

## DIGEST 4

# DO WE NEED A GLOSSARY?

The different terminology used when talking about Vocational Education and the applied innovation and research (AIR) activities these providers engage in, could lead to misunderstandings and discussion. In the process of mapping the AIR related activities carried out by Vocational Education providers, the first step was to create a common understanding of the terms we use for defining these activities. The AIRinVET glossary is a document created to establish a shared common understanding of the terms used. It aims to facilitate comparison and understanding between organisations.

For the definitions, whenever it was possible, we followed official sources. We followed OECD's standards for most of the terms related to Research and Innovation (R&I), and Cedefop for the terms related to VET. When neither gave an answer, we looked at other sources or propose a definition ourselves. We decided to use existing sources and avoided proposing definitions of our own because we are aware that we are not inventing new words but exploring the potential of extending their use to VET. In addition, we aim to engage with other international organizations and projects, so we try to move away from terms that can only be understood in the small circle of the partners of our project.

Our glossary aims at defining:

- The actors that can be involved in an innovation system: for instance, VET centres, Higher VET centres, Universities, Enterprises, SMEs, Clusters, Research organisations.

- The main R&I type of activities: basic research, applied research, experimental development, production, commercialization, innovation, or other.
- The main methods for conducting research: quantitative research, qualitative research, experimental research, or other.
- The main type of activities conducted in R&I: focus group meetings, prototyping, design, questionnaires, and so on.
- The main results of the activities: papers, books, prototypes, products, services, patents, and others.

The glossary is structured in two parts:

- brief historical reflection about science, applied science, technology, research, innovation, and other terms that wishes to explain two things:
  - Where the terms come from and why it might be worth defining them.
  - The changing nature of things.
- The glossary with the definitions of the main terms of the taxonomy. The terms are displayed in alphabetical order and for each term we provide:
  - Its definition.
  - The source of the definition.

Now it is ready for you to consult it! Access the [document](#) or the [online glossary](#)!