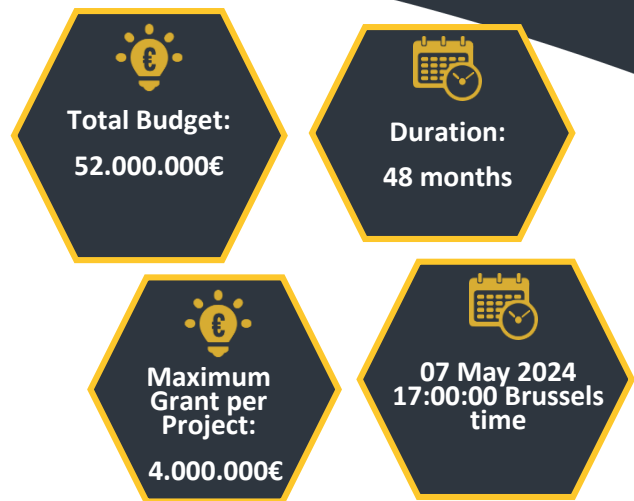




DG EACEA

Partnership for Excellence - Centres of Vocational Excellence (ERASMUS-EDU-2024-PEX-COVE)

Info Note



Scope:

The concept of Vocational Excellence proposed here is characterised by a holistic learner centred approach in which VET:

- Is an integrated part of skills ecosystems, contributing to regional development, innovation, smart specialisation and clusters strategies , as well as to specific value chains and industrial ecosystems ;
- Is part of knowledge triangles, working closely with other education and training sectors, the scientific community, and business;
- Enables learners to acquire both vocational (job specific) as well as key competencies through high-quality provision that is underpinned by quality assurance;
- builds innovative forms of partnerships with the world of work, and is supported by the continuous professional development of teaching and training staff, innovative pedagogies, learner and staff mobility, and VET internationalization strategies

Centres of Vocational Excellence will operate at two levels:

1. **At national level** involving a wide range of local stakeholders creating skills ecosystems for local innovation, regional development, and social inclusion, while working with CoVEs in other countries through international collaborative networks.
2. **At international level** bringing together CoVEs that share a common interest in:
 - specific sectors or industrial ecosystems ,
 - innovative approaches to tackle societal challenges (e.g. climate change, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, sustainable development goals, integration of migrants, upskilling people with low qualification levels, etc.), or
 - innovative approaches to increase the outreach, quality and effectiveness of existing CoVEs.

This call will thus support projects bringing together **local or regional partners from various countries developing a set of activities under three clusters:**

1. Teaching and learning
2. Cooperation and partnerships, and
3. Governance and Funding.

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Eligibility

Eligible applicants:

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities, if applicable) must:

- ✓ be **legal entities** (public or private bodies);
- ✓ be established in one of the **eligible countries**, i.e EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme);
- ✓ be **active in the field of vocational education and training or in the world of work**.

Organisations active in the field of vocational education and training or in the world of work from third countries not associated to the Programme may also participate - as beneficiary, affiliated entity or associated partner - but **not as coordinator**.

Eligible types of organisations (non exhaustive)

Participating organisations can be, for example (non-exhaustive list):

- VET providers
- VET provider representative organisations
- Companies, industry, other employers or sector representative organisations
- National/regional qualification authorities
- Research institutes
- Innovation agencies
- Regional development authorities
- International organisations active in the VET field

** Exception: organisations from Belarus (Region 2) and the Russian Federation (Region 4) are not eligible to participate*

Number of Participating organisations & geographical scope

- The partnership must include at least **8 applicants** (beneficiaries) from a minimum of **4 EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme**.
- 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).

EQF levels

CoVEs are intended for organisations providing vocational education and training, **at any EQF levels from 3 to 8**.

However, applications cannot include only activities that target learners at tertiary level; applications that focus on VET at post-secondary level (EQF levels 6 to 8) must include **at least one other VET qualification level between EQF levels 3 to 5, as well as a strong work-based learning component**

Funding Rules

This action follows a lump sum funding model. The amount of the single lump sum contribution will be determined for each grant based on the estimated budget of the action proposed by the applicants. The granting authority will fix the lump sum of each grant based on the proposal, evaluation result, funding rates and the maximum grant amount set in the call.



Setting up a project

Projects will reach their objectives by building on a **combination of a sub-set of these activities:**

- at least 4 of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 1 - Teaching and learning,**
- at least 3 of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 2 - Cooperation and partnership,** and
- at least 2 of the activities listed in the Application Form under **Cluster 3 - Governance and funding.**

Horizontal Priorities:

- Innovation
- Regional development
- Social inclusion
- Green and digital transition

Expected Impact

- The gradual establishment and development of European networks of Centres of Vocational Excellence is expected to increase VET responsiveness to adapt skills provision to evolving economic and social needs, ensuring that VET is at the forefront of providing solutions to the challenges posed by rapidly changing skills needs.
- By forming an essential part of the “knowledge triangle” – the close collaboration between businesses, education and research – and playing a fundamental role in providing skills to support innovation and smart specialisation, the Centres of Vocational Excellence are expected to ensure high quality skills and competences that lead to quality employment
- By being firmly anchored within regional/local contexts while at the same time operating at transnational level, the Centres of Vocational Excellence will form strong and enduring partnerships between the VET community and the world of work at national level and across borders. It will also contribute to the internationalization of VET by bringing together partners from all over the world. They will aim for “upward convergence” of excellence in VET, which would be difficult to establish in the absence of EU incentives, technical support, and opportunities for mutual learning.
- Through the wide dissemination of project outcomes at transnational, national and/or regional levels and the development of a long term action plan for the progressive roll out of project deliverables, taking national and regional development and smart specialisation strategies into account, individual projects are expected to engage relevant stakeholders within and outside the participating organisations and ensure a lasting impact after the project lifetime.

Seal of Excellence

The project proposals evaluated above the quality thresholds, with a total score **equal to or higher than 75%**, but that cannot be funded under Erasmus+ due to lack of available budget under this call for proposals, **may be awarded a Seal of Excellence certificate to attest the quality of the proposal and to facilitate its alternative funding at national or regional level.**

Important links:

- See the call for proposals [here](#)

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