FLASH REPORT

Main objective/s
The aim of the conference was to discuss the future needs of CoVEs and how these are linked to skills demands and smart specialisation strategies. The core questions of the conference were: ■ How can CoVEs improve to fulfil their role as engines of development for learners, the VET system and society? ■ How can the ENE best support CoVEs and VET systems in the EU neighbourhood? ■ How ENE contribute to the EU support services to CoVEs? ■ How can international stakeholders work together through ENE to support the development of CoVEs and the transmission of excellence to national VET systems

Background
This conference launched the ETF Network for Excellence (ENE). The conference will be executing in two parts; the PART1 took place in virtual format on 3 December 2020 whereas PART 2 will take place in Turin in Q1 2021. ENE is unique in being an international network of CoVEs in the EU neighbourhood. This package of events brings together its members and important stakeholders to present and ETF Network for Excellence (ENE) Launch Conference - "Centres of Vocational Excellence as engines for VET development" | discuss progress towards its principal outputs of peer learning, partnerships and tools development.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT
The launch event was an important milestone for ENE and for the next steps. The main activities carried out by the Network under ENE project in 2020 have been described to the audience: the ETF publication "CoVEs as engines for VET development", the direct witnesses from some of our Network members in the EU neighbourhood, the existing partnerships with Omnia Education Partnerships from Finland, with Vocational Education Association, from Latvia and with Skillman Network from Italy, the self- assessment tool helping centres in the network to reflect upon their own development in the light of an international framework for excellence. The event also highlighted the funding opportunities provided by EU Support Services and Erasmus programme grants.

172 people registered for the event via the Zoom platform. More followed the event from live streaming channels of YouTube and Facebook.

These 172 are based in 35 different countries (19 member states and 16 partner countries).

99 from the 172 registered, come from ETF partner countries and 73 from member states (the ETF colleagues are also included in this group).

The 172 are registered through different language forms EN and RU. (146 EN speaking and 26 RU speaking).

ETF GB members have also registered and many of them took part to the event.

The material from the conference is now uploaded in open space in this link:

https://openspace.etf.europa.eu/events/etf-network-excellence-launch-conference

So far, in ENE we have 98 CoVEs registered.

From these 98 CoVEs: 12 are based in EU and 86 in ETF partner countries

These 98 CoVEs cover 20 different counties: 13 partner countries and 7 EU

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

The key messages of the event were aimed at attracting new countries in ENE and at showing to the already registered members the different partnerships and action opportunities offered by the Network.

Next year, we plan to continue with more partnerships covering different areas of the 8 dimensions of excellence selected. We aim to collect responses from all members on the self-assessment tool and engage, if possible, all our current members into at least one action or partnership.

We expect to have more CoVEs and hopefully more countries joining ENE.

On our dedicated space on the ETF website we started uploading information and links for our members. This work will continue aiming to collect information from all members. This should help them build their own connections and partnerships.

We are currently looking into a potential cooperation with Danube strategy priority Area 9. This seems to have a good potential for creating a regional platform under ENE where 5 of our partner countries are involved.

Our next important event is scheduled for Q1 2021. This will be the Part 2 of the launch event aiming to provide more in depth analysis of all the sub-initiatives we have in place. If conditions allow, this will be a hybrid event combining physical and online participation.