

The Changing role and nature of VET in Europe

3rd Meeting ECVET Network -
23rd ECVET Users' Group meeting

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The competing



stories of VET

The competing

VET is declining



stories of VET

The competing

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Low esteem &
No clear
conception of
VET

stories of VET

The competing

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Diversity and
richness of
provision

stories of VET

The competing

VET is declining

Low esteem &
No clear
conception of
VET

VET
expanding to
higher levels!

Diversity and
richness of
provision

stories of VET



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The Project

- We need to "**take one step back**" and get a deeper understanding of VET

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- by **looking back**; how VET has changed since the early 1990s
- by **looking forward** to illustrate choices ahead



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- A 3 year project ending December 2018. Cedefop will build on this work during 2019 and 2020, feeding into future European cooperation on VET

Project organisation

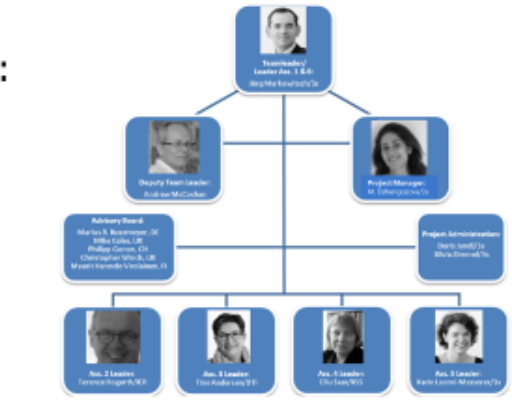
Project structure

How to understand VET

Cedefop's research partners

A core team from:

Austria (3S),
Denmark (DTI),
Estonia (Tallinn
University),
Italy (FGB) and
the UK (IES)



More than 100 national experts
from 30 countries

Project structure

Defining VET (WA1)

External factors influencing VET (WA 2)

VET at
upper
secondary
level (WA3)

VET as
lifelong
learning
(WA4)

VET at
higher
education
(WA5)

Synthesis & future VET
scenarios (WA 6)



