

# AGENDA

## The international dimension of Centres of vocational excellence: Building a strong international cooperation dimension on Vocational Excellence: Stakeholders' Consultation meeting

30 MARCH 2022, 10:00-11:30 (CEST)

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In November 2021, DG EMPL signed an agreement with the ETF for the implementation of the project "The international dimension of Centres of vocational excellence: Building a strong international cooperation dimension on Vocational Excellence".

The project design builds on the successful work of the ETF Network of Excellence (ENE) launched in 2020. The ENE initiative promotes the development of Centres of Vocational Excellence (COVE), through close international dialogue among EU and partner countries, building on evidence, fostering peer learning and exchanges, and the co-creation of development tools. The ENE Network currently has 243 members and 6 active partnerships where CoVEs are cooperating internationally to advance particular domains of CoVE activity.

This project on the 'international dimension of CoVEs' is part of the EU's major CoVE initiative which has helped to make CoVEs an engine for the development of vocational excellence, for innovation, for cooperation and for improving the attractiveness and relevance of vocational education and training and ensuring that it contributes to current priorities, in particular, the digital and green transitions.

This initiative supports a bottom-up approach to Vocational Excellence involving a wide range of local stakeholders but encourages CoVEs to work together and to share their practices in order to help improve vocational and training systems. It places emphasis on developing the organisational capability as well as the quality and range of provision but also upon their capacity to work with stakeholders, partners, businesses and other local actors to collectively steer local and regional skills ecosystems. In particular, the initiative places an emphasis on international cooperation between CoVEs, which extends the aspirations and the capability of CoVEs to innovate and improve.

The project will run 24 months and consists of four work packages:

### **1: Creating an international vocational excellence self-assessment tool for CoVEs**

Under this work package an international self-assessment tool for CoVEs (ISATC) will be developed through a digital interface to allow COVEs to use the tool for identification of strength areas and areas for improvement based on the characteristics of vocational excellence. The project will provide training, coaching and guidance to support to use of ISATC.

The tool will allow for a continuous monitoring of COVEs as a basis for analysis and recommendations at

international level; it could allow to build a worldwide register of COVEs and identify success stories and practices. Such a register could then be used to develop tools and examples to support COVEs in further development and transformation.

## 2: Explore the feasibility of a Quality award on Vocational Excellence

Under this work package ETF will explore the feasibility of creating of a quality award on Vocational Excellence for CoVEs, based on the criteria developed under work package 1 and following the EU's policies and priorities as regards COVEs. This award would help to create concrete reference points for excellent practices by CoVEs, that will inform organisational and system development internationally.

The award would provide visibility and recognition, of concrete achievements and provide inspiration for future work on Vocational Excellence. It would be renewed on a regular basis following well established procedures and assessment criteria.

## 3: Building evidence to support vocational excellence for the digital and green transitions and in the area of innovation and applied research

This work package comprises implementation of three international studies offering in-depth knowledge on the role of COVEs in supporting the digital and green transitions and contribution of VET to applied research and innovation hubs. The studies will analyse the complex nature of COVEs in different contexts and their contribution to the above areas. The studies will allow to focus attention on specific areas of COVEs work in relation to the green and digital transition, as well as on the use of specific methodologies in teaching and learning enriched by international best practices, hence contributing to shape the role of COVEs in achieving the EU and Global Agenda.

## 4: Policy support activities and capacity building

Linked to the other 3 work packages, this component will aim at sharing knowledge generated through a series of workshops and communication actions and products. All the outputs of other WPs will contain policy guidance elements and policy recommendations. Therefore, where appropriate, policy makers will be engaged in the project, for example, in dissemination events on the above studies. Peer-learning opportunities on the themes addressed by the project will be provided to practitioners and policy makers. Existing best practices identified under WP3 will be shared during the workshops.

More details on the work packages and ETF methodology of implementation can be found in the attached note on the project.

The **purpose** of the stakeholder's consultation meeting is to present the project and to discuss with interested stakeholders (international and EU organisations) their potential role in the project and, in particular, to explore opportunities for consultation.

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker/Facilitator
10:00 - 10:20	Opening and objectives of the meeting	Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice Unit, ETF Joao Santos, DG EMPL, EU Support Services and Erasmus+ EU Commission
10:20 - 10:40	Presentation of WP1: international self-assessment tool for CoVEs and WP2: Quality award on Vocational Excellence	Julian Stanley, Senior Human Capital Development Expert - Innovative Teaching and Learning, ETF Doriana Monteleone, Human Capital Development Statistician, ETF
10:40 - 10:55	Presentation of WP3: Studies on the role of CoVEs in digital and green transitions and applied research.	Stefan Thomas, Human Capital Development Expert - Work Based Learning
10.55-11.00	Participation and Consultation	Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice Unit, ETF

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Speaker/Facilitator</b>
11:00 – 11:15	The consultation process	Julian Stanley, Senior Human Capital Development Expert - Innovative Teaching and Learning, ETF
11:15 - 11:25	Discussion	Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice Unit, ETF
11:25 - 11:30	Closure and next steps	Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice Unit, ETF