Call for application

Young Talent of The Year Award 2023 edition

RES4AFRICA FOUNDATION

enel Green Power

European Investment Bank The EU bank

SDG7 YOUTH CONSTITUENCY
YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Res4Africa Academy
Young Talent of the year Award- Edition 2023
Call for application

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 1
2. AWARD THEMATIC FOCUS 1
3. AWARD GRANTS ALLOCATION 1
4. ELIGIBILITY 2
5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES 2
6. SELECTION PROCEDURES 2
7. EVALUATION 3
8. DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION 3
9. REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS 4

1. INTRODUCTION

RES4Africa Foundation believes that **young people**, thinking differently and innovatively, **represent the backbone of a prosperous and sustainable future for Africa where access to energy for all is a reality**.
What does it take to make this happen? Giving voice and opportunities to young talent, innovators, entrepreneurs, start-ups.

With this aim, in the framework of the RES4Africa Academy and with the support of Enel Green Power and the European Investment Bank, RES4Africa Foundation is launching the fourth edition of the ***Young Talent of the Year* 2023 Award,** to support **brilliant young talents,** coming **from all african countries,** addressing major **environmental and social challenges** that hamper the development of African countries and proposing project ideas to boost the RE sector in Africa and the Access to Energy SdG#7.

Through this initiative, young innovators are called to submit their **creative concrete ideas, based on existing and on-going experiences or projects**.

The 3 best innovative proposal will be awarded with a monetary contribution of 5.000 Euro and will have access to mentoring program. The awardees, through the support of the Res4Africa Academy, will take part in **high-level conference and forum**, acting as **young Africa talents and leaders.**

2. AWARD THEMATIC FOCUS

Innovative and concrete ground-breaking ideas**, on-going experiences and projects** must address **major environmental** and **social challenges, promoting access to energy** for the development of African countries and sustainable social-economic growth.

The proposed ideas and projects must come from young African entrepreneurs and professionals with a focus on **Entrepreneurship and Renewable energy solutions such as but not limited to Productive Uses of Energy, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Electric Mobility and Circular Economy** (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). In general, proposals that create innovation through start-ups and entrepreneurial initiatives in the renewable energy field will be preferred.

In addition, the proposed initiatives must address one or more among the following cross-cutting themes:

1. **Women empowerment:** proposals that contribute to the empowerment of women and their involvement in the renewable energy sector.
2. **Youth empowerment:** proposals that promote and foster the involvement of young people in the renewable energy sector.
3. **Climate change:** proposals that contribute to create awareness and win the fight against climate change, with focus on reducing emissions, waste and deforestation in rural areas and promoting the development of climate resilient communities.
4. **Advocacy**: proposals that contribute to raise public interest and awareness on clean energy access and Renewable energy solutions production and discussion, ensuring and promoting a long-lasting impact.
5. **Social impact:** proposals that drive the social impact (health, education, economic development, etc) with the social distribution of costs and benefits among the community stakeholders at different levels (values, attitudes, revenues and behaviours) to generate additional social values.

3. AWARD GRANTS ALLOCATION

On the basis of the presentations, the Selection Committee will identify up to **3 Young Talents who will be awarded 5.000 euro** and will be provided with **tailored mentoring support** with expert from the renewable energy sector.

In addition, **Award Winners will be invited to significant Conferences and Forum** to present their ideas to a vast audience of energy experts, coming from high-level entities of the sector.

4. ELIGIBILITY

To be selected and evaluated, the applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be an individual, a start-up or a group of people represented by a team leader;
- Demonstrate to be the owner or representative of an **innovative idea(s) or project(s) group** in her/his community in the REs sector;
- Have African nationality;
- Be between 18 and 33 years old;
- Have a Good knowledge of English language.

RES4Africa Foundation promotes gender balance in the selection of participants, therefore **women applicants are highly encouraged to participate**.

