

EXCEL4HOUSING

CoVe Project overview

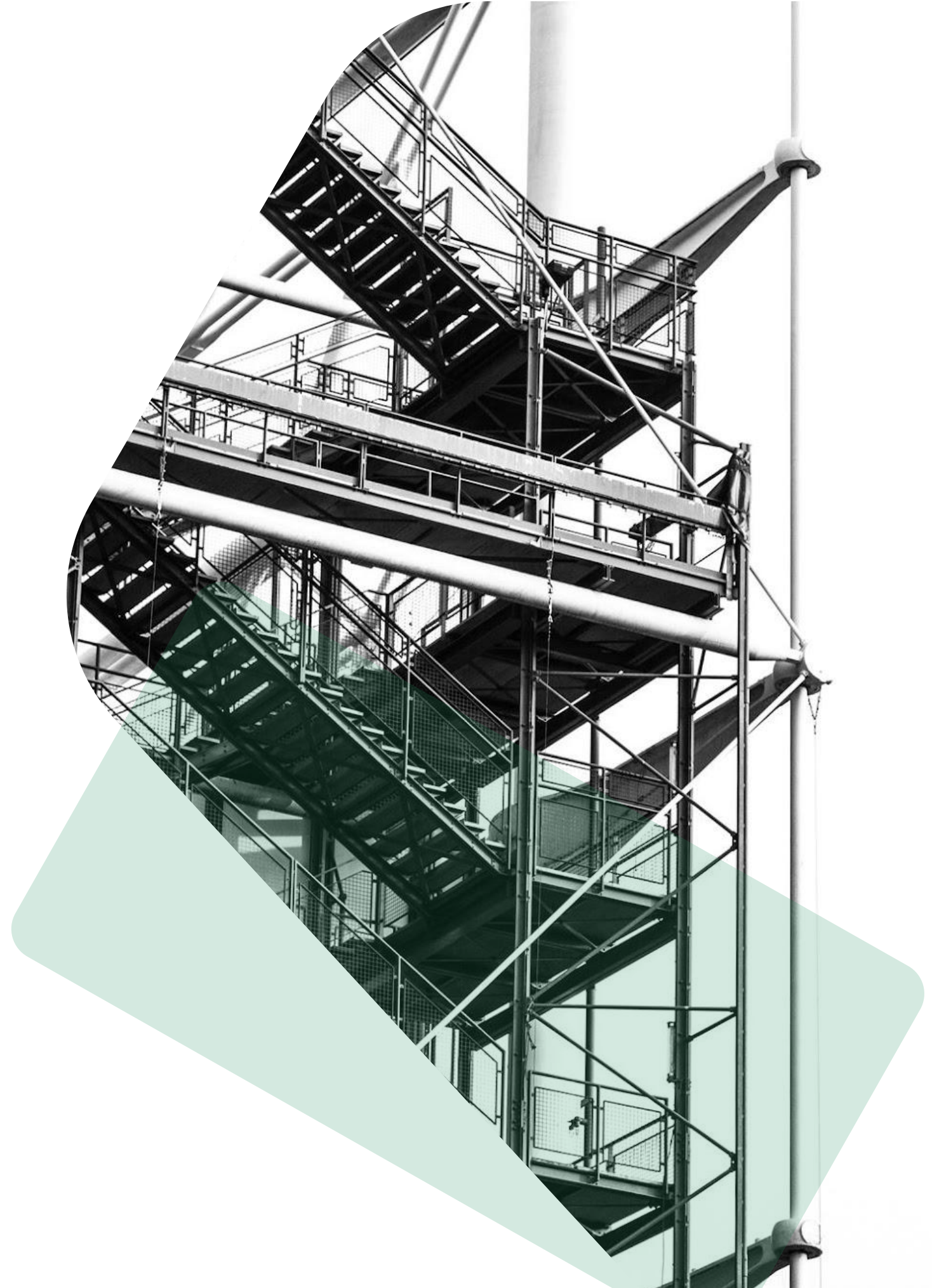
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EU Project Manager



EXCEL4HOUSING ONLINE MEETING PROJECT OVERVIEW

21 April 2026



What is Vocational Excellence?

