



THE EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL SKILLS WEEK

5 TO 9 DECEMBER 2016



WHAT IT IS ABOUT?

Vocational education and training (VET) is evolving in exciting ways all across Europe. The European Commission organises the first **European Vocational Skills Week** to inspire people to discover and use their talent through vocational training.

We want to showcase high-quality VET programmes as a stepping stone to fulfilling careers. And, ultimately, to help make sure that people have the skills they need in a fast-changing labour market.

Events will take place across Europe – in Member States, EFTA and EU Candidate countries – demonstrating the critical role of VET in supporting skills, jobs, innovation and competitiveness.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

It is a widespread perception that VET is a second option rather than a first choice and that skills acquired in initial training are enough for a lifetime. We want to demonstrate that VET can be an excellent choice. Pursuing vocational skills can lead to quality employment, an entrepreneurial mind-set, attractive and challenging careers, and opportunities for continuous upskilling and re-skilling.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE INITIATIVE?

By showcasing excellence and quality in VET, and raising awareness of the wide range of opportunities, the European Vocational Skills Week will **strengthen the image and attractiveness of VET**.

Our aim is to reach a wide public – *parents, learners, companies, society at large* – by organising a variety of activities to highlight the positive experiences and opportunities in VET. We aim to inspire learners of all ages to choose VET, and convince others of its real value to individuals and society.

WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?

This first European Vocational Skills Week will take place from **5 to 9 December 2016** in Brussels, in parallel with activities in Member States and other participating countries at national, regional and local levels.

HOW WILL THE INITIATIVE UNFOLD?

We encourage stakeholders across Europe to organise events and activities, such as by organising Open Days, promoting successful VET programmes or other awareness raising activities. The Commission will have a mobilising and underpinning role to what we hope would be a stakeholder-led approach.

Meetings will be organised at European level, including a European Business Forum on VET, a Conference "Adult Skills", a European Alliance for Apprenticeships Stakeholder Meeting, a VET Researcher Community Forum, a VET/Professional Higher Education Providers Forum, and a Forum of Sector Skills Alliances & Councils. The Week will include prizes highlighting excellence and quality in various categories VET, and dissemination of excellent projects that have received both EU and national funding.

A comprehensive communication strategy will support participating stakeholders to attract strong media attention at the grass roots.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

The European Vocational Skills Week is coordinated by the European Commission, with the strong involvement and support from Cedefop and the European Training Foundation.

We are inviting all stakeholders to take part: learners, parents, companies, business organisations, social partners, education and training providers, adult learning organisations, researchers, career counsellors, public authorities, and society at large to get involved.

We will combine forces with the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, the 'VET4EU2 Platform of European Associations of VET providers', the European Pact for Youth, the Advisory Committee for Vocational Training (ACVT), the Directors General for Vocational Training (DGVT), the ECVET and EQAVET stakeholders, ET2020 Working groups on VET and Adult learning, the Erasmus+ National Agencies, the National managing authorities of the European Social Fund, European networks on Guidance and Europass, National Coordinators for implementing the European Agenda for Adult Learning, the European network of Public Employment Services etc..

Join the European Vocational Skills Week – Discover your Talent!

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES DURING THE EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL SKILLS WEEK 2016

PLACE	5 DECEMBER	6 DECEMBER	7 DECEMBER	8 DECEMBER	9 DECEMBER
EU/ Brussels	Opening event Official launch with high-level representatives		EQAVET Forum (all day)	European Business Forum on Vocational Training Focus on VET-business cooperation - case studies and debate with senior policy experts Afternoon session with parallel events: 1. European Alliance for Apprenticeships Stakeholder meeting 2. VET/Professional Higher Education Providers Forum 3. Mobility in VET and Apprenticeships 4. VET Researcher Community Forum 5. Forum of Sector Skills Alliances & Councils An exhibition of the best Erasmus+ and ESF projects will be organised at the venue	Closing ceremony With the participation of High level representatives from the EU institutions Highlights from the Week Prizes and awards
		"Adult skills" Conference (all day on 6 and 7 December) Continuous VET in focus, with emphasis on the proposed Skills Guarantee, workplace learning in SMEs, and how it supports the development of adults' basic and job-related skills			
National/ regional/ local level	National launch events Conferences, Open days, etc., highlighting the main objectives of the Week	National events and activities (examples): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VET and Apprenticeships OPEN DAYS • Events aimed at promoting adult learning and continuing VET organised by National Coordinators for implementing the European Agenda for Adult Learning • Initiatives to promote business-education partnerships • Conferences debating permeability among E&T systems • Thematic events on Key competences, Entrepreneurship, Teachers and trainers, Quality assurance and credit systems, tertiary VET/professional higher education, etc. • Extensive coverage before, during and after the event via EPALE 			Closing events linked to EU level closing ceremony
<i>The Week is accompanied by a European wide communication strategy and supported by the two European agencies Cedefop and ETF.</i>					