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## Centres of Vocational Excellence



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## #SocialRights



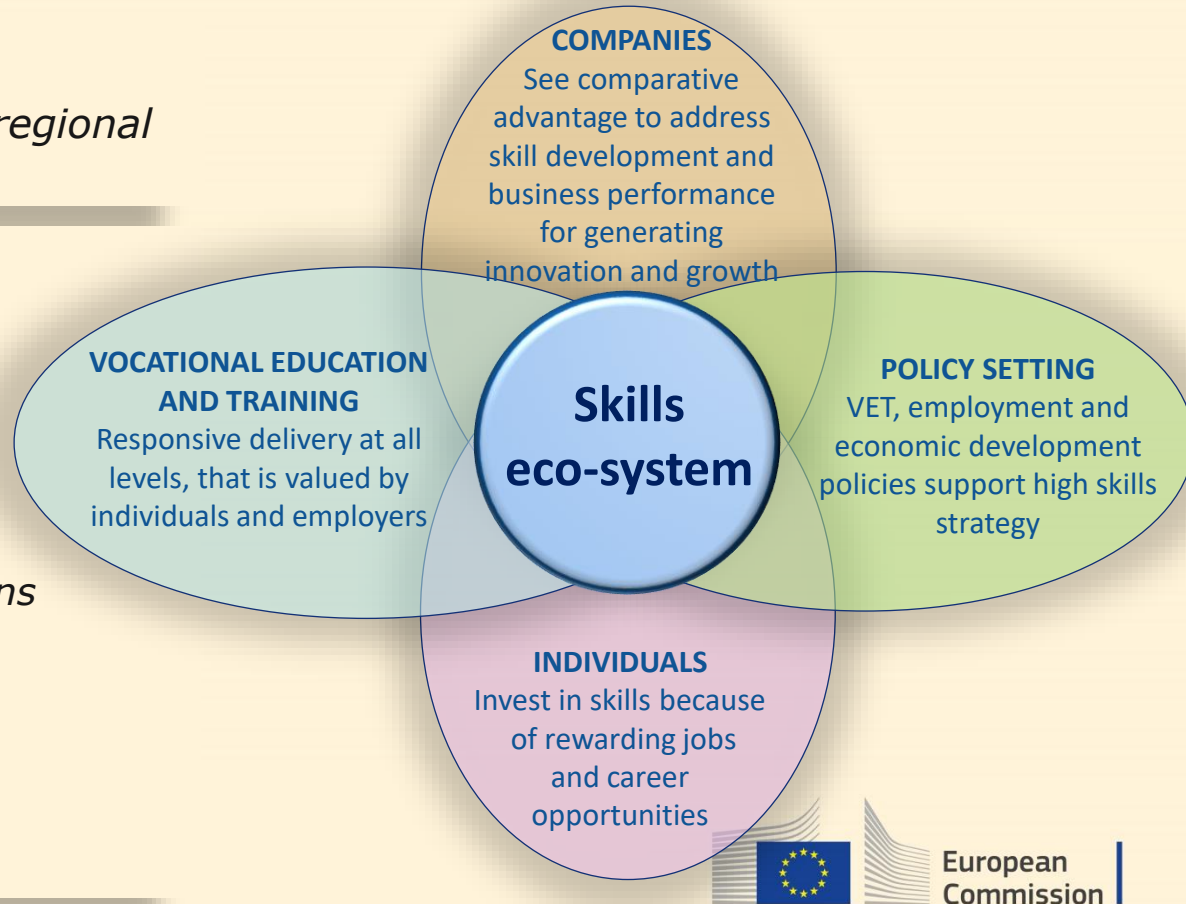
# Centres of Vocational Excellence (The concept <https://europa.eu/!cu83xr>)

## **CoVEs contribute 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

## *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**

VET providers (*including at tertiary level*), higher education institutions, and businesses, in which interactions are reciprocal and mutually beneficial

- **Integration of activities**

CoVEs achieve more than sum of the parts.  
Much more than just a diploma/certificate.

