



ENI AWARD 2026

Young Talents from Africa Prize *Energy and Environment*

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Eni is a global energy tech company operating in a responsible way towards its stakeholders in more than sixty countries along the entire value chain. Eni 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, respecting society and world's ecosystems. To this end, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) determined by the UN represent a target and a guiding reference for managing its business and its activities in all those Countries in which Eni 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. Since 2008 Eni has been granting the Eni Award, aimed to promote and reward scientific research and technological innovation in the fields of energy and the environment. Special care will be devoted to applications promoting the use of breakthrough, experimental and innovative technologies, processes and tools, enabling a holistic perspective in research and contributing to the sustainable development goals.

1) Aims

The **Young Talents from Africa** Prize constitutes one of the six sections of the Eni Award, composed of the *Advanced Environmental Solutions*, *Energy Transition*, *Energy Frontiers*, the *Young Researcher of the Year* Prizes and the *"Eni for Innovation" Recognition*.

The purpose of the *Young Talents from Africa* Prize is to promote and encourage new generations of African researchers to emerge and participate in the scientific and technological development of their countries, by supporting their research and innovation ideas on the various scientific topics promoted by Eni Award, related to **energy and environment**. Mentorship by the Eni Award scientific network is encouraged as well.

2) Eligibility criteria and Object of the prize

Candidates shall meet the following criteria:

- being of African citizenship, i.e. coming from one of the African countries listed in the *World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision*, compiled by the United Nations¹;

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, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali,

- having obtained a Bachelor's (B.Sc.) and a Master's (M.Sc.) degree or any equivalent;
- being a PhD student, enrolled in the first or second year of a PhD program (within the Eni Award 2026 *Young Talents from Africa* application deadline) and carrying out their doctorate (PhD) in a university or research institute in one of the African countries listed in the *World Population Prospects: The 2024 Revision*, compiled by the United Nations².

The topic of the PhD research project shall be in connection with the Eni Award focus, i.e. energy and environment, and have potential benefits either in an African country or region, or in the whole African continent, accordingly with the "One Planet – One Health" perspective and the SDG's targets.

The research of the *Young Talents from Africa* Prize shall be related to the following topics:

- Renewable energies (solar, wind, geothermal, blue energy, fusion, etc.)
- Energy grid
- Energy storage
- Innovative materials for energy or environmental applications
- Non-fossil fuels and energy vectors
- Sustainable hydrogen production and use
- Fuel cells
- Decarbonization
- CCUS (carbon capture, utilization and storage)
- Greenhouse gases reduction
- Solutions to reduce the carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency of processes
- Building energy efficiency
- Circular economy
- Bio-economy and green chemistry
- Preservation, remediation and restoration of natural capital (water, soil, air)
- Desalination and water treatment
- Bio-diversity and natural habitat protection
- Nature-based solutions
- Sustainable agriculture

The PhD research shall be conducted in one of the following scientific areas³:

- Natural sciences (mathematics, computer and information sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, material sciences, earth and environmental sciences, biological sciences, other natural sciences);
- Engineering and technology (civil engineering, electrical engineering, electronic engineering, information engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, materials engineering, environmental engineering, marine engineering, mining engineering, environmental biotechnology, industrial biotechnology, nano-technology, other engineering and technologies);
- Agricultural sciences (agriculture, forestry and fisheries, animal and dairy science, veterinary science, agricultural biotechnology, hydrology, other agricultural sciences).

Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Réunion, Rwanda, Saint Helena, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

² As note 1.

³ Defined after Revised field of Science and Technology Classification in OECD Frascati Manual (last modified nov. 05 2021) and adapted to Eni Award Prize.

3) The Prizes

Each of the two winners will be awarded with a prize consisting in: i) a customized plaque, ii) the sum of €25.000 (twenty-five thousand euros) which will be paid in two installments (once the required documentation has been submitted) and iii) direct provision by Eni of a) travel tickets roundtrip, b) transfers and c) board and lodging expenses for up to 2 overnight stays, for the winners and maximum one accompanying person in order to participate to the Prize-Giving Ceremony.

The Prizes will be assigned to the winning Candidates, proclaimed by the Organizing Committee within July 2026.

An Official Prize-Giving Ceremony⁴ to award the winning Candidate will be held in Italy tentatively during the second semester of the year following the publication of the Official Announcement.

4) Application procedures and deadlines

Applications for the *Young Talents from Africa* must be submitted by the Candidate in coordination with her/his doctoral supervisor (and/or her/his PhD program director), who will act as Guarantor and shall declare not to have any objection by providing a presentation letter.

