



THE 2021 ERASMUS+ CALL ON CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (COVE)

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

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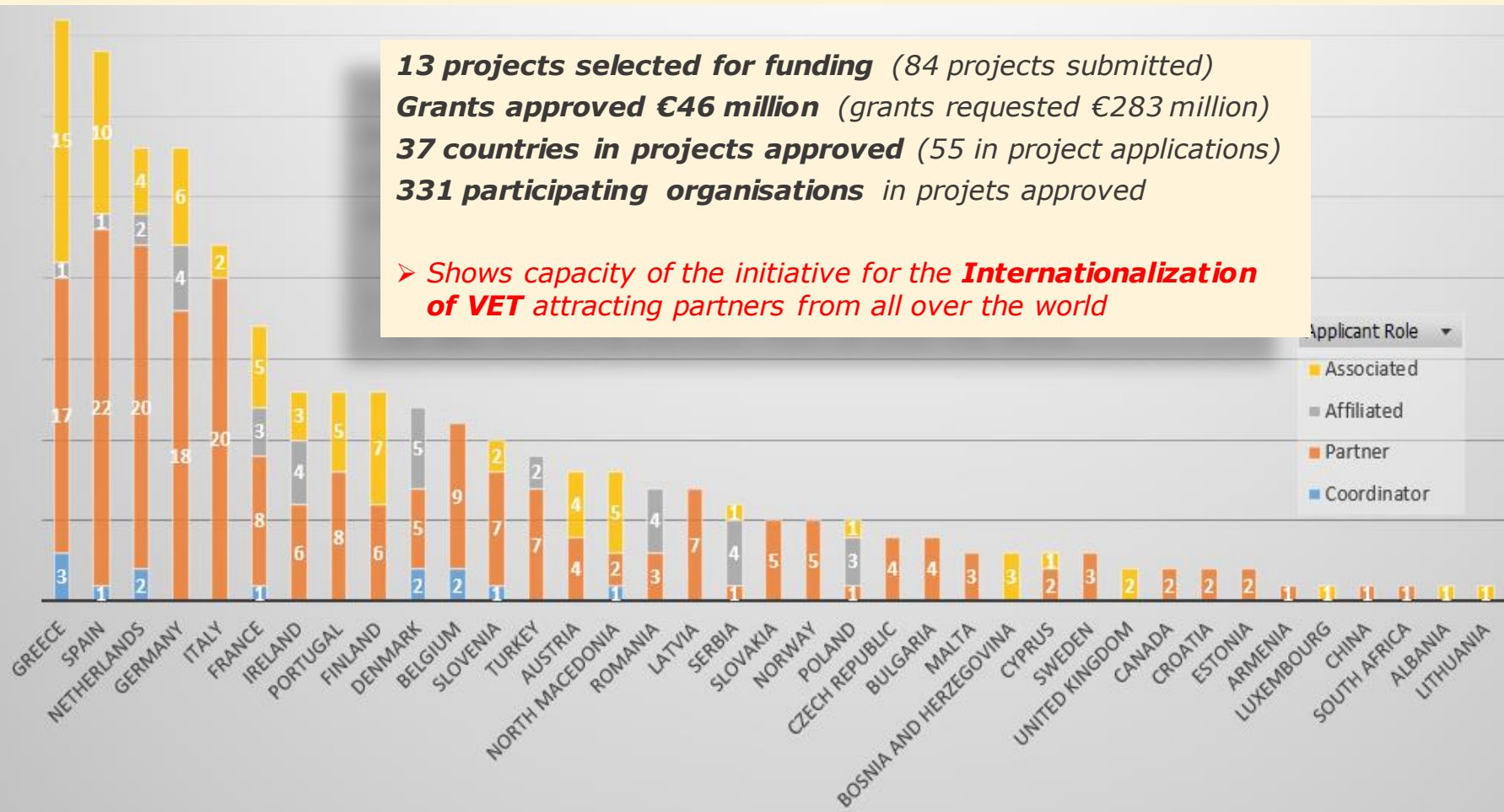
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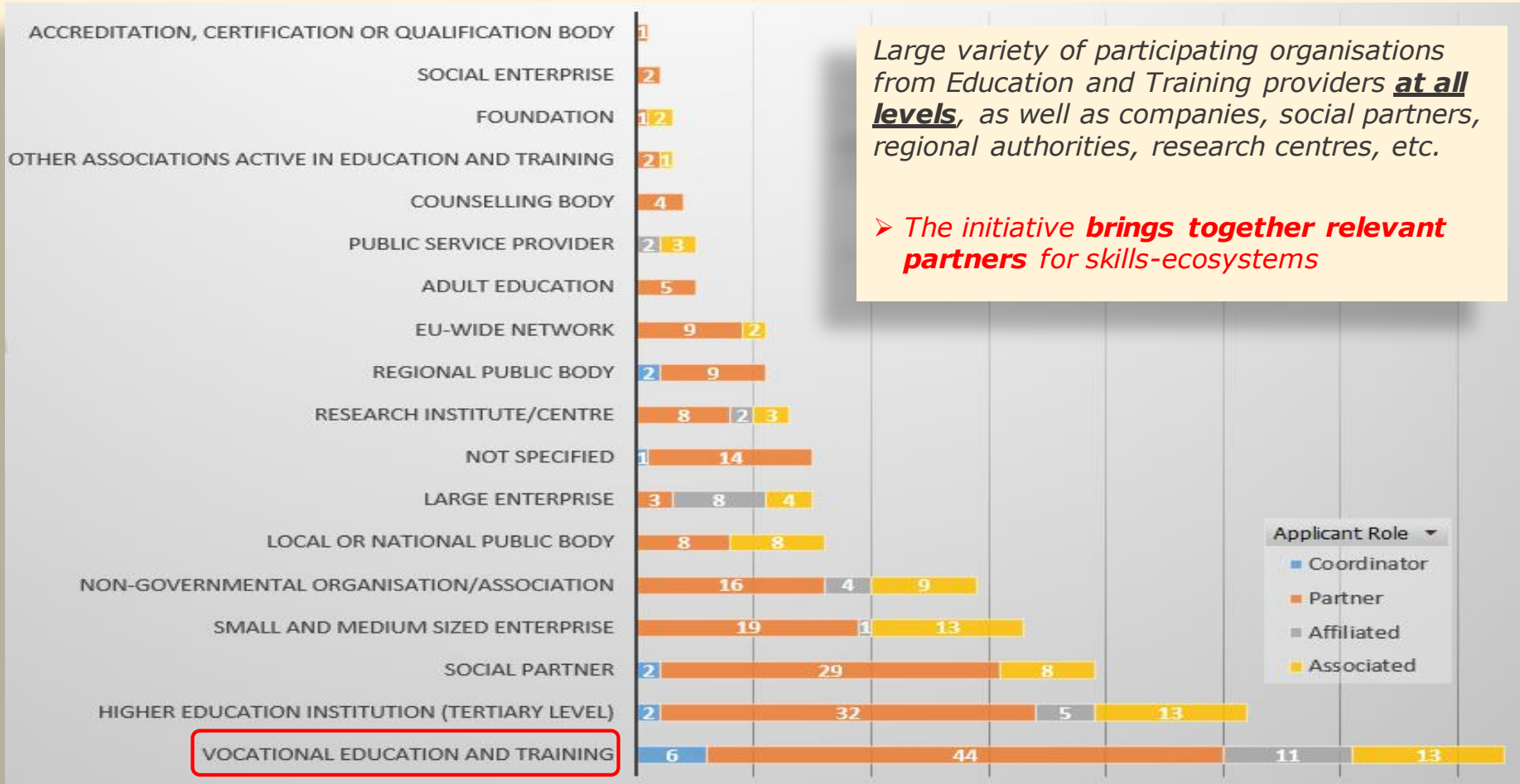
CoVE Erasmus+ call 2021: Countries of participating organisations

