



European Alliance for Apprenticeships Awards 2022

BACKGROUND

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.

AIM

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

- 1: Companies (a. Big Enterprises and b. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises¹)
- 2: Apprentices

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

Only applications from EU Member States, EFTA and candidate countries are eligible.

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

- In the sub-category 'Big Enterprises' the proposed companies must be **members of the EAfA**.
- In the case of SMEs, either
 - o the company itself is a member of EAfA, or

- o its umbrella organization (e.g. chamber of which the company is a member of) is a member of EAfA; or
- o the nominator is representing an EAfA member.

- The apprentices proposed must be **current or recent** (graduated within two years) **apprentices of companies under the EAfA**. An EAfA member company can propose its own apprentices.

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

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 kept or even increased their numbers of apprentices during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Have made progress in relation to the learning and working conditions set out in the European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (EFQEA).
- 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.

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

- Have successfully initiated or developed innovative solutions to face the challenges emerged by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Have successfully initiated or developed innovative solutions related to green transition.
- Have made efforts to increase inclusiveness in apprenticeships, in particular through support for disabled learners.
- Regarding big companies, have a positive track record related to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and are engaged in collective bargaining. This applies as well for SMEs between 50 and 250 employees. Regarding SMEs with less than 50 employees, there should be no track of excluding relationships with existing trade unions.

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 related to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Have successfully initiated or developed innovative solutions related to green transition.

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

CALL FOR ACTION

- Anybody with an interest in apprenticeships can recommend candidates** in any of the two categories.
- The proposals must mention clearly **the name of the company** (and category – small or big company – in which it is proposed) or **the name of the apprentice**. A detailed **justification** must

be given which outlines clearly the merits of the proposed company or apprentice.

Please make your recommendations via this [online form](#).

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. The selection board will identify two big companies, two SME-s and four apprentices as nominees and indicate the respective winners. The 2022 Award winner will be selected through a mix of votes from the selection board and the general public through online voting on the European Vocational Skills Week website.

TIMELINE

The recommendations must be submitted on **13 March 2022** at the latest.

The nominees will be invited to participate in the award nominees' celebration event on **18 May 2022** in Brussels as part of the 6th European Vocational Skills Week.

CONTACT

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

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