



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING **EXCELLENCE AWARDS** **2016-2022**

EUROPEAN **VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK**



*Employment,
Social Affairs
and Inclusion*





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EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK



WELCOME

BY NICOLAS SCHMIT, EU COMMISSIONER FOR JOBS AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

I invite you to leaf through the first **6 editions (2016-2022)** of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Excellence Awards, to discover or remember all the highlights through the years of this celebration that showcases outstanding practices in the VET community.

The Awards were created in 2016 by the European Commission in the context of the [European Skills Agenda](#). As part of the [European Vocational Skills Week](#), they have become a flagship event paying homage to inspirational VET learners, teachers, organisations, companies, and schools from across multiple regions of Europe and partner countries.

Each edition, much like the Week itself, informed a wider audience of the many ways in which VET can empower people by helping them obtain the practical skills in demand on the labour market and especially in the green and digital transition. This offers multiple choices towards a more fulfilling professional and ultimately personal life.

By informing people of the opportunities VET provides, the initiative aims to ensure social fairness and contribute to making the first principle of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) on equal access to quality and inclusive education, training, and lifelong learning a reality on the ground.

I take this opportunity to thank all the VET community that have made the VET Excellence Awards' celebration a success through the years.

THROUGH THE YEARS

THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND TRAINING (VET)
EXCELLENCE AWARDS



2016

2017

2018



2020

2022

2019

Celebrating the first 6 editions of the VET **Excellence Awards**, this album provides a snapshot of the highlights of the flagship VET event that takes place in the context of the European Vocational Skills Week.

Since their launch, the Awards have seen many changes, reflecting the changing nature of VET and society, such as in 2018 when the Awards voting went online to facilitate more public involvement, or later in 2020 when the Covid pandemic struck and the Awards ceremony itself, alongside the Week, had to be held online, as was the 2022 edition.



WHY VET EXCELLENCE AWARDS?

The Awards aim to **highlight best practices** in VET all over Europe by recognising VET Excellence practitioners for their **talent, passion, and commitment**, and, in so doing, **inspire** others to follow in their footsteps.

Since their inception in 2016, the VET Excellence Awards have become a real focal point for the VET industry, fostering closer cooperation and the exchange of ideas as academia, industry, and policymakers, as well as the European Commission gather to recognise best practices.

Several of the awards are organised by external entities; however, the Commission consistently oversees the management of the process and the final Awards ceremony.

Each year usually features a guest of honour, who is not part of the online voting but has won an international skills event, such as the EuroSkills event organised by WorldSkills Europe.

Some years also feature Special Mentions, such as in 2022 when Ukraine was recognised for its participation in the GRETA project and for reforming its education and training systems, working alongside the European Training Foundation.

Through the years, the VET Excellence Awards have succeeded not just in recognising excellence in VET, but also in showcasing the attractiveness of VET to a wider audience – one of the aims of the **European Vocational Skills Week**.

Particularly in times of change, VET offers alternatives for all those who seek to reskill, upskill, or change their life and career direction, providing varied choices for a more fulfilling professional and social life.



WHO IS AWARDED?

The Awards showcase excellent practices among **VET stakeholders** – including **teachers, students, schools, companies, organisations and other VET-related practitioners.**





WHAT ARE THE AWARD CATEGORIES?

There are several award categories with subcategories reflecting the diversity of providers and VET learners. However, these categories vary depending on the year, as do the number of nominees and winners. In case of *ex aequo* results, there are three pre-selected candidates.

Companies and Learners awards

These awards aim to give visibility to good practices for career-long professional learning in enterprises, as well as to apprentices and companies under the [European Alliance for Apprenticeships \(EAfA\)](#).

VET Innovators

- **Innovative VET Provider** aims to identify a European VET provider that has contributed to VET excellence through innovative practices. It is organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the expert group [Platform of European Associations of VET Providers](#).
- **VET Researcher** aims to award researchers who are making an outstanding contribution to VET research in a specific field, which varies depending on the year.
- **The Entrepreneurial School Award (TES), Junior Achievement (JA) Europe** aims to 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. The European Commission has invited JA Europe to participate in the TES Awards by recognising outstanding VET secondary schools.

European Funding for Excellence in VET

- [European Social Fund \(ESF/ESF+\)](#) awarded projects aim to give visibility to excellent ESF practices in the areas of VET and skills development that make people more competitive in the labour market while ensuring fairness. Each year the award has a different thematic focus. This is a closed competition managed by the European Commission in cooperation with the Managing Authorities of the European Social Fund.
- [Erasmus+](#) awards draw public attention to the Erasmus+ programme's success stories within projects focusing on particular themes. This is a closed competition managed by the European Commission in cooperation with the Erasmus+ National Agencies.

European Agencies Awards

- [#CedefopPhotoAward](#) aims to mobilise VET learners to showcase what VET means to them through a series of photos and/or video. Teams of vocational learners from across Europe take part with a photo story and/or a video clip, sharing their stories on the theme for that specific year. The two winning photo stories are then put to an online public vote for the top prize, which is announced at the VET Excellence Awards ceremony.
- [The European Training Foundation \(ETF\)](#) showcases examples of excellent VET practices on different themes, depending on the year. The aim is to provide policymakers and practitioners in the EU neighbourhood and beyond with inspiration and ideas for VET.

EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK

2022

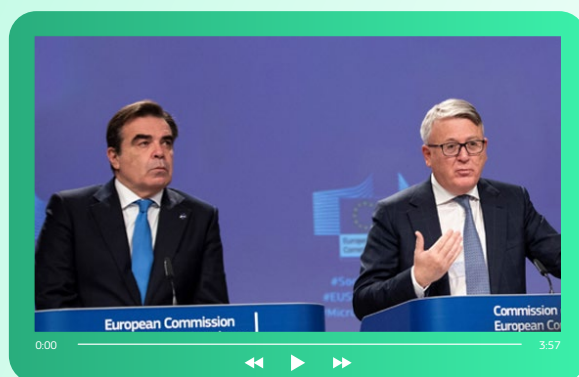
**AWARD WINNERS
& RUNNERS UP**

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2022

Celebrating excellent practices in VET for a 6th edition, the 2022 Awards recognised a variety of stakeholders from learners to teachers and trainers, companies, organisations, and others linked to VET.

