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|  **FACTSHEET****KEY ACTION 2****COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES**This Key Action supports: Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, training and youth Knowledge Alliances** Sector Skills Alliances** Capacity Building in the field of higher education Capacity Building in the field of youth**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~****SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCES****AIMS AND PRIORITIES OF A SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCES**Sector Skills Alliances aim to tackle **skills gaps**, enhancing the responsiveness of VET (Vocational Education and Training) systems to **sector-specific labour market needs** and demand for new skills. |

**WHAT IS A SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCE?**

* Sector Skills Alliances are **transnational projects** drawing on evidence of trends in a specific economic sector and skills needed, in order to perform in one or more professional fields.
* Sector Skills Alliances will work to design and deliver joint vocational training programmes and teaching and training methodologies. A particular focus will be put on work-based learning, providing learners with the skills required by the labour market.
* Sector Skills Alliances also put the EU wide recognition tools into practice.

The sectors that will be eligible under this action are sectors with skills imbalances:

* Manufacturing & Engineering
* Commerce
* Information and communication technology
* Environmental technologies (Eco-innovation)
* Cultural and creative sectors
* Health care
* Tourism.

Sector Skills Alliances target the cooperation between organisations established in **Programme Countries**. Organisations from **Partner Countries** can be involved in a Sector Skills Alliance, as partners (not as applicants), if their participation brings an essential added value to the project.

**ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED UNDER THIS ACTION**

Each Sector Skills Alliance shall implement a coherent, comprehensive and variable set of interconnected activities which are flexible and adaptable to different current and future labour markets' needs, such as:

* Defining skills and training provision needs in a given specific economic sector
* Designing joint curricula
* Delivering joint curricula

**The key features of Sector Skills Alliances are:**

**Innovation** in vocational education and training, in different economic sectors and related to occupational profiles

**Impact** going beyond the project's lifetime and beyond the organisations involved in the Alliance.

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| The composition of a Sector Skills Alliance **must** fulfil **all** of the following requirements:* In **each** country covered, a Sector Skills Alliance must have **at least** three full partners, one from each of the categories below
* Sector Skills Alliances must cover **at least** three Programme Countries
* For every country more (than the minimum three) that a sector skills alliance covers, it must also have **at least** three full partners from each of the categories below

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| **Categories:**1. Public or private entities that provide VET
2. Public or private entities that have sector specific expertise and represent or are present in a given sector (at regional, national or European level)
3. Public or private entities that have a regulatory function for education and training systems (at local, regional or national level)
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**Duration:** 2 or 3 years.(The duration has to be chosen at application stage, based on the objective of the project and on the type of activities planned over time). **Deadline:** Applications must be submitted by**26 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time)** for projects starting on 1 November of the same year.**Funding:** Maximum EU contribution awarded for a **2 year Sector Skills Alliance**: 700 000 EUR Maximum EU contribution awarded for a **3 year Sector Skills Alliance**: 1 000 000 EURFor information on how to apply, applicants should go to Part C on **p232** of the Programme Guide [**http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide\_en.pdf**](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf)**For further information go to** [**http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide\_en.pdf**](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf)p132-144 |
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