

European Vocational Skills Week

Awards for VET Excellence



As in 2016 and 2017, the award-giving will be one of the major highlights of the European Vocational Skills Week. The awards will highlight examples of excellence in four categories: Companies and learners, VET innovators, European funding for excellence, and European Agencies awards. This year the awards will be given during the Closing event on 9 November 2018 by Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility.

WHY AN AWARD CEREMONY?

The award-giving **highlights good practices in vocational education and training all over Europe**. The awards relate to both initial and continuing VET and they **highlight excellence in VET** that can inspire others, and be transferable to other circumstances.

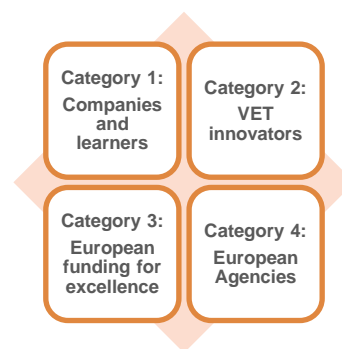
It is a great opportunity to:

- recognise excellence;
- provide visibility and recognition for good work done;
- motivate those taking part, whether individuals or organisations;
- enable the building of networks and new career opportunities;
- enable the winners to become ambassadors in their field of expertise;
- reach out to citizens by mobilising vocational education and training actors at all levels.

By using the awards as benchmarks, and creating a movement with its focus on excellence in VET, the initiative reaches far beyond the usual VET stakeholders. It ultimately raises the attractiveness of VET, one of the aims of Vocational Skills Week.

FOUR CATEGORIES OF AWARDS

Also this year, most of the awards are organised by entities external to the Commission, though the Commission retains the overall management of the process as well as the final award ceremony. The awards honour various categories of organisations or individuals:



Category 1: Companies and learners

European Alliance for Apprenticeship

- Company
- Apprentice

These awards aim at identifying excellent contributions to the supply, quality, image and mobility of apprenticeships from within the



European
Commission

members of the 'European Alliance for Apprenticeships'.

More information will follow soon.

Training at work

- Company
- Learner

The purpose of the award is to give visibility to good practices of career-long professional learning in micro, small and medium enterprises, taking place in Europe, and to inspire new practices and policies.

To find out more:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EVSW_Award_2018_Training_at_Work

Note: *Training at Work Award* focuses on career long learning for employees/workers offered by micro, small and medium companies and is open to all companies. The *EAFa award* focus is on companies hiring apprentice(s) and being member of the Alliance.

Category 2: VET innovators

Innovative VET provider

This award, developed in cooperation with the expert group *Platform of European Associations of VET providers*, aims to identify a European provider of VET that has contributed to VET excellence through innovative practices. In addition, in the context of the European Year of Cultural Heritage a special mention will be given to an innovative provider of VET skills in cultural heritage.

To find out more:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/2018_Innovative_VETprovider

Teacher and trainer

This award, developed in cooperation with the expert group *Platform of European Associations of VET providers*, Obessu and ETUCE, aims to identify a VET teacher and/or trainer who has excelled in improving the VET learning/training experience of youngsters or adults.

To find out more:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/2018TeachersTrainersAward>

VET researcher

The VET Research Award aims to reward an outstanding VET research project, a research team or an individual researcher who has made an outstanding contribution to innovative thinking in VET, including initial and higher VET, continuing VET, adult learning and career-long professional learning.

To find out more:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/VETAWARD_2018

Category 3: European funding for excellence

European Social Fund project

The purpose of the award is to give visibility to excellent initiatives and practices co-funded by European Social Fund in the area of vocational education and training.

Erasmus+ project

The award draws attention to projects co-funded Erasmus+ which aim to implement new practices and policies improving access and attractiveness of VET to people of all ages. It aims also to raise awareness of the importance of cooperation and partnerships in VET.

Note: The National Managing Authorities of the European Social Fund and the National Erasmus+ Agencies are proposing the candidates for these awards.

Category 4: European Agencies

Cedefop VET Photo award

This competition is organised by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. It aims is to mobilise VET learners (young and adults) throughout Europe to showcase what VET means for them, and how they go about their daily VET learning experience.

Deadline for applying: 15 July 2018

To find out more:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/cedefopphotoaward-2018-deadline-approaching-dont-miss-out>

European Training Foundation (ETF) award

This award aims at promoting entrepreneurship as a key competence in VET. The competition is open to all VET providers from ETF partner countries.

More information will follow soon.

HOW WILL THE AWARDS BE ORGANISED?

Step 1: Jury

For each award a jury of independent members will be established. The various juries will each identify two nominees and indicate the respective winner.

Step 2: Public voting

For each award, from the two nominees identified by the jury, the public will be invited to choose their preferred candidate through on-line voting.

Step 3: Identifying the winner

The 2018 awards winners will be selected through a mix of votes from the jury and the general public.

AND TWO HONOURABLE MENTIONS GO TO...

EuroSkills 2018

The EuroSkills competition recognises the exceptional performance of the European initial VET learner who attained the highest points in European skills competitions.

The Entrepreneurial School Awards

These awards encourage vocational and academic schools to put more emphasis on teaching entrepreneurial skills as a way to better prepare young people for the jobs of tomorrow.

To find out more:

<http://www.jaeurope.org/education/eu-projects/40-the-entrepreneurial-school.html>

CELEBRATING VET EXCELLENCE

Award Nominees Celebration

On 8 November 2018 during an evening Award Nominees Celebration in Vienna the two best nominees (for each award) will have the chance to present their achievements to the audience.

Announcing the 2018 European Vocational Skills Week winners

The following day, on 9 November 2018, Ms Marianne Thyssen the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility will announce the winners of each award during the Closing of the European Vocational Skills Week 2018.

