

CENTROS DE EXCELENCIA EN FORMACIÓN PROFESIONAL

(Centres of Excellence in Vocational Education and Training)



What is it?

Spain launched a national network of Centros de Excelencia en Formación Profesional in 2022 to drive innovation, industry collaboration, and research-based training in vocational education. Covering sectors from automotive to IT, they integrate disruptive technologies, entrepreneurship, and internationalisation. Part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, the initiative supports broader education reform.

Facts and figures:

A National Network

- 66 Centres of Excellence operate across all 17 regions.
- €62.6M invested in 2022–2023 via EU Recovery funds and the national FP modernisation plan.
- Regional leaders like Aragón host five centres specialising in logistics, automotive, and social care.

Who is involved?

- Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MEFP), including its Secretaría General de Formación Profesional
- Regional governments and VET providers collaborate closely with each other and with sectoral associations and chambers of commerce to align curricula and training with labour market needs.
- These Centres lead teacher-training, innovation projects, applied research, and act as sectoral reference nodes nationwide.



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FILTER BY SECTOR, START YEAR, AND MORE



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EXCELENCIA EN FORMACION PROFESIONAL



CAMPUS DES MÉTIERS ET DES QUALIFICATIONS

(Campuses of Trades and Qualifications /
Centres of Vocational Excellence)



What is it?

The Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications (CMQs) are nationally recognized networks bringing together VET schools, higher education, research, and industry in 12 strategic sectors. Those with the “Excellence” label meet higher standards in innovation, coordination, and international outreach. Launched in 2014, reinforced in 2018, and boosted in 2024 by the Territoires d’innovation pédagogique initiative.

Facts and figures:

A National Network

- 113 CMQs created since 2014; 43 hold the “Excellence” label.
- Around 30 “Excellence” campuses gained targeted PIA 3 funding in 2024 for teaching innovation.
- Sectors include energy, digital, health, mobility, agro-food, construction, and creative industries.

Who is involved?

- Overseen by national ministries for education, research, economy, labour, and finance.
- Managed locally by academic rectors and regional councils through consortiums.
- Brings together VET schools, universities, research bodies, and companies to co-develop curricula and applied innovation.



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MÉTIERs ET DES QUALIFICATIONS



ITS ACADEMIES

(Istituti Tecnici Superiori –
Centres of Vocational Excellence)



What is it?

America-inspired ITS Academies are Italy's national Centres of Vocational Excellence, created in 2022. They deliver high-specialisation post-secondary (EQF Level 5 or 6) programmes that connect industry and education. Courses are co-designed with businesses, feature 30–60% industry-based teachers, include 30–35% in-company training, and follow EU standards with EUROPASS⁺ certification.

Impact & Employment

- ~87% employed within a year; 93% work in their field.
- Strong focus on project-based learning, employer engagement, and industry-aligned skills.

Facts and figures:

National Network & Scale

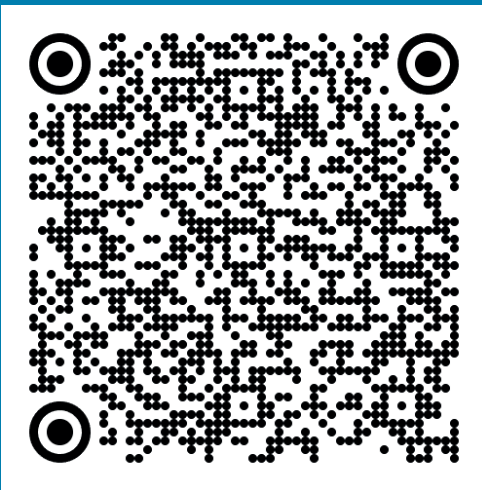
- 146+ academies in 2024/25, offering ~1,000 programmes to ~25,800 students.
- In 2022, 98 academies ran 349 monitored programmes for ~9,246 students (tracked by INDIRE).
- €1.5 billion (PNRR, 2022–2027) invested in expansion and quality upgrades.

Who is involved?

