

**SKILLSNET e-bulletin: November 2017****Highlight of the month**

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**How can VET, skills and qualifications play a role in the EU refugee crisis?**

The global refugee crisis is characterised by very high and increasing numbers of the refugee population. According to UNHCR data, the number of refugees worldwide stood at 22.5 million at the end of 2016, and it was distributed unevenly with Turkey sheltering the greatest number of refugees, hosting 2.8 million by mid-2016. The higher number of refugees is in developing countries. Refugees fleeing war or persecution can be very vulnerable. Their vast majority cannot return to their countries where their basic rights, security and even their lives are in danger.

Cedefop's work has highlighted the benefits of VET, skills and qualifications to European citizens. However, little evidence exists on the role of VET in expanding the possibilities of adult refugees to move from a first host country to another country where they may find employment and education and training opportunities by which refugees may reach self-reliance and integration and contribute to the host societies. Read more in the new blog article published on the Skills Panorama [here](#).

**News from Cedefop****Cedefop on Malta: Sector skills units helping meet labour market challenges**

A system of assessment, recognition and validation of informal and non-formal learning has been developed in Malta. It aims to address common concerns among VET providers and employers on quantitative or qualitative mismatch between education/training provision and demand in a rapidly evolving labour market. Validation of informal and non-formal learning is a recent issue on Malta's education policy agenda and will help face the challenge of devising training and education programmes which not only equip their learners with the appropriate technical skills but also provide core skills to enable them to take on future challenges. Read more [here](#).

**Erasmus+ project results platform – gateway to inspiring VET projects**

Great ideas funded under the Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes in the field of education, training, youth and sport can now be found in the Erasmus+ project results platform. This online collection of projects includes descriptions of inspiring Erasmus+ VET projects. It highlights good practices and success stories – finalised projects that have distinguished themselves by their impact, contribution to policy-making, innovative results or creative approach. Find more [here](#).

**Cedefop on Finland: VET still popular despite slight decrease in applicants**

All applicants for secondary education (ISCED 3) in Finland use a joint application system. In the spring of 2017, 54% of candidates applied to vocational education and training (VET) programmes and 46% to general programmes in upper secondary education. In recent years, VET applications have slightly decreased (56% in 2016). The available number of starting places in vocational education and training is 43900, of which 1900 is in Swedish-language. Read more [here](#).

**Cedefop on Spain: Common digital competence framework for teachers**

A common framework of digital competence for teachers has been published by the Ministry of Education. Developing digital competence in education requires integration of ICT in the classroom and teachers properly skilled in that competence. The Spanish framework (Competencia Digital Docente, CDD 2.0) is based on the *European framework for digital competence for citizens*, which identifies the main elements of digital competence grouped in five areas: information and data literacy, communication and collaboration, digital content creation, safety, and problem solving. Read more [here](#).

**News from Skillsnet members****OECD: Powerful global coalition to boost equal pay for women at work**

One of the most persistent barriers to women's success at work and to economic growth, unequal pay, will be actively challenged by a new global partnership, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC). Convened by the ILO, UN Women and the OECD, a diverse set of actors are being brought together at the global, regional and national levels to support governments, employers and workers and their organizations, and other stakeholders, to make equal pay between women and men for work of equal value a reality. Read more [here](#).

**European Commission: Moving forward on the European Pillar of Social Rights: Commission continues work on fair and predictable employment contracts.**

The European Commission has entered into further discussions with trade unions and employers' organisations at EU level on how to modernise the rules on employment contracts, in order to make these contracts fairer and more predictable for all types of workers. With this initiative, the Commission continues to roll out the European Pillar of Social Rights, aiming to create convergence between Member States towards better working and living conditions. Read more [here](#).

**Eurostat: Euro area job vacancy rate at 1.9%**

The job vacancy rate in the euro area (EA19) was 1.9% in the second quarter of 2017, stable compared with the previous quarter and up from 1.7% in the second quarter of 2016, according to figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the EU28, the job vacancy rate was 2.0% in the second quarter of 2017, up from 1.9% recorded in the previous quarter and from 1.8% in the second quarter of 2016. Find more [here](#).

**European Commissioner Thyssen takes part in the European Regional Meeting of the ILO on the future of work**

Commissioner Marianne Thyssen, in charge of Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, took active part in the discussions at the 10th European Regional meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on 2 October in Istanbul. The Commissioner supported the ILO initiative on the future of work, which aims at shaping global responses to the changing world of work. This is very much in line with the European Commission proposal on the European Pillar of Social Rights, a political commitment to deliver on a more social and a fairer Europe. Ms Thyssen insisted that any reflection on the future of work has to take into account effective implementation of fundamental rights and social dialogue. Find more [here](#).

