

Future (ready) teachers

*Preparing student teachers for tomorrow's classrooms through
eTwinning*

European conference for initial teacher education 2026

Date: 26-28 November 2026| Venue: Hotel Melia Lebreros, Seville

Introduction

"eTwinning for future teachers" brings together initial teacher education (ITE) institutions that include eTwinning in their teacher education activities. The aim is to introduce teacher educators and student teachers to eTwinning so that they can benefit from an international and professional community, with the opportunity to implement innovative pedagogical methodologies with their peers.

The current document outlines the proposal for the 2026 European conference for initial teacher education, including:

- the background and policy context of the conference;
- the theme and its rationale;
- the goals of the conference;
- the target audience;
- the draft agenda.

Background of the conference

The European (higher) education area is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by digital innovation, artificial intelligence, and evolving societal challenges. Schools and teacher education institutions are being called upon to prepare not only pupils but also the next generation of teachers to manage and shape these changes with confidence, creativity, and resilience.

In this context, the European Commission has set forward-looking priorities around digital transformation, AI literacy, inclusion, basic skills, and intergenerational fairness. The concept of 'future-ready' schools, and by extension, 'future-ready' teacher, has emerged as a central principle: one that calls for learning environments that are inclusive, supportive communities; that equip learners with strong foundational skills including digital and AI-related competences; that foster socio-emotional learning and student agency; and that embed international and European collaboration into their development. The 2026 conference theme, 'Future (ready) teachers', adapts this perspective to the context of initial teacher education via eTwinning for future teacher, emphasising:

- inclusive, safe, and supportive learning communities;
- strong basic skills, including digital and AI literacy;
- socio-emotional learning and student teachers' voice;
- embedding international and European collaboration;
- resilience and preparedness for change.

Transposing this perspective to ITE means asking: What does it mean to prepare student teachers who are 'future-ready'? How can teacher education institution, with the support of eTwinning, develop curricula, practicum models, and collaborative projects that build the competences student teachers will need to thrive in tomorrow's classrooms?

Goals of the conference

The 2026 conference seeks to:

- Explore what it means to be a 'future-ready' teacher and how eTwinning supports this perspective within initial teacher education.
- Share innovative curriculum models, pedagogical approaches, and eTwinning projects developed by ITE institutions across Europe.
- Foster dialogue between teacher educators, student teachers, Erasmus+ Teacher Academies representatives, and BIP participants on how to embed eTwinning sustainably in ITE.
- Provide meaningful networking opportunities and collaborative spaces for participants to develop new partnerships and co-create future projects.
- Amplify the voice of student teachers as active contributors to pedagogical innovation and European collaboration.

Target audience

The target audience of the conference includes:

- newly registered teacher educators;
- teacher educators nominated for the European award and their student teachers;
- teacher educators with a national ITE label and their student teachers;
- any other interested teacher educators and their student teachers.

Practical arrangements:

- Country quotas apply for the conference.
- The maximum number of onsite attendees is 100 participants.
- Plenary sessions will be streamed via YouTube.
- Online workshops will be held via MS Teams.

Draft agenda

DAY 1 – 26 November 2026

Streamed for online attendees – no registration required.

Time	Activity / session
14:00 – 15:00	Registration
15:00 – 15:15	Opening Welcome remarks – Central Support Service Welcome remarks – Host NSO and/or Ministry of Education

15:15 – 15:30	The EU Teachers and Trainers Agenda for future-ready educators in a digital and inclusive era DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
15:30 – 16:00	What does a future-ready teacher look like? Speaker from ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education)
16:00 – 16:30	Break + informal networking
16:30 – 17:00	European ITE award ceremony Video of the award-winning institution, presentation by the award-winning teacher educator(s) and their student teachers, sharing lessons learned and future steps.
17:00 – 19:00	Future-ready teaching in practice A visit to an eTwinning School or a local ITE institution (e.g., Universidad de Sevilla's Faculty of Education)
19:30	Dinner at the hotel

DAY 2 – 27 November 2026

Time	Activity / session
09:30 – 11:00	Workshop session 1 Onsite workshops: • Getting started with eTwinning in ITE (experienced teacher educator) • Workshop topic TBD by Carol Barruso • Workshop topic TBD by Edward Lockhart • Workshop topic TBD by European award-winning institution Online workshops • Getting started with eTwinning in ITE (experienced teacher educator) • Workshop topic TBD
11:00 – 11:30	Break + informal networking
11:30 – 13:00	Workshop session 2 We will have new workshops or re-run some of the previous ones.
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch + informal networking
14:30 – 15:30	Practice sharing session This session uses a Marketplace / Learning walk format: • Presenters set up stands (poster-style) showcasing their work in curriculum integration, eTwinning projects, and research. • Participants circulate freely, engaging in one-to-one or small group conversations with presenters, spending as much or as little time as they choose at each stand. • Student teachers are encouraged to co-present with their teacher educators.
15:30 – 17:00	Co-creation world café Facilitated discussions in mixed groups of teacher educators and student teachers around tables. Each table selects one of the five angles (digital skills, AI, inclusion, futures literacy, international collaboration) and focus on the following aspect: • Digital skills and AI: From AI curiosity to AI confidence: What does the ITE curriculum need to change? Groups identify one concrete curricular adjustment their institution could make (e.g., a new module element, an

	assessment redesign, or a practicum task) that develops responsible AI use in student teachers. • Inclusion: How do we make eTwinning projects work for all learners? Groups co-develop a short checklist or set of design principles for inclusive eTwinning project design in ITE, drawing on examples from the morning's workshops. • Futures literacy: What can teacher educators and student teachers do on Monday morning? Groups design a concrete activity (a scenario exercise, a foresight task, a cross-border discussion) that teacher educators and student teachers could realistically implement in the short-term. • International collaboration: What makes European collaboration stick? Groups map the conditions that make eTwinning and Erasmus+ partnerships sustainable beyond a single project and draft a short "partnership charter" or set of commitments they would take back to their institutions. • The student teacher perspective: What do we need to feel future-ready? A table led and facilitated by student teachers themselves (with a light-touch facilitator), feeding back what they heard in Day 1 that resonated and what was missing. Their output feeds directly into the closing session on Day 3.
18:00 – 20:30	Cultural activity
20:30	Dinner

DAY 3 – 28 November 2026

Streamed for online attendees – no registration required.

Time	Activity / session
09:30 – 10:00	Erasmus+ Teacher Academy project “Teacher Education for a Future in Flux (teff) Academy” Exploring the innovative model-framework developed which blends digital, green, diversity, inclusion, and well-being skills with a European dimension, empowering students and teachers to champion European democracy and citizenship.
10:00 – 12:00	Co-creation and partnership-building Based on the input of the previous days, teacher educators and student teachers develop together concrete outputs such as a lesson plan, a teaching toolkit, or a mini eTwinning project. Each group presents a summary of their ideas at the end of the session.
12:00 – 12:30	Closing of the conference Summary of key outcomes and takeaways from a teacher educator and a student teacher.
12:30	Lunch boxes