

Centres of Vocational Excellence

Skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion



"The role of Education and Training in AKIS"

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Joao SANTOS

Senior expert

European Commission,

Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Unit B3 - Vocational Education and Training

joao.santos@ec.europa.eu



[linkedin.com/in/JoaoSantosEU](https://www.linkedin.com/in/JoaoSantosEU)



[@JoaoSantosEU](https://twitter.com/JoaoSantosEU)

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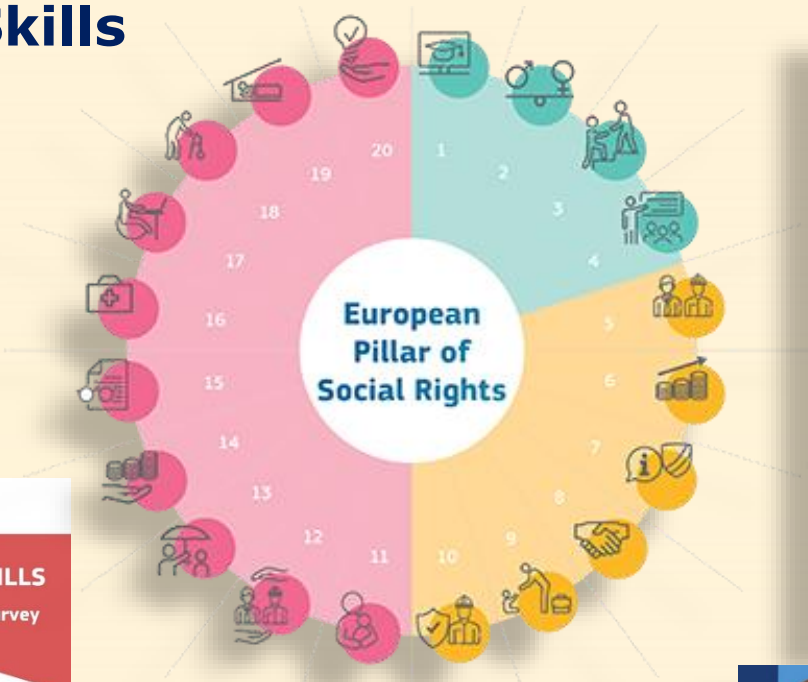
EU Policy drive for Skills

EUROPEAN
SKILLS AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE
COMPETITIVENESS, SOCIAL
FAIRNESS AND RESILIENCE

PACT FOR SKILLS
Stakeholders' Survey

#EUSkillsAgenda
#EUIndustrialStrategy

RESEARCH, INNOVATION
& EDUCATION KEY
DRIVERS OF THE
EU SKILLS AGENDA



Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)

Achieving the
EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA
by 2025

September 2020

Education is essential to the vitality of European society and economy. The European Education Area aims to bring to the education and training communities the support they need to fulfil their fundamental mission, in challenging and exciting times.*

Establishing the European Education Area will improve access to quality education and training, enable learners to move easily between education systems in different countries and help create a culture of lifelong learning. Fully respecting the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems, the European Education Area is based on a shared vision. Its success hinges on cooperation and a commitment to this vision.

Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European Commission

The Commission proposes to consolidate ongoing efforts and further develop the European Education Area along six dimensions to bring about a significant shift in equity, outcomes and resilience of education and training in Europe.

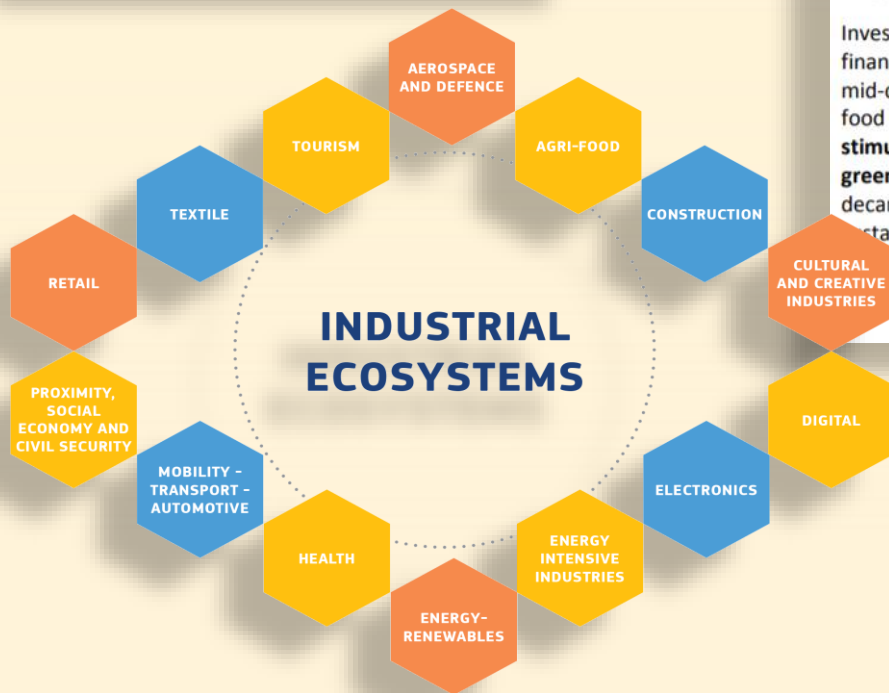
The six dimensions and the principal means to achieve them are:

