



European Commission

Erasmus+ Centres of Vocational Excellence

#EU Vocational Excellence

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If your vocational education and training centre wants to become a world-reference hub for skills to support local development and innovation, providing timely solutions to economic and societal challenges, then **Erasmus+ has funds to support you!**

The combined effects of rapid technological change, digitalisation, climate change, circular economy, and new forms of work call for innovative ideas to ensure that vocational education and training (VET) not only adapts to change, but is also at the forefront of mastering and driving this change. New ways of collaborating at regional, national and transnational levels are necessary to meet these challenges.

Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) are intended to be world-class reference points for training in specific areas for both initial training of young people as well as for continuing up-skilling and re-skilling of adults. 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.

Would you like to be a world-class reference point for vocational training?

The EU provides funds for the establishment and development of transnational platforms of **Centres of Vocational Excellence**.

Platforms are formed by Centres of Vocational Excellence, which:

- share a common interest in **specific sectors** (aeronautics, e-mobility, healthcare, ICT, etc.) or
- develop together innovative approaches to tackle **societal challenges** (climate change, resource depletion and scarcity, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, Sustainable Development Goals, integration of migrants, upskilling people with low qualification levels, etc)

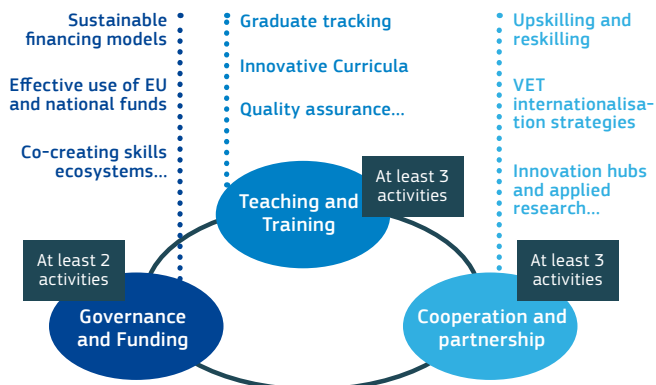
CoVE's are characterised by adopting a **systemic approach** through which VET institutions actively contribute to co-create **skills ecosystems**, together with a wide range of other local/regional partners. They act as catalysts for local development, by ensuring supply of high quality skilled workers through flexible and timely offer of training for the skills needs of companies, while adopting a **bottom-up approach to excellence** where VET institutions are capable of rapidly adapting skills provision to evolving local needs.

Centres of Vocational Excellence can achieve more than the sum of its parts.

CoVEs are expected to go far beyond the simple provision of a quality vocational qualification. Projects must include activities grouped in **3 clusters**. Examples of relevant activities are:



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*Please find a list of activities linked to each cluster in the Application Form.

To be considered for funding, it is essential for projects to address the 3 success factors for vocational excellence:



Key Success factors

1

Strong and enduring relationships

between stakeholders - VET providers (including VET at tertiary level), higher education institutions, and businesses, in which interactions are reciprocal and mutually beneficial (rather than 'one-way traffic')

2

Being firmly anchored into the frameworks

of regional development, innovation and smart specialisation. Such anchoring allows for the identification of synergies between policies and amongst stakeholders, avoiding ad hoc actions, which, though beneficial, in themselves probably do not realise all the potential benefits.

3

Integration of activities

There is great potential in CoVEs to achieve more than sum of their parts, in particular, where CoVEs build reflexive relationships between activities and research.

The partners in the projects, can include:

Initial and continuing VET providers, tertiary education institutions including universities of applied sciences and polytechnics, research institutions, science parks, innovation agencies, companies, chambers and their associations, social partners, social enterprises, sectoral skills councils, professional/sector associations, national and regional authorities and development agencies, public employment services, qualifications authorities, social inclusion and reintegration organisations, etc.

Other important aspects

- Projects have to use **EU wide instruments and tools** whenever relevant (e.g. EQF, ESCO, Europass, quality assurance, competence frameworks, etc.).
- Applications must include a **long-term action plan** for the progressive roll-out of project deliverables after the project has finished.
- They should include a focus on **green and digital skills**.
- Projects should aim to adopt an **inclusive dimension**.



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Interested in applying?

Find more details in the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#).
 Have a look at the webpage of the [Centres of Vocational Excellence](#).
 Find out more about a running CoVE project: [Talentjourney](#).
 Learn about the submission procedure in the [Online Manual on EU Funding & Tenders](#).
 Apply via the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

What should the partnerships look like?

At least 8 full partners from 4 Erasmus+ Programme countries (at least 2 Member States)

Each country must involve...

at least 1 enterprise, industry or sector representative organisation and

at least 1 VET provider

Involving organisations in Europe and around the world:

- Any public or private organisation active in the field of vocational education and training, or in the world of work and legally established in a **Programme country** or in any **Partner country** can be involved as full partner, affiliated entity or associated partner.
- One of the full partners will be the **coordinating organisation**, which will apply for the Erasmus+ grant. This organisation must be legally established in a Programme country.



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What funding is available in 2021?

BUDGET AVAILABLE
44 Mio €

MAX. EU CO-FINANCING
80%

MAX. EU GRANT PER PROJECT
4 Mio €



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Timeframe

Deadline for submission of applications

7 September
2021, 5 pm
(Brussels time)

Duration

4 years

