

23rd ReferNet

annual plenary meeting

22-23 October 2025
Thessaloniki, Greece

#ReferNet



The 23rd ReferNet annual plenary meeting will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece and will welcome the representatives of our partner organizations under the 2024-27 framework partnership agreement, as well as national representatives of the network and the representatives from the European Commission (EU).

The aim of the meeting will be to:

- inform partners of the latest EU policy developments on VET, skills and qualifications;
- take stock of the work carried out in 2025 and the outcomes published and disseminated;
- prepare the 2026 work plan: VET policy reporting, spotlight, news, visibility actions, etc.;
- foster partnership and knowledge-sharing through interactive (joint) presentations of national developments, debates, etc.;
- hold individual meetings for deeper cooperation among members and between members and Cedefop experts;
- convey in a physical open space, which will encourage creative reflection on how partners would like ReferNet to develop in the 2024-27 period.

Participants will also have the opportunity to exchange good dissemination practices in a dedicated space where they can display their national publications, newsletters, videos, promotional items, etc and benefit from bilateral meetings.



22 & 23 October 2025



9.00-17.00 (EET)



Thessaloniki, Greece

Programme

Day 1 – 22 October 2025 (all times are EET)

09.00 – 10.00	Registration and welcome coffee
10:00 – 10.15 <i>Europa</i>	Welcome and opening Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop - Juergen Siebel, Cedefop Executive Director - Irene Mandl, Head of the Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop
10.15 – 10.45 <i>Europa</i>	Session 1 - Keynote speech: The Union of Skills & the European VET Strategy Anna Banczyk, Head of Unit - Vocational Education and Training, Skills Portability, Cedefop, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission
10.45 – 11.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 2 - ReferNet: state of the network 2025-26 Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee Break and Family Photo
11.30 – 12.30 <i>Europa</i>	Session 3 - Workshop on AI @ ReferNet: challenges and opportunities Chair: Anthie Kyriakopoulou, Cedefop - Michail Papazoglou, Cedefop - Joanna Napierala, Cedefop - Mantas Sekmokas, Cedefop
12.30 – 13.00 <i>Europa</i>	Session 4 - Preparing the 2026 ReferNet workplan Survey on the development and use of digital credentials and digital tools Zelda Azzara, Cedefop
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch Break



14.15 – 15.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 5 - Review of the 2025 ReferNet workplan – ad hoc activities Chair: Eirini Monsela, Cedefop Financing adult learning/CVET and recent developments on ILA ▪ Mantas Sekmokas and Patrycja Lipinska, Cedefop VET excellence and inclusion for the 21st century ▪ Anastasia Pouliou and Vasilis Symeonidis, Cedefop
15.15-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-17.00 <i>Europa</i>	Session 6 - Review of the 2025 ReferNet workplan - workshop on policy reporting Moderator: Irina Jemeljanova, Cedefop VET Policy and Systems Team, Cedefop
All day <i>Alexandria</i>	Open desk on Financial and reporting issues ▪ Beatrice Herpin, Cedefop
17.00-17.30 <i>Rousseau</i>	Networking opportunities Bilateral meetings with Cedefop country managers
17.00-17.30 <i>Rousseau</i>	Networking opportunities Bilateral meetings with Cedefop experts
19.30-22.30 City center	Social programme – Dinner

Programme

Day 2 – 23 October 2025 (all times are EET)

09.00 – 09.30	Participant arrival
09.30 – 10.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 7 - ReferNet communication activities Chair: Alfredo Salmaso and Christina Comunian, Department for Communication, Cedefop
10.15 – 11.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 8 - Preparing the 2026 ReferNet workplan Data collection for the revamped IVET Mobility Scoreboard Aristos Theocharous and Nikolaos Georgiadis, Cedefop
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12:00 <i>Europa</i>	Session 9 - ReferNet perspectives: the evolving role of microcredentials for social inclusion Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop Live link with the virtual event on Microcredentials and the future of learning - Anastasia Pouliou and Iraklis Pliakis, Cedefop - ReferNet partners
12.00 – 13.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 10 - Preparing the 2026 ReferNet workplan Chair: George Kostakis, Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop Teachers and Trainers in a changing world: boosting continuing professional development - Rena Psifidou, Cedefop Cedefop Financing adult learning/CVET: augmenting and disseminating reports prepared in 2025 - Mantas Sekmokas and Patrycja Lipinska, Cedefop Updating information in the VET in Europe database - Dmitrijs Kulss, Cedefop
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch Break
14.15 – 15.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 11 - Responsible AI in VET: ethical use, bias and inclusion



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	Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop
15:15 – 16:15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 12 - The future of ReferNet – alternative ways of governance and financing - open discussion Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop Irene Mandl and George Kostakis, Cedefop
16.15 – 16.30 <i>Europa</i>	Concluding remarks Irene Mandl, George Kostakis and Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop
16.30 – 17.00 <i>Outside Europa</i>	Networking coffee
16.30-17.00 <i>Montessori</i>	Parallel session 13 - Meeting with newcomers – open discussion Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop Moderators: Chryssa Zekou and Cleopatra Efstathiou, Cedefop
All day <i>Alexandria</i>	Open desk on Financial and reporting issues Beatrice Herpin, Cedefop
16.30-17.00 <i>Rousseau</i>	Networking opportunities Bilateral meetings with Cedefop country managers
16.30-17.00 <i>Rousseau</i>	Networking opportunities Bilateral meetings with Cedefop experts

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