- 1 Quality in education and training
- 2 Inclusion and gender equality
- 3 Green and digital transitions
- 4 Teachers and trainers
- 5 Higher education
- 6 Geopolitical dimension

Adapted from

THE EUROPEAN
INDUSTRIAL
STRATEGY

European
Commission



2. Agri-Food Ecosystem



16.3 million people employed¹⁶⁸



4.84% of EU value added
(EUR 585 billion)



599,000 firms
99.4% of SMEs

Transformative initiatives

Ensuring the sustainability transition of the ecosystem

InvestEU will address the financing gap faced by SMEs and mid-cap companies in the agri-food ecosystem. This will **stimulate capital expenditure in green and digital technologies** to decarbonise and accelerate the sustainability transition of the system.

Boosting agri-food SMEs digital uptake

Achieving the Commission's aim of 100% broadband internet access in rural areas by 2025¹⁶⁹ will allow **SMEs to access online marketplaces boosting recovery**. Adequate support for SMEs is key to help them address the lack of digital infrastructure and to achieve the digital transition of the agri-food ecosystem.

Promoting global sustainability of the food system

It can provide new opportunities for the agri-food ecosystem. The implementation of the Farm to Fork Strategy, of the Chemical Strategy and the ongoing review of the EU agri-food promotion policy will address the need to **increase safety and sustainability of the food system** and will support its global competitiveness.



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The European Pillar of Social Rights

Principle 1

Education, training and life-long learning



Everyone has the right to quality and **inclusive education**, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to **participate fully in society** and manage successfully transitions in the labour market



2021

At least

78%

of the population aged
20 to 64 should be
in employment by 2030

2030



At least

60%

of all adults should **participate in
training** every year by 2030

2021



At least

15 million

**fewer people at risk of poverty
or social exclusion** by 2030

2030

Current level: 73.1% (2019)

Current level: 37.4% (2016)

**Current level: 91 million persons
(2019)**



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Pact for Skills - *Types of Skills Partnerships*

LARGE SCALE PARTNERSHIPS

- Major players in industrial ecosystems
- Public authorities
- Concrete investments in upskilling opportunities for employees in the company and in a whole value or supply chain

SOCIAL PARTNERS ARRANGEMENTS

Tripartite agreements focus on upskilling and reskilling

NATIONAL/REGIONAL/LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Employers
- Public authorities
- Stakeholders e.g. VET providers, PES, social partners
- Sectoral or regional focus on upskilling

