

B9 -Alliances for Innovation – Closer collaboration to develop the solutions for tomorrow’s challenges.

About this session...

These Alliances aim to strengthen Europe’s innovation capacity by boosting innovation in Higher Education (HE), Vocational Education and Training (VET), business and the broader socio-economic environment. This will be achieved by developing entrepreneurial mind-sets and new skills, facilitating the flow of knowledge between HE, VET and business. They also aim to boost the provision of skills and address skills mismatches by designing and creating new curricula.

In order to do so, this action could be structured around two main types of Alliances:

Alliances for Innovation - integrating the current Knowledge Alliances (HE and business) and the classic Sectoral Skills Alliances (VET and business) of the current programme. Projects here could be cross-sectoral (as many of the current Knowledge Alliances are) or sectoral, and focus primarily on one sector (as do the Sectoral Skills Alliances). They could involve actors from HE and/or VET.

Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills, building on the work of the former Sector Skills Alliances’ Blueprint, and seeking to create new strategic approaches and cooperation for concrete education and training solutions in given specific economic sectors or areas that are set out in each call year. This type of Alliances would also allow for the participation of both VET and HE organisations. They should involve systematic change, ideally with the involvement of policy-makers, although this should not be imposed..

Both types would also target social challenges, both in education and employment, and take into account key areas such as innovation challenges, skills provision, green economy, demographic challenges, digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

Something to think about...

How can we promote greater synergies between the HE and VET sectors without detriment to the priorities of one or the other?

How can we ensure a deeper involvement of business/enterprise? And as a consequence ensure a better balance between the enterprises and the education and training institutions (HE and VET)?

How can we ensure a deeper involvement of VET actors? How can we ensure a better involvement of national or European Social Partners?

How can we deepen synergies with the ESF+, ERDF (regions with Smart Specialisation Strategies), EU Cluster Partnerships, Centres of Vocational Excellence and the Urban Agenda? How can we attract more national, regional and local stakeholders?

How to ensure the sustainability of innovative approaches to be developed by the Alliances?