

ENI AWARD 2023

Debut in Research: Young Talents from Africa Prize

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Eni is a global energy company operating in a responsible way towards its stakeholders in about sixty-eight countries along the entire value chain. It concretely supports a just energy transition for a net-zero carbon future, with the objective of preserving our planet and promoting an efficient and sustainable access to energy for all, pursuing a fair energy transition with respect to society and world's ecosystems. To this end, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) determined by the UN represent a common target and a guiding reference for managing activities in all those Countries in which it operates. Along this path, Eni has committed to becoming a leading company in the production and sale of decarbonised energy products and fosters several scientific research projects on renewable energy, hydrogen, CCUS, energy efficiency, energy storage and circular economy.

Eni invests in people and their empowerment, recognizing diversity as a key value for human development. From 2008 Eni has been granting the Eni Award, aimed to promote and award scientific research and technological innovation in the fields of energy and the environment. Special care will be devoted to proposals promoting the use of breakthrough, experimental and innovative technologies, processes and tools, enabling a holistic perspective and contributing to the sustainable development goals.

1) Aims

The **Debut in Research: Young Talents from Africa Prize** constitutes one of the six sections of the Eni Award, composed by the *Energy Frontiers*, *Advanced Environmental Solutions*, *Energy Transition* and the *Young Researcher of the Year Prizes*, together with the *Recognition at Innovation Eni*.

The purpose of the *Debut in Research: Young Talents from Africa Prize* is to help new generations of African researchers to emerge, offering them the opportunity to attend a PhD course in cooperation with prestigious Italian universities and research institutes and supporting their research and innovation on the various scientific topics promoted by Eni Award.

2) Object of the Prizes

Candidates must own a Master's degree or any equivalent - according to the European system - academic qualification, granting access to a PhD course in an Italian university. The theses must have been defended at an African University during the same year of the annual Official Announcement, or in the precedent year.

The Prize is awarded to students born in or after the year 1992.

The Prize is reserved to students graduated in an African university and of African citizenship, coming from one of the 54 African countries listed in the *World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision*, compiled by the United Nations¹.

The thesis and the *curriculum vitae* - which will prevail in the evaluation of the candidate - must be submitted together with a research proposal in connection with the Eni Award main topics and highlighting the potential benefits of the proposal in a country, in an African region or in the whole African continent. The main topics covered by the Eni Award are: development of a sustainable and resilient nature within a continuously changing climate scenario, through the enhancement of nature-based solutions, and the preservation and restoration of natural capital, in order to accelerate the transition towards circular economy, bio-economy and environmentally sustainable business models, accordingly with the “One Health - Planetary Health” perspective; renewable energy and energy storage; new H₂ production technologies (blue, green and turquoise H₂); capture, utilization and sequestration of carbon dioxide as well as energy efficiency as a bridge to the decarbonization of the energy system.

The research proposal must explicit topics, methodologies and disciplinary areas suitable for the realization of the submitted project. The information provided by the candidate in the research proposal will be used in order to identify PhD courses as coherent as possible with it.

3) The Prizes

Each of the four winners will be awarded with a customized plaque and a scholarship for the attendance of a 3 years PhD course to be conducted in Italy, in an Italian university or research institute with a solid reputation on the above-mentioned topics. Where authorized within the PhD course framework, it will be possible to carry out a research period outside Italy. It will be also allowed to propose a non-Italian thesis advisor, collaborating with the Italian university or research institute hosting the student.

The Prizes will be assigned to the winning candidates, proclaimed by the Organizing Committee within June 2023.

An Official Prize-Giving Ceremony will be held in Italy during the second semester of the year following the publication of the Official Announcement. Eni will grant hospitality for winners participating to the Ceremony plus a maximum of one accompanying person. Hospitality will include travel tickets and transfers to reach the Prize-Giving Ceremony location, board and lodging expenses during the period of the Ceremony up to 2 overnight stays.

4) Application procedures and deadlines

Applications for the *Debut in Research: Young Talents from Africa* must be presented and guaranteed by Professors, Directors of Department, Faculty Deans and Chancellors of universities and polytechnic universities, or by researchers of research institutes operating in the specific - or similar - fields for which the Prize is awarded.

¹ Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Self-candidatures **will not** be considered.

The deadline for the presentation of the candidatures to the *Debut in Research: Young Talents from Africa* falls on November 25, 2022 before and no later than 5 p.m. CET - Central European Time. Please note that, after 5 p.m. CET of November 11, 2022, the Scientific Secretariat won't create new accounts, in order to provide the most suitable assistance to the already registered Candidatures, within the deadline. The formal confirmation of the acceptance of the Candidature will be sent by email by the Secretariat after the receipt of the properly signed **Summary of the Candidature Proposal**, as provided by art. 4.4.

The Candidature application forms are available on the website: <https://www.eni.com/en-IT/scientific-research/eni-award.html> and must be sent as follows:

1. The **Candidature Proposal-Thesis**, the **Candidature Proposal-Research** and the **CV are compulsory** and shall either be uploaded on the **Eni Award Candidates private area** or be sent to the **Eni Award Scientific Secretariat by e-mail** to the following address: eniaward@feem.it. The access to the private area must be requested to the Eni Award Scientific Secretariat that will provide an account for the procedure.
2. A **copy of the Thesis in electronic form shall compulsorily** be set by e-mail to the same aforementioned address.
3. Other **optional documents**, e.g. possible recognitions, certificates, letters of reference, the list of publications shall be sent to the same aforementioned address. Other **optional documents**, e.g. possible recognitions, certificates, letters of reference, the list of publications shall be sent to the same aforementioned address. The Candidate can also optionally provide to the same e-mail address a short presentation of maximum two (2) slides describing the main aspects and applications of his/her Proposal-Research. Furthermore, the Candidate can also provide a **self-made video** of no more than 3 minutes to better describe his/her work in the following formats: .MOV, .MPEG4, .AVI, .FLV. The submission of the afore-mentioned slides and video is strongly recommended, even if it is not mandatory.
4. Following the safe receipt of all the application's documents, a file named **Summary of the Candidature Proposal**, containing the main data of the candidature and the Completion Code, will be provided to each candidate. The aforesaid file must be duly checked and signed by the Candidate as well as by his/her Guarantor and sent by email to the same aforementioned address (eniaward@feem.it) to the Eni Award Scientific Secretariat before and no later than the deadline defined by this Official Announcement.

5) Selection of the Candidatures

The Eni Award Scientific Commission shall examine and select the work of the Candidates that have been accepted and shall present the names of the chosen winners of the *Debut in Research: Young Talents from Africa Prizes* to the Eni Award Organizing Committee by May 2023.

6) Regulations

The Eni Award and this Official Announcement are submitted to the Eni Award Regulations, approved by the Organizing Committee. The text is available on the website: <https://www.eni.com/en-IT/scientific-research/eni-award.html>.

7) Contact details

The Eni Award Scientific Secretariat is located at:

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Rome, 29 July 2022