PACT FOR SKILLS

ERASMUS+ 2024 CALLS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR PACT FOR SKILLS MEMBERS

Webinar | 30 January 2024

The European Commission organised its first webinar of 2024 as part of a series of events for Pact for Skills members to discuss and exchange with experts and with the Pact for Skills Community. The webinar presented a range of 2024 Erasmus+ calls that can support the implementation of upskilling and reskilling measures in the framework of the Pact for Skills. Moreover, the event was an opportunity to hear from organisations about their experience with applying for Erasmus+ funding, including challenges, success factors and lessons learned.

Key messages

EU funding can play an essential role in supporting Pact for Skills members to implement initiatives fostering skills development, resilience, cooperation, and innovative approaches to up and reskilling. With over EUR 4 billion to be invested in education and training, and calls for funding specifically aimed at supporting the existing – regional and sectoral – partnerships under the Pact for Skills, the 2024 Erasmus+ calls represent a key opportunity for Pact members to strengthen their work to upskill and reskill the European workforce.

This webinar offered a space for Pact for Skills members to hear directly from the European Commission about these funding opportunities, and access more detailed information on new funding opportunities under Erasmus+. Taking advantage of available funding, however, means also learning from organisations with a track record of successfully applying for Erasmus+ calls. To this end, the webinar represented a space to hear about the importance of carrying out needs assessments to ensure proposals respond to existing challenges; ensuring a transparent and realistic approach by focusing on key priorities and goals; and working with a range of partners that can contribute to the quality of the proposal by offering their unique expertise.

Call for action

- Would you like to access **more information on the 2024 Erasmus+ calls**? Check the **calls for proposals** on the Erasmus+ website and the Erasmus+ Programme Guide

- The Pact for Skills database and search tool for funding opportunities also provides an overview of the 2024 Erasmus+ calls.

- Are you interested in setting up a **Regional Partnership** or joining a **Large-Scale Partnership**? Get in touch with the Pact for Skills Support Services PactforSkillsPartnerships@ecorys.com

Erasmus+ 2024 calls: focus on upskilling and reskilling

Within the broader EU funding landscape, Erasmus+ stands out as the key programme in the areas of education, training, youth and sport. It supports the implementation of key EU-level policies, including the Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP), the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the European Skills Agenda. Under the current funding period 2021-2027, the Erasmus+ budget amounts to EUR 26.2 billion, of which EUR 4.3 billion are to be invested over the course of 2024 to support young people in higher education and training, as well as help adult learners to up and reskill.

The Erasmus+ programme is structured around **three key actions, with support for upskilling and reskilling actions falling primarily under key actions 2 and 3**:

1. Key action 1 on learning mobility;

2. Key action 2 on cooperation among organisations and institutions;

3. Key action 3 on supporting policy development and cooperation.

At the end of 2023, a number of new funding opportunities under Erasmus+ were launched, some of which target registered Pact for Skills members and Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPs) established under the Pact. These calls for funding aim to support work being done on the ground to upskill and reskill the European workforce and strengthen cooperation at sectoral and regional level.

The following sections provide an overview of Erasmus+ funding opportunities[1], with a focus on those most relevant for Pact for Skills members:

- Cooperation Partnerships

- Small-Scale Partnerships

- Centres for Vocational Excellence

- Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills (implementing the 'Blueprint')

- Policy Experimentation Projects – Topic 2: Vocational Education & Training and Topic 3: Adult education

Partnerships for Cooperation – Cooperation and Small-scale partnerships

Partnerships for Cooperation are transnational projects designed to develop and share innovative practices and promote cooperation, peer learning, and exchanges of experiences in the fields of

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[1] Please note that the information provided in this report is not exhaustive. The full text of the calls provides further details and remains the main source of information for potential applicants.

education, training, and youth. The implementation of these partnerships should aim to support the following **horizontal principles**:

- Inclusion and diversity

- Environment and fight against climate change

- Addressing digital transformation

- Common values, civic engagement and participation

Furthermore, for what concerns actions in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET), Partnerships for Cooperation should aim to achieve one or more of the following **specific priorities**:

