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 or trades** (aeronautics, e-mobility, healthcare, tourism, etc.) or
- develop together innovative approaches to tackle **societal, technological and economic challenges** (climate change, 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 relevant deliverables grouped under **3 clusters of activities**: 

- **Cluster 1: Teaching and Training**
  - At least 3 activities

- **Cluster 2: Cooperation and partnership**
  - At least 3 activities

- **Cluster 3: Governance and Funding**
  - At least 2 activities
To be considered for funding, it is essential for projects to address the 3 success factors for vocational excellence:

1. Strong and enduring relationships
   - Long-term partnerships
   - Interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches

2. Being firmly anchored into the frameworks
   - Integration into existing education and training systems
   - Access to relevant frameworks and standards

3. Activities of integration
   - Continuous improvement processes
   - Inclusive and accessible education and training

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.

What should the partnerships look like?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8 full partners* from 4 Erasmus+ Programme countries (at least 2 Member States)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each country must involve at least 1 company or industry or sector representative and at least 1 VET provider</td>
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*partners must be legally established organisations

- One of the full partners will be the coordinating organisation, which will apply for the Erasmus+ grant.
- The partnership can include organisations from Erasmus+ Programme and/or partner countries as associated partners to the extent it is demonstrated that their participation brings an added value to the CoVE.
- The activities must take place in Erasmus+ Programme countries.

What funding is available?

- MAX. EU CO-FINANCING 80%
- MAX. EU GRANT PER PROJECT 4 Mio €

BUDGET AVAILABLE 20 Mio €

Timeframe

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Deadline for submission of applications</th>
<th>Start of the projects</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 February 2020, 5 pm (Brussels time)</td>
<td>1 October 2020 or 1 November 2020</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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</table>

Interested in applying?

Find the official Applicants’ Guidelines and the application eForm on the EACEA website. Watch the video of the info session on the Call 2020. Download the Mapping of Centres of Vocational Excellence here. Have a look at a good example for vocational excellence: CIV Water.