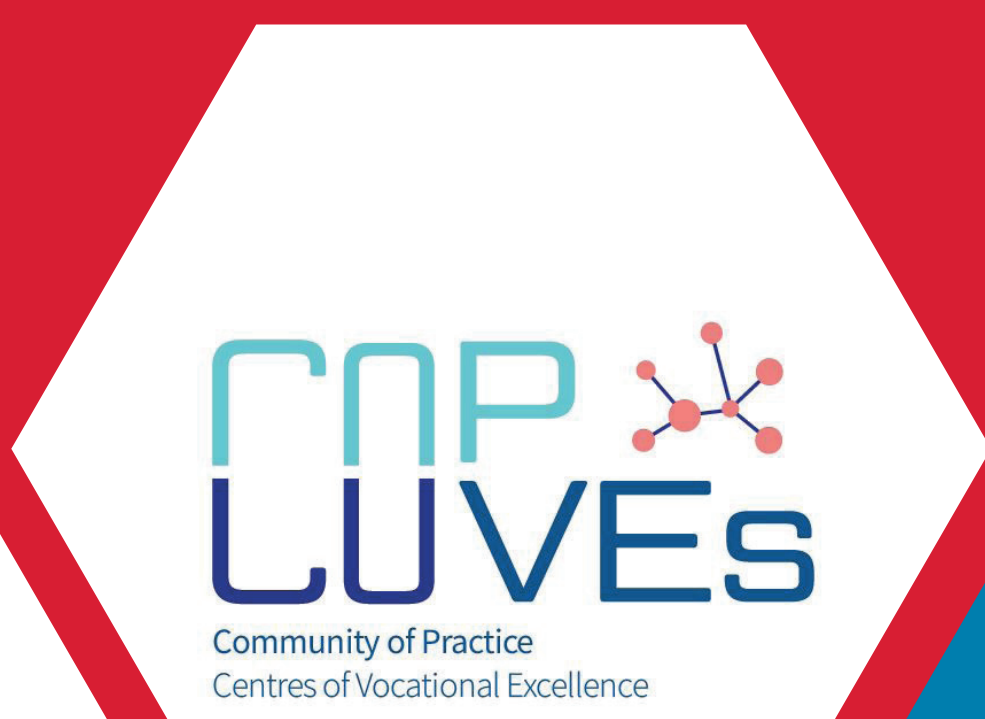
- Overseen by the Ministry of Education (MIUR) with ITS Committee and regional coordination via Rete ITS Italy.
- Managed by industry-led Foundations involving employers, universities, research, schools, and local authorities.
- Sectors include energy-efficient tech, sustainable mobility, life sciences, Made in Italy manufacturing, ICT, arts & tourism, and agri-food.



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ABOUT ITS ACADEMIES



PUBIEK PRIVATE SAMENWERKING

(Public Private Partnerships)



What is it?

Katapult is the Netherlands' national network of public-private partnerships (PPS/CoVEs) in vocational and higher vocational education, coordinated by the Platform Talent voor Technologie (PTvT). It connects schools, universities of applied sciences, students, and companies to co-create training, foster innovation, and develop skills in line with labour market needs.

Facts and figures:

National Reach & Scale

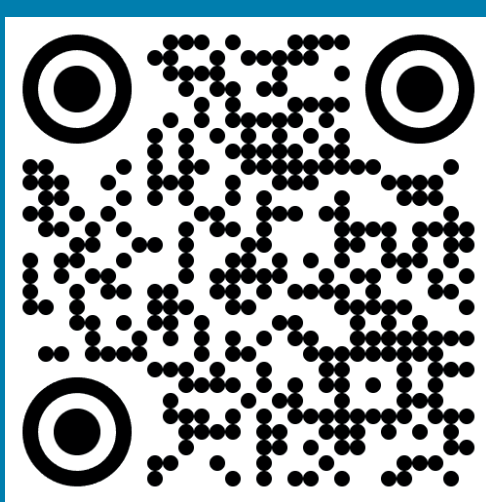
- Supports 550+ partnerships covering all regions and sectors.
- 21,000 companies engaged in 2023, up from 12,000 in 2021.
- Involves over 134,000 students and ~19,000 teachers and researchers nationwide.
- Growth since 2021: +10,000 students, +9,000 companies, +11,000 educators/researchers.

Who is involved?

- Coordinated by PTvT / Dutch National STEM Platform, which supports implementation and scaling.
- Includes MBO (secondary vocational) schools and HBO (universities of applied sciences).
- Companies, especially SMEs, co-design curricula, supervise students, host labs or mini-placements, and collaborate on applied innovation projects.



