *VET in Europe 1995-2035*. From a long-term perspective on European VET developments, the report brings together two major Cedefop research projects: *The changing nature and role of VET in Europe* (2015-18) and the *The future of vocational education and training (VET)* (2019-22).

OBJECTIVE AND AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop aims to instigate a discussion on the overall direction European VET is taking. Presentations and discussions during the first day of the workshop (26 November) will provide a general picture of recent developments. The second day (27 November) will allow for an in-depth discussion of the way VET skills and competences are changing and how this influences their delivery.

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER A CHANGING EUROPEAN VET LANDSCAPE

Cedefop's ongoing research shows that European VET, albeit different between countries, is changing in several fundamental ways. Not only is it becoming more diverse in its programmes and qualifications – addressing the needs of a growing service sector – but it is also expanding to higher levels, challenging the perception of higher education as exclusively academically oriented. In some countries, this combination of diversification and expansion is a step towards making lifelong learning a reality, adapting VET to the needs of learners of all ages and at different stages in their careers and lives. In some countries, this diversification and expansion takes place in a context where traditional, initial VET is coming under pressure from declining youth cohorts and a growing preference for general education and training. While most countries have resisted this pressure and managed to preserve, and in some cases even expand, the proportion of young people attending initial VET, these negative developments might be a warning of future challenges. Cedefop's research sought to paint a comprehensive picture of VET developments in Europe, identifying both challenges and opportunities. Building on this analysis, the *VET in Europe 1995-2035* report outlines a series of potential future paths of how VET could evolve in the coming decades; these scenarios highlight the choices policy-makers and stakeholders will be faced with.

Based on a presentation of the main findings of the research, the first day the workshop will offer participants an opportunity to take a step back and reflect on the longer-term challenges and choices ahead. It will also address the question of whether our basic assumptions regarding the future of VET have been influenced by the current Covid-19 crisis.

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER

VET SKILLS AND COMPETENCES FOR THE FUTURE

Cedefop's new project (2019-22) *The Future of vocational education and training* builds on previous research, addressed during the first day of the workshop, paying particular attention to changes in VET's content and profile. In many countries we can see a broadening of profiles, while the overall number of qualifications (and thus specialisations) is reduced. Closely related to this we can also see a changing relationship between occupationally specific skills, general subjects and transversal skills and competences, indicating that future VET skills may look different from what they do today. The relevance and quality of future VET depends on its ability to respond to these changing demands. A key question is whether the dialogue between labour markets and education and training systems can support continuous review and renewal of VET content and profiles. It can further be assumed that changing VET skills and competences will influence the delivery of VET and the future set-up of institutions. In some countries the borders between general education and VET is becoming blurred, raising questions about whether we are heading towards 'hybrid' institutions combining skills and competences in new ways.

The second day of the workshop will provide participants an opportunity to discuss different aspects related to the changing content and profile of VET. It will be divided into three breakout sessions:

- ✓ **Break-out session 1** will address the role of transversal skills and competences in transforming VET;
- ✓ **Break-out session 2** will address the challenge of reviewing and renewing VET content, drawing on findings from the ongoing Cedefop project *Comparing VET qualifications*;
- ✓ **Break-out session 3** will address potential implications of changing skills and competences on VET institutions and qualifications, focusing on the emergence of hybrid qualifications and programmes targeting both access to higher education and the labour market.

WORKING METHODS

The workshop will take place online (Zoom platform). Participants will attend presentations and will be able to participate both through standard Q&A sessions and through chat comments.

Both days will include plenary and break-out sessions. For the discussions of 27 November participants will be able to choose a topic and theme of interest the them.

THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2020

All times are CET (Central European Time)

9.00 – 9.30 REGISTRATION (technical checks)

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Cedefop

9.30 – 9.50 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKSHOP

- Participant welcome
- Context and objectives of the workshop
- Housekeeping rules

Opening address (Jürgen Siebel, Cedefop)

9.50 – 10.30 SESSION 1. DECLINE OR EXPANSION – WHERE IS EUROPEAN VET HEADING?

