



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

ReferNet: recent achievements and status of workplan 2026-2027

Introduction

- Update on the state of play of our network.
- To reflect (and celebrate) our achievements during 2026 and
- Share with you our plans for 2027
- Invite you to share your thoughts, concerns and feedback



State of 2026: Overview of the network

Full composition:
Partners from 27
EU member states,
Norway and Iceland

More than 182
individuals as
members 240

Smallest team: 4
members – largest:
20 members

Average team size:
8 members per
country

Several different types of
organizations represented

- (Public bodies, Public-law entity, Federal institutes, Private foundations, NGOs, Universities)

2026 ReferNet workplan

DELIVERABLE TYPE 1: REPORTING ON VET AND VET-RELATED POLICY

- 1.a VET policy reporting
- 1.b National news on VET

DELIVERABLE TYPE 2: REPORTING ON NATIONAL VET & SKILLS SYSTEMS

- 2.a VET in Europe database – updating information about VET systems
- 2.b VET in [Presidency country] – Short description (Ireland and Lithuania)
- 2.c Spotlight on VET in (Ireland and Lithuania)

DELIVERABLE TYPE 3: AD HOC THEMATIC AND OTHER SUPPORT

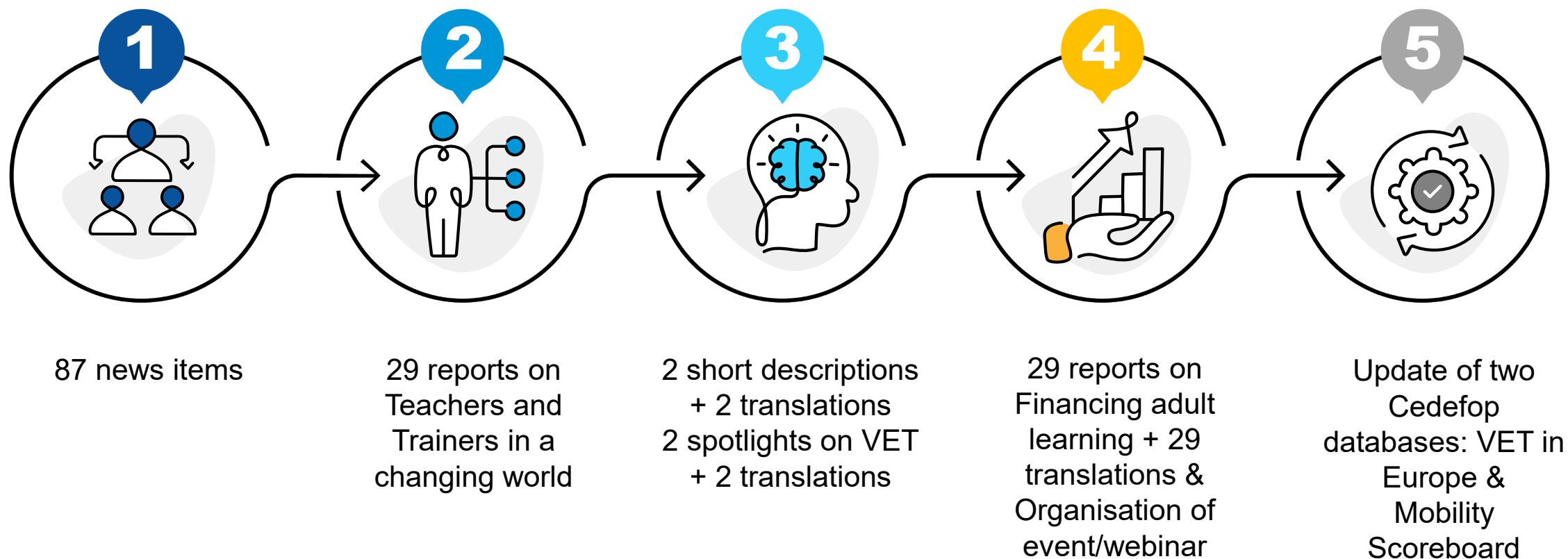
- 3.a Data collection for the revamped IVET Mobility Scoreboard
- 3.b Financing adult learning/CVET – augmenting and disseminating reports prepared in 2025
- 3.c Survey on the development and use of digital credentials and digital tools
- 3.d Teachers and Trainers in a changing world. Boosting their continuing professional development

DELIVERABLE TYPE 4: COMMUNICATION/VISIBILITY ACTIONS

- 4.a Maintenance and update of a national ReferNet website
- 4.b Communication / visibility actions including social media activities and participation in events

