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# DRAFT AGENDA

## TITLE:

Internationalising vocational excellence conference

## SUBJECT: MAKING EXCELLENCE MEANINGFUL FOR ALL LEARNERS

12-13 MARCH 2025, POLO DEL'900, CORSO VALDOCCO 4/A, TURIN,  
ITALY

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## BACKGROUND

### Join us for an interactive conference on 'Internationalising Vocational Excellence'!

Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) are pivotal in the European Commission's policies to improve skills development and the attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training (VET). The CoVEs, if used correctly, can be engines that help the whole VET system to improve. The recently announced Union of Skills initiative, which focuses on investment, lifelong learning, and skill recognition to enhance competitiveness and address skill gaps across the Union can benefit from the experiences of CoVEs. Their capacity to forge international alliances and benefit from governance/autonomy schemes can serve as good examples for more conventional VET organisations. The CoVEs, can contribute to building trust in qualifications across countries and support talent partnerships to meet labour market demands.

Vocational excellence is also highlighted as a driver of reform in the European Skills Agenda<sup>1</sup>, the European Education Area<sup>2</sup>, the 2020 Council Recommendation on VET<sup>3</sup>, as well as the Osnabrück Declaration<sup>4</sup> include very clear references to Vocational Excellence as a driving force for reforms in the VET sector.

The ETF has been working on vocational excellence since 2018 and launched the ETF Network on Excellence (ENE) in 2020. In November 2023, the ETF hosted the conference "Building Strong International Cooperation on Vocational Excellence", as part of the EU funded project 'International Dimension of Centres of Vocational Excellence'. This project continued with a second phase called 'Internationalising Vocational Excellence'. This conference will mark the end of this second phase by

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<sup>1</sup> [SkillsAgenda.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> [About the European Education Area - European Education Area](#)

<sup>3</sup> [EUR-Lex - 32020H1202\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

<sup>4</sup> [osnabrueck\\_declaration\\_eu2020.pdf](#)

presenting the deliverables achieved but also mark the start of a new phase by providing ample space to discuss together the future steps in this exciting journey.

### **Driving vocational excellence internationally**

With a growing global interest in vocational excellence, the international dimension is more crucial than ever. This is also reflected in the work of the ETF Network on Excellence (ENE), which now has over 300 CoVEs members from 54 different countries.

This conference will adopt a dynamic approach, presenting and discussing strategies to position CoVEs as engines for VET reforms, supported by robust policies.

The current phase of Internationalising Vocational Excellence is focussing on the bottom-up approach, supporting centres to enhance their vocational excellence with the use of the International Self-Assessment Tool for Centres of Vocational Excellence (ISATCOVE), recognising their commitment to improve towards vocational excellence and piloting a Vocational Excellence Certificate to give visibility to high achievements in VET. The further enhancement of vocational excellence is supported with a set of resources developed under the current project, such as an e-library on vocational excellence, two knowledge packages dedicated to working in partnerships and a Cookbook on vocational excellence.

The next phase of Internationalising Vocational Excellence will build on this legacy to enrich further knowledge and peer learning and deliver evidence-based policy advice. The conference will address these discussions, with the goal to make a transition from a traditional institutional to a comprehensive skills ecosystem perspective.

### **Key sessions:**

The conference will focus on the current three streams of work and the way forward:

#### **1. Support Services for Vocational Excellence:**

- Discover our new website and e-library on vocational excellence.
- Explore the “Cookbook on Vocational Excellence.”
- Engage with knowledge packages on creating and working in partnerships and skills ecosystems.
- The Winter Camp on Vocational Excellence.

#### **2. ISATCOVE Implementation:**

- Reflect on three waves of ISATCOVE implementation.
- Find out what the first results of the analysis of ISATCOVE data tell us.

#### **3. Vocational Excellence Certificate:**

- Learn from the pilot experiences of the Vocational Excellence Certificate.
- Celebrate vocational excellence during the awarding ceremony.

#### **4. Future Opportunities:**

- As we transition from the second to the third phase, join us in discussing the next steps.
- Share and develop ideas to support the policy dimension of vocational excellence, focusing on how CoVEs can drive policy reforms and how policies can foster the growth of CoVEs.

**Advancing vocational excellence together!**

Recognising that vocational excellence is a collective effort, our conference will provide ample opportunities for discussion and interaction. Engage with experts, share your insights, and collaborate on shaping the future of vocational excellence.

### Celebrate vocational excellence

The conference will close with a celebration of vocational excellence, where we will proudly award the first Vocational Excellence Certificates.