- **Adapting vocational education and training to labour market needs**: This includes, for example, supporting the development of VET programmes and curricula providing a balanced mix of vocational skills and work-based learning opportunities adaptable to changing labour market needs; and the establishment of updated qualifications based on skills intelligence;

- **Increasing the flexibility of opportunities**: This entails supporting initiatives focusing on flexible and learner-centred approaches to facilitate access to training; supporting continuing VET; fostering the recognition of learning outcomes leading to a qualification;

- **Contributing to innovation**: This includes projects aiming to change VET practices to increase their relevance to societal and economic needs;

- **Increasing the attractiveness of VET**: This entails, for example, fostering participative learning envitonments; promoting skills development for VET teachers and trainers; supporting long-term partnerships at national, regional, sectoral levels;

- **Improving quality assurance**: This includes developing national quality assurance systems for initial and continuing VET;

- **Creation and implementation of internationalisation strategies**: This includes, for example, establishing support mechanisms and frameworks to promote mobilty of VET staff and learners (e.g. automatic recognition of qualifications, support services);

- **Supportive response of European education and training systems to the war in Ukraine**: This entails projects promoting inclusive pedagogical approaches and practices, including through apprenticeships, to support those fleeing the war.

There are two types of Partnerships for Cooperation: Cooperation Partnerships and Small-Scale partnerships.

Cooperation partnerships

SUMMARY	
Main objectives	Building capacity of organisations to work transnationally and across sectors; increase quality of activities and practices; address common needs and priorities.) Increasing quality

	in the work, activities and practices of organisations and institutions involved, opening up to new actors; building capacity of organisations to work transnationally and across sectors; addressing common needs and priorities in the fields of education, training, youth and sport; enabling transformation and change (at individual, organisational or sectoral level).
Deadline	5 March 2024, at 17:00 CET
Grant	Lump sum of EUR 120.000, EUR 250.000 EUR or 400 000 EUR, as chosen by the applicants.
Call for funding	Link available here

In terms of **objectives**, Cooperation Partnerships aim to support organisations to increase the quality and relevance of their activities, and develop and reinforce their networks of partners, to increase their capacity to operate jointly at transnational level, boosting internationalisation of their activities and through exchanging or developing new practices and methods as well as sharing and confronting ideas.

For what concerns **supported actions**, Cooperation Partnerships are meant to support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices as well as joint initiatives promoting cooperation, peer learning and exchanges of experience at European level. To this end, selected projects are expected to share the results of their activities at local, regional, national level and transnational level. The format, purpose and the type and number of participants in the activities will need to be described and justified as part of the proposal. Furthermore, all proposals should address at least one of the horizontal priorities and/or at least one specific priority relevant to the field of education and training, as mentioned above.

All projects must last between **12 and 36 months.** The total grant amount foreseen for Cooperation Partnerships is a lump sum of either **EUR 120.000, EUR 250.000 EUR or 400 000 EUR**, depending on the pre-defined amount chosen by applicants at proposal stage.

The main **eligibility criteria** are as follows:

- Any organisation established in an EU Member State or third country associated to Erasmus+ can apply for funding, as long as they have been legally established at least 2 years before the application deadline.

- The above organisations can either participate as the coordinator of the project or as a partner organisation. Organisations in third countries not associated to Erasmus+ cannot participate as coordinators.

- Cooperation Partnerships may also involve other partners from the public or private sector for the implementation of specific project tasks/activities or support the promotion and sustainability of the project. These are "associated partners", i.e. they do not receive any funding from Erasmus+.

- Lastly, as Cooperation Partnerships are transnational, they must involve a minimum of 3 partners organisations from 3 different EU Member States or third countries associated to Erasmus+.

Award criteria	Maximum	Threshold
Relevance	25	Proposals must score at least 70 points and at least half of the maximum points under each of the award criteria.
Quality of project design	30	
Quality of partnership	20	
Impact	25	

For Partnerships in the fields of education, training and youth submitted by European NGOs, **applications** should be submitted to the European Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA), via the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal with the following Call ID: ERASMUS-2024-PCOOP-ENGO.

