



# ***Platforms for Vocational Excellence: Co-creating skills ecosystems for regional development and innovation***

***Workshop 'Building Regional Skills Ecosystems'  
European Week of Regions and Cities 2019***

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**DISCOVER  
YOUR TALENT!**

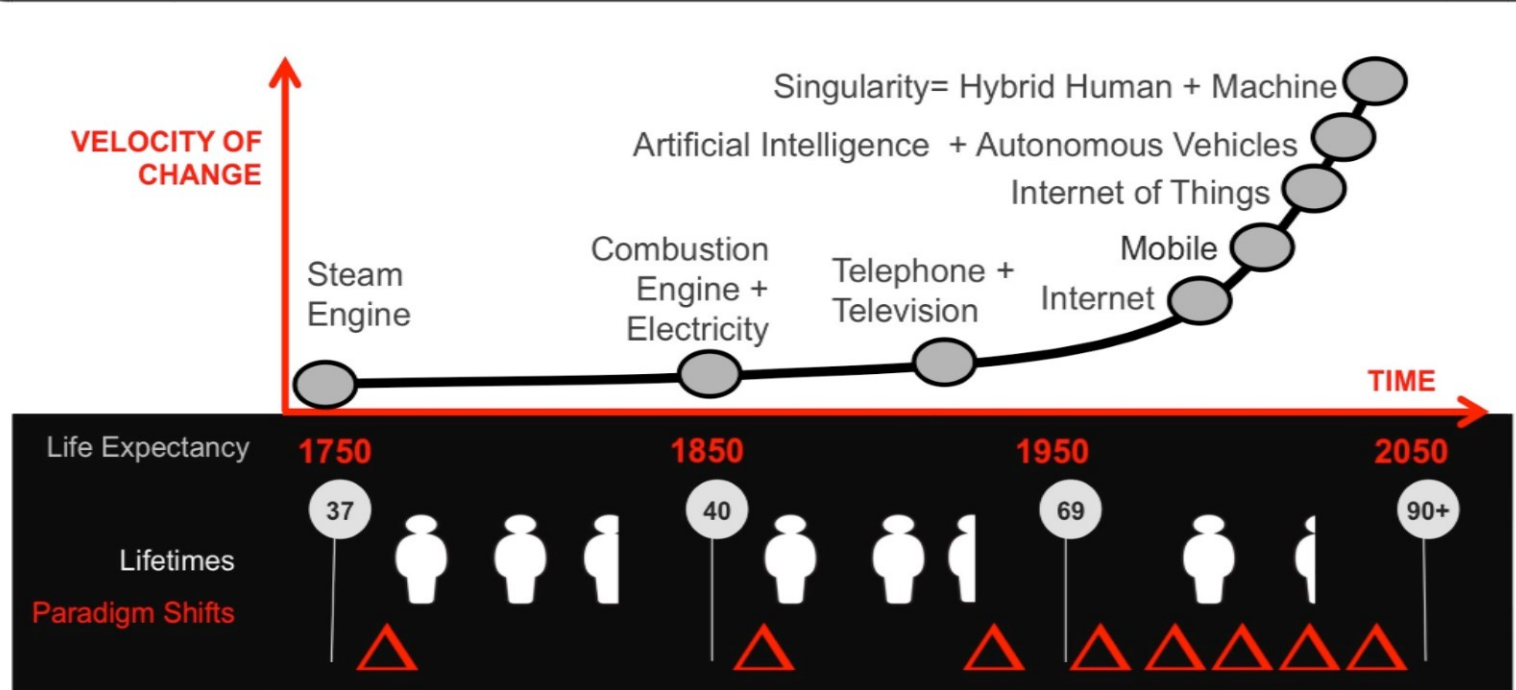
European Vocational Skills Week  
14 to 18 October 2019