13 projects selected for funding (84 projects submitted)
Grants approved €46 million (grants requested €283 million)
37 countries in projects approved (55 in project applications)
331 participating organisations in projects approved

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



CoVE Erasmus+ call 2021: Type of participating organisations



Large variety of participating organisations from Education and Training providers **at all levels**, as well as companies, social partners, regional authorities, research centres, etc.

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

Skills - The policy context (2020)

➤ Commission Communication: “**European Skills Agenda** for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience”



➤ **Osnabruck Declaration** and the Council Recommendation: **Vocational education and training** for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience



➤ Commission Communication on **the European Education Area**



Centres of Vocational Excellence (The CoVE concept <https://europa.eu/!cu83xr>)

CoVEs contributing to:

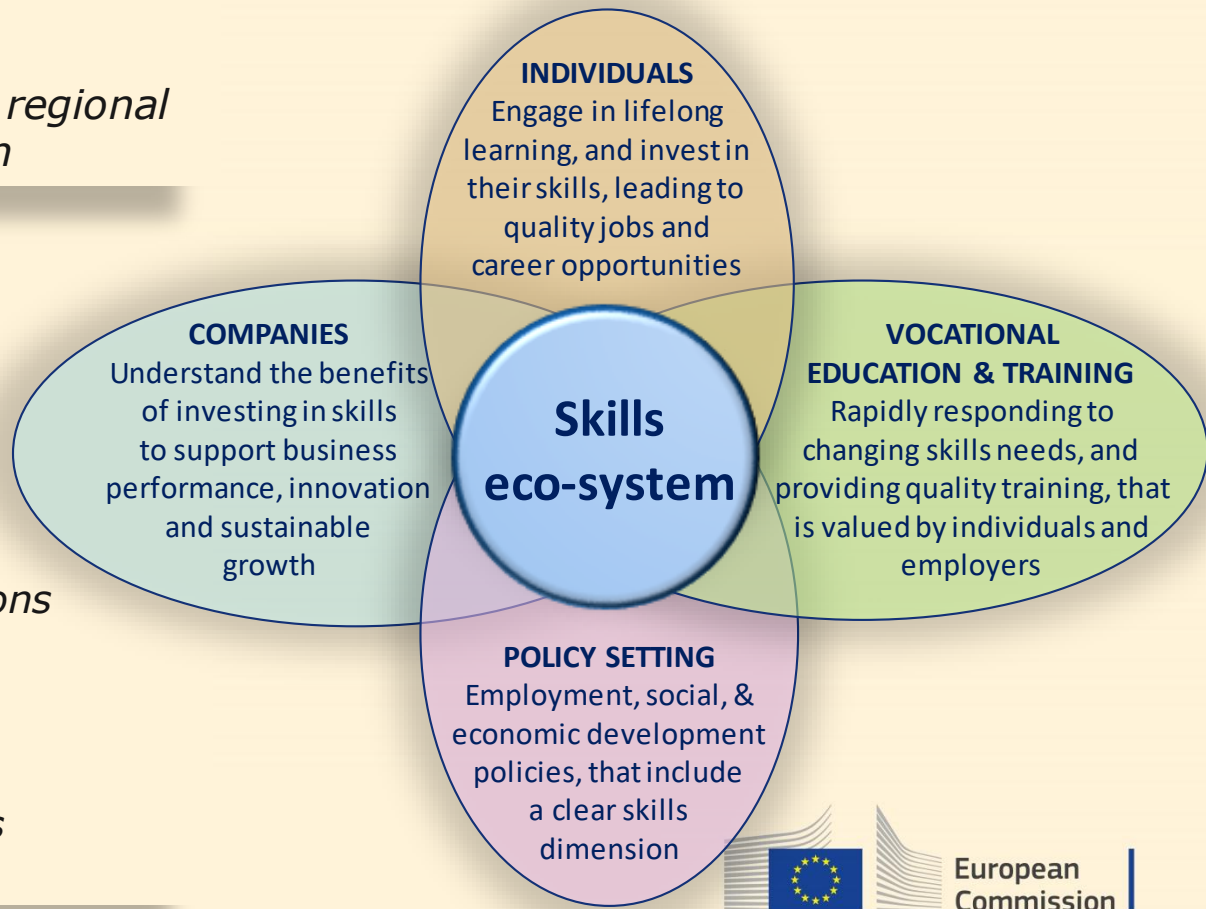
Skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion

Bringing together:

- *VET institutions*
- *Universities of applied science*
- *Research centres*

- *Companies*
- *Chambers*
- *Professional or sector associations*
- *Trade unions*

- *Policy makers*
- *Employment services/agencies*
- *Regional development agencies*
- *Municipalities*



Centres of Vocational Excellence

The initiative in a nutshell

The Goal

VET Excellence

- Innovative and responsive VET institutions capable of **rapidly adapting skills provision** to evolving economic and social needs, including the **digital and green transitions**

The partners

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

How to get there

International collaborative networks of CoVEs

- **ACT LOCAL** – Establish strong local partnerships co-creating “**skills ecosystems**” for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion
- **THINK GLOBAL** – through **international collaborative networks** of CoVE in other countries to share experience and know-how, to foster mobility of learners and staff...