How to understand VET

An analytical model supporting policy
dialogue and development



How to understand VET

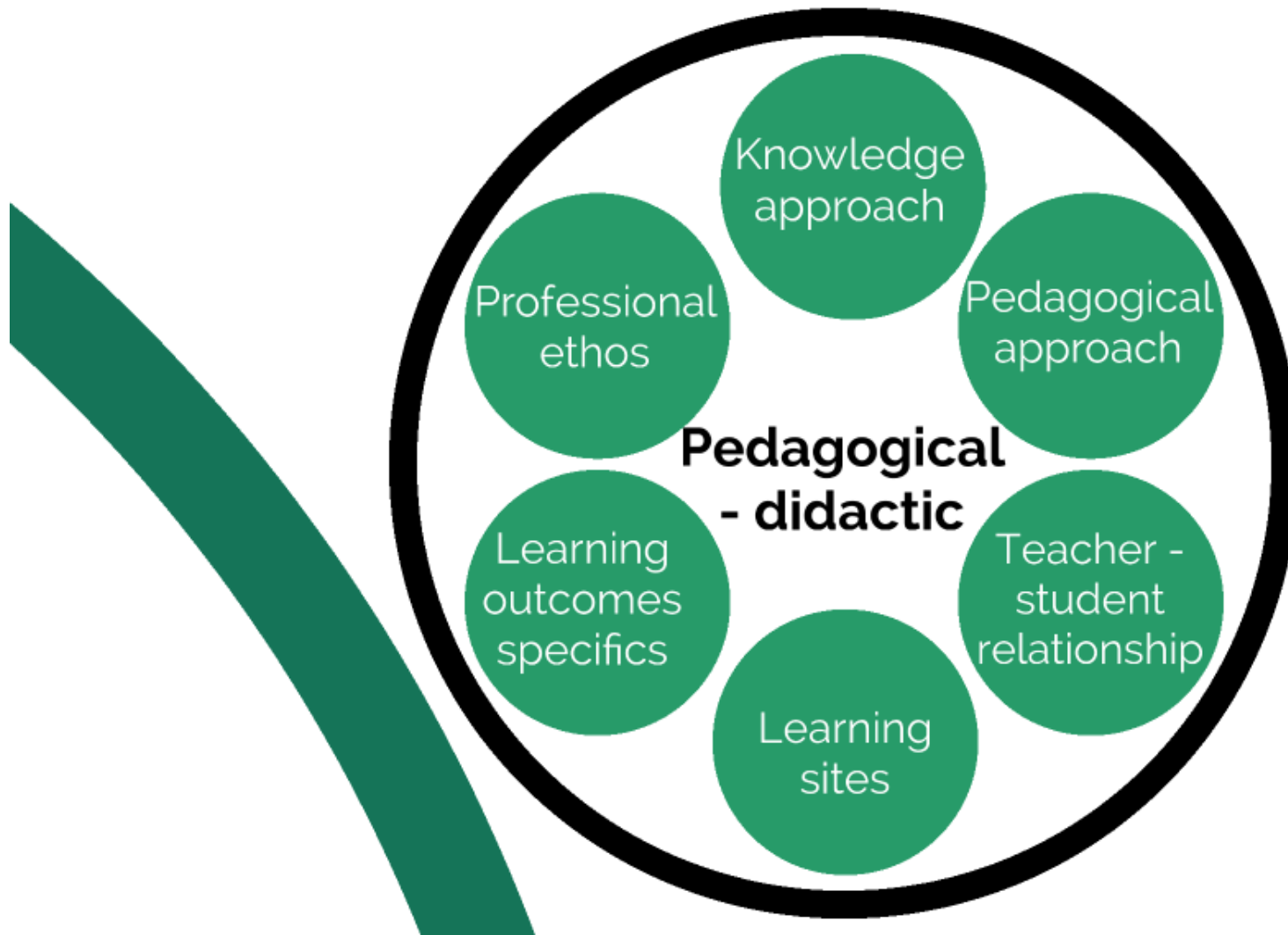
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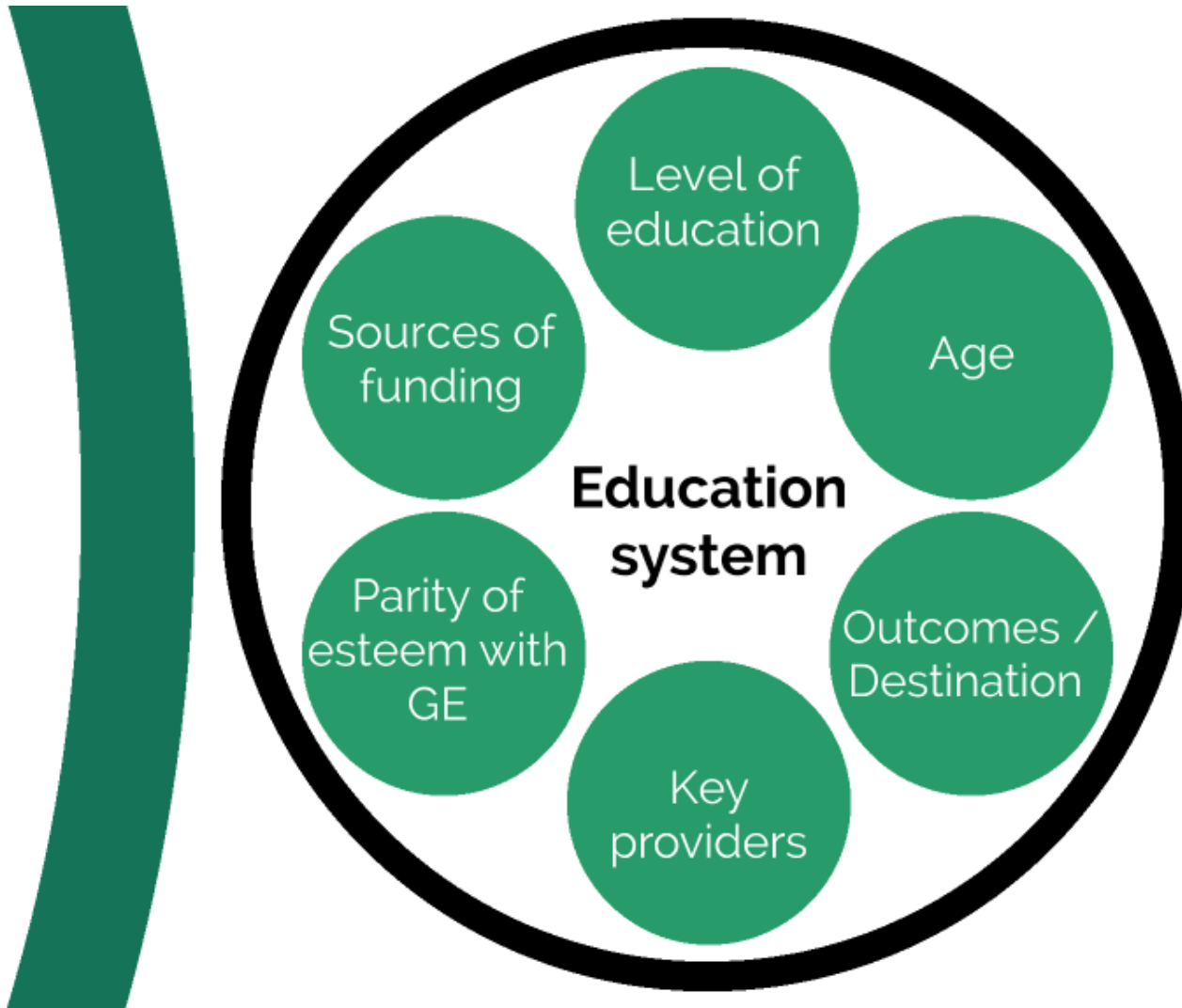
3 perspectives:

