

EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP WEEK



2026



CALL FOR INSPIRING PRACTICES

2025 - 2026





CALL FOR INSPIRING PRACTICES 2025-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Objectives of the Call for Inspiring Practices 2025-2026</i>	1
<i>Theme and topics</i>	1
<i>How to participate</i>	2
Who can apply?	2
How to submit the proposal?.....	2
Deadline and next steps.....	3
<i>Selection criteria</i>	3
<i>Ethical and privacy guidelines</i>	4
Data collection & GDPR Compliance	4
Underaged participants in visual materials & online events	4
Intellectual Property Rights.....	5
Optional Media Submissions.....	5
Data Controller Information.....	5





Objectives of the Call for Inspiring Practices 2025-2026

The Educational Leadership Network Europe (ELNE) is excited to announce a Call for Inspiring Practices as part of the ELNE Year 2025-2026 **"Contextualising Collaborative Leadership Across Europe: Stakeholder Perspectives"**. The purpose of this call is to foster stronger connections between practice, research, and policy, promoting solutions that can be scaled up and transferred across European contexts.

All selected Inspiring Practices (see selection criteria below) will be featured in the **ELNE Journals**, reaching a broad European and international audience of relevant professionals in the field of Education. In addition, we will invite some of the applications for live online showcases at the **European Educational Leadership Week** (EELW) in March 2026.

In addition, all submitted proposals will contribute to the ELNE Research Committee's ongoing analysis of how collaboration and collaborative leadership take shape across different educational contexts and stakeholder groups. By gathering insights from diverse perspectives, the Committee aims to identify both common patterns and context-specific approaches. This collective knowledge will inform the development of a **bottom-up European framework** that reflects the diversity of collaborative leadership in education. Participating in this third-year call, therefore, offers a unique opportunity to **influence both the research base and the future practices of collaborative leadership across Europe**.

Theme and topics

Under the overarching theme of the ELNE Year 2025-2026 "Contextualising Collaborative Leadership Across Europe: Stakeholder Perspectives", this year's Call for Inspiring Practices focuses on **"Participatory Culture in Educational Institutions"**.

We welcome practices that demonstrate how collaborative leadership and participation lead to **tangible benefits** such as increased trust, engagement, inclusion, or preparedness; and that **respond to key challenges in education** such as staff shortages, declining basic skills, or early school leaving, among others.

We are particularly interested in practices that show how different actors take part in leadership and decision-making processes, how their agency is recognised and supported, and how collaboration contributes to improving the quality, wellbeing, and resilience of educational communities. Submissions may address, among other things: mechanisms and practices that involve multiple stakeholders in school decision-making or improvement





processes; how leadership is shared or distributed across roles; barriers and enablers for inclusive collaboration.

Among these, we are keen to find some initiatives led not only by practitioners, but also by students, parents, and the local community; and practices that are able to showcase a strong **synergy between practice, research, and policy**.

How to participate

Who can apply?

This Call for Inspiring Practices is open to all public and private education and training **entities** operating at European, national, regional or local levels.

These entities can be but are not limited to: schools and education providers, universities and research centres, teacher and student unions, parents' associations, education and training networks, NGOs, foundations, companies active in the education field, as well as municipalities, regional or national authorities, and other community organisations involved in supporting educational development. Applications are welcome from all countries, with **priority given to entities based in the 46 Member States of the Council of Europe**.

Collaborative submissions involving multiple stakeholder groups (e.g. partnerships between schools, unions, parents' associations, and local authorities) are strongly encouraged.

How to submit the proposal?

You can submit your proposal by following these steps:

- 1) If you haven't yet, **sign up to the ELNE website**
- 2) Once logged in, go to '**Calls for Proposals 2025**' > **Call for Inspiring Practices**
- 3) Fill out the **application form** and **Send!**
⇒ There is no limitation on the number of applications per person/entity.
- 4) You are welcome to submit **additional material** (e.g. video, publication, etc.) to illustrate your Inspiring Practice. This visual element will help bring your story to life and spark greater engagement.

Some things to remember while filling out your application:

- The application must be **submitted in English**. There are free access tools such as DeepL or ChatGPT that can help you translate them, but make sure that they are proofread by a trusted colleague who is knowledgeable in English!





- Applicants may submit more than one proposal **by filling out the application form again**. Therefore, each proposal must be presented in a separate application. In the case that more details are required from the submitted proposal, you will be contacted using the contact information provided in the application form.

Should you have any questions about this procedure, please contact contact@elnenetwork.org.

Deadline and next steps

- 1) Applications will be accepted until the **15th of December of 2025**.
- 2) You will be contacted by e-mail by ELNE (contact@elnenetwork.org) in **February 2026** to communicate the results of the selection process.
- 3) In case your proposal is selected, we will coordinate with you to arrange the publication of your Inspiring Practice in the upcoming **ELNE Journal**.
- 4) If you will be invited to participate in an interview/panel as part of the **European Educational Leadership Week (EELW)** taking place in March 2026, we will organise an online preparation meeting to make sure that all technical elements work properly.
- 5) ELNE Repository:
 - The **online recordings** of the EELW will be uploaded to our YouTube channel and website. Go watch the ones from previous years [here](#)!
 - The **ELNE Journals** will be accessible on the [ELNE website](#).

