

eTwinning Initial Teacher Education European award

“[eTwinning for Future Teachers](#)” brings together Initial Teacher Education (ITE) institutions from European countries to include eTwinning in their teacher education activities. The aim is to grow the initiative in a sustainable way, providing teacher educators and student teachers with the full eTwinning experience so that they can benefit from an international community of professionals with the opportunity to share innovative pedagogical methodologies with their peers. The eTwinning Initial Teacher Education European award started in 2022 with the aim of celebrating the most active institution in eTwinning. The Award identifies, celebrates and promotes the work and activities that teacher educators and student teachers have completed in three main areas:

- Curriculum integration
- Project implementation
- Research outputs.

The following sections detail these areas, beginning with an in-depth overview in the first part. The second section outlines the application and evaluation process, while the third and fourth sections present the general rules and the components of the award, respectively.

SECTION A: Awarding areas and evaluation criteria

The three areas of the European award include curriculum integration, project implementation and research outputs, further described below. Each area consists of three criteria and in turn, each criterion has three levels, scored from 1 to 3, plus a “non-applicable” option.

- **Curriculum integration:** This area includes any action that the teacher educator has taken to share and inform about its commitment, include/integrate eTwinning in the curriculum and to support and strengthen student teachers’ competences through national and international collaboration. The area contains three criteria:
 - **Criterion 1: Commitment by the teacher educator of the ITE institution:** includes any action that the teacher educator has taken to share and inform about his/her commitment to “eTwinning for future teachers”. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *certificates of attendance or certificates of participation in eTwinning event/training organised by a National Support Organisation and/or the Central Support Service, website of the institution*).
 - **Criterion 2: Integration in the initial teacher education curriculum:** includes the action(s) that the teacher educator has taken to integrate eTwinning in the initial teacher education curriculum. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *proof of organising and delivering at least one teaching session on eTwinning (e.g., announcement in the ITE/faculty website, copy of the official course syllabus and/or any other proof that shows that eTwinning has been included in the curriculum)*).
 - **Criterion 3: Collaboration with other eTwinning actors:** includes any action that the teacher educator has taken to support and strengthen student teachers’ competences through national and international collaboration. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *proof of organising and co-delivering at least one teaching session on eTwinning (e.g., announcement in the ITE/faculty website, copy of the official course syllabus and/or any other proof that shows that the teaching session was co-delivered. NOTE: Evidence from TwinSpace projects is not relevant for this criterion)*).
- **Project implementation:** this area includes the involvement of teacher educators and student teachers in eTwinning project process and contains the following three criteria:
 - **Criterion 1: Training teacher educators and student teachers on eTwinning project related processes:** includes the extent and comprehensiveness of training session(s) organised within Initial Teacher Education (ITE) institutions, aimed at developing participants’ understanding and practical skills related to eTwinning project implementation. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *proof of organising and delivering training sessions on platform navigation, partner finding, project*

- planning, project assessment and/or project documentation. The submitted proof should explicitly and clearly show what the content of the training session(s) was).*
- **Criterion 2: Involvement in eTwinning projects between ITE institutions:** the institutions can participate in different kinds of national and international projects. This criterion evaluates the type and number of projects of the ITE institution, as well as the documentation of the projects' activities. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *links to TwinSpaces of national or international eTwinning projects between teacher educators and student teachers – please ensure that there is enough public information*).
 - **Criterion 3: Students' involvement in eTwinning projects with pupils:** during placement, placement student teachers are encouraged to participate in eTwinning projects carried out in schools that are already engaged with eTwinning; namely to do project work with their tutors in their classes, involving pupils, with other eTwinning teachers or other students in placement. This criterion takes into consideration the type of student teachers' involvement and the number of student teachers involved. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *links to TwinSpaces of international eTwinning projects involving student teachers in placement and school pupils – please ensure that there is enough public information*).
- **Research outputs:** this area includes any research activity that explicitly focuses on eTwinning and explores the use and/or impact of eTwinning on its main target audience, such as teachers, pupils, teacher educators and student teachers. While acknowledging research and scientific production, the area lays emphasis on the notion of collaboration at local/institutional, national, and international level. When making references to output(s), the publication/documentation year of the output(s) shall be considered as the indicator for all the respective criteria. All information should be written following the **APA style** and provide the public links.
 - **Criterion 1: Academic research outputs on eTwinning:** academic research outputs on eTwinning are research-based Bachelor thesis/final research paper, Postgraduate Thesis, Master's thesis, and PhD dissertations. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *links or documents related to the outputs*).
 - **Criterion 2: Academic research publications and/or announcements on eTwinning:** Academic research publications and/or announcements on eTwinning might include: conference presentations/announcements in national and/or international conferences, peer-reviewed chapters in online/printed academic books and edited volumes, peer-reviewed journals manuscripts in online/printed academic journals. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted:** *links or documents related to the outputs*)
 - **Criterion 3: Collaborative research outputs on eTwinning:** Cross-institutional research outputs on eTwinning include any published research-based collaborative

output (either academic research outputs or academic publications/announcements on eTwinning) that has been a direct result of the collaboration with other national and/or international ITE partners. (**Indicative evidence to be submitted: links or documents related to the outputs**).

