

Network of Inclusive COVEs on Circular Material Welding and Preventive Maintenance for Socially Safe, Resilient & Sustainable Automotive Manufacturing

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WELD THE FUTURE!

Motivation

Addressing a major shortage of skilled workers in the automotive sector, WELDNET aims to strengthen training in welding and maintenance across European regions.

Goal

WELDNET aims to build a network of five Inclusive Centers of Vocational Excellence (COVEs) that transform vocational training in circular material welding and preventive maintenance. The project empowers learners, trainers, and industry by providing innovative micro-credentials, digital learning tools, and inclusive support structures across Europe. It ultimately strengthens regional skills ecosystems and supports a safer, greener, and more resilient automotive manufacturing sector.

Timeline

- 2025–2026: Foresight, tools, and platform development (WP2, WP3, WP4)
- 2026–2027: Activation of training, pilots, and certification (WP5)
- 2027–2028: Mobility, competitions, governance, and long-term impact (WP5, WP7)

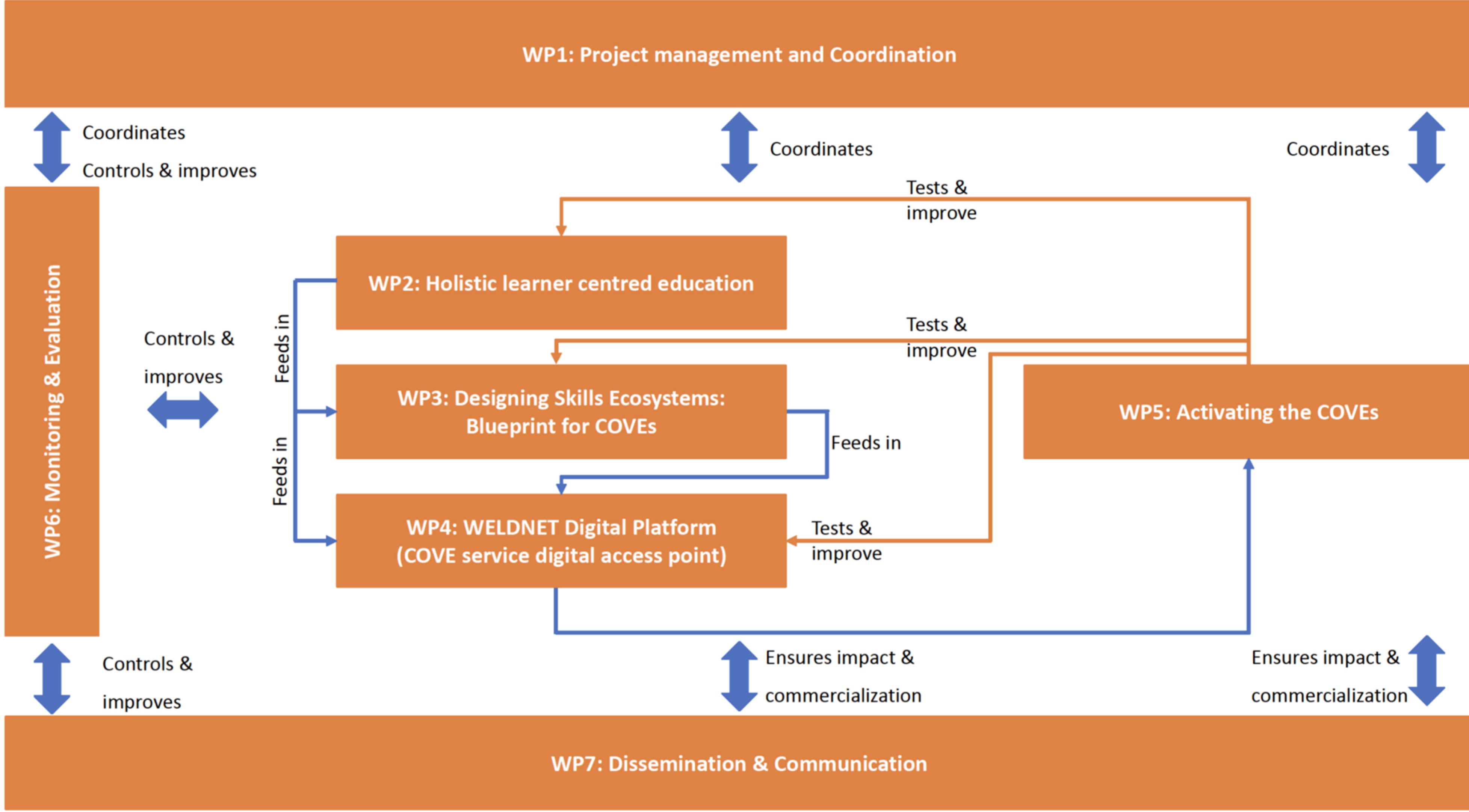
Key Challenges

- Lack of inclusive, green & digital-oriented curricula
- Weak employer engagement in VET.
- Fragmented stakeholder collaboration.
- Limited capacity for innovation in governance

Target Groups

- People with and without disabilities
- Learners
- Workers
- Trainers

Roadmap



Methodology

The project applies a structured, work-package-driven methodology that combines strategic foresight, stakeholder co-creation, and evidence-based assessment to design, implement, and validate inclusive Centers of Vocational Excellence across multiple regions.

Development Steps:

1. Needs analysis and foresight
2. Design and development
3. Pilot implementation
4. Evaluation and refinement
5. Scaling and sustainability

Partners

- **Project Coordinator:** CERTH
- **Austria:** TU Wien Research Unit Production and Maintenance Management, TU Wien Research Unit Leadership and Strategy, EIT Manufacturing East GmbH
- **Greece:** CERTH, Isolass C.O., YET, Associate partner, Region of Central Macedonia
- **Romania:** ISIM Timisoara, SudoTim AS, ADRVEST
- **Serbia:** Helixconnect Balkans DOO, Mindpark, Redasp, Secondary Vocational School
- **Spain:** Cesol, Femeval

Results

The project delivers a validated network of inclusive Centers of Vocational Excellence strengthening regional skills ecosystems in circular material welding and preventive maintenance. Key results include demand-driven IVET and CVET micro-credentials, an operational digital platform for learning and certification, and active public-private living labs enabling work-based learning. The project enhances employability, reduces skills mismatches, and increases participation of vulnerable groups. Robust governance, quality assurance, and impact measurement frameworks ensure consistency, transparency, sustainability, and scalability across European regions and long-term resilience.

Ecosystems