For organisations other than NGOs, applications should be sent to the relevant Erasmus+ National Agency.

For **more information**, please check the following **links**:

- Erasmus+ webpage – section on Partnerships for Cooperation

- Erasmus+ Programme guide – section on Cooperation Partnerships

Small-scale partnerships

SUMMARY	
Main objective	Attracting and widening access for newcomers, less experienced, and small scale actors to access Erasmus+; supporting the inclusion of target groups with fewer opportunities; supporting active European citizenship and bringing the European dimension to the local level.
Deadline	5 March 2024, at 12:00 CET for projects starting between 1 September and 31 December of the same year. 1 October 2024 at 12:00 CET for projects starting between 1 January and 31 August of the following year.
Grant	Lump sums of either EUR 30.000 or EUR 60.000, as chosen by the applicants.
Call for funding	Link available here.

In terms of **objectives**, Small-scale partnerships aim to widen access to the Erasmus+ programme to small-scale actors and individuals in the fields of school education, adult education, vocational education and training, youth and sport, through lower grant amounts, shorter project duration, and simpler administrative requirements.

All projects must last between **6 and 25 months.** The total grant amount foreseen for Cooperation Partnerships is a lump sum of either **EUR 30.000 or EUR 60.000 EUR**, depending on the pre-defined amount chosen by applicants at proposal stage.

The main **eligibility criteria** are as follows:

- Any public or private organisation active in any fields of education, training, youth, sport or other socio-economic sectors, established in an EU Member State or third country associated to Erasmus+ can apply.

- Other organisations carrying out transversal activities (e.g. local, regional and national authorities, recognition and validation centres, chambers of commerce, trade organisations, guidance centres, cultural and sport organisations) can also apply.

- Lastly, as Small-scale partnerships are transnational, they must include minimum 2 organisations from 2 different EU Member States or third countries associated to Erasmus+.

Award criteria	Maximum	Threshold
Relevance	30	Proposals must score at least 60 points and at least half of the maximum points under each of the award criteria.
Quality of project design	30	
Quality of partnership	20	
Impact	20	

For Small-scale partnerships in the fields of vocational education and training, school education, adult education and youth **applications** should be submitted to the Erasmus+ National Agency of the country in which the applicant organisation is established.

For **more information**, please check the following **links**:

- Erasmus+ webpage – section on Partnerships for Cooperation

- Erasmus+ Programme guide – section on Small-scale Partnerships

Centres for Vocational Excellence

SUMMARY	
Main objective	Contributing to improving the quality of VET in participating regions through fostering stakeholder cooperation and adaptability of VET institutions.
Deadline	7 May 2024 at 17:00 CET
Grant	Up to EUR 4 million per project
Call for funding	Link available here

The Centres for Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) aim to contribute to the implementation of a number of key EU level initiatives, including the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Education Area, and the European Skills Agenda. Furthermore, the **main objective** of CoVEs is become a driving force in the VET sector and contribute to improving the quality of VET in participating regions, by supporting VET institutions to navigate changes in the labour market and be active partners in co-creating solutions. To this end, CoVES foster collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders (e.g. VET

providers; public authorities; companies, research institutions at local, regional, national and international level).

In terms of **supported actions**, projects must include activities under each of the following theee clusters:

1. **Teaching and learning**: providing people with labour market relevant skills; implementing a lifelong learning approach to VET; developing VET curricula and qualifications; implementing learner-centred approaches to teaching and learning materials; investing in continuing professional development of teachers and trainers; establishing quality assurance mechanisms; providing guidance services and validation.

2. **Cooperation and partnerships**: creating business-education partnerships, including by joining the Pact for Skills, promoting applied research and innovation, supporting VET internationalisation and mobility, fostering entrepreneurial skills, raising VET attractiveness.

3. **Governance and Funding**: fostering autonomy and effective VET governance, creating skills ecosystems, developing sustainable finance models.

CoVEs are **four year projects** and can receive a grant of up to **EUR 4 million**, for a total of about 100 CoVEs funded over the 2021-2027 programming period.

