



# Centres of Vocational Excellence

*Skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion*

*27 January 2023*

**Joao SANTOS**

Senior expert  
European Commission,  
Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
Unit B3 - Vocational Education and Training

[joao.santos@ec.europa.eu](mailto:joao.santos@ec.europa.eu)



[linkedin.com/in/JoaoSantosEU](https://www.linkedin.com/in/JoaoSantosEU)



[@JoaoSantosEU](https://twitter.com/JoaoSantosEU)

[#EUVocationalExcellence](https://twitter.com/JoaoSantosEU)



**Info session**  
**Centres of Vocational Excellence 2023**

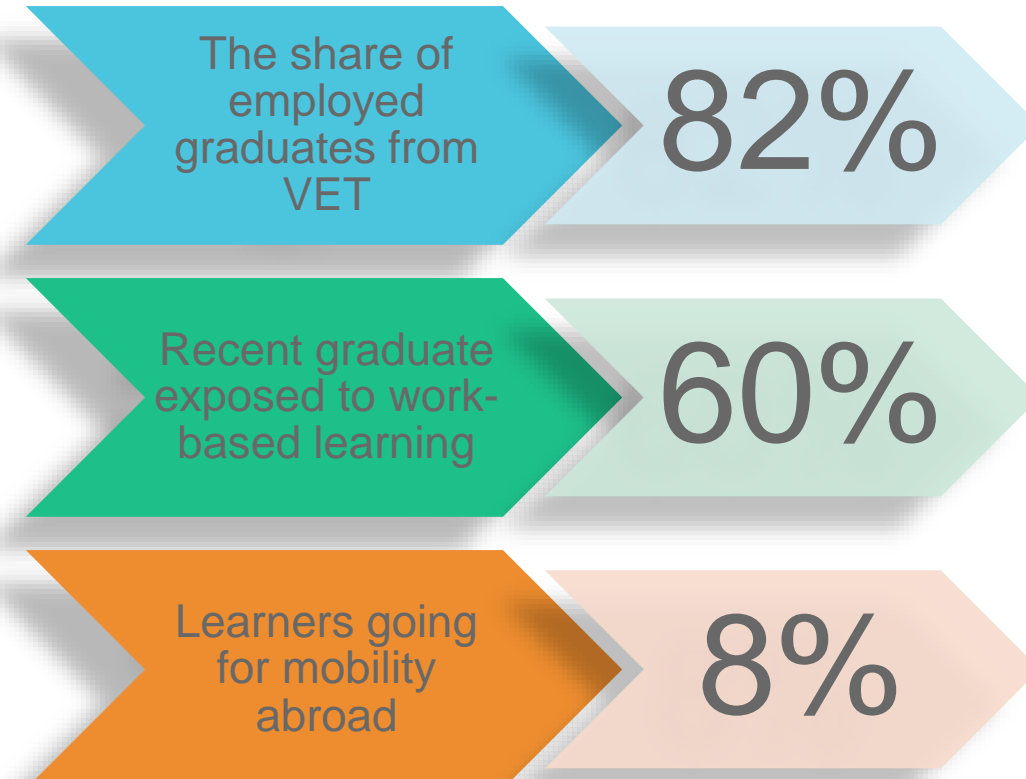
**Vocational education and training**



**Erasmus+**

Enriching lives, opening minds.

# 2020 Council Recommendation on VET



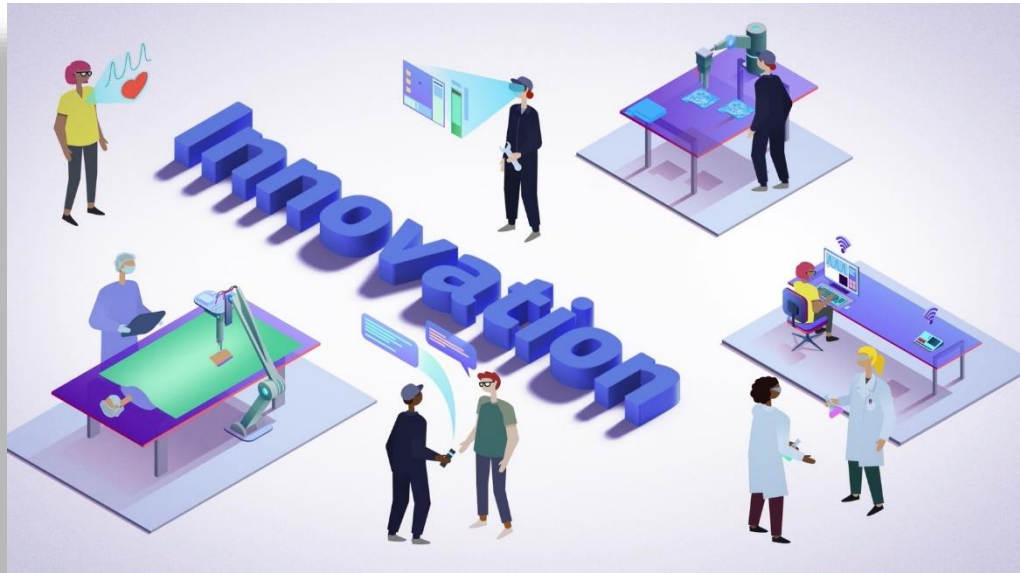


*Vocational education and training is more important than ever. Providing people with the skills they need and that help them find a quality job, is one of our central responses to the recover, and key for the green and digital transitions.*

