



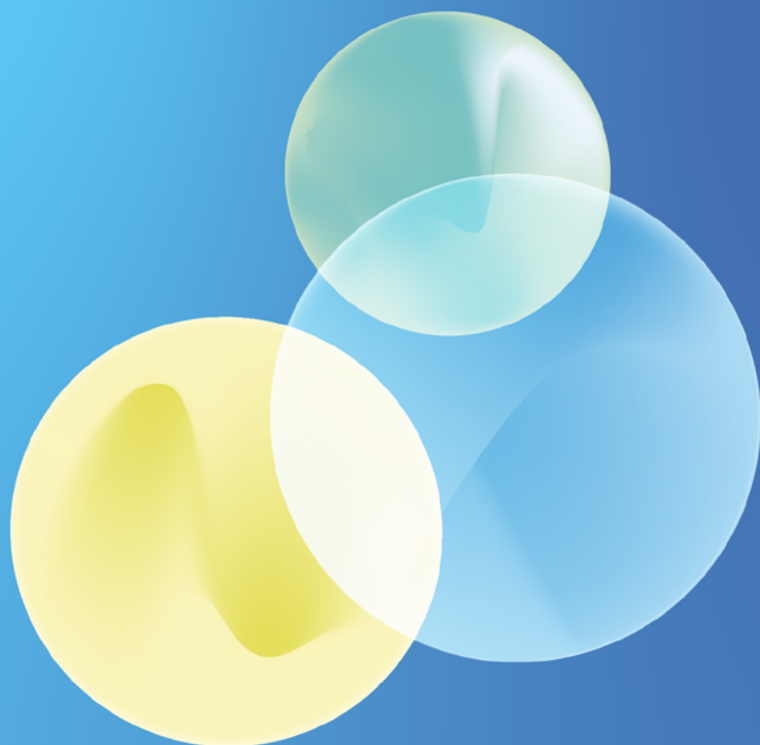
Future of VET the way forward

5 and 6

December 2022

Virtual conference

#FutureofVET



Programme

Since 2015 Cedefop has run a broad research programme on the future of vocational education and training in Europe, starting with the project [The changing nature and role of VET in Europe](#) (2015-18) and followed by the project [The future of vocational education and training \(VET\)](#) (2019-22). The aim was to gain deeper understanding of the key challenges facing VET, including: the evolving institutions of IVET and its relative position in the overall education and training system; the characteristics of, and changes in, the interaction between CVET and IVET; higher-level vocational education and training; the review and renewal of VET content; and the role of assessment in shaping vocational learning.

The conference provides an opportunity for policy-makers, stakeholders, experts and researchers to discuss the challenges and choices facing European VET today. It links directly to the ongoing political discussion on the future of European VET evidenced in the July [2020 Skills Agenda](#), the [2020 VET Council Recommendation](#), and the [2020 Osnabrück Declaration](#). The conference also marks the 20th anniversary of systematic European cooperation in the area of VET, signalled by the [2002 Copenhagen Declaration](#).

Objective and aims of the conference

The conference aims to instigate a discussion on the overall direction European VET is taking. Presentations and discussions during the first day of the conference (5 December) will paint a general picture of recent developments and potential choices ahead. The second day (6 December) will allow for an in-depth discussion of the way European VET research could evolve in the coming decade.

Monday 5 December

A changing European VET landscape: policy and strategy

Cedefop's ongoing research shows that European VET, albeit with significant differences among countries, is changing in several fundamental ways. Focusing on the institutions and structures of VET, different strategies can be observed. Some countries show a stronger focus on lifelong learning, addressing the diverse needs of learners of all ages and at different career and life stages. Resulting in greater diversity of provisions, this refocusing changes the character of initial VET and directly influences its relationship with continuing education and training. In other countries, this diversification is less visible, and initial VET is experiencing increasing pressure from declining youth cohorts and a growing preference for general education and training.

