

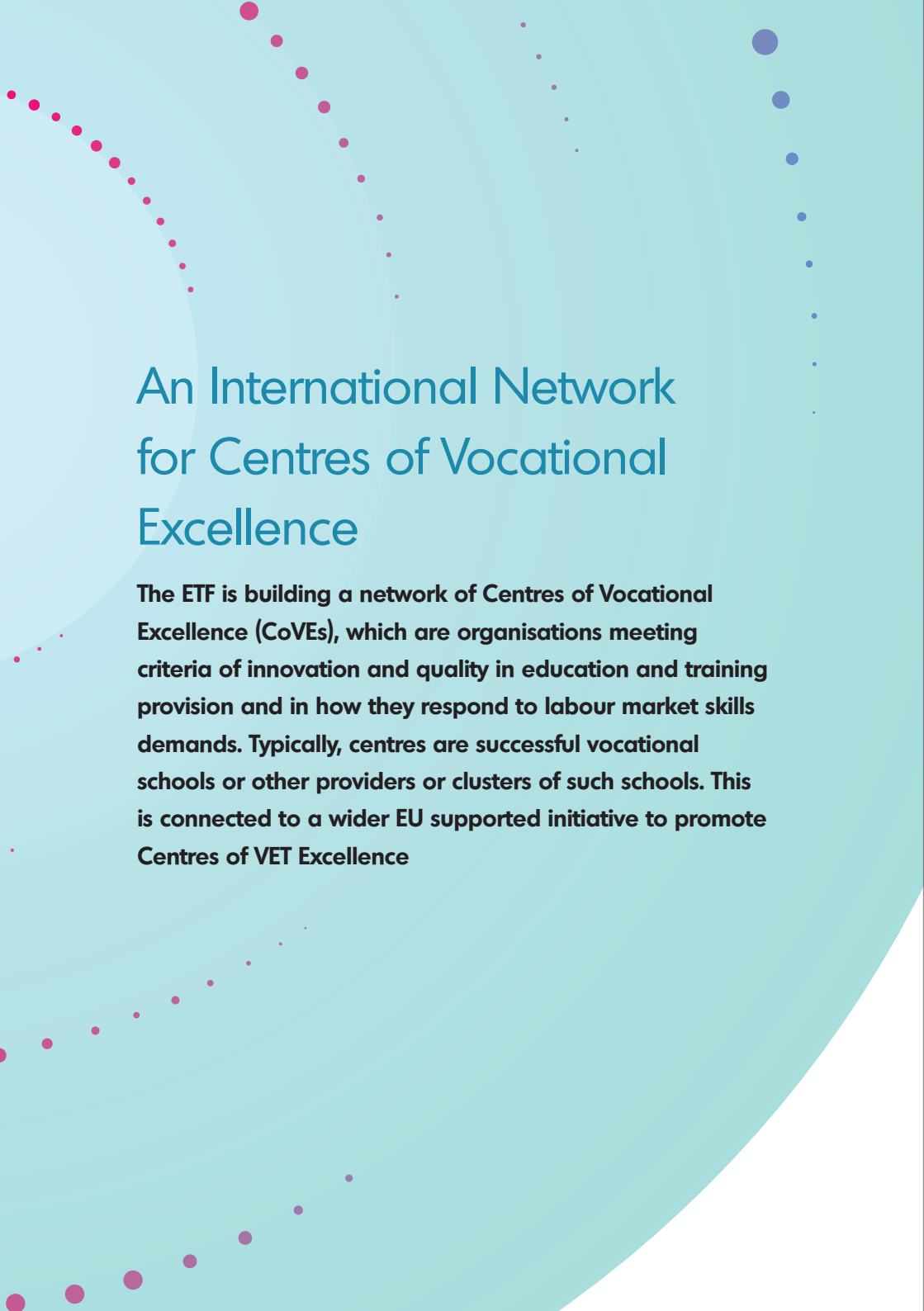


The ETF Network for Excellence



ETF
Network for
Excellence





An International Network for Centres of Vocational Excellence

The ETF is building a network of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs), which are organisations meeting criteria of innovation and quality in education and training provision and in how they respond to labour market skills demands. Typically, centres are successful vocational schools or other providers or clusters of such schools. This is connected to a wider EU supported initiative to promote Centres of VET Excellence

Centres of vocational excellence can act as:

- Engines for vocational training development – beacons for vocational training reforms
- Examples of high commitment to change and improvement
- Examples of good partnership between relevant stakeholders

The ETF network will provide a platform for the continuous exchange of practice among new and existing CoVEs at local, national or international level. The network will support the diffusion of excellence to the VET system and help CoVEs develop partnerships between in different countries. In this regard, the network will have three main outputs:

- Partnerships
- Peer learning
- Tools

Each participating CoVE will be expected to identify a member of staff who will participate directly in the activities of the network and who will mobilise engagement in their own institution and networks.

