

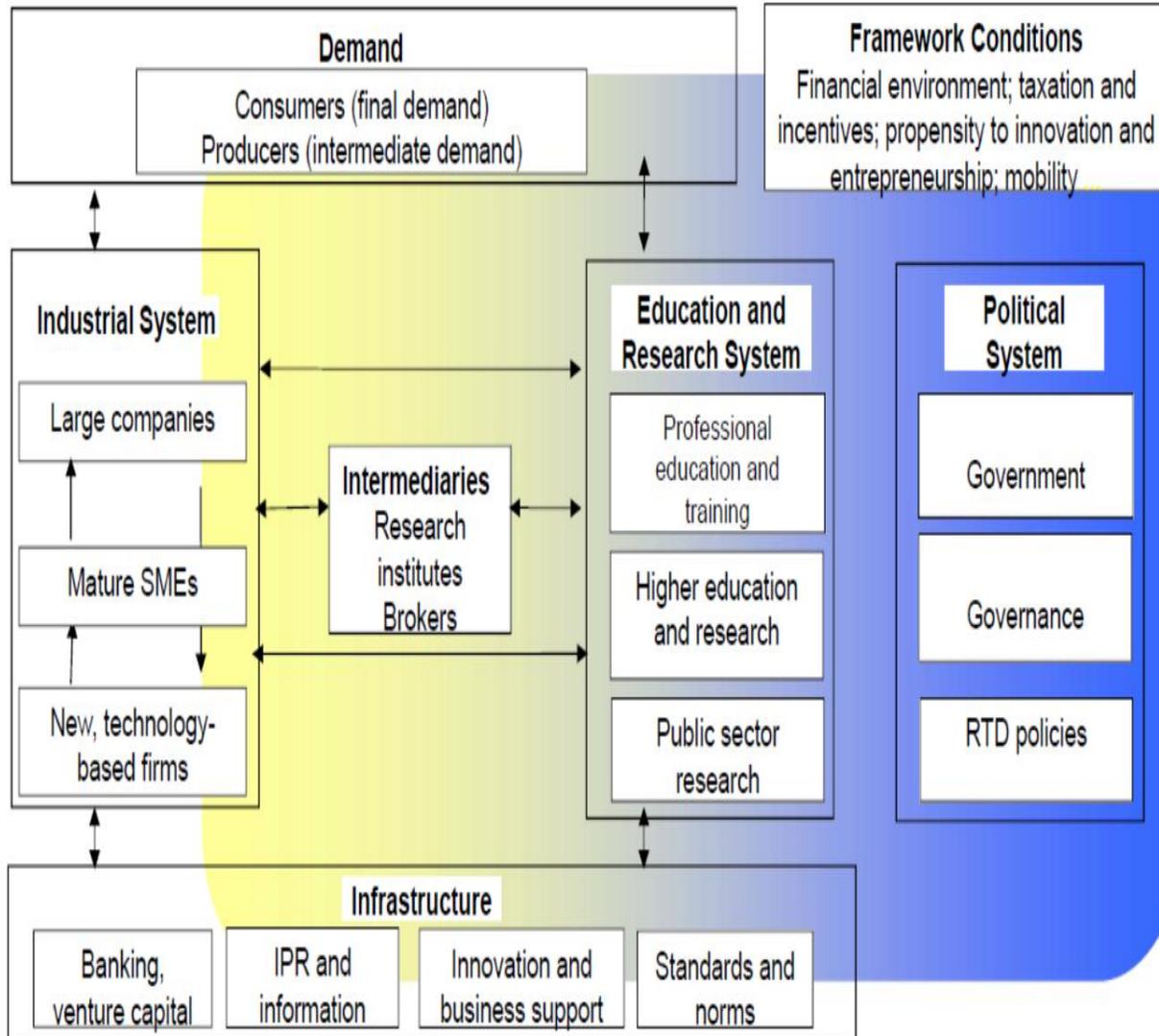


The ETF Vocational Excellence & CoVEs: Applied Research in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

J.Manuel Galvin Arribas
-Senior HCD Expert- VET Excellence
(16-20 February 2026)

etf.network.for.excellence@etf.europa.eu

CoVEs as driving forces for supplying relevant skills embedded into (national/regional) systems of innovation



SYSTEM OF INNOVATION

Stakeholders/Players interaction with specific roles in the process of generating and disseminating new ideas and technologies.