The European Commission organised the flagship event, held online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The celebratory virtual Awards ceremony was an opportunity to highlight the nominees' remarkable achievements and showcase their unique talents. European Commission Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life **Margaritis Schinas** alongside EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights **Nicolas Schmit** announced most of the Award winners. The director of Cedefop Jurgen Siebel and ETF director Xavier Matheu announced the respective winners for their awards. The Awards ceremony was held on 18 May during the 2022 European Vocational Skills Week. The 2022 Week's edition (16-20 May 2022) had a particular focus on the theme **VET & the Green Transition**, reflecting the European Commission's priorities for a **European Green Deal** towards a climate-neutral Europe by 2050, while showcasing the skills needed for the green transition.



Watch the VET Excellence Awards 2022

[Watch video](#)

Artistic performance: 'Respiro', performed by students from the [Conservatoire de la Danse de Bruxelles](#), Terra Incognita, choreography by Ines Cera. Dancers: Amélie Henry-Biabaud, Emilia Barresi, Shaolin Georges, Carola Talarico, Elodie Brouhier, Alonso Nieto Diez, and Sergio Perez Aguiar.

COMPANIES AND LEARNERS AWARDS

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS (EAFA) AWARDS – APPRENTICE

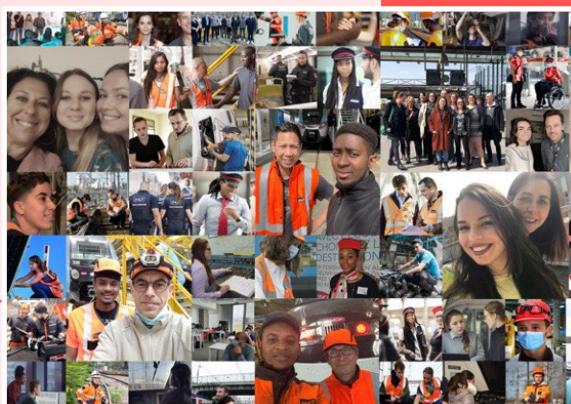


WINNER: Evangelos Pouftas, Kotoula Pol. Anastasia
Greece



RUNNER UP: María Ángeles Martínez Caballero, IDEA - Alzira City Council
Spain

EAFA AWARDS – LARGE COMPANY



RUNNER UP: SNCF
France



WINNER: ÖBB Infrastruktur AG
Austria

EAFA AWARDS – SME



RUNNER UP: Moorheilbad Harbach
Betrieb GmbH
Austria



WINNER: Otto Stöckl Elektroinstallationen GmbH
Austria

TRAINING AT WORK



WINNER: Virtual Dawn
Finland



RUNNER UP: Zora Robotics NV
Belgium

VET INNOVATORS AWARDS

INNOVATIVE VET PROVIDER AWARD



WINNER: IVT AKMI S.A.
Greece



**RUNNER UP: Ankara Cezeri Green
Technology Vocational and Technical
Anatolian High School**
Turkey



**RUNNER UP: Professor Emeritus
J.M Pieters, University of Twente**
the Netherlands

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHOOL - TES, JA EUROPE AWARD



RUNNER UP: Laboratory of Special Vocational Education of Agios Dimitrios (EEEEK of Agios Dimitrios)
Greece



WINNER: Vocational Education Competence Centre
Riga State Technical School
Latvia

VET RESEARCHERS AWARD



WINNER: Professor Linda Clarke, University of Westminster
United Kingdom

EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE IN VET AWARD

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PLUS (ESF/ESF+) AWARD



WINNER: Training of food production operators,
Piedmont Region
Italy



RUNNER UP: J.O.B Vert - Jeunes
Orientés Bio et métiers verts,
La Bourrache
Belgium

ERASMUS+, INNOVATIVE CURRICULA FOR THE GREEN TRANSITION AWARD



WINNER: Veteran Tree Management Skills Certification (VETcert),
Stiftelsen Pro Natura
Sweden



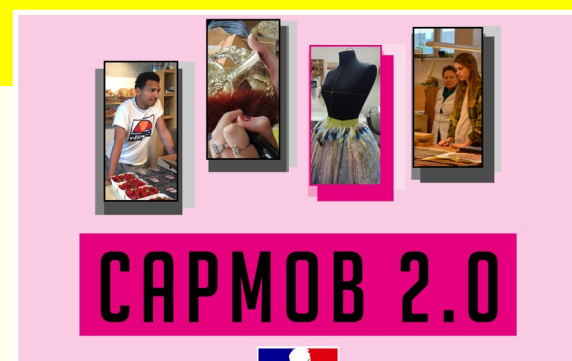
RUNNER UP: Training for sustainable food
systems development (T4F), For Solidarity
(Pour la Solidarité ASBL)
Belgium

EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE IN VET AWARD

ERASMUS+, LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE COMING FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS AWARD



WINNER: “Working for inclusion and equal opportunities for the most disadvantaged”, ALMI BILBAO SAL
Spain, with the participation of MT & PT



RUNNER UP: “CAPMOB 2.0”,
GIP FCIP DE PARIS, Academic
centre for continuing education
France (CAFOC) Paris, with the
participation of DE, IT, PT and UK



RUNNER UP: “Developing professional competencies through the acquisition of work experience,” Toldi Miklós Vocational High School and College for the Food Industry (Toldi Miklós Élelmiszeripari Szakgimnázium, Szakközépiskola és Kollégium)
Hungary with the participation of DE

EUROPEAN AGENCIES AWARDS

#CedefopPhotoAward, "YOUR GREEN OR DIGITAL SKILLS STORY"



WINNER: Cyclades - The 5th Evening Vocational High School of Patras
Greece



RUNNER UP: ClimateMakeUp - Ramón
y Cajal Institute of Secondary
Education (Instituto de educación
secundaria Ramón y Cajal)
Spain

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF) GREEN SKILLS AWARD



RUNNER UP: The city
of my dreams
Albania



WINNER: Environmental and Agricultural Education in School
Georgia

GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE VET EXCELLENCE AWARDS

EuroSkills – International Skills competitions

Fashion Technology Team

Laura Tschiltsch and Christina Strauß, Austria

Special Mention

Project: **GRETA**

Country: **18 centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs) in eight countries are part of the GRETA initiative: Armenia (1), Georgia (1), Latvia (1), Serbia (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (2), Turkey (3), and Ukraine (8).**

In addition to the prizes in the different categories, a special mention went to Ukrainian partners who, along with the **European Training Foundation**, have been reforming their education and training systems, focusing on qualifications, the future of skills in key economic sectors, and governance arrangements to modernise the system and to bring it closer to the system in the EU.