*Our **initiatives on vocational excellence** will continue to be based on **innovation, transnational collaboration and social fairness.***

*Nicolas Schmit,  
Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights*

# Excellence in Vocational Education and Training



- **innovative** VET institutions
- **rapidly adapting** to economic and social needs (example: digital and green transitions)



- **strong local partnerships**
- contributing to **innovation, regional development, and social inclusion**

## Partners are...

- **Education and Training providers** VET institutions, Universities of applied science, Research centres
- **Business and Industry** Companies, Chambers, Professional or sector associations, Trade unions
- **Policy-makers** Employment services, Regional development agencies, Municipalities, Qualification authorities, and others

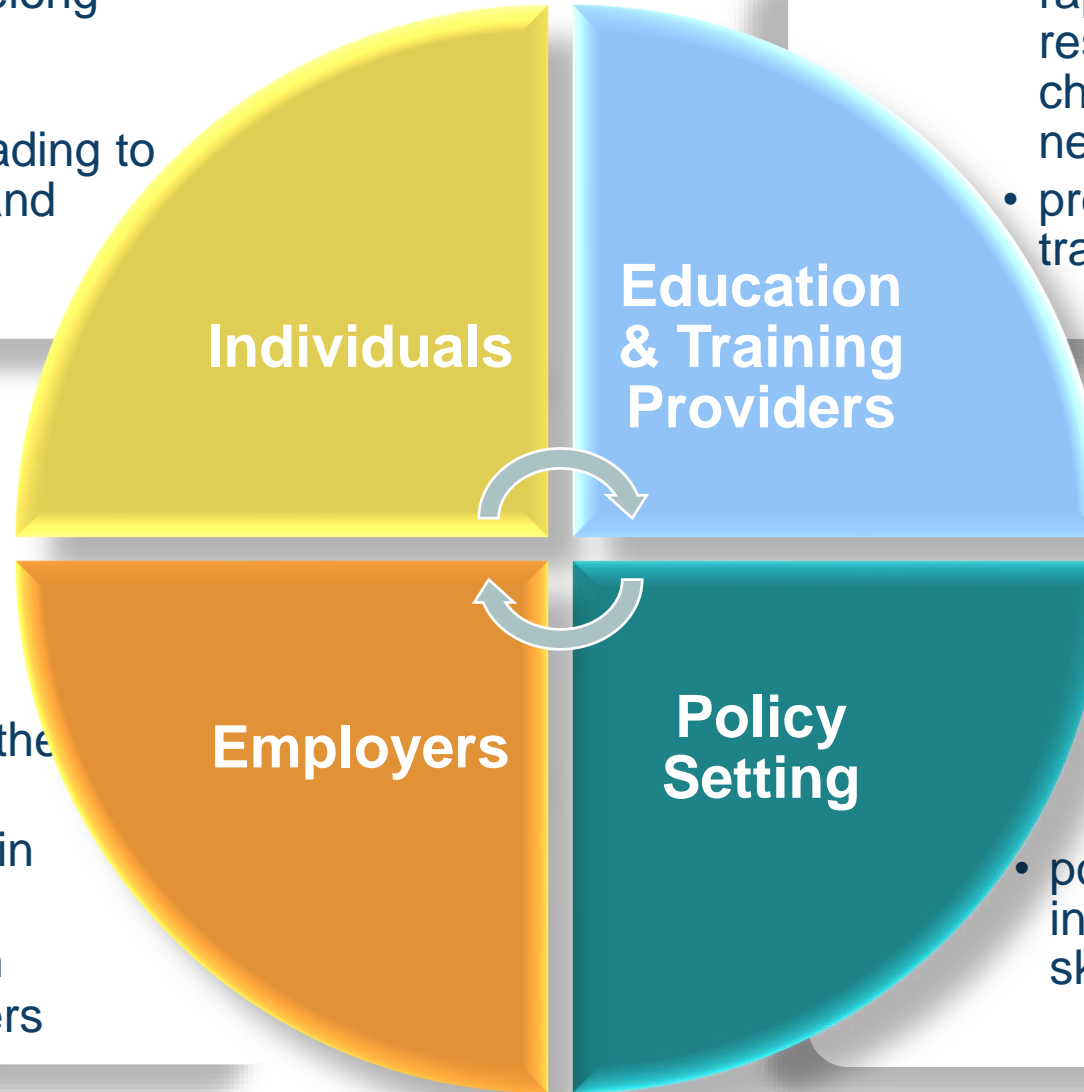


# Skills ecosystem



- engage in lifelong learning
- invest in their skills leading to quality jobs and career opportunities

