The Center of Excellence for Technology Education (CETE) is a research association, consisting of leading academic research institutions within the sector of technology and engineering education.

The network is being fostered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for three years and directed by Prof. Dr. Ingelore Mammes. Further partners from the University of Duisburg-Essen are Prof. Dr. Stefan Fletcher, Prof. Dr. Martin Lang and Prof. Dr. Dieter Münn. International academic partners within the network are Prof. Dr. Charles Max (University of Luxembourg), Prof. Dr. Marc de Vries (Delft University of Technology), Prof. Dr. Peter Lubudde (University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland), Prof. Dr. Johannes Strobel (University of Missouri) and Prof. Dr. Marc Winterbottom and Bill Nicholl (University of Cambridge).

CETE is supposed to endow the nationally and internationally only little developed scientific community with more potential. Through joint research projects, Ph.D. exchanges, guest-lectures as well as international workshops and summer schools the exploration of technology education processes should be boost. Further, the work of excellent young academics in the research fields of technical sciences shall be supported by the network. In addition, findings based on research should be introduced to school practice by publications and advanced teacher-training through international study cooperation and digital courses for teaching and learning.

The network's aims:

The growing importance of technology in all areas of our lives not only requires advanced qualification of young professionals through vocational training in order to foster innovation as well as technical and societal progress, but also a technical literacy "for everyone" so as to cope with these environments and to be a technologically mature society. A positive identification with technology has an influence on the development of young people identities and is a factor in the choice of career and field of study. Thus, technological education has to foster interests and talents as well as cultivate competencies to create a positive identification with technology. To achieve these conditions on an international level is the overarching objective of the CETE-Network. The internationally required technological education, as a relatively young field of education, is still unmethodically grounded and fragmentarily available in the education systems of many countries. Therefore, technological education needs development work. The thematic network CETE wants to carry out this development work. Therefor it requires expertise and is essentially based on three development directions (see picture to the left). The realisation occurs through various measures which are promoted by the DAAD.

In summary, the network as an organisational unit aims to do medium as well as long-term international development work in the field of technological education. On the one hand CETE will contribute to gain and to disseminate innovative technological knowledge and boost it if implementation in schools and colleges. On the other hand the network wants to recommend ideas for the implementation of technological education to schools, colleges, extracurricular institutions as well as for processes of technological socialisation in families.