Fashion Technology Team

EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK

2020 AWARD WINNERS & RUNNERS UP

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

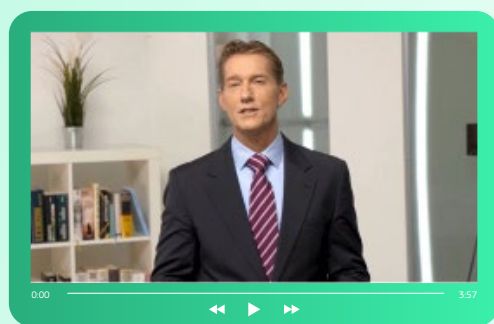
EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2020

Organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the 5th edition of the Awards once more celebrated outstanding VET practices, modelling excellence and inspiring the whole community.

EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights **Nicolas Schmit** revealed the names of the Award winners during the virtual ceremony, which seamlessly brought together stakeholders from around Europe and beyond.

The flagship Awards ceremony, alongside the rest of the Week's events (9-13 November 2020), was held online due to pandemic-related restrictions that did not allow the hosting of the event in Berlin, Germany as originally planned.

The Awards' focus was on the theme of the 2020 European Vocational Skills Week **VET for Green and Digital Transitions**, in line with the Commission's priorities for a climate-neutral Europe as outlined in the [European Green Deal](#) and [A Europe fit for the digital age](#).



Watch the VET Excellence Awards 2020

[Watch video](#)

Artistic performance: [‘Together we make a better world,’ sung by former teachers](#) and written especially for the 2020 Week

COMPANIES AND LEARNERS AWARDS

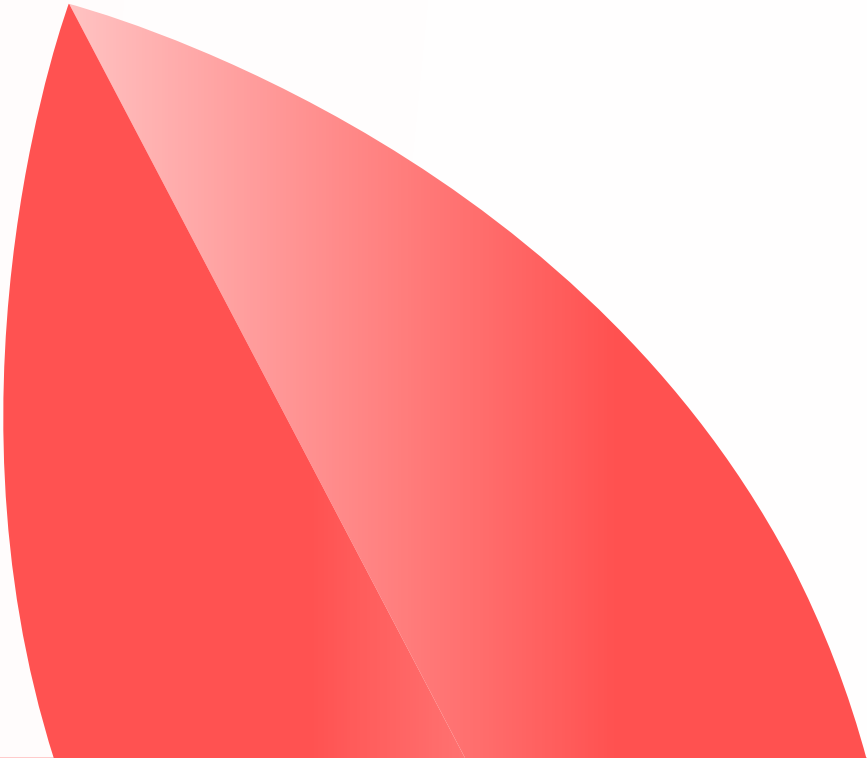
TRAINING AT WORK



WINNER: Magnetic MRO AS (company) and Kevin Parras (learner)
Estonia



RUNNER UP: Borçelik Technical
Academy (company) and Gözde Yiğit
(learner)
Turkey



VET INNOVATORS AWARDS

INNOVATIVE VET PROVIDER AWARD



WINNER: Biotechnical Educational Centre
Ljubljana (BIC Ljubljana)
Slovenia



RUNNER UP: SASKY, Municipal
Education and Training Consortium
Finland

VET TEACHER AND TRAINER AWARD

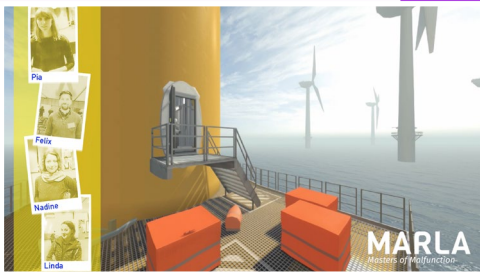


RUNNER UP: Alina Mirela Popa
Romania



WINNER: Vitalij Kabelis
Lithuania

VET RESEARCHER AWARD



RUNNER UP: Team Dr Pia Spangenberg
(MARLA Research Team), Technische
Universität Berlin, Institute of Vocational
Education and Work Studies
Germany



WINNER: Team Prof. Raija Hämäläinen, University of
Jyväskylä, Faculty of Education and Psychology
Finland

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHOOL (TES) AWARD, JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA) EUROPE



WINNER: Higher College for Engineering Wolfsberg (HTL Wolfsberg)
Austria



RUNNER UP:
Lycée Technique Agricole
Ettelbruck (LTA)
Luxembourg

EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE IN VET AWARD

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AWARD



WINNER: 'Green Leather Manager', Regione del Veneto - Area Capitale Umano, Cultura e Programmazione comunitaria
Italy



RUNNER UP: 'Career Guidance in General and Vocational Education Institutions', State Education Development Agency (VIAA)
Latvia

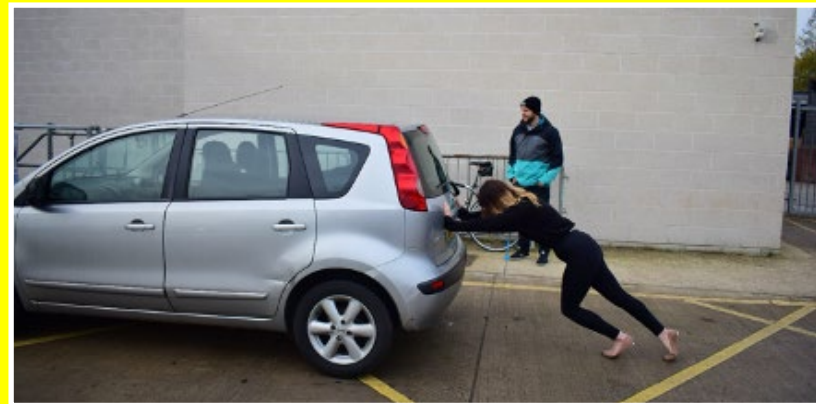


RUNNER UP: Exploring Blended Learning approaches for VET, Belfast Metropolitan College
United Kingdom, Partner countries: EE, EI, ES and NL

