EU VET and Adult Learning policies – preparing for the future

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Transitions and sustainability at the core of the future Agenda

- Europe must lead the transition to a healthy planet and a new digital world, bringing people together and upgrading our unique social market economy to fit today’s new ambitions.

- Becoming world’s first climate-neutral continent, world leader in circular economy and decarbonize energy-intensive industries

- Future-ready economy, with new industrial strategy, SME strategy

- Legislation for a coordinated European approach on the human and ethical implications of AI

- Integrate SDGs into economic governance and work of each DG

- Just Transition Fund leaving no one behind, Sustainable Europe Investment Fund
EDUCATION AND TRAINING (AND SKILLS) IN THE NEW COMMISSION

- Ensure those out of work are supported to find a job and gain the skills they need.
- European Pillar of Social Rights and its 20 principles: I want you to develop an action plan to implement the Pillar.
- Give children and young people the care, education and opportunities they need. Reinforce the Youth Guarantee.
- Implementing and updating our skills agenda, focusing on identifying and filling skills shortages and supporting reskilling as part of the just transition. Explore the idea of individual learning accounts for people of working age, enabling adults to accumulate training entitlements and use them for quality-assured training.

Work under the guidance of the Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People.

- Equipping people with the knowledge, life experience and skills they need to thrive.
- Cooperating across languages, borders and disciplines, we can collectively address the societal challenges and skills shortages that currently exist.
- Tripling the Erasmus+ programme as part of the next budget.
- Making the European Education Area a reality by 2025. Focus on removing barriers to learning, improving access to quality education and making it easier for learners to move between countries.
- Focus on digital literacy and education to close the digital skills gap. Updating of the Digital Education Action Plan and increase the take-up of massive open online courses.

Work under the guidance of the Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age in matters relating to research and innovation, and the Vice-President for Protecting our European Way of Life in matters relating to education, culture, youth and sports.

- Strengthen Europe’s industry and innovation capacity.
- Co-lead our work on a new long-term strategy for Europe’s industrial future.

- Making sure workers are equipped to thrive in our evolving labour market.
- Declining workforce and a digital and basic skills gap brings into focus the need to equip people with the tools and knowledge they need.
- Ensure young people gain new experiences, skills and opportunities.
- Coordinate the work on an ambitious education agenda, focusing on making education more accessible and inclusive, on lifelong learning and on cross border learning.
- Coordinate the work on making the European Education Area a reality.
- Contribution of the Commissioner for Jobs to identify and fill skills shortages and support reskilling as part of the just transition.

Valdis Dombrovskis Executive Vice-President
An Economy that Works for People

Ursula von der Leyen President

Margaritis Schinas Vice-President
Protecting our European Way of Life

Nicolas Schmit Commissioner
Jobs

Mariya Gabriel Commissioner
Innovation and Youth

Margrethe Vestager Executive Vice-President
Europe fit for the Digital Age
Investing in People, Social Cohesion & Values cluster - €139.5 billion

The European Pillar of Social Rights a key reference

ESF+ €101.2 billion, brings together the:
- European Social Fund,
- Youth Employment Initiative,
- Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived,
- Employment and Social Innovation programme
- Health programme

European Solidarity Corps increase to €1,26 billion

Erasmus+ doubling the budget to €30 billion (x3 mobilities)

Creative Europe and the new Justice, Rights and Values Programmes
Why develop policies on VET and AL?

15 million learners in initial VET (secondary and tertiary) in Europe

47.8% of upper secondary students

79.5% employability rate

329 million Europeans of working age (15-64)

114 million of adults took part in job-related E&T in 2016
The dual objectives of VET for fostering social inclusion and excellence

The role of VET in supporting acquisition of job specific and transversal skills

Balancing investment and funding between initial and continuing VET
What is at stake?
High quality VET and higher VET for employability and personal development of all learners.

Purpose
Discuss in an expert working group innovation and digitalisation at system level to create more flexible and modern high quality VET systems, taking into account relevant national strategies and tools and focus on different stakeholders' perspectives.

