



CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

For sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience

2nd meeting of the Danube region platform on CoVEs

8-9 November 2022, online

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2023

European Year of Skills

#EuropeanYearOfSkills



Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European Commission,
State of the Union address

“Unemployment is at a record low, and this is great. At the same time, job vacancies are at a record high. Europe lacks truck drivers, waiters and airport workers, as well as nurses, engineers and IT technicians. This is why I am proposing to make 2023 the European Year of Skills.”

#SOTEU



With the European Year of Skills, we will support skills development and lifelong learning by:

- ➔ investing in training and getting the right skills
- ➔ cooperating with social partners and companies
- ➔ matching people's skills with opportunities on the job market
- ➔ attracting people from outside the EU with the skills needed



#EuropeanYearOfSkills

EU funds invest in skills

- ➔ The **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** offers a budget of more than €99 billion for 2021-2027
- ➔ The **Recovery and Resilience Facility** supports Member States' investments in skills and jobs
- ➔ The **Digital Europe Programme** with its €580 million helps improving digital skills
- ➔ **Horizon Europe** helps advancing the skills of researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators
- ➔ **Erasmus+** has a budget of €26.2 million, including for vocational education and training

#EuropeanYearOfSkills

EU VET Policy

National Implementation Plans

Working together – Getting it done!



EU VET Policy – Getting it done

National Implementation Plans

- A structured tool to facilitate implementation and monitoring of VET reforms in an integrated manner
- EU-27 – covers both the Council Recommendation and the Osnabrück Declaration
- Some Candidate Countries decided to follow the Recommendation (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia)
- Basis for annual monitoring and analysis of progress to be carried out by Cedefop and the ETF
- Will allow for a streamlined approach focused on a set of common priorities addressed by clusters of countries
- Deadline for submission of NIP 31/05/2022
- December ACVT meeting - a brief analysis of the NIPs

National Implementation Plans – *first insights*

Overall comments:

- ✓ Well developed plans that are aligned with the objectives of VET Recommendation and the Osnabrück Declaration
- ✓ VET reforms contextualized in the overall national reform strategies
- ✓ Information on governance, and implementation management
- ✓ Clear description of challenges
- ✓ Links to EU level policies and EU funds (RRF, ESF+, etc.)
- ✓ Priorities detailed by specific actions, timeline, budget, target groups, indicators and effects/impact expected



National Implementation Plans – *first insights*

Main priorities:

- ✓ **Labour market relevance** – work-based learning, inter-company training centres, skills forecasting
- ✓ **Green** and **digital** transitions
- ✓ **Flexibility** and progression
- ✓ **Access** – CVET/upskilling & reskilling, new learning environments, infrastructure
- ✓ **Excellence** – Centres of Vocational Excellence, higher VET
- ✓ **Inclusion** (early leaving, disadvantaged groups)
- ✓ **Quality** assurance
- ✓ **Internationalisation**





Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)

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

**Skills provision
aligned with
strategic regional
development**



**Strong
collaborative
partnerships**



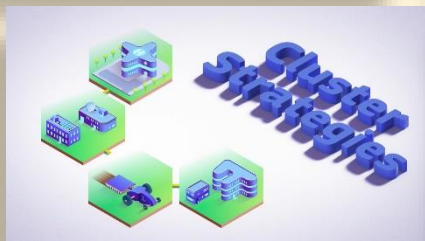
**Comprehensive set
of Education and
Training activities
and services**

Partnerships for Excellence (Ka2)

Centres of Vocational Excellence <https://europa.eu/!cu83xr>

CoVEs an integrative part of local skills ecosystems, contributing to:

- **Innovation,**
- **Regional development,**
- **Smart specialisation strategies,**
- **Cluster strategies**