The main **eligibility criteria** are as follows:

- Applicants (coordinator and partners) must be organisations (public or private) active in VET or in the world of work (e.g. VET providers; companies; industry or sector representative organisations; national/regional qualification authorities; research institutes) legally established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Erasmus+. Organisations from third countries not associated to the Programme can also participate but not as coordinators.

- The consortium must include a minimum of 8 full partners from minimum 4 EU Member States or third countries associated to Erasmus+. The coordinator must be from an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme.

Award criteria	Maximum	Threshold
Relevance	35	
Quality of project design	25	Proposals must score at least 70 points.
Quality of partnership	20	
Impact	20	

For CoVEs, applications must be submitted via the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal with the following Call ID: ERASMUSEDU-2024-PEX-COVE

For **more information**, please check the following **links:**

- [General information](#) about the CoVEs and factsheets on all the ongoing CoVE projects, by call year.

- [Info page](#) for the 2024 call for CoVEs.

- [CoVE Community of Practice](#), including matchmaking tool.

Alliances for Innovation – Lot 2: Alliances for sectoral cooperation on skills ("Blueprints").

SUMMARY	
Main objective	Developing new strategic approaches and cooperation for concrete skills development solutions ans supporting the implementation of the Pact for Skills through the development of sectoral skills strategies, review and development of job profiles, related training content and qualifications.
Deadline	7 March 2024 at 17:00 CET
Grant	Max. EUR 4 million per project
Call for funding	Link available [here](#)

Alliances for sectoral cooperation on skills (Blueprints) are one of the two strands under Alliances for Innovation, which aim to support sectoral cooperation within and across the 14 industrial ecosystems set out in the 2020 [New Industrial Strategy for Europe](#).

In terms of **main objectives**, Blueprints aim to develop new strategic approaches and cooperation to identify and implement solutions to skills development in the short and medium term, through mobilising relevant stakeholders to take concrete action for upskilling and reskilling, building partnerships, and tackle existing skills gaps while boosting innovation and competitiveness. Under the 2024 Erasmus+ call, furthermore, Blueprint Alliances aim to contribute to the Pact for Skills by providing support to registered members to implement their commitments under the Pact.

Funding for Blueprints under Erasmus+ will support the **establishment of new alliances and the implementation of several key tasks**, including: gathering skills intelligence to identify gaps and shortages; developing a sectoral skills strategy setting out priorities and areas for action; designing and delivering core currila and training programmes for occupations most affected by evolving skills needs (1st year of the project) and emerging job proviles (throughout the lifecourse of the Blueprint); setting out a long term action plan for the roll out of project results. Proposals for Blueprint Alliances should encompass both a **reactive and proactive approach to skills development:**

- Reactive approach: proposals should include activities to address urgent skills needs and draw on existing frameworks (e.g. the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications

and Occupations Framework[2], DigiComp[3]; EntreComp[4]; GreenComp[5]), including throught the rapid design of continuing vocational training within the rist year of project implementation.

- Proactive approach: proposals should implement VET training programmes and curricula for changing and emerging occupational profiles at upper and post-secondary levels (EQF levels 3-5) as well as at tertiary levels (EQF levels 6-8).

Under the 2024 Erasmus+ call, **all registered Pact for Skills members are eligible to apply for the Alliances for sectoral cooperation on skills (Blueprint) call**. More specifically, **eligibility criteria** include the following:

- Applicants must be begistered members of the Pact for Skills;

- Applicants can be public and private organisations legally established in an EU Member State or third country associated to Erasmus+ (e.g. higher education institutions; VET providers; networks of VET providers; small and medium-sized or large companies; research institutes; NGOs; public bodies;; accreditation, certification, recognition or qualification bodies; chambers of commerce, industry or labour,social partners). Organisations from third countries not associated to the Programme may also participate as beneficiaries but not as coordinators.

