

CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

28 & 29 JANUARY 2020, ULB CAMPUS SOLBOSCH BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

C3 - Supporting high quality skills and competences through Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

Summary of the discussion

The participants were been provided with a short explanation in relation to the concept of vocational excellence (general framework, ideas and objectives); key characteristics of centres of vocational excellence (knowledge triangle: Vocational Education and Training (VET); Research and Development and Business/Industry; fostering VET excellence at national and transnational level). This information was been complemented by the insight in the pilot calls - *Support for "Platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence and Centres of Vocational Excellence"*. Participants stressed the strategic importance of the initiative for their national VET systems. Many countries have very good curricula for VET and many organisations have outstanding international experience. Therefore, there is a high political interest to enable these organisations – in cooperation with relevant stakeholders at regional and local level – to reinforce excellence aiming for more innovation and more international (outside EU) dimension.

Main outcomes/ operational conclusions of this session

Participants brainstormed and made proposals around the following questions:

- 1. What are the key factors and activities that should characterise effective CoVEs? What are the tools, instruments and technical expertise to be made available to the Platforms' partners?**
 - Connecting different existing digital platforms and placing them together;
 - Developing a database for CoVEs to facilitate the search for partners;
 - Exchanges of good practices and peer learning with other CoVEs/establishment of peer learning centers, modernise further the curricula as well as teaching methodologies;
 - Support to Internationalisation of VET and research applied in VET;
 - CoVE could function as a resource center to other VET institutions;
- 2. How can the EU support CoVE development (reinforce synergies with other European and international initiatives supporting excellence in VET);**
 - Additional information and more guidance to National Agencies beyond the information provided in the Call (Vocational Skills Week, Erasmus+ Days mentioned as a good example) - fine-tuning of the calls – rounds, deadlines, etc.;
 - Synergies with other EU programmes (funding instruments) and with Europass to be further explored;
 - Ensuring continuity/sustainability of the results of the initiative.
- 3. What actions can be taken at national level to ensure the involvement of the relevant stakeholders in the CoVE projects?**
 - More information and promotion of funding options; National Authorities and National Agencies in cooperation with regional authorities can be involved;
 - National funds for preparatory meetings that allow potential beneficiaries to find project partners, draft application etc. (preparatory visits under KA1 mentioned as example);
 - Establish exchange with the ESF national contact points on funding opportunities for local VET centers;
 - Find promising partners from KA2 and promoting KA2 results (e.g. to be "scaled up").