



Applied Innovation and Research in
Vocational Education and Training

DIGEST 13

AIRIN VET ROADMAP: BUILDING RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN VET CENTRES

The **AIRinVET Roadmap** helps Vocational Education and Training (VET) Centres in Europe improve their research and innovation (R&I) work. It focuses on supporting regional needs, especially by working with small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). This aligns with the European Commission's vision to make VET centres hubs for green and digital changes.

Self-Assessment Tool and Framework

The Roadmap includes a Diagnosis. VET Centres can use it to review and improve their R&I efforts. It is based on the AIRinVET Framework, which has four main areas:

1. **Impact:** Sets clear R&I goals and structures for motivation. Centres should focus on open mindsets, target groups, and sustainable results.
2. **Activities:** This involves VET organisations expand their core education and training activities, adding research activities to them. Centres should align R&I with regional needs and partner with SMEs.
3. **Research & Innovation:** Focuses on R&I skills, methods, and expertise-building. Recommendations aim to guide in building research capacity.
4. **Governance:** Supports creating strong R&I strategies, addressing barriers, and ensuring support within the institution.

How It Works

The Self-Assessment Tool includes statements that VET centres can rate from “Not Relevant” to “Advanced.” Based on these ratings, the tool provides general recommendations and resources to guide potential areas for improvement. The tool is available on the [AIRinVET website](#) for free use.

Continuous Improvement Cycle

The Roadmap promotes a **cyclical approach** to applied R&I, emphasizing continuous improvement. VET centres are encouraged to reassess their progress at regular intervals. This repeated cycle ensures that improvements align with the VET centre's goals and regional demands, providing a sustainable pathway for growth in their applied R&I capabilities.



Image: The cyclical use of the self-assessment tool and Roadmap recommendations

Key Benefits

Using the AIRinVET Roadmap, VET centres can detect their improvement areas and their development would:

- Improve their applied R&I capacity, suiting their specific context and situation.
- Strengthen connections with SMEs by tailoring R&I to local needs.
- Equip staff and students with future-ready skills.
- Embed applied R&I in their strategic vision, fostering innovation and regional development.

Conclusion

The AIRinVET Roadmap helps VET centres set a path to be an active member in the regional innovation ecosystem. It offers a practical guide for centres to support sustainable and knowledge-driven growth. For more, visit www.airinvet.eu/tools.

