Entrepreneurial centres of vocational excellence – creating value for businesses and communities: Let’s excel together!

Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) are vocational institutions recognised for excellence in identifying and imparting relevant, high-quality, specialised technical skills. They are innovation hubs with strong ties to industry and business. They strive to provide exemplary initial training for young people and continuing education for adults, guiding them as they upskill and reskill through flexible, timely training programmes designed to meet the skills companies need.

Created in December 2020, the ETF Network for Excellence (ENE) is a platform designed to encourage knowledge sharing, namely the continuous exchange of best practices among new and existing CoVEs at local, national, and international levels. ENE builds bridges and partnerships with other CoVEs within the EU and beyond and covers eight priority areas.

Entrepreneurial CoVEs: context

Entrepreneurial centres of vocational excellence recognize the importance of integrating entrepreneurship into training programmes. Entrepreneurship is one of the 8 key competences for lifelong learning recognized by the European Union; it leads to personal fulfilment, employability, a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, and social inclusion. More specifically, “entrepreneurship is when you act upon opportunities and ideas and transform them into value for others. The value that is created can be financial, cultural, or social.” EntreComp for entrepreneurship education provides educators and trainers with practical guidance for teaching and learning entrepreneurship as a key competence along a progressive learning pathway.

Through the ENE Entrepreneurial CoVEs initiative, the ETF aims to integrate the European Commission’s vision for entrepreneurship by promoting it at training centre level. To achieve this goal, an interdisciplinary partnership has been created. The Partnership works around four dimensions: Teaching and learning processes, Organisational practices, products and services and Eco-system – as per diagram in the next page.

Entrepreneurial CoVEs: timeline

- Engaging CoVEs and relevant stakeholders: September – December 2021
- Co-learning & sharing good practices through a webinar series: January – February 2022
- Coaching sessions and improving performance: March – May 2022
- Identifying four common work priorities: June – September 2022
- Sharing achievements: October 2022 – January 2023
- Communicating within the network and beyond: 2021 – 2023
- Final conclusion sharing exercise: February – April 2023

ENE priority areas
- Work-based learning (WBL)
- Entrepreneurial Centres of Vocational excellence
- Pedagogy and professional development
- Smart specialisation
- Industry 4.0 and digitalisation
- Autonomy and public-private partnerships
- Going green
- Social inclusion and equity
PARTICIPATING CoVEs AND COUNTRIES

Support to conceptual development and project management is provided by the contractor, CARDET.

Please note that Tunisia has been at the forefront of integrated approaches to entrepreneurial education thanks to a seven-year partnership between the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment (MFPE) and the ETF.

Other CoVEs will also join as the project evolves and grows.

OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES

The main objective of the ENE Entrepreneurial CoVEs initiative is to learn, share, grow and network. Through peer learning and coaching CoVEs will work on:

- development of new curricula and training products
- design and implement entrepreneurial strategies
- cooperation with multiple partners within their ecosystems
- international networking.

WHAT’S IN THIS PARTNERSHIP FOR PARTICIPATING CoVEs AND COUNTRIES?

Members of the ENE Entrepreneurial CoVEs initiative will benefit from:

- opportunities to participate in peer-learning and exchanges with other CoVEs,
- improve their performance and become more entrepreneurial in the design and implementation of their activities,
- access to a wide and diverse network of CoVEs as well as stakeholders in the public and private sectors in ETF Partner Countries and EU Member States, and
- high visibility in ETF online platforms and international networks working on Entrepreneurship as a key competence.

Entrepreneurial CoVE Conceptual Framework

ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES
Strategy, operational structure, financing, human resource management, internal communication monitoring, QA, etc.

ECOSYSTEM
Engage with key stakeholders, enterprises, and partners, build networks, engage in advocacy activities and develop internationalisation strategies.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES
Design and delivery of offerings to external actors such as enterprises, governments, organisations (e.g. research and consultancy services, training, etc.)

TEACHING & LEARNING PROCESSES
Pedagogical approaches, learner engagement, teaching and learning processes, curricula, and assessment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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