ERASMUS+ GREEN DIMENSION AWARD



RUNNER UP: 'Forest4life',
IIS G Baruffi
Italy



WINNER: 'Energy Efficiency in Operation',
Staatliche Technikerschule Mindelheim
Germany

ERASMUS+ DISTANCE LEARNING AWARD



WINNER: BLESABEE – 'Innovative Blended Learning Toolkit
for the Safe Pest Management of Honeybees', Stredna
Odborna Skola
Slovakia



RUNNER UP: 'Reconstruction
of Existing Buildings into
Energy-Efficient Ones', Sofia High
School of Construction, Architecture
and Geodesy Hristo Botev
Bulgaria

EUROPEAN AGENCIES AWARDS

#CedefopPhotoAward

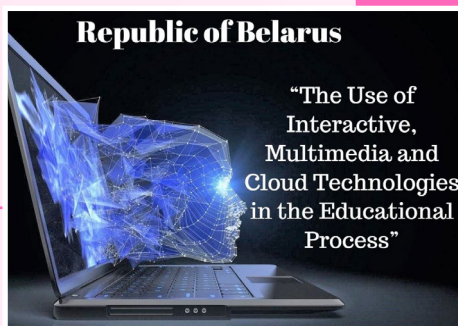


WINNER: 'Digital & Green Waves', 2nd VET
School of Thessaloniki
Greece



RUNNER UP: 'Dream, Work Hard and Reach
the Sky', Niepubliczne Technikum
Poland

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF) – ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD



RUNNER UP: Republican
Institute for Vocational
Education (RIPO)
Belarus



WINNER: Centre of Excellence in Construction
Moldova

2020 SPECIAL AWARDS FOR DISTANCE AND E-LEARNING SOLUTIONS



Bursa Coşkunöz Education Foundation
Turkey



Institut des Sciences et Techniques de Réadaptation
(University Institute for Sciences and Techniques
for Rehabilitation) (ISTR), Lyon University
France

These special awards were created in recognition of the urgent switch to online teaching at VET schools on account of the pandemic

GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE VET EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Skills Heroes, Austria (five former Gold Medal winners WorldSkills/EuroSkills):

Melanie Seidl, Birgit Haberschrack, Lisa Janisch, Manfred Zink and Fabian Gwiggner



The background is a light green color with two large, curved, overlapping shapes in a darker shade of green. One shape is in the top right corner, and the other is in the bottom left corner, creating a sense of depth and movement.

2019

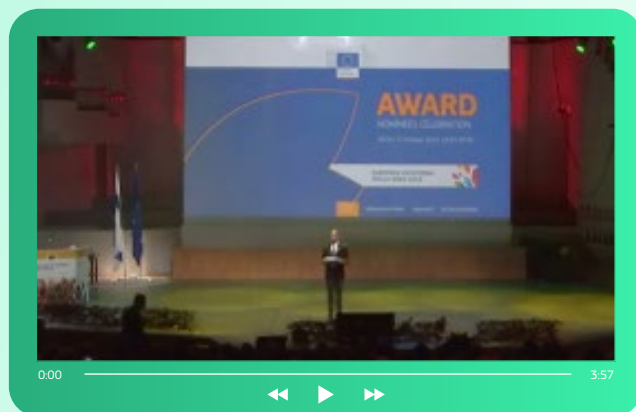
**AWARD WINNERS
& RUNNERS UP**

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019

The 4th edition of the VET Excellence Awards took place in Helsinki, Finland during the European Vocational Skills Week, held 14-18 October 2019. It was organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, officiated at the Awards Ceremony. The 4th Week focused on the theme **VET for All, Skills for Life** celebrating the wonderful benefits of VET for all ages.



Watch the VET Excellence Awards 2019

[Watch video](#)

Artistic performance by jazz trio: [Pop and Jazz Conservatory, Helsinki, Finland](#), [SaSak/Salpaus Circus Artist Education, Finland](#), and [SAKU Stars, Finland](#)

COMPANIES AND LEARNERS AWARDS

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS (EAFA) AWARDS – APPRENTICE



WINNER: Samuel Gilmore, from Mark Pollock Joinery (Company)
Northern Ireland, UK



RUNNER UP: Kimberley Yvard,
from L'Alsacien (Restaurant)
France

EAFA AWARDS – LARGE COMPANY



RUNNER UP: BASF Española S.L.
Spain



WINNER: Hidromek AŞ
Turkey

EAFA AWARDS – SME



RUNNER UP: AROL SpA
Italy



WINNER: Limerick Strand Hotel
Ireland

TRAINING AT WORK



WINNER: Hot & Cold Therm Kft (company) and Istvan Györe (learner)
Hungary



RUNNER UP:
Chadwicks Plumb Centre
and Lauren Doyle
Ireland

VET INNOVATORS AWARDS

INNOVATIVE VET PROVIDER AWARD



WINNER: Akademie Deutsches Bäckerhandwerk Weinheim e.V.
Germany



RUNNER UP: Technobel
Belgium

VET TEACHER AND TRAINER AWARD



RUNNER UP: Josef Karaconji
Serbia



WINNER: Markku Vengasaho, Edusampo
Finland

VET RESEARCHER AWARD



RUNNER UP: Prof. Paolo Federighi
Italy



WINNER: Intergenerational team of researchers,
Fernando Marhuenda-Fluixá
Spain

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHOOL (TES) AWARD, JA EUROPE



WINNER: Gradia Vocational Institute
Finland



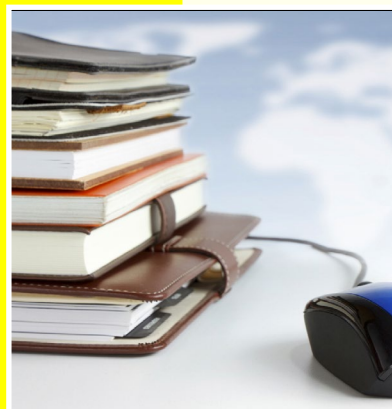
RUNNER UP: Professional Technical
High School N. Y. Vaptsarov
Bulgaria

EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE IN VET AWARD

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (DIGITALISATION/TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE)



WINNER: Empleado digital, Belén Sánchez-Rubio & Carmen Cárdenas
Spain



RUNNER UP: GetReskilled and
the Technological University Dublin
Ireland



RUNNER UP: MENTEE – ‘Mentoring, Networking and Training for European Entrepreneurs’
7 partners from 5 EU countries (Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal and the UK)

ERASMUS+ (SOCIAL INCLUSION)



RUNNER UP: GastroINKLUSIV
– ‘Neue Modelle für inklusiven
Fachunterricht an der Berufsschule’
*11 partner institutions from 3 EU
countries (Germany, Italy and Austria)*



WINNER: ‘New didactical models for initial VET training of young,
disadvantaged persons to reduce drop out’, Maria-Luise Leitner
Austria

ERASMUS+ (VET AND SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE)



WINNER: Skills 4 Work – ‘Developing Work Based
Learning Model for VET’
Ireland, the UK, Germany and Slovenia



RUNNER UP: TIME – ‘Train
Intercultural Mediators
for a Multicultural Europe’
*Partner countries: AU, BE, DE,
EL, PO & PT*

EUROPEAN AGENCIES AWARDS

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF) AWARD – ENTREPRENEURSHIP



WINNER: University of Alexandria - Essam A. Elkordi
Egypt



RUNNER UP: Education Hub,
Gulnara Ismailova
Azerbaijan

#CedefopPhotoAward



RUNNER UP: Ekonomska
i turistička škola Daruvar
Croatia



WINNER: Ortweinschule Graz, College of Engineering, Art
and Design and Institute for Research and Technology
Austria

EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK

2018 AWARD WINNERS & RUNNERS UP

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2018

The 3rd edition of the VET Excellence Awards was held during the European Vocational Skills Week (5-9 November 2018) in Vienna. It was organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, officiated at the Awards, which celebrated a wide range of stakeholders from across Europe.



[Watch](#) an interview with one of the 2018 award winners

Artistic performance by school band: BISOP Bundesinstitut für Sozialpädagogik, Austria,
Black-light Theater: **Bildungsanstalt für Elementarpädagogik De La Salle**, in Strebersdorf,
Austria, Secondary vocational college for nursery school teachers BAfEP DE La Salle, Austria

COMPANIES AND LEARNERS AWARDS

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS (EAFA) AWARDS – APPRENTICE

WINNER: **Domenico Calabrese**
Italy

RUNNER UP: **Rachel Carson**
Northern Ireland, UK

EAFA AWARDS – LARGE COMPANY

WINNER: **ESB Networks DAC**
Ireland

RUNNER UP: **EVN Macedonia**
North Macedonia

EAFA AWARDS – SME

WINNER: **Atelier du Pain**
France

RUNNER UP: **Stuck Belz**
Germany

TRAINING AT WORK

WINNER: **Human Partner Sp. z o.o.
and Joanna Kamola**
Poland

RUNNER UP: **Hot & Cold Therm Kft and
István Csécs**
Hungary

INNOVATIVE VET PROVIDER AWARD

WINNER: Xabec Vocational Training Centre
Spain

RUNNER UP: Institute for Technology and Quality (ISQ)
Portugal

Special mention in the context of the European Year of Cultural Heritage

Compagnons du Devoir et du Tour de France, France

The 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage put the spotlight on Europe's wealth of cultural heritage, showcasing its role in fostering a shared sense of identity and building the future of Europe.

TEACHER AND TRAINER AWARD

WINNER: Joanna
Żebrowska, School No. 7
Poland

RUNNER UP: Noemi Ráczová,
School of Applied Arts Košice
Slovakia

VET RESEARCH AWARD

WINNER: Professor Tobias Ley, Tallinn University,
School of Educational Sciences
Estonia: Learning Layers

RUNNER UP: Professor Petri Nokelainen, Tampere
University of Technology
Finland: Modelling Vocational Excellence

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA) EUROPE AWARD

WINNER: Marmatia Technological High School, Ona
Mihaela Simona
Romania

EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR EXCELLENCE IN VET AWARD

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AWARD

WINNER: 'Closer to the Labour Market 2',
Opolskie Voivodeship
Poland

RUNNER UP: AAVA – 'A Clear Route to a Profession'
Finland

ERASMUS+ AWARD

WINNER: 'Mobile Learning in VET towards 2020',
Scuola Centrale di Formazione (SCF), Venezia Mestre
Italy

RUNNER UP: 'European Business Baccaureate Diploma
for All (EBBD+)', Helsinki Business College
Finland

#CedefopPhotoAward

WINNER: C. Force team, Bem József Technical
Secondary and Vocational School
Hungary

RUNNER UP: ThisIsMe team, Institute of Higher
Education Einstein Nebbia Loreto
Italy

