

Table of contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Foreword..... | 1 |
| List of tables, figures and boxes | 6 |
| Executive summary | 8 |
| 1. Introduction | 18 |
| 1.1. The consequences of leaving education early..... | 18 |
| 1.2. The size of the problem in Europe..... | 20 |
| 1.3. The role of VET | 21 |
| 1.3.1. Why is monitoring ELET is important? | 21 |
| 1.3.2. What to monitor? | 23 |
| 2. Research scope and methodology | 25 |
| 3. Understanding and monitoring early leaving | 27 |
| 3.1. EU definition and its limitations..... | 27 |
| 3.1.1. Single definition, different phenomena..... | 29 |
| 3.1.2. Differentiating early leaving and dropping out..... | 30 |
| 3.1.3. Capturing where young people drop out from | 32 |
| 3.1.4. Refining the EU indicator | 32 |
| 3.1.5. LFS data set limitations | 33 |
| 3.2. National definitions and monitoring systems..... | 34 |
| 3.2.1. EU versus national definitions | 34 |
| 3.2.2. Country-specific ELVET data..... | 36 |
| 3.2.3. Data use to inform policy-making..... | 37 |
| 3.2.4. User perspectives..... | 42 |
| 3.2.5. Challenges in ELVET data collection | 44 |
| 3.2.6. Suggestions for improvements | 46 |
| 4. The extent of early leaving from VET..... | 47 |
| 4.1. Identifying different early leavers..... | 47 |
| 4.2. Measuring early leavers versus dropouts | 49 |
| 4.3. Measuring ELVET | 51 |
| 4.3.1. Characteristics of VET learners | 53 |
| 4.3.2. Share of early leavers and types of VET programme..... | 61 |
| 4.3.3. Early leaver differences by field of study and profession..... | 65 |
| 4.4. VET as prevention and safety net | 67 |
| 4.4.1. Attractiveness of VET | 71 |
| 4.4.2. Motivational role of work-based learning..... | 72 |
| 4.5. VET as remedy | 74 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5.2.3. Analysing data according to target groups | 112 |
| 5.2.4. Assessing change and impact..... | 113 |
| 5.3. Conditions for policy mainstreaming and learning..... | 114 |
| 5.3.1. Conditions for mainstreaming measures within the country | 114 |
| 5.3.2. Transferability of measures across countries | 122 |
| 6. Conclusions and policy messages..... | 124 |
| 6.1. Strengthening VET policy commitment to combat ELET..... | 124 |
| 6.2. Targeting activities and combining measures for success | 126 |
| 6.3. Evaluating progress to inform policy-making | 127 |
| 6.4. Measuring policy impact and setting improvement priorities | 129 |
| 6.5. Mobilising European funds and programmes..... | 131 |
| List of abbreviations | 134 |
| Bibliography | 136 |
| Webliography | 141 |
| ANNEX . Reviewed evaluations and main results | 142 |

Table of contents

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Foreword | 1 |
| Acknowledgements | 3 |
| Table of contents..... | 4 |
| Executive summary | 9 |
| 1. Introduction | 20 |
| 1.1. VET in national and EU early leaving policy | 21 |
| 1.2. VET's multiple roles in early leaving policy | 25 |
| 2. Research scope and methodology | 28 |
| 3. VET policies to address early leaving | 31 |
| 3.1. Preventive measures..... | 32 |
| 3.2. Intervention measures..... | 44 |
| 3.3. Compensatory measures | 51 |
| 4. Key features of effective policies | 56 |
| 4.1. Succesful measures analysed | 56 |
| 4.2. Critical success features..... | 60 |
| 4.2.1. Key features of successful prevention measures | 64 |
| 4.2.2. Key features of successful intervention measures..... | 70 |
| 4.2.3. Key features of successful compensation measures | 75 |
| 4.3. Other critical success factors..... | 80 |
| 4.3.1. Identification and recruitment of learners..... | 80 |
| 4.3.2. Developing trustful and long-term relationships with learners..... | 85 |
| 4.3.3. Coordination with other measures and resource pooling..... | 85 |
| 4.3.4. Relationships between education/training providers and companies | 86 |
| 4.3.5. Changing mindset of education and training professionals..... | 87 |
| 4.3.6. Political commitment and sustainable funding | 88 |
| 5. Policy impact: evaluating VET measures..... | 90 |
| 5.1. Theoretical framework: what should be evaluated..... | 91 |
| 5.1.1. Examples of intervention logics..... | 97 |
| 5.1.2. Developing intervention logics..... | 106 |
| 5.1.3. Analysing results and judgements..... | 107 |
| 5.2. What is being evaluated? | 108 |
| 5.2.1. Main evaluation focus | 109 |
| 5.2.2. The evidence used..... | 112 |

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5. | Factors influencing early leaving from VET..... | 80 |
| 5.1. | Typologies of early leavers or those at risk..... | 80 |
| 5.2. | The individual and family background | 83 |
| 5.2.1. | Family engagement and support | 84 |
| 5.2.2. | Health and well-being | 85 |
| 5.2.3. | Gender | 86 |
| 5.2.4. | Migrant or ethnic minority background..... | 88 |
| 5.3. | Education and training organisation factors..... | 90 |
| 5.3.1. | Overall education achievement | 92 |
| 5.3.2. | Differentiation and track selection..... | 93 |
| 5.3.3. | Student orientation | 95 |
| 5.3.4. | Perception of the profession | 97 |
| 5.3.5. | Student self-perception linked to VET image | 98 |
| 5.3.6. | Programme content and organisation | 99 |
| 5.3.7. | Professional identity | 101 |
| 5.3.8. | Apprenticeship and other in-company training | 102 |
| 5.4. | Labour market factors | 105 |
| 5.4.1. | Attraction of the labour market..... | 106 |
| 5.4.2. | Employment outcomes of VET graduates..... | 107 |
| 5.4.3. | Labour market regulations | 108 |
| 5.4.4. | Working conditions | 109 |
| 5.4.5. | Overall economic context | 111 |
| 6. | Conclusions and policy messages..... | 113 |
| 6.1. | Refining the EU indicator on ELET to support targeted decision making at country level..... | 113 |
| 6.2. | Developing more extensive national systems to be able to monitor ELVET..... | 117 |
| 6.3. | Collecting and analysing qualitative data on the causes of ELVET to inform policies and measures..... | 120 |
| | List of abbreviations | 123 |
| | Country abbreviations | 125 |
| | Bibliography | 126 |
| | Webliography | 136 |