European Innovative Teaching Award

Description and scope of the European Innovative Teaching Award

As part of the Communication on achieving the European Education Area by 2025, the European Innovative Teaching Award (EITA) is established to showcase outstanding teaching practices implemented in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme and recognise the work of teachers and their schools who make an exceptional contribution to the profession. It should contribute to highlighting the value of European cooperation in the field of education and to the establishment the European Education Area.

The specific objectives of the planned EITA are to:

- celebrate the achievements of teachers and schools and give more visibility to their work;
- identify and promote outstanding teaching and learning practices;
- foster mutual learning between teachers and school staff;
- highlight the value of the Erasmus+ programme to European teacher collaboration.

The EITA shall be given to Erasmus+ completed projects, which will be selected by Erasmus+ (education and training) National Agencies on a yearly basis.

As Erasmus+ projects are already grant-based, the prize will have a symbolic value and will not provide additional monetary benefits to the laureates.

To ensure high quality and consistent implementation of the EITA as well as transparency, the MT NA shall follow the guidelines and award criteria set out hereafter:

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The National Agencies should select projects to be awarded the European Innovative Teaching Award among finalised Erasmus+ projects both under Key Action 1 (learning mobility projects) and Key Action 2 (partnership projects). As a general rule, finalised projects that started between the years 2017 and 2021 should be considered for EITA. The National Agency should select the awardees only among its own co-funded projects. A project that has received EITA in previous years cannot be considered again.

Selection Process and Transparency

Short-listing of potential awardees.

The MTNA screens possible projects that meet the eligibility criteria, are compatible with the annual EITA theme and have received a sufficiently high quality score on their final project report. Subsequently, the National Agency contacts the short-listed projects to collect an expression of their interest to take part in the EITA selection, based on further elements (provision of targeted information, particular outputs and promotional materails, etc.). The definitive list of projects to be awarded with EITA in the respective categories is drawn by the National Agency based on both the preliminary and additional information received.

The Thematic Priority

Every year, the Commission defines a thematic area that projects must address to be considered for selection for the European Innovative Teaching Award. In 2022, the EITA annual theme is **'Learning together, promoting creativity and sustainability'**, directly linked to the European Commission's initiative New European Bauhaus (NEB).

The New European Bauhaus initiative connects the European Green Deal to our daily lives and living spaces. It calls on all Europeans to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for our eyes, minds, and souls.

The building elements of the 2022 annual theme are:

- **'Creativity'** – linked to the NEB priority 'beautiful', an important theme in education. In this context, the impact of spaces and architecture on learning will be addressed

- **'Sustainability'** – a general Commission priority and the key element of NEB

- **'Learning together'** – participatory and inclusive element, general Commission priority and an element of NEB

Award criteria: the innovation characteristics

The EITA will be awarded based on the following criteria. Each criterion should be assessed on a scale from 1 (poor) to 10 (excellent):

Methodologies	In what ways are the teaching and learning approaches elaborated and implemented in the project innovative? • Multidisciplinary approaches • Key competence development (knowledge, skills and attitudes) • Linking formal, non-formal and informal learning • Inclusion, participation, cooperation • Innovative use of **digital** tools **(in particular eTwinning)** • Learners' active role in the learning process
Environments	In what ways do learning environments involved in the project support innovative teaching and learning approaches? • Schools as enablers of innovation • Creative use of the learning spaces • Sustainable use of available resources • A whole school approach • Cross-sectoral cooperation
Teachers	In what ways do teachers/educators involved in the project influence the innovative teaching and learning processes? • Teachers' agency as innovators • Teachers' competences • Teachers' cooperation and peer learning

Impact	What is the impact of the innovative teaching and learning processes elaborated and implemented in the project? - Direct impact on the target groups - Inclusion of participants with fewer opportunities - Spill-over effect (to other students, teachers, schools, local communities)