ETF Network for Excellence

Digitalisation in education and the role of Centres of Vocational Excellence: Let's excel together!

Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) are vocational institutions recognised for excellence in identifying and imparting relevant, high-quality, specialised technical skills. They are innovation hubs with strong ties to industry and business. They strive to provide exemplary initial training for young people and continuing education for adults, guiding them as they upskill and reskill through flexible, timely training programmes designed to meet the skills companies need.

Created in December 2020, the **ETF Network for Excellence (ENE)** is a platform designed to encourage knowledge sharing, namely the continuous exchange of best practices among new and existing CoVEs at local, national, and international levels. ENE builds bridges and partnerships with other CoVEs within the EU and beyond and covers eight priority areas.

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CoVEs
- 9 EU countries
- 16 ETF partner countries
- 14 African countries

THE ENE DIGITAL SUB-INITIATIVE: CONTEXT

Set to launch in early 2022, the **ENE digital sub-initiative** is part of the **Industry 4.0 and digitalisation** priority area. Small-scale, targeted projects in digital teaching and learning (DTL) and digital online learning (DOL) have existed for decades, but they rarely resulted in the identification of scalable best practices that educational systems can implement.

When the global health crisis forced countries into lockdown, the system-wide implementation of digital solutions became every country's top priority. Out of necessity, the digitalisation of educational ecosystems became scalable, despite limited resources. Thus, an unintended, positive consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the realisation, among all relevant stakeholders, that remote working, teaching and learning are possible thanks to digital tools. However, the challenges raised
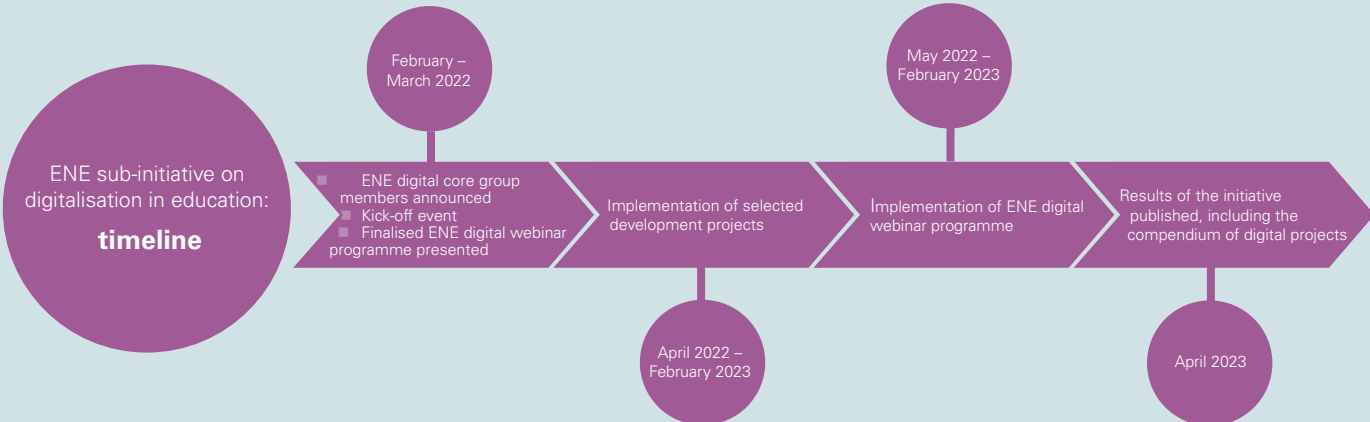
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ENE priority areas
- Work-based learning (WBL)
- Entrepreneurial Centres of Vocational excellence
- Pedagogy and professional development
- Smart specialisation
- Industry 4.0 and digitalisation
- Autonomy and public-private partnerships
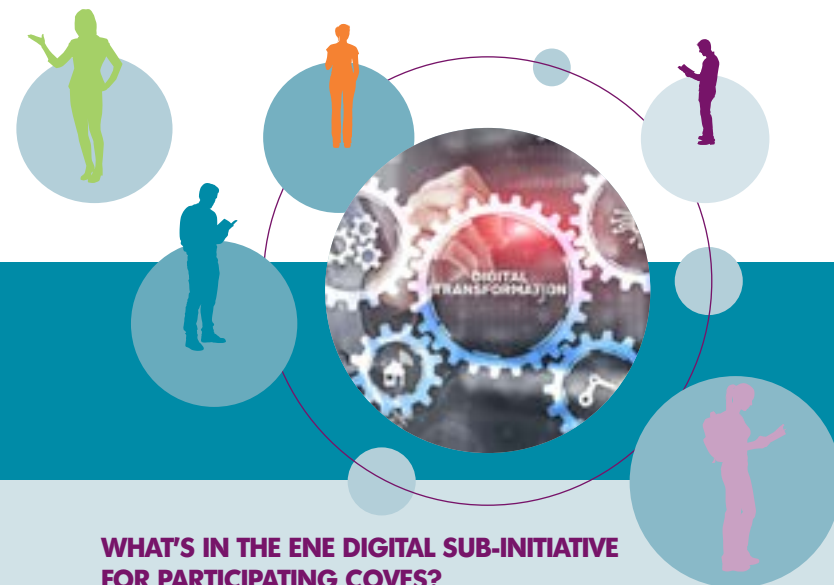- Going green
- Social inclusion and equity

