



2023/2143(DEC)

5.2.2024

OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Budgetary Control

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European
Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)
(2023/2143(DEC))

Rapporteur for opinion: Romana Tomc

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgetary Control, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- having regard to the European Court of Auditors' Annual report on the implementation of the EU budget for the 2022 financial year;
 - having regard to the European Court of Auditors' Annual report on EU agencies for the financial year 2022;
 - having regard to Cedefop' Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) 2022;
1. Expresses its satisfaction that the European Court of Auditors (the 'Court') has declared the transactions underlying the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) annual accounts for the financial year 2022 to be legal and regular and that its financial position as at 31 December 2022 is fairly represented;
 2. Welcomes that the budget of the Cedefop for the financial year 2022 increased up to EUR 26 million (25 million in 2021) ¹; expresses its satisfaction that the Cedefop utilised essentially all of its available funding with an overall budget implementation rate of 99,98%;
 3. Appreciates the Cedefop's activities and high-quality work, providing research, analyses and technical advice and expertise in vocational education and training (VET), qualifications and skills policies with the aim of promoting high-quality training tailored to the needs of individuals and of the labour market; highlights the need to keep ensuring adequate human and financial resources allowing the Centre to fulfill its mandate and continue implementing its work programme with a high activity completion rate;
 4. Welcomes the Centre's work in helping to analyse the impact of the pandemic and digital transition on adapting business practices to the new realities in the Union labour market through e.g. the COVID-19 European Company Survey in conjunction with Eurofound; moreover, welcomes the Centre's role in compiling and disseminating research on skills mismatches; highlights, in this regard, the Centre's sectoral skills foresight exercises, thus a forward-looking approach to understand which are the skill profiles that are needed for the twin transition;
 5. Recalls the importance of the Centre's role in ensuring digital skills are integrated into VET across the Union and monitoring the implementation and impact of the Council Recommendations on the Skills Agenda for Europe, vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience and the Digital Education Action Plan;

¹ These budget figures were taken from the ECA's Annual report on EU agencies for the financial year 2022 and are based on the total payment appropriations available during the financial year.

6. Notes the fact that due to the high inflation rates, and the related salary adjustment, salary increases above the initial projections coupled with an increase of the weighting factor, the flexibility for securing additional resources to the core business was limited;
7. Congratulates Cedefop for its commitment to the European Year of Youth and for successfully co-leading with Eurofound the 5-Agency event ‘Youth first! Employment, skills and social policies that work for young Europeans in times of uncertainty’, hosted by the European Parliament in September 2022; appreciates that the event was an additional opportunity to discuss youth policies as well as opportunities and challenges young people are facing, in terms of employment, working conditions, wellbeing and mental health;
8. Regrets the fact that the Court found irregularities related to the payment of daily subsistence allowances made by Cedefop to two seconded national experts (SNEs) employed by it; acknowledges the fact that Cedefop identified and documented such irregularities in the registry of non-compliance and rectified the situation based on external legal advice; welcomes the Centre’s aim to amend its rules to make it possible for any SNE that has to change their place of living and relocate to Thessaloniki to be eligible to receive allowances, as this would also ensure equal treatment of SNEs independently of their nationality;
9. Regrets that the Court found observations on budgetary management, particularly that the contribution calculation method was not correctly applied and calls on the Cedefop to improve its internal procedures in this regard;
10. Commends Cedefop for having established a corporate plan to improve energy efficiency and climate neutrality of its operations;
11. Welcomes the fact that the Cedefop has completed all actions taken to the Court’s observations related to the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2021;
12. Recommends, on the basis of the facts available, that discharge be granted to the Executive Director of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in respect of the implementation of the Cedefop’s budget for the financial year 2022.

**ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS
FROM WHOM THE RAPPOREUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT**

The rapporteur declares under her exclusive responsibility that she did not receive input from any entity or person to be mentioned in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	11.1.2024
Result of final vote	+: 36 -: 1 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	João Albuquerque, Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Dominique Bilde, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Milan Brglez, Jordi Cañas, David Casa, Leila Chaibi, Ilan De Basso, Jarosław Duda, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Cindy Franssen, Chiara Gemma, Helmut Geuking, Elisabetta Gualmini, Agnes Jongerius, Radan Kanev, Ádám Kósa, Katrin Langensiepen, Elena Lizzi, Sara Matthieu, Jozef Mihál, Max Orville, Dennis Radtke, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Mounir Satouri, Monica Semedo, Eugen Tomac, Romana Tomc, Nikolaj Villumsen, Maria Walsh
Substitutes present for the final vote	Catherine Amalric, Romeo Franz, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, José Gusmão
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Maria Noichl, Carina Ohlsson, Vera Tax

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

36	+
ECR	Chiara Gemma
NI	Ádám Kósa
PPE	David Casa, Jarosław Duda, Cindy Franssen, Helmut Geuking, Radan Kanev, Dennis Radtke, Eugen Tomac, Romana Tomc, Maria Walsh
Renew	Atidzhe Alieva-Veli, Catherine Amalric, Jordi Cañas, Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, Jozef Mihál, Max Orville, Monica Semedo
S&D	João Albuquerque, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Milan Brglez, Ilan De Basso, Estrella Durá Ferrandis, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Elisabetta Gualmini, Agnes Jongerius, Maria Noichl, Carina Ohlsson, Vera Tax
The Left	Leila Chaibi, José Gusmão, Nikolaj Villumsen
Verts/ALE	Romeo Franz, Katrin Langensiepen, Sara Matthieu, Mounir Satouri

1	-
ID	Dominique Bilde

2	0
ID	Elena Lizzi, Antonio Maria Rinaldi

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention