SECTOR SKILLS ALLIANCE PILOT

PLATFORM OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

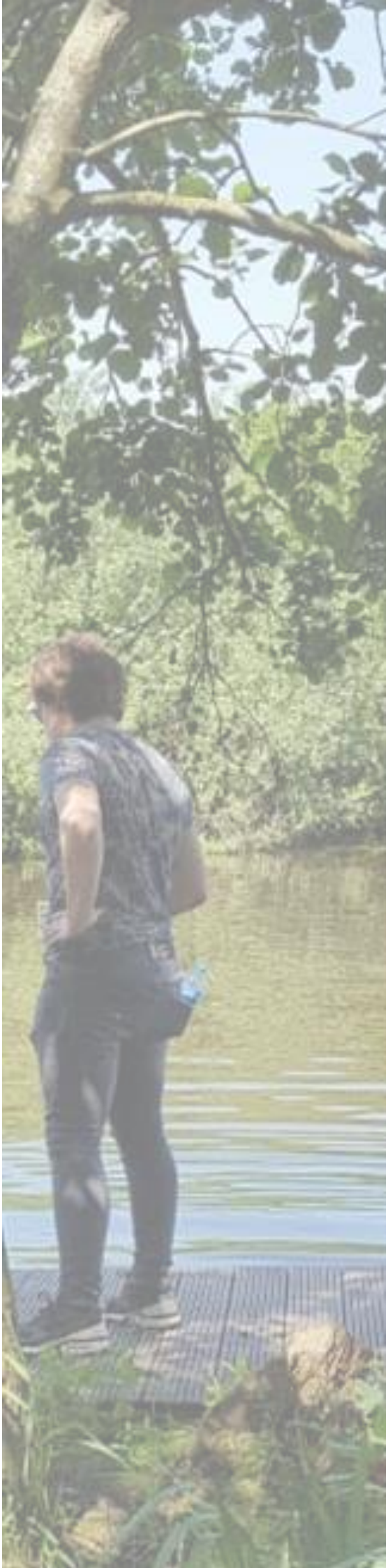
WATER

In the Netherlands, the Centre for Innovative craftsmanship Water (CIV Water) has, supported by regional stakeholder the Province of Fryslân, the ambition of setting up a transnational Platform of Vocational Excellence for the water sector in Europe. To realize this ambition, CIV Water has applied for funding under the Erasmus+ programme 'Sector Skills Alliances' call 2019.

CIV Water

CIV Water was founded in 2011 as one of the first Centres of Innovative Craftmanship in the Netherlands and is, led by VET institute Friesland College, a joint initiative of educational partners, industry and (semi-) government in the water sector in Friesland.

The rapid changing sector of water supply (including sewerage, waste management and remediation activities) demands competent, well-educated and proactive craftsmen with a mindset that sparks innovation. CIV Water focusses on educating vocational employee's and students in the water sector in Friesland and beyond. At its core mission, CIV Water drives innovation in education by co-developing education programmes within the triple helix of education, industry and society. CIV Water identifies the existing and emerging labour market needs in the water sector (demand side) and enhances the responsiveness of initial (students) and continuing (professionals) vocational education and training systems to the labour market needs (supply side).



Pilot PoVE water is a transnational project that draws on existing and emerging vocational competences and skills needs in the water sector, translating them into an approach of vocational excellence. This ensures upward convergence of VET with (EU) knowledge triangles and a strong engagement with the regional economic and social ecosystems. The project intends to create the infrastructure necessary to embed vocational excellence in the water sector in Europe, thus laying the grounds for vocational curriculum development and consequently competence development of VET students.

Aims

Pilot PoVE Water aims to:

- Ensure that VET is at the forefront of research and technological developments in the water sector;
- Ensure that current and future water sector professionals have the work attitude, knowledge and competences that the rapid changing EU water industry demands;
- Identify the existing and emerging labour market needs and enhance the responsiveness of initial and continuing VET systems to these needs;
- Promote synergies, cooperation and cross-fertilisation.

Outputs

Main outputs of the project will be:

- Vocational Excellence Scanning tools to identify the existing systems of Vocational Excellence of the participating organisations and prepare the knowledge sharing process;
- 5 Centres of Vocational Excellence Water, acting up as regional 'Skills ecosystems';
- Platform of Vocational Excellence Water, bringing an EU dimension to Vocational Excellence in the water sector;
- An Upscaling strategy, for the PoVE Water to grow and create a critical mass and sustainable ground for further development.

The need for PoVE Water

Pilot PoVE water is a transnational project that draws on existing and emerging vocational competences and skills needs in the water sector. The project translates these needs into an approach of vocational excellence, ensuring upward convergence of vocational education with the regional and transnational knowledge triangles and a strong engagement with the regional/national economic and social ecosystems.