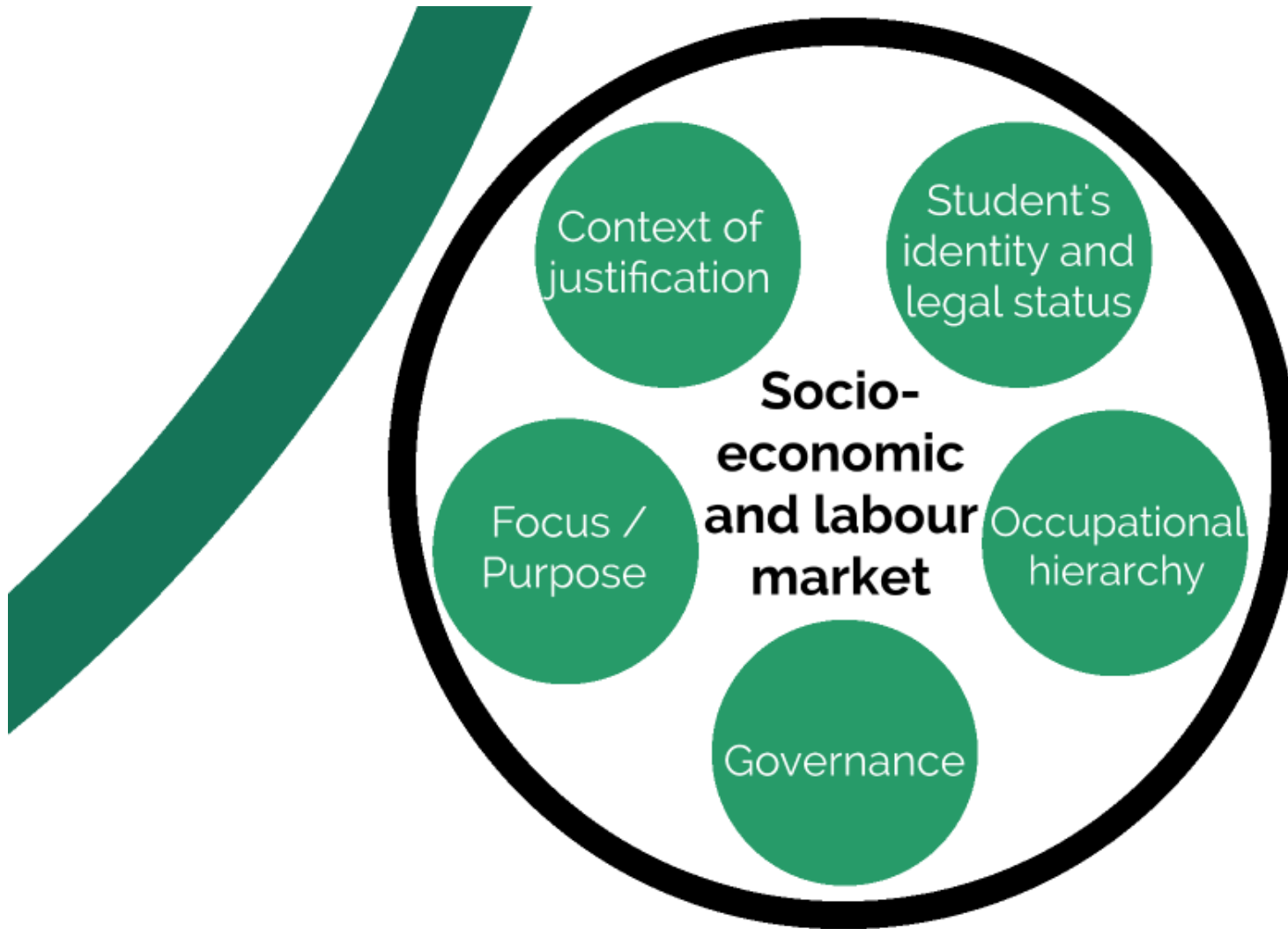
Pedagogical
- didactic

Education
system

Socio-
economic
and labour
market







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The Findings



VET
history &
content

The
Heartland

New
territories

VET
survey

VET: History & content

1990 → 2015

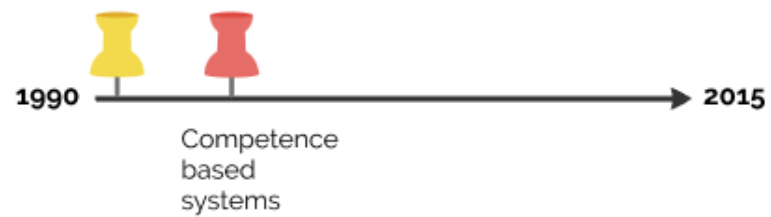
VET: History & content

VET as a mainstream
choice upon completion
of lower secondary
education



VET: History & content

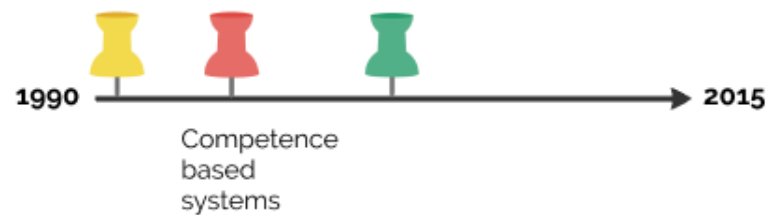
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VET: History & content

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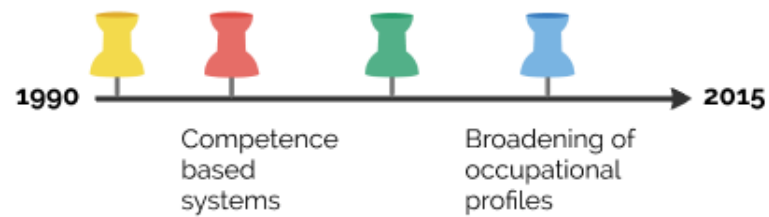
Increased emphasis
on WBL
EQF/NQF introduction



VET: History & content

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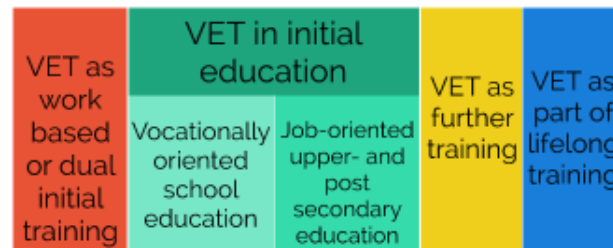
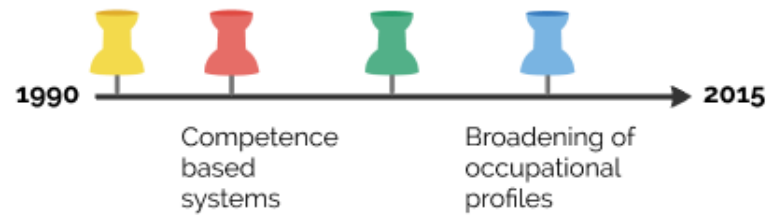
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VET: History & content