Vocational Excellence refers to the capacity of vocational education and training (VET) institutions to adapt swiftly to evolving economic and social needs. It emphasizes high-quality skills and competences that lead to quality employment and career-long opportunities, meeting the demands of an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economy.

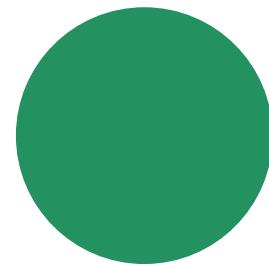
What is a CoVE?

- Formed by networks of partners that develop local "skills ecosystems"
- Provide **high quality vocational skills** to young people and adults
- Contribute to **regional development**, innovation, smart specialisation strategies and social inclusion, **working closely with companies** (SMEs)
- Establish a **bottom-up approach** to vocational excellence involving a wide range of local stakeholders enabling VET institutions to **rapidly adapt skills provision** to evolving economic and social needs.
- **Attractive to learners** offering responsive, flexible, personalised learning pathways, up-to-date technology, and a fast track into employment and higher education.
- **Inspirational for teachers**, trainers and managers offering models of advanced practice in teaching, teacher training, organisational development and leadership.
- **Compelling for policy makers** showing how, through greater autonomy and cooperation, educational and training providers can become a driving force for the continuing improvement of education and training systems

What are the key characteristics of CoVEs?

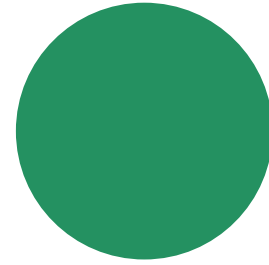
Integration with Regional Development

Embedded within regional innovation strategies and smart specialization initiatives



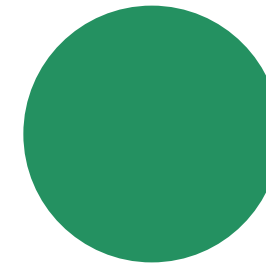
Comprehensive Activity Integration

CoVEs offer learners opportunities for professional and personal development



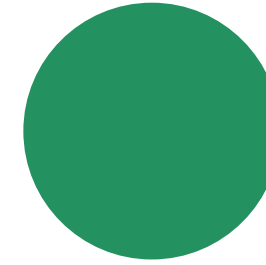
Strong Stakeholder Collaboration

Partnerships between VET institutions, higher education establishments, and businesses



International Networking

While rooted in local contexts, CoVEs collaborate with counterparts in other countries through international networks, promoting the exchange of best practices and innovation across



