

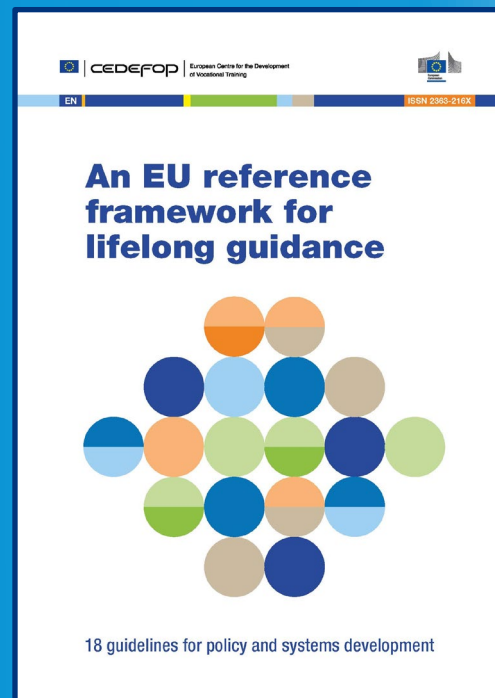


CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

An EU Reference Framework for Lifelong Guidance

Overview and key
messages for the guidance
community (Serbia)



Cedefop hybrid Forum: 12-13 May 2026

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events/launching-new-lifelong-guidance-framework>

- Session notes
- Slides



Council Resolution Better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies (2008)

Lifelong guidance is understood in the EU as a continuous process that enables individuals at any age and at any point in their lives to identify their capacities, competences, and interests, to make educational, training, and occupational decisions, and to manage their individual life paths in learning, work, and other settings in which those capacities and competences are learned and/or used.

EU Framework for lifelong guidance

Why Europe needs a framework and guidelines



Context

- Strategic context and drivers
- Guidance system development, advances and innovation forward-looking
- Multifaceted cooperation and integration, accumulated experiences
- Uneven implementation, underinvestment; new policy impetus



Relevance

- Quality and consistency of career learning
- Reference frame to identify new and persistent challenges in specific policy fields
- Continuous improvement for self-review, dialogue, inspiration, data collection
- MS+ can respond to common challenges, strengthen cooperation, professionalism

Collegial development process

**2015 ELGPN
guidelines**

The foundation

**EU policy frame
& DG EMPL
support**

Informed and strengthened by

**Cedefop's
Inventory &
evidence base**

Content considered

**Council
Resolutions
2004/2008**

Policy mandate

**INVESTING
IN CAREER
GUIDANCE**

Joint statement of the Interagency Working Group on
Career Guidance



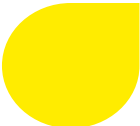
**CareersNet
experts &
other contributors**

Harnessing collaboration



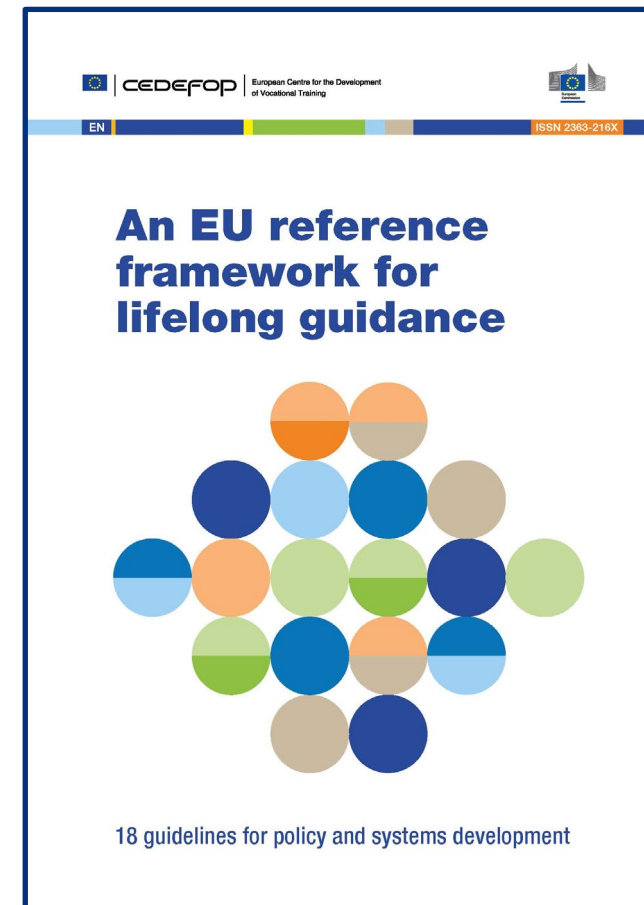
Guideline contents

Each of the 18 guidelines has the same four-part structure

-  Definition
-  Why it is important
-  Good practice (policies and systems)
-  Resources for policy makers

Framework-level elements

- ✓ Introduction with **operational principles** and EU policy context
- ✓ Footnotes for technical terms
- ✓ Working glossary of terms used
- ✓ Cross-references



Intended for

Policymaking across education and training, labour market, youth and social sectors/fields (and beyond)

Useful and relevant for

Social partners

Civil society

Lifelong guidance service providers (also career education developers)

Career practitioners

Research, cooperation and evidence collection (Cedefop, etc.)