REFERNET PROPOSED ACTIVITY: ReferNet Activity: Responsible AI in VET

2026 ReferNet workplan final products



Total 149 products + 33 translations

182 total number of final products

Achievements I

- Activity 3c: Survey on digital tools
 - Skills Portability Act and
 - European Commission Impact Assessment Report: **ReferNet is mentioned in that report 17 times!**
 - Cedefop Insight published in July "Digital tools for the portability of learning outcomes - Insights from a ReferNet survey"
- Activity 3d: Teachers and Trainers in a changing world
 - Links with the flagship Cedefop survey on teachers and trainees
 - European agenda for VET teachers and trainers and
 - European VET strategy
- European Skills & VET Week

Achievements II

- Activity 3.b Financing adult learning/CVET
 - Innovative in terms of content and form
 - Follow-up of the 2025 activity – continuity between calendar years
 - “Hybrid” format: includes a component on content development and com activities
incl: translation and organization of national webinar/event
- ReferNet proposed Activity:
 - ReferNet Activity: Responsible AI in VET
 - Pilot activity for a new work organization

2024 ReferNet partnership Fora



ReferNet partnership forum

18-19 March 2026
Budapest, Hungary

#ReferNet



ReferNet partnership forum

20-21 May 2026
Bonn, Germany

#ReferNet





Partnership Forum in Bonn

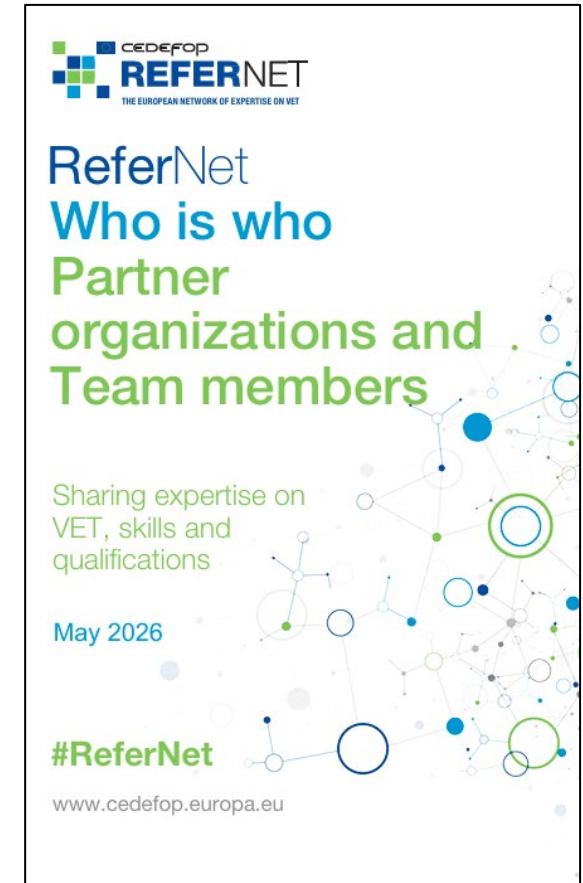


2026 webinars

- 2026.07 Future of VET: A driver for excellence, competitiveness and inclusion 19/11
- 2026.06 Upskilling Europe: Microcredentials in action 29/09/2026
- 2026.05 Policy reporting 2026 (Deliverable 1a), 15/09/2026
- 1st Meeting of the ReferNet AI in VET Advisory group, 08/07/2026
- 2026.04 Introduction to Activities 3a, 3b and information on the European Skills and VET week, 13/05/2026
- 2026.03 Teachers and Trainers in a changing world (Activity 2026.3.d) 31/03/2026
- 2026.02 National news on VET (Deliverable 1b), 23/03/2026
- 2026.01 Survey on the development and use of digital credentials and digital tools (Deliverable 3c) 13/01/2026

Innovations introduced

- ReferNet “Who is Who”.
 - Focus on organizations
 - Focus on individuals
- Contributions from:
 - Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden



ReferNet value proposition survey

- Addressed to the legal representatives
 - 22/28 responses
 - A short semi-structured questionnaire with 9 questions
 - EU survey tool
 - Took place between 14 April – 15 May 2026.
 - On average, respondents rated the clear added value that ReferNet membership has brought to their organisation as 4/5.
-
1. Further improvement of networking within and beyond the network
 2. Improvement of the possibilities to contribute to policy-making.
 3. Improvement in the network administration.



