

Poland - Establishment and support for the operation of 120 Sectoral Skills Centres (SSCs)

Title of inspiring practice	Establishment and support for the operation of 120 Sectoral Skills Centres (SSCs), implementing the concept of centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs) (" <i>Utworzenie i wsparcie funkcjonowania 120 branżowych centrów umiejętności (BCU), realizujących koncepcję centrów doskonałości zawodowej (CoVEs)</i> ")
Geographical area	The project is implemented in Poland at national level as a network of 120 SSCs which will geographically cover the whole of Poland.
Period of implementation	The project beneficiaries will be selected through a competition announced on 15 September 2022. The implementation of the project starts no earlier than 1 January 2023 and finishes 30 June 2026 at the latest.
Rationale	<p>The aim of the project is to create, equip and put in operation a network of modern SSCs, which implement the concept of CoVEs. Establishment of 120 SSCs has been planned for 120 areas of industry, each SSC being destined for a different area. Among the representative areas of industry the SSCs will be created for, there are also those related to green transition, which include various types of renewable energy, i.e. solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and bioenergy, and waste management.</p> <p>Each SSC will provide space for innovative and lasting cooperation between business and vocational education at all levels, and it will contribute to ensuring the provision of qualified personnel responding to the needs of the modern economy in all sectors of industry.</p>
Scope of the practice	The practice covers Initial Vocational Education and Training, Continued Vocational Education and Training, including sectoral training for VET teachers.
Educational level	Levels II-V of Polish Qualification Framework (II - V EQF)
Introduction and context	<p>The entity responsible for the investment is the Ministry of Education and Science. The project will be implemented by nationwide sectoral organisations, including employers' organisations and associations, economic self-governments or other economic organisations, associations or professional self-governments, state-owned companies, state-owned enterprises, bodies running vocational schools or vocational training centres.</p> <p>The task was driven by the willingness to pursue vocational excellence in the Polish VET system, as well as to provide additional support in preparing the training staff on the individual sectors of the modern economy by creating a space for innovative and lasting cooperation between business and vocational education at all levels of vocational education.</p> <p>The role of SSCs will be to provide targeted services in skill acquisition, upskilling and reskilling, supporting the cooperation between employers and VET schools, universities and educational institutions and contributing to the dissemination of innovative solutions in vocational education. SSCs will act as education, training and examination centres and they will complement the existing offer of VET system at secondary and tertiary level as well as the process of lifelong learning.</p> <p>The initiative targets pupils, students, adults, VET teachers.</p> <p>The costs of the project will be covered from the state budget.</p>

<p>Key activities and outcomes</p>	<p>In 2021-2022, about 100 meetings were held with the representatives of industry sectors for which the SSCs will be created.</p> <p>The established SSCs will be included in the education system on the basis of the amended Act - Educational Law and the Teacher's Charter Act.</p> <p>A new infrastructure of 120 modern SSCs will be created through the construction, expansion, reconstruction or adaptation and equipment of facilities and rooms where training will be conducted. As a rule, SSCs will be located next to VET schools or VET training centres.</p> <p>As soon as a given SSC begins to operate, vocational training and courses for pupils, students and adult learners will be launched on its premises. Additionally, sectoral training courses for VET teachers will be organised to improve their workshop. The subject of the training and courses within a given SSC will cover the issues from the field of the sector of industry the SSC is destined for. Each training or course must also include a component related to digitisation and green transformation. For the purpose of the courses and training, numerous educational materials will be created, both in paper and in the form of e-resources for distance learning.</p> <p>SSCs tasks include the practical training of young people (pupils and students), upskilling and reskilling of adults, sectoral training for VET teachers and the preparation of persons with disabilities in entering the labour market of a given industry.</p> <p>For pupils, students and adult learners trainings or courses must be completed with the issuance of a sectoral skills certificate confirming the acquisition of specific professional skills or qualifications appropriate for a given field of industry. In the case of sectoral training for VET teachers, a certificate will be issued confirming the completion of the training and containing information on the scope and dimension of the training.</p> <p>In all SSCs, 24 000 people will be trained - at least 60% will be adults (aged 25 or more), at least 20% will be young people (aged 14 to 24), at least 10% will be current VET teachers.</p> <p>Furthermore, SSCs will be in charge of supporting schools and universities in the implementation of career counselling, conducting examinations and will act as intermediary establishing cooperation between business and education involving schools, universities and other educational institutions.</p> <p>The major obstacle expected is related to the correct use of funds by final recipients selected in the competition to create respective SSCs.</p> <p>In order to overcome this plausible obstacle, monitoring visits and financial control will be carried out at the premises of the final recipients implementing the projects or at the site of the implementation of the activities (SSC). The purpose of the monitoring visit will be to verify the actual course of the project implementation in terms of organisation and content. During the financial control, the documentation confirming the expenses and the material progress in the implementation of the project will be verified.</p> <p>The expected result of the operation of 120 SSCs is the provision of qualified staff responding to the needs of the modern economy in all sectors of industry, in close cooperation between business partners and VET schools/institutions.</p> <p>The by-laws of the project ensure its durability and stable financing from the state budget.</p>
<p>Contacts and sources</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Science</p> <p>Department of Strategy, Qualifications and Vocational Education,</p>
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