

# Skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion

***Workshop on Blue Careers & Skills***  
***22 March 2022***

**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](mailto:joao.santos@ec.europa.eu)

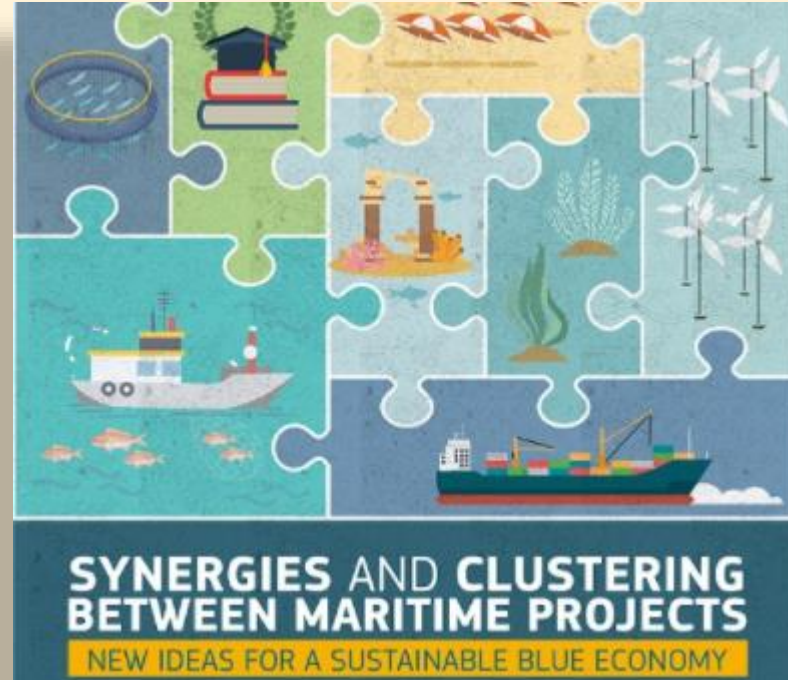


[linkedin.com/in/JoaoSantosEU](https://www.linkedin.com/in/JoaoSantosEU)



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

[#EUVocationalExcellence](https://twitter.com/JoaoSantosEU)



# Skills - The policy context (2020)

- Commission Communication on **the European Education Area**
- Commission Communication: “**European Skills Agenda** for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience”
- **Osnabruck Declaration** and the Council Recommendation: **Vocational education and training** for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience



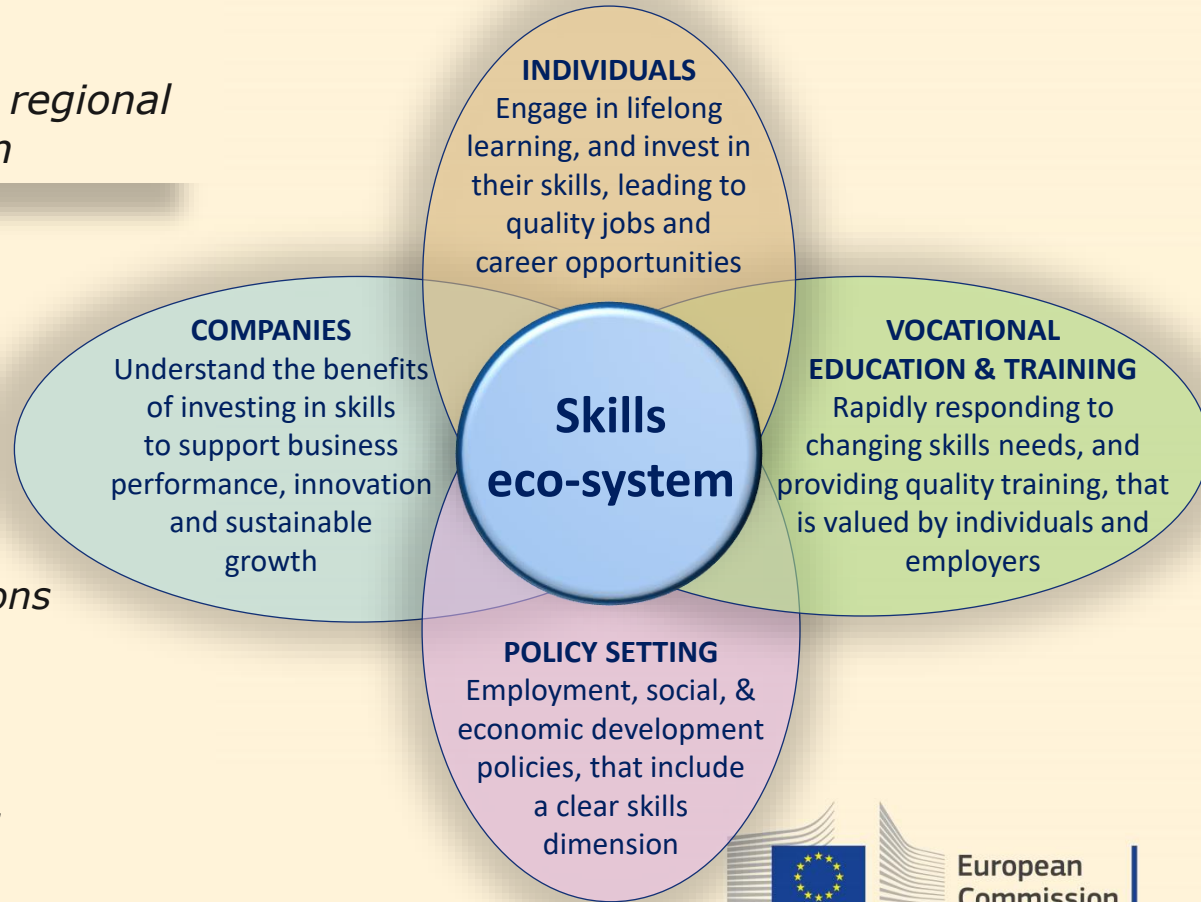
# Centres of Vocational Excellence (The CoVE concept <https://europa.eu/!cu83xr>)