Focusing on the content of VET, we see national VET curricula paying increasing attention to general subject knowledge as well as transversal skills and competences. Reflecting the requirements of the labour market and society, the re-balancing of general, occupational, and transversal skills and competence-elements stands out as critical and is expected to influence teaching and learning. Focusing on the relationship of VET with the labour market and society in general, our research points to challenges in relation to the governance of the sector and to the review and renewal of VET content. While much attention is paid to collecting evidence on labour market skills demands, the understanding of how to address these through updated VET skills supply is less developed. Drawing on these perspectives, the first day of the conference will point to different scenarios for the development of VET in the coming decade.

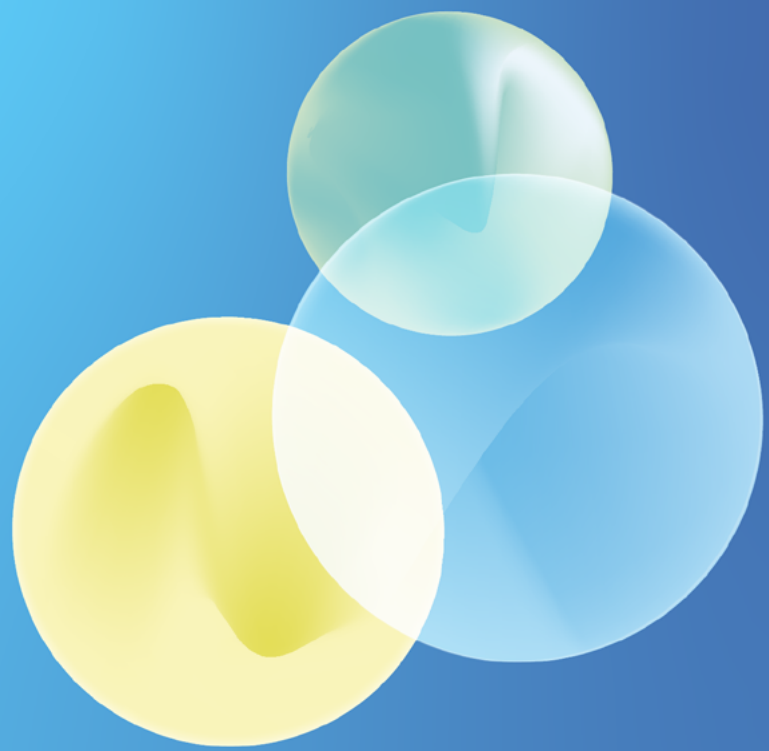


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Programme

Tuesday 6 December

Research and in-depth focus

Building on the material presented during the first day, the second day of the conference will offer participants an opportunity to look more closely into the methodologies, findings, and implications of Cedefop's research in this area. Four breakout sessions will be held.

Breakout session 1

will address the challenge of reviewing and renewing VET content.

In many countries we can see a broadening of profiles, while the overall number of qualifications (and thus specialisations) is reduced. Closely related to this we can also see a changing relationship between occupation-specific skills, general subjects and transversal skills and competences, indicating that future VET skills may look different from what they do today.

Breakout session 2

will focus on the role played by assessment on the future delivery of VET.

Assessment is being continuously reformed in the countries covered by Cedefop's study, indicating its importance for improving the quality and value of VET. A key issue – among others – is understanding the extent to which prevalent assessment forms strengthen or weaken the targets set by stakeholders in national curricula.

Breakout session 3

will discuss how VET is delivered at national, regional and local levels.

In some countries, the border between general education and VET is becoming blurred, which leads to the emergence of hybrid qualifications and programmes targeting access to both higher education and the labour market. The increasing autonomy of regional and, to some extent, local VET institutions signals both challenges and opportunities ahead.

Breakout session 4

will focus on the way IVET and CVET interact.

Research shows that the relationship between IVET and CVET is rapidly changing, influencing the overall character of VET. This relationship provides important insights into the diversification of VET supply and illustrates the emerging challenges and opportunities faced in this area.

Working methods

The conference will take place online (Zoom platform). Participants will attend presentations and will be able to participate through chat comments.

