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Advancing additive manufacturing qualifications for the aerospace & defence sectors:

The role of the AILEEN centres of vocational excellence

AILEEN

Capacity Building Gijón – 21 September 2026

About the initiative

aileencove.eu

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centres of vocAtlonaL Excellence in aErospace & defence for advanced maNufacturing

- Tackle the need for qualifying, Aerospace and Defence ecosystem personnel through the "**development" of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) for Advanced Manufacturing technologies** (Welding, Brazing, Additive Manufacturing & Inspection).

- **Develop a dynamic system conditions** that is continuously adapting to needs and changes of the Aerospace & Defence Ecosystem .

EWF	European Federation for Welding Joining and Cutting	BE	Laser Akademie	LZH Laser Akademie GmbH	DE
BI	Belgisch Instituut Voor Lastechniek Vzw	BE	Fraunhofer	Fraunhofer Gesellschaft Zur Forderung der Angewandten Forschung Ev	DE
CenSec	Center For Sikkerhedsindustrien I Danmark	DK	FAN 3D	Favoritanswer Consultoria em Engenharia Lda	PT
Mercantec	Mercantec	DK	ISQ	Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade	PT
SICNOVA	Soluciones Sicnova Sl	ES	PRI Qualification	PRI Europe Ltd	UK
	Asociación Empresarial de Tecnología de Asturias para el Desarrollo de la Industrial de la Defensa	ES	mtc	The Manufacturing Technology Centre Limited	UK
CESOL	Asociación Espanola De Soldadura Y Tecnologias de Unión	ES	Brunel University London	Brunel University London	UK
IDONIAL	Fundación Idonial	ES	TÜRKHAVACILIK UZAYSANAYİİ	Tusas-turk Havacilik Ve Uzay Sanayii As	TR
IPH	Institut für Integrierte Produktion Hannover gGmbH	DE	ODTÜ KATAMER	METU / KATAMER	TR

The AILEEN approach

Quality - Recognition- Collaboration - Harmonisation

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IAMQS EWF

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEMS

ONE SYSTEM



FORTY SIX 46 COUNTRIES



Alignment for Aerospace and Defence applications Industrial standards

Nadcap Administered by PRI

PRI PERFORMANCE REVIEW INSTITUTE

centres of vocAtIonaL Excellence in aErospace & defence for advanced maNufacturing

- Transfer of best practices between industry
- Capacity Building
- Students and staff mobility
- Innovation hub
- Skills Competition
- EU Curriculum Design
- Work-Based Learning
- Problem-Based Learning
- Applied Research

CENTER OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AILEEN 2025-2030

CoVEs Network & New Members Opportunities

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AILEEN COVE CONNECT



A community for the Centres of Vocational Excellence and their members, connecting organisations on advanced manufacturing, education, skills and innovation within Aerospace & Defence sectors.

AILEEN Project > Main Achievements

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• Reports & Strategic plan

- A&D Standards Report
- Best- Practices Roadmap
- Skills Needs Report
- Strategic Plan for CoVEs Nomination

- National & European Inspection Leagues - Skills Competition
- Staff Mobilities UK & PT
- Applied Reserach Projects
- Apprenticeships Projects
- 18 Pilot Courses
- 13 National events were conducted reaching nearly 700 participants

• Establishment of the CoVE Network



CENTER OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AILEEN 2025-2030

11

Phase 1& 2

2026

• Conferences/Networking/Visibility

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COP CoVEs Community of Practice Centres of Vocational Excellence



