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# COVE-EXSEE

COVEs Expanding in **South East Europe** through **Synergies** and **Innovation**

PROJECT MONTHS 1 TO 7 · MARCH TO SEPTEMBER 2026

# Our first seven months: from plans to pilots

Welcome to the first COVE-EXSEE newsletter. Since 1 March 2026, seven partners from six countries have been building a region-wide skills ecosystem for welding, non-destructive testing (NDT) and advanced manufacturing across South-East Europe. The project builds on three Erasmus+ Centres of Vocational Excellence: COVE-WENDT, AILEEN and WELDNET.

This issue covers the design phase: what the consortium agreed at its two transnational project meetings, the outputs now available to the public, and where partners presented COVE-EXSEE so far.

| 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| partners | countries | transnational meetings | legacy CoVEs to build on |

MILESTONES

## Seven months at a glance

**March 2026** · Month 1
COVE-EXSEE starts on 1 March, coordinated by ISIM Timişoara. Partners hold the kick-off meeting and set up shared planning and quality tools.

**April 2026** · Month 2
EWF presents COVE-EXSEE to its members at the EWF General Assembly in Istanbul.

**May 2026** · Month 3
HelixConnect Balkans presents COVE-EXSEE at Serbia's National Welding Competition on 22 May.

**June 2026** · Month 4
The Dissemination Plan (D3.1) and the project's brand guidelines are completed and shared with all partners.

**July 2026** · Month 5
The **project website** and **LinkedIn page** go live, and the COVE-EXSEE Interest Survey opens to stakeholders in all partner countries. IIW presents the project at its 79th Annual Assembly in Salzburg (12 to 17 July).

**August 2026** · Month 6
The *Operational Plan* for support structures (D2.1) and the Funding Mapping 2026 are completed.

**September 2026** · Month 7
COVE-EXSEE presents the project at the Forum on Vocational Excellence in Graz (2 to 4 September), while all seven partners meet in Thessaloniki for the second transnational project meeting (3 to 4 September).

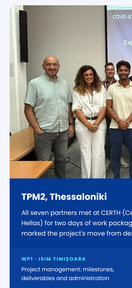
TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETINGS

## Two meetings, one shared action plan

### TPM1, kick-off meeting

March 2026 · hosted by ISIM Timişoara

The consortium opened the project by confirming the work plan, partner roles and the way decisions are taken. Partners agreed on shared digital tools for planning, reporting and quality monitoring, which have supported the work since.




### TPM2, Thessaloniki

3 to 4 September 2026 · hosted by CERTH

All seven partners met at CERTH (Centre for Research and Technology Hellas) for two days of work package reviews. Six months in, the meeting marked the project's move from design into pilot implementation.

**WP1 · ISIM TIMIŞOARA**
Project management: milestones, deliverables and administration

**WP2 · EWF**
Support structures: operational plan, the pilot and training materials

**WP3 · HELIXCONNECT BALKANS**
Dissemination: stakeholder engagement and the online collaboration platform

**WP4 · CERTH**
Sustainability: exploitation planning and strategic partnerships

**What we agreed**

Partners left Thessaloniki with a shared action plan. In the coming months they will reach out to stakeholders and policymakers in their countries, share results from earlier CoVE projects and prepare the first capacity-building activities for the people who will run the support structures.

OUTPUTS

## What is ready for you to use

Public results are published under Documents on the project website, **cove-exsee.eu**.

D2.1 · WP2

**Operational Plan for support structures**

The blueprint for the national and regional hubs that will connect VET providers, SMEs and public authorities, built on lessons from COVE-WENDT, AILEEN and WELDNET.

WP2

**Funding Mapping 2026**

A map of regional, national and EU funding instruments that can sustain and expand the support structures after the project.

D3.1 · WP3

**Dissemination Plan**

Our audiences, key messages, channels, event calendar and indicators for the full 36 months, submitted on 30 June 2026.

WP2

**COVE-EXSEE Interest Survey**

Open to VET providers, companies, authorities, trainers and learners. Answers shape the support structures, training and pilot activities.

WP3

**Website and LinkedIn page**

News, documents and partner information at **cove-exsee.eu**, with regular updates on **LinkedIn**.

WP2

**Brand identity and materials**

Brand guidelines, document and slide templates, a project flyer and a roll-up banner, used by all partners at events.

OUT AND ABOUT

## Where you met COVE-EXSEE



APRIL 2026 · TÜRKIYE

**EWF General Assembly, Istanbul**

EWF introduced COVE-EXSEE to its member societies as a new project, presenting its four specific objectives and how it builds on AILEEN, COVE-WENDT and WELDNET.



22 MAY 2026 · SERBIA

**Serbia's National Welding Competition**

The project's first outreach event in Serbia, at a competition run jointly by the WELDNET and WELDIFY projects and hosted by MIND (Milanović Industries Group). HelixConnect Balkans introduced COVE-EXSEE and the Interest Survey to companies, educators, learners and public stakeholders.



12 TO 17 JULY 2026 · AUSTRIA

**79th IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference, Salzburg**

IIW presented the project's objectives, activities and vision to about 1,000 welding, manufacturing and research experts from around the world, opening new contacts with industry, education and research organisations.



2 TO 4 SEPTEMBER 2026 · AUSTRIA

**Forum on Vocational Excellence, Graz**

EWF represented the project at the annual forum of the CoVE Community of Practice, hosted by FH JOANNEUM, and handed out COVE-EXSEE flyers to participants from across Europe.

COMING UP

## What happens next

**Stakeholder webinars** in partner countries for VET providers, companies and policymakers.

**First capacity-building activities** for the staff who will run the support structures.

**Legacy CoVE Results Workshops** sharing what worked in COVE-WENDT, AILEEN and WELDNET.

**Our next meeting** in Romania later this year.

**Take the Interest Survey at cove-exsee.eu**

**Follow us on LinkedIn**

THE CONSORTIUM

## Seven partners, six countries

Coordinated by ISIM Timişoara (Romania), with CERTH (Greece), EWF (Belgium), HelixConnect Balkans (Serbia), IIS (Italy), IIW (Italy) and METU (Türkiye).

ISIM Timişoara · CERTH · EWF · helixconnect · IIS · iiw · ODTÜ · KATAMER



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