Both days will include plenary and breakout sessions. For the discussions of 6 December participants will be able to choose a topic and theme of interest to them.

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Project page:

www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/future-vetwww.cedefop.europa.eu



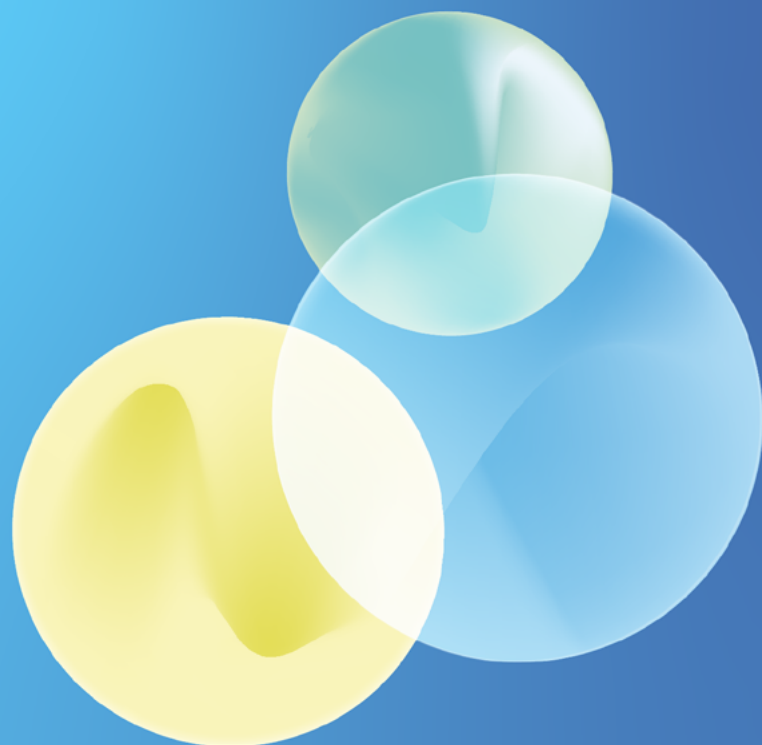
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Programme

DAY 1 – 5 DECEMBER 2022 (indicated times are CET)

9:00 – 9:30

Registration (technical checks)

9:30 – 9:50

Welcome and introduction to the conference

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, *Head of Department VET and qualifications, Cedefop*

- Participant welcome
- Context and objectives of the conference
- Housekeeping rules

Opening address

Jürgen Siebel, *Cedefop Executive Director*

9:50 – 10:30

Session 1

Decline or expansion – Where is European VET heading?

European VET: declining or prospering? Have we made progress since the 2002 Copenhagen Declaration?

Jens Bjørnåvold, *Cedefop*

Jorg Markowitsch, *3s*

10:30 – 11.30

Session 2

What is the emerging role of VET? National, European and global perspectives

Chair: Anastasia Pouliou, *Cedefop*

- The global perspective – Expansion or decline
Borhene Chakroun, *Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division, UNESCO*
- The European perspective – What is the impact of 20 years of VET cooperation?
Chiara Riondino, *Head of Unit EMPL B3, European Commission*
- The national perspective – Austrian VET in a European context
Eduard Staudecker, *Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research*

Open discussion

How do we see European VET evolving?

What are the trends and challenges/dilemmas for policy choices ahead?

11:30 – 11.45

COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 13.00

Session 3

European VET – What are the key challenges, opportunities and dilemmas?

Chair: Jens Bjørnåvold, *Cedefop*

- Aidan Kenny, *Teachers' Union of Ireland*
- Benedikte Sterner, *Norwegian Trade Union Confederation*
- Ida Flemmich, *University of Applied Sciences Students in Finland (SAMOK)*
- Stuart Martin, *Skills Org, New Zealand*
- Jenny Shackleton, *WorldSkills International*

13.00 – 13.30

**20 years of European VET cooperation
Observations and reflection**

- Jos Noesen, *Expert, Luxembourg*
- Wilfried Boomgaert, *Expert in EU education and training policy, Belgium*
- Loukas Zahilas, *Head of Department VET and qualifications, Cedefop*