Join us in this vibrant and interactive conference to be part of the movement towards vocational excellence!

### Day 1: 12/03/2025

Time	Agenda Item
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Registration of participants</b>
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Georgios Zisimos – Head of HCD Policy Advice Unit, ETF</li> <li>- Galina Rusu - State Secretary responsible for VET – Ministry of Education and Research, Moldova</li> <li>- Dr Al-Gharaibeh – Director General of VTC, Jordan</li> <li>- M. Riadh Chaoued, Ministre de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle, Tunisia (tbc)</li> <li>- Andrea Leruste, DG EMPL, European Commission</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:20	<b>Keynote: Why Vocational Excellence? – CoVEs, what for?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oriane Reynaud, General Director, SEPR</li> </ul>
10:20 – 10:25	<b>Ice breaking</b>
10:25 – 11:00	<b>Support Services for CoVEs: Key deliverables</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Website</li> <li>- E-library on vocational excellence</li> <li>- Knowledge packages on forming and working in partnership regionally, nationally and internationally</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Workshops: Unpacking Vocational excellence:</b> 4 – 5 Parallel workshops to get to know and ‘play’ with ‘kitchen tools’, ‘ingredients’ and ‘recipes’ of the Cookbook on Vocational Excellence, such as: Internationalisation, Funding and resources, Governance and leadership, Teachers’ capacities, Labour market relevant and attractive content, Partnerships and wider ecosystem, Quality assurance, Innovative pedagogy, Applied research, Career guidance,
13:00 – 14:15	<b>Pizza Lunch!</b>
14:15 – 14:30	<b>Energizer</b>
14:30 – 15:00	<b>The Winter Camp on Vocational Excellence: ideas and lessons learnt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Experiences from the Camp, Ilker Akman, Turkiye and Basant Hussein Hassan, Egypt</li> <li>- What’s next – lessons learned for the VET Catalogue – Giulia Meschino, EVTA</li> </ul>
15:00 – 16:00	<b>What we are learning: key challenges for the vocational excellence movement</b>

Time	Agenda Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ISATCOVE study results - Doriana Monteleone, ETF</li> <li>- Experiences from ISATCOVE - Patricia Diez Rubio, Spain and Marija Rashkovska, North Macedonia</li> <li>- Gaps analysis from the mapping – Fabio Nascimbeni, ETF</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:15	<b>Inclusion and Excellence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anastasia Pouliou, CEDEFOP</li> </ul>
16:15 – 16:30	<b>Wrapping Up</b>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Coffee and Networking</b>
19:30 – 22:00	<b>Welcome dinner</b>

## Day 2: 13/03/2025

Time	Agenda Item
9:30 – 9:50	<b>Day 1 Highlights &amp; Day 2 Preview: Unveiling the Path to Excellence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF</li> </ul>
9:50 – 10:35	<b>Round table: how we can tackle these challenges through international collaboration and working in partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Giulia Meschino, EVTA</li> <li>- Theodor Grassos, EVBB</li> <li>- Paolo Nardi, EFVET</li> <li>- Ulla Preeden, EURASHE</li> <li>- Adriana Hodak, EUPROVET</li> <li>- Carmen Rojo, EUCEN</li> </ul>
10:35 – 11:00	<b>Open discussion with the audience (harvesting by table)</b>
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30 – 11:50	<b>EU Developments: Union of Skills, Erasmus+ and Vocational Excellence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Andrea Leruste, DG EMPL, European Commission</li> <li>- Anusca Ferrari, EACEA</li> </ul>
11:50 – 12.20	<b>Round table: The international dimension of vocational excellence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moreno da Fonseca Pedro, ILO</li> <li>- Kenny Muscat, UNESCO-UNEVOC</li> <li>- Geraldine Ladriere, ENABEL</li> <li>- Oliver Diehl, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)</li> <li>- Henriette Hansen, CoPCoVEs</li> </ul>
12:20 - 13:00	<b>Award Ceremony: Recognising VET Excellence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rewarding Excellence in VET – Doriana Monteleone, ETF</li> <li>- Testimonials from the pilot of the Vocational Excellence certificate</li> <li>- Award of Excellence Certificate, Pilvi Torsti, Doriana Monteleone, ETF</li> </ul>

Time	Agenda Item
13:00 – 13:15	<b>Closing Session – Key take away pointers</b> - Pilvi Torsti and George Zisimos, ETF - Andrea Leruste, DG EMPL, European Commission
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch