

Agrifood4Future CoVE Network Meeting

26th May 2026

Online meeting

Speakers BIOs

Adrijana Hodak



Adrijana Hodak is a leading European expert in vocational excellence, VET innovation, international cooperation, and skills policy development. She serves as Head of the Intercompany Training Centre at the School Centre Nova Gorica (Slovenia), one of Europe's first Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) recognised by the European Commission through the Talentjourney initiative.

With 30 years of experience in vocational education and training—and more than 20 years in education management and EU-funded development projects—she has been instrumental in modernising Slovenia's VET system, leading the largest national reform projects under the Ministry of Education on behalf of the Slovenian Consortium of the biggest VET Centres. She also headed the Munera 3 ESF project, which trained over 30,000 employees in partnership with companies and smart specialisation industries—an initiative recognised by UNESCO-UNEVOC as an innovative learning practice and awarded the Silver Prize for Innovation in Lifelong Learning by the

Slovenian Chamber of Commerce.

As a Board Member of EUproVET, the European association of VET providers working closely with the European Commission, she helps shape European policies on vocational excellence, skills, public-private partnership, digitalisation, and greening. She also serves as coordinator of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre, and served as an expert for the European Training Foundation (ETF), and EU VET Ambassador.

Adrijana led the national RRF initiative “Digistainable Teacher”, supporting 400 educational institutions and 16,000 teachers in developing digital, green, and financial literacy. She is an active member of the ETF ENE Network of Vocational Excellence, the European CoVEs Community of Practice, and the UNESCO-UNEVOC network.

A former teacher and continuous innovator, she co-organised the first ETF Winter Camp on Vocational Excellence hosted in Nova Gorica and played a central role in developing the Talentjourney CoVE. Her work combines policy foresight, ecosystem design, and collaborative learning models that connect schools, enterprises, and learners.

She is internationally recognised for building bridges between education, industry, and policy, fostering innovation, public-private partnerships, and applied learning as the foundation for Europe’s next-generation skills ecosystems.

Pieter Hoekstra



Pieter Hoekstra is the program director of CIV Water, a PPP in the Netherlands. Started in 2012 [CIV Water](#) is already 10 years successfully working in connecting the watersector and VET providers. As a member of [the WaterCampus Leeuwarden](#) CIV Water works on life long learning. Innovation of education system can only be achieved when workfield and education work are at the same table. In all their activities they worked on the concept of the future craftmen Water. Not only on a regional level but also nationally and since 2020 on a European level.

As programme manager at [PoVE Water](#) Pieter is leading one of the most emblematic CoVE projects funded by Erasmus+ that has a strong mobility component, and can be inspiring for other CoVEs to develop activities that build on the close partnerships between CoVE projects.

PoEV Water Started in 2020 with a pilot with 5 countries and 13 partners, in 2022 PoVE Water is a scale up with 8 countries and 23 partners. Creating a platform for knowledge developing and sharing and stimulate mobility for learners, staff and also for professionals. In this combination of participants the outcomes are excellent.