



ReferNet Plenary Meeting 2024

Session 11: Reporting on NIPs: tackling challenges and exploring solutions

Open space session: Theme and Methodology
29 February 2024, 15:15 – 17:15 (EET)

The implementation of national VET plans (NIPs) has been in focus in some of your activities recently, such as policy reporting in 2023 and preparing thematic perspectives in 2024.

NIPs are very diverse in their content, level of detail and approaches. Reporting on NIPs is a highly important activity and at the same time it requires significant effort and resources. Each of you has unique experience, concerns, suggestions, and ideas. We, therefore, decided to apply the Open Space Technology that you liked last year to address this question.

Based on your experience of reporting on implementation of NIPs in your countries, we invite you to reflect on:

How can we make reporting on NIP implementation smart and effective?

We invite you to reflect and prepare issues you would like to discuss with other ReferNet members related to the common theme above. By preparation, we mean being ready to present briefly the issue to all, using concrete example(s). It can be about the main challenges you faced or successful approaches you applied and wish to share.

Once the issues are on the table, the agenda of the session will be set.

What is the 'Open Space Technology'?

The Open Space is an alternative method of organising meetings which encourages participants to take on roles that they would not normally adopt. It is self-organising. Participants build the agenda, present the issues they care about, moderate the sessions and report on them. The essential steps are the following:

Introducing the theme and the process

On Thursday afternoon, before the coffee break, a Cedefop moderator will introduce the theme and explain the working process.

Creating agenda and schedule

After the moderator explains the 'rules of the game', participants will be invited to propose their issue, burning question or great idea. Proposals will be collected in A4 sheets of paper and will be put on a notice board to create the agenda. Sessions will be formed depending on the number of proposals received.

Selecting sessions

After the agenda is set, participants will select the session(s) they wish to attend.

Discussions in the sessions

In every session, participants who proposed the issue to be discussed become the hosts, present it briefly and take responsibility to make sure it is discussed. They may also be assisted by a reporter in recording the results (i.e. suggestions, ideas, or questions). At the beginning of each session, the participants may establish some communication rules to facilitate a productive exchange of ideas.

Moving among groups

Participants are free to move to any group. If at any time they feel that they are not learning or contributing to, they have the right to move to another one, to have a coffee, to take a break. It is their responsibility to make sure that no time is wasted.

Displaying results of sessions on a Bulletin Board

The results from each session will be placed for public display on a Bulletin Board. This will allow participants to keep track of what is going on in other groups and leave their comments if they wish. Once the discussion is over, groups fill key messages on the distributed template.

Presenting the outcomes of the discussions

On Friday morning, the Cedefop moderator will summarise main outcomes of the discussions and suggestions that need follow up.

We thank you very much for your active participation!