Expected output
Policy guidelines, good practices, case studies, communication material
SELFIE free, easy-to-use, customisable tool to help schools assess where they stand with learning in the digital age

Available for schools in...
- Primary
- Lower & upper secondary (GEN & VET)
- Post-secondary non-tertiary

But...
- Organisation of education processes in VET differs significantly from the process in general education
- Key feature of VET: very significant proportion of educational time dedicated to learning skills in work-based learning contexts (workplace, VET school)
- Current SELFIE tool does not accommodate the application in WBL contexts
- Feasibility study (end 2019); From January 2020 development of SELFIE for WBL
The initiative on
Centres of Vocational Excellence
What is "Vocational excellence"

VET 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

- Is an integrative part of **skills ecosystems**, contributing to regional development, innovation, and smart specialisation strategies
- Is part of **knowledge triangles**, working closely with other education and training sectors, the scientific community, and business
- Enables learners to acquire both **vocational** and **key competences** through **high-quality provision** that is underpinned by quality assurance, builds innovative forms of partnerships with the world of work, and is supported by the continuous professional development of teaching and training staff, innovative pedagogies, and internationalisation strategies
There are three key factors that underpin the success of CoVEs, shown in the pictogram below:

1. Strong and enduring relationships
   - A key factor is ensuring strong and enduring relationships between stakeholders involved in VET provision and sectors. These relationships should be reciprocal and mutually beneficial, ensuring both parties benefit.

2. Being firmly anchored into regional frameworks
   - Effective integration requires a strong foundation within the regional framework. This allows for the identification of synergies and the development of strategic partnerships. CoVEs must be internationally oriented, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

3. Integration of activities
   - Integration of activities is crucial for the success of CoVEs. It involves creating a comprehensive approach that includes both educational and training activities, ensuring a seamless transition and adaptation to the needs of the labor market.
## Centres of Vocational Excellence

### Overview of 2019 selected projects

5 projects selected. Duration 2 years. Total grants: €4,624,879

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>EU Grant</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talentjourney</td>
<td>IoT in Smart manufacturing</td>
<td>953,550 €</td>
<td>Solski (SI)</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent Advanced Manufacturing 4.0</td>
<td>Advanced Manufacturing</td>
<td>799,332 €</td>
<td>Tknika (ES)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Innovation Hub for Cloud Based Services</td>
<td>Cloud computing</td>
<td>999,882 €</td>
<td>Helsinki Business college (FI)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Open Design School</td>
<td>Cultural and creative industries</td>
<td>874,093 €</td>
<td>Basilicata Foundation (IT)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platform of Vocational Excellence Water</td>
<td>Water sector</td>
<td>998,022 €</td>
<td>Friesland college (NL)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support for “Platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)”

- Support for **5 Pilot projects** running for 4 years, based on innovative cooperation methods, for the **establishment of Platforms of CoVE’s**
- **Strategic approach to development of skills-ecosystems at local level** and in line with local growth and **innovation strategies**
- At least **4 programme countries**, at least **8 full partners**, with at least **1 company** or industry representative, and **1 VET provider** in each country
- Can be focused on any **EQF level** but must also include **levels 3, 4 or 5**
- **Budget €20.000.000**, with maximum EU grant **€4,000,000** per project
- **Deadline for applications 20 February 2020 (17:00 CET).**
Networks for Adult Education providers

**Rationale:** fragmented, complex and varied nature of adult learning providers

- Creating or strengthening national or transnational networks
- Capacity building of the networks and their members

- **Budget:** 6 Million EUR
- **Deadline for applications tbc**
Lot 1:
- Digital education and competences
- Teaching and teachers

*Indicative budget for Lot 1 is 12,000,000 euros*

Lot 2:
- Funding mechanisms for upskilling and reskilling, including schemes similar to Individual Learning Accounts
- Policy and processes to support the validation of non-formal and informal learning, including through effective guidance

*The indicative budget for Lot 2 is 2,000,000 euros.*
Local registered events: more than 1515 and still counting...

15,000 votes for the Award Nominees

150,000 unique visits to the Week page

55 million Hashtag reach

Participants in Helsinki: around 1000

Preparing for Berlin: 9-13 November 2020
I HEAR and I forget.

I SEE and I remember.

I DO and I understand.

Confucius