- The consortium must cover at least 8 EU Member States and third countries associated to Erasmus+ and involve at least 12 full partners. The partnership must include at least 5 labour market actors (e.g. enterprises or companies, or representative intermediary organisations, such as chambers, trade unions or trade associations) and at least 5 education and training providers (VET and higher education institutions) as full partners. There should be at least 1 higher education institution and 1 VET provider involved as full partner in each proposal.

Award criteria	Maximum	Threshold
Relevance	25	Proposals must score at least 70 points.
Quality of project design	30	
Quality of partnership	25	
Impact	20	

Applications for Blueprint alliances must be submitted via the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal with the following Call ID: ERASMUS-EDU-2024-PI-ALL-INNO-BLUEPRINT

A functional mailbox is also open for any questions from the applicants: EACEA-EPLUS-ALLIANCES@ec.europa.eu

For **more information**, please check the following **links:**

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[2] See https://esco.ec.europa.eu/en/classification
[3] See https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=10193&furtherNews=yes
[4] See https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1317&langId=en
[5] See https://green-comp.eu/

- European Commisson's [webpage](#) on Blueprint alliances

- Pact for Skills paper on ["Bridging projects and policy – Blueprints for sectoral collaboration"](#)

Policy Expertimentation projects – Topics 2 and 3

Policy experimentation calls are separate from the Erasmus+ 2024 calls, and therefore these are not included in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

Policy experimentations entail transnational cooperation projects aim to developi, implement and test the relevance, effectiveness, impact, as well as the potential scalability of activites to address policy priorities in different countries. The **main objective** of Policy experimentations is to enable mutual learning and support policy making.

While different types of policy experimentations may present different requirement, broadly speaking, the main **eligibility criteria** are as follows:

- Applicants must be legal entities (public or private bodies) active in the fields of education and training, research and innovation or in the world of work and be established in an EU Member State or a third country associated to Erasmus+.

- If the applicants are higher education institutions, they must be holdes of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education certificate.

- A consortium must include at least 3 applicants from a minimum of 3 EU Member States or third countries associated to Erasmus+.

Award criteria	Maximum	Threshold
Relevance	30	Proposals must score at <u>least 70 points</u> and at least half of the maximum points under each of the award criteria.
Quality of project design	20	
Quality of partnership	20	
Impact	30	

Policy experimentation projects last between **24 and 36 months** and must implement the set of activities foreseen for each of specific priority (see sections below). **Applications** must be submitted via the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#).

For **more information**, please check the following **link**:

- Read the [call for proposals for Policy experimentations](#). Please note that Policy experimentation calls are separate from the Erasmus+ 2024 calls, and therefore these are not included in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide.

- [Online Info session](#) on 2024 European Policy Experimentations

There are two main topics under Policy experimentations that are relevant for Pact for Skills members: Topic 2 on Vocational Education and Training, and Topic 3 on Adult education (see sections below).

Topic 2 – Vocational Education and Training

SUMMARY	
Main objective	Priority 4 – Women in Green Tech: attracting women to the Net-Zero Technology sector and overcoming obstacles to their participation. Priority 5 – Apprentices' mobility: tackling barriers and structural obstacles to mobility of apprentices; supporting sending and hosting organisations and enhance outreach to apprentices and employers.
Deadline	4 June 2024 at 17:00 CET
Grant	EUR 1 million per project for a total of two projects
Call for funding	Link available here

Topic 2 addresses the VET sector and covers the following priorities:

1. Priority 4: Women in GreenTech

2. Priority 5: Support structures and networks for apprentices' mobility

For more information about activities supported under Priorities 4 and 5, please refer to the text of the call.

Topic 3 – Adult education

SUMMARY	
Main objective	Priority 6 – Joning forces to reskillg workers: supporting the up- and reskilling of workers to adapt to the rapidly changing skills requirements as a result of the green and digital transitions. Priority 7 – Supporting the Pact for Skills: Targeting barriers and structural obstacles to mobility of apprentices; Supporting sending and hosting organisations to engage in mobility; Enhance the outreach to apprentices and employers and the quality of the learning mobility experience.
Deadline	4 June 2024 at 17:00 CET
Grant	EUR 1 million per project
Call for funding	Link available here

Topic 3 addresses the adult learning sector and covers the following priorities:

- Priority 6: Joining Forces to Reskill Workers

- Priority 7: Supporting the Pact for Skills

Under Priority 6, them **main objective** is to identify and test methods and mechanisms to bring together public and private players to support the up- and reskilling of workers to adapt to the rapidly changing skills requirements as a result of the green and digital transitions.