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ReferNet 2027 workplan

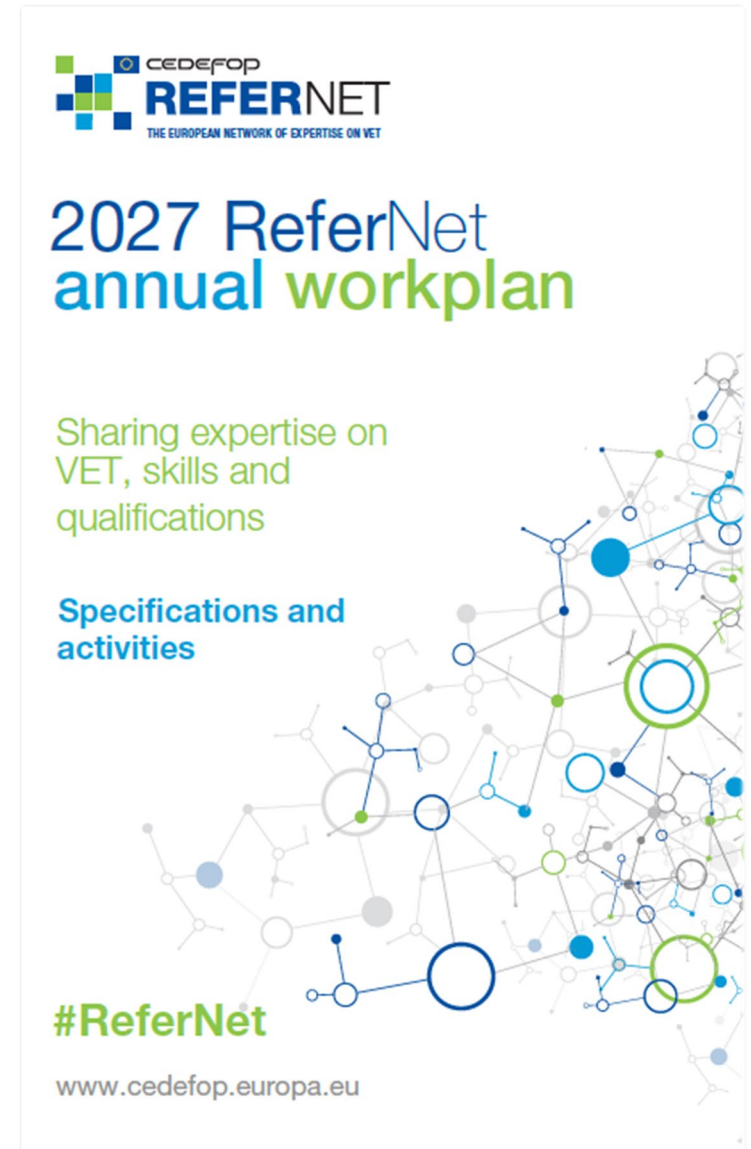
ReferNet 2027 Workplan

- Activities of strategic importance for the work of Cedefop
- Selection procedure based on anonymization
- Selection criteria (ind.)
 - Maturity of the proposals,
 - Feasibility / fit to ReferNet,
 - Relevance to the work of Cedefop / European agenda
 - Continue to encourage deliverables in form of “final products” [immediate use from the partners]



2027 workplan preparation

- Include the partners as co-designers of the workplan: Seven proposals for 2027, one for 2028 added to the inventory (11).
- 2nd year: regularisation of the procedure.
- Open to proposals
- Informal consultation period (EU survey for feedback collection to raise transparency):
 - positive feedback.
 - Extended the deadlines for 3b and 3c
- Additional information on the follow-up period
- “Relatively light” workplan 2,5 adhoc activities
- Three Partnership Fora
 - 2026 Plenary during the submission period – more clarity for the new activities



ReferNet Finance

- **Currently processing SGA 2025** (15 audit phase, 9 already paid).
- Comments sent to all before summer.

Message to partners:

- Try to finalize as audits as soon as possible.
- We would like to proceed with the payment before the end of the year.
- Plans to open early in 2027 the submission of the SGA 2026: February instead of May



2027 ReferNet Partnership Fora

- Nicosia, Cyprus,
 - with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth on 6-7 April 2027.
- Helsinki, Finland,
 - with the Finnish National Agency for Education on 12-13 May 2026.
 - visit to the Abilympics Helsinki 2027 competition at the Helsinki Expo Centre.
<https://abilympics2027.com/en/>
- Bucharest, Romania,
 - with the National Centre for TVET development on 29-30 September 2027.



SGA 2027 applications procedure

Applications for the SGA are open!

Keep a note! when submitting your proposal, please verify:

- Presence of all necessary signatures and dates
- All activity boxes ticked correctly
- Double check the amounts, verify that all amounts for mentioned activities are indicated.
- Make sure that the total sum is correct and that it observes the ceiling (per country category) and the 70% co-funding condition
- Submit your application to Cedefop by the **29 October 2026** (formal procedure)



ReferNet Platform upgrade!