## **CoVEs contributing to:**

*Skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion*

## **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*



# Centres of Vocational Excellence

## *The initiative in a nutshell*

### The Goal

#### VET Excellence

- Innovative and responsive VET institutions capable of **rapidly adapting skills provision** to evolving economic and social needs, including the **digital and green transitions**

### The partners

**VET institutions**, Universities of applied science, Research centres, Companies, Chambers, Professional or sector associations, Trade unions, Policy makers, Employment services, Regional development agencies, Municipalities, Qualification authorities, and others

### How to get there

#### International collaborative networks of CoVEs

- **ACT LOCAL** – Establish strong local partnerships co-creating “**skills ecosystems**” for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion
- **THINK GLOBAL** – through **international collaborative networks** of CoVE in other countries to share experience and know-how, to foster mobility of learners and staff...

### EU Support

**Erasmus+ funding 2021-2027:** €400 million for 100 CoVE networks

**Technical support:** Build evidence, Facilitate networking, Tools & Guidelines...

# Centres of Vocational Excellence

## *Key success factors*

- **Linked to strategies for regional development, innovation, smart specialisation, clusters, social inclusion...**  
Identification of synergies between policies and amongst stakeholders.  
Co-creating skills-ecosystems that support strategic development objectives.
- **Strong and enduring partnerships**  
Between VET providers, higher education institutions, businesses, public employment services, etc. in which interactions are mutually beneficial
- **Integration of activities**  
CoVEs achieve more than the sum of the parts.  
Much more than just a diploma/certificate.

