

Centres of vocational excellence



Deadline 07/09/2022

EXCEED- EXCELLENCE IN GREEN AND DIGITAL MANUFACTURING (working title)

Partnership for Excellence - Centres of Vocational Excellence

(ERASMUS-EDU-2022-PEX-COVE)

Duration 48months

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

1. CENTOFORM -VET CENTRE, IT- LEAD APPLICANT
2. CIS, VET CENTRE, IT
3. ARTER, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, EMILIA ROMAGNA REAGION, IT
4. OULU UNIVERSITY (FL)
5. OULU REGION (FL)
6. AUEB RESEARCH CENTRE (GR)
7. ATTIKA REGION (GR)
8. IRFEDD VET CENTRE (FR)
9.

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS:

In this action the Partnership might involve as Associated Partners their local and international stakeholders, as for example BSOs, companies, Youth organizations, Education providers, umbrella organizations in the field of VET and other international networks.

RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT:

The initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) supports a bottom-up approach to Vocational Excellence involving a wide range of local stakeholders. It enables VET institutions to rapidly adapt skills provision to evolving economic and social needs, including the digital and green transitions. CoVEs operate in each local context, being the linchpin of skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion, while working with CoVEs in other countries through international networks.

REQUIEREMENTS:

- The partnership must include at least 8 full partners from a minimum of 4 EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme (including at least 2 EU Member States).
- Each EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme must include:
 - a) at least 1 enterprise, industry or sector representative organisation, and
 - b) at least 1 vocational education and training provider (at secondary and/or tertiary level).
- CoVEs are characterized by adopting a systemic approach through which VET institutions actively contribute to co-create "skills ecosystems", together with a wide range of other local/regional partners. CoVEs are expected to go far beyond the simple provision of a quality vocational qualification.

PROJECT STRUCTURE:

DURATION: 48 MONTHS

FOCUS: ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, with a special focus ON MECHANICS AND MECHATRONICS

PRIORITIES: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, GREEN INNOVATION, SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

NO. 5 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INVOLVED (IT, ES, FL, GR), FOR N. 6 COVES EXPECTED.

PRIOR TARGETS: YOUNGSTERS, ADULTS (LOW-SKILLED, AT RISK OF MARGINALIZATION INCLUDED)

MAIN DIRECTORIES OF INTERVENTION:

- 1) **LIFELONG LEARNING:** UPSKILLING OF LOW-SKILLED ADULTS AND WORKERS at risk of marginalization due to the digitalization and the greening of the production processes in the advanced manufacturing, especially mechanics and mechatronics, through updated training offers, international mobilities, valorisation of dual training and business-education partnerships, recognition of achieved competencies through micro credentials

- 2) **CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER VET (EQF 4,5):** strengthening of the Higher VET supply through design of new curricula and updating of existing ones at country level. Valorization of international mobility in all its forms and valorization of joint curricula to increase the skills ecosystems in the AM sector to meet the challenges brought by digital and green transitions.
- 3) **TALENT RETENTION AND ATTRACTION:** exchange of best practices among countries referred to talent retention and attraction, and mutual improvement generated by the exchange and compared analysis of adopted methodologies, existing initiatives. Creation of an international Talent Factory for green and digital innovation in the AM (involvement of companies from various countries, activation of paths and projects for talent attraction and talent retention, matchmaking activities, etc.), including support services.
- 4) **CO-CREATING SKILLS ECOSYSTEMS (governance):** creation of an international multistakeholder platform to join forces to meet the digital and green transitions. Direct engagement of public administrations/public bodies for coordinated policy making.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT:

WP1 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT (M1 –M48):

Leader: CENTOFORM

- General coordination of the project, creation of a project management team (PMT), realization of n. 6 transnational project meetings (N. 2 In Italy, 1 in Greece, 1 in Spain, 1 in France, 1 in Finland), periodical online meetings, Quality assurance.