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF) AWARD – ENTREPRENEURSHIP

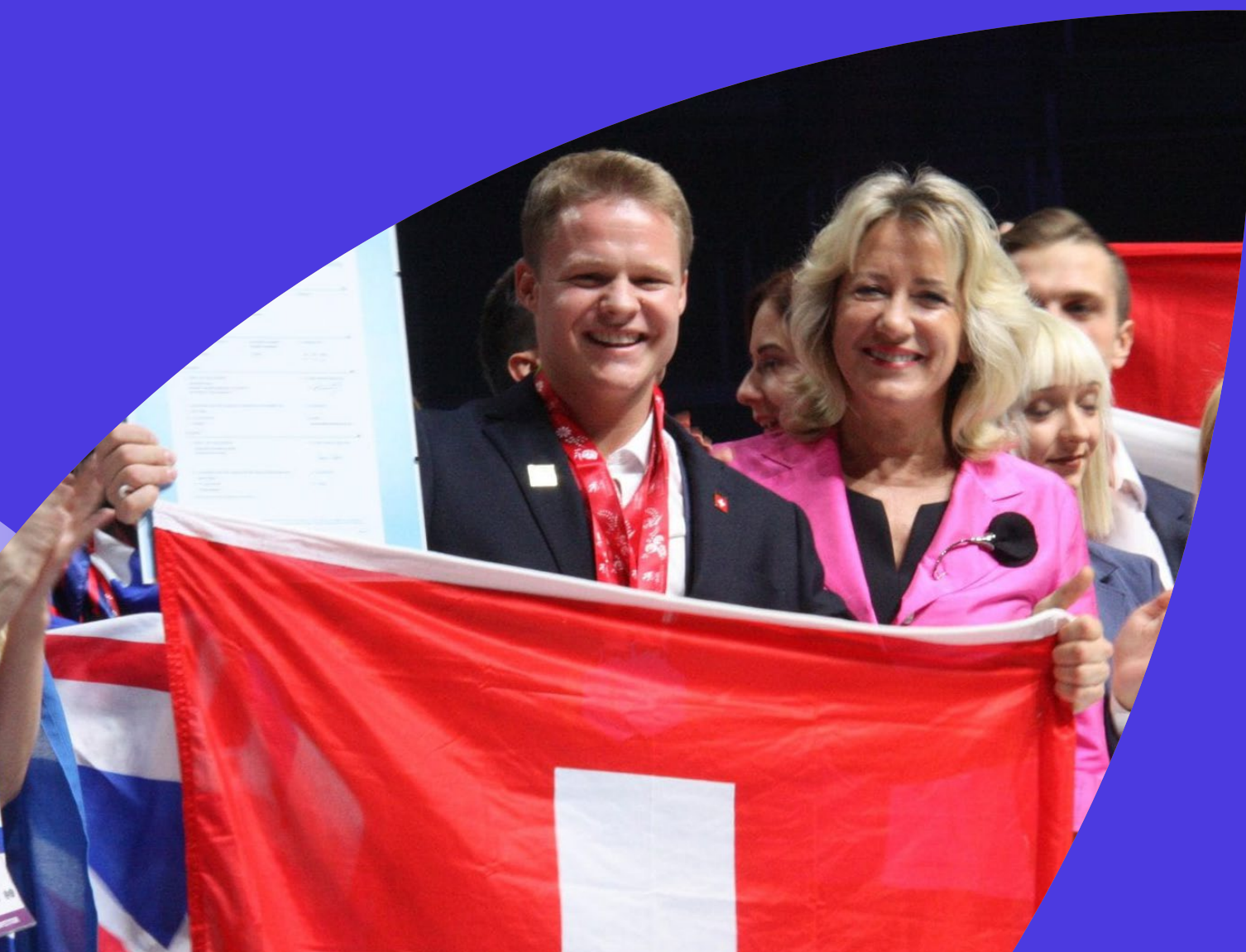
WINNER: School of Chemical Technology
Serbia

GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE VET EXCELLENCE AWARDS

EuroSkills 2018, International Skills Competition Winner

Daniel Gerber, Skills of Electrical Installation
Switzerland





EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK

2017 AWARD WINNERS

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

Building on the success of the 1st edition in 2016, the 2nd edition of the European Vocational Skills Week (the Week) returned triumphantly on 20-24 November 2017, organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As in the previous year, the 2017 Awards and the Week overall aimed at raising the profile of VET as a smart career choice that increases employability and leads to high-quality jobs and personal satisfaction.

Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills, and Labour Mobility, officiated at the Awards, which celebrated a wide range of VET stakeholders. The event took place during the Week in Brussels with parallel activities in Member States, [European Free Trade Association \(EFTA\)](#) and EU candidate countries at national, regional, and local levels.

The 2017 Week focused, in particular, on VET mobility, opportunities provided by developing skills in particular sectors, as well as the promotion of business-education partnerships in VET.

Artistic performance: [Kunsthumaniora Lemmensinstituut, Leuven, Belgium](#)

2017 AWARD WINNERS

#CedefopPhotoAward VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

'Tell your story', Irena Masandavičiūtė, Edita Aleksandravičienė,
Lina Mišeikienė and Svajūnas Pranaitis
Lithuania

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF) TORINO PROCESS AWARD, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A KEY COMPETENCE

Palestine Polytechnic University
Palestine

INNOVATIVE VET PROVIDER AWARD

ROC Da Vinci College
the Netherlands

GUEST OF HONOUR

Thomas Tutzer
Italy
World Skills Abu Dhabi 2017, Winner (Cooking)

UCL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION VET RESEARCH AWARD

Professor Karen Evans

TRAINING AT WORK AWARD

Dublin Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board for the Skills for Work Programme
Ireland

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS (EAFA) AWARDS

LARGE COMPANY: Enel

SME: Schleiff Bauflächentechnik GmbH & Co

MICRO-ENTERPRISE: Drury Joinery Services Ltd

APPRENTICE: Hannah Colston, member of EAN

PRACTITIONER IN APPRENTICESHIP Teacher: Angeliki Filippidou, Trainer: Véronique Morelle

EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL
SKILLS WEEK

2016 AWARD WINNERS

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2016

The 1st edition of the Awards was held during the first European Vocational Skills Week (the Week, 5-9 December 2016), with events in Brussels and parallel activities in Member States, [European Free Trade Association \(EFTA\)](#), and EU candidate countries at national, regional, and local levels.

Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills, and Labour Mobility, officiated at the Awards which were organised, alongside the rest of the Week, by the European Commission in cooperation with the Slovakian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and established themselves as the flagship VET event for the community.

In her closing speech, **Commissioner Thyssen** emphasised the dedication and shared effort put in by Member States, regions, VET providers, teachers, learners, the inspiring ambassadors, and businesses to make the first European Vocational Skills Week a success. She also pointed out that making VET a first choice is one of the 10 key actions of the European Commission's [Skills Agenda for Europe](#).

The Awards saw practitioners and students, policymakers, and industry stakeholders come together to celebrate and showcase best practices. Overall, the debut Week covered a variety of themes from adult learning and reskilling to youth employment, VET's contribution to competitiveness and jobs, apprenticeships and mobility, businesses and VET, all the way to improving quality assurance in VET.

Artistic performance: [Kunsthumaniora, Brussels, Belgium](#), Secondary school for the performing arts.

2016 AWARD WINNERS

YOUTH IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARD, CEDEFOP VIDEO AND PHOTO COMPETITION 2016 (2 AWARDS)

Nico Conti

Malta

Raquel Pereira Sousa Pinto

Portugal

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF) GOOD PRACTICE IN THE AREA OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING AWARD

Smadar Or, ORT Technology & Science Educational Network

Israel

INNOVATIVE VET PROVIDER AWARD

Optima Samkommun

Finland

GUEST OF HONOUR EUROSKILLS 2016 WINNER, THE BEST OF EUROPE AWARD

Lisa Janisch

Austria

EUROPEAN RESEARCHER AWARD, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Dr Martin Mulder, Wageningen University and Research
the Netherlands

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS (EAFA) AWARDS - COMPANY

Petronor
Spain

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS AWARDS - APPRENTICE

Megan Niven
Nielsen (UK)

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS AWARDS – APPRENTICE

Lewis Churchill
IBM Europe



The background is a solid teal color. There are two large, abstract, curved shapes that appear to be overlapping or layered. One is in the top right corner, and the other is in the bottom left corner. Both shapes have a gradient from a lighter teal to a darker teal, giving them a 3D effect.