Applications without a PhD supervisor or a PhD program director (Guarantor) presentation letter will not be accepted.

The Candidates who have participated to previous editions of *Young Talents from Africa* Prize may participate to the current edition if eligible according to the requirements provided by art.2.

The deadline for the presentation of the Candidatures to the *Young Talents from Africa* Prize falls **on November 14th, 2025 no later than midnight (12 am) CET (Central European Time)**.

In order to submit the application, the Candidate shall declare that she/he has read and is aware of the “Eni Code of Ethics” and of the “Anti-Corruption Management System Guideline” adopted by Eni, available on the www.eni.com website, and that she/he undertakes to comply with the principles contained therein and undertakes to ensure full compliance with them.

Application information is available on the website: <https://www.eni.com/en-IT/innovation-technologies/eni-award.html>. To participate, it is necessary to use the editable version of the application forms which the Eni Award Scientific Secretariat contact person (from now on: contact person) will provide upon opening the Candidate’s personal account on the web platform. The access to the **private area** must be requested to the Secretariat and once obtained it will allow the Candidate to directly upload her/his application documents. Such documents can alternatively be sent by the Candidate to her/his contact person, who will proceed to the upload on her/his behalf, after a check of formal correctness and completeness.

Hereby the list of documents requested for the application:

1. The **Application Form** reporting a short summary of the PhD research work (intended for a panel of scientific experts) and an explanation of how the prize will be used to improve the research work (“**Proposal**”).
2. The **CV Form** including a list of the Candidate's publications (or in the process of being published) and/or patents and/or patents applications, if any, and the Master’s degree thesis. Publications listed in the CV shall also be provided in .pdf format. Fluency in English is desirable; therefore,

⁴ The participation in the Official Prize-Giving Ceremony is independent from the payment of the grant.

English language proficiency certifications (except for native speakers) shall be reported in the CV.

3. A **motivation letter** written by the Candidate, including background and reason for this application.
4. A detailed description of the **PhD research project work ("PhD Thesis")** and its methodology (about 2 pages in word format, written by the Candidate).
5. A **presentation letter** written and signed by the abovementioned Guarantor, containing a description of the scientific quality of the PhD research work of the Candidate, the improvement that can arise by the prize grant and an appreciation of the human qualities of the Candidate.
6. An estimated **budget** expenditure proposal (both in local currency and in Euro at the exchange rate of the day of the submission of the application) prepared by the Candidate, in coherence with her/his PhD research work (a detail of the allowed uses is reported in the Annex 1). Should the Candidate be nominated as winner, she/he is allowed to integrate the estimated budget proposal, if the one presented for submitting the application is less than the prize amount. This integration is allowed after the first installment and in any case the integration must be within the prize amount and in coherence with her/his PhD research work.
7. Copy of the Candidate's **M.Sc. degree (or equivalent) certificate** and **letter of university or research institute** certifying the **enrollment** in a PhD program and attesting which year she/he is attending and the duration of the PhD program.
8. Furthermore, the Candidate can also provide by e-mail to the contact person a **self-made video** of no more than 3 minutes to better describe her/his PhD research work in the following formats: .MOV, .MPEG4, .AVI, .FLV. The submission of the afore-mentioned video is strongly recommended, even if it is not mandatory.
9. 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, will be provided to each Candidate. The aforesaid file shall be duly checked and signed by the Candidate and sent by e-mail to the contact person or to eniaward@feem.it before and no later than the deadline defined by this Official Announcement.

An application is considered complete only if it includes all the above-mentioned documents.

The official application language is English and therefore all application content generated shall be in English. If supporting documents are in a different language, at least an informal translation into English shall be provided for. Documents without any English translation will not be considered.

Please note that, after the first upload of the application material on the Candidates private area of the Eni Award platform, any new version of the Candidature documents shall be sent by e-mail to the Eni Award Scientific Secretariat, which will update the application material onto the platform.

Please finally note that Eni Award Scientific Secretariat and the Eni Award Scientific Commission are subject to a duty of Confidentiality with regards to any documents and data submitted by the Candidate.

5. Selection criteria

Candidatures will be evaluated and selected by the Scientific Commission as per the following criteria:

- Scientific value of the PhD research work;
- Quality of the Proposal;
- Coherency of the estimated budget expenditure proposal;
- Motivation and communication skills;
- Curriculum Vitae.

A detailed description of the selection criteria scores is reported in Annex 2.

