ReferNet partnership forum | 18 and 19 March 2026 Budapest #ReferNet

ReferNet partnership forum

Economics VET Centre, Budapest, Dohány utca 65, Hungary

Programme

DAY 1 – 18 March 2026 (all times are CET)

09.30 – 10.00	**Participant arrival and registration**
10:00 – 10.15 ***Meeting room***	**Welcome and opening** Chair: Eva Mező-Zádori, *ReferNet Coordinator Hungary* ▪ Gergely Pálmai, *Deputy State Secretary for VET and National Representative for ReferNet* ▪ Ioannis Katsikis, *ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop*
10.15 – 10.45	Session 1. **Presentation of Hungary and the Hungarian VET system** Katalin Zoltán, Ministry of Culture and Innovation
10.45 – 11.00	Session 2. **Introduction of IKK Innovative Training Support Center** dr. Zsuzsanna Pusztai, deputy director, IKK
11.00 – 11.30	Session 3. **Graduate tracking system in Hungary** Zoltán Nagy, deputy president, NOVETAL
11.30 – 12.00	Session 4. **The role of dual training partners in innovative and experience-based career guidance**

	László Piacsek, Baranya County VET Centre (Swiss–Hungarian Cooperation Programme II – VET programme in Hungary
12.00 – 12.30	▪ **Light lunch**
12.30 – 13.00	Session 5. **Inclusion - peer mentoring - community building** Chair: Eva Mezo-Zadori, *coordinator, ReferNet Hungary, IKK* ▪ Miklós Katona, director, Piarist Kilátó Career Guidance and Labor Market Development, Methodological Center
13.00 – 14.30	Session 6. **ReferNet contributions** tbc
14.30 –14.45	**Coffee break**
14.45 –16.00	Session 7. **Artificial intelligence in VET** Moderator: Ioannis Katsikis, *ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop* **Presentation** *Eva Toth, IKK Nonprofit Plc*
16:00	**End of the day**

DAY 2 – 19 March 2026 (all times are CET)

09.00 – 10.00	**Participant arrival** **1146 Budapest, Thököly út 48-54**
10:00 – 13.00	**Study visit to VET institution** Petrik Lajos Technikum https://petrik.hu/ The Petrik Lajos Technikum is one of Budapest's oldest and most prestigious vocational schools, founded in 1879 and named after chemist, educator and mountaineer Lajos Petrik. For over 140 years, the school has combined strong academic foundations with high-level vocational training, consistently ranking among Hungary's top vocational institutions. Students typically begin their studies at the age of 14–15 and finish at the age of 19-20. The school also offers adult education and post-secondary vocational training programmes. Originally renowned for training chemical industry specialists, Petrik has expanded its profile to include environmental protection, IT education (software development and network administration), and related technical fields. The school works closely with major multinational companies, supplying highly qualified professionals to Hungary's chemical and digital industries.

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