General public, service users, and beyond



Transversal guidelines 1–9

Common policy areas

1

**Career
management
skills**

2

**Access to lifelong
guidance**

3

**Quality
assurance**

4

**Evidence-based
systems**

5

**Governance and
leadership**

6

**Career
information**

7

Professionalism

8

Funding

9

**ICT in lifelong
guidance**

- ✓ Common policy areas that shape lifelong guidance policy and systems across the EU+
- ✓ Considered essential for the quality, continuous development of guidance policies and systems.
- ✓ Apply across all sectors and intersect with each sectoral guideline through cross-references and good-practice grouping in the publication.

Sectoral guidelines 10–16

Lifelong guidance for specific user groups



- ✓ Specific to defined user groups across education, training, the labour market and informal contexts.
- ✓ Considered essential for tailoring common policy areas to each user group's life stage, context and needs.
- ✓ Apply to a defined population — and intersect with each transversal guideline through cross-references and good-practice grouping.
- ✓ *Not all user groups and unique needs can be predicted in advance.*

Social inclusion dimension

- ✓ Considered essential for ensuring guidance contributes to **integration and equity policy aims** for people of various ages and circumstances.
- ✓ **Cross-cutting** - found in the whole framework, woven through every transversal area and every sector, rather than treated as a separate sector.
- ✓ *Universal coverage encouraged populations and user profiles vary by country and cannot all be predicted in advance.*

17 Young people at risk

Targeted measures to engage and retain those at risk of disengagement, dropout or NEET status, and to prevent early labour-market disadvantage.

Includes early-leaving prevention, second-chance routes, outreach via youth services and reinforced Youth Guarantee partners.

18 Vulnerable groups

Inclusive guidance for individuals facing structural disadvantage — across age, ability, migration status, gender, socio-economic and other dimensions.

Universal design, comparable standards, and equitable access — to prevent disparities in decentralised or market-based systems.

Framework for **lifelong guidance**



Summary: Importance for lifelong guidance systems and policy development – adaptable to local contexts

Toward common language, policy to technical (translations needed)

Stress cross-sectoral aspect and call for embeddedness

Makes lifelong guidance visible, tool to help clarify expectations

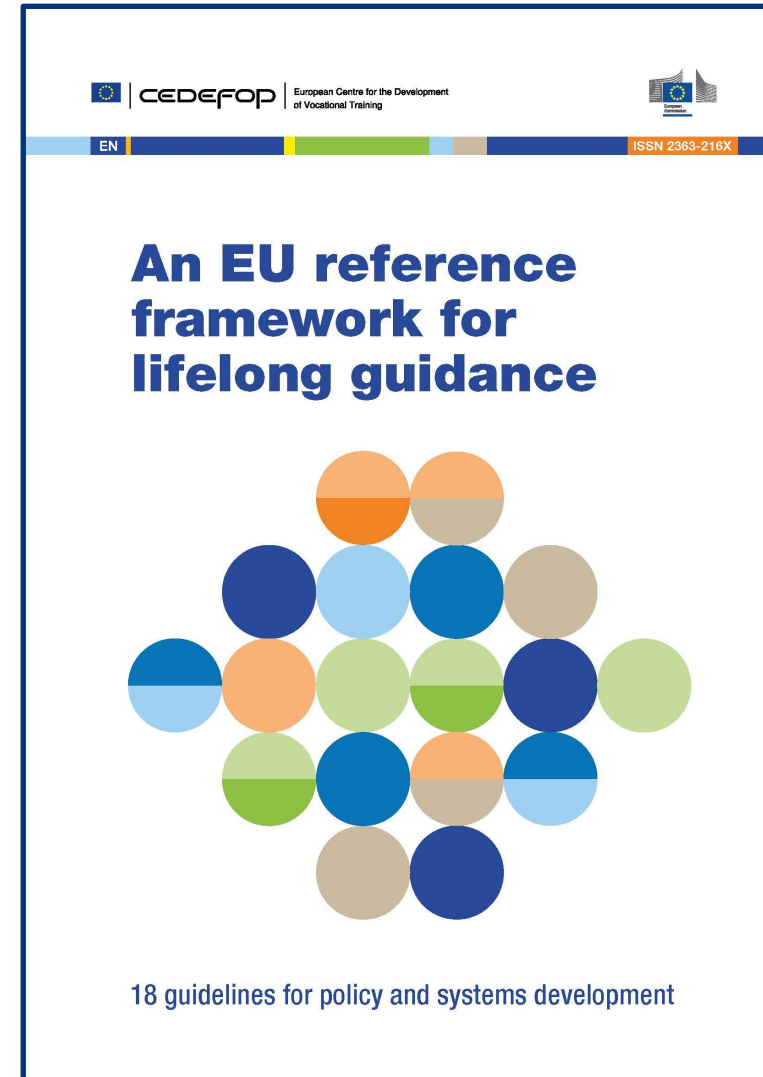
Advocacy to boost practitioners' profession, need for CPD

Shows complexity, expertise, research, (guidance is not only information, CVs, job and training)

Provides cross-cutting principles for different levels

Find the publication

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/3098>



Questions, suggestions
or comments?

Cynthia.Harrison-Villalba@cedefop.europa.eu

Thank you

www.cedefop.europa.eu

Follow us on social media



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training