VET Excellence as a pillar for Smart Specialisation and regional development strategies

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Territorial dimension of CoVEs

“Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) bring together a wide range of local partners, such as providers of vocational education and training, employers, research centres, development agencies, and employment services (among others), to develop "skills ecosystems" that contribute to regional, economic and social development, innovation, and smart specialisation strategies.”

European Commission Website
(Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion)
Territorial dimension of CoVEs: FOUR THEMES

1. Regional Innovation (Eco)systems
2. Regional Transitions
3. Smart Specialisation
4. Localising the Sustainable Development Goals
Regional Innovation (Eco-) systems

Contemporary dynamics of the Regional Innovation System

Research & Learning Institutions
- Integrated tertiary education system
- New knowledge
- Educated & trained graduates
- Problem solving
- Public space

Government
- Infrastructure
- Industry & Innovation Policy
- Expenditure Programs
- Policy R&D, Training

Industry
- Competitive advantage through innovation
- Knowledge-intensive Businesses
- Policy R&D, Training

It’s what happens in here that really counts

Source: Australia 2030: Prosperity through innovation
Regional Transitions

Rapidly evolving technologies around digitalisation and automation, a shrinking labour force, and increased territorial disparities mean that regional labour markets in European and OECD regions will inevitably undergo major transformations in the coming years and decades.

Based on their capacities and accumulated knowledge in existing industries, regions in industrial transition have a strong potential to capture the benefits of the future of work by pursuing innovation, new technological pathways and industrial renewal.

At the same time, the adoption and successful integration of new technologies and the development of new business models can be constrained by skills and investment barriers.

An integrated and locally tailored approach to policies promoting quality job creation, skills and participation is fundamental for regions in industrial transition if they are to make structural adjustments and achieve employment and productivity objectives.

Source: OECD (2019)
Smart Specialisation
Industrial Modernisation Platform: Thematic Partnerships

- Advanced manufacturing for energy applications
- 3D Printing
- Innovative use of non-food biomass
- Efficient & Sustainable Manufacturing
- Nano-Enabled Products
- Industry 4.0
- Textile Innovation
- Medical Technology
- Sports Innovation
- Photonics
### Importance of different policy areas for the implementation of S3

(% of respondents who gave a score of six or seven out of seven)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy area</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>More developed regions</th>
<th>Less developed regions</th>
<th>North West Europe</th>
<th>South East Europe</th>
<th>Central &amp; Eastern Europe</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>16.20</td>
<td>11.50</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>24.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocational training</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>8.20</td>
<td>17.10</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>12.20</td>
<td>23.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research and science</td>
<td>42.80</td>
<td>37.70</td>
<td>47.20</td>
<td>41.20</td>
<td>36.00</td>
<td>55.90</td>
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<td>Innovation in firms</td>
<td>66.70</td>
<td>65.60</td>
<td>69.40</td>
<td>64.70</td>
<td>66.00</td>
<td>70.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructure investments</td>
<td>13.80</td>
<td>13.10</td>
<td>19.40</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>20.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social innovation</td>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>14.30</td>
<td>25.70</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>28.00</td>
<td>9.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Smart Specialisation Strategy. Basque Government.

Technological centres, Universities, other agents in the Basque science and technology network.

International reference points

Reference point companies

Technological Innovation System of Euskadi’s Vocational Education and Training

TKGUNE

Areas of specialisation

Centre projects

Government policy coordination. Defining priorities.

HUBS

COLLABORATION
Prospective, New knowledge, Joint agreement development

Technological services

New applications in emerging sectors

New knowledge and assessment

Business Network. Especially SMEs companies in emerging sectors and the creation of new companies.
Smart Specialisation around the world

Source: Joint Research Centre Smart Specialisation Platform
Localization refers to the process of defining, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national and subnational sustainable development goals and targets. (UN Development Group 2014, 6–7)
Any questions?
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