- **R&D institutions** (Universities; P&P laboratories, & **CoVEs** role): conduct basic & applied research that forms new innovations;
- **Industry: companies /firms** develop, produce and commercialise new products, processes and services by using R&D activities;
- **Financial & venture-capital institutions** for funding/ resourcing development and commercializing new innovations;
- **Government (s)**: creating environment for innovation, through policies such as research funding, tax incentives and intellectual property laws;
- **Human Capital** : skilled labour/graduates, entrepreneurs and managers are key for creating/implementing new ideas and technologies (**CoVEs** role)
- **Infrastructure**: physical and institutional infrastructure (e.g transport networks, telecommunication systems; legal/ regulatory framework) to support innovation to occur.

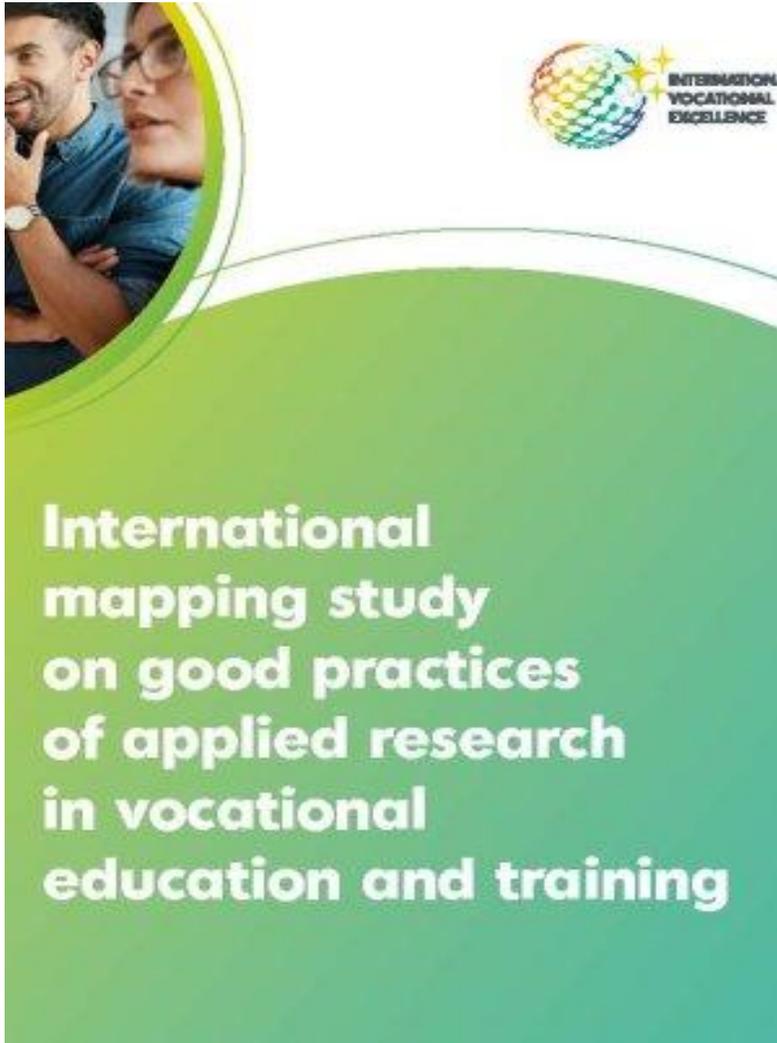
Source: ETF 2025

- **Applied Research in VET** refers to **investigative activities and services conducted by VET institutions which have a strong practical focus on solving real-life problems.**