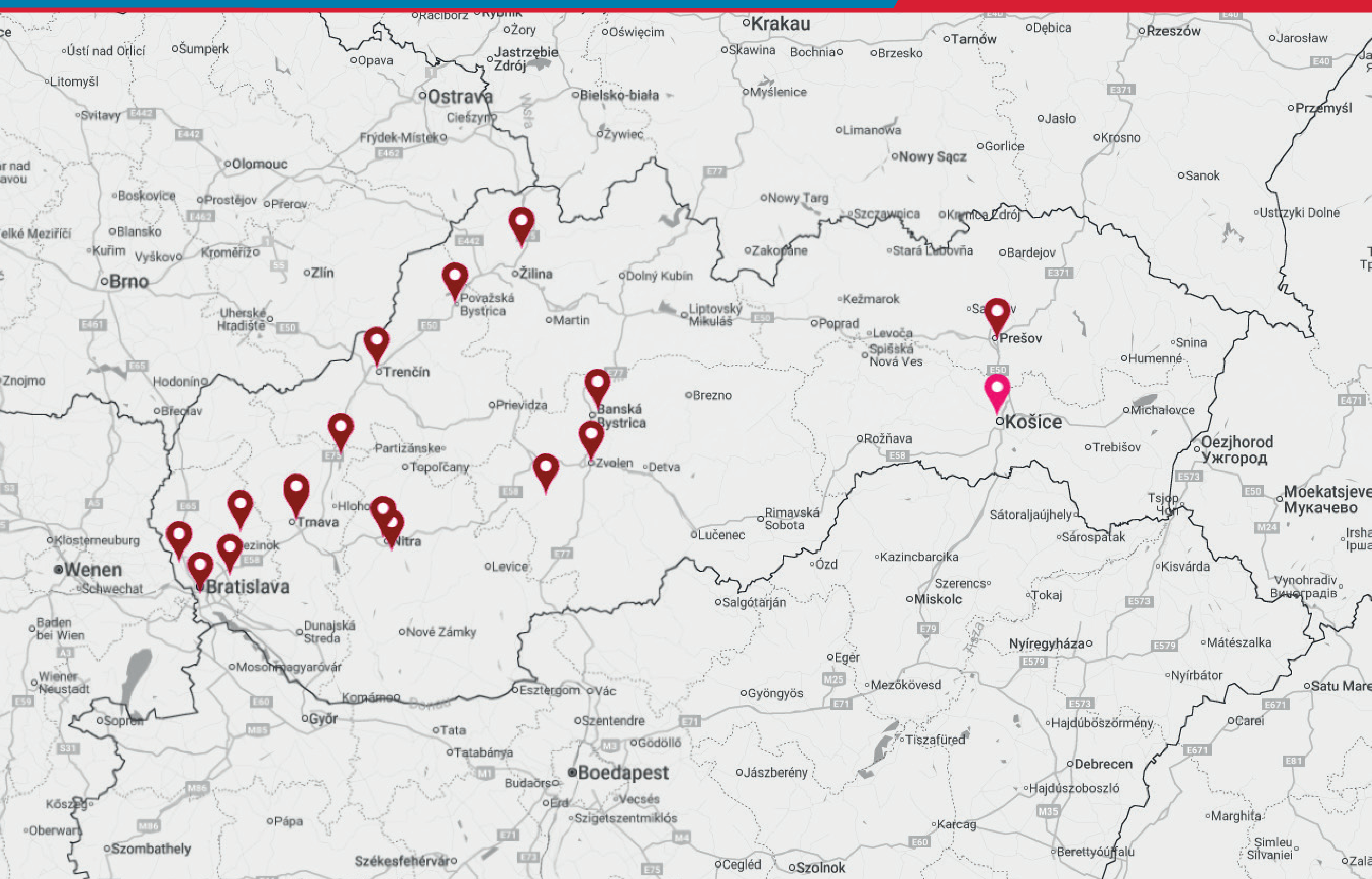
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PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



CENTRÁ EXCELENTNOSTI V ODBORNOM VZDELÁVANÍ A PRÍPRAVE (CEOVP)



What is it?