QUOTES THROUGH THE YEARS

Austria

'It is an honour to have won the award and we hope that we can inspire many more companies for apprenticeship training and special CSR projects. We will try to continue offering excellent training to young people.'

Alina Wuzella from Otto Stöckl Elektroinstallationen GmbH, 2022 winner of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships awards – SMEs.

Austria

'I look forward to continue exploring inspiring new approaches with you in the future, so that together we can promote a diverse teaching and learning culture at ÖBB Infrastruktur AG.'

Stephan Baufeld from ÖBB Infrastruktur AG, 2022 winner of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships awards – Large companies.

Greece

'This acknowledgement of my efforts teaches me that I should never give up pursuing my dreams.'

Evangelos Pouftas, apprentice at Kotoula Pol. Anastasia, 2022 winner of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships awards – Apprentices.

Greece

'Being awarded, we feel that our long-standing efforts have been recognised while we would like to amplify the message that "innovation and passion can create attractive, adaptive, and resilient VET Environments with equal employment opportunities for all."

Konstantinos Rodopoulos, chairman of IVT AKMI SA, 2022 winner of the Innovative VET provider award, part of the VET Innovators award category.

Finland

'The recognition means to us that we are not alone, and we belong in the community of people and institutions who want us all to be able to express ourselves, create and learn.'

Antti Martikainen from Virtual Dawn, Finland, 2022 winner of the Training at Work award.

Latvia

'We are proud and very pleased with this success. It is a very high appreciation of our joint work and our vision not only in the development of entrepreneurial skills, but also in the identification of the goals set in the topicalities of climate neutrality.'

Laimrota Surska from the Vocational Education Competence Centre Riga State Technical School, Riga, Latvia, 2022 winner of The Entrepreneurial School – TES, JA Europe award, part of the VET Innovators award category.

Italy

'This award represents for us a bridge toward the future to continue, through vocational and training schools, the commitment to be with young people and adults in training, job placement, research and development, for a more peaceful life and a more just and supportive society.'

Silvana Rasello, director of CIOFS-FP Piemonte, Training of Food Production Operators, Piedmont Region, Italy, 2022 winner of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF/ESF+) award, part of the European Funding for Excellence in VET category.

Sweden

'It is an honour, and we hope that the win will raise our profile further and help us continue to spread the VETcert certification scheme to more countries. It also helps raise the profile of the importance of old trees and the biodiversity they support across Europe.'

Vikki Bengtsson, Veteran Tree Management Skills Certification (VETCert), from Stiftelsen Pro Natura, Sweden, 2022 winner of the Erasmus+, Innovative curricula for the green transition award, part of the European Funding for Excellence in VET category.



Spain

'We are all really grateful we have been chosen as the winner for this category. This will give us strength and motivation to keep on with our mission and values.'

Unai Sinde Villalba, Working for Inclusion and Equal Opportunities for the Most Disadvantaged project, from ALMI BILBAO SAL, Spain, with the participation of MT and PT, 2022 winner of the Erasmus+, Learning opportunities for young people coming from disadvantaged backgrounds award, part of the European Funding for Excellence in VET awards category.

United Kingdom

'It is great to receive this recognition of the value of the research I have been involved in with our ProBE research centre team at the University of Westminster over many years, seeking to improve vocational education and training across Europe and hence provide a means to enhance the quality and empowerment of labour.'

Professor Linda Clarke, University of Westminster, UK, 2022 winner of the VET Researchers award, part of the VET Innovators award category.

Greece

'This victory and recognition mean so much! My students are happy with the green-related skills they have developed and very proud to promote Greece and its culture. But the ultimate goal of our participation in this competition is to send a strong message for the protection of the environment. We hope that this project is our way to make Vocational Education and Training a choice of excellence in an environment that respects the planet!'

Konstantina Patsialou, discussing the photo Cyclades, created by the 5th Evening Vocational High School of Patras, Greece, 2022 winner of the #CedefopPhotoAward, 'Your green or digital skills story,' part of the European Agencies award category.

Georgia

'The whole group of the Environmental Information and Education Centre is excited and extremely happy on winning the VET Excellence Award-2022! This award definitely is a great honour for the whole of Georgia. Since it's the first international award that has been won by our centre, it gives us great motivation to continue our activity with new energy and dedication. Thank you for your appreciation!'

Tamar Aladashvili, director of the Environmental Information and Education Centre at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, recognised for the programme Environmental and Agricultural Education in School, Georgia, 2022 winner of the European Training Foundation (ETF) Green Skills award, in the European Agencies award category.

Germany

'Our approach is to turn the students into teachers...and let them pass on their knowledge on renewables and energy efficiency.'

Karl Geller from the Staatliche Technikerschule Mindelheim, Germany, 2020 Winner, European Funding for Excellence in VET award, subcategory Erasmus+ Green Dimension.

Greece

'Our green is art. Our common stimulus is our interaction with nature.'

Eleni Fransizi, winner along with **Eleftheria-Giannoula Sokolaki**, **Eleftheria Pigka** and **Sofia Tsochataridou** of the 2020 European Agencies Award, subcategory CedefopPhotoAward for their work 'Digital & Green Waves', The 2nd VET School of Thessaloniki, OAED, Greece

Lithuania

'The best rewards of my work are the high achievements of my students.'

Vitalij Kabelis, Lithuania, 2020 Winner, VET Innovators Awards, subcategory VET Teacher and Trainer.

Moldova

'We are proud to say that, after our course, our construction trainers can successfully design and direct a distance education course, and our pupils are ready for the profession.'

Sergiu Coceaş from the Centre of Excellence in Construction, Moldova, 2020 Winner, European Agencies Awards, subcategory European Training Foundation (ETF) Entrepreneurship Award.

Austria

'The VET Excellence Award had a very motivating effect for us internally. My team was not only very proud of this high distinction from the EU Commission, but we also all feel inspired to continue discovering and conquering innovative educational opportunities. The national and international baking industries benefit greatly from these, as our training guests and partners. My thanks go to all those who made this award possible.'

Bernd Kuetscher, head of Akademie Weinheim, Austria, 2019 Winner, VET Innovators award, subcategory Innovative VET Provider category.

