The policy framework

EUROPEAN SKILLS AGENDA

Skills for jobs

July 2020

The EU needs a skills revolution to ensure people can thrive in the green and digital transitions, and to help in the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

European Education Area

European Pillar of Social Rights

Vocational education and training

Skills for today and for the future

See brochure on VET:
Vocational education and training:
Skills for today and for the future

PROJECTS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU POLICY FRAMEWORK
2020 Council Recommendation on VET: to be fit for the future VET should be:

- **6 clusters for action**
  - Agile
    - Rapidly responding to labour market needs
  - Flexible
    - Provides progression opportunities for all
  - Driving innovation
    - Fit for the digital and green transitions
  - Attractive
    - Modern and digitalised provision
  - Inclusive excellence
    - Opportunities for ALL
  - Quality assured
    - At all levels of provision

The share of employed graduates from VET: 82%
Recent graduate exposed to work-based learning: 60%
Learners going for mobility abroad*: 8%

* In the Proposal for a Council Recommendation ‘Europe on the Move’ – learning mobility opportunities for everyone of 17 November 2023, the European Commission has proposed a new target for learning mobility of 15%.
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 recovery, 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
Centres of Vocational Excellence 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**

**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...

**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

**EU Support**

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

**Technical support by the ETF**: Build evidence, Facilitate networking, Tools & Guidelines
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
CoVEs play a pro-active role in innovation through applied research.
Typical activities of CoVEs: beyond traditional VET provision

- Vocational Excellence
  - Entrepreneurial skills and initiatives
  - VET internationalisation and mobility abroad
  - Applied research and Innovation
  - Labour market relevant skills
  - Validation of prior learning
  - Feedback loops and graduate tracking
  - Guidance services
  - Quality assurance
  - Professional development of teachers and trainers
  - Lifelong learning and inclusive approach
  - Flexible VET curricula and qualifications
  - Innovative learner-centred teaching and learning
  - Full use of national and EU financial instruments
  - Sustainable financial models
  - Skills ecosystems
  - Full use of national and EU financial instruments
  - Skills ecosystems
  - Skills development and governance
  - Governance & Funding
  - Autonomy and effective VET governance
- Cooperation & Partnerships
  - VET attractiveness
  - Sports
  - Entrepreneurial skills and initiatives
  - Business-education partnerships
  - Teaching & Learning
  - Guidance services
  - Feedback loops and graduate tracking
  - Quality assurance
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  - Full use of national and EU financial instruments
  - Skills ecosystems
  - Skills development and governance
Activities selected by the 2021 CoVEs projects

Cluster 1 - Teaching and Learning
- Initial and continuing VET, 11
- Innovative curricula, 11
- Teaching and learning methodologies, 11

Cluster 2 - Cooperation and partnerships
- Business-Education partnerships, 12
- Innovation hubs, Technology diffusion, applied research, 9

Cluster 3 - Governance and Funding
- Governance and stakeholder involvement, 12
- Effective use of EU and national funds, 11

Professional development of teachers and trainers, 10
- Higher level VET and flexible pathways, 7
- Learner centred excellence approach, 6

Joint qualifications and Staff/learner mobility, 8
- Feedback loops and Graduate tracking, 5
- Quality assurance, 3
- Guidance and...

SME Support for training, 8
- Internationalisation strategies and mobility, 8
- Knowledge creation and R&D, 7

International VET campus/academies, 4
- International VET ecosystems, 8
- Business incubators, 3

Co-creating skills governance systems, 3
- Attracting foreign investment, 2
# Activities selected by the 2022 CoVEs projects

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<tr>
<th>Cluster 1 - Teaching and learning</th>
<th>Cluster 2 - Cooperation and partnerships</th>
<th>Cluster 3 - Governance and funding</th>
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<td>International VET campus/academies, 9</td>
<td>Attract... of forei... inves...</td>
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<td>Guidance and validation, 5</td>
<td>Business incubators and entrepren... 4</td>
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<td>Skills competitions, 4</td>
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  - Attract... of forei... inves... 2
Centres of Vocational Excellence: Status for the implementation of the initiative

<table>
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<th>Call Year</th>
<th>2019(*)</th>
<th>2020(*)</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget (MEUR)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of applications</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>DDL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 May 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of eligible applications</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of funded projects</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15 (under finalisation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success rate (number of project selected/number of eligible applications)</td>
<td>33,3%</td>
<td>14,6%</td>
<td>15,6%</td>
<td>21,3%</td>
<td>N/A (indicatively 15,6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of countries involved in applications</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of countries involved in selected projects</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of organisations involved in selected projects</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The 2019 and 2020 calls were pilot calls under the previous Erasmus+ programme period. The 2019 pilot call was for 2-year projects, which are now finished.
Centres of Vocational Excellence
Projects selected in the Erasmus+ 2020 pilot call (4 years duration)

- **Microelectronics**: https://ecovem.eu/
- **Green Innovation**: http://www.greenovet.eu/
- **Furniture and Wood**: https://www.allview.eu/
- **Innovation in the Green Economy**: https://3-loe.eu/
- **Inclusive excellence**: https://www.thegiveproject.eu/
- **Finfish industry**: http://www.bridges.eu/
- **Urban Greening**: https://www.platformurbangreening.eu/
- **European Platform URBANGREENING**: https://www.platformurbangreening.eu/
Centres of Vocational Excellence

Projects selected in the 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.seedeeuproject.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
Centres of Vocational Excellence
Projects selected in the Erasmus+ 2022 call (4 years duration)

- EXCEED
  https://exceed-cove.eu/
- HABITABLE
  https://habitable-cove.eu/
- BuildSkills academy
  http://buildskills.nextyou.eu/
- H2 Excellence
  https://h2excellence.eu/
- TEAM#UP
  https://www.teamup2restore.eu/
- AgriFood4Future
  https://agrifood4future.com/
- ACCESS CoVE
  https://accesscove.org/
- Care about IT
  https://careaboutit.eu/
- AI4VET4AI
  https://www.ai4vet4ai.eu/
- TEACH4SD
  https://teach4sd.eu/
- AILEEN
  https://aileenencove.eu/
- Auto CoVE 2.0
  https://www.autocove.eu/
- EE4M
  http://ee4m.eu/
Forum on Vocational Excellence

- Annual event organised by the Community of Practice, a bottom-up initiative by the Erasmus+ CoVEs
  - 2022: San Sebastian
  - 2023: Amsterdam
  - 2024: Lyon on 10-12 September, parallel to the World Final of the Worldskills!
Important features of the CoVE projects

• Foster the full potential of VET institutions to play a proactive role in support of growth and innovation
• Set up a long-term action plan for the progressive roll-out of project deliverables after the project has finished
• Key role of public authorities for impact, visibility and dissemination
• Engage with companies and other employers in INNOVATIVE forms of partnerships
• Upward convergence: show benefits for organisations with less developed vocational excellence systems and their territories
Useful links

**Erasmus+**
2024 Annual Work Programme Erasmus+

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2024 (Version 1) | Erasmus+ (europa.eu)]

**Information on the Centres of Vocational Excellence, including factsheets for all the projects:**
[Centres of Vocational Excellence - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission (europa.eu)]

**Policy context**
Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience

Osnabrück Declaration on vocational education and training as an enabler of recovery and just transitions to digital and green economies

European Pillar of Social Rights - Building a fairer and more inclusive European Union - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission (europa.eu)

[Homepage | European Education Area (europa.eu)]

VET skills for today and future (europa.eu)