COMMITMENTS

- Companies
- Stakeholders
- Commit to provide quality upskilling opportunities



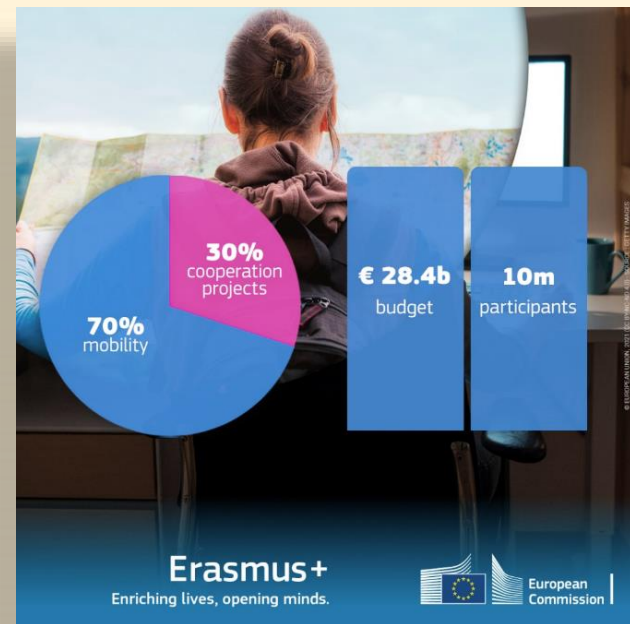
EU funding opportunities for Skills

- Erasmus+
- European Social Fund (ESF+)
- The European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF)
- Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)
- Digital Europe Programme
- InvestEU
- REACT-EU
- Technical Support instruments (TSI)
- The European Investment Bank (EIB)



Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027

- The Programme will count on a total financial allocation of **€26.274 billion**
- Erasmus + will also receive €2.2 billion as financial contribution from the EU's external instruments (NDICI and IPA III)
- The Education and Training area will receive **€21.396 billion** (83%), out of which **€4.385 billion for VET** and **€1.182 billion for Adult Learning**

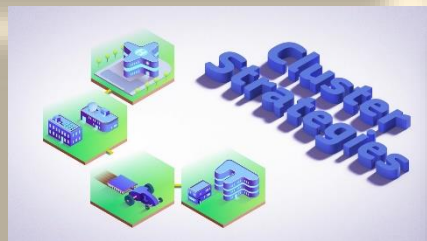


Partnerships for Excellence (Ka2)

Centres of Vocational Excellence <https://europa.eu/!cu83xr>

CoVEs an integrative part of local skills ecosystems, contributing to:

- ***Innovation,***
- ***Regional development,***
- ***Smart specialisation strategies,***
- ***Cluster strategies***



Bringing together:

- *VET institutions*
- *Universities of applied science*
- *Research centres*

- *Companies*
- *Chambers*
- *Professional or sector associations*
- *Trade unions*

- *Policy makers*
- *Employment services/agencies*
- *Regional development agencies*
- *Municipalities*



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The operational framework

Foster Vocational Excellence at two levels

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.

TRANSNATIONAL

Through networks establishing world-class reference points for VET bringing together partners that share a common interest in:

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

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Key success factors

➤ **Strong and enduring partnerships**

VET providers (including VET at tertiary level), higher education institutions, and businesses, in which interactions are reciprocal and mutually beneficial

➤ **Anchored into strategic frameworks for regional development, clusters, innovation, smart specialisation...**

Allows for the identification of synergies between policies and amongst stakeholders