Please consult the glossary of terms relevant to the awarding areas and the application form.

Registered ITE teacher educator	Teacher educators who are registered in the eTwinning platform and have been validated by their National Support Organisation.
eTwinning actor	In this context, these might include ITE ambassadors, ambassadors, experienced eTwinning teachers, teacher educator experienced in eTwinning.
eTwinning event/training (In criterion 1 of the curriculum integration area)	Face-to-face or online events and/or training organised by the Central Support Service or the National Support Organisations, such as seminars, webinars, short online courses, MOOCs, online workshops and/or eTwinning conferences.
eTwinning reference (In criterion 1 of the curriculum integration area)	An eTwinning reference might be evidenced via the use of the eTwinning logo or of a section dedicated to eTwinning in the institution's website, where all relevant activities are documented.
Teaching session (In criterion 2 of the curriculum integration area)	A scheduled instructional session within a course, subject, or laboratory of ITE institution where eTwinning is integrated. This integration is documented officially by the institution. You may consult the indicative evidence that you can submit.
Co-delivery of a teaching session (In criterion 3 of the curriculum integration area)	Collaboration between teacher educators and/or other eTwinning actors (see the explanation above).
Training session (In criterion 1 of the project implementation area)	A training session conducted by a teacher educator, (alone or with support from the National Support Organisation (NSO) or other eTwinning actors) focusing on eTwinning project planning, partner finding, project assessment and project documentation.

eTwinning project for practice purposes (In criterion 1 of the project implementation area)	An eTwinning project initiated by a teacher educator, (alone or with support from the National Support Organisation (NSO) or other eTwinning actors), designed for practice and awareness of the tools available in TwinSpace.
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SECTION B: Application and evaluation process

Overall, the process includes the following steps:

• Application phase:

- The Central Support Service (CSS) will create an application form in EU Survey.
- The National Support Organisations (NSOs) share the link of the application form with the ITE Institutions in their countries, which are active in the initiative.
- A teacher educator/university teacher registered in eTwinning completes the application form made available by the NSO. It should be noted that **only one person per institution** can apply. To this regard, interested applicants should coordinate with other colleagues of the institution before applying.
- The application period runs from **1st of April until the 1st of June each year**.

• Evaluation phase: All application entries are evaluated via a thorough procedure at national and European level, as follows:

- **First round:** NSOs evaluate the applications at national level and, if all criteria are met, the NSO awards a National Label to one ITE Institution. The National Label will display the different areas where the institution has developed its work, within the eligible period. So, there might be institutions acknowledged for their work in one area, two or three. The NSOs nominate one institution with the highest score for the European Initial Teacher Education Award, based on the awarding criteria described earlier.
- **Second round:** based on the institutions which were granted the national label, the CSS and the Steering Committee, acting as Grand Jury, select the award-winning institution.

What are the eligibility criteria?

- To apply for the award, teacher educators/university teachers must be registered in eTwinning and have been already validated by their NSO.

- The application form, shared by the NSO, must be completed in its entirety and submitted before the deadline.
- The application must refer to activities and outputs completed within the last two academic years, between **September 2024 and May 2026**.

How can I apply?

- **Get ready:** explore the information and evidence that the application form requires, so that you become familiar with what you are requested to submit as evidence.
- Enter the European School Education Platform, click on the “My profile” under your name, on the top right of the screen and then click on the name of your affiliated organisation. Select “members” and you will be able to see all the members of your organisation. Please decide among yourselves who is going to apply and submit the entry, since only one person per institution can submit an entry.
- Click the link for the application form shared by your NSO.
- Discuss with your colleagues what to write in the application form. The information submitted should be concise and clear. Applicants can save their draft application and continue it at a later stage.
- Remember: the applicant should also provide and upload, via the form, an **official endorsement** of the application (in the form of a written document) by an official representative of the institution (e.g., Director, Dean, Vice-Rector, Rector) indicating that the institution is aware of the application and that it endorses the submission.