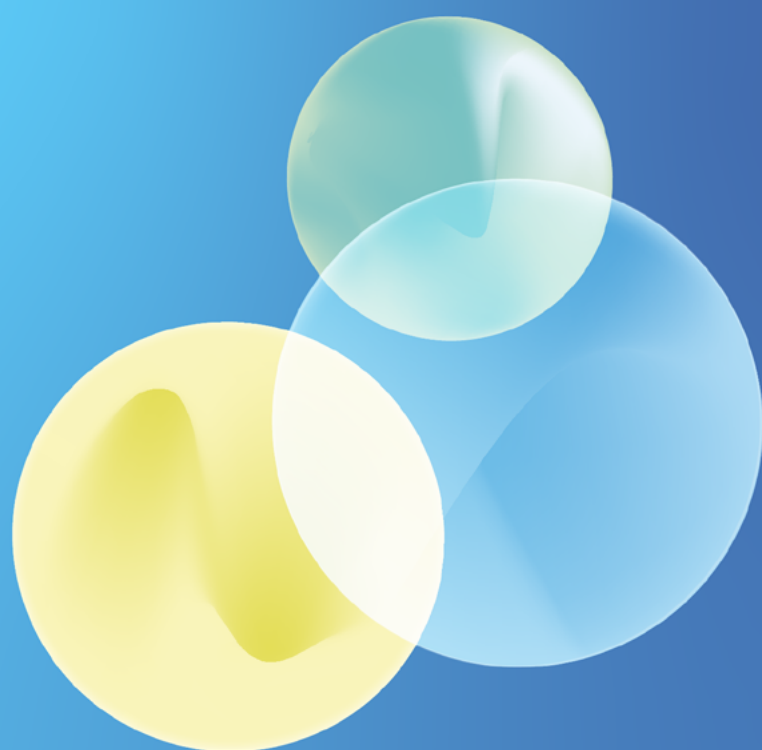
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Programme

DAY 2 – 6 DECEMBER 2022 (indicated times are CET)

9:00 – 9:30

Registration (technical checks)

9:30 – 9:40

Welcome and introduction

Loukas Zahilas, *Head of Department VET and qualifications, Cedefop*

9:40 – 10:30

Research contributions: looking back (to 1995) to look ahead (scenarios)

Chair: Loukas Zahilas, *Head of Department VET and qualifications, Cedefop*

- Future of VET – content changes
- Future of VET – system changes
- Future of VET – the socioeconomic context
Jens Bjørnåvold and Anastasia Pouliou, *Cedefop*

Introduction to parallel sessions 1-4

- Monika Auzinger, *3s, Austria*
- Karin Luomi-Messerer, *3s, Austria*
- Terence Hogarth, *University of Warwick, UK*
- Simon Broek, *Ockham-IPS, The Netherlands*

10:30 – 12.00

Parallel session 1

National VET curricula

The review and renewal of VET content

(20-minute presentation followed by 70-minute discussion)

Chair: Jens Bjørnåvold, *Cedefop*

Introduction to the topic

- Monika Auzinger, *3s, Austria*
- Dominik Dvořák, *Institute for Research and Development in Education, Czechia*

Key topics

- How has the balance between occupation-specific skills, general subjects, and transversal skills evolved over time?
- What further changes can be expected in the near future in the relationship between occupation-specific skills, general subject knowledge and transversal skills?

10:30 – 12.00

Parallel session 2

Testing for learning or teaching to the test?

The future of assessment

(20-minute presentation followed by 70-minute discussion)

Chair: Anastasia Pouliou, *Cedefop*

Introduction to the topic

- Karin Luomi-Messerer, *3s, Austria*
- Wojciech Stęchły, *Educational research institute, Poland*

Key topics

- How can assessment approaches address increasingly complex requirements to general knowledge and transversal skills and competences?
- Can we rely on current assessment methodologies? Do they provide a valid picture of learning achieved?

