![Cedefop – European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training](logo)

4th webinar of Cedefop's network of
"Ambassadors for tackling early leaving from VET"
11th March 2026,10:30-12:30 CET

Summary note

Aim of the webinar

This webinar focused on the topic "Harnessing AI and digital technologies to empower young people at risk". It explored how artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies can contribute to more inclusive and resilient vocational education and training (VET), particularly for learners at risk of early leaving from education and training and young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

The webinar was closely aligned with Cedefop's 2026 call for papers on Harnessing artificial intelligence and digital technologies for inclusive and resilient vocational education and training. It aimed to translate emerging research priorities into a policy-relevant discussion and facilitate peer-learning among members of the network of ambassadors.

You may see the recorded video of the webinar here.

Objectives & outcomes

The primary objective of this webinar was to provide a platform for Cedefop's network of ambassadors to engage with other ambassadors and Cedefop's team to foster peer learning.

The two-hour webinar organised by the VET for youth – Teachers and Trainers team began with a welcome session and the latest updates from Cedefop, presented by Rena Psifidou, Ambassadors' Coordinator. This was followed by a presentation from Michalis Papazoglou, Cedefop Expert, and Zoi Kamopoulou, Cedefop Trainee, focusing on Cedefop's current and upcoming projects on AI, as well as the call for papers on harnessing AI and digital technologies for inclusive and resilient vocational education and training (VET).

The webinar continued with a dedicated session led by Rena Psifidou on engaging ambassadors in Cedefop's call for papers. This session encouraged participants to reflect on current developments in the field and explore ways to contribute to Cedefop's ongoing research and knowledge-sharing activities.

In addition to Cedefop's presentation, **four members of Cedefop's ambassadors network for tackling early leaving shared their good practice examples** linked to harnessing the potential of AI and digital technologies for working with vulnerable youth:

- **Dr. Eglė Celiešienė**, Lithuanian Ambassador from our network presented "Digital Innovation from a Rural Day Centre - Co-creating Cultural Heritage with Rural Children and Youth";
- **Dr. Alena Minns**, Slovak Ambassador from our network presented the recently launched "Digital Start" project;
- **Minh-Huy Lai**, French Ambassador from our network shared different ways their organisation are harnessing AI and digital transformation to empower young people at risk; and,
- **Dr. Sofia Leitão**, Spanish Ambassador from our network presented "Digital Inclusion in Action. Young People as Co-Creators, Not Just Users".

During the final **interactive session of the webinar**, participants were invited to share their views through a series of Slido questions on the use of AI and digital tools in their work with learners at risk and NEETs. Most respondents indicated that they had already used AI or digital tools in their work. When asked how well prepared they felt to choose the most appropriate digital and AI tools for engaging vulnerable groups, responses suggested a mixed picture, with an average self-assessment of 3.4 out of 5.

Participants saw the greatest potential for AI in supporting more personalised pedagogies tailored to learners' needs, while more limited support was expressed for options such as AI tutors or chatbots supporting learning. In terms of risks, the most frequently highlighted concern was over-dependence on AI tools reducing genuine learning and skills development. Other concerns raised included data privacy and protection risks, as well as the digital divide, unequal access to AI tools, and bias in AI systems leading to unfair treatment or discrimination.

When asked what support teachers and trainers need in order to use AI and digital tools effectively for inclusion, participants pointed in particular to the need for training. Other responses referred to official curricula adjustment, financial incentives, and the need to reduce the administrative and bureaucratic burden of their work so that digital tools can be used more effectively in practice.

Participants equally had the opportunity to **discuss the role of ambassadors** and provide constructive feedback on how the network can be further strengthened. They were also invited to share what types of activities they would like to see more often and how the exchange of good practices and experiences among ambassadors could be further strengthened. The responses showed continued interest in webinars, written contributions and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned. Participants also suggested exploring more structured forms of exchange, such as eTwinning-style collaboration, training labs, mutual pilot projects and potentially in-person events.

Next Steps

The discussions and insights generated during this webinar will further support Cedefop's efforts to ensure that its work, particularly its online VET toolkits, remain a valuable resource of support for all those stakeholders involved to promote inclusion through and in VET.

- Further input from webinar participants is welcome and encouraged to guide the direction of future work, ensuring that it reflects the needs and concerns of those working to tackle early leaving from VET and to support NEETs.

- Those who indicated during the webinar, that are interested to present their work at the next webinars, are encouraged to get in touch with Cedefop's toolkit team.

- Contributions from ambassadors and their professional networks to our call for papers are highly encouraged and welcome. The deadline for abstract submissions is 15th April 2026 via this link. Accepted papers will be published under Cedefop's special Working Paper series and authors will be invited to participate in a high-level policy learning forum in 2027.

The **next webinar will take place on 10th June 2026** and will focus on Cedefop's recently published report "Building inclusive futures for NEETs - VET solutions for Europe's young people not in employment, education or training".

Cedefop's network of "Ambassadors tackling early leaving from VET"

Cedefop's network of "Ambassadors tackling early leaving from VET" was established in 2017 and since then has been constantly being enriched with new members currently representing 23 European countries as we as EU level experts. Our ambassadors bring together a large variety of different profiles, unified in their ambition for tackling early leaving from VET at national, regional, or local level in Europe. Moreover, some work directly or indirectly with NEETs.

Ambassadors support the use and dissemination of Cedefop's VET toolkit for tackling early leaving and the VET toolkit for empowering NEETs. They also enrich its resources by submitting good practices, tools, news, publications, and statistics. They are invited to contribute to online discussions, webinars and other Cedefop related events for the further development of the toolkits.

If you wish to become an ambassador for tackling early leaving and promoting inclusion in VET, you may apply here.