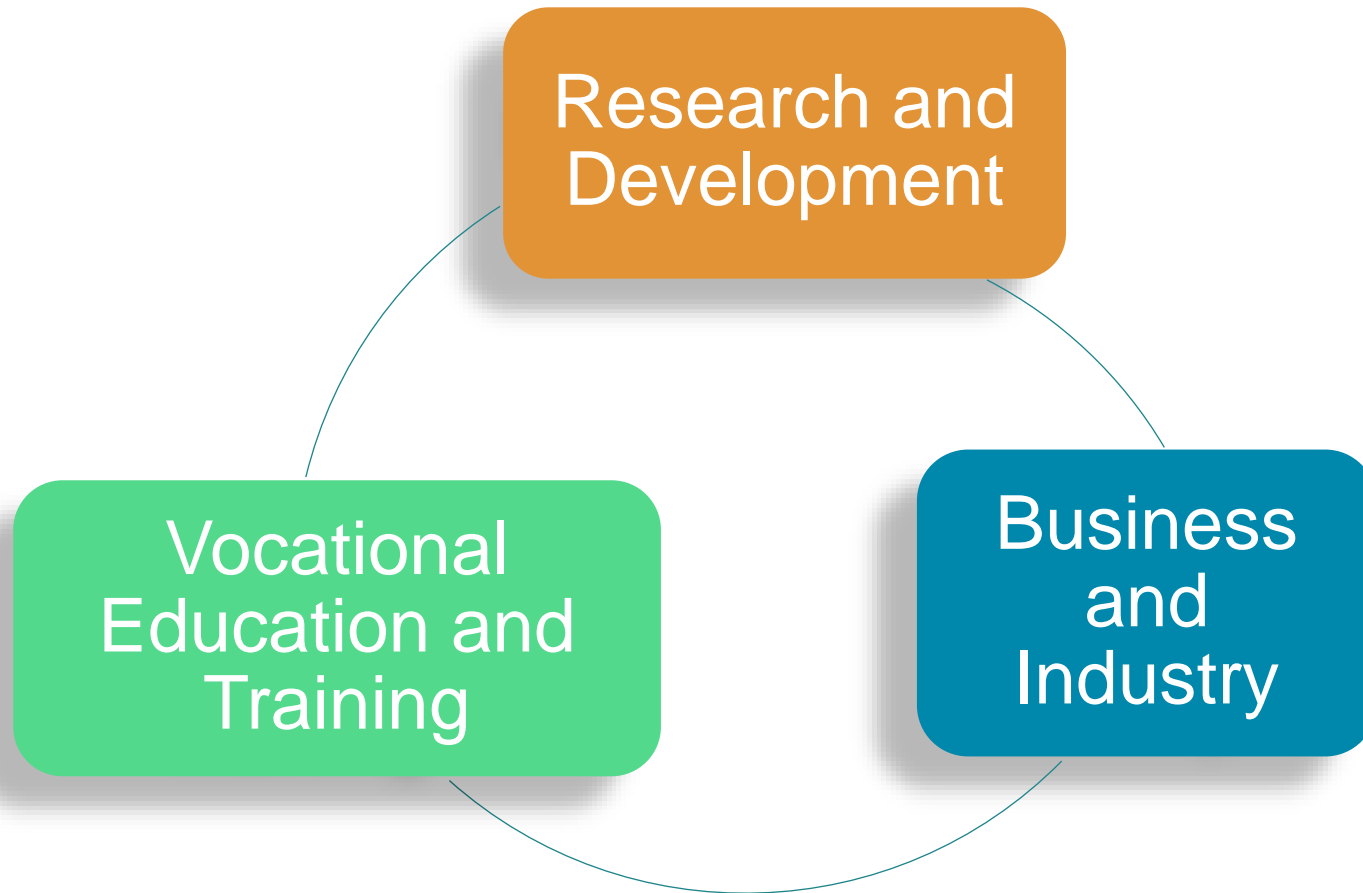
- understand the benefits of investing in skills
- Engage with VET providers



- rapidly responding to changing skills needs
- providing quality training

- policies, that include a clear skills dimension

# CoVEs play a pro-active role in innovation through applied research



***Knowledge Triangle***



# EU initiative Centres of Vocational Excellence

## Act local – think global

- international **collaborative** networks of CoVE in other countries
- **sharing** experience and know-how
- foster **mobility** of learners and staff





# National initiatives on Vocational Excellence are developing

**GOUVERNEMENT**  
Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité

## LES CAMPUS DES MÉTIERS ET DES QUALIFICATIONS D'EXCELLENCE

Hubs for vocational education and training excellence

The poster features a collage of images showing students in various vocational settings, including a classroom, a workshop, and a student working on a project.

France

**ZINTEGROWANY SYSTEM KWALIFIKACJI** Unia Europejska

ZSK W REGIONACH

aktualności O ZSK Twoja branża Baza Wiedzy Publikacje Materiały Narzędzia Rejestr Kwalifikacji

### Regionalne Centra ds. ZSK. Innowacyjne rozwiązania w regionach

Kwartalnik ZSK, Kwartalnik ZSK 1/2021

Zaangażowanie, profesjonalizm oraz umiejętne budowanie relacji partnerskich to główne cele Regionalnych Centrów Umiejętności. Liderzy ds. ZSK śledzą aktualne trendy w branżach i starają się zadbać o pracowników oraz biznes.