- Insights from applied research can be used to develop or improve products and services, by commercializing ideas that can increase businesses productivity.
- Insights can also help develop workforce solutions such professionalizing workers through teaching them new knowledge and skills.
- Additional role of VET providers in ARs : growing need of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) to have external agents assist them in their innovation activities.
- Applied Research to VET contributes on: **ATTRACTIVENESS (ACCESS), IMAGE, VALUE NETWORK (e.g income generation) EMPLOYABILITY & Overall VET EXCELLENCE standards.**



APPLIED RESEARCH IN VET: *Raising the bar* towards Excellence & CoVEs missions



- **ETF/EC Mapping Study:** Spain (Country Basque)- The Netherlands- Canada- Republic of Türkiye-

Table 6. Overview of the main characteristics of best practices of applied research in VET

	Sector	Funding source	Student involvement	Duration of project
Tknika	Broad range, mainly manufacturing	Private companies	No	6 months
CHILL	Chemistry	Private companies	Yes	6 months to several years
Ideaworks	Technology	Private companies	Yes	6 months to several years
Private Enka VTAH	Robotics, physics, chemistry	Government	Yes	3 years on average

APPLIED RESEARCH IN VET: *Raising the bar* towards Excellence & CoVEs missions

BENEFITS FOR DEVELOPING APPLIED RESEARCH TO VET			
STUDENTS	VET PROVIDERS	COMPANIES	TEACHERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of soft skills Development of technical skills and substantive/relevant knowledge Outlook/Prospects: labour market orientation and job readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closer to developments aligned to labour markets. Diversifying financial sources & Curriculum improvements Attract, motivate, professionalize and retain teachers as well as students (families). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to additional research capacities for an affordable price. Scout potential talented graduates through a first opportunity for collaboration. Ability to retain intellectual property rights on innovations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-create new expertise and know-how. Further development of research skills and pedagogical capacities Overall contribution to Continuous Professional Development of Teachers & Trainers




International mapping study on good practices of applied research in vocational education and training

APPLIED RESEARCH IN VET: Additional Good International Practices

- Industry-Partnered Innovation (Makerspaces) (**Slovenia**).
- Technological Adoption in Building/Construction & Environmental Technology Transfer: Pedagogical Research for Student Experience in Curricula (**Australia**).
- Construction R&D materials, industrial processes (**Moldova, Georgia**)

- [Delta Platform](#): complex, multidisciplinary research programs in regional living labs
- [Center of Expertise Healthy Ageing](#): multidisciplinary long-term projects in innovation workshops
- [TechForFuture](#): large portfolio of applied research projects
- [PPP Model for regional co-makership](#) aimed at sustainable innovations within themes in the Northern Netherlands, combination of practice at Alfa-college and lectorate at NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences



**...LET'S EXCEL TOGETHER...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH !**

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<https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/projects-campaigns/projects/vocational-excellence> | ETF (europa.eu)

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1501>

Open Space:

Setting Up the new ETF Network for Excellence (ENE) | Open Space (europa.eu)

- **Europa Website on CoVE:**
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/vocational-excellence>
- **The Erasmus+ programme**
https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en
- **Functional mailbox for all questions related to CoVE calls:**
EACEA-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>

CoVEs are not a one-size-fits-all model, but rather a flexible and adaptable concept that can be tailored to the specific needs, priorities and resources of each country and sector(s). Overall, CoVEs ensure quality and relevance of VET skills, as well as foster regional development and innovation. CoVEs are a promising and innovative approach for VET. However, they also entail significant efforts and responsibilities for the VET providers and their partners. CoVEs are not a quick fix or a simple solution, but a long-term and strategic investment that requires building capacities on VET communities towards Excellence ; strong political will (a clear policy framework), and a collaborative culture among all the relevant actors in the Skills Ecosystem (ETF 2025)