



Launching the new lifelong guidance framework

Cedefop forum, 12-13 May 2026

Programme

DAY 1: 12 May 2026 (all times are EEST)

Updated: 1 May

9.00 – 9.30	Participant arrival and registration (coffee service)
9.30 – 10.00 <i>Europa room</i>	Welcome and introduction Moderator: Ilias Livanos, <i>Expert in VET and skills statistics and indicators, Cedefop</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jürgen Siebel, <i>Executive Director, Cedefop</i>Hristo Petrov, <i>Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair Committee on Culture and Education</i>Elias Margadjis, <i>Director of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Education and Culture, Cyprus</i>Andrea Simoncini, <i>Directorate General for Active Labour Policies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Italy</i>
10.00 – 10.10	Programme and practical information
10.10 – 10.55 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 1 Lifelong guidance framework: the new framework for systems and policy development <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cynthia Harrison, <i>Policy officer in VET supporting policies/ guidance, Cedefop</i>Jaana Kettunen, <i>President, International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG), Professor of Lifelong Guidance and Vice Director, Finnish Institute for Educational Research (FIER), University of Jyväskylä, Finland</i>
10.55 – 11.25	Health break (coffee service)



12-13 May



9.30-17.00(EEST)
10.00-12.30(EEST)



Thessaloniki,
Greece

11.25 – 12.45
Europa room

Session 2

Lifelong guidance framework: commentary in context from the IAG WGCG members

Moderator: Cynthia Harrison, *Policy officer in VET supporting policies/guidance, Cedefop*

Discussion with:

- Florian Kadletz, *Human capital expert, European Training Foundation*
- Pedro Moreno da Fonseca, *Technical specialist, Lifelong Learning, International Labour Organisation (ILO)*
- Aristeia Politi, *Policy assistant, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission*
- Ramon Iriarte, *Education program specialist, UNESCO*
- Glenda Quintini, *Senior economist, OECD*

12.45 – 14.00

Lunch (family photo)

14.00 – 15.15
Europa room

Session 3

Embedding lifelong guidance across policies and systems: putting strategies to work in uncertain times

Chair: Daniel Reumiller, *President, Swiss Career Guidance Conference (KBSB), Switzerland*

Presentations by:

- Anna Toni, *Senior adviser, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland*
- Marianne Almbakk, *Senior adviser, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills, Norway*
- Carol Guildea, *Guidance specialist, Department of Education and Youth, Ireland*
- Diana Reiners, *Director, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse, Maison de l'orientation – Service de coordination, Luxembourg*

Discussant: Fotini Vlachaki, *Independent career guidance and social inclusion expert; Doctoral researcher, Department of Psychology of the National and Kapodistrian, University of Athens, Greece*

Rapporteur: Alessandra Biancolini, *Seconded national expert, Cedefop*



12-13 May



9.30-17.00(EEST)
10.00-12.30(EEST)



Thessaloniki,
Greece

15.15 – 15.30	Health break (coffee service)
15.30 – 17.00 <i>Europa room</i>	<p>Session 4</p> <p>Enabling careers and learning – views from within and beyond sectors</p> <p>Chair: Jan Woldendorp, <i>Independent expert, Lecturer, Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands</i></p> <p>Discussion with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caroline Mancel, <i>Présidente du Réseau international des Cités des Métiers /Deputy Director General, Actiris, Belgium</i> ▪ Franziska Rieder, <i>Coordinator, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse, Maison de l'orientation – Service de coordination, Luxembourg</i> ▪ Wolfgang Bliem, <i>Senior researcher, ibw Austria – Research & Development in VET, Austria</i> ▪ Ema Perme, <i>Education Development and Quality Office, Ministry of Education, Slovenia</i> <p>Discussant: Ilze Astrida Jansone, <i>Euroguidance programme manager, Broader Educational Experience Department, State Education Development Agency, Latvia</i></p> <p>Rapporteur: Jerzy Bielecki, <i>Research assistant, Institute for Educational Research, Poland</i></p>
17.00 – 19.00	Networking reception



12-13 May



9.30-17.00(EEST)
10.00-12.30(EEST)



Thessaloniki,
Greece

DAY 2: 13 May 2026 (all times are EEST)

09.30 – 10.00	Participant arrival and registration
10:00 – 10.05 <i>Europa room</i>	Opening Cynthia Harrison, <i>Policy officer in VET supporting policies/guidance, Cedefop</i>
10.05 – 11.15 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 5 Implications for capacity-building, research, the frontlines and policy: different perspectives Chair: Jaana Kettunen, <i>President, International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG), Professor of Lifelong Guidance and Vice Director, Finnish Institute for Educational Research (FIER), University of Jyväskylä, Finland</i> Discussion with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Daniel Reumiller, <i>President, Swiss Career Guidance Conference (KBSB), Switzerland</i>▪ Jennifer McKenzie, <i>Lifelong Guidance Specialist, McKenzie Guidance Solutions, Ireland</i>▪ Margit Rammo, <i>Euroguidance programme manager, Agency for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps, Department of Youth Affairs and Internationalisation, Youth Education Board, Estonia</i>▪ Tibor Bors Borbély, <i>Associate Professor, ELTE University, Hungary</i> Rapporteur: Wolfgang Bliem, <i>Senior researcher, ibw Austria – Research & Development in VET, Austria</i>
11.15 – 11.30	Health break (coffee service)
11.30 – 12.20 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 6 Round table: Reframing policies and systems for learning, work and wellbeing Moderators: Ernesto Villalba-Garcia, <i>Expert in VET supporting policies/ validation, Cedefop</i> and Alessandra Biancolini, <i>Seconded national expert, Cedefop</i> Discussion with European stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Siham Saidi, <i>Senior adviser, French Employers' Confederation, BusinessEurope</i>▪ Tatjana Babrauskiene, <i>European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)</i>



12-13 May



9.30-17.00(EEST)
10.00-12.30(EEST)



Thessaloniki,
Greece

- Pauline Boivin, *Project and policy manager, Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL)*
- Concetta Fonzo, *Deputy Coordinator of the EQAVET National Reference Point, Istituto Nazionale per l'Analisi delle Politiche Pubbliche (INAPP), Italy*
- Inga Balnanosienė, *Director, Public Employment Services Network, Lithuania*

Rapporteur: Kristina Mazalin, *Senior adviser, the Croatian Employment Service (HZZ), Croatia*

12.20 – 12.30
Europa room

Closing remarks

- Mara Brugia, *Deputy Director, Cedefop*

To join the conversation online, please tag [Cedefop](#) and use [#Lifelongguidance](#) [#Careerdevelopment](#)

Follow us on social media:



12-13 May



9.30-17.00(EEST)
10.00-12.30(EEST)



Thessaloniki,
Greece