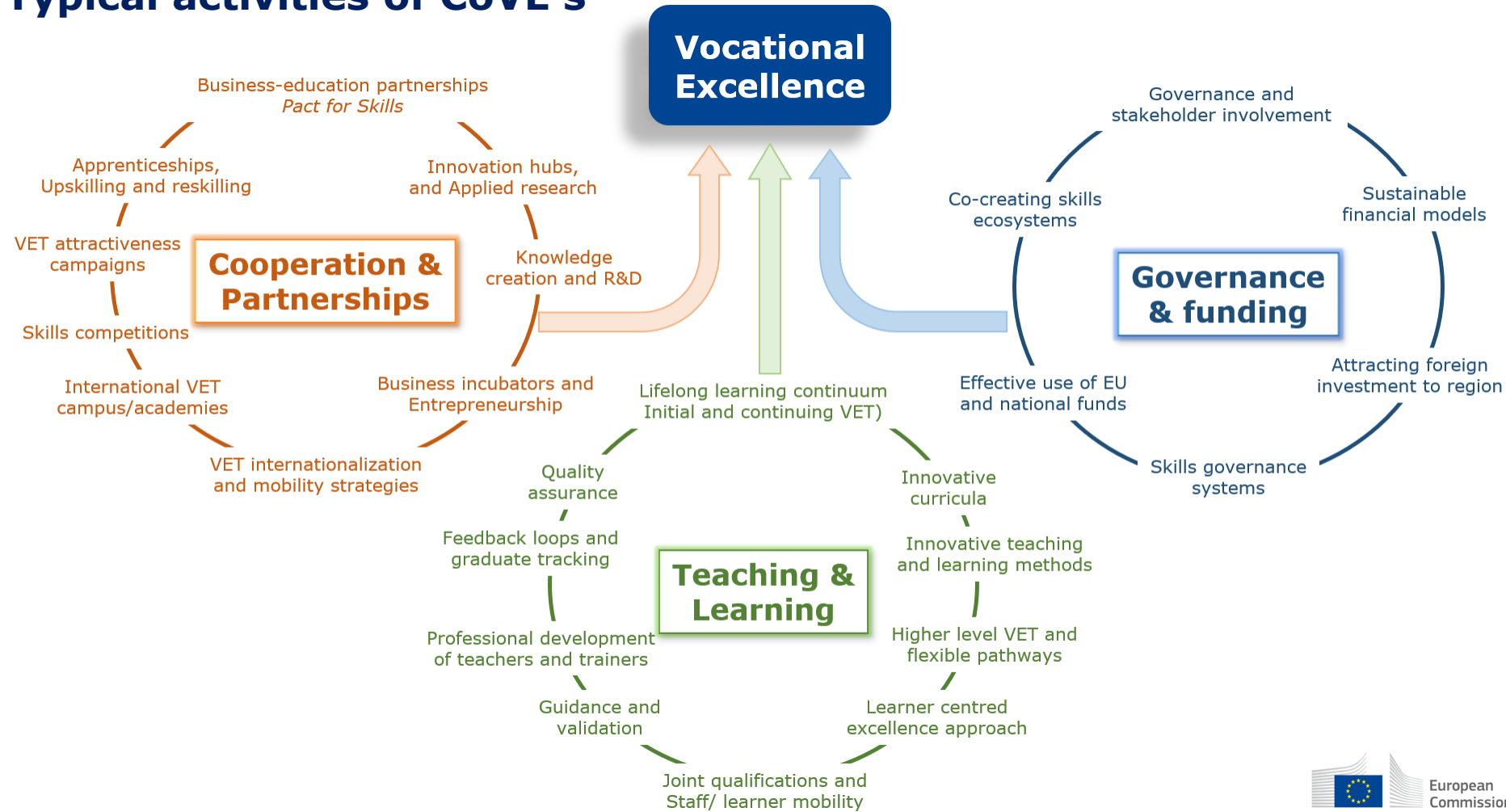


[@Robert Kelly](#)