## Skills publications

### New Cedefop Briefing note - Skills anticipation: looking to the future

In recent years, European countries have been working ever more closely together in vocational education and training (VET) against a backdrop of uncertainties linked to globalisation, digitisation, migration and the transition to a greener economy. In this context, Cedefop is looking further ahead at the main trends in education and training to stimulate debate on European VET cooperation beyond 2020. According to Cedefop's new briefing note, there is reason to believe that VET will expand and diversify across Europe in the coming years. Current trends include the development of more practice-oriented and work-related learning formats, across all types of education, vocational and general. In parallel, vocationally-oriented education and training is expanding to higher and lower education levels than the traditional intermediate. Find the more [here](#).

### Cedefop: 'Skillset and match' new issue is out



The latest issue of Skillset and match, Cedefop's magazine promoting learning for work, is now available to read and download. This issue includes a supplement on vocational training for the long-term unemployed, including an interview with renowned labour market expert John P. Martin who argues that it is time for people to take control of their skills and a feature on how to stop early leavers from education and training. Additionally,

interviews with MEPs Tomáš Zdechovský and Thodoris Zagorakis, and the European Commission's Martine Reicherts on 30 years of Erasmus. Download the magazine online [here](#).

### ILO: Labour market institutions and youth labour markets: Minimum wages and youth employment revisited

This paper mainly focuses on the issue of interactions between labour market institutions and policies and their effects on youth labour markets, and is primarily concerned with issues grouped under pillars 1 and 3 of youth employment policy as identified by the resolution issued in 2012 by the International Labour Conference calling for action on the youth employment crisis. Download the article [here](#).

### Cedefop: European public opinion survey on vocational education and training



Cedefop European public opinion survey on vocational education and training

In 2016 Cedefop launched its first ever opinion survey aimed at investigating EU citizens' opinions on vocational education and training. A total of 35.646 face-to-face interviews were conducted with citizens of the Member States. The survey provides an unprecedented perspective on EU citizens' opinions on awareness, attractiveness, experience and effectiveness of vocational education and training in the EU. Download the report [here](#).

## Stay connected to Skills Panorama



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## Forthcoming events

### EU DATATHON 2017 Reusing European Union open data for jobs and growth – EU Open Data Portal Datathon

**Date:** 21 – 23/11/2017, **Place:** Brussels, Belgium

The Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Publications Office of the European Union are organising a Datathon. The Datathon will focus on the reuse of data from the EU Open Data Portal, the access point to open data produced by the institutions and agencies of the European Union. The Datathon final event in Brussels scheduled to take place on 16 November 2017. The winners will present their product at the European Big Data Value Forum in Versailles, 21-23 November 2017. The participants will have the opportunity to demonstrate how open data from public institutions can be used to address specific policy or societal challenges and generate jobs and growth. Find more [here](#).

### Skill needs forecasting expert workshop

**Date:** 23 – 24/11/2017, **Place:** Thessaloniki, Greece

Cedefop's project on future skills demand and supply has established a network of national experts in labour market forecasting, covering all EU Member States. These experts validate both the methods and the results of Cedefop's forecast. Find more [here](#).

### European Vocational Skills Week 2017

**Date:** 20 – 24/11/2017, **Place:** various sites all over Europe

The first European Vocational Skills Week in 2016 showed us just how much so many people care about making sure vocational education and training (VET) is seen as an equal first choice to other routes in preparing for great careers. To capitalise on this energy and enthusiasm a Second European Vocational Skills Week will be organised on 20-24 November 2017. In her message by Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility argued that "we will continue our theme of "Discover Your Talent": inspiring people to galvanise their abilities through quality VET, at all stages of their lives, on-the-move, and equipped with labour market-relevant skills that lead to fulfilling personal and professional lives. Read more [here](#).

### OECD Capacity building seminar: A workforce for the future - Designing strong local strategies for better jobs and skills

**Date:** 28 – 29/11/2017, **Place:** Venice, Italy

Organised as part of the programme of activities of the OECD LEED Trento Centre and Venice office and LEED Forum, the capacity building seminar on Designing Strong Local Strategies for Better Jobs and Skills will offer an opportunity to learn from the latest OECD research on the key elements of successful local skills and employment strategies. Find more [here](#).

## The Skillsnet network



**Skillsnet members** have the opportunity to inform other members of our network about new projects, events, activities or publications related to early identification of skill needs throughout the year. If you are interested to inform other members, please submit your short article / information (max of 100 words) to **Ioannis Katsikis** whenever you have any news to disseminate.