6. Selection of the Candidatures

The Eni Award Scientific Commission shall examine the work of the Candidates who have been accepted and shall present the names of the selected winners of the *Young Talents from Africa* Prize to the Eni Award Organizing Committee by May 2026.

7. Winner Commitments

1. The Prizes are paid directly to the two winners after the receipt of the documents required for the bank transfer. Each beneficiary shall inquire about the taxation linked to the awarded sum.

The award grants are non-renewable and may be combined with other allowances or research grants, including other donations, awards, salaries, etc.

The winner shall formally accept the Prize no later than 30 days after the communication of the award.

2. The winner shall continue the research work for which the Young Talents from Africa Prize was obtained. Failing that, the total amount of the awarded sum shall be refunded to Eni.

3. The **first installment** (half of the sum, 12.500€) will be paid after the official disclosure of the name of the winners, proclaimed by the Organizing Committee. The **second installment** (remaining half of the sum, 12.500€) will be paid after the complete expenditure of the first one, after the receipt of a research progress report and of a detailed report of all the incurred expenses. Winners will be also asked to provide a webinar to present the progress of their research.

At the end of the PhD, winners are asked to provide a final financial expenditure statement, a copy of their PhD thesis to the Eni Award Scientific Secretariat (if restricted, at least the abstract) and of their publications; moreover, a webinar to present the final results of their research is requested.

4. The winner shall carry out their expenses, as described in Annex 1, coherently with the research proposal and with the estimated budget submitted in the application file, until the date of PhD thesis defense.

5. The Young Talents from Africa agree to participate in any communication activities related to the Eni Award Prize. They will be photographed, filmed, and interviewed for non-commercial purposes related to the dissemination of Eni Award, both for written and audiovisual publications. A separate written image right authorization shall be signed by each of the winners.

6. The Young Talents from Africa shall mention “Eni Award – Young Talents from Africa” in the acknowledgements of all publications and media communications, including conferences, which result from or are connected to the PhD research work supported by the awarded Prize. Moreover, the winners shall inform the Eni Award Scientific Secretariat of such publications/media communications by direct email and/or by including them in the progress and final report.

8. 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/innovation-technologies/eni-award.html>.

9. Contact details

The Candidate will be assigned a contact person of the Eni Award Scientific Secretariat, who will assist her/him during the whole application process. The Candidate may send all documents and communications to this contact person's email address.

The official address of the Secretariat is: eniaward@feem.it.

The Secretariat headquarters are located at Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Corso Magenta 63, 20123, Milan.

10. Privacy and Personal Data Protection

Eni will process personal data supplied in the context of the Eni Award as an independent data controller, in full compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR"). In application of Article 12(1) GDPR, Eni provides an adequate privacy notice (Annex 1 of the Eni Award Regulations). Further information is available in the Eni Award Regulations.

Rome, 23 July 2025

ANNEX 1

ALLOWED USES OF AWARDED GRANT

The awarded sum is intended for PhD students themselves and must be exclusively devoted to the promotion of their research.

Eni Award particularly encourage candidates to use the endowment to undertake a research visit period at a host institute in another country.

List of allowed uses:

- Visiting period at a host institute (abroad or at home country):
 - Visa expenses
 - Medical insurance
 - Return ticket
 - Study fees (including tuition and registration fees, if required)
 - Board and lodging
 - Transportation fees
 - Telephone and internet charges
- Attending conferences and congresses (travel, registration fee etc.)
- Attending English courses or specific technical training or certifications
- Expenses for data or sample collection campaigns
- Purchase of computer or digital equipment (for example hardware, specific software, datasets, computer services etc.)
- Purchase of advanced equipment for winner specific research or highly advanced sample analyses (in order to prove research results). It is understood that the prize must in no case replace the responsibilities of the laboratory towards its PhD students. As a result, endowments cannot be used to purchase basic laboratory equipment
- Purchase of scientific publications or books (max 1000€ overall).

The above list is not exhaustive.

ANNEX 2

SELECTION CRITERIA GRID

- Scientific value of the research (40%)
 - Methodology and experimental design
 - Innovation and originality
 - Technical feasibility
 - Expected outcomes
 - Eventual publications
- Quality of the Proposal (30%)
 - Clarity
 - Impact on the Country and/or all Africa
 - Impact on SDG's
 - Presentation letter
- Coherency of the estimated budget (10%)
- Motivation and communication skills (10%)
 - Communication skills (video)
 - Motivation letter
- Curriculum vitae (10%)
 - English level (certifications)