EU Support

Erasmus+ funding 2021-2027: €400 million for 100 CoVE networks

Technical support: Build evidence, Facilitate networking, Tools & Guidelines...

Centres of Vocational Excellence

Key success factors

- **Linked to strategies for regional development, innovation, smart specialisation, clusters, social inclusion...**

Identification of synergies between policies and amongst stakeholders.

Co-creating skills-ecosystems that support strategic development objectives.

- **Strong and enduring partnerships**

Between VET providers, higher education institutions, businesses, public employment services, etc.

in which interactions are mutually beneficial

- **Integration of activities**

CoVEs achieve more than the sum of the parts.

Much more than just a diploma/certificate.

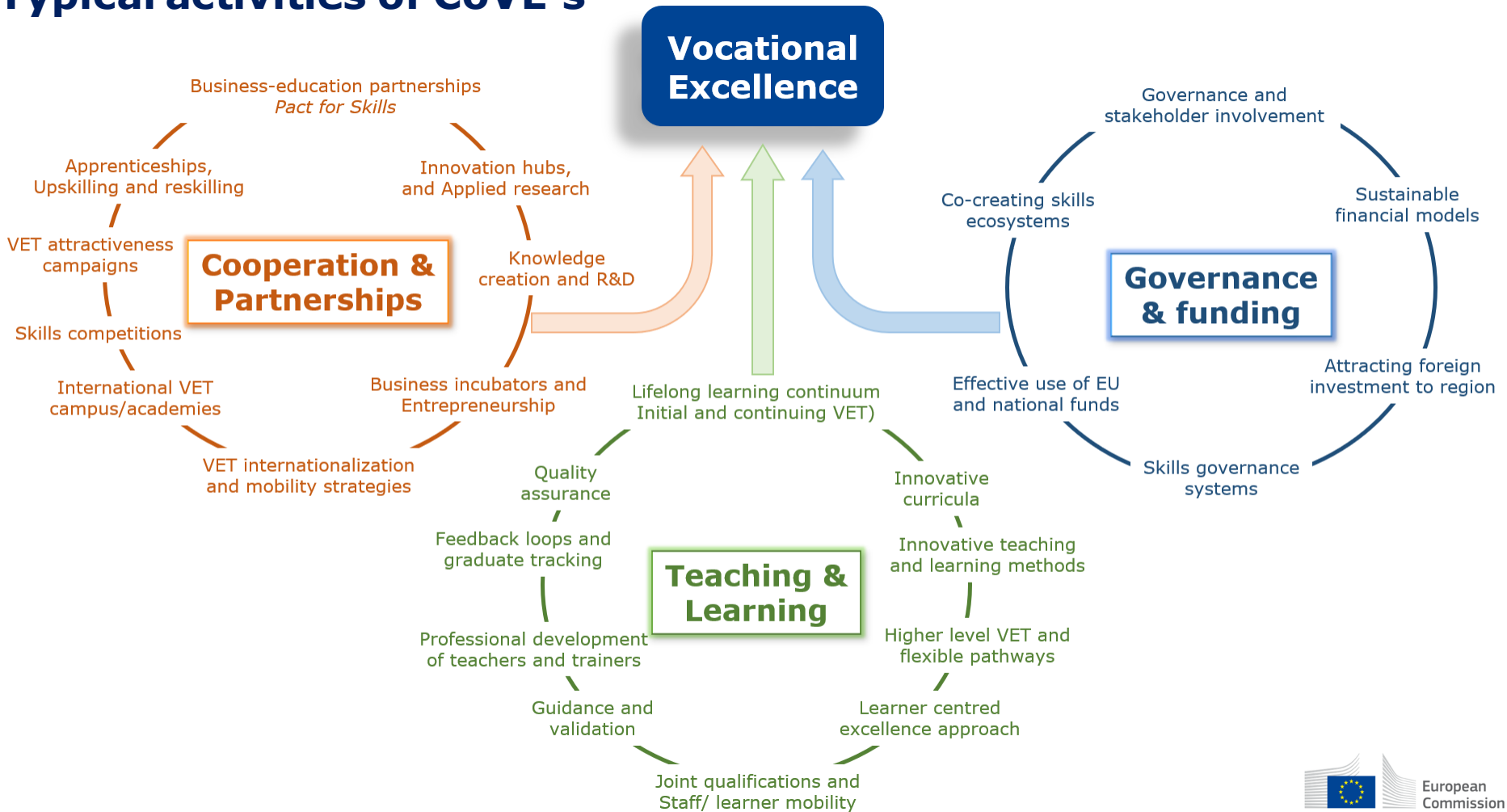


[@Robert Kelly](#)



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Typical activities of CoVE's



Centres of Vocational Excellence

Erasmus+ funding under Partnerships for Excellence (Ka2)

- **2022 call:** €48 million for 12 networks of CoVEs
- **Applicant:** Any organisation established in a E+ Programme Country
- **Partners:** Any public or private organisation active in field of VET, or world of work. Can be from any country in the world, but non-programme partners must bring an 'essential added value'
- **Partnership:** at least 8 full partners from a minimum of 4 Programme
 - a) at least 1 enterprise, industry or sector representative organisation, and
 - b) at least 1 VET provider (at secondary and/or tertiary level)
- **EQF levels:** Can be at any EQF level but must include levels 3, 4 or 5
- **Maximum grant:** €4 million per project with 4 year project duration
- **Erasmus+ 2022 call:** Deadline for project applications **7 September 2022**



The Community of Practice (CoP) of Centres of Vocational Excellence



- ✓ CoP set-up **by** and **for** the Erasmus+ CoVE project leaders
- ✓ A bottom-up **learning community of practitioners**
- ✓ **Sharing experience** through **concrete activities**, aimed at modernising and innovating in VET provision
- ✓ **Addressing challenges** together
- ✓ Collecting & sharing **best practices**
- ✓ **Informing policy makers** on their experiences in setting-up CoVEs, and improving the initiative on Vocational Excellence



European Training Foundation (ETF) leading the work on the “International Dimension of Vocational Excellence”



Why collaborate closely with the European Training Foundation?



<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en>