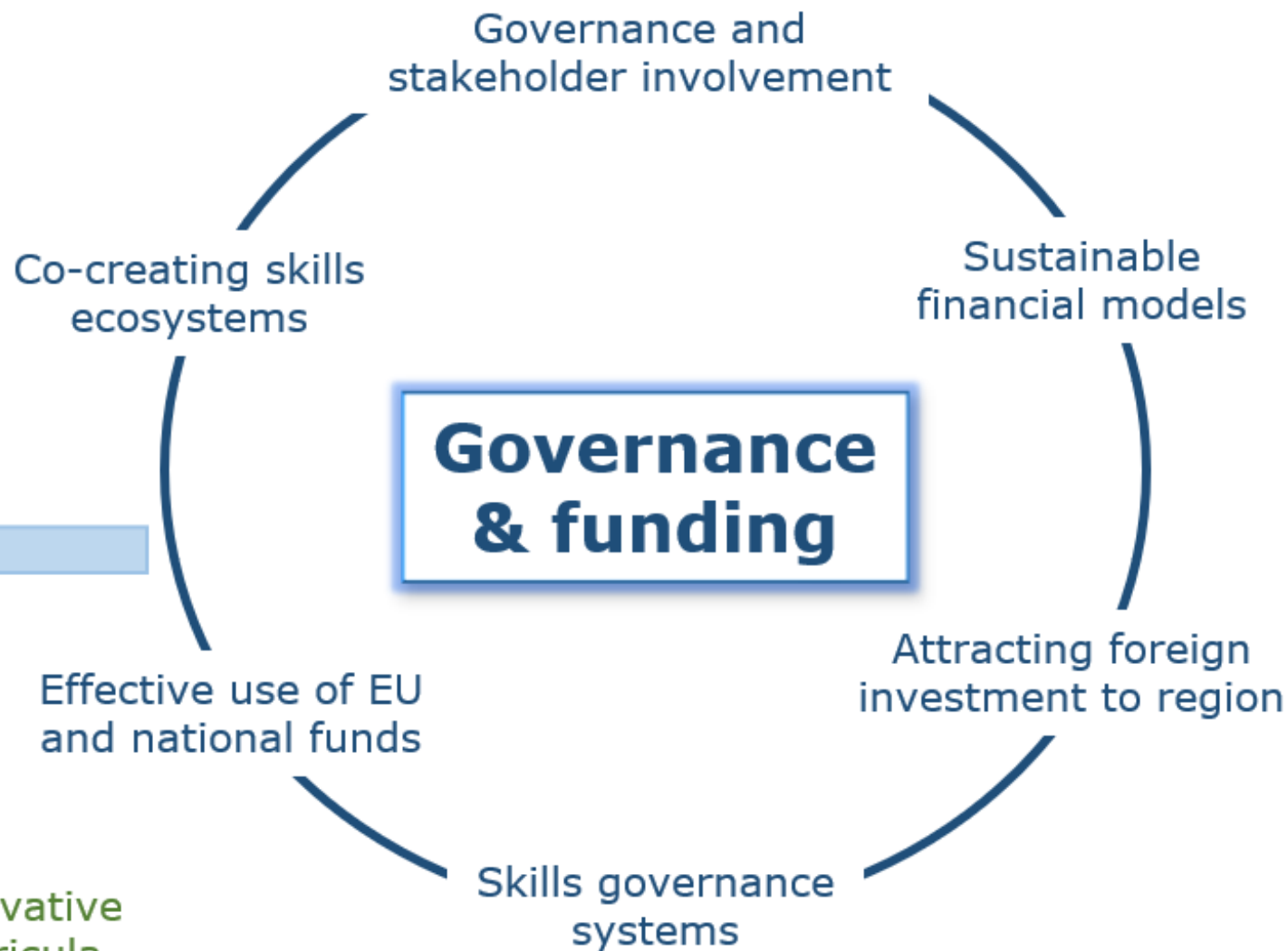
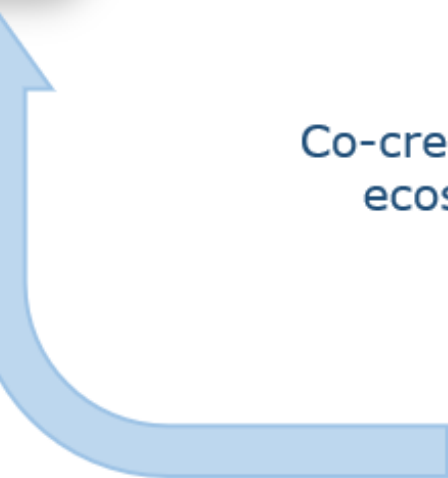
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# Typical activities of CoVE's









