

## ETWINNING ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Future-ready schools: Empowering Teachers and Learners

1 to 3 October 2026

**Venue:** nHow Brussels Bloom

### ***Draft Agenda***

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#### THEME

Schools are operating in a rapidly evolving social, technological and environmental landscape. Preparing students for the future means not only strengthening basic skills and digital competences, but also empowering schools to grow as confident, inclusive and adaptive learning organisations, ready to embrace change and innovation.

The 2026 eTwinning hybrid annual conference will launch and celebrate the theme **Future-ready schools** which will span over two school years (2026/27 and 2027/28). Teachers, school leaders and education stakeholders from across Europe will participate in an event offering an inspiring space for exchange, collaboration and professional learning, highlighting how education can nurture European values and essential life skills through a whole school approach.

The conference will showcase how schools can begin their journey towards future readiness through practical and achievable steps.

The Future-ready schools theme aligns with current and upcoming policy initiatives of the European Commission, particularly those focusing on:

- strengthening basic skills and key competences
- supporting the digital transformation of education
- integrating artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in a responsible and meaningful way
- fostering inclusive and supportive education environments
- strengthening resilience and continuity in education systems
- promoting whole-school approaches to innovation and collaboration

Within this policy landscape, eTwinning continues to play a key role as Europe's largest community of teachers. By connecting educators and schools across countries, eTwinning enables meaningful collaboration, supports the exchange of innovative practices, and strengthens digital competence and intercultural understanding.

While the conference places a strong emphasis on launching and supporting the foundational phase of the theme, it also opens the perspective of a shared two-year journey. Teachers will be encouraged to build progressively on their experiences, moving towards deeper collaboration, leadership and sustainable innovation over time.

By focusing on schools as a whole, the theme reinforces the eTwinning approach of embedding collaboration and innovation at institutional level, supporting schools in becoming vibrant, forward-looking communities where both learners and educators can thrive.

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## OVERALL GOALS

The conference aims to:

- Empower participants to become eTwinning 'power users' (eTwinners who have the ability, skills and enthusiasm to engage their colleagues and involve them in eTwinning).
- Strengthen participants' sense of belonging to the eTwinning community.
- Bring together members of the eTwinning community and start to explore how schools can become future-ready learning environments, capable of preparing students for a rapidly changing world.

The event will be part of the launching for the new eTwinning theme, offering inspiration, practical tools and networking opportunities for teachers and education stakeholders.

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## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Introduce and explore the Future-ready schools theme** within the context of European education priorities
2. **Support teachers in developing future-oriented pedagogies**, including digital learning, AI literacy, innovation and resilience
3. **Foster discussions** on inclusion, wellbeing and safe, supportive learning environments
4. **Inspire and encourage** responsible, creative and confident use of digital technologies
5. **Promote student voice**, engagement and active participation
6. **Provide inspiration and practical examples of eTwinning projects and practices** aligned with the theme
7. **Highlight** outstanding eTwinning practices that successfully won the eTwinning European prizes

## 8. **Encourage collaboration, professional development and networking**

between teachers across countries and educational levels, providing spaces for educators to exchange ideas and initiate eTwinning projects.

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### TARGET AUDIENCES

- Onsite participants: 150 eTwinning educators (80% new users, 20% experienced power users);
- Online participants: Open to all eTwinners through a registration process, with livestreamed sessions available to the broader public.

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## DRAFT PROGRAMME

### Day 1 – Thursday 1 October

Common programme, streamed

#### 14:00–15:15 Opening plenary

- Opening Speech by EC TBD
- Award ceremony

15:15–15:45 Break

15:45–16:15 Keynote speech1: Education in a rapidly changing world: preparing schools for the future, by TBD

16:15–16:45 Panel discussion: Future-ready schools: What does it mean in practice?

16:45–18:00 Networking activity and exhibition kick-off

19:30 dinner

### Day 2 Friday 2 October

#### Onsite audience

09:30–11:00 Workshop slot 1

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–13:00 Workshop slot 2

13:00–14:30 Lunch

14:30–16:00 Networking (interactive and collaborative challenges)

16:00–16:30 Break

#### Online audience

09:30–11:00 Workshop slot 1

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–13:00 Workshop slot 2

13:00–13:30 Lunch

13:30–14:30 Networking and virtual exhibition hall

14:30–14:45 Break

15:00–16:15 Workshop slot 3:

16:15–16:30 Break

16:30–17:30 Visit to an EU institution, TBD

19:30 dinner

### Day 3 Saturday 3 October

#### Onsite audience

09:30–11:00 Teach meet on 'future-ready eTwinning ideas'

11:00–11:30 Break

#### Online audience

09:30–10:30 Teach meet on 'future-ready eTwinning ideas'

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–13:00 Closing plenary

- Outcomes of networking activity
- Panel discussion: Future-ready schools through students' eyes: What makes a school future-ready from a student perspective?
- European Commission closing remarks