Helsinki, Finland



European Commission

## What Is Happening: Required Adaptation



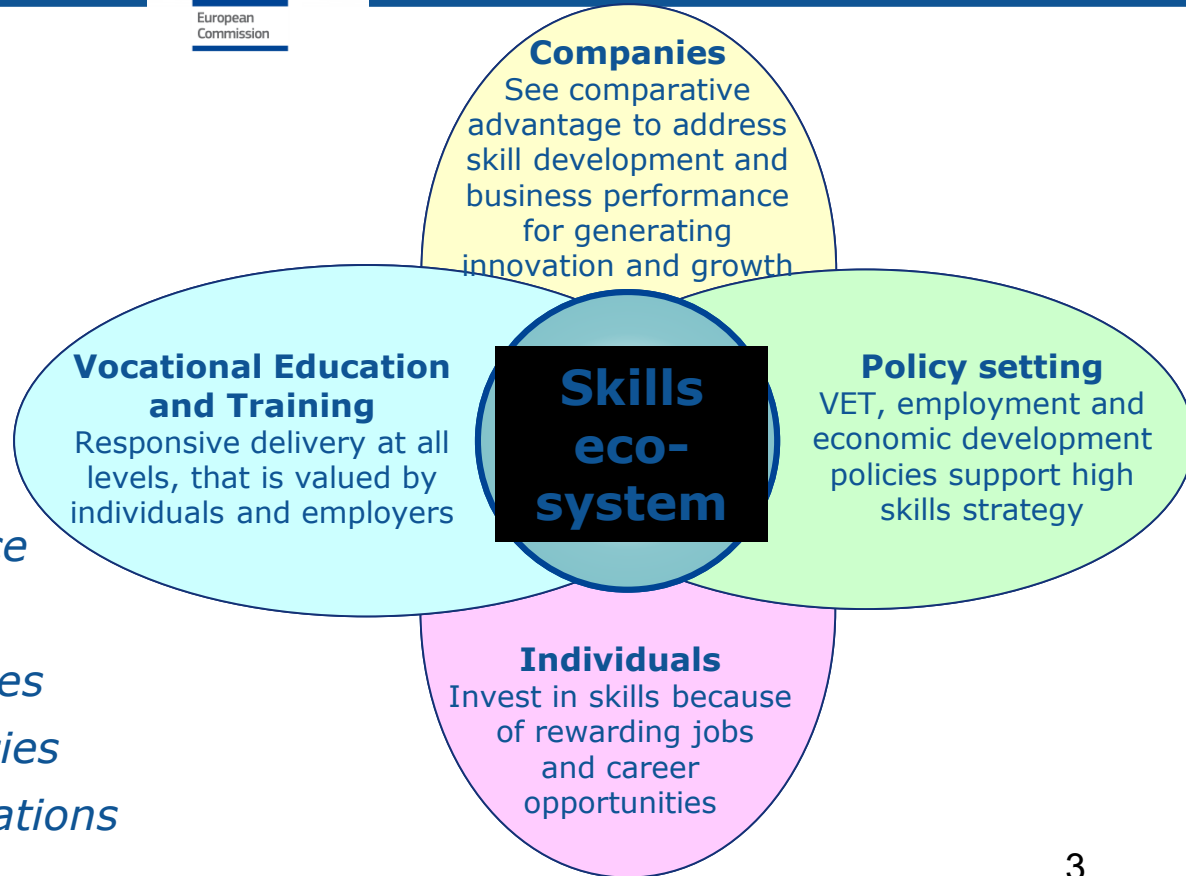
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# Centres of Vocational Excellence Fostering local "Skills ecosystems"



## **Bringing together:**

- *Policy makers*
- *Companies*
- *Chambers*
- *VET institutions*
- *Universities of applied science*
- *Research centres*
- *Employment services/agencies*
- *Regional development agencies*
- *Professional or sector associations*





# Mapping of Centres of Vocational Excellence

(CoVEs)

Produced by the ET 2020 Working Group on Vocational Education and Training (VET)

## Development of CoVEs

There are three key factors that underpin the success of CoVEs, shown in the pictogram below.



