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European Vocational Skills Week  
20-24 November 2017

# European Vocational Skills Week 2017

## Awards for VET Excellence

#EU VocationalSkills



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The award ceremony during the closing event of the first European Vocational Skills Week 2016 was one of the major highlights of the Week and showcased examples of excellence in vocational education and training (VET). A further series of awards will be given during the closing event of the second European Vocational Skills Week 2017 (on 24 November 2017) by **Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility**.

Most of the awards will be organised by entities external to the Commission, although the Commission will retain the overall management of the process, as well as the final award ceremony.

### WHY WILL AN AWARD CEREMONY BE ORGANISED?

The award ceremony will **highlight some of the best VET examples in Europe** and will also:

- 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 VET actors at all levels.

By using the awards as benchmarks, and creating a movement with its focus on excellence in VET, the initiative can reach far beyond the usual VET stakeholders and ultimately **raise the attractiveness of VET**.

### WHAT WILL AWARDS BE GIVEN FOR?

As in 2016, a number of awards will be given across various categories, either for organisations or individuals. The main aim is to showcase excellence in VET that can inspire others, and be transferable to other circumstances. The awards relate to both initial and continuing VET.

### WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?

There will be a set of **common criteria for all the awards**, to be suggested by the Commission. In addition, each award will have its own specific criteria, which will be agreed by the organisations responsible for managing that award.

**Common eligibility criteria could include the following:**

- The individual or activity proposed for an award should refer to initial VET or career-long professional learning;
- The institution applying for the award should be involved (directly or indirectly) with providing initial VET or career-long professional learning.

**Common selection criteria could include the following:**

- Illustrates excellence in VET;
- Impacts individual learners;
- Impacts organisational planning/strategy-creation;
- Demonstrates energy and commitment;
- Is capable of being replicated elsewhere;
- Demonstrates involvement of various stakeholders in the planning and/or execution;
- Makes a contribution to promoting business competitiveness, quality employment, and/or innovation in VET policy;
- Has a European dimension, and/or positively influences the environment of the locality/region.

While the common eligibility criteria should be respected in each case, it's not essential for every award to reflect all of the common selection criteria. The Commission will ensure that the common selection criteria are respected (where relevant) across all of the awards.

### HOW WILL THE AWARDS BE ORGANISED?

Management of the awards will be by the **organisations best able to undertake this role**, and will be structured as follows:

- Specific organisations/groups/entities to agree to organise an award;
- Terms of reference (including eligibility and selection criteria) and application forms to be established by the organising entity;
- Publicity and communication to be organised for each award as appropriate<sup>1</sup>, aimed at mobilising as many applications as possible;
- Suitable time for sending in the applications to be allowed (e.g. two months);
- Proposals to be accepted in writing or another format (e.g. combined with a video);
- Evaluation committee to be appointed (if appropriate);
- Eligibility and quality of the proposals to be assessed by the evaluation committee, according to the agreed criteria;
- Decisions to be taken on e.g. first, second and third places.

The Commission will offer advice where necessary, and make sure that the results are achieved according to the timetable agreed with each organising body.

Organisations that received an award in 2016 can participate again in 2017.

The Commission will ensure that adequate publicity is given to the awards.

<sup>1</sup> For some awards, the applications are restricted to members of certain organisations.



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## WHAT ARE THE AWARD CATEGORIES?

CATEGORY	SHORT DESCRIPTION
<b>International Skills Competitions Awards – European winner</b>	This category recognises the exceptional performance of the European initial VET learner who achieved the highest number of points in the International Skills Competitions (Eurosills or Worldskills).
<b>Cedefop VET Photo Award</b>	<p>This competition is organised by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop). It is for VET learners – young and adult – in the EU and is open to groups of up to three. The competition includes two awards for the best series of photos, which should tell a story and be supported by a short narrative. The purpose of the competition is to mobilise VET learners throughout Europe to showcase what VET means for them, and how they go about their daily VET learning experience. It is to illustrate learners' collective experiences. Examples could be a group of learners in a VET institution presenting a project they have developed, photos of a mobility experience abroad as part of their VET training, or photo stories in which learners show why VET is their choice or how VET has influenced their professional life.</p> <p>The competition starts on 24 April 2017 and ends on 15 July 2017.  <a href="http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/cedefopphotoaward-back-take-part-win-amazing-prizes">http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/cedefopphotoaward-back-take-part-win-amazing-prizes</a></p>
<b>ETF Torino Process Award for Entrepreneurship</b>	<p>For this award, the European Training Foundation (ETF) will launch a call for good practice in promoting entrepreneurship as a key competence in VET. The competition is open to all VET providers from ETF partner countries. ETF entrepreneurship experts will review all submissions against two criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning outcomes for the entrepreneurship key competence in VET;</li> <li>• Innovative approaches to teaching and learning in this competence area.</li> </ul> <p>The competition is open until 20 September 2017.  <a href="http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Torino_Process_Award:_Entrepreneurship_as_a_Key_Compentence_EN">http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/pages/Torino_Process_Award:_Entrepreneurship_as_a_Key_Compentence_EN</a></p>
<b>Innovative VET Provider Award</b>	This award aims to identify a European provider of VET that has contributed to VET excellence through innovative practices, in cooperation with the expert group 'Platform of European Associations of VET Providers'.
<b>VET Research Award</b>	This award aims to reward an outstanding VET research project, or an individual researcher who has made an outstanding contribution to innovative thinking in VET.
<b>EAFA Award</b>	<p>This award aims to identify excellent contributions made to the supply, quality, image and mobility of apprenticeships within the 'European Alliance for Apprenticeships'. It comprises three sub-categories of awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two companies: (a) one large company, b) one small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) (either through direct pledge or via an intermediary body or supply chain);</li> <li>• Two apprentices (if possible, male and female);</li> <li>• A VET teacher and a VET trainer who have excelled in improving the VET learning experience or who have contributed to innovative approaches to learning.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning at Work Award</b>	This award aims to reward organisations that promote career-long professional learning in micro and small companies and to inspire new practices and policies.