➤ **Integration of activities**

CoVEs achieve more than sum of the parts

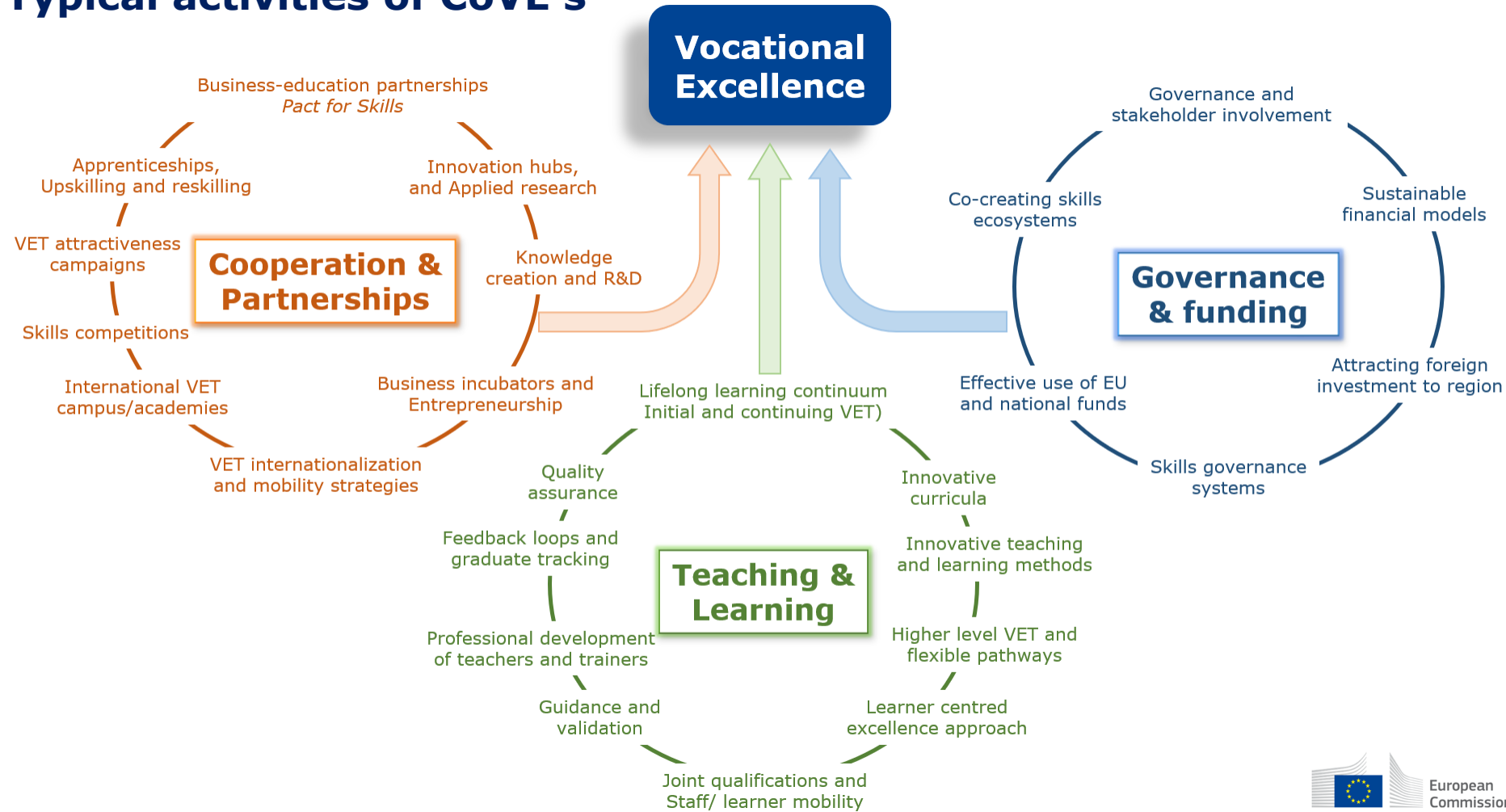


[@Robert Kelly](#)



