

The Union of Skills



European
Commission

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The need for more and better skills

Skill shortages and gaps in Europe – Europe does not produce enough skilled workers in both quality and quantity.

Transformation speed gap – Education and training systems and providers struggle to keep pace with rapid technological transformations and the changing skills needed.

Fragmented governance and skills intelligence – Multitude of stakeholders with variety of perspectives and insufficient consolidation and coordination.

Union of Skills





Building skills for life

- Action Plan on Basic Skills
- STEM Education Strategic Plan
- 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills
- Basic Skills Support Scheme (pilot)
- AI in education initiative
- EU Teachers & Trainers Agenda
- European competence framework for academic staff
- European Strategy for vocational education and training
- Increasing accessibility of higher education



Upskill and reskill to ensure future-oriented skills

- Pilot a Skills Guarantee for workers
- Roll out of targeted EU Skills Academies
- Pilot transnational university-business partnerships for sectors with severe skills gaps
- Expand the use of micro-credentials
- Reinforced Pact for Skills
- Expand the European Alliance for Apprenticeships
- Support the implementation of Individual Learning Accounts

🔄 Circulate and allocate skills to unlock the full potential of the single market

- Skills Portability Initiative
- Common European framework for the automatic recognition of study qualifications and learning periods abroad in school, VET and higher education
- Launch of innovative joint European study programmes with a European degree/label
- A legal status for European Universities alliances
- Pilot a European VET diploma
- Pilot European School Alliances
- Investment Pathway for European Universities
- Strengthen Centres of Vocational Excellence



Attract and retain skills from third countries

- Launch of the EU Talent Pool IT Platform
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action 'MSCA Choose Europe' Pilot
- A new Visa Strategy
- Launch of Multipurpose Legal Gateway Offices
- Erasmus Mundus scholarships to attract top students to study in the EU

INVESTMENT

Skills are an investment – not a cost

Significant and more effective funding for skills and education

Mobilising public and private investment



Governance

Towards a dedicated EU 27 Recommendation on human capital: education and skills in the European Semester

A European Skills Intelligence Observatory: providing the necessary data for well-informed policy

It will provide strategic data and foresight regarding skills needs in concrete sectors and regions, and the performance of education and training systems.

A European Skills High Level Board: driving the change

Bringing together key stakeholders to provide comprehensive, cross-sectoral insights and guidance on skills to EU policy makers.

In the first half of 2025, the Commission will publish an evaluation report on the European Education Area, which will inform a review by the Council with a view to streamlining and contributing to the Union of Skills governance.





Erasmus+

Support for

Vocational Education and Training

November 2024

European Commission,
Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Unit B3 - Vocational education and training



Erasmus+ 2025

Actions supporting directly Vocational Education and Training

ACTIONS	BUDGET EUR (€)
Mobility of VET learners and staff	854.000.000
Partnerships Vocational Education and Training	69.000.000
Small-scale partnerships Vocational Education and Training	20.000.000
Partnerships for Excellence: Centres for Vocational Excellence	60.000.000
FORWARD LOOKING PROJECTS – VET topic	8.000.000
Capacity building in VET	27.000.00
National Teams to support the implementation of EU VET tools	3.000.000

Forward-looking projects 2025 (separate call)

Budget: 32 million euros – 8 Priorities

- **School Education: 1)** Enhancing **basic skills**
- **VET: 2)** Promote an enabling and **supportive environment for vocational excellence** at national and/or regional level; **3)** Development of **joint VET qualifications and modules**
- **Adult learning: 4)** Support to the **Pact for Skills**; **5)** Improving **career guidance** to support adults' participation in training
- **Digital Education: 6)** **Assessment** of digital skills and competences; **7)** Ethical and effective use of generative **AI systems** in E&T; **8)** Innovative **data collection and exchange** approaches in primary, secondary education (including vocational education and training) for data-informed decision-making



Erasmus+ Centres of Vocational Excellence

- The main focus is **the establishment and development of international collaborative networks** that bring together local and regional VET stakeholders (VET institutions, companies and other employers, social partners, authorities, higher education institutions, research institutes, etc.) in strong and broad partnerships, thereby creating **comprehensive skills ecosystems** for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion.
- Objectives:
 - To ensure high quality skills through **flexible and learner-centred VET provisions** that lead to quality employment and career-long opportunities, swiftly responding to the needs of an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy as well as to societal needs;
 - To support and act as drivers for **local and regional development, innovation and social inclusion** in the context of the **green and digital transitions**;
 - To contribute to **upward convergence** on VET excellence, to increase the quality of VET at system level in more and more countries, and;
 - To ensure that outputs and results are taken into use and have **impact** beyond the project partner organisations and beyond the project period.

More information at:

The Erasmus+ programme

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Centres of Vocational Excellence

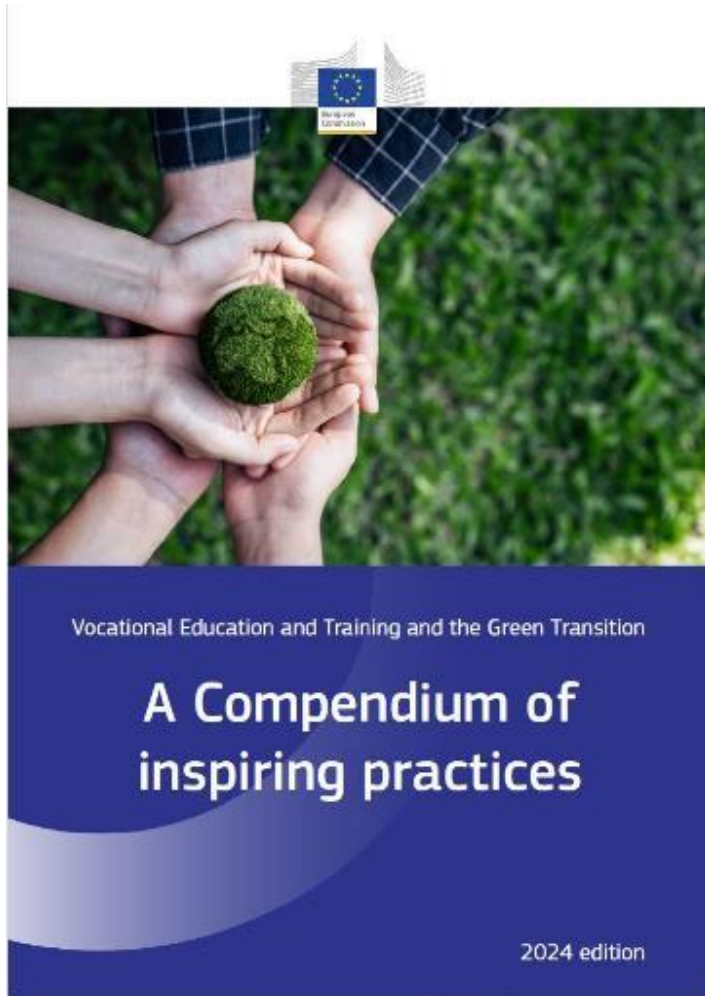
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-excellence>

European Education and Culture Executive Agency

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en



Extra: inspiring practices in VET



Ireland: National Network of Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) and Retrofit Centres of Excellence

Greece: Remote training and certification of knowledge and skills in energy saving in the construction sector



Thank you!



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