Slovakia is developing a national network of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) under its Lifelong Learning and Counselling Strategy (2021-2030). These centres aim to modernise VET by aligning training with labour-market needs, advancing digital and green innovation, strengthening dual-education and work-based learning, improving curricula and teacher training, and fostering cross-sector partnerships for sustainable VET ecosystems.

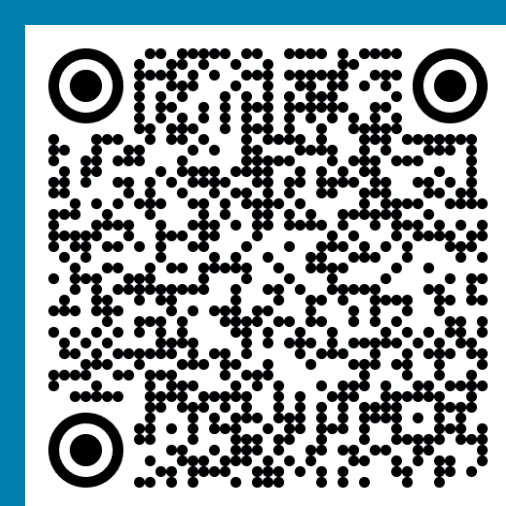
Facts and figures:

A National Network in Progress

- €7 million ESF+ project (2023 - 2026) launched for national Introduction of Quality Management in VET and Adult Education.
- €14.74 million RePowerEU initiative (2023-2026) developing green-skills training in 13 VET schools and new adult-learning modules.
- Quality standards and future directions for CoVEs.
- 16 pilot CoEs in progress, plotted on the map above (darkred).

Who is involved?

- Led by the State Vocational Education Institute (ŠIOV) within the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth.
- ŠIOV coordinates policy, curricula, and EU frameworks (EQF, EQAVET, EUROPASS, EPALE).
- Manages national qualifications, supports vocational schools, builds industry partnerships, and engages in EU-level expert groups.



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CENTRÁ ODBORNÉHO VZDELÁVANIA A PRÍPRAVY



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BRANŻOWE CENTRA UMIEJĘTNOŚCI / STANDARD COVES IN POLISH VET

(Sectoral Skills Centres)



What is it?

Polish Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) have been launched under its Recovery & Resilience Plan. These centres build partnerships between vocational schools, employers, and sector experts to improve education-to-employment pathways, expand adult upskilling, boost industry innovation, and promote lifelong learning and dual training.

Facts and figures:

A Growing National Network

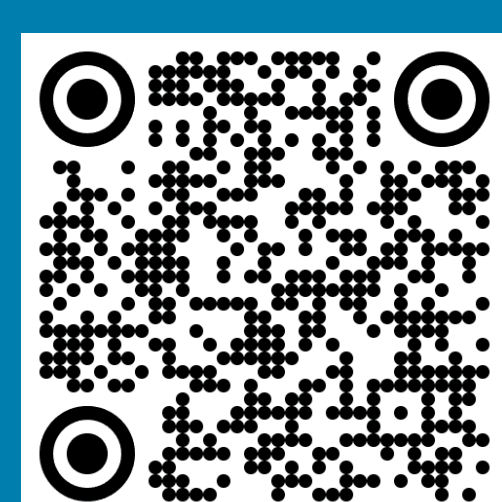
- Target of 120 centres by ~2027.
- Training goal: ~24,000 participants – 60% adults, 20% young learners, 10% vocational teachers.
- 2022-24: 150+ centres selected across ~75 industry sectors in multiple funding waves.

Who is involved?

- Ministry of National Education sets policy, regulation, and funding.
- Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) and Sectoral Skills Councils identify skills gaps and guide curricula.
- Regional vocational schools, employers, researchers, and adult education providers deliver training through voivodship-level coordination.