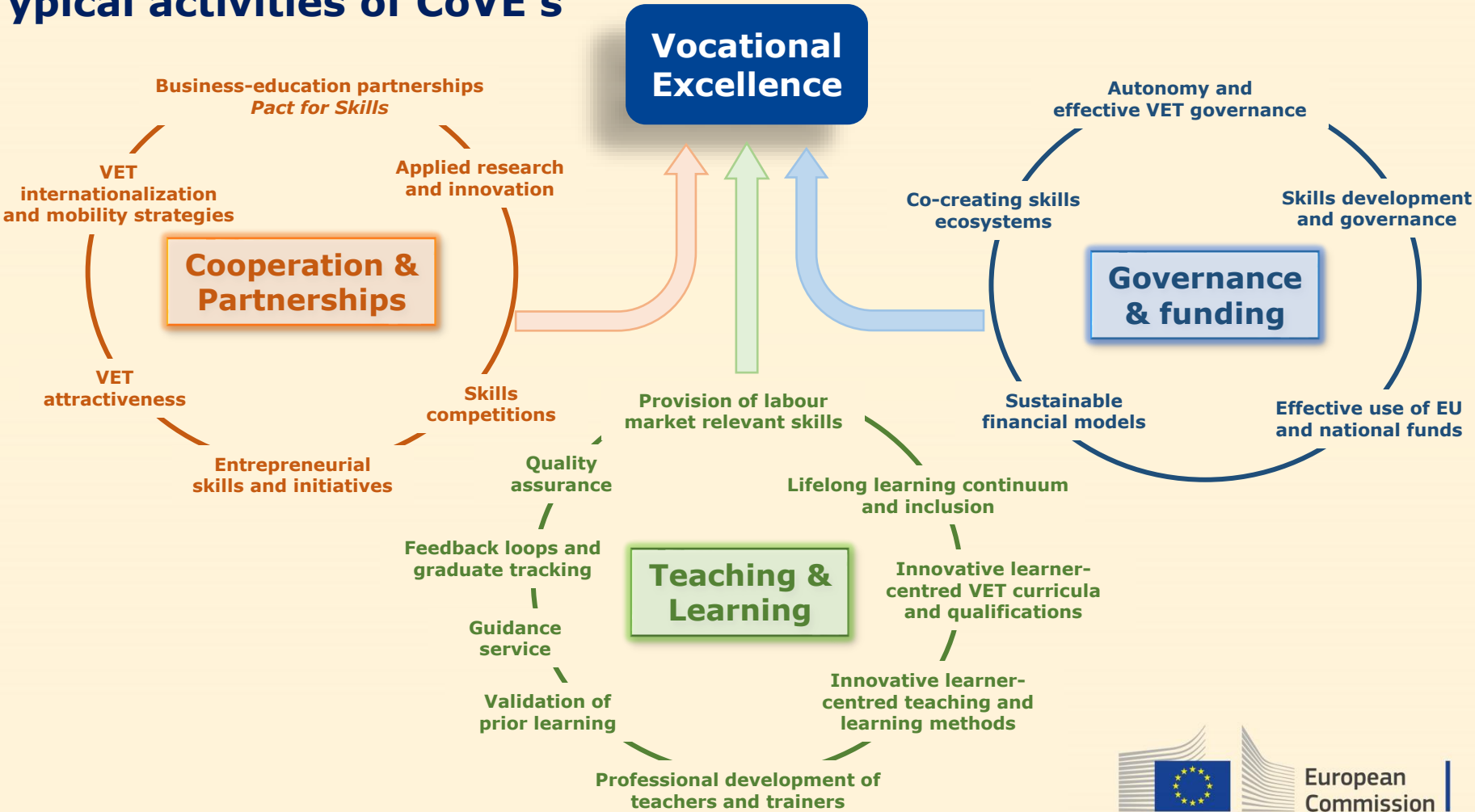
Bringing together:

- *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*
- ...

Typical activities of CoVE's



Centres of Vocational Excellence

Erasmus+ 2019 & 2020 Pilot projects



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



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



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



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



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



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



Microelectronics
<https://ecovem.eu/>



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



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



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



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



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

Update on Centres of Vocational Excellence

Projects selected in the Erasmus+ 2021 call

Offshore Renewable Energy (**T-SHORE**, led by Belgium)
Clean and sustainable energy (**SECOVE**, led by Greece)
Sustainable energy (**SEED**, led by The Netherlands)
Water sector (**PoVE**, led by The Netherlands)



Dairy agri-food (**AEDIL**, led by Denmark)
Multifunctional Agriculture (**AgriNext**, led by Slovenia)



Sustainability for business transformation (**CATALYST**, led by North Macedonia)
Artificial Intelligence, Virtual reality, and Social innovation (**EULEP**, led by Belgium)

Advanced manufacturing (**LCAMP**, led by Spain)
Arts and Crafts (**MOSAIC**, led by France)
Fashion, textiles and apparel industries (**FEA-VEE**, led by Greece)
Health care (**EUVECA**, led by Denmark)
Tourism (**TOUR-X**, led by Greece)



CoVE Erasmus+ call 2022: *Type of participating organisations*



2022 Erasmus+ call (Key stats)

- Budget available: €48 million for 12 projects
- Demand: €250 million for 76 Projects
- Participating organisations: 1.590
- Participating countries: 59

The Erasmus+ calls: Partnerships for Excellence (Ka2)

