



The skills nexus between productivity and job quality

Strengthening foundations for a competitive Europe

29-30 June 2026

“Competitiveness depends on people. It is the professional skills of people that are crucial for Europe to adapt to new transitions and to develop new innovations into globally competitive companies. In the EU we have many strengths but it’s clear that we also have many challenges in this area. We need to close the skills gap, and we need to empower each and everyone to develop their skills for quality jobs.” (Ylva Johansson, chair of the European Skills High-Level Board)

Draft programme

DAY 1 – 29 June 2026 (all times are EET)

14.00 – 14.30	Participant arrival and registration
14:30 – 15.15 <i>Europa room</i>	Welcome and opening Chair: Antonio Ranieri, <i>Head of Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop</i> • Jürgen Siebel, <i>Executive Director, Cedefop</i> • Emil Boc, <i>Mayor of Cluj Napoca, Representative of the European Committee of the Regions</i> • Stelios Himonas, <i>Permanent Secretary, Cypriot Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Presidency of the Council of the EU</i> • Yianna Hormova, <i>Governor, Public Employment Service (DYPA)</i>



15.15 – 16.15 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 1. At the heart of the participation - skills development nexus in EU workplaces Chair: Giulia Santangelo, <i>Cedefop</i> Presentations: • Giovanni Russo, <i>Cedefop</i>, Motivating upskilling in EU workplaces: findings from the Cedefop's European Training and Learning Survey (ETLS) • Lidia Salvatore, <i>Cedefop</i>, Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET) foresight scenarios: reframing skills and VET policies
16.15 – 16.45	Coffee break and group photo
16.45 – 18.00 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 2. Experts' panel discussion Navigating the future of VET and skills development systems Moderators: Lidia Salvatore and Jasper van Loo, <i>Cedefop</i> <i>Cross-industry social partners:</i> • Agnes Roman, <i>European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)</i> • Carlo Frising, <i>Chambre des salariés Luxembourg (CSL)</i> • Christos Ioannou, <i>Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)</i> • Vasilis Siomadis, <i>EVTA / VET Centre of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals Craftsmen and Merchants (KEK GSEVEE)</i> <i>Governments:</i> • Marinos Stavrou, <i>Cypriot Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance / Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus</i> • Kevin Marshall, <i>Irish Government's National Skills Council / Learning & Skills, Microsoft Ireland</i>
18.30 – 21.00 <i>Cedefop premises</i>	Social Dinner



DAY 2 – 30 June 2026 (all times are EET)

09.00 – 09.30	Participant arrival and registration
09.30 – 10.30 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 3. Technology and productivity Chair: Ralph Hippe, <i>Cedefop</i> Presentations: - Nathalie Greenan, <i>Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM) and Centre d'Etudes de l'Emploi et du Travail (CEET)</i>, New technologies and the learning organisation - Valeria Cirillo, <i>University of Bari</i>, Technological adoption and productivity
10.30 – 11.00 <i>Parallel sessions</i>	Session 4. Skills development in EU workplaces
<i>Breakout 1</i> <i>Europa room</i>	Competitiveness and future skills demand Moderator: Giulia Santangelo, <i>Cedefop</i> Pier Paolo Angelini, <i>Cedefop</i>, Evidence from Skills forecast scenario
<i>Breakout 2</i> <i>Montessori room</i>	Technological change, job tasks, and upskilling of European workers Moderator: Ilias Livanos, <i>Cedefop</i> Konstantinos Pouliakas, <i>Cedefop</i>, Evidence from European Skills and Jobs Survey (ESJS)
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.00 <i>Parallel sessions</i> <i>(various locations)</i>	Session 4. Group Discussion
12.00 – 13.00 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 5. A new competitiveness paradigm Chair: Giovanni Russo, <i>Cedefop</i> Presentations: - Diana Ognyanova, <i>European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)</i>, Industry 5.0 - Steven Dhondt, <i>University of Leuven / TNO</i>, Learning in Industry 5.0



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13.00 – 14.15	Lunch Break
14.15 – 15.15 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 6. Skills development and leadership Chair: Ralph Hippe, <i>Cedefop</i> Presentations: • Evangelia Demerouti, <i>Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e)</i>, Motivating adult learning in workplaces • Simon Beausaert, <i>Maastricht University</i>, Organisational support for learning in EU workplaces
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee break
15.45. – 16.45 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 7. Good jobs for a competitive Europe Chair: Giulia Santangelo, <i>Cedefop</i> Presentations: • Chris Warhurst, <i>University of Warwick</i>, Building a business case for good jobs • Sotiria Theodoropoulou, <i>European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)</i>, Benchmarking working Europe 2025
16.45 –17.00 <i>Europa room</i>	Session 8. Taking stock of plenary and breakout discussions Jasper van Loo, <i>Cedefop</i> Closing remarks Mara Brugia, <i>Deputy Director, Cedefop</i>

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