Poland

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

## INNOVET

Das ist InnoVET! Die Projekte Aktuelles Service

### Innovation und Transfer gestalten können

Nicht einzelne Genies schaffen Innovationen in der Berufsbildung – sondern Bildungspersonal, das in kreativen Gestaltungsprozessen zusammenarbeitet. Die InnoVET-Begleitforschung an der Universität Paderborn nimmt die InnoVET-Projekte unter die Lupe, um herauszufinden: Was braucht es für Innovation und Transfer? Und wie gelingen Innovationsprozesse?

Germany

## 6<sup>th</sup> Basque Vocational Education and Training Plan

**EUSKO JAURLARITZA** **GOBIERNO VASCO**

HEZKUNTZA SAILA  
Laribide Heziketako Sailburuordetza

DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACIÓN  
Viceconsejería de Formación Profesional

The Basque country, and more....

# Centres of Vocational Excellence

## Key success factors

- skills provision aligned with **strategic regional development**
- strong collaborative **partnerships**
- **comprehensive** set of Education and Training activities and services

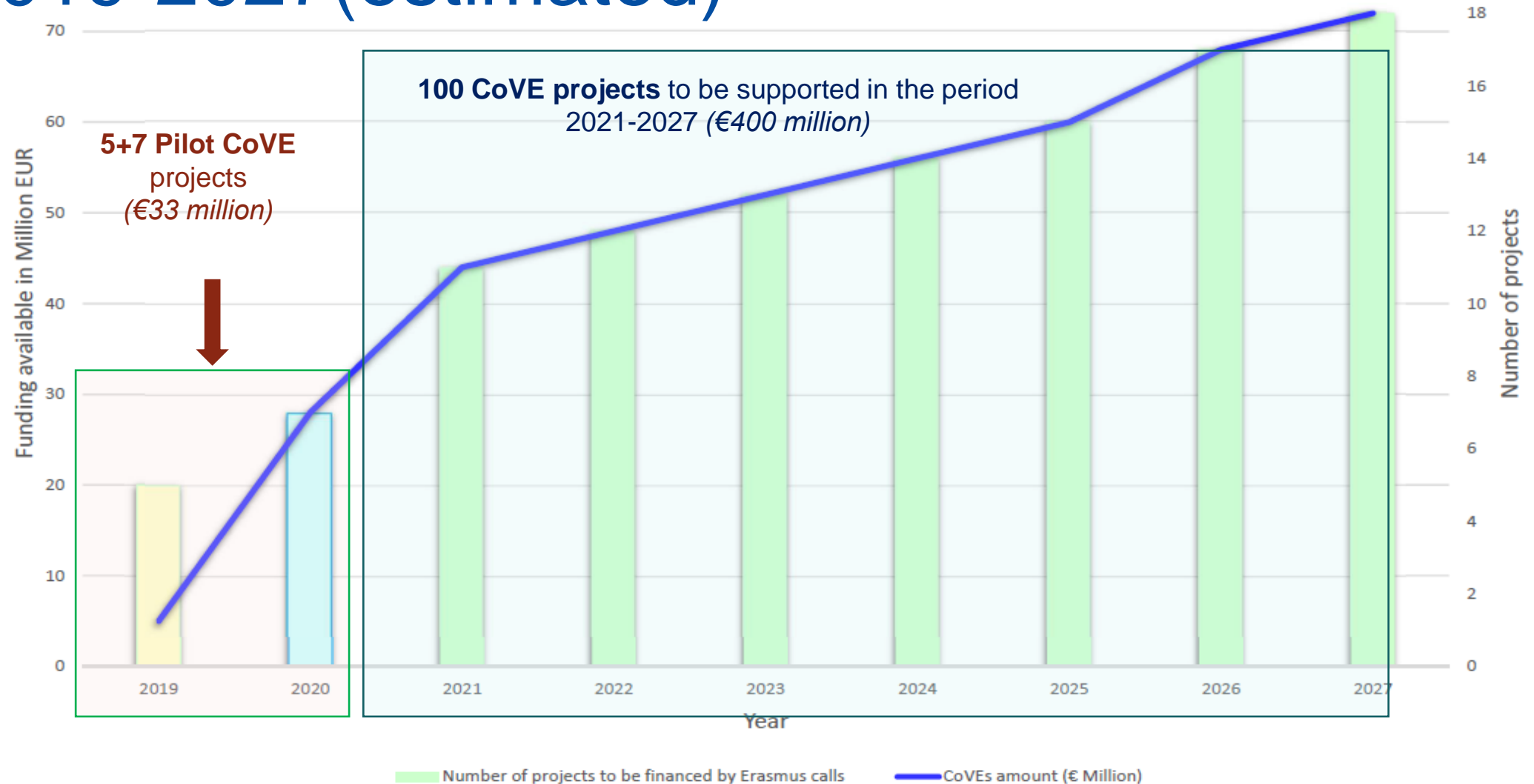


# EU Support for Centres of Vocational Excellence



- **Erasmus+ funding 2021-2027**  
€400 million for 100 CoVE networks
- **Technical support:** Build evidence, Facilitate networking, Tools & Guidelines...
- **20 ongoing projects, and 13 more to be announced in February 2023**

# Erasmus+ funding for the CoVE initiative 2019-2027 (estimated)



# Centres of Vocational Excellence: Selected projects

Erasmus+ 2020 pilot call (4 years duration)

Erasmus+ 2019 pilot call (2 years duration)