# Centres of Vocational Excellence

## *The operational framework*

### Foster Vocational Excellence at two levels

#### NATIONAL

Through Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

Operating in a **given local context**, embedding them closely in the local innovation, regional development, and skills ecosystems.

**Bringing together various partners** such as Education and training providers (at all levels), businesses, chambers, research institutions, development agencies, public authorities, etc.

#### TRANSNATIONAL

Through networks establishing world-class reference points for VET bringing together partners that share a common interest in:

- 1) specific sectors or industrial ecosystem,**
- 2) innovative approaches to tackle economic and societal challenges** (*e.g. climate change, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, sustainable development goals, integration of migrants & disadvantaged groups, etc.*),
- 3) Increase the outreach, quality and effectiveness of **existing** CoVEs**



# Centres of Vocational Excellence

## *Erasmus+ funding under Partnerships for Excellence (Ka2)*

- **2021-2027:** €400 million for 100 networks of CoVE
- **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



# 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/>

# Erasmus+ 2021 Call for CoVEs - Number of participating organisations

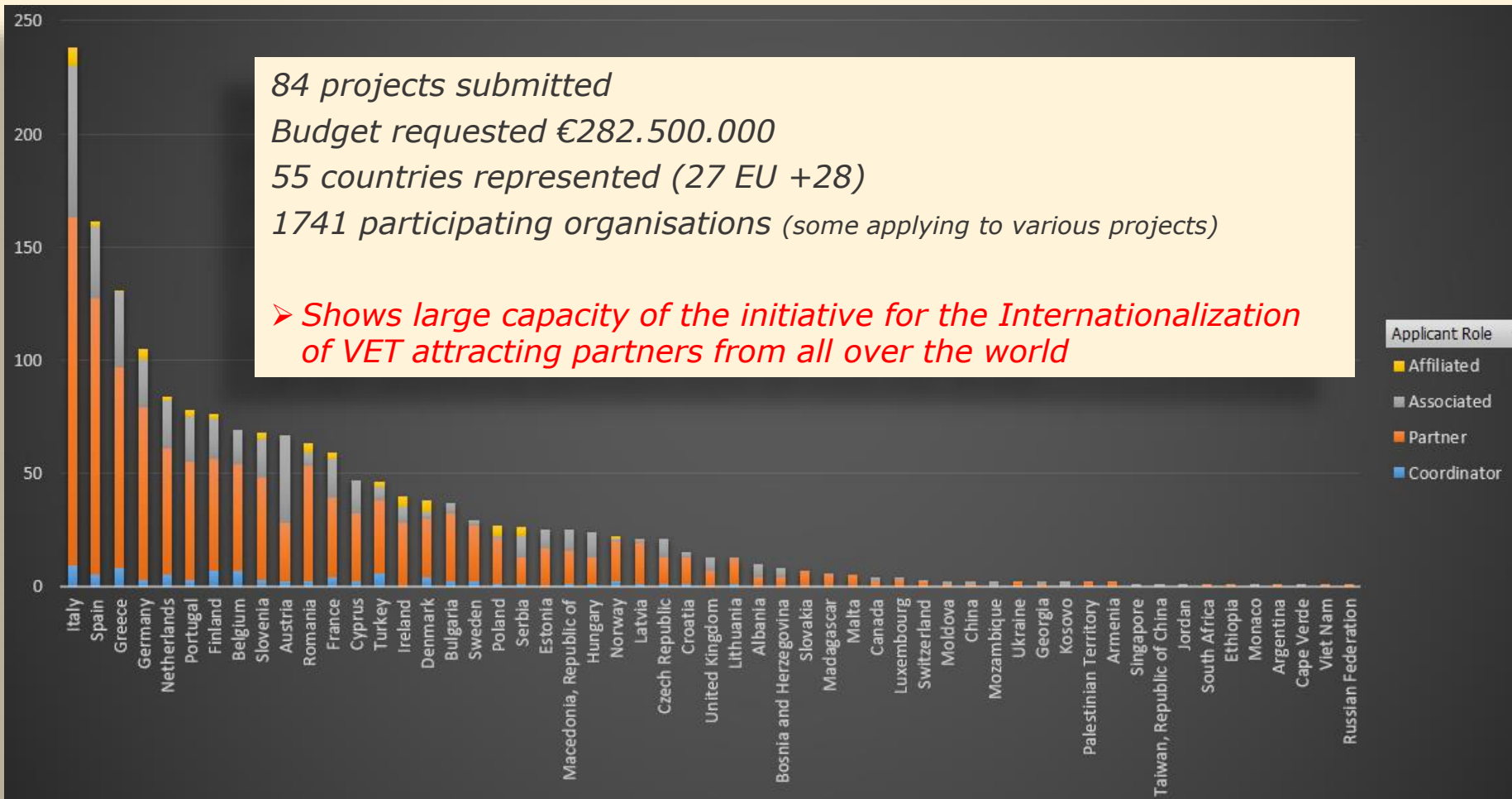
84 projects submitted

Budget requested €282.500.000

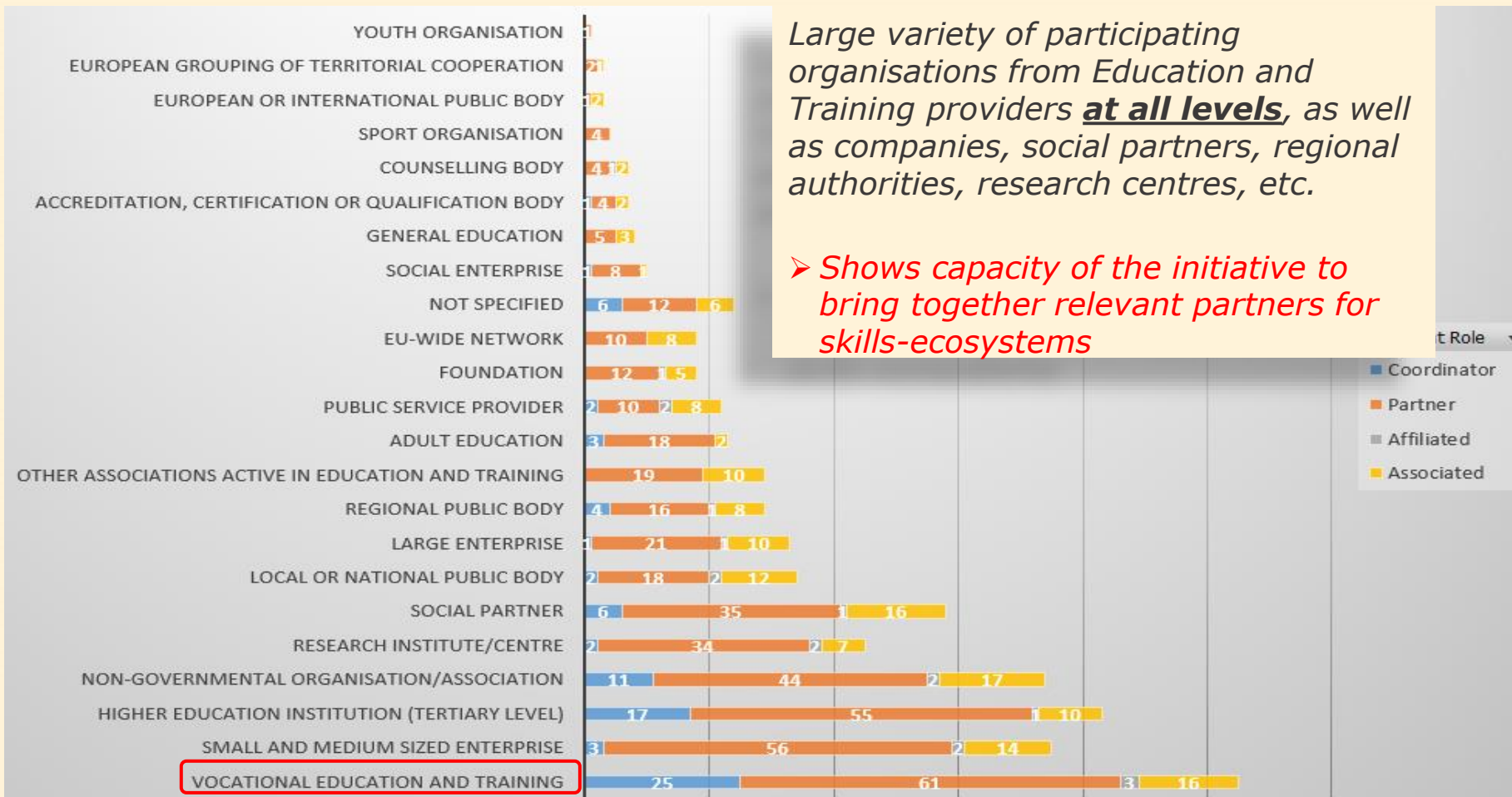
55 countries represented (27 EU + 28)

