



They **support the regional development and smart specialisation strategies**, working together with other education and training institutions (Universities of Applied Sciences, Universities) to provide a wide portfolio and level of skills required to implement those strategies.



They **actively participate in knowledge triangles** with Universities, Research centres, and Business, aimed at being at the forefront of research and technological developments, allowing the rapid update of training curricula and qualifications.



They are part of an integrated **continuous learning curve**, connecting the different levels of education in the water sector (from primary > secondary > VET > Bachelor > Master > Phd and Lifelong Learning).



They provide VET students (initial and continuous) with **labour market relevant skills**, in a lifelong learning continuum approach. Combining offers of initial VET qualifications, with offers of continuing training (for upskilling and reskilling).



They **build business-education partnerships** with water industry professionals (public and private) and work together with innovation hubs and technology diffusion centres for: apprenticeships, internships, sharing of equipment, exchanges of staff and teachers between companies and VET centres.



They have a strong focus on the **continuing professional development of teachers and trainers** (both pedagogical skills as well as technical skills, involvement in research projects among the platform of VET providers, etc.).



They develop **project-based learning** that bring inter-disciplinary approaches and VET learners from different fields of study (e.g. design, marketing, engineering) to solve real work problems/challenges.



They have a strong **focus on competence development** and the creation of the right mindset of students (proactive, entrepreneurial work attitude).