

The background is a collage of images. The top left shows a modern building with a glass facade and a person's head in the foreground. The top right shows a multi-story building with a grid-like facade. The bottom left shows a person's legs and feet walking on a ledge. The bottom right shows a person sitting on a ledge, looking down at a red bag. The overall color scheme is blue and yellow.

Refugee skills and labour market needs: How matching can support lawful adult refugee mobility

Ioannis Katsikis, Ramona David

Experts, Dept. for Learning and Employability, Cedefop

Agenda

Introduction

Review the rationale and concept(s) of complementary pathways

- Humanitarian protection vs labour mobility
- Skill-based complementary pathway to protection

Cedefop's work on complementary pathways

- Project aims and structure
- Design and steps
- Deliverables

Summary and discussion

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - Cedefop

- Decentralised EU agency
- Based in Thessaloniki, Greece
- Supports development of European vocational education and training (VET) policies and contributes to their implementation.
- Dpt. for Learning and Employability
- Dpt. for Skills and Labour Market
- Dpt. for VET Systems and Institutions
- www.cedefop.europa.eu/



Humanitarian protection vs labour mobility

Past examples	
<p>Matching skill of refugees with labour market demand was a key to address displacement in the after WWII period</p>	<p><i>IRO was tasked with “refugee problem” and in view of lacking prospects for return or local integration, resettled refugees according to needed skill in Europe, Australia and North + South America (Karatani 2005)</i></p>
Present debates	
<p>Global Compact on Refugees</p>	<p>recital 95 on Complementary Pathways for Admission: “Contributions will be sought from States (...) to facilitate (...) labour mobility opportunities for refugees, including through the identification of refugees with skills that are needed in third countries”</p>
<p>EU reference Towards a Reform of the Common European Asylum System</p>	<p>“making existing regular admission schemes for general categories such as students, researchers or workers, more accessible to refugees, (...)”</p>



Cedefop's work on complementary pathways

- **Aim:** create labour mobility opportunities for refugees to legally move from first asylum countries to other countries based on their skills and the labour market needs in latter countries
- **Central element:** matching skills and the labour market needs
- **Starting point for admission:** specific labour market needs (skill-demand approach)
- **Framework of implementation:** country level
- **Advisory group:** European social partners, representatives of international organizations, (UNHCR, IOM) and experts from the academia
- **Collaboration** with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

Benefits

1. **Countries** using skill-based complementary pathways will be meeting existing and future skill gaps and also help address a pressing need for fairly shared responsibility,
2. **Refugees** would be offered safe and lawful pathways to protection, and opportunities to realise their potential and expand their skill.

What is a VET, skill & qualifications based pathway mechanism?

An opportunity based pathway for legal mobility for persons in need of international protection

- **Focus is on enabling refugees to take up opportunities**
- **Meeting protection needs nevertheless central, but not the core rationale of the mechanism.**

