

DRAFT AGENDA

ETF NETWORK FOR EXCELLENCE (ENE): SHARING INNOVATION IN SOCIAL INCLUSION (SISI)

Online (ZOOM)

ENGAGING THE SISI COMMUNITY FOR PHASE 2
9 DECEMBER 2024, 12.00 – 14:30 CET

SUMMARY

The ETF via the Network for Excellence (ENE) has been working intensively for years with Partner Countries (PCs) and the international VET community to operationalize both Vocational Education and Training Excellence (VET Excellence), and Centers of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs). ENE provides network members, such as high-performing VET providers, with opportunities to learn and collaborate to build partnerships at national, regional/local, and international levels. The goal is to develop VET Excellence frameworks and enhance CoVEs' operations to inform policy reforms that address VET modernization, high-quality provision, and skills ecosystem development.

Currently, ENE includes more than 330 educational institutions as network members, offering them and other international partners participation in thematic work that holistically addresses VET Excellence and CoVEs development in ten key knowledge areas. This includes, among others, the role of CoVEs in entrepreneurship, greening VET, digitalization, work-based learning (WBL), autonomy and public-private partnerships (PPPs), career education and guidance, social inclusion, and equity (etc.)^[1]. ENE supports CoVEs in exchanging practices, know-how, ideas and co-creating methodologies/tools across its network.

These themes are integrated into the ENE Self-Assessment Tool (ENESAT) to support CoVEs' self-evaluation. ENESAT helps CoVEs' progress toward excellence by identifying areas for improvement or expertise development. This can then be shared with other centers, network members, national/regional authorities, international partners, etc. and transmit excellence to other parts of the system ^[2]. ENESAT can also act as springboard for ENE members to explore other international self-assessment tools^[3].

Today, Vocational Excellence is a key driver of reforms in the VET sector, emphasizing a bottom-up approach. European policy documents, such as the European Skills Agenda, the 2020 Council Resolution on VET, and the Osnabrück Declaration, recognize vocational excellence as a vehicle for achieving policy objectives in VET within Lifelong Learning (LLL) perspective. The Erasmus+ program plays a vital role in supporting partnerships for excellence^[4].

In a nutshell, CoVEs are network institutions and/or platforms aiming at providing vocational

excellence, learning opportunities to learners and contributing to the skills ecosystems they operate within. Through local and international cooperation and their involvement with a range of stakeholders, CoVEs might be seen as pathfinders and good examples-leaders- which adopt a specific-context approach to vocational excellence. This enables them to adapt and to evolve economic and social needs, while promoting local business development and innovation.

Social inclusion is one of ENE's core thematic areas. Here, social inclusion in VET Excellence encompasses access, governance and funding, innovative VET provision, teaching and learning and equality of labour market opportunities. ENE's approach to vocational excellence integrates inclusiveness and equity as essential components, aligning VET goals with broader inclusion objectives. The aim is to support socio-economic and regional development by equipping learners and citizens with high-level skills that foster participation in employment and economic growth and have an impact on inclusion and excellence policies.

The "Sharing Innovation in Social Inclusion - Skills for Inclusion VET Initiative" (ENE SISI) was established as a cross-country network that unites public and private vocational education and training institutions. ENE SISI has enhanced members' visibility through collaborative work in sharing developments and practices^[5]. Since 2021, eleven CoVEs have been exchanging innovative practices for VET excellence and social inclusion under the ENE SISI initiative. A summary report of ENE SISI's work from 2021 to 2023 is available online through the ETF Network for Excellence^[6].

This online meeting is the starting point for the second phase of ENE SISI. It has the following objectives:

- Recall the activities and results of ENE SISI phase one and the recommendations of the final report.
- Generate and harvest ideas for the next phase of ENE SISI in collaborative group work, co-creating the way forward.

The meeting will be virtual via ZOOM. The language will be **English**, with translation into **French**.

^[1] <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/what-we-do/vocational-excellence-ene>

^[2] <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/what-we-do/self-assessment-centres-vocational-excellence>

^[3] <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/what-we-do/internationalising-vocational-excellence>

^[4] <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/partnerships-excellence>

^[5] ETF/ENE: A road to excellence: international networking on VET Excellence and CoVEs for co-creating skills ecosystems (2025, forthcoming).

^[6] <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/document-attachments/etf-network-excellence-sharing-innovation-social-inclusion>

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Time	Activity	Speaker
12:00 – 12:20	Welcome, opening remarks: setting the scene	Georgios Zisimos, ETF Jose Manuel Galvin Arribas, ETF Matthias Themel, ETF
12:20 – 12:45	Review of SISI phase 1, followed by Q&A	Matthias Themel, ETF
12:45 – 12:55	Break	
12:55 – 13:05	Introduction to work group and methodology	Matthias Themel, ETF
13:05 – 13:50	Interactive discussions in groups	ETF working groups' facilitators
13:50 – 14:10	Presentation of work groups' results	ETF working groups' facilitators
14:10 – 14:20	Closing remarks	Jose Manuel Galvin Arribas, ETF Matthias Themel, ETF
14:20 -14:35	Informal exchange among participants (optional)	ETF and participants