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CENTRA UMIEJĘTNOŚCI

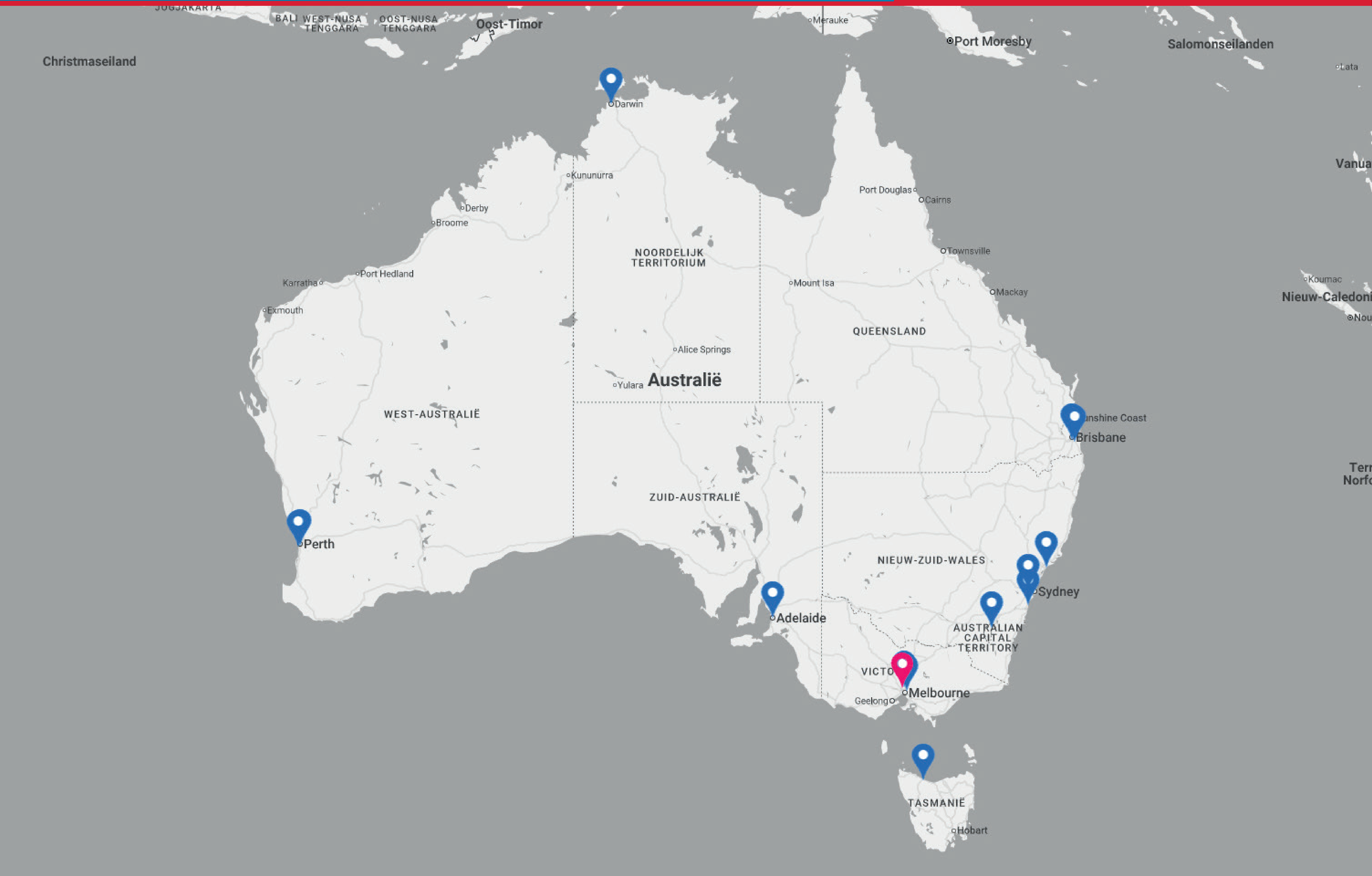


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TAFE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

(National Vocational Excellence
Hubs by TAFE providers)



What is it?

Australia is creating a network of up to 20 Centres of Excellence across states and territories, funded through AUD 325 million in federal investment matched by states. These centres connect TAFE institutions, industry, and research to deliver advanced training in priority sectors, grow apprenticeships, and co-develop industry-relevant curricula.

Who is involved?

- Australian Government – co-funds with states/territories.
- State/Territory Governments – co-investment and coordination.
- TAFE institutions – e.g., TAFE Queensland, TAFE NSW, TAFE SA, South Metro TAFE (WA).
- Industry, universities, skills councils, and unions – co-design training and apprenticeships.