# CoVE mapping exercise: *Key success factors*



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- **Anchored into frameworks of regional development, innovation and smart specialisation** - allows for the identification of synergies between policies and amongst stakeholders, avoiding ad-hoc actions



- **Integration of activities** - CoVEs achieve more than sum of the parts
- **Strong and enduring partnerships** - between the VET community, businesses and universities in which interactions are reciprocal and mutually beneficial



## Foster Vocational Excellence at two levels

### LOCAL / REGIONAL / NATIONAL

Through **Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)**

Operating in a given **local context**, embedding them closely in the local **innovation** and **skills ecosystems**, working with businesses, chambers, tertiary education, research institutions, public authorities, etc.

### INTERNATIONAL

Through **Platforms of CoVE's** to establish world-class reference points for VET by bringing together partners that share a common interest in:

- Specific **sectors/trades** - *such as aeronautics, e-mobility, green technologies, healthcare, textiles...*
- **Societal challenges** - *such as integration of migrants, Digitalisation, AI, SDG, upskilling and reskilling...*

# Typical activities of CoVE's

## Pro-active partner in local development



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**Regional development,  
Smart Specialisation,  
Knowledge triangle**



Providing both Initial and continuing VET at all EQF Levels



Innovative curricula, & Teaching & training methodologies (PBL, Interdisciplinary...)



Higher VET, and Flexible pathways with Schools and Universities

Quality assurance feedback loop, learner tracking



Validation and Guidance



**Vocational Excellence**

Governance (social partners, national and local governments VET providers, development agencies...)



Cost-sharing, sustainable funding, and effective use of EU funding

Technology diffusion and Innovation Hubs

Incubators supporting entrepreneurial initiatives



Partnerships for: Skills anticipation, Apprenticeships, T&T exchanges...



# Erasmus+ projects to pilot the CoVE initiative



## 2018 – Preparing the ground

- Erasmus+ **KA3** call for Joint VET qualifications
- **ET2020 WG** 2018-2020 focused on innovation and digitalisation in VET

## 2019 – The first (limited) pilot projects

- **Mapping** of existing approaches to **Vocational Excellence**
- Erasmus+ **KA2 Sector Skills Alliances** call for pilot projects on CoVE

## 2020 – Refining the concept and piloting the initiative

- Erasmus+ KA3 call for **Platforms of Vocational Excellence** (*full pilot*)

## 2021-2027 - The full implementation of the initiative

- **Erasmus**, and ERDF, ESF, InvestEU, Horizon Europe ➡ *supporting CoVE*



# Centres of Vocational Excellence

## Overview of 2019 selected projects



Title	Talentjourney	Excellent Advanced Manufacturing 4.0	Digital Innovation Hub for Cloud Based Services	Open Design School	Platform of Vocational Excellence Water
<b>Sector</b>	IoT in Smart manufacturing	Advanced Manufacturing	Cloud computing	Cultural and creative industries	Water sector
<b>Countries</b>	5	4	5	9	6
<b>EU Grant</b>	953.550 €	799.332 €	999.882 €	874.093 €	998.022 €
<b>Coordinator</b>	Solski (SI)	Tknika (ES)	Helsinki Business college (FI)	Basilicata Foundation (IT)	Firesland college (NL)
<b>Partners</b>	13	8	10	9	11

5 projects selected. Duration 2 years. Total grants: €4.624.879 9



**KA3 Specific call** (*open to partners from outside E+ programme countries*)  
*Support for "Platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)"*

- Support for **5 Pilot projects** running for 4 years, based on innovative cooperation methods, for the **establishment of Platforms of CoVE's**
- **Strategic approach to development of skills-ecosystems at local level** and in line with local growth and **innovation strategies**
- At least **4 programme countries**, at least **8 full partners**, with at least **1 company** or industry representative, and **1 VET provider** in each country
- Can be focused on any **EQF level** but must also include **levels 3, 4 or 5**
- Budget **€20.000.000**, with maximum EU grant **€4,000,000** per project
- Publication in October 2019. Deadline for applications February 2020<sub>10</sub>

# Follow your passion

Vocational Education  
and Training is a first choice.