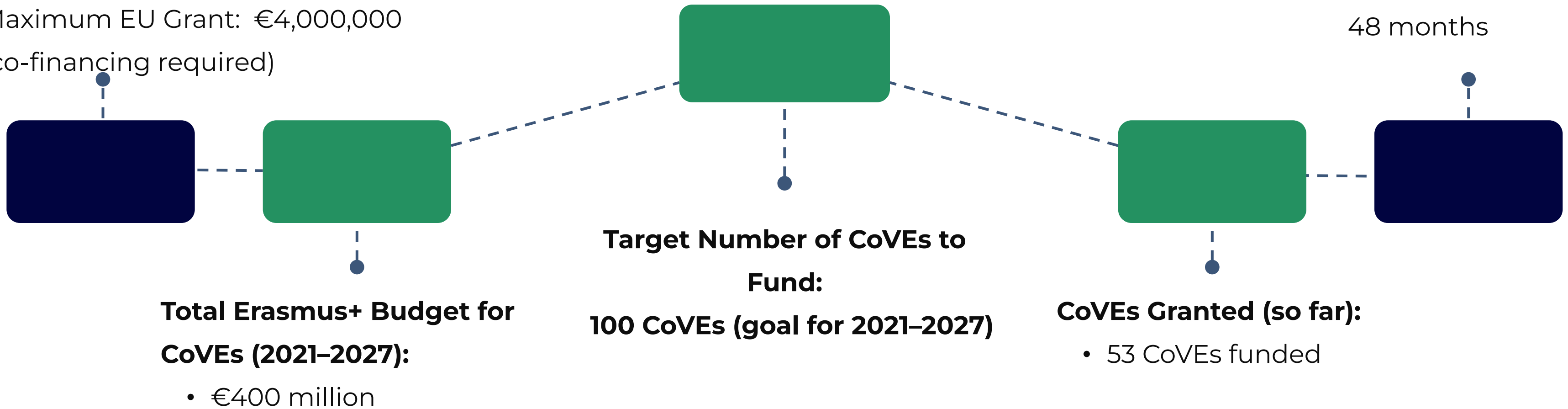
Diving into Excellence - CoVEs

Funding Per Project:

- Maximum Project Budget:
€5,000,000
- Maximum EU Grant: €4,000,000
(co-financing required)

Duration of Projects:

48 months



Diving into Excellence - CoVEs

- Bearing in mind the increasing complexity of the economy
- Imagining Vocational Education as a **live ecosystem**

Main project objective!

*Cooperation
& partnership*

- CoVEs (=) 'local skills ecosystems'
- A response to the quickly changing economy
 - 'Skills Intelligence': monitoring & adapting
 - 'Smart Specialization (RIS3)': meeting regional dev.
 - Interactive networks, local and transnationally

*Teaching
& Learning*

*Governance &
Funding*

At least 4
activities to
choose from

***Cooperation
& partnership***




***Teaching
& Learning***

At least 2
activities to
choose from

***Governance &
Funding***

At least 3
activities to
choose from

Excel4Housing – why it matters?

-  24 partners across 11 countries
-  Construction sector—40% of EU energy use
-  EQF 3–8 training levels
-  Linked to the Green Deal, Renovation Wave, and New European Bauhaus

- Tackling urgent green & digital skills gaps in housing
- Empowering VET providers, SMEs & learners
- Building regional CoVEs with transnational collaboration
- Driving systemic impact across Europe's skills ecosystem

EXCEL4HOUSING

Sector Focus 01

Sustainable housing
and green building

Partners - Countries 02

24 Partners -
Germany, Sweden, Belgium,
Greece, Italy, Portugal, Poland,
Croatia, Finland, Spain, and
Ukraine

03 Budget

Total Budget: 4.997, 325.18 euro
Total Grant: 3.997, 860.14

04 Duration

48 months, starting February
2025

NEEDS IDENTIFIED

Urgent skills gaps

in both technical and soft skills across all levels in the construction and housing sector (from workers to professionals)

Labour market mismatch

with VET systems unable to respond to current and future needs of the green and digital transitions

Low attractiveness of

VET

especially among youth, and lack of dual-learning opportunities

Lack of innovative lifelong

learning pathways

including upskilling and reskilling for workers in the sector

Fragmentation of

educational resources

and absence of standardised qualifications across Europe

Insufficient cooperation

among VET providers, public authorities, research bodies and businesses

Need to support Ukraine's

post-war housing

reconstruction

aligning its VET system with EU standards and best practices

WHY A COVE ON THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IS IMPORTANT?

The construction sector is...

- Central to Europe's green and digital transition
- Responsible for ~40% of energy use and 35% of CO₂ emissions
- Crucial to achieving Green Deal and Renovation Wave targets

The sector faces...

- Severe skill shortages and an aging workforce
- Demand for new skills in energy efficiency, smart buildings, and circular construction

A CoVE for construction and housing

- Aligns training with labour market needs
- Connects VET, SMEs, public authorities, and innovators
- Offers modular, flexible learning paths for upskilling and reskilling

GEOGRAPHICAL DIMENSION

Sector Focus

- 1 Industry Cluster
- 1 VET provider
- 1 University
- 1 Energy Agency
- 1 Research and Innovation technology center
- 1 VET provider
- 1 VET Provider/University
- 1 VET Provider
- 1 University

- 1 University/ VET Provider
- 1 Technology Center/Industry Cluster
- 1 VET Provider
- 1 Industry Cluster
- 1 International network for knowledge and jobs
- 1 Sectorial Organisation
- 1 VET Provider
- 1 Industry/sectorial organisation