Selection criteria

The applications will be reviewed by the ELNE Research Committee to ensure the quality and relevance of the proposals. The pre-selection will then be approved by the Steering Group.

The proposals will be assessed against the backdrop of the criteria listed below:

Completeness and Accuracy: All required sections of the application form are fully completed with the relevant information requested. Make sure that the facts presented in the application correspond authentically to the real case you are presenting. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Relevance to the Topic: The submission aligns with the theme of “Collaborative Leadership for Participatory Culture in Educational Institutions” and clearly shows the collaborative leadership aspects of the practice. The Inspiring Practice addresses a distinct practice and views in relation to the topic of the Call.





Impact on Stakeholder and Participatory Culture: The practice shows measurable or observable effects on students, teachers, families, or the wider community. Evidence of improved participation, inclusion, shared responsibility, or overall school climate and well-being is particularly valued.

Transferability and Scalability: The submission demonstrates that the elements of the practice can be applied to other educational contexts or regions across Europe and that it can be scaled up. Clear description of the local conditions and enablers is particularly valued.

Synergy with research and policy: The submissions showcase a vision to- or actively work on- strengthening the synergy between practice, research and policy.

Collaborative aspects: Priority will be given to content that reflects collaborative thinking and is based on multiple standpoints or approaches, incorporating the perspectives of various actors in the educational process.

Ethical and privacy guidelines

These guidelines outline the ethical, privacy, and intellectual property principles governing the ELNE Call for Inspiring Practices and Research Summaries. They ensure compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and best practices for handling intellectual contributions.

Data collection & GDPR Compliance

All personal data collected through the ELNE application form, webinars, and related activities will be processed lawfully, fairly, and transparently. Participants will be informed about the nature, purpose, and duration of data processing and must provide explicit consent. Data will be stored securely in EFEE's CRM (Eudonet) and retained for up to 5 years after the project ends.

For knowledge-sharing and dissemination purposes, the webinars will be recorded and published on the ELNE website, YouTube channel, and the European School Education Platform. Participants may choose to activate their camera or microphone, thereby consenting to being recorded.

Underaged participants in visual materials & online events

The Network has the aim of addressing all stakeholders in formal educational environments. Underaged participants are a major stakeholder in Primary-, Secondary- and (to an extent) Vocational education. The handling of data belonging to underaged participants, however, is, as it should be, strictly regulated and follows slightly different rules than for adults.





If minors (understood in accordance with their local GDPR legislation) are included in visual or audio materials, prior written consent from a parent or legal guardian is required for each specific use. In online events, minors who did not provide written consent to appear in recordings may participate via non-recorded interactive tools or the chat.

Intellectual Property Rights

Applicants submitting articles or research abstracts retain full intellectual property rights over their work. By submitting, they grant ELNE a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to publish the summary of their work in an open-access journal and use excerpts for dissemination purposes. Any use beyond this scope requires additional written consent.

Optional Media Submissions

Applicants may submit photos or videos. If these include minors, each file must be accompanied by signed consent forms from legal guardians. Media will only be used for dissemination if proper consent is documented.

Data Controller Information

By applying to this Call you agree to:

* Pursuant to Article 6 (1) (a) of the GDPR and the general regulation on the protection of personal data of 27 April 2016, you consent to the processing of your personal image data for information and promotional purposes related to the implementation of the project "ELNE – Educational Leadership Network Europe".

** Pursuant to Article 6 (1) (a) of the GDPR and the general regulation on the protection of personal data of 27 April 2016 (Journal of Laws UE L 119 of 04/05/2016), you consent to the processing of your personal data for the purposes of project documentation entitled "ELNE – Educational Leadership Network Europe".

Information:

Pursuant to Art. 13 of the general regulation on the protection of personal data of 27 April 2016 (Journal of Laws UE L 119 of 04/05/2016), we inform you that:

- 1) the administrator of your personal data is the European Federation of Education Employers (Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Brussels, Belgium)
- 2) your personal data will be processed for the purposes of the implementation and documentation of the project entitled "ELNE – Educational Leadership Network Europe" These data may be entrusted to project partners and institutions supervising the





implementation of the project for the purposes of control, monitoring, statistics and promotion of the project

- 3) your personal data will be stored for a period of 5 years from the end of the project "ELNE – Educational Leadership Network Europe"
- 4) you have the right to request the administrator to access personal data, the right to rectify, delete or limit processing, the right to object to the processing, the right to transfer data, the right to withdraw consent at any time
- 5) you have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority
- 6) providing personal data is obligatory under the law and in the remaining scope it is voluntary.

