



EXCEED
Excellence in green and
digital manufacturing



**EXCEED Skills Exhibition
2026 Edition**

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

***Call for the Expression of
Interest to participate in the
EXCEED International Skills
Exhibition***



Co-funded by
the European Union

www.exceed-cove.eu



ABSTRACT

The Excellence in Green and Digital Manufacturing project aims to prepare the Advanced Manufacturing sector for the disruptive changes caused by green and digital twin transitions. EXCEED assumes the synergetic and mutually beneficial application of digital and green as powerful levers to accelerate innovation in Advanced Manufacturing. The project will provide the necessary skills in this new environment by developing a joint international and customised lifelong learning offer as well as by developing and updating curricula for higher vocational education and training.



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Project id n. 101103982

LEARN MORE ABOUT PROJECT





IMPORTANT NOTICE: WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS ABOUT

This document provides guidance for applicants to the EXCEED Exhibition Call for Expression of Interest. It outlines the aims and objectives of the call, eligibility requirements, application, evaluation, and selection procedures, and the support available to participants.

Executive summary

The EXCEED - Excellence in Green and Digital Manufacturing- project aims to prepare the Advanced Manufacturing sector for the disruptive changes caused by green and digital twin transitions. EXCEED assumes the synergetic and mutually beneficial application of digital and green as powerful levers to accelerate innovation in Advanced Manufacturing. The project will provide the necessary skills in this new environment by developing a joint international and customized lifelong learning offer as well as by developing and updating curricula for higher vocational education and training.

For more information on the project and its results and outputs, visit the web site <https://exceed-cove.eu/exceed-skills-exhibitions/>.

The EXCEED International Skills Exhibition

The EXCEED Skills Exhibition is an international contest where applicants can present to regional, national and international stakeholders co-created innovative solutions/projects, (“masterpieces”) to boost the green and digital transformations of Advanced Manufacturing. These co-created solutions can also specifically foresee that digital technologies support and boost the greening of processes and products, according to the eco-digital innovation paradigm underpinning the EXCEED project.

Interested applicants are invited to cooperate in groups to create their solutions/masterworks to be shared and presented to the wide public during the final Online international event, which will take place on the 16th of April 2026, from 14.00 to 17.30 CET, in its first edition.

Participants, to develop/prepare their masterpieces, can cooperate locally, or internationally, (e.g., through international mobility schemes, virtual or physical), joining forces with other groups of students from VET Schools, VET Centres and Universities. Masterpieces can be developed within curricular or extracurricular activities. The process through which each group of candidates will prepare the work to be candidated, is up to participants and supervisors.



EXCEED Exhibition 2026 - the challenge

The EXCEED International Skills Exhibition is a challenge-based contest. Its first edition, aims at launching to all participants a challenge inspired by the *FAB CITY* concept:

“A Fab City is a locally productive, globally connected, self-sufficient city. Fab Labs (Fabrication Laboratories) and makerspaces offer opportunities for people to make and produce what they need for themselves, and to bring back to citizens the skills and knowledge needed to make things”.

The Challenge all participants have to answer, by creating their own masterpieces is the following:

“Zero Waste communities: What is the contribution of Advanced Manufacturing?”

In the framework of the contest, “waste” is not only “scrap”, but also any exceeding energy consumption, or any overuse of raw materials and natural resources, or any malfunctioning of plants and machines, etc.

Each group of participants, depending on its field of education and expertise, can find a diversified answer to the challenge, applying creativity, system thinking, and technical skills.

Expression of Interest

Who can participate:

The EXCEED Exhibition is open to any VET School/VET centre/University interested in participating in the overall contest.

Prior target groups are students/trainees aged >17, attending a post-secondary VET programme or attending the last year/s of the upper secondary school, or, attending the University, (e.g., Professional bachelor's degrees, etc.).

Please, be aware the focus of the Exhibition will be on eco-digital innovation in Advanced Manufacturing!

How to:

The application process is divided into two stages.

Ensure that all required documents are submitted before the deadline — only complete applications will be considered valid.



The application process is divided into two stages. Read the instructions carefully and ensure that all required documents are submitted before the deadline. Only fully completed applications will be considered valid.

The Call is open from 01/12/2025 to 28/02/2026.

FIRST STEP:

Pre-Application (Expression of Interest)

Objective:

To officially register the participation of the educational institution and its teams, and to enable the preparation of the project proposal.

What to Submit:

At this stage, each participating **School, VET Centre, or University** is requested to provide through the following [Microsoft Form](https://forms.office.com/e/z0fSfq5emZ) [https://forms.office.com/e/z0fSfq5emZ]:

1. **Basic institutional information**, including:
 - Name and address of the institution;
 - Name and contact details of the institutional coordinator or responsible person;
 - Indication of the courses or departments involved;
 - Estimated number of students/trainees participating.
2. **Upload a signed confirmation letter** (institutional endorsement form), prepared on the **official letterhead** of the organisation and signed by a **legal representative or delegated authority**.
 - The letter formally confirms the intention of the institution to participate in the EXCEED Exhibition and to support one or more student groups in developing and submitting their project(s).
 - If multiple groups or courses from the same institution intend to participate, one consolidated letter is sufficient.

Once this stage is completed, your participation will be formally registered.