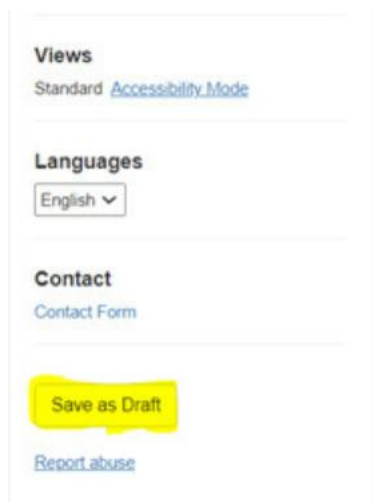
What is an entry and what evidence do I need to collect and submit?

An entry is the result of the application form which is submitted by an applicant (see above for eligibility). The application requests tangible outcomes that give evaluators a concrete idea of the commitment, activities and outcomes deriving from the institution’s work in eTwinning. Each entry has the following elements:

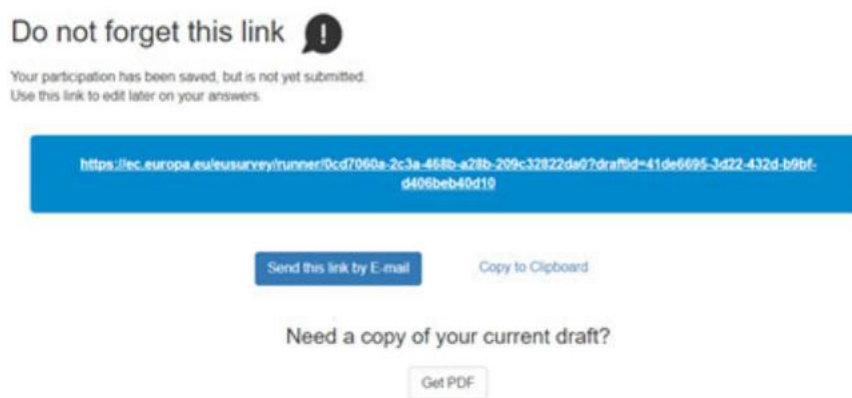
- applicant’s details
- profile of the initial teacher education institution
- descriptions of the awarding areas as defined by the criteria stated in the application form and which are consistent with the criteria mentioned above. In this section, applicants are encouraged to describe and provide examples of their work, while considering data protection and copyright issues. **Evaluators do not have access to restricted materials, so please consider sharing open/publicly accessible links.**

- document of the official endorsement signed by an official representative of the institution (e.g., Director, Dean, Vice-Rector, Rector). You can download this template by clicking the following link: [Initial Teacher Education Application form – Declaration of Honour .docx](#)

The answers that you provide in the application form are saved so you can return to your application and fill it out on a later stage. On the right-hand side of the application, you will see a button “Save as Draft” as indicated in the image below.



When you click on this button, you will receive a personalised link that you should keep (e.g., save, copy to clipboard, send via email) in order to continue with the application form on a later stage (see image below).



SECTION C: General rules

What are the general rules? Are there reasons to be excluded?

- Entries submitted are subject to the copyright policy of eTwinning, which is Creative Commons 4.0. This means that their reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged, except where otherwise stated. Where prior permission must be obtained for the reproduction of information, such permission shall cancel the aforementioned general permission and shall clearly indicate any restrictions on use.
- As for all eTwinning activities, the institution's work must adhere to the [eTwinning Code of Conduct](#). Members who violate the code are subject to the consequences described in Section D of the Code of Conduct, "**Violation of the Code of Conduct**", which may also affect the application itself.
- In line with Articles 136 and 141 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), eTwinning shall exclude a contestant of whom it has been established that s/he is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the teaching profession, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on his/her professional credibility where such conduct implies wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
 - fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the implementation of the legal commitment;
 - entering into agreement with other persons or entities with the aim of distorting the awarding process;
 - violating intellectual property rights;
 - attempting to influence the decision-making of the authorising officer responsible during the award procedure;
 - attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon him/her undue advantages in the Award procedure.

The applicants and participants are solely responsible for the activities and outputs which relate to the subject of the Award. In case of failure to comply with the aforementioned rules, as well as data privacy, copyright and plagiarism rules, candidate applicants will not be considered valid applicants, and as a result, will be excluded from the competition.

SECTION D: Final award

The final award of the Initial Teacher Education institution includes:

- an award plaque/trophy for the ITE Institution
- a video interview featuring the winning Institution which will be produced by the Central Support Service by interviewing the key actors of the institution. The video clip will be published on the eTwinning portal.
- certificates for the teacher educators of the institution who participate in eTwinning,
- participation of up to two teacher educators from the award-winning ITE institution in the prize ceremony taking place during the initial teacher education annual eTwinning conference
- an article on the European School Education Platform featuring the teacher educators, student teachers and the institution on topics that will be agreed
- a digital badge and a website banner which can be published on the ITE website.