Themes

Our network will focus on eight themes:



Establishing the ETF Network for Excellence together

The ETF Network will enable CoVEs to learn from one another and to address their own development collaboratively. It will also help policy makers to understand their needs and opportunities better so they can construct strategies that are informed by diverse international practices as well as the experience of practitioners.

We are convinced that, even at times of social distancing, we can create a network to ensure the quality and excellence of vocational training provision that will remain in place after the crisis.

We also believe that cooperation between centres in the EU and other countries will lead to mutual benefits, such as peer learning and improvement.

Vocational excellence will address the needs of specific local contexts, connect with smart specialisation strategies and will empower the synergy between state and private initiative to deliver good results.

The ETF aims at becoming a knowledge hub for excellence in vocational training. The ETF's OpenSpace platform will be used to develop the community: openspace.etf.europa.eu.

The result? A network to identify needs, provide opportunities for exchange of knowledge and good practice and facilitate international partnerships engaging learning experiences to better support learners in achieving their desired learning outcomes. Through the ETF Network for excellence, we believe we can make it happen together!

How does the ETF coordinate the Network for Excellence?

The ETF will:

- Define priority themes that will be the focus for the network's activities at various times
- Establish and maintain a digital platform that will enable communication between network members, sharing of resources and active collaboration
- Regularly collect, analyse and report on information relating to the starting point and the development, activities and interactions of member CoVEs
- Contribute expertise to help to organise and communicate knowledge and practice and to research, design and test tools
- Disseminate the activities and learning of the network and of member CoVEs internationally
- Engage other international networks and institutions in the work of and outcomes from the ETF Network for Excellence.
- Help to develop tools and set up partnerships and peer learning opportunities for network members

SELECTING
COUNTRIES

MAPPING

REGISTRY

SELECTION OF
CENTRES OF
EXCELLENCE



CENTRES OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



OUTPUTS



**PEER
LEARNING**



TOOLS



PARTNERSHIPS



CoVEs become
excellent and
share excellence



Know How in the
Development
of CoVEs



Partnerships

Partnerships are “groups of CoVEs sharing common interests”, and are central to efforts to achieving excellence. The ETF Network for Excellence can support partnerships a variety of ways:

- Designing an action plan, with objectives, activities, responsibilities and a time schedule to be carried out by the partnership members throughout 2020.
- Investigating opportunities for peer learning activities (PLA) among members.
- Producing certain tools, e.g. training modules, planning tools or instructional materials.
- Identifying and proposing relevant opportunities to make applications for EU and other national and international programmes and schemes, such as Erasmus+, E-Twinning, TAIEX calls.
- Exploring opportunities linked to mobility/learning agreements offered by the EU (and beyond).



Peer learning

Peer learning is a way of learning from each other. In this instance, it is about learning from other centres to unpack their expertise/practice in a specific field of excellence, learn from it, and investigate whether it could work in another country (possibly with necessary contextualised changes).

The ETF Network of Excellence can support activities in a variety of ways:

- Brokering, design and implementation of actions within the members of a partnership
- Designing and implementing peer learning activities, physical or online
- Seeking opportunities and engaging other instruments and tools, e.g. Erasmus+, E-twinning, TAIEX
- More widely disseminating and applying outcomes from peer learning, e.g. reports, videos



Tools will be developed to meet the concrete development needs of multiple members of the network. Network members will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of certain tools. In some cases, existing tools can be adapted to the needs of CoVEs or can serve as the basis for development. For example, the ETF Network for Excellence is developing a self-assessment tool which will permit network members to reflect on how to establish baselines for development according to selected criteria and to establish priorities and set development goals.

Building the Network

For a Centre of Excellence or VET provider, membership is based on three criteria:

- Endorsement by the relevant national authority
- Engagement in specific themes
- Commitment to the network

Ministries nominate individual CoVEs or clusters of vocational training providers to join the Network. The initial number of members for 2020 is limited to 50. The CoVEs endorsed by relevant national authorities that cannot become full members will be part of the registry (information repository), which also offers (to associated members) opportunities for partnerships with other CoVEs.

Policy makers (ministries, other national, regional stakeholders, etc.) from EU Member States and partner countries can also engage in the actions of the Network. Please contact us via the ETF website (www.etf.europa.eu) or via Open Space (openspace.etf.europa.eu) or via email to:

ETF_Network_for_Excellence@etf.europa.eu

