

# **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 Enterprises<sup>1</sup>);
- 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](#)

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:EAFA-EMPL@ec.europa.eu)

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The European Alliance for Apprenticeships Team