Facts and figures:

National Network & Scale

- Up to 20 centres under the National Skills Agreement.
- Advanced Manufacturing CoE (Western Sydney, NSW) – AUD 53.95M for smart factory, robotics, and microcredentials.
- Manufacturing CoEs (NSW) with hubs in Western Sydney, Hunter/Newcastle, Illawarra.
- Clean Energy Batteries CoE (Queensland) – AUD 20M for battery technology and net zero skills.
- Health Care & Support CoE (Queensland) – AUD 35M in Cairns for care, health, and First Nations pathways.
- Clean Energy Skills National CoE (WA) – AUD 70.5M leading clean energy training across WA's TAFE network.
- The pink-coloured pin on the map represents seven state-funded CoEs in Victoria, each with a different focus area.



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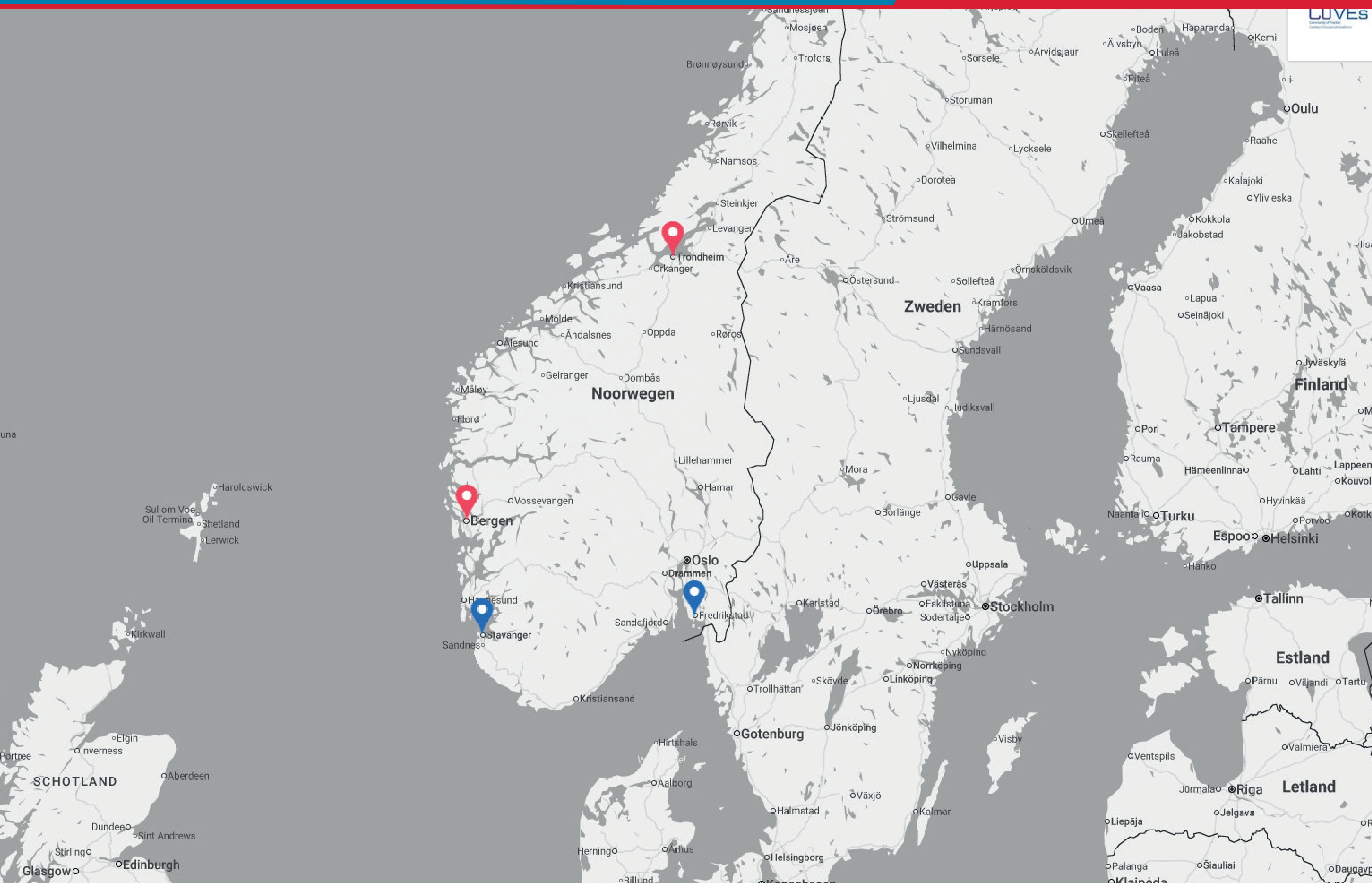


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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE



SENTER FOR FREMRAGENDE YRKESFAGLIG UTDANNING

(National Centres of Vocational Excellence)



What is it?