by the digitalisation of educational systems remain, especially the misconception that though digital tools enhance learning outcomes, they also increase educators' workloads and deepen inequalities as access to devices and broadband is not available everywhere.

The ENE digital sub-initiative is designed to debunk myths and misconceptions by demonstrating how digitalisation in education can lead to efficient learning and teaching with minimal effort from both students and teachers. This sub-initiative is based on the assumption that only buy-in from relevant stakeholders, specifically teachers and students, can make the digitalisation of teaching and learning happen in a meaningful way. Top-down measures that do not take the experience of teachers and students into account will have little or no impact.

ENE sub-initiative on digitalisation in education: timeline

February – March 2022

- ENE digital core group members announced
- Kick-off event
- Finalised ENE digital webinar programme presented

Implementation of selected development projects

April 2022 – February 2023

May 2022 – February 2023

Implementation of ENE digital webinar programme

Results of the initiative published, including the compendium of digital projects

April 2023

THE ENE DIGITAL SUB-INITIATIVE: 3 THEMATIC AREAS

This first phase of the ENE digital sub-initiative will focus on the digital transformation of teaching and learning. The different aspects of digital teaching and learning have been clustered into three macro areas: digital content and tools, teachers' digital competences and digital pedagogical methods.

Digital content and tools

Topics covered:
- Digital content creation
- Digital learning resources
- Open educational resources
- Learning management systems

Digital pedagogies

Topics covered:
- Tools to identify and assess teachers' digital competences
- Tools and methodologies to improve teachers' digital competences

Teachers' digital competences

Topics covered:
- Instructional practice for online teaching
- Tools for digital assessment
- Tools for tracking students' practice
- Gamification tools to enhance student participation

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE ENE DIGITAL SUB-INITIATIVE

The main objective of the digitalisation of teaching and learning initiative is to develop partnerships with both EU and non-EU countries. Participating CoVEs will have the opportunity to share knowledge and exchange good practice with each other and with CoVEs located in EU Member States. They will also benefit from customised cooperation and coaching programmes as well as have access to a pool of experts to further develop their own digital teaching and learning systems.

The initiative's outputs include:

1. best practice presentations in relation to three areas of digital teaching and learning;

2. a compendium of development projects on digital teaching and learning implemented through the support of the initiative;

3. recommendations and strategies to help CoVEs introduce digitalisation in teaching and learning through concrete policy measures.

WHAT'S IN THE ENE DIGITAL SUB-INITIATIVE FOR PARTICIPATING COVES?

Members of the initiative will benefit from:

- access to proven tools and methodologies;
- access to professional coaching in the partner countries;
- participation in peer learning activities and the opportunity to be inspired by peers;
- access to a diverse network of public authorities, business associations, chambers of commerce, employers and schools;
- high visibility in Open Space, the ETF online platform.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Interested in joining the ENE digitalisation in teaching and learning partnership?

Please write to us at: ETF.Network.for. Excellence@etf.europa.eu

www.etf.europa.eu/ene