**Work begun in July
2026**



**Vision statement
from Cedefop
presented**

Weekly meetings with ICT
team and our contractors



**Next steps: consult
the end-users
through a series of
workshops that will
allow us to discuss
the needs and
design the
functionalities**



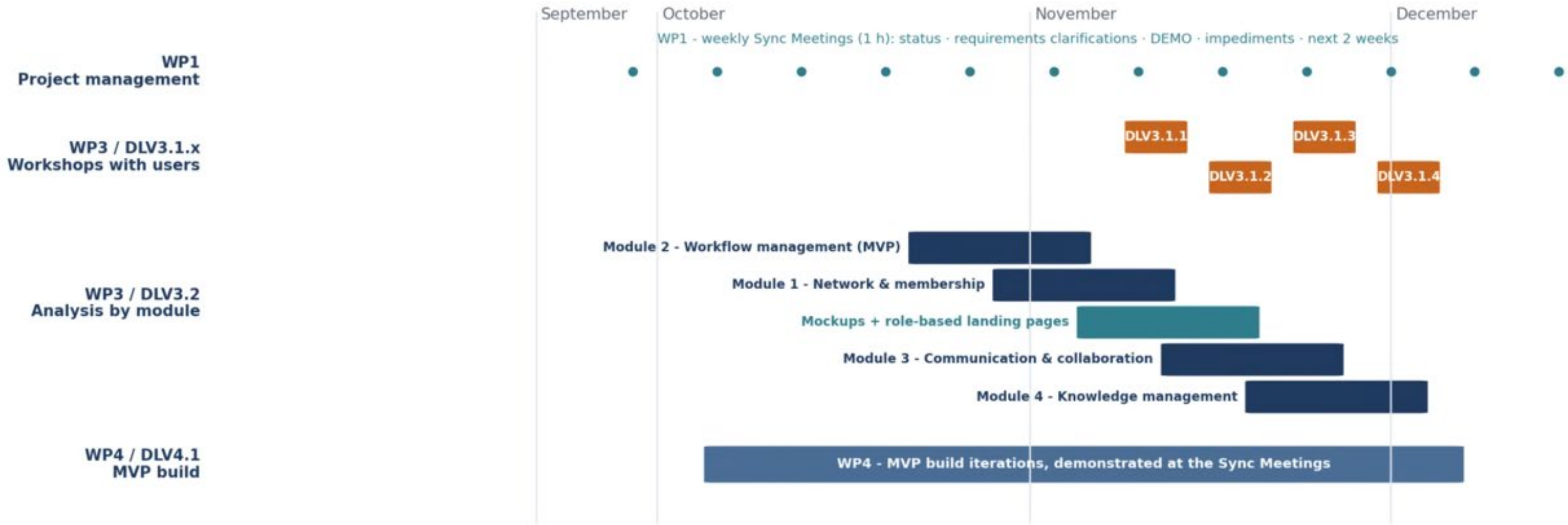
**Invitations to be
send to partners in
November 2026**



**January 2027:
mock-up version of
the new platform**



**June 2027:
functional new
platform**



Consultations

European Skills and VET week

- Few communication packages for the Skills & Vet Week stakeholders are on the way
- Digital Skills factsheet translated with the help of ReferNet
 - ready-to-use copies for social media posts, key messages, links and the factsheets.
- ESVW 2027 flagship event and main Week (19-23 April 2027)
- ESVW Newsletter



Meet the people!

New partner from France!



Association de Gestion des Outils
Mutualises des Carif-Oref

Linda Oulmane as coordinator

ReferNet Team at Cedefop

Name	Role
Ioannis Katsikis	ReferNet coordinator
Chryssa Zekou	Assistant ReferNet
Béatrice Herpin	Assistant ReferNet – Finance
Alva Höglund	ReferNet trainee

Country managers, VET policies and systems (VPS) Team



Silke Gadji	AT, BE, DE, SE
Nikos Georgiadis	BG, DK, MT
Dmitrijs Kulss	EE, FI, LV
Veronica Leiner	CZ, HR, HU, PL, SK
Anthie Kyriakopoulou	IE, IS, LU, NO
Vicky Oraiopoulou	CY, FR, PT
Eirini Monsela	SI, LT, NL, EL
Aristos Theocharous	IT, RO
Irina Jemeljanova	ES
Malik Haddou	VPS Trainee

Open discussion

- **Relevance and usefulness**
 - How useful has our 2026 work been for national policy discussions? Which outputs have been most valuable?
- **Management and communication**
 - What improvements would bring greater value to the network?
- **Further feedback**
 - Would you have any other comments or suggestions?
 - How to improve networking?

Thank you

www.cedefop.europa.eu

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