



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training



European cooperation in vocational education and training; the open method of coordination

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European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET): the open method of coordination

What it is and how it works

The open method of coordination in European VET policy is:

A process that coordinates, across EU Member States, the agreement, monitoring and review of shared vocational education and training policy objectives, which include statistically measurable targets.

VET in Europe diverse; 27 Member States, at least 35 VET systems. Cooperation based on a politically (not legally) binding agreements that outline agreed VET policy priorities. Responsibility for implementation lies with Member States

Officials report to ministers and senior social partners who review progress and revise policy priorities and objectives as needed every five-years (with interim reporting).

Key elements are **partnership, resources and momentum**. Partnership to agree common priorities; resources to achieve them; and momentum r political leadership and renewed mandates.

Not a new strategy but **strategic coordination**



European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET): the open method of coordination

Why it started and continues

- Started in 2000 due to concerns over high unemployment and fears that skills did not match labour market needs;
- Increased incentive for cooperation since 2000; skills employers and people need are being transformed by technology, more diverse working conditions, times, locations and by behavioural norms.
- People need increasingly complex combinations of interpersonal, organisational and problem-solving skills, as well as specific job-related skills, across all types of jobs, including those traditionally regarded as low-skilled, such as care workers and security guards.

*Skills reform not possible without partner
cooperation*



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Achievements

Objective	2010	2020
An average of no more than 10% of early school leavers	14.4%	10%
At least 40% of 30-34-year-olds in the (EU) should have completed tertiary education by 2020 .	22.5% (2002)	40.3% (2019)
EU average participation in lifelong learning should be at least 15% of the adult working population (25 to 64 years old)	9.3%	11%
Total number of graduates in maths, science and technology should increase by at least 15% by 2010	+33.8%	

Other reforms: a coordinated **voice for VET priorities** in policy discussions (valuable as responsibilities for VET and differ in Member States); **frameworks for comparing qualifications** (within and between countries), improved VET **quality** **validate prior learning**; more **apprenticeships** and work-based learning



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Objective	Target 2025/30
Participation of adults aged 25-64 in learning during the last 12 months	50% - 60%
Participation of low-qualified adults 25-64 in learning during the last 12 months	30%
Share of unemployed adults aged 25-64 with a recent learning experience	20%
Share of adults aged 16-74 having at least basic digital skills	70% - 80%
Share of employed graduates from VET (age group 20-34 who have graduated 1-3 years ago from upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary VET)	82%
Recent graduates from VET (age group 20-34) who benefitted from exposure to work-based learning during their vocational education and training	
Learners in VET who benefitted from a learning mobility abroad	



European cooperation in vocational education and training (VET): the open method of coordination

The open method of coordination in European VET policy:

A process that coordinates, across EU Member States, the agreement, monitoring and review of shared vocational education and training policy objectives, which include statistically measurable targets.

An example of successful multinational cooperation, which has also stimulated change and reform within countries.

Not a new strategy but ***strategic coordination***

However, whatever the level and wherever it take places the key elements are **partnership, resources and momentum**. Partnership to agree common priorities; resources to achieve them; and momentum maintained through political leadership and mandates.



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BRIEFING NOTE
Europe's skill challenge
 Lagging skill demand increases risks of skill mismatch

The main findings of Cedefop's latest skill demand and supply forecast for the European Union (EU) for 2010-20 (Box 1), indicate that although further economic recovery will affect the projected number of job opportunities, the major trends, including a shift to more sophisticated jobs and more jobs in services, will continue.

Box 1: Skill supply and demand forecast for 2010-2020: main findings

- In the period up to 2010 the forecast indicates a record 40 million job opportunities due to a record net increase in employment of around eight million new job opportunities and around 70 million projected net needs due to people who leave the workforce (replacement demand).
- Job opportunities in all types of occupations, but most new jobs will be at the higher end and of the job spectrum, leaving a net of 10 million.
- Most job opportunities will be in services.
- The forecast shows more sophisticated jobs at least will continue and many traditional manual or routine jobs will decline.
- A net one highly-qualified position, with more than two thirds of people having at least medium level qualifications.
- That net demand will lag behind skill supply and may result in over-qualification in the workforce.

The forecast takes account of gross economic developments up to October 2011 and the latest European Commission projections. Available economic recovery up to 2020 is forecast based on the European Commission's medium-term macroeconomic projections, and assumes continued fiscal consolidation in Member States, stabilised but not in the banking sector, higher consumer confidence and economic growth outside EU. The forecasting model has been validated since 2005 using new data which has been validated by national experts.

The forecast covers the 27 EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland as the figures in the report are referred to as EU-27.

ANNEX 1: [ANNEXES \(PDF\)](#) | [VIEW THIS PAGE](#)

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Skills forecast - Employment trends

Employment refers to the number of people in work (headcount) or the number of occupied jobs in the economy. As employed is considered the one who worked at least one hour in reference period for financial or nonfinancial reward. Employment trends present the development of the employed persons in different sector, occupations and qualification.

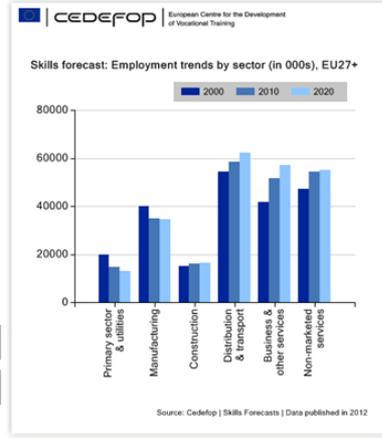
The forecast by sector is produced for 41 sectors which are compatible with NACE classification. In the public area the aggregation to six broad sectors is presented. For detailed information on the correspondence to the NACE sector see the [table](#), for more detailed results log in to expert area. Select employment trends: by sector | [by qualification](#) | [by occupation](#)



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Employment trends by sector, EU27+

	Levels (000s)			Change (%)	
	2000	2010	2020	2000-2010	2010-2020
Primary sector & utilities	19 794	14 653	13 167	-26.0 %	-10.1 %
Manufacturing	39 943	34 948	34 492	-12.5 %	-1.3 %
Construction	18 085	16 152	16 367	7.3 %	1.3 %
Distribution & transport	54 434	58 710	62 196	7.9 %	5.9 %
Business & other services	41 878	51 560	57 200	23.1 %	11.1 %
Non-marketed services	47 426	54 288	58 182	14.5 %	1.7 %
All industries	218 530	230 308	238 608	5.4 %	3.6 %