Advanced Manufacturing 4.0  
<https://examhub.eu/>



Water sector  
<https://povewater.eu/>



Cultural and creative industries  
<http://deuscci.eu/>



IoT in Smart manufacturing  
<https://talentjourney.si/>



Digital Innovation Hub  
<https://dihubcloud.eu/>



Microelectronics  
<https://ecovem.eu/>



Green Innovation  
<http://www.greenovet.eu/>



Inclusive excellence  
<https://www.thegiveproject.eu/>



Furniture and Wood  
<https://www.allview.eu/>



Innovation in the Green Economy  
<https://3-loe.eu/>



Finfish industry  
<http://www.bridges.eu/>



Urban Greening  
<https://www.platformurbangreening.eu/>

# Centres of Vocational Excellence: Selected projects

Erasmus+  
2021 call  
(4 years  
duration)



Offshore Renewable  
Energy <https://t-shore.eu>



Clean and sustainable energy  
<https://secove-project.eu>



Sustainable energy  
<https://www.seedeuproject.eu/>



Water sector  
<https://povewater.eu>



Sustainability for business  
transformation  
<https://projectcatalyst.eu>



Artificial Intelligence,  
Virtual reality, and Social  
innovation <https://eulep.eu>



Dairy agri-food  
<https://aedil.org>



Multifunctional Agriculture  
<https://agrinext-project.eu>



Advanced  
manufacturing  
<https://lcamp.eu>



Arts and Crafts  
<https://mosaiceuproject.eu>



Fashion, textiles and  
apparel industries  
<https://fea-vee.eu>

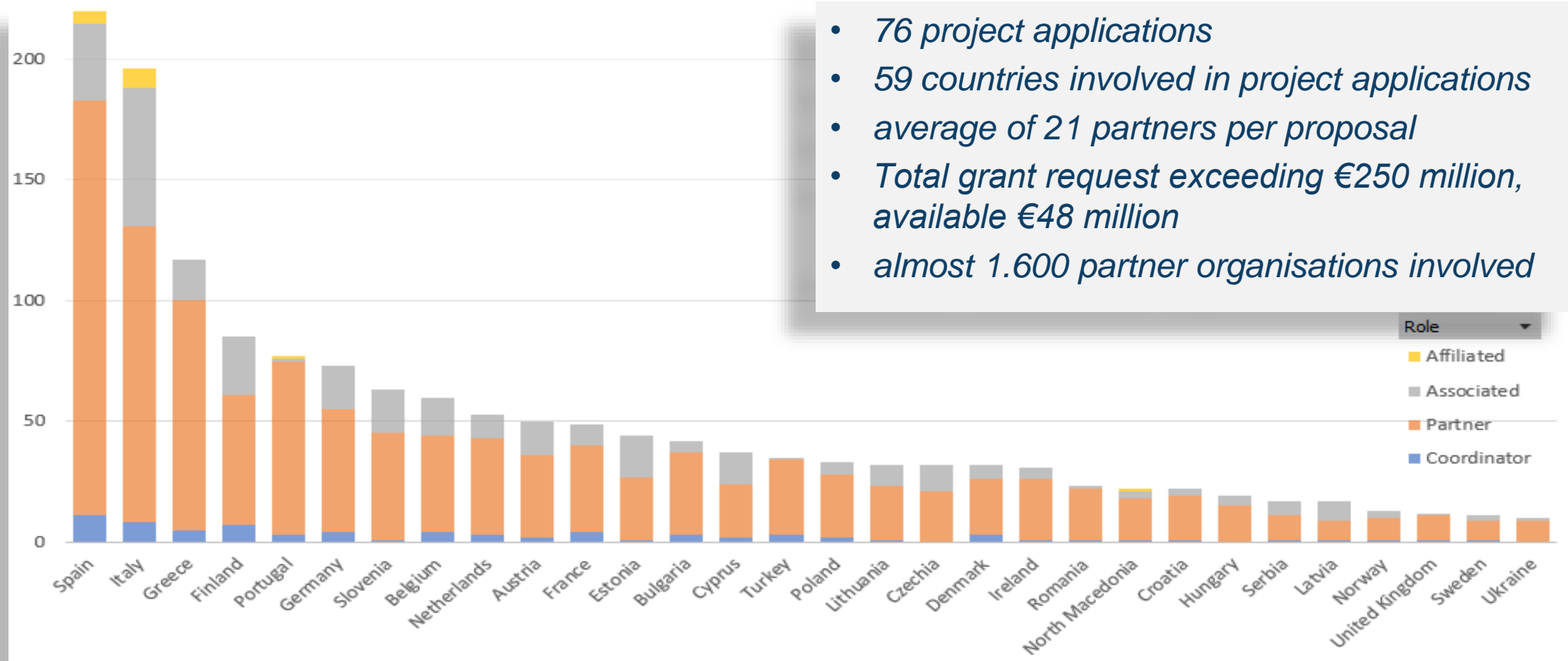


Health care  
<https://euveca.eu>



Tourism  
<https://tour-x.eu>

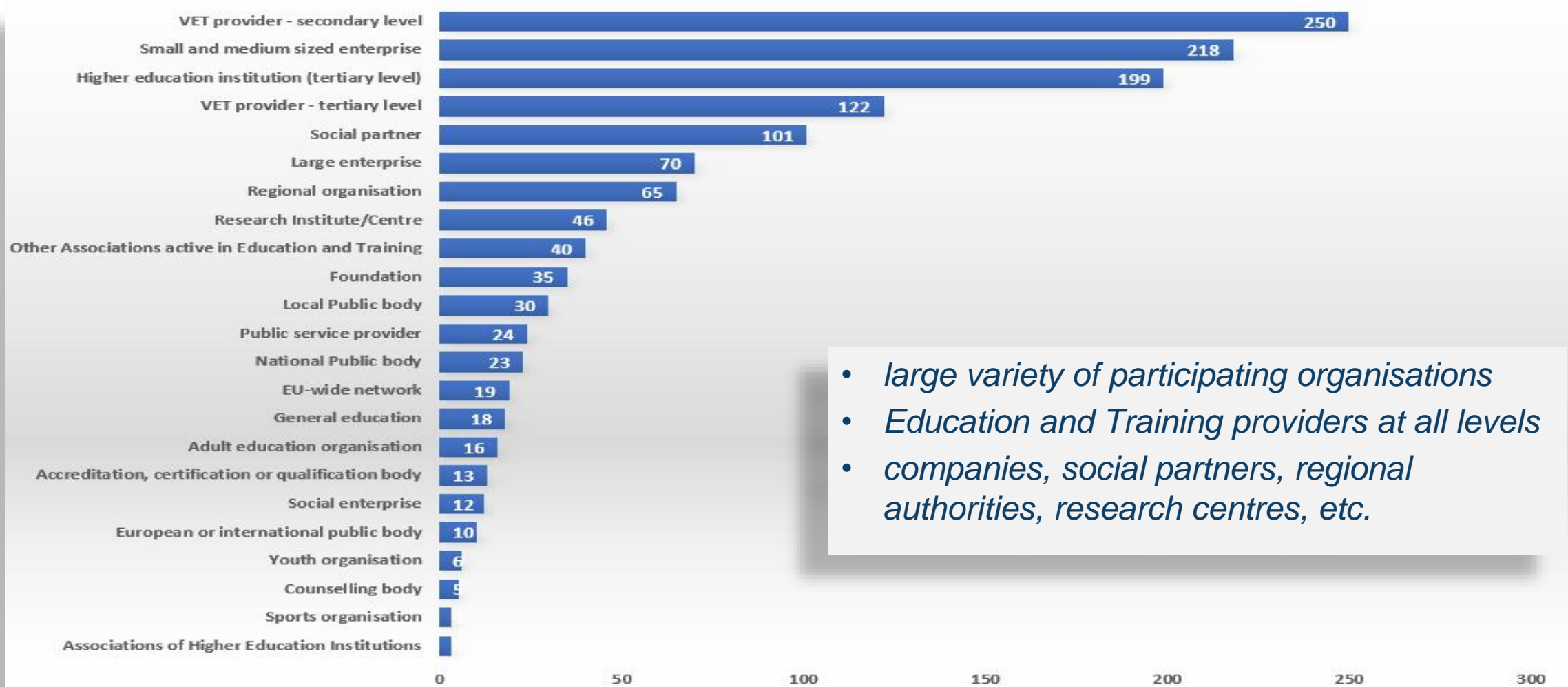
# CoVE Erasmus+ call 2022: Countries of participating organisations



- 76 project applications
- 59 countries involved in project applications
- average of 21 partners per proposal
- Total grant request exceeding €250 million, available €48 million
- almost 1.600 partner organisations involved

➤ Capacity of the initiative for the **Internationalization of VET** attracting partners from all over the world