GEOGRAPHICAL DIMENSION

Sector Focus

- 1 Energy Agency
- 1 VET Provider/University
- 1 VET Provider
- 1 Umbrella Organisation
- 1 Energy Agency

- 1 VET Provider
- 1 Innovation specialist
- 1 Umbrella organisation on VET
- 1 Umbrella organisation on construction

OUR TARGET GROUPS

Education and Training

**VET and Higher
Education Providers**
The main educational
actor → reskilling the
beneficiaries

**VET Learners and
Trainers**
Graduates, workers,
professionals and
managers in the sector

**National/
Regional
Qualification
Authorities**

OUR TARGET GROUPS

Business, Innovation and Research

**Construction
companies and the
sector's
representative
organisations**

**Innovation agencies,
research institutes and
R&D performers,
including innovative
startups/SMEs**

OUR TARGET GROUPS

Public Authorities

**Institutional bodies
and policymakers
(e.g EC, EP &
national/regional
level)**

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The project aims at becoming an European reference initiative, *supporting in the green transition and decarbonization of the buildings sector*, by contributing to the implementation of the European Green Deal, the New European Bauhaus, the Renovation Wave and the EU Pact for Skills in the construction sector.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Establish 5 regional Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) across Europe, with sustainable governance and clear long-term strategies

Develop and **test** new VET and lifelong learning programmes (EQF 3–8) in energy-efficient buildings, circular economy, and smart homes

Define training needs and emerging job profiles, and link them to learning outcomes and certification pathways (incl. micro-credentials)

Create a Transnational VET Academy, including:

- A Dual Sustainable Housing Expert Programme
- A European ESG Academy (green and circular skills for SMEs and leaders)

Foster cooperation between business and VET, through innovation hubs, entrepreneurship programmes, and applied research pilots

Support cross-border mobility, staff exchanges and mutual learning across national systems

Empower VET teachers and trainers, through capacity-building actions, mentoring, and access to digital teaching tools

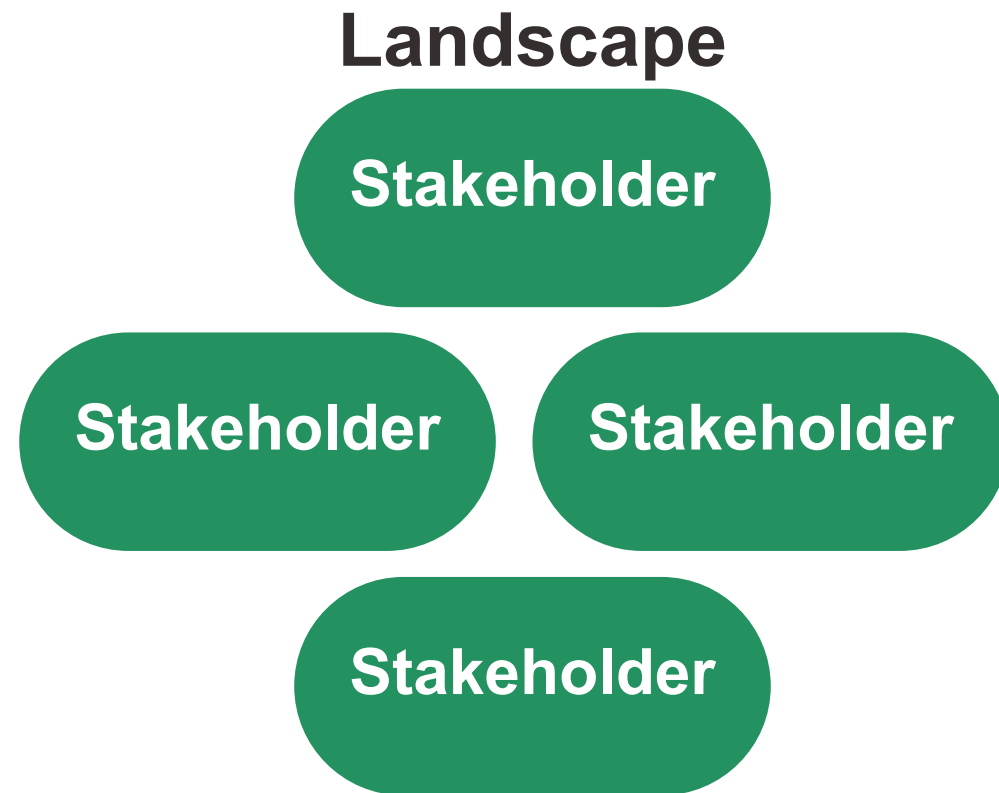
Transfer digital construction skills to Ukraine, and align its VET and housing ecosystem with EU frameworks