1741 participating organisations (some applying to various projects)

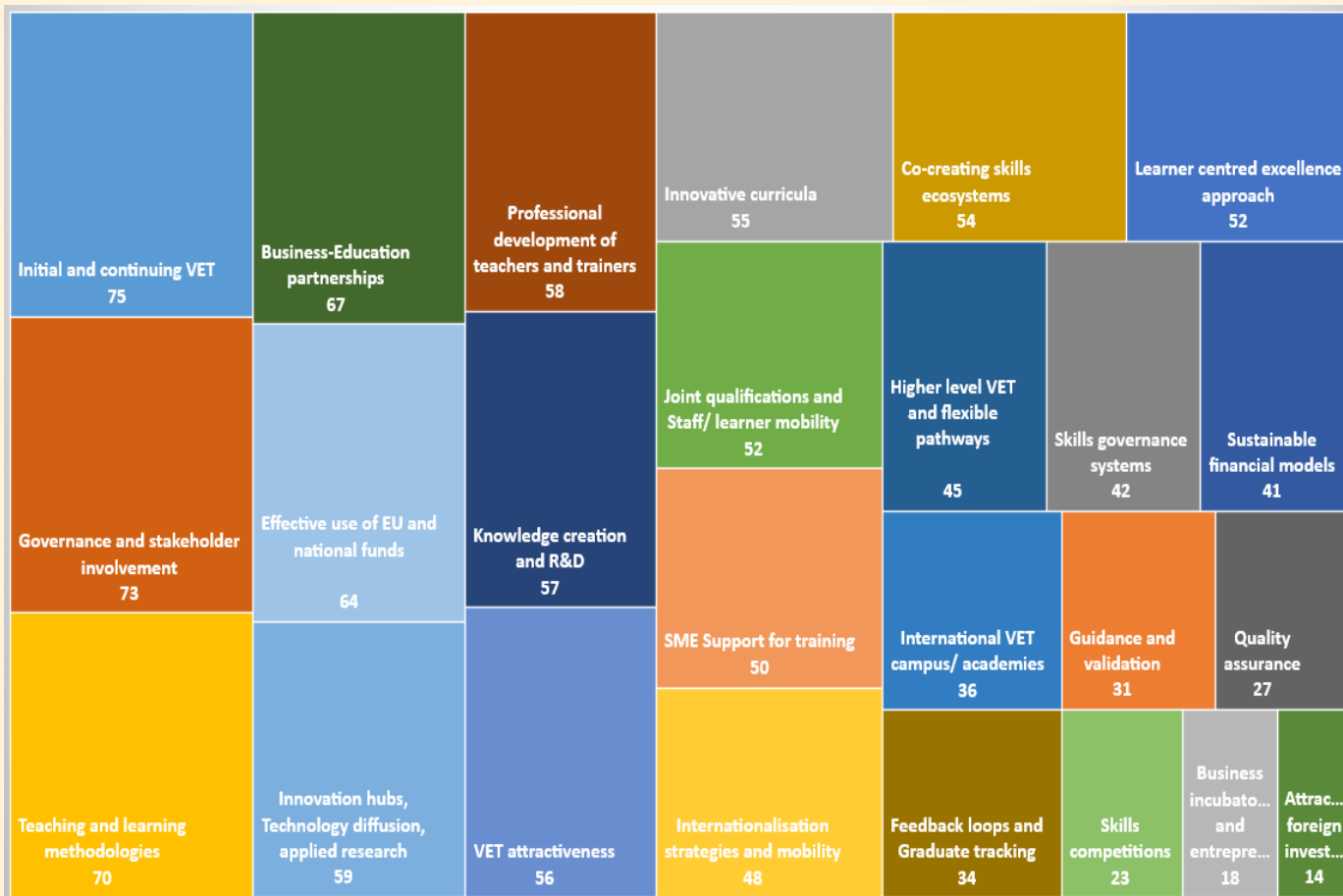
➤ Shows large capacity of the initiative for the Internationalization of VET attracting partners from all over the world



# Erasmus+ 2021 call for CoVEs - *Type of (unique) organisations*



# Erasmus+ 2021 Call for CoVEs - Activities prioritized



*All 25 activities covered with predominance of actions for:*

- 1) *Initial and continuing VET,*
- 2) *Stakeholder involvement,*
- 3) *Innovation in teaching & learning,*
- 4) *Business-education partnerships*
- 5) *Innovation hubs, technology diffusion, applied research*



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# Beyond CoVEs...

## Erasmus+ action on Capacity building for VET international cooperation

**The aim:** to support the relevance, accessibility, and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in third countries not associated to the programme

**The budget in 2022:** € 26 million (€160 million 2022 to 2027 from NDICI and IPA III)

**The partners:** VET organisations in Programme and Partner countries

**The actions (examples):**

- Improve the knowledge, technical, managerial and pedagogical skills of VET teachers and trainers;
- Reinforce links between Partner countries VET system and its labour market, to better align with emerging local labour market opportunities;
- Increase links between VET profiles and local Skills strategies and priorities, also to ensure coherence with other EU actions



GIZ photo



# Beyond funding... Tools and evidence for CoVEs

## The DGEMPL-Europan Training Foundation (ETF) cooperation

### 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**
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. Start 25 November 2021
- Deliverables will be integrated in future CoVE support services (expected to be launch Q4 2022)





# More information

Europa **Website on CoVE:**

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

The **Erasmus+** programme <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmu>

European Training Foundation (**ETF**) Website:

[www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)

**Functional mailbox** for all questions related to CoVE calls:

[EACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu)

**Applying for Erasmus+ CoVE funding** *(2022 link to be updated)*

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/funding-updates>

The Center of Vocational Excellence **Match Making Map** (developed by Katapult):

<https://www.wearekatapult.eu/cove-match-making-map/>

The GIVE project – Inclusive excellence

<https://youtu.be/X4ZGM-C-Kd4>

