



20th Annual plenary meeting of ReferNet

Inspiring National news on VET for the European policy makers and practitioners

Background note for Session 4, 10th November 2022

'National news on VET' present the latest national developments in the field of VET and lifelong learning (LLL) in the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. Published in English on Cedefop's website, they attract the attention of a broad audience and constitute a major opportunity for disseminating on national VET-related developments.

National news on VET are taken up by policy documents of EU institutions like the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Economic and social committee, the Joint Research Centre, and international organisations such as OECD, UNESCO, ILO and others. Only in 2021, 51 national news on VET prepared by ReferNet informed the analysis of these organisations on topics such as

- [Education and youth in post-COVID-19 Europe – crisis effects and policy recommendations](#) by the European Parliament
- [Virtual Free Movement of Workers](#) by the European Economic and Social Committee
- [Global education monitoring report](#) by OECD
- [European Education and Training Monitor](#) by the European Commission

In addition, national news on VET inspire those responsible for developing and implementing policies. Examples include recent requests to present the ReferNet articles on the integration of Ukrainian refugees in VET and the labour market at the 2022 spring meeting of Director Generals for VET and at an on line conference of asylum policy advisors.

National news on VET proved to be a very responsive way of raising awareness on how countries responded to crisis situations like the COVID-19 pandemic and the integration of Ukrainian refugees. It has been a very flexible tool to collect information, disseminate inspiring practices and support peer learning between policy makers and practitioners in Europe and beyond.

In the future, national news on VET will be an important instrument to provide first hand information on national developments related to the implementation of countries' national implementation plans (NIPs). They will be filling the gap between two consecutive policy reporting cycles by reporting on countries' latest steps to meeting the EU priorities in the Council Recommendation on VET and the Osnabruck Declaration throughout the year.

Cedefop and ReferNet partners have worked together in the recent years to improve the quality, relevance and clarity of national news on VET as well as their timely publication on the Cedefop website. Building on the experience of last years participants of the ReferNet plenary meeting are invited to reflect on the following questions:

- Should we repeat the practice followed in the *COVID-19 pandemic* and *Ukrainian refugees* news items, coordinating the preparation of one (or more) news items on a common topic for all countries?
- How can ReferNet partners use their NIPs as a source of inspiration when drafting national news on VET? Who will be their allies in getting access to first hand information on policy developments as they happen?