

23rd ReferNet

annual plenary meeting

22-23 October 2025
Thessaloniki, Greece

#ReferNet



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Draft programme

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

09.00 – 10.00	Participant arrival and registration
10:00 – 10.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Welcome and opening of the 23rd ReferNet plenary meeting</p> <p>Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, <i>ReferNet Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juergen Siebel, <i>Cedefop Executive Director</i> Irene Mandl, <i>Head of the Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i>
10.15 – 10.45 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 1.</p> <p>Keynote speech on the Union of Skills & the European VET Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Representative of the European Commission (tbc)</i>



21-22 October 2025



9.00-18.00 (EET)



Thessaloniki

10.45 – 11.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 2.</p> <p>ReferNet: state of the network 2025-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ioannis Katsikis, <i>ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop</i>
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee Break and Family Photo
11.30 – 12.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 3.</p> <p>Cedefop strategic planning – 2026</p> <p>Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, <i>ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Kostakis, <i>Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i> Ramona David and Jasper van Loo, <i>Coordinators, Department for VET and skills, Cedefop</i>
12.15 – 13.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 4.</p> <p>Workshop on AI @ ReferNet: challenges and opportunities</p> <p>Chair: Anthie Kyriakopoulou, <i>Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mantas Sekmokas, <i>DVS, Cedefop</i> Joanna Napierala, <i>DVS, Cedefop</i> Adam Tsakalidis, <i>DVS, Cedefop</i> Michail Papazoglou, <i>DVS, Cedefop</i>
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch Break
14.15 – 15.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 5. Review of the 2025 ReferNet workplan – adhoc activities</p> <p>Chair: Ioannis Katsikis</p> <p>Financing adult learning/CVET and recent developments on ILA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mantas Sekmokas and Patrycja Lipinska, <i>Cedefop</i> <p>VET excellence and inclusion for the 21st century</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anastasia Pouliou and Vasilis Symeonidis, <i>Cedefop</i> <p>Spotlight on Jobs and Skills in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stelina Chatzichristou and Jasper van Loo, <i>Cedefop</i>
15.15-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-16.30	<p>Session 6. Review of the 2025 ReferNet workplan</p> <p>Workshop on policy reporting</p>



<i>Europa</i>	Moderators: Irina Jemeljanova, <i>Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i> VET Policy and Systems Team, <i>Cedefop</i>
16.30-17.00 <i>Montessori</i>	Session 7. Meeting with newcomers – open discussion Moderators: Ioannis Katsikis, Chryssa Zekou, Beatrice Herpin and Cleopatra Efstathiou
All day <i>Alexandria</i>	Open desk on Financial and reporting issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beatrice Herpin, <i>Cedefop</i>
16.30-17.00 <i>Rousseau</i>	Bilateral meetings with Cedefop country managers - networking opportunities
16.30-17.00 <i>Rousseau</i>	Bilateral meetings with Cedefop experts - networking opportunities
19.30-22.30	Social programme – Dinner Restaurant Kazaviti, city center



Draft programme

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

09.00 – 09.30	Participant arrival
09.30 – 11.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 8.</p> <p>Review of the 2025 ReferNet workplan Chair: George Kostakis, <i>Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop</i></p> <p>VET in Europe database – updating information about VET systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dmitrijs Kulss, <i>Cedefop</i> <p>Data collection for the revamped IVET Mobility Scoreboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aristos Theocharous and Nikolaos Georgiadis, <i>Cedefop</i>
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 12:00 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 9. ReferNet Perspectives: The evolving role of microcredentials for social inclusion</p> <p>Live link with the Microcredentials and the future of learning virtual event)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anastasia Pouliou and Iraklis Pliakis
12.00 – 13.15 <i>Europa</i>	<p>Session 10. Preparing the 2026 ReferNet workplan Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, <i>ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop</i></p> <p>Financing adult learning/CVET – augmenting and disseminating reports prepared in 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mantas Sekmokas and Patrycja Lipinska, <i>Cedefop</i> <p>Survey on the development and use of digital credentials and digital tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Zelda Azzara, <i>Cedefop</i> <p>Teachers and Trainers in a changing world. Boosting their continuing professional development</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rena Psifidou, <i>Cedefop</i>
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch Break
14.15 – 14.45 <i>Europa</i>	Session 11. Responsible AI in VET: Ethical Use, Bias and Inclusion in Vocational Education and Training Chair: Ioannis Katsikis,
14.45 – 15.30 <i>Europa</i>	Session 12. ReferNet Communication activities Chair: Alfredo Salmaso and Christina Comunian, <i>Department for Communication, Cedefop</i>
15.30-16.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 13. ReferNet publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tbc, <i>Cedefop</i>
16.15-16.30	Coffee Break
16.30-17.30 <i>Europa</i>	Session 14. ReferNet 2.0: Changing the funding mechanism: open discussion with the partners Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, <i>Cedefop</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irene Mandl and George Kostakis, <i>Cedefop</i>
16.45-17.00 <i>Europa</i>	Session 15. Concluding remarks Irene Mandl, George Kostakis and Ioannis Katsikis, <i>Cedefop</i>

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