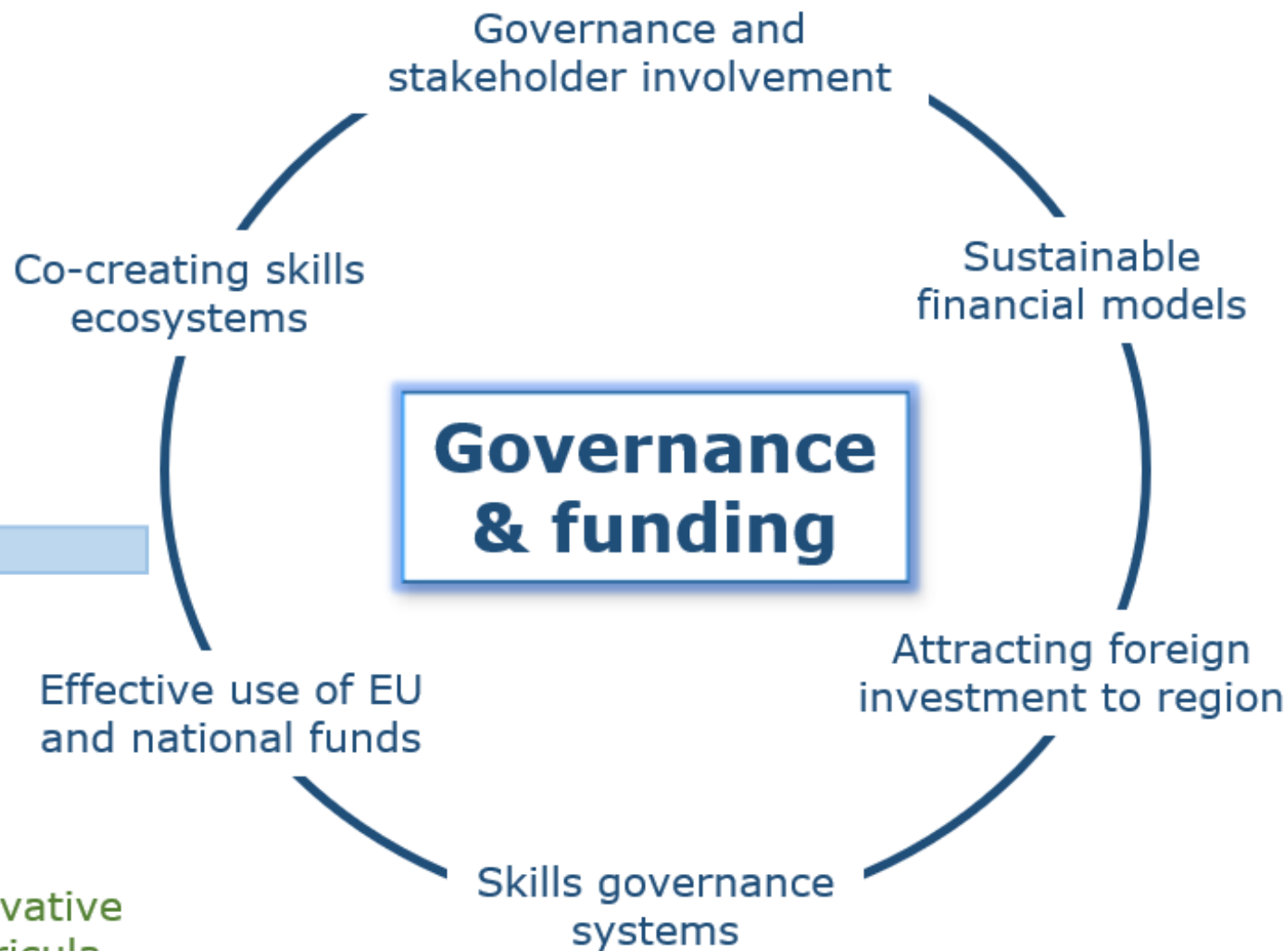
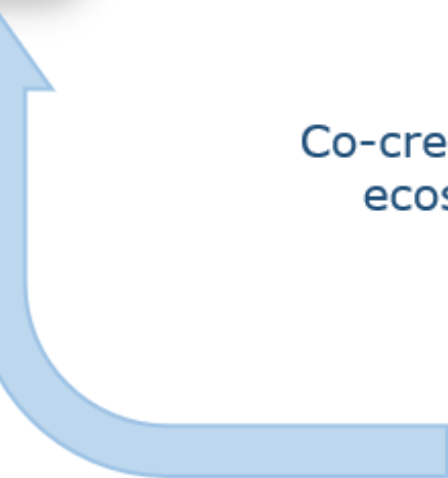
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Typical activities of CoVE's









Partnerships for Excellence (Ka2)

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- **2021-2027:** €400 million for 100 Platforms of CoVE
- **Applicant:** Any organisation established in a Programme Country
- **Partners:** Any public or private organisation active in field of VET, or world of work. Can be from any country in the world, but non-programme partners must bring an 'essential added value'
- **Partnership:** at least 8 full partners from a minimum of 4 Programme
 - a) at least 1 enterprise, industry or sector representative organisation, and
 - b) at least 1 VET provider (at secondary and/or tertiary level)
- **EQF levels:** Can be at any EQF level but must include levels 3, 4 or 5
- **Maximum grant:** €4 million per project with 4 year project duration



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Erasmus+ 2019 & 2020 Pilot projects



Advanced Manufacturing 4.0
<https://examhub.eu/>



Water sector
<https://povewater.eu/>



Digital Innovation Hub
<https://dihubcloud.eu/>



Cultural and creative industries
<http://deuscci.eu/>



IoT in Smart manufacturing
<https://talentjourney.si/>



Inclusive excellence
<https://www.thegiveproject.eu/>



Microelectronics
<https://ecovem.eu/>



Finfish industry
<http://www.bridges.eu/>



Furniture and Wood
<https://www.allview.eu/>



Green Innovation
<http://www.greenovet.eu/>



Urban Greening
<https://www.facebook.com/European-Platform-Urban-Greening-106220718115727/>



Innovation in the Green Economy
<https://3-loe.eu/>

More information



Agricultural Knowledge
and Innovation Systems

Europa **Website on CoVE:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-excellence>

The **Erasmus+** programme

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Functional mailbox for all questions related to CoVE call:

EACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu

The Center of Vocational Excellence **Match Making Map** (developed by Katapult):

<https://www.wearekatapult.eu/cove-match-making-map/>