Core **mission of the ETF** is to support transition and developing countries to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training, and labour market systems

Expertise on Vocational Excellence:

- European Agency supporting VET reforms in 29 countries outside the EU
- Delivering expertise on Skills in the context of EU external relations policies
- Highly qualified staff with know-how in vocational excellence
- Launched a very successful “ETF Network of Excellence” offering a platform for continuous exchange of practice among Centres of vocational
- Developed methodological tools to support the development of vocational excellence



The aim

Build a strong international cooperation dimension on **Vocational Excellence**

The Deliverables

Four Work Packages:

1. Creating an international vocational excellence **quality and development tool** (*Self-assessment tool allowing VET institutions to assess and design their path to Excellence*)
2. Explore the feasibility of a **Quality award on Vocational Excellence**
3. **Building evidence** to support vocational excellence for the digital and green transitions
4. **Policy support** activities and **capacity building**

The contract

- 24 months contract, starting November 2021
- Deliverables will be integrated in future CoVE support services (launch 2022)



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More information

Europa Website on CoVE:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-excellence>

The Erasmus+ programme

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Functional mailbox for all questions related to CoVE calls:

FACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu

Applying for Erasmus+ CoVE funding in the Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal (FTOP)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/erasmus-edu-2022-pex-cove>



Finding partners for CoVE projects:

- Use the “**Partner search announcements**” in FTOP
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/erasmus-edu-2022-pex-cove>
- The Center of Vocational Excellence **Match Making Map**
<https://www.wearekatapult.eu/cove-match-making-map/>
- **European Training Foundation (ETF) Network for Excellence (ENE)**
<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/projects-campaigns/projects/vocational-excellence>
- Contact European **Associations of VET Providers** (e.g. EVTA, EVBB, EfVET, EUproVET, EURASHE, EUCEN)
<https://hub.vet4eu2.eu/blog/2021/04/27/vet-european-networking-enhancement/>