Norway is establishing formal Centres of Vocational Excellence to enhance higher vocational education (tertiary VET) through innovation, strong employer links, and high-quality teaching. Inspired by EU CoVE models, the initiative builds on a 2022 pilot to deliver specialised, industry-relevant training.

Facts and figures:

National Network & Scale

- Pilot centres launched in Jan 2023:
 - Rogaland Vocational College – Centre for Innovative Educational Paths.
 - Viken Vocational College – Centre for Experiential Learning.
- NOK 24M (~€2.1M) over 4 years for innovation and quality.
- National Centre for Vocational Studies opening in Molde in 2025 with NOK 10M state funding.

Who is involved?

- Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education & Skills (HK-dir) – programme coordination.
- Partners: trade unions (LO), employers (NHO), regional authorities, VET colleges, research agencies.
- Support from OsloMet’s Knowledge Centre for VET.



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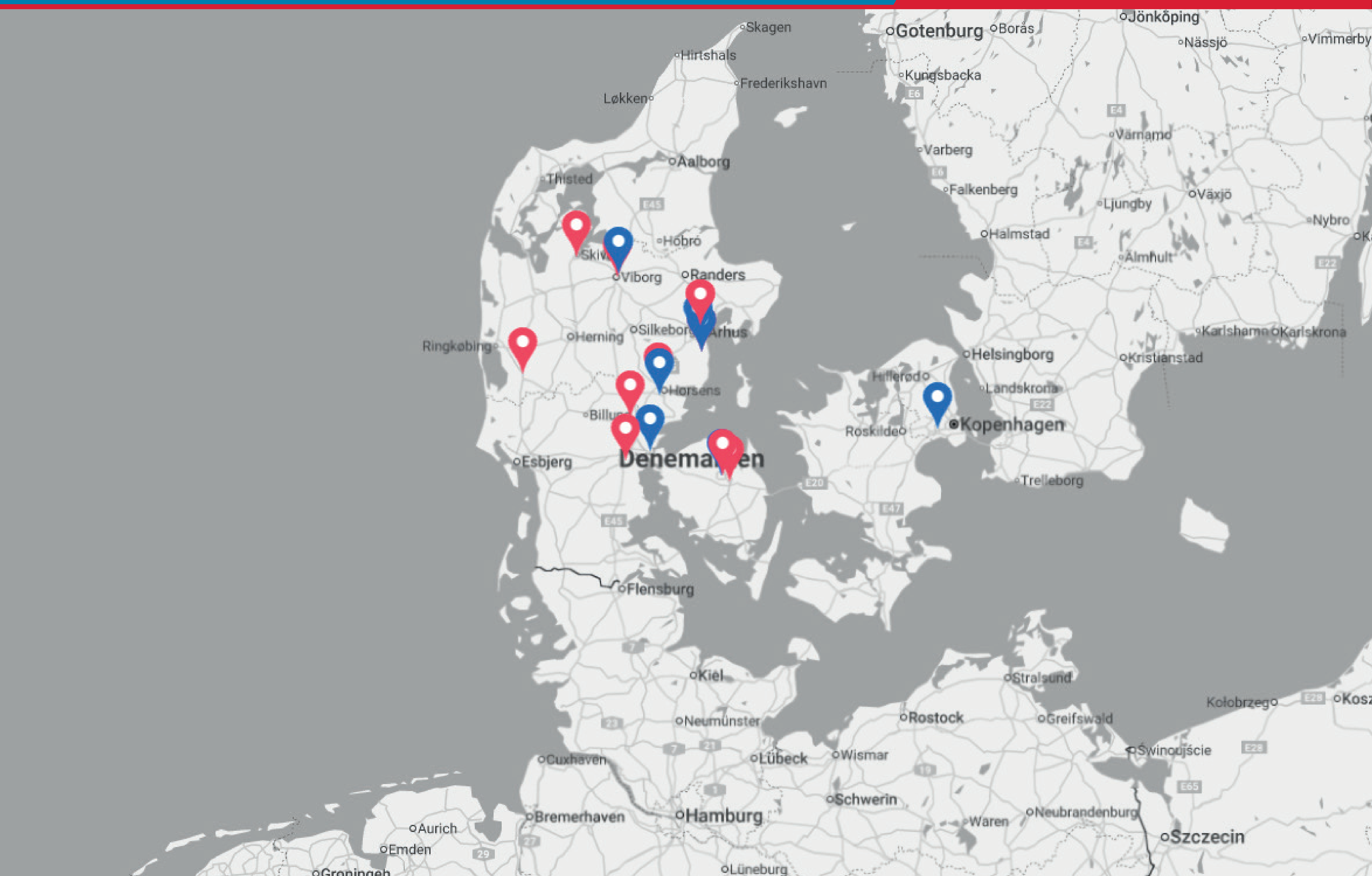
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FREMRAGENDE YRKESFAGLIG UTDANNING