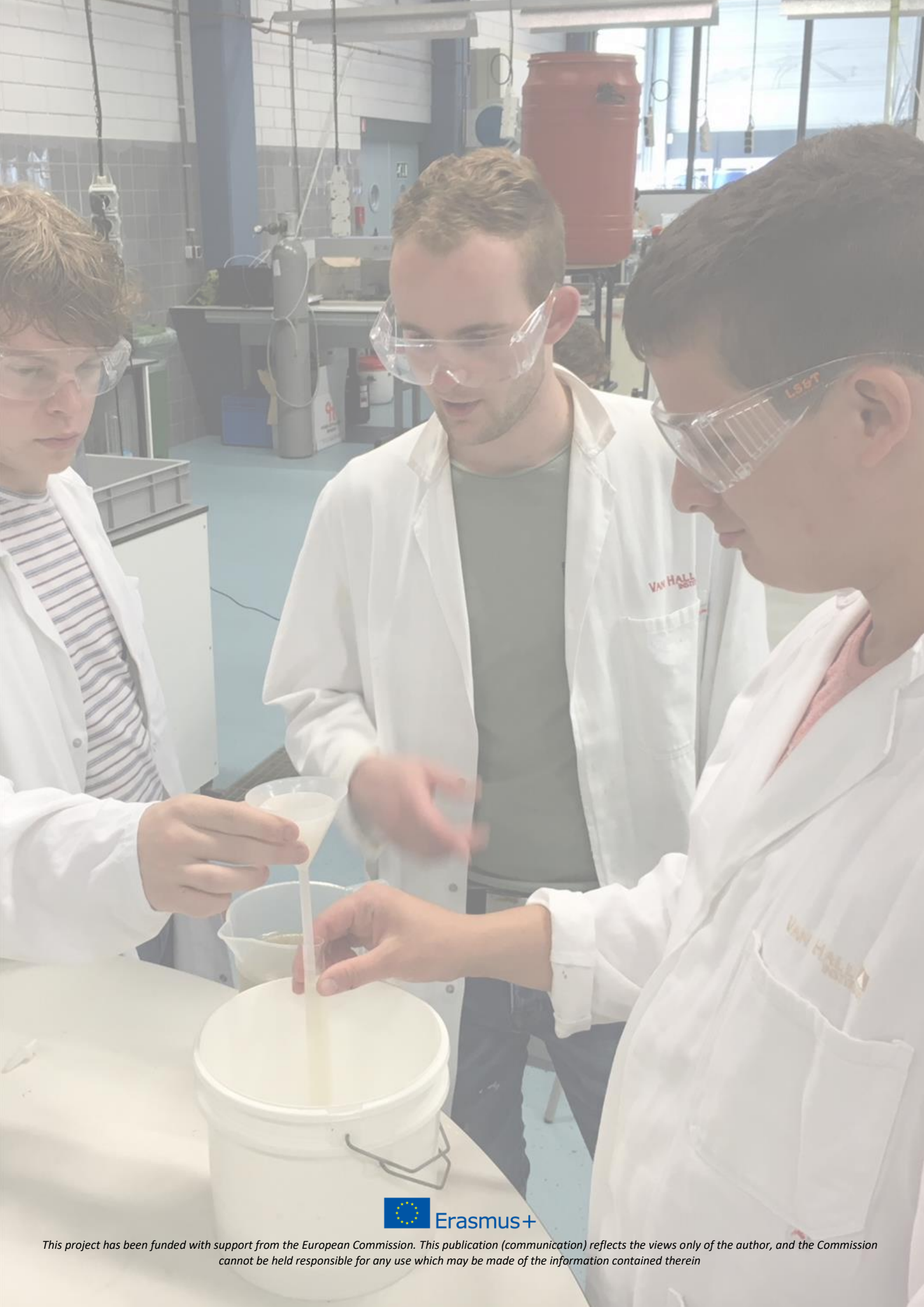
- **A holistic approach to Vocational Excellence in Europe**
  Vocational Education and training (VET) has an important role to play in contributing to the "knowledge triangle", as well as to innovation and "smart specialisation" strategies that lead to sustainable growth and social cohesion. Some Member States already include VET as part of their innovation clusters and strategies. However, these are still rare exceptions.

The role of education and training systems in driving innovation has often been focused exclusively on H.E. institutions with VET playing only a minor role, and quite often being largely neglected. Some member states have launched successful initiatives aiming at Vocational excellence, but progress has been uneven throughout Europe, and in some cases rather slow[1]. At European cooperation level, initiatives that bring a holistic approach to vocational excellence is missing. With the *Pilot PoVE Project*, the consortium aims to develop a comprehensive approach to Vocational Excellence in the Water sector, contributing to increase the quality and excellence in VET.

- **Agile and competent water industry professionals**
  Water is essential for life. The European water sector provides clean, safe and healthy drinking water and ensures that waste water is returned to nature in a way that preserves our environment. What appears to be a simple day-to-day service is in reality the result of complex processes and advanced technologies. Each solution is adapted to the specific local circumstances, depending on various factors such as population density, required treatment levels and local topography. The rapid changing water industry demands competent, well-educated and agile craftsmen with a mindset that sparks innovation and an adaptation of VET education to emerging needs of the sector.

Partners

The project unites VET institutions, the water industry, research centres, H.E., (semi-) governmental institutions and water sector representatives from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Latvia, Malta and the Czech Republic that share a common interest in developing the full potential of VET institutions to play a proactive role in support of growth, competitiveness and innovation of the



Erasmus+

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication (communication) reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein