



European
Commission



CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CoVEs)

A key initiative of European VET policy

September 2020

#EUVocationalExcellence

The initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence will contribute to the modernisation of the VET sector to the benefit of both young people gaining an initial qualification, as well as adults needing to upskill and reskill.

up to
€4
million

Erasmus+ funding for
each CoVE platform

Partners
from all
Member
States

as well as countries from
all around the world

More than
300
VET
providers

and many other
organisations involved

12
CoVE
Platforms

already being supported
and more to come

What are Centres of Vocational Excellence?

Vocational Excellence ensures high quality skills and competences that lead to quality employment and career-long opportunities, which meet the needs of an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy.

The initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) defines a bottom-up approach to excellence where Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions are capable of rapidly adapting skills provision to societal and economic needs, supporting the green and digital transitions.

CoVEs bring together a wide range of local, regional and national partners from different countries, including but not limited to: initial and continuing VET providers, universities of applied sciences and polytechnics, research institutions, companies, chambers, social partners, social enterprises, national and regional authorities, development agencies, public employment services, and social inclusion organisations.

Together they co-create “skills ecosystems” that contribute to regional development, innovation, industrial clusters, and smart specialisation strategies, as well as social inclusion.

They operate in a given local context, closely embedded in the local innovation ecosystems, while working with centres in other countries through international collaborative platforms. CoVEs can play an important bridging role in industrial ecosystems to drive responses to skills imbalances and orienting skills development to the needs of businesses. They also support the diffusion of innovation and applied research, especially among SMEs.

CoVEs will also actively contribute to the partnerships for up-skilling and re-skilling established in the context of the Pact for Skills. [Download](#) the factsheet on Skills Agenda.



The way forward

On 1 July 2020, the Commission adopted a Proposal for a Council Recommendation on vocational education and training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, that calls for action both at member state as well as EU level to support CoVEs. [Download](#) the factsheet on the Proposal.

This initiative constitutes a comprehensive approach to Vocational Excellence and introduces a “European dimension” aimed at fostering “upward convergence” of quality in VET by supporting the development of CoVEs, operating at both national and international levels.



Get Involved! Innovate! Apply!

- > Connect and share experiences for making a difference towards a future-fit vocational education and training in Europe.
- > Let's create Vocational Excellence together!
- > Find out more about each Centre of Vocational Excellence, new selection rounds & next steps.

ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-excellence