WP2- CO-CREATING SMART SKILLS ECOSYSTEMS IN AM (M2-M46):

Leader: UNIVERSITY OF OULU

- Exchange of best practices, creation of a skills intelligence system to anticipate skills evolution in the advanced manufacturing sector
- Creation of a joint international observatory on advanced and digital manufacturing with the involvement of stakeholders, also by exploiting studies and research carried out by the various partner countries
- Definition of intervention plans/measures/programmes for the adaptation of skills in AM to be updated on a periodical basis
- Identification of shared strategies within the Smart Specialisation Strategy on Advanced Manufacturing (AM)

WP3- MAKING VET SYSTEMS KEY DRIVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS IN AM (M6-M48):

Leader: CENTOFORM, CO-LEADER ARTER

- Design, development, piloting of new HIGHER VET curricula and redesign/updating of existing curricula in a joint perspective considering the guidelines of the Observatory. Design and testing of related support services (career guidance, skills recognition, etc.)
- Enhancement of mobility forms for staff and students, including support services
- Creation of an international Talent Factory for green and digital innovation in the AM (involvement of companies from various

countries, activation of paths and projects for talent attraction and talent retention, matchmaking activities, etc.), including support services

- Design and implementation of upskilling opportunities for VET professionals (teachers, trainers, in-company trainers)

WP4– DISSEMINATION AND SHARING (M1-M48)

LEADER: AUEB

- Design and development of the project website
- Crosscutting dissemination strategy to guarantee stakeholder engagement, and visibility to the project and its results.
- Design of a communication strategy
- Organization of dissemination events (n. 2 events /each cove on a yearly basis from year n. 2 to 4)
- Sharing of results at international level (crosscutting digital dissemination activity, presentation of the project under the framework of other international events, organization of n. 2 online international skills exhibitions in year n. 3 and 4)

EXPECTED IMPACTS

- Contribution to the establishment and development of European platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence to increase the attractiveness of vocational education and training and to ensure that it is at the forefront of providing solutions to the challenges posed by rapidly changing skills needs, by valorising the business-education partnerships.
- Contribution to the development of the Centres of Vocational Excellence to ensure high quality skills and competences that lead to quality employment and career-long opportunities, which meet the needs of an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economy. This approach is expected to pave the way for VET to act within a more comprehensive and inclusive conceptualization of skills provision, addressing innovation, pedagogy, social justice, life-long learning, transversal skills, organizational and continuing professional learning and community needs.
- Support the upskilling and reskilling processes of youngsters and adults to foster their full work and social inclusion.
- Contribution to the increasing of responsiveness of Vet systems to meet emerging needs in the AM sector.
- Support the internationalization of VET systems and providers.

BUDGET

EU Financing: 80%

Maximum budget for our project: Euros 2.600.000,00

Further information: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/erasmus-edu-2022-pex-cove>

TIMELINE (48 MONTHS)

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
WP1 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT (M1 –M48)																
Coordination of the project																
Transnational onsite project meetings (N. 6 IN TOTAL)																
WP2- CO-CREATING SMART SKILLS ECOSYSTEMS IN AM (M2-M46)																
Exchange of best practices, creation of a skills intelligence system																
Creation of a joint international observatory on AM																
Definition of intervention plans/measures/programmes for the adaptation of skills in AM																
Identification of shared strategies within the Smart Specialisation Strategy on AM																
WP3- MAKING VET SYSTEMS KEY DRIVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVENESS IN AM (M6-M48)																
Design, development, piloting of new HIGHER VET curricula																
Updating existing curricula in the AM sector to face the twin transitions																
Design and implementation of upskilling opportunities for VET professionals																
Creation of an international Talent Factory for green and digital innovation in the AM																
WP4– DISSEMINATION AND SHARING (M1-M48)																
Design and development and continuous updating of the project’s website																

Design of a communication strategy																			
Implementation of the multichannel communication strategy																			
Organization of dissemination events																			
Organization of international skills exhibitions																			