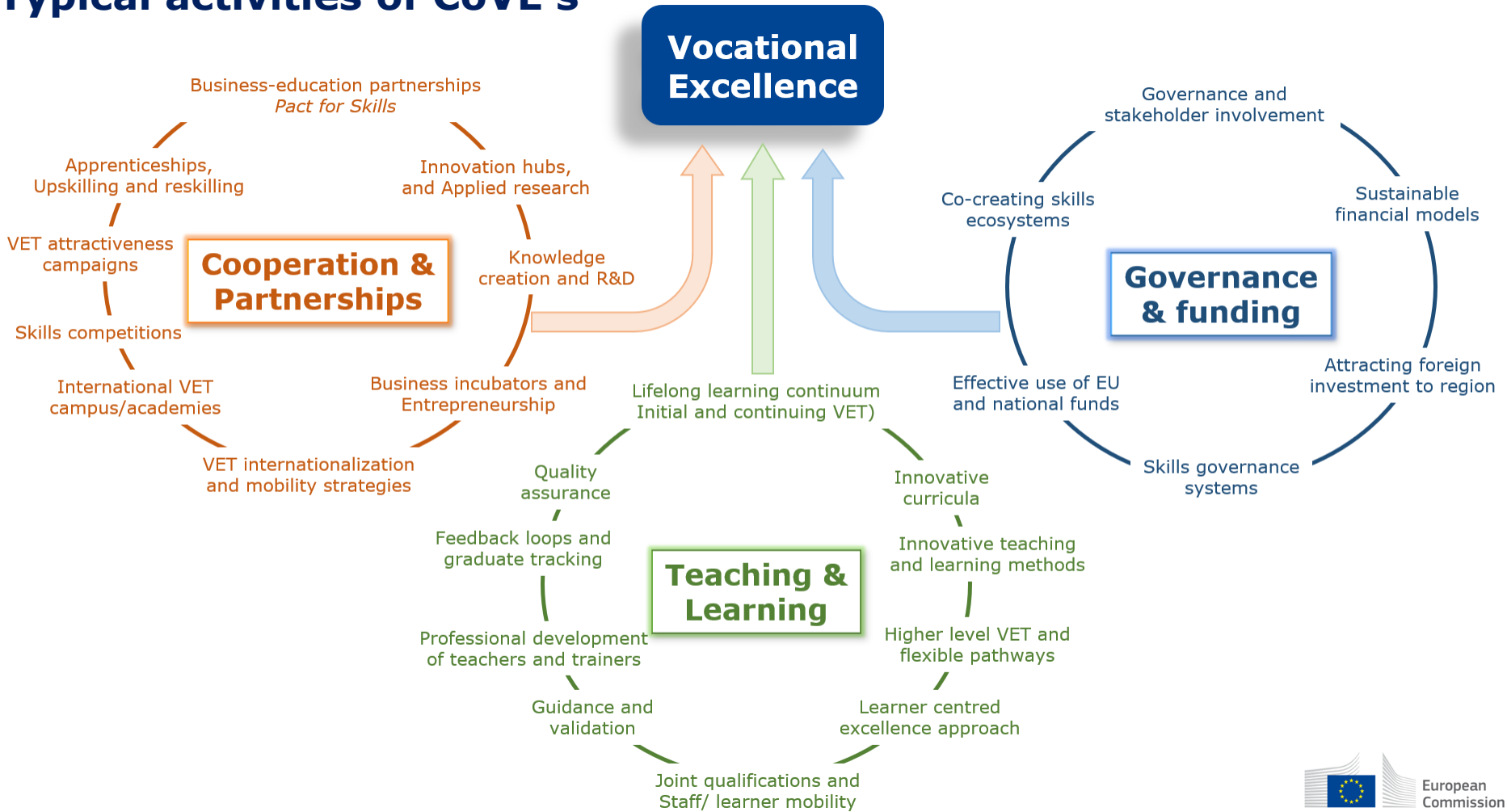


[@Robert Kelly](#)



European  
Commission

# Typical activities of CoVE's



# Centres of Vocational Excellence

## *Erasmus+ funding under Partnerships for Excellence (Ka2)*

- **2021-2027:** €400 million for 100 networks of CoVE
- **Applicant:** Any organisation established in a E+ 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
- **Erasmus+ 2022 call:** Deadline for project applications **7 September 2022**



**The BRIDGES network of CoVEs** aims to provide flexible responses to the training, innovation and entrepreneurship needs of the finfish industry, with a strong emphasis on the modernisation and digitalisation of work-based learning and apprenticeships



### **Innovative VET**

Develop and test a new and innovative system that makes VET more accessible to company staff in the aquaculture industry and others who want a job in the industry.

This applies to initial qualifications, further education and shorter courses for in-company training, allowing VET providers to be more responsive in delivering training based on continuous needs of the aquaculture industry



### **Aquaculture Skills Foresight**

Establishment of the European Aquaculture Skills Foresight Forum with industry involvement, influence and leadership, to inform 'down-stream' collaborative VET developments.

It will also provide VET providers with knowledge on current and anticipated aquaculture needs and allow prioritization of local business innovation support activities

### **A Common Competence Framework**

Develop a common competence framework (CCF) for finfish production, aimed for the husbandry operative and site manager levels for cold water finfish farming.

The process will be led by industry but supported by VET partners experienced in the development of knowledge skills and competences for each occupational level





# More information

## Europa Website on CoVE:

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

## The Erasmus+ programme

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)

## Functional mailbox for all questions related to CoVE calls:

[FACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu](mailto:FACEA-EPLUS-VET@ec.europa.eu)

## Applying for Erasmus+ CoVE funding in the Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal (FTOP)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/erasmus-edu-2022-pex-cove>



Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)

## Finding partners for CoVE projects:

- Use the “**Partner search announcements**” in FTOP  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/erasmus-edu-2022-pex-cove>
- The Center of Vocational Excellence **Match Making Map**  
<https://www.wearekatapult.eu/cove-match-making-map/>
- **European Training Foundation (ETF) Network for Excellence (ENE)**  
<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/projects-campaigns/projects/vocational-excellence>
- Contact European **Associations of VET Providers** (e.g. EVTA, EVBB, EfVET, EUproVET, EURASHE, EUCEN)  
<https://hub.vet4eu2.eu/blog/2021/04/27/vet-european-networking-enhancement/>