Contribute to EU policy initiatives, including the Pact for Skills, Renovation Wave, and the Transition Pathways for Construction



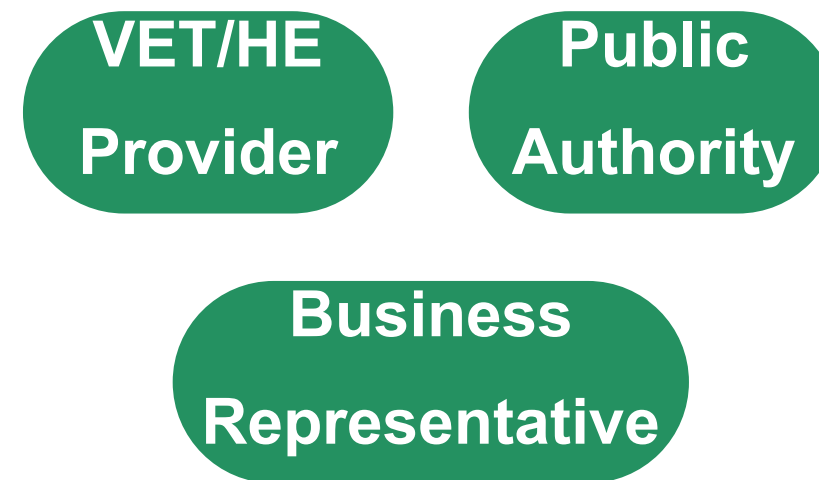
THE EXCEL4HOUSING STRUCTURE

Fragmented Stakeholder



- Without systemic collaboration
- No common governance or training strategies
- Lack of regional coordination → no shared

Regional CoVEs



with
stakeholders

5 Regional CoVEs

HOW?

