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## DANUBE REGION PLATFORM ON CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE – WORK PLAN 2023/2024

### BACKGROUND

The Danube Region Platform on Centres of Vocational Excellence provides a forum for exchange on centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs) with a thematic focus on going green and social inclusion. The platform was launched by Priority Area 9 “People and Skills” (PA9) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in cooperation with the European Training Foundation (ETF) Network for Excellence (ENE)<sup>1</sup>. As part of the initiative, a Policy Platform was established, bringing together representatives of responsible national institutions from Danube Region countries and experts from the European Commission, PA9 and ETF. The online kick-off meeting took place on 29 November 2021 and a second meeting was held online on 8-9 November 2022.

### TAKE-AWAYS FROM PREVIOUS PLATFORM MEETINGS

A key strength of the Danube Region Platform is that it promotes exchange and cooperation in the Danube Region among core stakeholders from the policy level, the VET sector, and transnational actors. Despite different concepts of CoVEs and vocational excellence among the Danube Region countries, the following common elements can be identified:

- Innovation and high quality of teaching and learning
- Smart specialization
- Infrastructure and equipment
- Driving VET development, teacher training, and quality vocational skills
- Cooperation with industry, companies, research, public institutions, etc. and other countries

Regarding the Platform’s thematic focus on going green and social inclusion, a broad spectrum of ongoing and planned initiatives and topics of interest to participants emerged in the first two meetings (see Annex I). To allow for a more in-depth discussion, it is suggested to dedicate future Platform meetings to a specific VET field relevant for going green or social inclusion.

### THEMATIC FOCUS FOR 2023-2024

Skills for the green transition in the Danube Region are high on the political agenda in many Danube Region countries and are currently also the subject of [Council conclusions](#). Thus, for the upcoming

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<sup>1</sup> ETF’s global Network for Excellence – ENE – supports vocational excellence development together with more than 270 centres of vocational excellence from more than 40 countries.

activities and next Platform meeting during the period of 2023-2024, it is proposed to focus on specific VET sectors in need of green skills and jobs. Synergies with ENE's green VET partnership [GRETA](#) (Greening Responses to Excellence through Thematic Actions), currently comprising 18 CoVEs from 8 countries<sup>2</sup>, will be sought.

The topic of social inclusion will also be continued, including through synergies with ENE's VET initiative SISI (Sharing Innovation in Social Inclusion) or other relevant initiatives from the European Commission or at a regional/national level.

## **TIMELINE FOR 2023-2024**

### Questionnaire on Greening of VET (June 2023)

A questionnaire was sent to the Policy Platform members in June 2023 to gather background information on current priorities and measures with regard to the greening of VET and to identify relevant sectors of common interest to be discussed at future events.

### ENE GRETA Webinar (6 July 2023)

The Danube Region Platform was invited to participate in the ENE GRETA webinar that is being organised in cooperation with the [VET Toolbox initiative](#).

### GRETA Side Event (27 September 2023) at the Forum on Vocational Excellence (25-26 September 2023, Netherlands)

The GRETA side event brings together centres of excellence participating in the green initiative implemented in the framework of ENE. Participants will exchange on how to drive forward the greening process and the role of CoVEs in the provision of skills for the green transition. As part of the event, participants will look into how recommendations from the [GRETA report](#) can be turned into actions at the policy and VET practitioner level. The Danube Region Platform will be invited to participate in the side event (mode of participation still to be confirmed).

### Joint Online GRETA-Danube Region Platform Meeting 2023 (18 October 2023)

The online event will be organised by ETF in cooperation with PA9 to follow up on the discussions from previous GRETA meetings. In addition, the outcomes of the questionnaire from June 2023 will be presented. The meeting will also draw upon good practice green skills project examples identified, among others, in the framework of the [Danube Region European Social Fund Managing Authorities Network](#)<sup>3</sup>.

### ENE Conference (9-10 November 2023)

Outcomes from the previous meetings might also feed into the ENE conference in November.

### Danube Region Platform Meeting 2024 (date tbc, Austria)

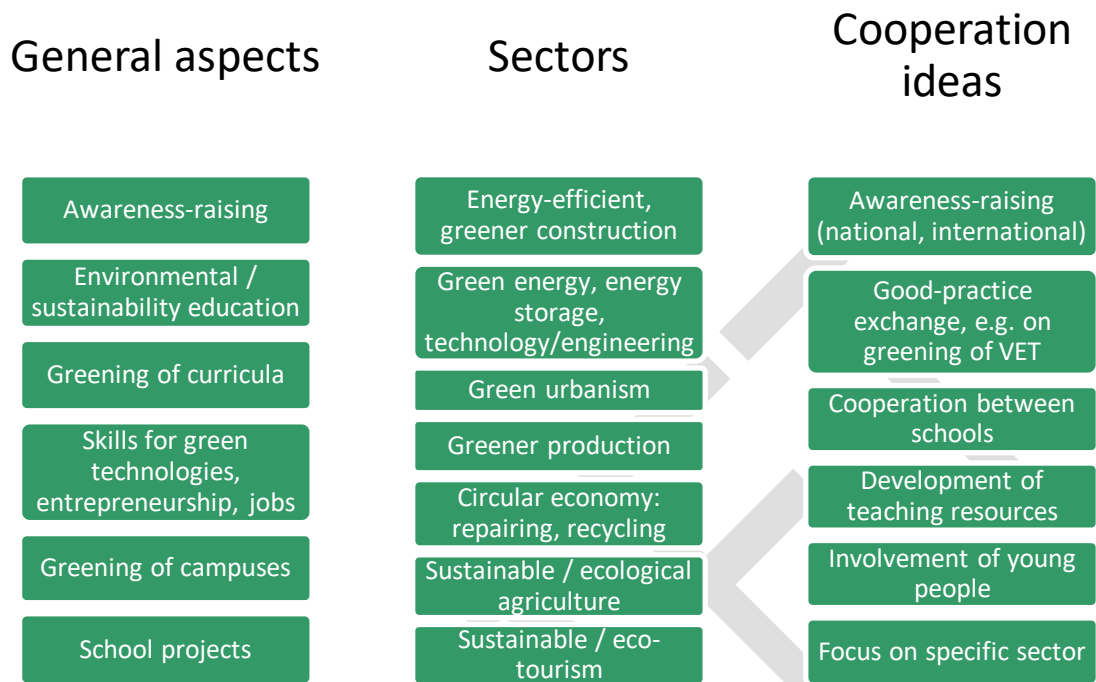
A physical meeting in Austria in 2024 will be organised by PA9 in cooperation with ETF to deepen experience-sharing and cooperation on the greening of VET. The thematic focus will be the two sectors that were identified as being of the highest priority among all questionnaire responses received. Policy Platform members (2 per country) and VET provider representatives (2 per country) will be invited to participate at the meeting. The participation of additional stakeholders, such as companies, industry or sector representative organisations, will be sought. As a result of the meeting, areas of common interest for cooperation (and potential spin-off projects) will be identified and good practice examples for the greening of training programmes in the selected sectors will be collected.

<sup>2</sup> Armenia, Georgia, Latvia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Türkiye, and Ukraine.

<sup>3</sup> The Danube Region ESF Managing Authorities Network is being facilitated by PA9 ("People and Skills") and PA10 ("Institutional Capacity") of the EUSDR.

## Annex I

### GOING GREEN



### SOCIAL INCLUSION