Turkey

'The greatest recognition for our hard work! Acknowledgement and recognition at European and national levels! Motivation among our employees! Attractive labour market advantage! New opportunities to improve on-the-job training!'

Hot & Cold Therm Kft, 2019 Winner, Companies and Learners Award, subcategory European Alliance for Apprenticeships Awards (EAfA), Large companies.

Spain

'We celebrate the award with the companies with which we work. The award has called for the personal responsibility of all of us who work at Xabec to offer high-quality service and has given the school credibility among companies.'

Antonio Mir,
director of XABEC,
Vocational Training
Centre, Valencia,
Spain, 2018 Winner
in the category
VET innovators
as Innovative VET
Provider.

Spain

'The distinction of our project Empleando Digital with the VET Excellence Award in 2019 provided a solid support to the work that the Fundación Secretariado Gitano and the Spanish Red Cross carry out with the people of greatest vulnerability to overcome labour inequality and the existing digital gap. The Award provided extra support for an innovative project not only in its content, but in its implementation through a partnership model between large national NGOs and a very relevant IT company, the Accenture Foundation in Spain. Social organisations in Spain and Europe, and even Latin American organisations, increasingly invited us to participate in fora and seminars to report on our experience. We demonstrated that, with specific solutions adapted to the situation of vulnerable groups, the right alliances can serve to close the digital divide.'

Looking ahead, we will continue working to facilitate access of the most vulnerable people to the digitalised labour market. We will expand this pilot project in other regions and cities throughout Spain, where NGOs work with the most disadvantaged people to improve their digital competences and employability while creating new alliances with companies in the IT sector. Reducing the Digital Divide.'

Belén Sánchez-Rubio, **Fundación Secretariado Gitano**, Winner of the 2019 European funding for excellence in VET Award, subcategory European Social Fund - Digitalisation/ technological change.

Poland

'Receiving the main prize was the crowning achievement of my professional work as a teacher of vocational subjects. Due to this award, I have found myself among 10 brave Polish women in our country (the ranking was created by the journalists of the national Wyborcza newspaper) and I have received the title of Eduinspirator awarded by the National Agency FRSE. Teaching vocational subjects in English as a kind of pedagogical innovation is still implemented in our school. With such lessons, we prepare our students to participate in an internship abroad that will soon take place in exotic Curacao.'

Joanna Żebrowska, Poland, 2018 Winner in the category VET Innovators, subcategory Teachers and Trainers.

Estonia

'We recently finished the submission of a paper to the European Conference on Technology-enhanced Learning in the "Impact" category, where we reflected about the impact of our research four years after the project ended. Although this was a preliminary analysis, I would say the award has motivated us to follow up on the more long-term impact of our project. We identified three impact cases where the technology and learning approaches we developed are still being used today, thanks to a start-up that was created and the continuous interaction of the people involved in the project. We also analysed what can be learnt from the things we did during the project lifetime to enhance the research impact of technologies for learning. We suggested that research projects should act as innovation platforms to achieve long-term impact on practice.'

Professor Tobias Ley, 'The Learning Layers' project from the Tallinn University, School of Educational Sciences, Estonia, 2018 Winner in the category of VET Innovators, subcategory VET Researchers.

Romania

'Winning such a prestigious award when the other finalists were truly inspiring was incredible and a true testament to the value of the school entrepreneurship programme and the partnership with Junior Achievement. It is the greatest recognition of the dedication and ability of our students and staff that we have ever received. The impact of the award can be considered a stimulus to my students' confidence and work ethic, demonstrated in their further achievements; in 2019, the "Artizan in Maramureş" team won the Jury Prize in the category #CedefopPhotoAward2019. As for myself, I now have a deeper appreciation and a sense of pride in being part of a successful institution, and I also feel more confident in my ability to handle new challenges.'

Ona Mihaela Simona, Marmatia Technological High School, Romania, 2018 Winner, Junior Achievement (JA Europe) Award.

Serbia

'Promoting entrepreneurial competences remains one of our priorities in teaching and training our students. We continue to encourage an entrepreneurial mind-set. Winning the 2018 VET Excellence Award was an additional impetus to increase the creativity and engagement of both students and teachers in various projects of the students' companies. Even in these difficult times, as we shifted to a distance-learning model, we were able to link what we teach at school to the current situation by creating educational material with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, thereby asserting our motto "Knowledge is power!" We have made videos showing how to produce disinfectants, facemasks, liquid soap and bakery products. This material is designed to promote entrepreneurial competences and ensure continuity with the students' companies' activities.'

Nikola Matković, director, School of Chemical Technology, Serbia, 2018 Winner of the European Training Foundation (ETF) Entrepreneurship award in the category European Agencies award.

Poland

'This prestigious award confirmed that it is worth investing in employee development. This is an organisation's best investment. Thanks to the VET Excellence Awards, our company is more recognisable among clients, business partners and job applicants. We have been the subject of newspaper articles and have been invited to speak on radio programmes. We have begun to share knowledge about learning and development programmes during meetings with other employers. We were also speakers at the III Adult Education Forum in Warsaw, held a webinar on the EPAL platform and took part in the conference "The Future of Work. Today. Tomorrow. For All" in Brussels. Thank you for this award, for honouring us and for the opportunity to show our positive practices in our country and abroad.'

Kamila Kowalska, CEO Human Partner, Poland, 2018 Winner in the category Companies and Learners, subcategory Training at Work.

Italy

'Hello everybody, I'm the winner of the 2018 European Alliance for Apprenticeships Award and it is one of my most significant achievements. All the competitions have allowed me to grow a lot professionally and personally, because I had the chance to meet and speak to workers and apprentices from all over Europe. I know their stories and their realities. The experience allowed me to interact with many European companies and to understand the differences between these and Italian ones. I am proud to be one of the winners of this contest. This award has positively impacted many aspects of my professional life. My company, which invests a lot in the professional growth of apprentices, rewarded me by introducing me to a special career growth path. I hope that all European apprentices will have a similarly constructive experience.'

Domenico Calabrese, Italy, 2018 Winner, Companies and learners, subcategory European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) – apprentice.

The Netherlands

'It felt very rewarding to receive the VET Researcher award for what I did for the VET community.'

Dr Martin Mulder, Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands, 2016 Winner of VET Innovators award in the subcategory of VET Researcher award.

Austria

"Great things never came from comfort zones, so stand up and fight for your dreams!"

Lisa Janisch, Austria, 2016 EuroSkills Winner, The Best of Europe Award.