Based on employment opportunities and opportunities for (professional) training

Requires

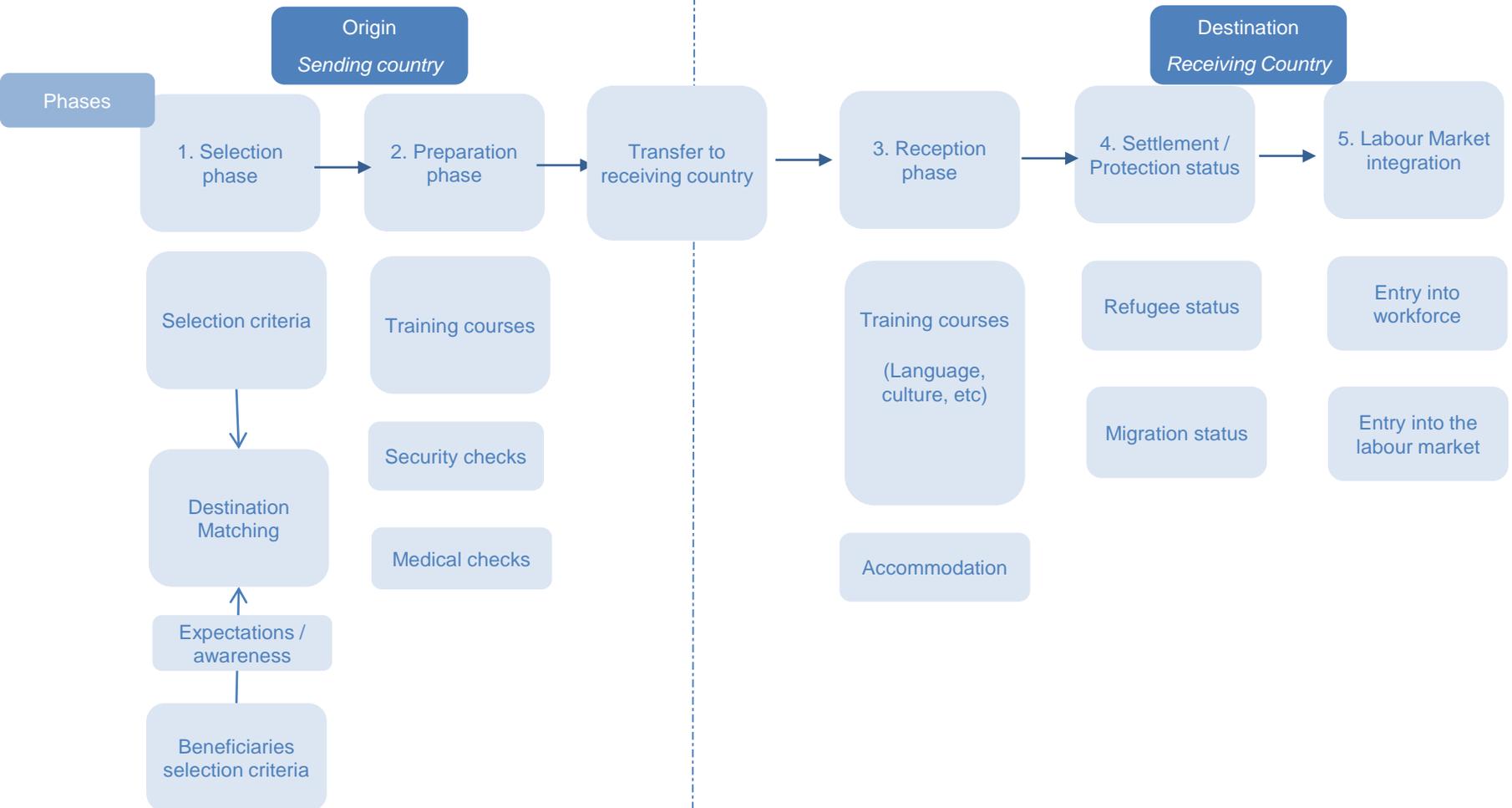
- Identification of relevant **legal admission channels** allowing such mobility and getting support from relevant national authorities and other stakeholders
- Identification of a **cooperation framework**
- Developing **instruments and accompanying measures** to implement such a scheme
- Identifying **resources** needed

