



ReferNet: 2024-25 State of the network

Ioannis Katsikis

Expert - ReferNet coordinator

Department of VET and qualifications, Cedefop



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

Purpose

- Update on the state of play of our network.
- To reflect on your achievements during 2024 and
- Share with you our thoughts for the next year



State of 2024: Overview of the network

Partners from 27 EU member states, Iceland and Norway

More than 234 individuals as members

Gender representation: 150 female - 84 male

Average: seven members per country

Smallest team: three members – largest: 20 members

Several different types of organizations represented

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

2024 achievements

- The Network is re-established for the new Framework Partnership Agreement
 - First round: 23 countries
 - Six new countries joined as of 1st of April 2024
- Physical meetings re-installed
 - 21st Plenary in Thessaloniki, Greece (29/02-01/03/2024)
 - 22nd Plenary in Thessaloniki, Greece (20-21/11/2024)
 - 2024 Partnership Forum in Zagreb, Croatia (13-14/05/2024)
- Seven ReferNet Webinars organized
- The role of the communication expert is introduced
- The majority of the FIR 2023 finalized

2025 Plans

- ReferNet 2025 Workplan
 - Activities of strategic importance
 - Deliverables in form of “final products”
 - Additional information on the workload and the resources needed
- Proposals for two ReferNet Partnership Fora
 - Educational Research Institute in Warsaw, Poland
 - National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic in Prague, Czechia.
- 2025 ReferNet Plenary meeting
- More Webinars
- Manual
- ReferNet “Who is Who”

22nd ReferNet annual plenary meeting

20 and 21
November 2024
Thessaloniki



22ND ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING OF REFERNET, CEDEFOP'S EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR VET

#ReferNET

PROGRAMME

Plenary meeting, Wednesday 20 November 2024

9.00-10.00	Participant arrival and registration				
10.00-10.15 <i>Europa</i>	Welcome and opening of the 22nd ReferNet plenary meeting • Jürgen Siebel, Cedefop Executive Director • Loukas Zahilas, Head of Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop				
10.15-10.45 <i>Europa</i>	Session 1. Keynote speech: AI, digital education content and IP in education Kari Kivinen , European Union Intellectual Property Office <i>Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Cedefop</i>				
10.45-11.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 2. ReferNet: state of the network 2024-25 Ioannis Katsikis , ReferNet coordinator, Cedefop <i>Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Cedefop</i>				
11.15-11.30	COFFEE BREAK AND FAMILY PHOTO				
11.30-12.15 <i>Europa</i>	Session 3. Europe's skills challenges: learning from the European Year and ways forward • Jasper van Loo, Coordinator, Department for VET and skills, Cedefop				
		12.15-13.00 <i>Europa</i>	• Ilias Livanos, Expert, Department for VET and skills, Cedefop <i>Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop</i>		
			Session 4. Cedefop strategic planning – 2025 • George Kostakis, Coordinator, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop • Ramona David and Jasper van Loo, Coordinators, Department for VET and skills, Cedefop <i>Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop</i>		
		13.00-14.00	LUNCH BREAK		
		14.00-14.20 <i>Europa</i>	Session 5. Latest VET policy developments Hjordis Virgarsdottir Dalsgaard , DG EMPL, European Commission <i>Chair: George Kostakis, Cedefop</i>		
		14.20-15.30 <i>Rousseau</i>	Session 6. Workshop – peer learning exercise for the national representatives on the function of the validation ReferNet national representatives <i>Moderators: Ioannis Katsikis and George Kostakis, Cedefop</i>		
				14.20-15.30 <i>Montessori</i>	Session 7. Workshop – peer learning exercise for coordinators on communication and dissemination activities ReferNet national coordinators and team members <i>Moderators: Theodora Panagiotidou and Cristina Comunian, Cedefop</i>
				15.30-15.45	COFFEE BREAK
				16.00-17.00 <i>Montessori</i>	Meeting with newcomers – open discussion Ioannis Katsikis, Chryssa Zekou, Philippe Joureau, Theodora Panagiotidou
				16.00-17.00 <i>Rousseau</i>	Bilateral meetings with Cedefop country managers networking opportunities
				17.00-17.30	End of first day and transfer to the hotel
				19.00	Meeting at the hotel lobby (walk to the restaurant)
				19.30	Dinner at Kazaviti, city center (9 Katouni St., 54625, Thessaloniki)