The programme continues to the next page



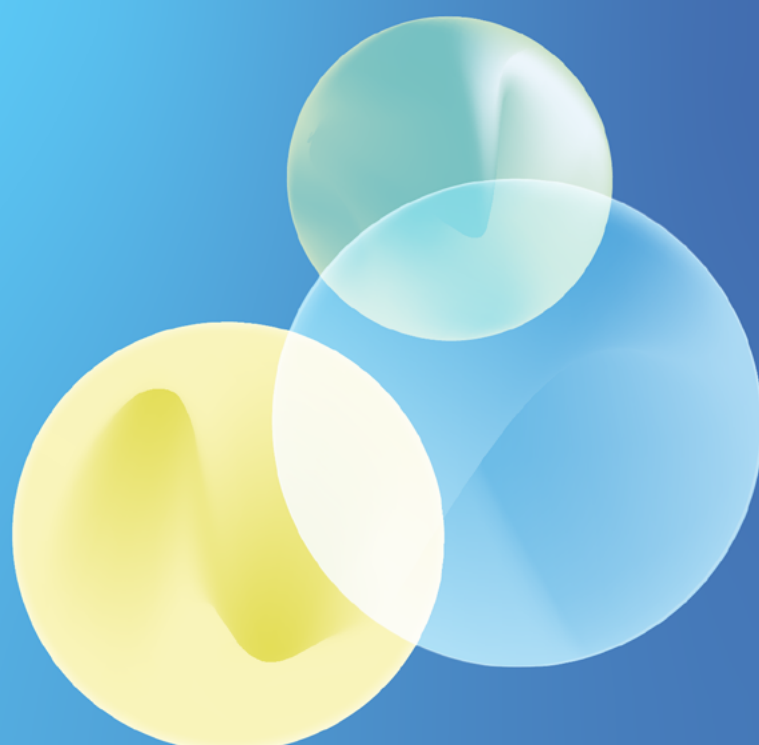
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10:30 – 12.00

Parallel session 3

Delivering VET – The way forward

(20-minute presentation followed by 70-minute discussion)

Chair: [Jostein Kvisteroy](#), *Cedefop*

Introduction to the topic

- [Terence Hogarth](#), *University of Warwick, UK*
- [Maarit Virolainen](#), *University of Jyväskylä, Finland*

Key topic

- How has the balance between local autonomy versus central control changed over time?
- How can we increase the responsiveness of VET institutions to rapid changes in the labour market and the demand for skills?

10:30 – 12.00

Parallel session 4

Linking IVET and CVET

How to facilitate VET for lifelong learning

(20-minute presentation followed by 70-minute discussion)

Chair: [Mariya Dzhengozova](#), *3s*

Introduction to the topic

- [Simon Broek](#), *Ockham-IPS, The Netherlands*
- [Vidmantas Tutlys](#), *Institute of Education Research, Lithuania*

Key topics

- What characterises the link between IVET and CVET and how has this interface evolved over time?
- To what extent and in which form do national and regional policies support a closer link between CVET and IVET?

12:00 – 12:10

COFFEE BREAK

12:10 – 12.30

Session 4

Applying research: Cedefop scenarios for the Future of VET

Chair: [Anastasia Pouliou](#), *Cedefop*

- National scenario, Oslo, Norway,
[Jens Bjørnåvold](#), *Cedefop*
- National scenario, Ljubljana, Slovenia,
[Darko Mali](#) and [Janez Damjan](#), *CPI, Slovenia*

12:30 – 13.20

Panel

European VET research – What is needed? Where to go?

- [Christopher Winch](#), *King's College, London, UK*
[Hubert Ertl](#), *BIBB, Director, Germany*
- [Vivian Lai Dini](#), *education specialist (formerly Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, Hong Kong)*
- [Volker Rein](#), *educational researcher, Germany*
- [Christof Nägele](#), *Chairperson of VETNET, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern, Switzerland*

13:20 – 13.30

Final observations and conclusions

[Loukas Zahilas](#) and [Jens Bjørnåvold](#), *Cedefop*