



Skills for democracy

How vocational education and training shapes active citizenship

19th Cedefop Brussels Seminar organised in cooperation with the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Programme

8 December 2025 (Central European Time)

09.30 – 10.00	Participant arrival and registration
10.00 – 10.15	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marie Juel Bech Nielsen, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Children and Education, Denmark▪ Jürgen Siebel, Executive Director, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) Chair: Irene Mandl , Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop
10.15 – 10.55	Session 1. Promoting inclusive citizenship education and active participation in society <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dmitrijs Kuļšs, expert in VET systems and policies, and key competences, Cedefop: <i>Citizenship education in IVET: initial findings from Cedefop study</i>▪ Allan Kortnum, Director of Herningsholm Vocational College, Denmark: <i>Skills city – a concept and campus designed to promote community, diversity, and democratic engagement among youth in VET</i> Moderator: Irene Mandl , Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop
10.55 – 11.10	Coffee break



<p>11.10 – 12.10</p>	<p>Session 2. Panel discussion</p> <p>Making it happen – practices that empower active citizens in VET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kristina Aaltonen, DLI – Danish Teacher Trade Unions ▪ Sabina Casini, senior adviser, BDA – German Employers, BusinessEurope ▪ Carlo Frising, Chambre des salariés Luxembourg, European Trade Union Confederation ▪ Allan Kortnum, Director of Herningsholm Vocational College, Denmark ▪ Erika Somlyay, Lifelong Learning Platform – European Civil Society for Education <p>Q&A</p> <p>Moderator: George Kostakis, Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</p>
<p>12:10-12:50</p>	<p>Session 3. Panel discussion</p> <p>Policy perspectives – setting the framework for active citizenship in VET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anna Banczyk, European Commission, Head of Unit Vocational Education and Training, Skills Portability, Cedefop (EMPL.B.3) ▪ Marie Juel Bech Nielsen, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Children and Education, Denmark ▪ Michaela Franke, Research Administrator, Directorate for Citizens, Equality and Culture, European Parliament <p>Q&A</p> <p>Moderator: George Kostakis, Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</p>
<p>12.50 – 13.00</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irene Mandl, Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop
<p>13.00 – 14.00</p>	<p>Reception hosted by the Danish Presidency of the European Union</p>

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10.00-14.00 CET



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