22ND ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING OF REFERNET, CEDEFOP'S EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR VET

PROGRAMME

#ReferNET

Plenary meeting, Thursday 21 November 2024

9.00-9.30

Participant arrival

9.30-11.00

Europa

Session 8.
Review of the 2024 ReferNet workplan

Supporting the comparison and recognition of qualifications

Zelda Azzara, Carita Blomqvist and Vasileios Symeonidis, Cedefop

Thematic perspective on implementing national priorities in line with NIPs

VPS team, Department for VET and qualifications, Cedefop

Chair: George Kostakis, Cedefop

11.00-11.15

COFFEE BREAK

11.15-13.15

Europa

Session 9.
Preparing the 2025 ReferNet workplan

Spotlight on skills

Jasper van Loo and Stelina Chatzichristou, Cedefop

VET excellence and inclusion for the 21st century

Anastasia Pouliou and Vasilis Symeonidis, Cedefop

Financing adult learning/CVET and recent developments on ILA

Mantas Sekmokas and Patrycja Lipinska, Cedefop

13.15-14.15

Microcredentials: labour market sector relevance, quality, and inclusion

Anastasia Pouliou and Iraklis Pliakis, Cedefop

Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop

14.15-14.45

LUNCH BREAK

Session 10.

Cedefop turns 50: drawing on the past to shape the future of VET, skills, and learning for Europe

Jürgen Siebel, Cedefop Executive Director

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, Cedefop

14.45-16.15

Europa

Session 11:

20 years together: country contributions

CROATIA

Two decades of progress: transforming Croatia's VET landscape: the journey so far and the road ahead, Nino Buić & Sandra Dobrić

BULGARIA

Skills for a competitive Bulgaria: a story of VET evolution and successful partnership 2007-24, Petya Evtimova

CYPRUS

TVET reform and modernisation in Cyprus over the past 20 years, Christiana Charilaou

CZECHIA

The story of VET (2004-24), Martina Kanakova

ESTONIA

Estonian vocational education: a 20-year journey aligned with EU goals, Rita Kask

HUNGARY

Ups and downs: 20 years of VET in Hungary, Éva Mező

16.15-16.30

LATVIA

Latvian VET 20 years in the EU – from struggle to breakthrough, Paula Zvejniece

Chairs: Eirini Monsela and Theodora Panagiotidou, Cedefop

16.30-17.30

Europa

COFFEE BREAK

Session 12:

20 years together: country contributions

LITHUANIA

Two decades of change: modernising VET in Lithuania, Julius Jakučinskas

MALTA

Skills for tomorrow: Malta's VET milestones since the EU accession. Celebrating 20 years of growth in vocational education and training, Francesca Ruisi

POLAND

Transformation of Poland's national VET system over the past 20 years, Jerzy Bielecki

ROMANIA

European VET policies shaping Romanian VET, Elena Cerkez, Gabriel Radu

SLOVAKIA

Twenty years together with Cedefop: Slovak National Observatory (ReferNet Slovakia) point of view, Juraj Vantuch

SLOVENIA

Development of VET in Slovenia, Metka Šlander

Chairs: Aristos Theocharous and Rieke Preuss, Cedefop

17.30-17.45

Europa

Concluding remarks

George Kostakis and Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop

18.00-18.30

End of the meeting and transfer to the hotel

Country managers, VET policies and systems (VPS) Team

Irina JEMELJANOVA	Policy reporting coordination
Silke GADJI	Austria, Belgium, Germany, Sweden
Nikos GEORGIADIS	Bulgaria, Denmark, Malta
Veronica LEINER	Czechia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia
Dmitrijs KULSS	Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Romania
Vicky ORAIOPOULOU	Cyprus, France
Ines SANCHA	Spain, Norway, Poland, Portugal
Eirini MONSELA	Slovenia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Greece
Anthi KYRIAKOPOULOU	Ireland, Iceland, Luxembourg
Aristos THEOCHAROUS	Italy

Thank you

ioannis.katsikis@cedefop.europa.eu

www.cedefop.europa.eu

Follow us on social media



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training