VET Policies in the EU
“Mapping the future of learning in VET/HVET”

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The future of VET – Council Recommendation

VET equips young people and adults with the skills to manage the recovery and the just transitions to the green and digital economy, and to thriving in the evolving labour market cycles.

VET promotes European vocational education and training systems in an international context so that they are recognised as a worldwide reference of excellence.

VET fosters inclusiveness and equal opportunities and contributes to achieving resilience, social fairness and prosperity.
NATIONAL LEVEL REFORMS

Principles agreed by MS to be followed on national level:

• VET is agile in adapting to dynamic labour market changes
• Flexibility and progression opportunities
• VET is a driver for innovation and growth
• VET is attractive
• Equal opportunities
• VET is underpinned by quality assurance
• Effective governance

National Implementation Plans by May 2022
Centres of Vocational Excellence

**Aim:** VET co-creating skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion

**E+ resources 2021-2027:** €400 million for 100 networks of CoVE

**Key dates:**
- 2021 call - start of evaluation committee work: **20 September 2021**
- 2021 call - Publication of list of 2021 selected projects: **February 2022**
- 2022 call - Publication expected for **November 2021**

**Project characteristics:**
- Project duration of **4 years, 80% co-financing rate**
- At least **4 E+ programme countries** in each project, with at least one VET provider and 1 company from each of those countries
- EQF levels: Can be at any EQF level but **must include levels 3, 4 or 5**
- Choice among **25 key activities**, adapted to local partnership needs
Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability (Dec 2021)

Evidence gathering and analysis
April – July 2021

- Open Public Consultation
  - >500 replies
  - >90 position papers

- Social Partners Hearing

- Empirical evidence:
  - NESET,
  - OECD,
  - Cedefop,
  - Erasmus+ projects

- Wide consultation with education, training, lifelong learning, labour market stakeholders

- Questions on key building blocks:
  - A common **definition**
  - **Critical information elements** to describe micro-credentials
  - **Quality assurance**
  - Alignment to **National Qualifications Frameworks** (NQFs)
  - **Learning outcomes** and notional workload
  - **Recognition**: for further studies and/or employment purposes
  - **Portability**: issuing, **storage and sharing** of micro-credentials
Outcomes of consultation

• Interest and use of micro-credentials **expected to grow**
• **Broad welcome** for the EU action
• Clear potential in MCs but fundamental questions (e.g. on definition and purpose) must be clarified
• Importance of ensuring the **flexibility** of micro-credentials
• **Different expectations** from stakeholder groups, e.g. university perspective v employer perspectives

Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability
Why do we talk about Higher VET?

- More demand in economic sectors for skills beyond upper secondary education/initial VET (healthcare, IT, business, technical/engineering)
- Growing labour market demand for a flexible and fast response from education and training on skills provision
- Need to foster VET excellence and innovation
- Growing number of young people who wish to continue studies (e.g. after IVET or upper secondary education), not necessarily within academic bachelor or master Higher Education studies
- Need to ensure lifelong learning for adults, employed or not, also due to digital and green transition
What is Higher VET? Attempts to define it...

- Higher VET/professional tertiary education/tertiary VET/...
- VET at higher qualification levels (EQF levels 5-8)
- Pre-dominance of professionally oriented aspects in terms of profile and content of a programme and qualification
- Strong integration with the world of work
- Diversity across the EU, rarely common understanding and definition

→ Current OECD study, co-financed by the Commission, aims to develop a common understanding of what is Higher VET
2022 European Vocational Skills Week

Next edition in Spring 2022

Including EU level Conference

Focus on events organised by stakeholders at local, regional, national level

See you soon...
Thank you

“our future can be better than our present.”

we need to develop a culture of partnerships

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Recommendation: ACTIONS AT EU LEVEL

Platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence

Digitalisation of VET (SELFIE)

Strengthened support to apprenticeships/Support services

European Vocational Core Profiles

Worldwide reference of VET

Peer reviews on quality assurance
The 2021 CoVE Erasmus+ call - participating organisations per country

- > 80 projects submitted
- Budget requested more than €280 million
- > 50 countries represented
- > 1700 participating organisations

CoVE - Enormous potential for VET internationalisation
**The 2021 CoVE Erasmus+ call – type of participating organisations**

- Large variety of participating organisations from Education and Training providers at all levels, as well as companies, social partners, regional authorities, research centres, etc.

- **CoVE - Bringing together wide range of partners**

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