

European Alliance for Apprenticeships Awards

- Call for recommendation of candidates -



Background

First introduced in 2016, the **European Alliance for Apprenticeships Awards** (EAfA Awards) aim at recognising achievements of companies, committed under the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, as well as their apprentices, for outstanding achievements in promoting apprenticeships. As a new feature in 2017, the Commission will introduce European Alliance for Apprenticeships Awards for practitioners (teachers and trainers) who have been able to support the development of apprentices in a particularly effective and innovative way.

Aim

This is a call for recommendations of **candidates to be given an EAfA award** under the following three categories:

- 1) Companies (a. Big Enterprises and b. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises¹);
- 2) Apprentices;
- 3) Practitioners (a. Teachers and b. Trainers) in apprenticeships.

The candidates must **demonstrate outstanding achievements** in the area of apprenticeships, in particular keeping in mind the focus areas of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships: the quality, the supply, the image and the mobility in apprenticeships.

Eligibility Criteria

Which companies / apprentices / practitioners can be recommended as candidates for the Awards?

- The proposed companies must be **members of the EAfA**. In the case of SMEs, it is possible for SME umbrella organisations (e.g. chambers, professional bodies, social partner organisations) to propose their member SMEs, in view of them joining the EAfA.
- The apprentices proposed must be **current or recent apprentices of companies under the EAfA**. An EAfA member company can propose its own apprentices.
- The teachers and trainers proposed must work within the apprenticeship scheme of **an EAfA member organisation**.

To see whether a company is a member of the EAfA, please refer to the web site of the EAfA: [Pledges - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission](#)

¹ SMEs as defined in the EU recommendation 2003/361: staff headcount < 250, turnover ≤ € 50 m

Award criteria

Companies (a. Big Enterprises and b. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (category 1):

We look in particular for companies who have made an outstanding performance, e.g.

- Have an excellent quality of their apprenticeships which is supported by a systematic quality assurance system, resulting in well-trained and satisfied apprentices.
- Have increased their numbers of apprentices significantly in recent years.
- Have managed to improve the image of apprenticeships in the geographic area or sector they operate in.
- Have managed to establish a close and well-functioning cooperation with the world of education and training.
- Have successfully initiated or developed mobility schemes for apprentices.
- Have made efforts to increase inclusiveness in apprenticeships, in particular through support for disabled learners.

Apprentices (category 2):

We look in particular for apprentices who have excelled during their apprentice period beyond the tasks that were expected from them, e.g.

- have contributed substantially in developing a product, service or process, etc.
- have taken up tasks that apprentices don't normally have
- have been able to improve the image of apprenticeships in an outstanding manner
- have brought in useful and innovative experiences after a training period (mobility) in a company or a vocational school abroad.

In this category we accept nominations of current and recent (graduated within two years) apprentices.

Practitioners (a. Teachers and b. Trainers) in apprenticeships (category 3):

We look in particular for practitioners (teachers and trainers involved in apprenticeships) who have striven for excellence in their work, e.g.

- created effective ways of motivating learners
- made outstanding learner achievements
- provided strong support for learners' creativity and expression
- created products or solutions for effective cooperation between apprenticeship teachers and trainers to the benefit of learners.

Recommendations for candidates in category 3: Proposals for teachers are expected in particular from **vocational training providers** and proposals for trainers are expected in particular from **companies**.

Call for Action

- **Anybody with an interest in apprenticeships can recommend** candidates in any of the 3 categories.
- Please make your recommendations via the EUSurvey link provided here:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/E3EAfAawards>
- The proposals must mention clearly the **name of the company** (and category – small or big company – in which it is proposed), the **name of the apprentice** or **the name of the teacher or the trainer** (indicating if the person proposed is a teacher or a trainer). A brief **justification** must be given which outlines clearly the merits of the proposed company, apprentice or practitioner responding to one or several of the selection criteria (see above).

Selection Procedure

The European Commission will set up and chair a selection board composed of EAfA stakeholders, but will not participate in the selection process.

Timeline

The recommendations must be submitted on **22 September 2017** at the latest.

The Awards will be given **to one big company, one SME, two apprentices, one teacher and one trainer** during the Closing Event of the second European Vocational Skills Week on 24 November 2017. The winners will be invited to participate in this event.

Contact

For any further information please contact the EAfA Team by using the functional mailbox:

EAFA-EMPL@ec.europa.eu

July 2017

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships Team