VIDENSCENTER

(Knowledge Centers)



What is it?

Denmark is integrating green transition skills into its Vocational Education and Training (VET) system by upgrading knowledge centres to roles similar to Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs). These hubs drive curriculum innovation, teacher upskilling, and industry partnerships in sustainability and green technologies, supporting the country's climate goals and vocational reform.

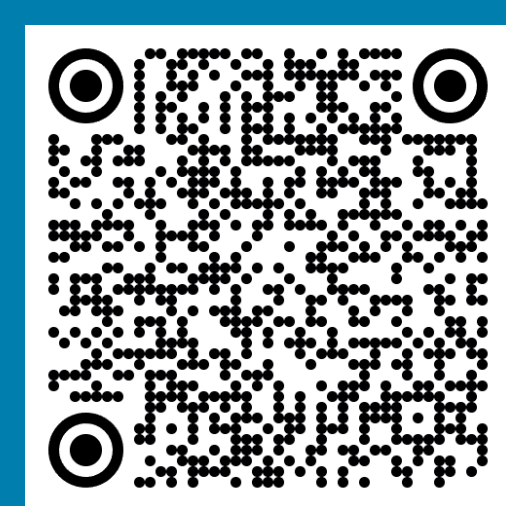
Who is involved?

- Ministry of Children and Education – policy and funding rollout.
- VET schools and climate vocational schools – implementation and networking.
- Industry partners – co-develop curricula and apprenticeships.
- Teacher networks (e.g., Craft Nation) – interdisciplinary green masterclasses.

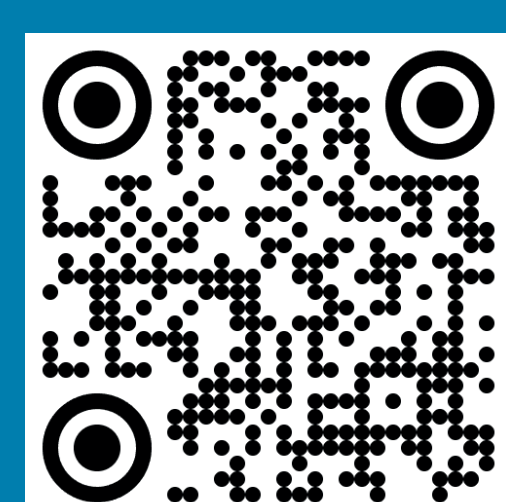
Facts and figures:

National Network & Scale

- EUR 67M (DKK 500M) over four years to strengthen green-specialised knowledge centres.
 - EUR 28M for modern equipment and work-based learning.
 - EUR 12M for teacher upskilling in green competences.
- Three “climate VET schools” specialising in energy systems, sustainable agriculture, and green transport.
- Knowledge Centres (since 2021) have developed mobile green teaching modules and skills frameworks.
- First CoVE-style centre (Dec 2022) on urban greening and nature-based solutions – co-funded by EU with partners Green Academy Aarhus, OKNygaard landscaping, and Aarhus Municipality.



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