VET as a mainstream choice upon completion of lower secondary education

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"The Heartland"

Initial vocational education and training (EQF 3-4)

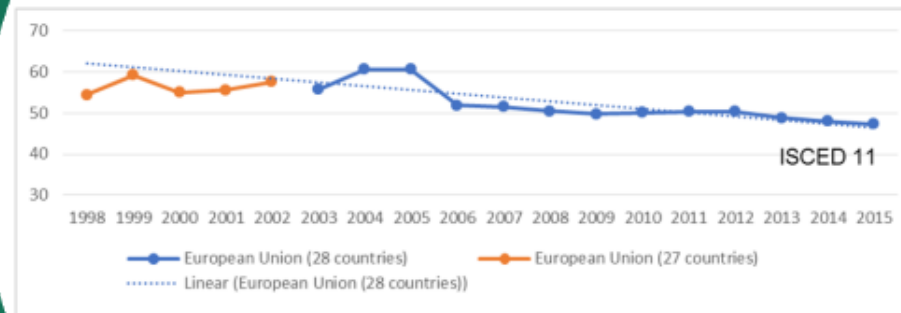


Declining VET?

National numbers

Diversity of delivery

Declining VET?



Aggregate European statistics indicate that VET is declining **since 2005**



National trends

Remarkable growth

(Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Greece)
although from a low base.

Moderate growth

(Austria Finland, Netherlands, Sweden)

Significant or moderate decline

(Germany, France, UK),
although from a high base.

OVERALL: Growth or stability

in the majority of European countries.



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OVERALL: Growth or stability

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IVET upholds its position

relative to general upper
secondary education.

Diversity of
delivery ...



Diversity of delivery ...

A dual,
apprenticeship-
based model

Systems that
move in a
**lifelong
learning
direction**

**A school based
approach to VET –**
with varying input of
practice based
learning

Plurality:
key delivery
models &
alternative forms
of learning

Diversity of delivery ...

