

## Forum on Vocational Excellence 2026

### Dual Education and Training for Competitive Regions

**Monday, 7 September**, Audimax, FH JOANNEUM, Eggenberger Allee 11, 8020 Graz

12:00/13 – 16:00	Football tournament
16:30 – 19:00	CoVE Captains meeting
19:00	Welcome reception

**Tuesday, 8 September**, Audimax, FH JOANNEUM, Eggenberger Allee 11, 8020 Graz

8:30 – 9:30	Registration and welcome coffee
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Moderation <b>Roswitha Wiedenhofer-Bornemann</b>, FH JOANNEUM and <b>Rogier Elshout</b>, Moderating.eu</p> <p>Welcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoP CoVEs Representatives</li> <li>• <b>Martin Payer</b>, Financial Director, FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences</li> </ul> <p>Opening panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Corinna Engelhardt-Nowitzki</b>, Scientific Director, FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences</li> <li>• <b>EU Commission</b> representative</li> <li>• <b>Manuela Khom</b>, Deputy Governor of Styria</li> <li>• <b>Josef Herk</b>, President, Chamber of Commerce Styria</li> <li>• <b>Jon Altuna</b>, Vice-president EURASHE, coordinator EU4Dual European University Alliance, Vice-rector of Mondragon University,</li> </ul> <p>Panel: <b>European Education for Resilient Regions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Doris Kiendl</b>, Head of Institute of International Management and Entrepreneurship</li> <li>• <b>Birgit Arens</b>, Eurochambres</li> <li>• <b>Jürgen Schick</b>, Coordinator for People and Skills in the Danube region</li> <li>• <b>Regina Friedrich</b>, Industry representative</li> <li>• <b>Pilvi Torsti</b>, Director, European Training Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Pieter Moerman</b>, Katapult</li> </ul>

11:00 – 11:20	<i>Coffee break and networking</i>
11:20 – 12:30	<p>Keynotes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stefan Olsson</b>, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</li> <li>• <b>Begoña Pedrosa</b>, Minister of Education, Department of Education, Basque Government</li> </ul>
	<i>Group photo</i>
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 17:00	<p>Study visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FH JOANNEUM Graz (Applied teaching and research)</li> <li>• HTL Bulme (Green Village)</li> <li>• LFS Grottenhof</li> <li>• WKO Styria (Talent Centre and Center of Excellence)</li> <li>• FH JOANNEUM Kapfenberg (Advanced production and computer technologies) (tbc.)</li> <li>• FH JOANNEUM Kapfenberg (Applied Medical campus) -</li> <li>• Anton Paar</li> <li>• Siemens</li> </ul>
14:00-15:30	<p>Policy round table</p> <p>Moderation: Doris Kiendl and Roswitha Wiedenhofer-Bornemann</p>
18:00 – 22:00	<p>Vocational Excellence Exhibition and dinner</p> <p>Organised by the WKO Styria / Provided by the Styrian Industry</p>

**Wednesday, 9 September**, Audimax, FH JOANNEUM, Eggenberger Allee 11, 8020 Graz

9:00 – 9:30	<i>Registration</i>
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Keynote speeches:</p> <p><b>Birgit Phillips</b>, Head of Learning, Innovation and Technology, FH JOANNEUM</p> <p><b>Markus Tomaschitz</b>, Company Spokesperson and Chief Human Resources Officer</p>
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break and networking brunch</i>
10:30 – 12:00	<i>Workshops: Parallel sessions A</i>
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>

13:00 – 14:30	<i>Workshops: Parallel sessions B</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><i>Moderation</i> <b>Rogier Elshout and Ingerid Dommersnes</b></p> <p><i>Conclusions parallel sessions</i></p> <p><i>Closing panel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kai Schmidt-Eisenlohr, DHBW and EU4Dual</li> <li>• Student representatives</li> <li>• Boudewijn Grievink, Katapult</li> <li>• Iñigo Araiztegui, TKNKA</li> <li>• Anna Barbieri, EU Commission</li> <li>• Bojan Jovanovski, FH JOANNEUM</li> </ul> <p><i>Closing remarks</i></p>
	<i>Group photo</i>
16:30	<i>City tour of Graz (organized by WKO)</i>