Excel4Housing Transnational

Platform of regional CoVEs

CoVEs - Construction Knowledge Triangles

Systemic Impact

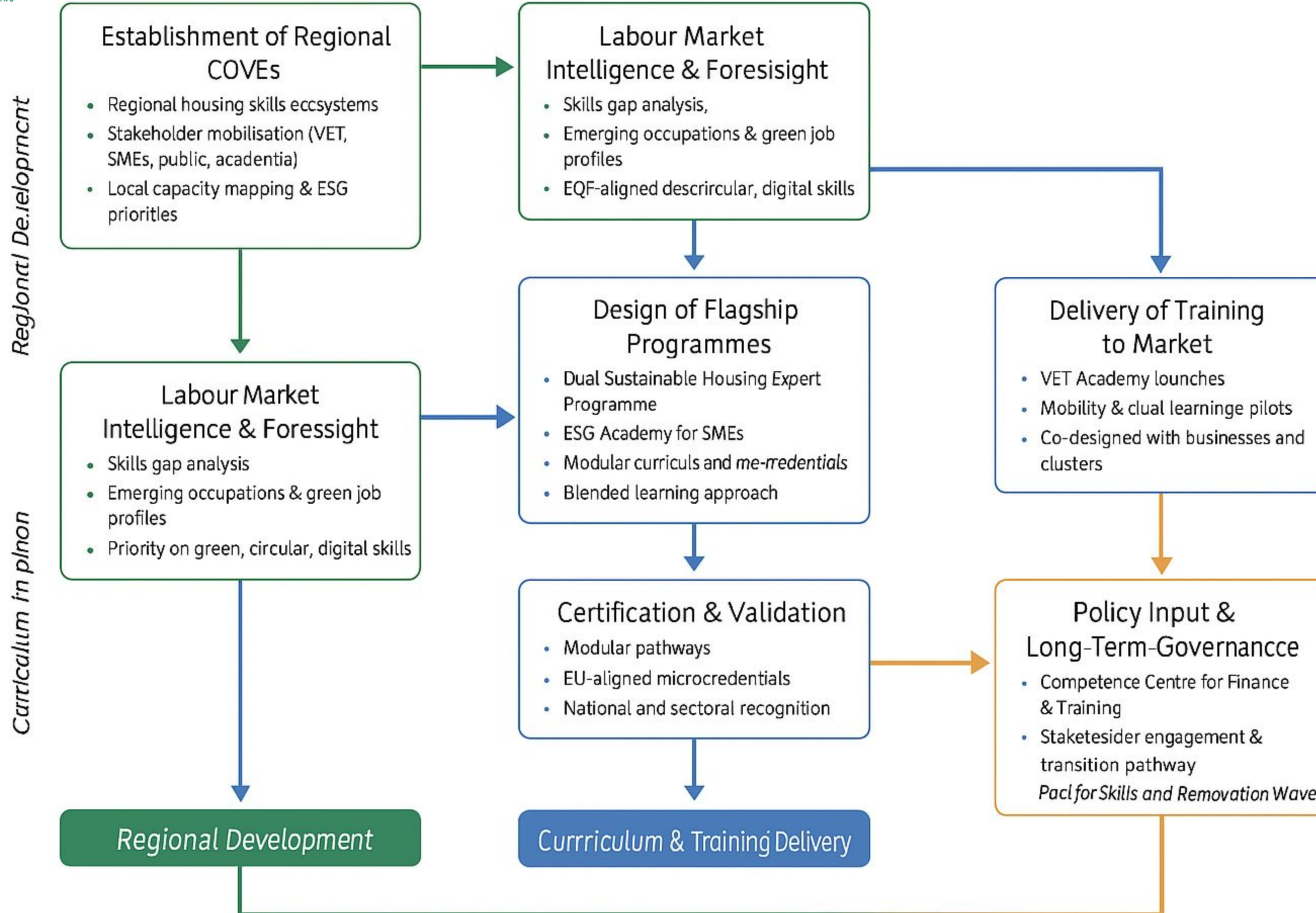
Dissemination
& Exploitation

Translational Toolbox for Skills in
Sustainable Housing

Policy
Input/Pact for
Skills

EU-Level Systemic Impact
(Green Deal – Renovation Wave –
Digital Transition)

Excellence in Sustainable Housing



PROJECT STRUCTURE

WP1: Project Management, Quality Assurance and Monitoring

WP2: Labour Market Mapping, skills needs assessment and analysis of the state-of-the-art in energy efficiency and sustainable housing

WP3: Networking, peer-learning, cooperation and business-education partnerships

WP4: Development of innovative initial learning and lifelong learning programs


WP5: Governance and funding mechanisms towards long-term sustainability


WP6: Communication, dissemination and campaigns for VET attractiveness


Excel4Housing & the Union of Skills

- Part of the Union of Skills strategy: aligning with EU's agenda for lifelong learning & competitiveness
- Supports EU Green Deal, Pact for Skills, Transition Pathways
- Fosters collaboration between VET, industry, and public actors — a core pillar of the Union of Skills
- Promotes mobility, innovation, and excellence across borders
- Provides modular, adaptable learning pathways for current and future workforce needs

Excel4Housing & Green and Digital dimension

 These **two dimensions** are not treated as separate components of the project but are **integrated transversally** throughout its design and implementation.

 **Environmental sustainability** objectives are embedded in the project. In this sense, **training materials** will be developed to **promote net-zero buildings** and support the **green transition**, while also strengthening the skills of construction professionals and providing learning resources for VET students.

 The **digital dimension** is also addressed through the promotion of **key digital tools**, such as **Building Information Modelling (BIM)**, which will help move the construction sector forward by enhancing training, awareness and digital capacity within the VET ecosystem.



Thank you!