**Building a European Competence Centre in Performing Arts**

A Romanian cluster of institutions: „Radu Stanca“ Sibiu National Theatre from Sibiu, „Lucian Blaga“ University of Sibiu, and Fundația Amfiteatru București is ready to apply for the next Call for proposals on creating [Centres of Vocational Excellence](https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/centres-vocational-excellence) (Erasmus+ KA2).

The deadline is to be announced by the end of 2024, if the European Commission keeps the same calendar as in the previous years.

Mainly, the objective of the project would be to create a European network of centres to address and form trainers and professionals in the industry of visual and performing arts (IVPA).

From the needs analysis we conducted in RO, we concluded that:

* There is a lack of convergence, coherence and flow between education and the labour market in IVPA. From about 80 types of professions related to the field, hardly 50% have defined updated professional standards. Some of these are outdated, referring to obsolete contexts.
* There is a major lack of certification of the existing professional career paths in IVPA, apart from those covered by formal education.
* There are few options of developing professional career paths especially for the emerging qualifications (e.g. multimedia producing and editing plus the adequate professional support) determined by the evolution of IVPA and by the extended involvement of technology and innovation in the field.
* There are a few or no paths leading to professions covering: counselling in IVPA, cultural mediation, facilitation, or animation, sound and light design etc.
* There is a need for smaller, more flexible structures that can respond quickly and at a high-quality level to the cultural needs of isolated groups and communities.

Specifically, by creating a **European Centre for Vocational Excellence in the field of Visual and Performing Arts,** the project intends to:

* Address learners with various educational paths and provide them with adaptable digital and transversal skills and competencies relevant to the evolving demands of IVPA.
* Promote the growth of sustainable, life-long professional development in IVPA – at initial and continuous levels – by providing high-quality, certified, specific vocational education and training, supporting professionals who will be able to enhance the cultural and creative industries.
* Foster mobility and professional flexibility in IVPA by offering equitable access to VET models, practices, and training opportunities in performing arts, ensuring inclusivity and diversity within the sector.
* Equip individuals with competences required in IPA to increase their employability and their capacity to withstand future challenges in the field.
* Develop a network of similar structures at national and European level.
* Within the partnership: charting the labour needs and jobs profiles effective at the level of each national IVPA system (correlation among existing VET education paths (EQF 3)– existing training institutions – certification). From the needs analysis we know that there are a lot of gaps to cover but such a map can add a clearer picture at the partnership level, especially when it comes to transfer of knowledge and practices, challenges, and identifying further trends.
* Identifying potential organisations/structures/events that could benefit from the support of the Centre, for a better connection of the labour market’s needs in the field with education and certified career paths.
* Developing training structures and curricula for the following:  sound design; light design; multimedia online products related to IPA (digital stage); marketing and promotion of IPA products; event management; event photography; event design
* Enhancing the relevance, effectiveness, and attractiveness of vocational education and training in IVPA, promoting a culture of quality in the field  and facilitating the recognition of IPA qualifications and competences across Europe.

The partnership must include at least 8 applicants (see details below) from a minimum of 4 EU Member States or third countries associated with the Programme.

Each EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme must include:

* at least 1 enterprise, industry, other employers or sector representative organisation, and
* at least 1 vocational education and training provider (at secondary and/or tertiary level)

**The duration of the project would be 48 months (4 years).**

**The maximum budget is 4 mil EUR (data for last Calls)**

**Required Partners for COVE Projects:**

1. Vocational Education and Training Providers:

* Core participants such as technical schools, colleges, or training centres. They provide the primary expertise in VET.

1. Companies and Industry Representatives ensuring that the project is aligned with current labour market needs.

* Businesses, especially from sectors relevant to the project.
* Industry associations or chambers of commerce.

1. Higher Education Institutions:

* Universities or other institutions offering higher-level qualifications related to the project's focus. They contribute research capabilities and advanced education options.

1. Public Authorities:

* Local, regional, or national government bodies responsible for education, training, and employment. Their role is to facilitate policy alignment and sustainability.

1. Social Partners:

* Trade unions and employers’ organisations. They ensure the project addresses both worker and employer needs.

1. Research and Development Organizations:

* Institutions that bring innovation and development of new technologies or methodologies.

1. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (\*\*\*):

* NGOs working in areas such as inclusion, diversity, or sustainability. They help ensure the project is socially responsible and inclusive.

1. Other Relevant Stakeholders:

* Employment services, innovation hubs, and clusters. They contribute to a broader impact on regional development.

(\*\*\*) CSOs can participate in Erasmus+ Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) projects, provided their involvement aligns with the goals of the initiative. These goals include fostering innovation in vocational education, upskilling, and contributing to sustainable development. However, the main eligible participants are typically vocational education and training (VET) providers, businesses, universities, and public authorities​.

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CSOs may act as supporting partners, contributing with their expertise, particularly in areas like inclusivity and community engagement.

Thank you and keep in touch with any other questions you may have.

More information on COVE Call 2025: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/centres-vocational-excellence> (EN)