



SECOND POLICY LEARNING FORUM

Defining and writing learning outcomes for VET qualifications

Cedefop, Europe 123, 57001 Thessaloniki

13 and 14 October 2016

One of Cedefop's main priorities is to support Member States and social partners in further developing and improving vocational education and training and lifelong learning policies and practices. To be able to do this systematically, in 2015 Cedefop organised the first of a series of policy learning forums (PLF) on a range of issues. Building on the positive outcomes of the first forum, the second – on 13 and 14 October 2016 – aims to strengthen the exchange of experiences related to writing and use of learning outcomes for VET standards and curricula.

Focus and input to the PLF

The second PLF on defining and writing learning outcomes will build on the extensive work carried out by Cedefop in this area in recent years.

- (a) A comparative study on the application of learning outcomes in 33 European countries (1) was carried out in 2014-15. This study, updating a similar study published in 2009, provides interesting insight into the challenges involved in taking learning outcomes forward. The PLF will be invited to discuss the study findings, particularly issues related to learning outcomes implementation.
- (b) A handbook on writing learning outcomes is currently being drafted by Cedefop. This handbook, partly based on the 2015 PLF findings, will provide technical and conceptual support to practitioners and will act as a reference point for future cooperation in this area. PLF participants will be invited to reflect on the outline of the handbook and its main messages.
- (c) A comparative study of 10 learning-outcomes-based VET qualifications is currently being carried out in 25 countries across the world (13 in Europe, 12 outside Europe) – a cooperation between Cedefop, the ETF and UNESCO. The data from this study provide detailed insight into the way learning outcomes are defined and written, and point to similarities/differences between countries.

(1) EU-28 plus Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

Methodology

The second PLF on defining and writing learning outcomes will require active participation from all participants.

- (a) Prior to the event, as was the case at the first PLF, national representatives will be asked to submit written input summarising the way the learning outcomes approach has been implemented in their particular national setting. This written input will ensure that the PLF has a strong empirical basis on which to work. A set of questions to be answered are annexed to this document.
- (b) Participants will be involved in an active process of dialogue and exchange of experiences both in the plenary sessions and the working groups.

Agenda

Twitter hashtag: #VETlearningoutcomes

Thursday, 13 October 2016

9.00-9.30

Registration

9.30-9.45

Opening speeches

Europa room

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Cedefop

Cedefop's second policy learning forum

Mara Brugia, Deputy Director, Cedefop

Koen Nomden, European Commission, DG Employment

9.45-10.30

Plenary

Europa room

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Cedefop

Defining and writing learning outcomes – Setting the scene

Application of learning outcomes in 33 European countries – The challenges of implementation

Slava Pevec Grm, Cedefop

A handbook for defining and writing learning outcomes – Key messages

Jens Bjørnåvold, Cedefop

10.30-11.00

Tea/coffee break

11.00-13.00

Defining and writing learning outcomes in VET qualifications

Europa room

Towards a common language? Findings from the Cedefop/ETF/UNESCO international comparison of learning-outcomes-based VET qualifications

Karin Luomi Messerer, 3S

Presentation from the national representative of Norway

Bodil Nagell Holbaek, Ministry of Education and Research

Ragnhild Falch, Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training

Presentation from the national representative of Switzerland

Eva Heinimann, SFIVET

13.00-14.00

Lunch

First working group session

	WG 1	WG 2	WG 3
14.00-15.30	<p>A common language? Dilemmas and opportunities in writing learning outcomes <i>Chair: Rena Psifidou, Cedefop</i></p> <p>Presentation of focus questions reflecting handbook messages</p> <p>Presentation of two country approaches <i>Küllil All</i>, Ministry of Education, Estonia</p> <p><i>Malcolm Micallef</i>, MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta</p> <p>Initial discussion</p>	<p>Setting standards? Learning outcomes and their role in defining the content of VET qualifications <i>Chair: George Kostakis, Cedefop</i></p> <p>Presentation of focus questions reflecting handbook messages</p> <p>Presentation of two country approaches <i>Stephanie Mayer</i>, BMBF, Austria</p> <p><i>Vladimir Borisov</i>, NAVET, Bulgaria</p> <p>Initial discussion</p>	<p>Supporting active learning? Dilemmas and opportunities in aligning teaching and assessment with learning outcomes <i>Chair: Anastasia Pouliou, Cedefop</i></p> <p>Presentation of focus questions reflecting handbook messages</p> <p>Presentation of two country approaches <i>Merja Lahdenkauppi</i>, Finnish National Board of Education</p> <p><i>Jelka Čop</i>, CPI, Slovenia</p> <p>Initial discussion</p>
15.30-16.00	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>		
16.00-18.00	<p>Discussion continues in small groups of three to four participants</p> <p>Groups to present main findings and observations</p> <p>WG to identify main challenges and opportunities (summarised in five to seven key points)</p> <p><i>Rapporteur: Vlasis Korovilos, Cedefop</i></p>	<p>Discussion continues in small groups of three to four participants</p> <p>Groups to present main findings and observations</p> <p>WG to identify main challenges and opportunities (summarised in five to seven key points)</p> <p><i>Rapporteur: Ernesto Villalba, Cedefop</i></p>	<p>Discussion continues in small groups three to four participants</p> <p>Groups to present main findings and observations</p> <p>WG to identify main challenges and opportunities (summarised in five to seven key points)</p> <p><i>Rapporteur: Irina Jemeljanova, Cedefop</i></p>
18.00-18.30	<i>Meeting of Chairs and rapporteurs of the working groups</i>		
18.45	<i>Departure for dinner</i>		

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Europa room</i> <i>Chair: Hanne Christensen, Cedefop</i>
9.00-9.30	Similarities and differences: challenges and opportunities – Key findings and conclusions from working groups <i>Zoltan Loboda, Hungarian Educational Authority</i>	

Second working group session

	WG 1	WG 2	WG 3
	The development of the Handbook on writing learning outcomes <i>Chair: Jens Bjørnåvold, Cedefop</i>	Developing a common format for the presentation of learning outcomes <i>Chair: Koen Nomden, European Commission</i>	Developing a European network on learning outcomes for VET <i>Chair: Slava Pevec Grm, Cedefop</i>
9.30-11.00	Discussion in groups of three to four participants WG to cluster conclusions from subgroups into five key messages to be presented in plenary <i>Rapporteur: Hanne Christensen, Cedefop</i>	Introduction of focus questions by WG-Chair Discussion in groups of three to four participants WG to cluster conclusions from subgroups into five key messages to be presented in plenary <i>Rapporteur: Anastasia Pouliou, Cedefop</i>	Introduction of focus questions by WG-Chair Discussion in groups of three to four participants WG to cluster conclusions from subgroups into five messages to be presented in plenary <i>Rapporteur: Andreea Rusu, Cedefop</i>
11.00-11.15	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>		
11.15-12.30	<i>Chair: Jens Bjørnåvold, Cedefop</i> Key messages from working groups Tour de table and plenary discussion on overall PLF conclusions and recommendations (45 minutes)		
12.30-12.50	Comments and observations from international experts <i>Michael Graham, ETF</i> <i>Manish Joshi, Guest Researcher, National Skill Development Corporation, India</i> <i>Stavroula Bibila, University of Birmingham</i>		
12.50-13.00	Conclusions by Cedefop – How can we use the second PLF methodology to support the work on learning outcomes? <i>James Joachim Calleja, Director, Cedefop</i>		

End of second peer learning forum