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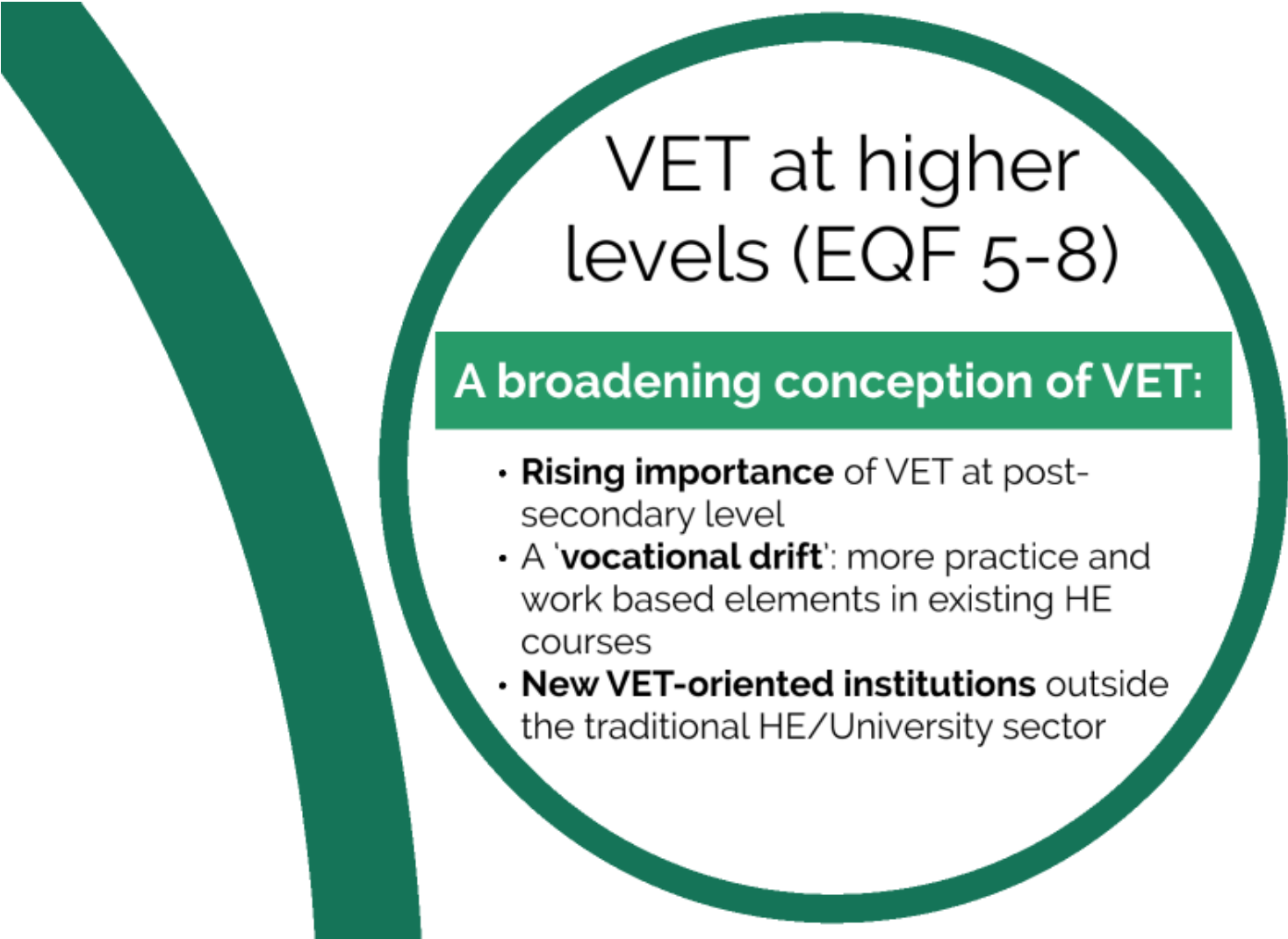
**... is
rising!**

Moving into higher VET



VET at higher levels

Issues and tensions



VET at higher levels (EQF 5-8)

A broadening conception of VET:

- **Rising importance** of VET at post-secondary level
- A '**vocational drift**': more practice and work based elements in existing HE courses
- **New VET-oriented institutions** outside the traditional HE/University sector



Issues & tensions:

- A need for **practice and work based learning** at higher levels
- **Better balance:** theoretical knowledge and practical skills/competences



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The growing importance of HVET:
most significant change.
BUT it needs:



Issues & tensions:

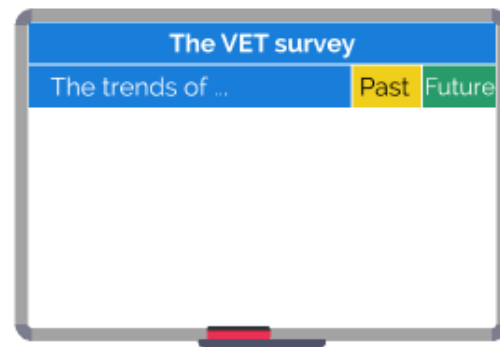
- A need for **practice and work based learning** at higher levels
- **Better balance:** theoretical knowledge and practical skills/competences

The growing importance of HVET:
most significant change.
BUT it needs:

- More **VISIBILITY!**
- More **PERMEABILITY,**
less **DEAD-ENDS!**

VET Survey:

←
Experts' and stakeholders'
views on past and future trends
→



The VET survey

The trends of ...

Past

Future

The VET survey

The trends of ...

Past

Future

Shift towards learning outcomes



Removal of dead-ends



The VET survey

The trends of ...

Past

Future

Shift towards learning outcomes



Removal of dead-ends



Growth of HVET



Increased work-based elements



The VET survey

The trends of ...

