



CEI Study Visit 2026– II: Building Europe's innovation capacity through lifelong learning

**Thematic Strand 4: Lifelong learning for an innovative
workforce**

08/10/2026

Call for CEI Study Visit Attendees

The Community for Educational Innovation (CEI) invites applications for the **CEI Study Visit 2026-II**. The event will take place on 3–4 November 2026 and be hosted by the [Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo](#), in Portugal.

Lifelong learning is essential to keeping Europe innovative and competitive. As technological and structural change accelerates, the skills people need are evolving faster than initial education and training alone can respond, making continuous learning an increasingly important part of working life. Meeting this challenge requires more flexible learning opportunities that people can access throughout their careers, supported by the recognition of prior learning, micro-credentials, modular provision and closer cooperation between education providers and employers.

Building on the themes explored throughout this semester's [CEI webinars](#), this fully funded study visit provides an opportunity to **exchange experiences, learn from peers and explore how these approaches are being put into practice**. Over 1.5 days, fifteen researchers, educators and higher education professionals from across Europe will share what they have developed, what has worked in their context, and the challenges they are still working to address. Through discussions and peer exchange, participants will explore different approaches, reflect on their own practice and gain ideas they can adapt to their own institutions and systems.

The Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, with its strong regional engagement, will provide the setting for the study visit and offer participants insight into how higher education institutions can align learning provision with evolving workforce needs while widening access for adult learners.

Key details:

- **Dates:** 3–4 November, 2026
- **Location:** Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, Portugal
- **Eligibility:** Open to CEI members based in EU Member States. If you are not yet a member of CEI, you can join [here](#).
- **Funding:** Travel (within 27 EU Member States) and accommodation costs will be fully covered for 15 selected participants
- **Application deadline:** 13 September 2026.
- **Application results:** 30 September 2026.



1. Objectives of the CEI study visit

- **Foster a multistakeholder dialogue** among education leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers, business representatives, non-governmental organisations and policymakers on how lifelong learning can support innovation and the development of a future-ready workforce.
- **Facilitate knowledge exchange** on innovative approaches around lifelong learning, allowing participants to reflect on emerging practices, success factors and shared challenges.
- **Strengthen connections between local, regional and international stakeholders** to identify opportunities for collaboration and generate insights on how lifelong learning ecosystems can support innovation, skills development and regional growth.

2. Description of the visit

The visit offers an immersive learning experience built on peer exchange and discussion. Rather than relying on a series of presentations, the programme is designed around small-group conversations, paired exchanges and collective reflection, creating opportunities for participants to engage actively with one another throughout the visit.

Building Europe's innovation capacity through lifelong learning	
Location	Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, Viana do Castelo – Portugal
Dates	3–4 November 2026
Duration	1.5 days
Working language	English
Local/regional stakeholders to be involved	• Educators and staff of higher education institutions and vocational education and training providers. • Representatives of organisations that support skills development, upskilling and reskilling. • Public and business sector representatives who collaborate with education and training providers on workforce skills. • Researchers, employers and civil society representatives involved in lifelong learning and adult education.
Participants	15 CEI members and local participants representing the host institution.

3. Benefits of attending CEI study visits

Learning directly from peers: Participants will spend two days in discussion with researchers and higher education professionals who have developed similar initiatives in different national contexts, exploring not only what they achieved but also how they made it work.

Discussing practice in depth: Each participant will have dedicated opportunities to present their own work in small groups, receive feedback from peers and explore new ideas for strengthening their initiative.

Building a lasting network: The visit brings together researchers, higher education professionals, employers and regional partners, creating opportunities to build relationships, exchange experience and develop collaborations beyond the visit.

Previous CEI Study Visits have taken place in [Barcelona](#) (June 2025) and [St. Pölten](#) (November 2025) and [Sofia](#) (July 2026), bringing together participants from across Europe to exchange experience, explore innovative practices and build lasting professional connections.

4. Applications

Interested CEI members should submit their applications via [this link](#). Applications will be reviewed by the CEI team in agreement with the European Commission, and 15 participants will be selected based on the relevance of their projects and professional experience, ensuring they represent a variety of professional backgrounds as well as gender and geographical balance. The CEI team will cover the travel (within EU Member States) and accommodation for all selected attendees.

What we look for

In particular, we look for:

- A practice that is connected to **lifelong learning and innovation**
- A **clear description** of what the practice is, what it has achieved and what is still unresolved or to be improved. This is what other participants can learn from!



- **Availability to travel and attend in full:** applicants must be available to travel to Viana do Castelo and to attend the whole of the 1.5-day programme on 3 and 4 November 2026.

5. Further information

For any questions or additional details, please get in touch with the CEI team at **CEI@ppmi.it**.