# CoVE Erasmus+ call 2022: Type of participating organisations

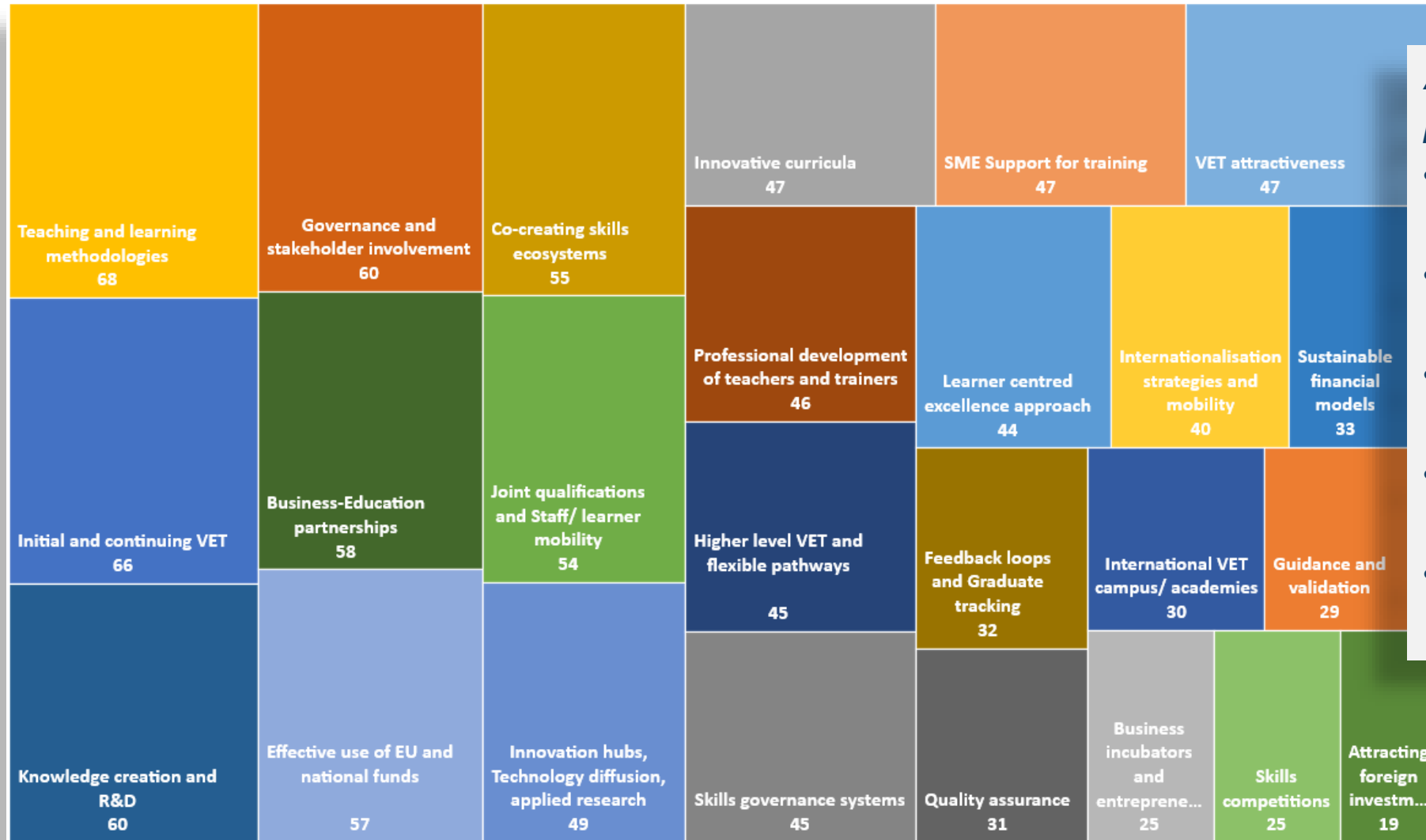


- *large variety of participating organisations*
- *Education and Training providers at all levels*
- *companies, social partners, regional authorities, research centres, etc.*

➤ *The initiative brings together **relevant partners for skills-ecosystems***



# CoVE Erasmus+ call 2022: Activities prioritized by projects



All 25 activities covered with predominance of actions for:

- Innovative **teaching & learning** methodologies
- Initial **qualification**, and upskilling and reskilling
- Knowledge creation and **R&D**
- Governance & Stakeholder **involvement**
- Business-education **partnerships**

# The Erasmus+ Call 2023: Novelties compared to 2022 (I)

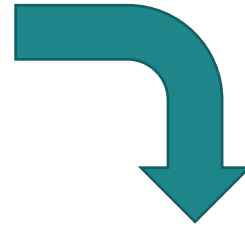
The project must include relevant deliverables linked to the following three clusters:

- at least 3 of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 1 - Teaching and learning**,
- at least 3 of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 2 - Cooperation and partnership**, and
- at least 2 of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 3 - Governance and funding**.

## **Cluster 1 - Teaching and learning**

- Providing people with labour market relevant skills including those necessary for the **green and digital transitions**<sup>152</sup>, in a **lifelong learning** and inclusive<sup>153</sup> approach providing learning opportunities to people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds<sup>154</sup>. Combining offers of **initial VET** qualifications, with offers of **continuing training** for upskilling and reskilling (including **micro-credentials**), that are informed by skills intelligence<sup>155</sup>.

- The overall number of activities
- The presentation of activities
- The minimum number of activities under each cluster
- The requirement to **explain the choice of activities** and describe how they contribute to the goals



The project must chose relevant activities (providing details on the concrete actions and deliverables) indicated under the following three clusters:

