

DRAFT AGENDA

TITLE:

Internationalising vocational excellence conference

SUBJECT: MAKING EXCELLENCE MEANINGFUL FOR ALL LEARNERS

12-13 MARCH 2025, POLO DEL '900, 10122, PIAZZETTA FRANCO ANTONICELLI, TURIN, ITALY

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 Agenda¹, the European Education Area², the 2020 Council Recommendation on VET³, as well as the Osnabrück Declaration⁴ 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

¹ [SkillsAgenda.pdf](#)

² [About the European Education Area - European Education Area](#)

³ [EUR-Lex - 32020H1202\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

⁴ [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	Registration of participants
9:30 – 10:00	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Georgios Zisimos – Head of HCD Policy Advice Unit, ETF- Galina Rusu - State Secretary responsible for VET – Ministry of Education and Research, Moldova- Dr Al-Gharaibeh – Director General of VTC, Jordan- M. Riadh Chaoued, Ministre de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle, Tunisia (tbc)- Andrea Leruste, DG EMPL, European Commission
10:00 – 10:20	Keynote: Why Vocational Excellence? – CoVEs, what for? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Oriane Reynaud, General Director, SEPR
10:20 – 10:25	Ice breaking
10:25 – 11:00	Support services for vocational excellence: Key deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Website- E-library on vocational excellence- Knowledge packages on forming and working in partnership regionally, nationally and internationally – illustrated with two practices:- Ta'heal Center of Excellence – Shoroke Zedan (Egypt)- AKMI – Marievi Gretsia (Greece)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Introduction to Cookbook on vocational excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jolien van Uden, ETF Instructions to workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fabio Nascimbeni, ETF Workshops: Unpacking Vocational excellence: 5 Parallel workshops to get to know and 'play' with 'kitchen tools', 'ingredients' and 'recipes' of the Cookbook on Vocational Excellence, such as:

Time	Agenda Item
	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	Pizza Lunch!
14:15 – 14:30	Energizer
14:30 – 15:00	The Winter Camp on Vocational Excellence: ideas and lessons learnt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiences from the Camp, Ilker Akman, Turkiye and Basant Hussein Hassan, Egypt - What's next – lessons learned for the VET Catalogue – Giulia Meschino, EVTA
15:00 – 16:00	What we are learning: key challenges for the vocational excellence movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to ISATCOVE, Jolien van Uden, ETF - ISATCOVE study results - Doriana Monteleone, ETF - Gaps analysis from the mapping – Fabio Nascimbeni, ETF - Experiences from ISATCOVE - Patricia Diez Rubio, Spain and Marija Rashkovska, North Macedonia
16:00 – 16:15	Inclusion and Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anastasia Poulidou, CEDEFOP
16:15 – 16:30	Wrapping Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Georgios Zisimos, ETF
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee and Networking
17:00 – 17:30	Transfer to hotels
19:00 -19:30	Transfer from hotel NH Torino Centro corso Vittorio to Lingotto
19.30 – 20.30	Social activity: Visit to Pinacoteca Agnelli , Via Nizza, 262, 10126 Torino TO Pinacoteca Agnelli — La nuova Pinacoteca
20:30 – 22:30	Welcome dinner , restaurant “ La Pista ”, via Nizza 262, 10126, Torino, Metro station (M1): Lingotto lapistaristorante.com

Day 2: 13/03/2025

Time	Agenda Item
9:30 – 9:40	Day 1 Highlights & Day 2 Preview: Unveiling the Path to Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF
9:40 – 10:25	Round table: how we can tackle these challenges through international collaboration and working in partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giulia Meschino, EVTA - Theodor Grassos, EVBB - Paolo Nardi, EFVET

Time	Agenda Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ulla Preeden, EURASHE - Adrijana Hodak, EUproVET - Carmen Rojo, EUCEN
10:25 – 10: 50	Open discussion with the audience (harvesting by table) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doriana Monteleone, ETF • Simona Rinaldi, ETF
10:50 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20 – 11:40	EU Developments: Union of Skills, Erasmus+ and Vocational Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrea Leruste, DG EMPL, European Commission - Anusca Ferrari, EACEA
11:40 – 12.10	Round table: The international dimension of vocational excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedro Moreno da Fonseca, ILO - Kenny Muscat, UNESCO-UNEVOC - Geraldine Ladrière, ENABEL - Oliver Diehl, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) - Henriette Hansen, CoPCoVEs
12:10 -12:20	ETF Network for Excellence (ENE) ENESAT study results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mircea Badescu, ETF
12:20 - 13:00	Award Ceremony: Recognising VET Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rewarding Excellence in VET – Doriana Monteleone, ETF - Testimonials from the pilot of the Vocational Excellence certificate - Award of Excellence Certificate, Pilvi Torsti, Doriana Monteleone, ETF
13:00 – 13:15	Closing Session – Key take away pointers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrea Leruste, DG EMPL, European Commission - Pilvi Torsti and Jolien van Uden, ETF
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch