



# CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CoVEs)

## A key initiative of European Vocational Education and Training (VET) policy

April 2021

#EUVocationalExcellence

*The initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence will contribute to empower young people and adults with skills for fulfilling careers, that meet the needs of an innovative, competitive, fair, and sustainable economy.*

At least  
**€400**  
million

Erasmus+ support in the  
period 2021-2027

More than  
**100**  
CoVEs

co-creating skills  
ecosystems

up to  
**€4**  
million

Erasmus+ funding for  
each CoVE project

Partners  
from all  
EU Member  
States

as well as countries from  
all around the world

### What are Centres of Vocational Excellence?

Vocational Excellence ensures high quality skills and competences that lead to quality jobs and careers, 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 rapidly adapt skills provision to societal and economic needs, supporting the green and digital transitions, as well as the post-CoVID recovery.

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, 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 to social inclusion.

They operate in a given local context, closely embedded in innovation ecosystems, while working with centres in other countries through international collaborative networks. 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.

This initiative constitutes a comprehensive approach to Vocational Excellence and introduces a European dimension aimed at fostering “upward convergence” of quality in VET.

Cluster  
strategy

Regional  
development

Smart  
specialisation

Innovation

Social  
inclusion

**VOCATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE**

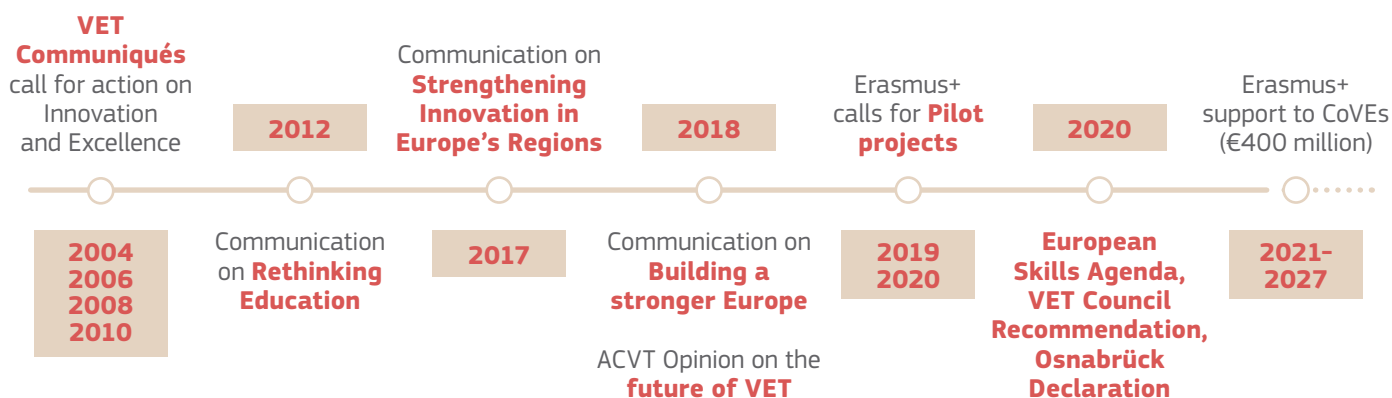
*With the initiative on vocational excellence, we want to share the very best of innovative approaches in VET through international collaborative networks.*

## The way forward

The CoVE initiative is firmly anchored in the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). It supports the implementation of the [European Skills Agenda](#), (in particular the [Pact for Skills](#)), the [European Education Area](#), the [Council Recommendation on VET](#) as well as the [Osnabrück Declaration](#), that call for action on Vocational Excellence both at member state as well as EU level.

Through its collaborative approach bringing together partners from all over the world, CoVEs also support VET internationalisation.

The initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence will be fully rolled out under the new [Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027](#).



## 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.



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