Past

Future

Shift towards learning outcomes



Removal of dead-ends



Growth of HVET



Increased work-based elements



Decreasing numbers of training places



Enhanced responsiveness to labour market needs



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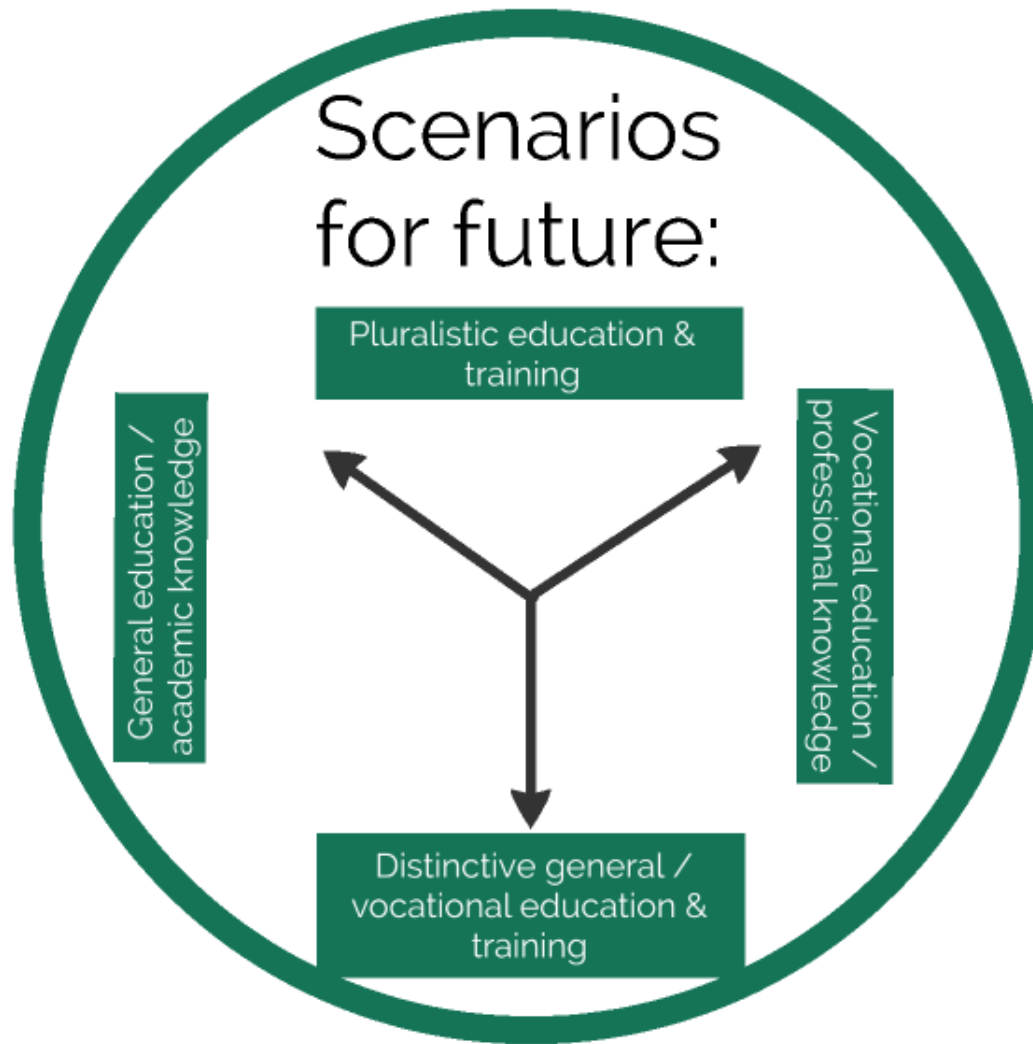
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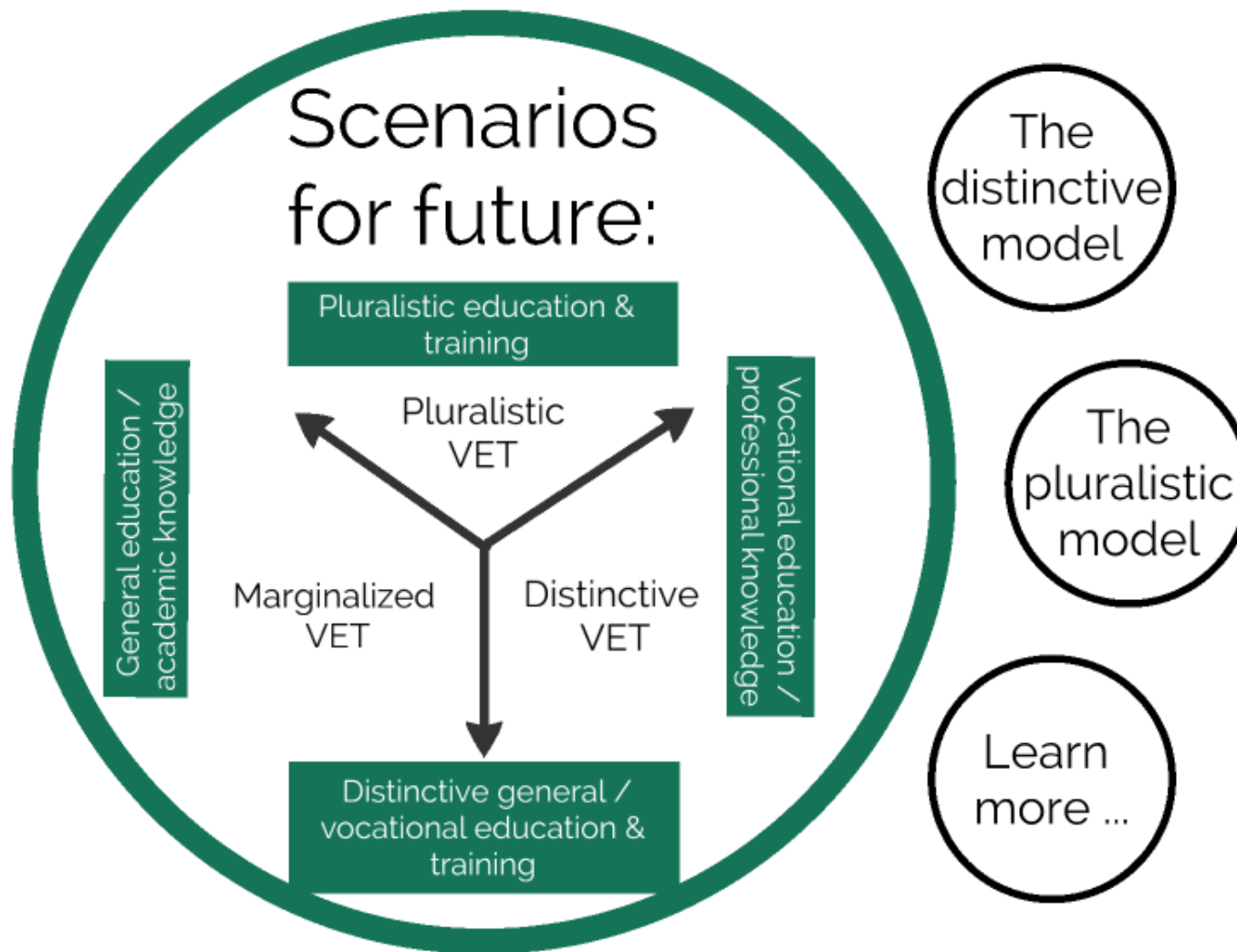
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Scenarios for future:







The distinctive model

The position of
VET in the wider
E&T system?

What type of
pathways?

Who is
VET for?

What type of
provision?

The distinctive model

The position of
VET in the wider
E&T system?

A clearly defined sub-sector of
the education and training
system

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The distinctive model

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VET is organised around occupations/ professions

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What type of provision?

The keyword: modernized version of 'vocational training'



The pluraristic model

The position of
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E&T system?

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The pluraristic model

The position of
VET in the wider
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A particular feature of
education, keeping closer
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The pluraristic model

The position of VET in the wider E&T system?

A particular feature of education, keeping closer links to labour market

Diverse target groups covering all levels

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What pathways?

Numerous VET pathways operate side by side; strongly individualised

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What type of provision?

**The keyword: Towards
vocationally oriented
learning**



Learn more ...



Learn more ...

Final conference: November 7-8, Vienna



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Visit the project page:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/changing-nature-and-role-vocational-education-and-training-vet-europe>





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