50 YEARS CEDEFOP European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

Aerospace & Defence Excellence Platform

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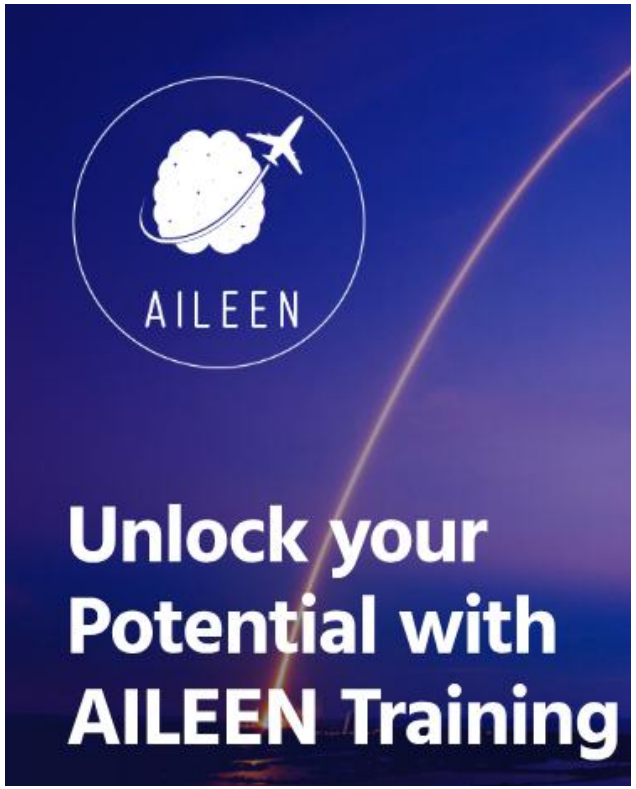
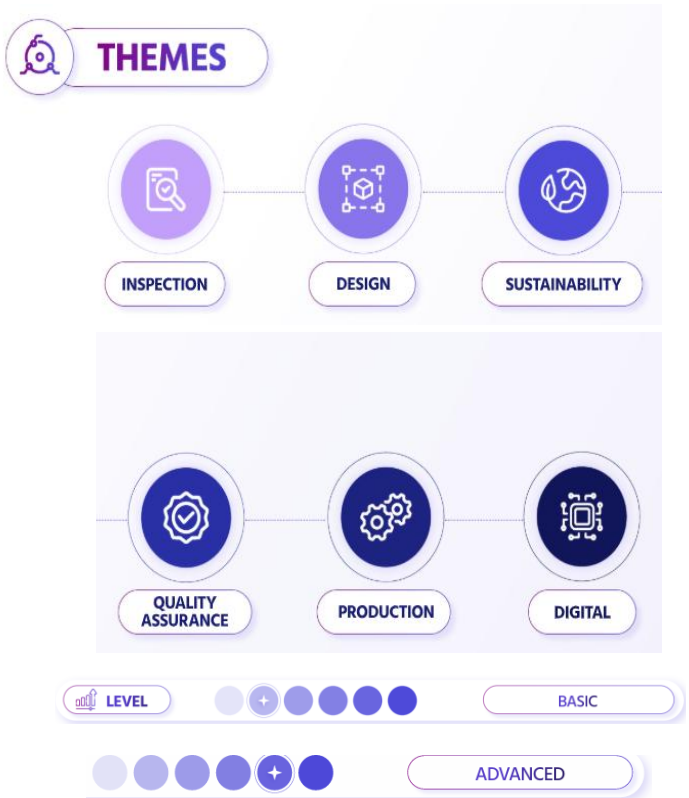
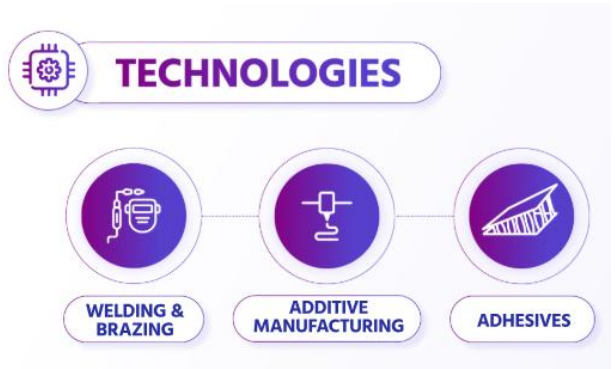
Online Catalogue & Resources







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EXCELLENCE HUB:

- COVES NETWORK
- COVES APPLICATION
- FORUM
- BEST PRACTICES
- EVENTS

TRAINING HUB:

- AEROSPACE & DEFENCE CATALOGUE
- RESOURCES
- ACTIVITIES

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The value of joining AILEEN Network

Being CoVE

- Offering **specialized training programs** for the **Aerospace/ Defence sector**
- Connecting with other training providers to ensure complementary and comprehensive training provision
- Establishing **continuous cooperation with industry partners to address their requirements and challenges;**
- Facilitating **real cooperation among the training-research-industry knowledge triangle**, providing access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities
- Promote, together with CoVE network, **apprenticeships, applied research, industrial case studies**, etc.

Cooperating as CoVE member

- Benefit from applied reserach results (**from finding a solution to a company's specific problem towards developing broader knowledge)**
- Easier access to **education and professionals recuritment**
- **Lifelong learning** opportunities
- Shared infrastructures
- Connecting /coming together with (new) partners
- **Professional development**

What will come next in the project?

Implementation of AILEEN Ecosystem

- Additional free courses until December’26
- Increased CoVEs nomination and Network engagment
- Open call for Applied Resech activities
- Access to free kits, toolkit & resources
- AILEEN Opinion/Research Papers
- Final Conference until end of May 2027

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Beyond AILEEN project

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Tick the options that interest you

- Stay a member of the EU CoVE Network
- Implement joint education & cooperation activities (training, research, mobilities…)
- Access the Excellence Platform (Hub & Training)
- Join the A&D Advisory Board of experts
- Join the EU Pool of Trainers in A&D
- Contribute to the A&D Book of Knowledge or papers
- Advertise open calls: applied research, apprenticeships
- Attend capacity-building and best-practice events

How do you want to stay involved?

Scan to answer online

AILEEN

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