SECOND STEP:

Submission of the works

Objective: To submit the detailed description and project developed related materials by the registered group(s).



Procedure:

Registered institutions will receive a confirmation email with detailed instructions how to upload their project proposals, at the <https://exceed-cove.eu/>.

During the following step the following materials should be uploaded:

- The **project presentation** prepared using the official EXCEED Skills Exhibition template, available on the [Exceed website](#);
- One video introducing the masterpiece: the video can be realized with a smartphone, or any device the group prefers, or have at disposal. No professional recording is required. MP4 format is recommended.

Once both steps are completed participants will receive an email from the EXCEED Partnership, confirming their participation, together with social media kit, that might be used for the promotion of the participation.

USE AND PUBLICATION OF MATERIALS

By submitting their project materials — including videos, presentations, images, and related documentation — participants acknowledge and grant authorisation to the EXCEED partnership for the use, publication, and dissemination of such materials within the framework of the project's communication, dissemination, and educational activities.

a) Purpose of the Authorisation

The materials submitted within the EXCEED International Skills Exhibition may be used by the EXCEED partnership and its authorised representatives exclusively for:

- Public dissemination and promotion of the EXCEED project and its results; Educational and training activities, including online courses, workshops, or events linked to the project's objectives;
- Institutional communication, such as articles, newsletters, and project reports;
- Public exhibitions, conferences, and events organised under the EXCEED framework or related EU initiatives.

All uses will serve the overarching purpose of sharing knowledge, highlighting participants' achievements, and promoting innovation in vocational education and training in line with the project's goals.

b) Publication Channels



Submitted materials may be published through the following channels:

- The official EXCEED [project website](#) and related digital platforms ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#));
- The social media pages or online accounts managed by the EXCEED consortium and its partners;
- Press releases, digital newsletters, or multimedia publications linked to EXCEED communication actions;
- Public EU project repositories or educational databases, if relevant to dissemination obligations.

Where possible, due credit will be given to the authors, teams, and institutions involved, in accordance with the visibility and communication standards of the project.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

Personal data and information provided in the application form will be used solely for the purpose of conducting a thorough and effective evaluation of applicants

Individuals whose personal data is processed have the right to access, correct, or request deletion of their data. All inquiries regarding personal data processing should be directed to info@exceed-cove.eu.

Data processing will comply fully with applicable EU and national data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679/EU), ensuring respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms, confidentiality, and dignity of the data subjects. By submitting an application to the EXCEED project applicants provide explicit consent to the collection, storage, and use of their personal data for the purposes of executing the project objectives and work plan. Submission of an application constitutes full, complete, and unreserved acceptance of these data protection terms.

FUNDING VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All **materials, communications, and dissemination outputs** related to the **EXCEED International Skills Exhibition** must comply with the **visibility and communication requirements** of the European Union and the **Erasmus+ Programme**.

Partners, participating institutions, and organisers are required to:

- Clearly acknowledge the **financial support of the European Union** in all materials, activities, and communications related to the Exhibition.



- Use the **official EXCEED project logo** and the **EU emblem** (flag of the European Union) in accordance with the visual identity rules provided by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).
- Ensure that all dissemination materials — including presentations, posters, videos, publications, and digital content — bear the required **funding disclaimer** and comply with the project's **visual identity guidelines**.

The following disclaimer must appear on **all materials** produced in connection with the Exhibition (digital or printed):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.”

GENDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The **EXCEED project** is committed to upholding and promoting the core European values of **gender equality, diversity, and social inclusion** in all its activities, including the International Skills Exhibition.

a) Guiding Principles

The Exhibition seeks to create an environment that:

- Encourages **equal participation** of women and men, as well as individuals of all gender identities;
- Values **diversity of backgrounds**, cultures, disciplines, and perspectives;
- Promotes **inclusive access** for learners and educators, regardless of age, nationality, ability, or socio-economic status.

b) Expectations for Applicants and Partners

All institutions and participants involved in the Exhibition are strongly encouraged to:

- Form **diverse and gender-balanced teams**, ensuring fair representation of all participants;
- Guarantee that **selection and evaluation processes** are transparent, equitable, and free from bias;
- Facilitate the **participation of learners with fewer opportunities**, including through reasonable adjustments or support where needed;



- Reflect inclusivity and social responsibility in their **project concepts and outputs**, particularly in how proposed solutions address environmental and societal challenges.

c) Commitment and Monitoring

The EXCEED partnership will monitor the implementation of these principles throughout the Exhibition, ensuring that inclusivity and equality remain integral to both the participation process and the evaluation of projects.

All partners are expected to act in accordance with the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** and the **European Pillar of Social Rights**, which promote fairness, equality, and inclusion in education and innovation.

MATERIALS

All supporting materials are available by the following link <https://exceed-cove.eu/exceed-skills-exhibitions/>. By the following link you will be able to find:

- Letter of Confirmation of Participation – to formally confirm the school's involvement in the Exhibition.
- PowerPoint Presentation Template – necessary to prepare and present projects in a coherent format.
- Pitch Guidelines – support teams in structuring and delivering their final pitch effectively.
- EXCEED Skills Exhibition Brochure – provide an overview of the initiative, its objectives, and key information.