Supported activities include, among others, actions to increase participation of adults in adult learning, through innovative training methods and materials and the establishment of "reskilling labs" where the pubic and private sector jointly design content; as well as outreach campaigns by companies, training providers public and private organisations; skills assessents; training programmes; career guidance, counselling – including training for guidance counsellors – and mentoring.

Under Priority 7, the **main objective** is to support existing Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPs) under the Pact for Skills (partnerships at the level of one region within a country or involving more than one region, within one or more countries) to organise and implement actions to deliver on their concrete commitments to invest in training for people of working age.

Focus on Regional Skills Partnerships under the Pact for Skills	
What do we mean by ''regional''?	The approach is very open as the RSP can cover: • A single region within a Member State. • A territory spanning across Member States (macro-regions, crossborder cooperation...) • A network of regions with a shared geographical or economic proximity or relationship • The local level (metropolitan areas, grouping of municipalities…)
What is the focus?	Bringing together a diverse group of private and public stakeholders to take concrete action.
What kind of work do RSPs do?	RSPs must draft a declaration where they set out the main challenges; possible actions (commitments); and key objectives. Specific activities can then be defined by the members of the RSP, with the help of the Pact for Skills Support Services
Apply	Check the open call for Expression of Interest to establish regional skills partnerships and the Handbook for new partnerships.

Supported activities will need to establish governance structures for the RSP; support the definition, implementation, and monitoring of concrete commitments (e.g. in relation to gathering skills intelligence; upskilling of low-skilled people; reskilling people for new tasks in their jobs or reskilling of people from certain sectors); enhancing cooperation among RSP members.

Given the specific focus of Priority 7, **additional eligibility criteria** apply: only the registered members of Regional Pact for Skills Partnerships can apply, either as coordinators or as full partners. Furthermore, as specified above, please note that proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 3 applicants (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities), from a minimum of 3 EU Member States or third countries associated to the Erasmus+ Programme. For further information, please refer to the text of the call.

Applying for funding under Erasmus+: lessons learned from Pact for Skills members

Pact for skills members have long standing experience with applying for funding under Erasmus+. The following sub-sections provide an overview of some examples of Pact members' work as part of Blueprint Alliances and/or CoVEs, and a brief introduction to existing matchmaking tools that can facilitate partnership building.

Sustainable Energy Centres of Vocational Excellence (SECOVE)

Coordinated by the University of West Attica, the [Sustainable Energy Centres of Vocational Excellence](#) (SECOVE) is an Erasmus+ project that started in 2022 and will continue until 2026. Its overall aim is to act as a platform for cooperation in the renewable and sustainable energy systems (RES) sector, by bringing together CoVEs across five Member States (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain) to share best practices, develop innovative curricula and provide mobility opportunity. SECOVE's specific objectives are:

- Strengthening the capacity of CoVEs in the RES sector by providing training opportunities and developing their expertise;

- Promoting innovation in VET to develop and implement innovative VET curricula, training materials and assessment tools that meet the needs of the RES sector;

- Fostering mobility of learners and trainers by facilitating cross-cultural exchanges and knowledge sharing;

- Developing a network of CoVEs in the RES sector to facilitate cooperation among partners;

- Providing guidance and support to policymakers to develop effective VET strategies for the RES systems

Success factors for SECOVE's engagement in Erasmus+ include working with existing CoVEs and other well-established stakeholders (e.g. research centres, innovation hubs) to harness their expertise; identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the consortium in order to address these through strategic partnerships; ongoing communication with key stakeholders; listening and addressing regional and local needs. Furthermore, Erasmus+ proposals, and subsequently the implementation of EU funded projects, should be aligned with EU policy priorities; ensure that project outcomes respond to policy recommendations and take into account existing tools (e.g. European Entrepreneurship Competence Framework - EntreComp[6]); include new and tailored learning/training methods. Furthermore, to ensure long-term sustainability, it is crucial to secure funding for the continued implementation of the project, as well as to develop targets and key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor, measure, and showcase impact.

