

24th ReferNet

annual plenary meeting

21 and 22 October 2026
Virtual event

#ReferNet

The 24th ReferNet annual plenary meeting will take place virtually. It will welcome the representatives of our partner organizations under the 2024-27 framework partnership agreement, as well as national representatives of the network and the representatives from the European Commission (EU).

The aims of the meeting are to:

- inform partners of the latest EU policy developments on VET, skills and qualifications;
- take stock of the work carried out in 2026 and the outcomes published and disseminated;
- prepare the 2027 work plan: VET policy reporting, spotlight, news, visibility actions, etc.;
- foster partnership and knowledge-sharing through interactive (joint) presentations of national developments, debates, etc.;
- convey in a virtual open space, which will encourage creative reflection on how partners would like ReferNet to develop in the 2024-27 period.



21 & 22 October 2026



9.00-13.00 (CEST)



Virtual event



Draft Programme

Day 1 – 21 October 2026 (all times are CEST)

09.45 – 10.00	Participant log-in and technical check
10:00 – 10.15	Welcome and opening Chair: Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet Coordinator, Department for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop Jürgen Siebel, Executive Director, Cedefop
10.15 – 10.45	Session 1 - Keynote speech: Tbc Representative of the European Commission
10.45 – 11.30	Session 2 - ReferNet: recent achievements and status of work plan 2026 - Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop - Comments and feedback from ReferNet partners
11.30 – 11.45	Family photo and virtual health break
11.45 – 13.00	Session 3 - Review of the 2026 ReferNet workplan – selected thematic ad hoc activities Chair: George Kostakis, Coordinator, Department for VET and Qualifications, Cedefop - Development and use of digital credentials and digital tools, Zelda Azzara, Cedefop Expert - Financing adult learning/CVET, Mantas Sekmokas, Cedefop expert - Open discussion with ReferNet partners
13.00	Closing of Day 1 Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop





Day 2 – 22 October 2026 (all times are CEST)

09.15 – 09.30	Participant log-in and technical check
09.30	Welcome to Day 2 Ioannis Katsikis, ReferNet Coordinator, Cedefop
09.30 – 10.15	Session 4 – Piloting an innovative cooperation approach: Thematic analysis on AI in VET Chair: Michael Papazoglou, Cedefop Expert ▪ Anthie Kyriakopoulou, Cedefop Expert ▪ Open discussion with ReferNet partners
10.15 – 11.30	Session 5 - Preparing the 2027 ReferNet workplan: thematic ad hoc activities Chair: Irina Jemeljanova, Cedefop Expert ▪ Mapping digital skills in IVET curricula across European countries: The role of governance and system design, Michael Papazoglou and Rena Psifidou, Cedefop Experts ▪ Consultation on the draft classification of VET/adult learning public financing instruments, Mantas Sekmokas, Cedefop Expert ▪ Human-centric VET systems: fostering CVET learners' and educators' wellbeing, Anthie Kyriakopoulou, Cedefop Expert ▪ Open discussion with ReferNet partners
11.30 – 11.45	Virtual health break
11.45 – 12.45	Session 6 – Thematic policy discussion: Digital tools and credentials for the transparency and portability of skills and qualifications Chair: Vasilis Symeonidis, Cedefop Expert ▪ Zelda Azzara, Cedefop Expert ▪ Open discussion with ReferNet partners
12.45 – 13.00	Concluding remarks Irene Mandl and Ioannis Katsikis, Cedefop
13.00	End of meeting



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