- Video on Cedefop's *VET in Europe 1995-2035* report
- Presentation of main findings from Cedefop's synthesis report and the *Changing nature and role of VET* project (Jens Bjørnåvold, Cedefop and Jörg Markowitsch, 3s)

Open discussion

- How do we see European VET evolving? What are the trends and challenges/dilemmas for policy choices ahead?
- To what extent has the project contributed to an improved understanding of how VET is changing in the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway?

10.30 – 12.00 SESSION 2. SCENARIOS FOR VET IN EUROPE – WHAT ARE THE CHOICES?

- Lifelong learning at the core – Diversified VET (Andrew McCoshan, UK and Republic of Ireland)
- Back to the roots – Distinctive VET (Philipp Grollmann, BIBB, Germany)
- The firefighter approach – VET for special purposes (Anastasia Pouliou, Cedefop)

Open discussion

- How do these scenarios reflect key challenges and opportunities in European VET?
- Which parts of the research are particularly useful for your work/the work of your institution?

12.00 – 12.15 COFFEE BREAK

Chair: Anastasia Pouliou, Cedefop

12.15 – 12.45 SESSION 3. EUROPEAN VET SEEN FROM THE OUTSIDE

- Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO
- Jenny Shackleton, WorldSkills
- Anastasia Fetsi, European Training Foundation

Open discussion

12.45 – 13.00 REACTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DAY

FRIDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2020

All times are CET (Central European Time)

9.00 – 9.30 REGISTRATION (technical checks)

Chair: Jens Bjørnåvold, Cedefop

9.30 – 10.00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- The 2019-22 'Future of VET project' – Perspectives and objectives (Anastasia Pouliou, Cedefop and Jörg Markowitsch, 3s)
- Guidelines for breakout groups 1-3

Chair: Anastasia Pouliou, Cedefop

10.00 – 11.30 Parallel Session 1. Transversal skills and the VET curriculum (30-minute presentation – 60-minute discussion)

Introductions to the topic:

- *Maarit Virolainen, University of Jyväskylä*
- *Claudia Plaimauer, 3s and Martin Noack, Bertelsmann Stiftung*

Key topics:

- What is the impact of transversal skills and competences on VET practices/policies?
- How do transversal skills and competences (and our use of this term) influence the content and orientation of VET?
- How relevant is a distinction between occupationally specific, transversal skills and competences and general knowledge?
- How do TSCs influence teaching, learning and assessment practices?

Chair: Jens Bjørnåvold, Cedefop

10.00 – 11.30 Parallel Session 2. The challenge of reviewing and renewing VET qualifications (30-minute presentation – 60-minute discussion)

Introductions to the topic:

- *Simon Broek, Ockham-IPS and Karin Luomi-Messerer, 3s*
- *Jiri Branka, Cedefop*

Key topics:

- How can we revise and renew VET skills and competences in the context of rapid technological and economic change?
- How can we strengthen the feedback loop between the labour market (demand for skills) and the VET system (provision of skills)?

10.00 – 11.30

Chair: Else Husa, Cedefop

Parallel Session 3. New arrangements between VET and general education

Introductions to the topic:

- *Thomas Deissinger, University of Konstanz*
- *Terence Hogarth, University of Warwick*

Key topics:

- To what extent can we observe the existence of hybrid programmes and qualifications targeting both access to higher education and labour market?
- What are the potential implications on VET schools/institutions of the emergence of hybrid programmes and qualifications?
- How might hybrid qualifications affect qualification systems at large (and the VET systems especially) in the future?

11.30 – 11.45

COFFEE BREAK

11.45 – 12.45

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Cedefop

SESSION 4. SUMMARY OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

12.45 – 13.00

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND END OF THE WORKSHOP

(Loukas Zahilas and Jens Bjørnåvold, Cedefop)

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Project page:

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/future-vet>



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