Artificial Intelligence Skills Alliance (ARISA)

The Artificial Intelligence Skills Alliance (ARISA) initiative is a four year project + funded under the call for Erasmus+ Alliances for Innovation implementing the Blueprint. It aims to provide AI knowledge, education and STEM skills to help employees, job seekers, company leaders and policymakers to gain

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[6] See https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1317&langId=en

a better understanding of new technologies and the business opportunities they can bring. ARISA promotes innovative education by supporting employers and learning providers to offer innovative learning pathways in AI-related professions; fosters inclusion by training individuals to drive, collaborate on, or contribute to AI-based solutions that are inclusive and human-centred; and implements a future-oriented approach by creating lasting partnerships between the education sector, industry leaders, and policymakers. The implementation of the project ARISA revolves around three main stages:

- Development of a needs-analysis and a European Strategy for AI skills development, to be updated yearly (2022-2023)

- Development of AI skills curricula, including to address urgent skills need, and a certification framework (2023-2024)

- Piloting learning programmes and courses and dissemination of project results (2024-2025)

Key outcomes to date include the [Artificial Intelligence Sector Skills Analysis](#), the [Artificial Intelligence Skills Strategy for Europe](#), and the [European Artificial Intelligence Skills Alliance](#).

According to ARISA's experience, there are three main success factors for the implementation of a project funded as part of Erasmus+'s Alliances for Innovation:

1. **Crafting a compelling narrative**: This entails ensuring that the impact and feasibility of the project is clear from the start, at proposal stage. To this end, a thorough analysis of the key challenges in the sector represents a crucial first step, as it helps with linking actions to be implemented to needs to be addressed and can act as a guidance throughtout the lifecourse of the project. However, it is important to be realistic and identify priority issues to address, and matching actions to implement in order to do so.

2. **Designing an effective intervention:** This includes designing inclusive pedagogical methods that can cater to different learning styles and abilities, keeping accessibility and inclusion at the heart of the proposal and/or project. It is also key to plan for flexibility to ensure that the project is adaptable to unforeseen circumstances and rapid developments. Furthermore, to ensure effective implementation,

3. **A capable consortium:** This entails setting up a strong consortium to demonstrate the necessary expertise to implement the planned activities. As part of this process, particularly at proposal stage, it is important to showcase any relevant success story. Furthemore, when establishing a consortium, it is key to ensure a balanced mix of stakeholdes, as well as prioritising quality over quantity.

Digital Large-Scale Partnership

The Digital Large Scale Partnership (Digital LSP), coordinated by the European Digital SME Alliance and the University of Applied Science of Amsterdam, brings together all stakeholders interested in and committed to equipping the European workforce with the digital skills required by the EU Digital Decade

Targets.[7] The Digital LSP involves around 150 stakeholders, including EU and national level associations, clusters and digital innovation hubs, universities, research centres, companies and VET providers.

The Digital LSP recently launched their own website and brand identity. As part of the new webpage, they have set up a matchmaking platform. The platform offered a space for all registered organisations to check the profile of other registered members, and connect with potential partners across Europe. As part of their planned activities for 2024, the Digital LSP aims to increase cooperation with other LSPs under the Pact for Skills: to this end, the matchmaking platform has been made available for free for all LSPs, to be used as part of their own matchmaking events.

Find out more about SECOVE, ARISA, and the Digital LSP!

- To learn more about the work being carried out under the **SECOVE** project, you can check their website.

- To find out more about **ARISA** and its work, you can check this webpage showcasing resources produced under the project.

- To discover the activities of the **Digital LSP**, you can check their new website, which includes the matchmaking platform.

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[7] The full list of members of the Digital LSP is available on the Pact for skills website https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/about/industrial-ecosystems-and-partnerships/digital_en