Erasmus+ Programme
Capacity-building in the field of Vocational Education and Training (CB VET)

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the EU-funded programme to support individual exchanges and institutional cooperation in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. The programme has a strong international dimension, which opens up many of these opportunities to individuals and stakeholders from countries worldwide. Almost all projects are based on a partnership between the 27 EU Member States and eight countries associated[1] to the Programme on the one hand, **and more than 100 third countries not associated to the Programme throughout the world on the other**.

What are CB VET projects?

Capacity building in VET projects are international cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of VET in EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, and third countries **not** associated to the Programme. They aim **to support the relevance, accessibility, and responsiveness of VET institutions and systems in third countries not associated to the Programme** as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development.

Third countries not associated to the Programme come from the following regions (for more details see the Programme guide, section "Eligible countries"):

- **Western Balkans (region 1),**
- **Neighbourhood East (region 2), -** except Belarus
- **South-Mediterranean countries (region 3)**
- **Sub-Saharan Africa (region 9),**
- **Latin America (region 10) and**
- **Caribbean (region 11).**

Each project must select at least one **Thematic area**:

- Work-based learning (for young people and/or adults);
- Quality assurance mechanisms;
- VET teachers/trainers professional development;
- Key competences, including entrepreneurship and citizenship competence;
- Public Private Dialogue and Partnerships in VET;
- Innovation in VET;
- Green and digital skills for the twin transition;
- STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) in VET in line with labour market needs;
- Skills matching with current and future job opportunities, aligned with regional priorities (mentioned in the

[1] The third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme are the following: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, and Türkiye. **Switzerland and the UK also plan to associate to the programme in 2027, bringing the total of associated third countries to eight.**

Programme guide);
- Development of curricula and training modules.

All projects are encouraged to include **Horizontal aspects of the Erasmus+ programme**: inclusion and diversity, environmental sustainability, digital dimension and common values, civic engagement and participation.

Organisations are encouraged to work with partners in the **poorest and least developed** third countries not associated to the Programme.

What do CB VET projects do?

CB VET projects can carry out a range of activities (examples below) focused on third countries not associated to the Programme:

- creating and developing networks and exchanges of good practice between VET providers in third countries not associated to the Programme and in EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme;
- creating tools, programmes and other materials to build the capacity of institutions from third countries not associated to the Programme (practical training schemes, training programmes and tools for assessing and validating learning outcomes in VET, individual action plans for participating institutions; professional guidance and counselling and coaching methods…);
- creating mechanisms to involve the private sector both in the design and delivery of curricula and to provide VET learners with high quality work-based experience;
- developing and transferring pedagogical approaches, teaching and training materials and methods, including work-based learning, virtual mobility, open educational resources and better exploitation of the ICT potential;
- developing and implementing international (virtual) exchange activities for staff primarily (including teachers and non-teaching staff such as school leaders, managers, counsellors, advisors, etc.).

What is the duration of projects and what EU grant they can ask for?

Project should normally last **3 years** and the maximum EU grant is **EUR 500 000** representing maximum **80% of total costs of a project**.

Global Gateway

Since 2025, **new priorities** were defined for some regions and slight change/shift of **award criteria** were made. The alignment of a project with Global gateway priorities/Economic and Investment Plans/Reform agendas, according to the countries involved, plays a greater role in relevance. Global Gateway (Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Caribbean) priorities for capacity building projects are listed in an EC website referenced in the Programme Guide.

Who can apply and take part in CB VET projects? How?

Taking part as an organisation:

In order to be eligible, the applicants (**beneficiaries** and **affiliated entities**, if applicable) must:

- be **legal entities** (public or private bodies);
- be **active in the VET field or in the labour market**;

Participating organisations can be, for example (non-exhaustive list):

- VET providers
- Companies, industry, other employers or sector representative organisations
- National/regional qualification authorities

- Employment services
- Research institutes
- Innovation agencies
- Regional development authorities
- International organisations

- National training and apprenticeships fund

- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e. **EU Member State, third country associated to the Programme, third country not associated to the Programme from an eligible region.**

The eligible regions covered by this action are **Regions 1, 2[2], 3, 9, 10 and 11** (please see Part A of the Programme Guide).

Consortium

Projects must be submitted by a consortium of at least **4 applicants** (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities or associated partners) **from at least 3 eligible countries**:

- at least 2 EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme;
    - each of these participating countries must involve at least 1 organisation.
- at least 1 eligible third country not associated to the Programme:
    - at least 2 organisations from the participating eligible third country/countries not associated to the Programme from the same region
    - Organisations from different eligible regions cannot participate in the same projects. Cross-regional projects are not eligible.

The consortium must include at least one VET provider at secondary education level (ISCED level 3).

The number of organisations from EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme **may not be higher** than the number of organisations from eligible third countries not associated to the Programme.

Affiliated entities and associated partners do not count for the consortium composition.

Organisations from **Belarus** (Region 2) and the **Russian Federation** (Region 4) **are not eligible to participate in this action**.

Who can apply? Who can be a coordinator?

- The **coordinator** must be an organisation **active in the VET**. It applies on behalf of all participating organisations involved in the project. It cannot be an affiliated entity. **Organisations from third countries not associated to the Programme cannot be coordinators**.

[2] Organisations from Belarus (Region 2) are not eligible to participate in this action.

How to apply?

- **Funding opportunities for 2021-2027 and information on how to apply are announced on the European Commission's Funding & Tender Opportunities portal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home**

More information

- Detailed information on the **criteria and funding rules**: Erasmus+ Programme Guide
- Look at **all 274 CB VET projects funded** in the calls 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 calls in the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform. In January2027, you will also find here 2026 call funded projects.
- In case you wish to see also **results produced by CB VET** projects visit FT portal (Funding and Tender Portal). Selected projects in the calls (see section "Funded project list"): 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025: ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CB-VET-WB (Western Balkans), ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CB-VET-NE (Neighbourhood East), ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CB-VET-SMC (South-Mediterranean countries), ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CB-VET-SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa), ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CB-VET-LA (Latin America), and ERASMUS-EDU-2025-CB-VET-CA (Caribbean). In January 2027 you will also find here 2026 call funded projects.