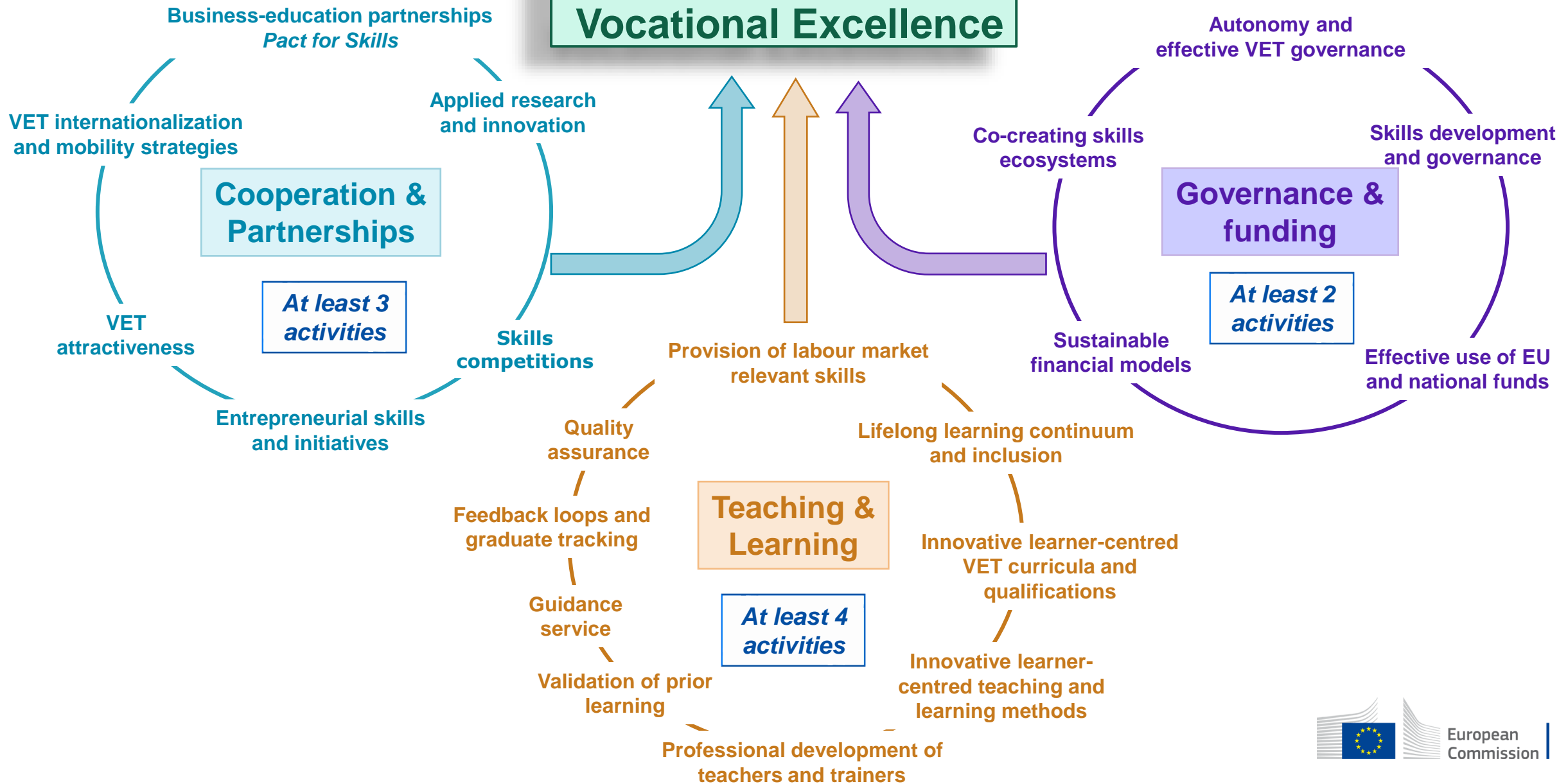
- **at least 4** of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 1 - Teaching and learning**,
- **at least 3** of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 2 - Cooperation and partnership**, and
- **at least 2** of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 3 - Governance and funding**.

## **Cluster 1 - Teaching and learning**

- Providing people with **labour market relevant skills**
  - By anticipating future skill needs using effective means to rapidly identify changing labour market needs<sup>179</sup>, and matching skill provision with job opportunities
  - By focusing both on **technical skills** and **key competences**<sup>180</sup>
  - By including the skills necessary for the **green and digital transitions**<sup>181</sup>

The project must clearly identify and explain the choice of each of the selected activities, and describe how the work to be carried out through those activities will concretely contribute to the relevant work packages, and with the overall objectives of the project.

# Typical activities of CoVEs, leading to Vocational Excellence



# The Erasmus+ Call 2023: Novelties compared to 2022 (II)

New

## Seal of Excellence

The project proposals evaluated above the quality thresholds, with a total score **equal to or higher than 75%**, but that cannot be funded under Erasmus+ due to lack of available budget under this call for proposals, may be awarded with a **Seal of Excellence** certificate to attest the quality of the proposal and to facilitate its alternative funding at national or regional level.

The Seal of Excellence is a quality label certificate awarded to quality project proposals that cannot be funded under Erasmus+ due to insufficient funds<sup>229</sup>. The label recognises the quality of the proposal and facilitates the search for alternative funding. Funding bodies at national or regional level may decide to directly fund the Seal holder project proposal on the basis of the high quality evaluation process performed by the Commission's independent experts, without performing a new full evaluation process. The award of the Seal of Excellence may also facilitate the alternative funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), in accordance with Article 73(4) of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)<sup>230</sup>.

# More information

- Europa [Website on CoVE](#)
- The [Erasmus+ programme](#)
- A [leaflet presenting the call](#)
- [Functional mailbox](#) for all questions related to CoVE calls
- [Applying for Erasmus+ CoVE funding](#) in the Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal (FTOP)



## Finding partners for CoVE projects:

- Use the [\*“Partner search announcements”\*](#) in FTOP
- The Center of Vocational Excellence [\*Match Making Map\*](#)
- European Training Foundation (ETF) [\*Network for Excellence \(ENE\)\*](#)
- The [\*Community of Practice\*](#) on the Centres of Vocational Excellence
- Contact European [\*Associations of VET Providers\*](#)