Centres of Vocational Excellence

- **2021-2027:** €400 million for 100 Platforms of CoVE
- **Applicant:** Any organisation established in a 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:** At any EQF level but must include levels 3, 4 or 5
- **Maximum grant:** €4 million per project with 4 year duration



2022 15 TO 16 NOVEMBER FORUM ON VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR
VOCATIONAL SKILLS

SAN SEBASTIAN, BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN



The 2022 Forum on Vocational Excellence

The aim

- Discuss the latest developments on **Vocational Excellence** in Europe and abroad
- Mobilise the participation of VET institutes and relevant partners, to reach the **EU target of 100 networks** of vocational excellence by 2027

Organised by

- European Commission and Basque government
- Supported by European Training Foundation, Cedefop, EACEA, CoVE Community of Practice, and Katapult

Venue and date

- **San Sebastian**, Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain
- 15 and 16 November 2022



The Objectives

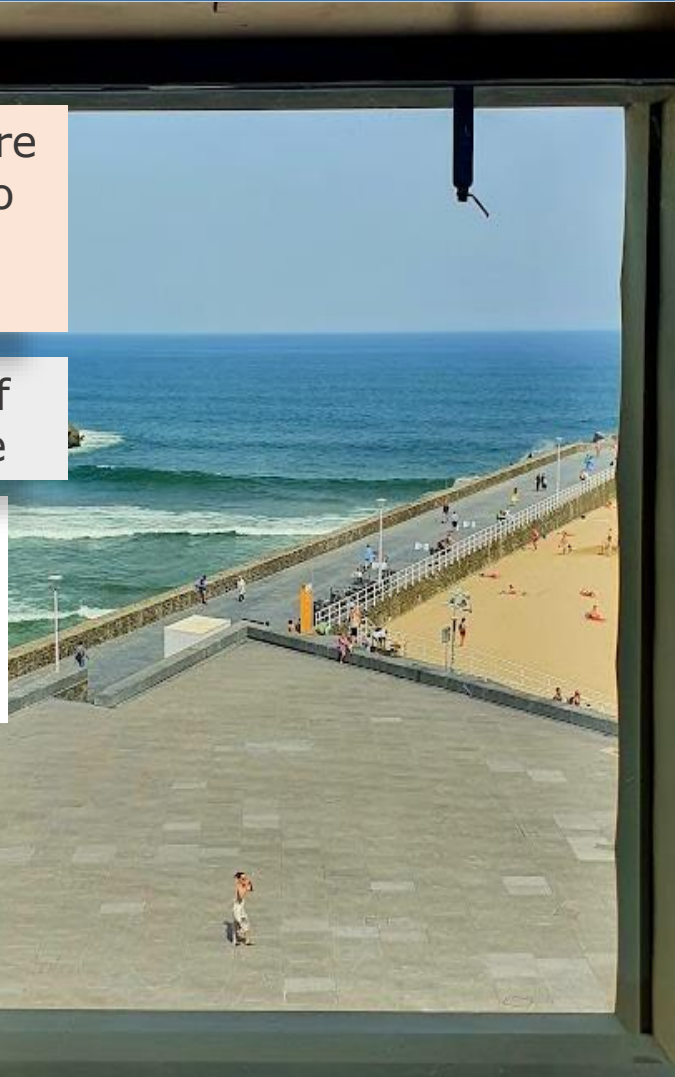
INFORM - Disseminate the CoVE initiative, make it more widely known, support networking and partnerships to apply for Erasmus+ calls, & increase the number of organisations working on vocational excellence

INVOLVE - Raise awareness, support, & involvement of national & regional authorities in vocational excellence

INSPIRE - To share and debate examples of on-going CoVE projects, as well as present the Basque vocational education and training system, as inspiring examples for other countries

INCLUSIVENESS - To connect experiences and know-how of CoVEs with policy making for more impactful action on social inclusion

LEARN - To engage in focused thematic discussions on core elements of vocational excellence



What you can expect...

Main conference

- High level interventions from policy makers, social partners, VET learners, as well as education and training practitioners and their representatives

Breakout sessions

- Thematic discussions on topics relevant to Vocational excellence activities
- Networking and partner matchmaking opportunities for future Erasmus+ calls

Site visits

- To Tknika and other Basque VET Excellence centres

CoVE Plaza

- CoVE project expo
- Exposition of Digital tools and training equipment



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>



Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)

Finding partners for CoVE projects:

- **Community of Practice Centres of Vocational Excellence:**
<https://www.copcovoes.eu/>
- 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/>
- 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>

