



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. <u>Download</u> the factsheet on Skills Agenda.

Cluster strategy

Smart specialisation

Regional development

Innovation

excellence, we want to share the very best of innovative approaches in VET through transnational collaborative platforms.

With the initiative on vocational

VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Social inclusion

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. <u>Download</u> 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.

1st Erasmus+ Pilot call to support Vocational Excellence

November **2019**

2nd Erasmus+ Pilot call to

support Vocational Excellence

November 51

European Commission and Joint Research Centre launch a set of support services for CoVEs

2021-2027

October **2018**

Five Platforms of Vocational Excellence initiate projects

October **2019**

Seven additional Platforms

of Vocational Excellence initiate projects 2021

Commission proposal to Roll-out CoVE initiative

under the future Erasmus programme, in synergy with other EU instruments.

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.

ccurona eulsocial Ivocational excellence

© European Union, 2020

Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders. All images © European Union, © Shutterstock. Icons © Flaticon – all rights reserved.