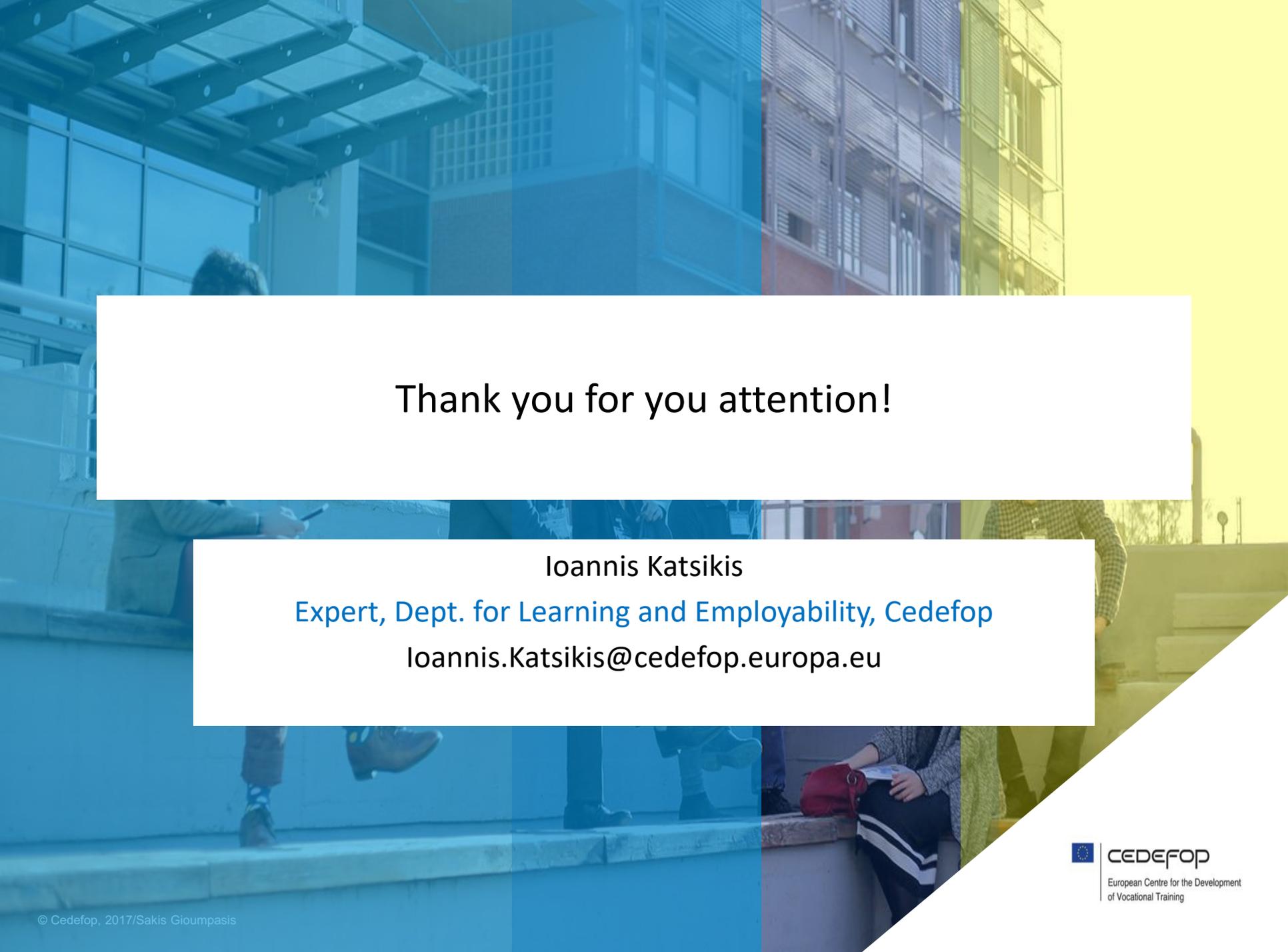


The steps of the project

- Step 1: Creating a conceptual framework
 - A theoretical and legal framework
 - 4 country reports on **complementary pathways**: Canada, Norway, Germany, The Netherlands
 - 8 Case studies from **EU relocation countries**: Greece, Italy, Ireland, Finland, The Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Portugal
- Step 2: Testing the conceptual framework in a number of European countries
 - Country visits and fieldwork in Sweden, The Netherlands, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Greece. Interest from Finland.
- Step 3: Piloting the pathway
 - Greece - Portugal

The mechanism unveiled





Thank you for you attention!

Ioannis Katsikis

Expert, Dept. for Learning and Employability, Cedefop

Ioannis.Katsikis@cedefop.europa.eu