Groups of work are also encouraged to apply.
When the applicant is an association or other legal entities, the persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that they should be in line with all criteria mentioned in section 2, 4,5, 6 and 7.
The composition of the group of work should be clearly indicated with name and contacts of all members of the group.

Each applicant cannot submit more than 1 application as single applicant or as member of a group of work.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All information is available here.

The evaluation of applicants will be completed only for applicants providing the following documents.

1. **Online Standard Application form**, properly completed in all its parts, mandatory (please fill the Standard model here.
2. Please note that the form should contain all the following information:
    - **Name of the association**/entity/start up;
    - Names of all **team members** and team leader;
    - **CV** (.doc or .pdf, mandatory);
    - **Identification Document** (mandatory);
    - **Letter of references**, (desirable but not mandatory; .doc or .pdf).
3. **An email** to info@microgridacademy.org to inform on the completion of the application submission, mandatory.
4. Evidence or example of the **impact of your idea** (Video or slideshow (5 mins max) of description of the proposed project or innovation; pictures, PPT…).

All documents must be provided in English.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURES

All applications will be assessed according to the following steps.
An **administrative check** of application will be carried out. If the examination of the application reveals that it does not meet the requirement stated as listed in detail in section 7, **the application will be excluded automatically**.

Applications resulted in line with the administrative check will be evaluated by a **Selection Committee** composed by representatives of RES4Africa Foundation. The selection Committee might contact the applicant in order to acquire further information or clarifications before the selection of the finalists.

A first round of at least **6 pre-selected finalists** will be invited to a "Res4Africa Young Innovator of the Year contest" that will be organized as physical or virtual event in order to evaluate public performance presentation of project proposals by the **Evaluation Committee** composed by RES4Africa, Enel Green Power and the European Investment Bank.

The final round of evaluation will identify the 3 winners, selected among the 6 pre-selected ones and a **public final ceremony** will be organised to announce the awardees.

In addition, the winners will be invited to participate in international events and Conferences.

7. EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee following the steps mentioned in section 6. Evaluation will be based on the following steps.

Step 1: Administrative and Eligibility check

- Applications are in line with thematic focus mentioned in the section 2;
- Eligibility criteria are respected (section 4);
- Administrative documents are provided and complete (section 5).

Step 2: Evaluation Criteria:
Quality of the proposal description: proposal local context, objectives, results and proposed use of the monetary award are clearly described.

- Relevance of the proposal to the call:
  - Does the proposal match with the goals of the call including the access to energy and the response to the environmental and social challenges?
  - Does the proposal match with the chosen Thematic Focus? Are they well explained?
  - Is the proposal Innovative? Please explain how.
  - Does the proposal bring about an impact on local context and needs? At which scope: single, community and country level? Please explain.
- Sustainability of the proposal:
  - Does the proposal include reliable Partnership(s) (Profit and No Profit)?
  - Feasibility (Economic and Technical), Concreteness
  - Potential of the proposal, in terms of Sustainability, Replicability, Scalability
- Communication: Effectiveness of Project Evidence (Video, PPTs, Pictures…)

- Group work: Does the proposal involve other participants from the R4safrica capacity building programmes such as the ATC and the MGA Community alumni?

In addition, **shortlisted candidates will be evaluated on the following**:

- Level of English assessed during Interviews;
- Public Speaking skills.

8. DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

The deadline for the submission of **application form** and the **notification e-mail** is **June 4th, 2023**.
NOTE: all the notification email must be sent exclusively to **info@microgridacademy.org** .

The applicants are advised not to wait until the last day to submit their application and proposal, in order to avoid last minutes constraint du to Internet traffic, electricity faults and other potential issues.

RES4Africa will not be responsible for any delay due to such afore-mentioned difficulties and any application received after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

9. REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS

Questions and requests for clarification may be sent by e-mail no later than 16 days before the deadline for the submission of application to the address **info@microgridacademy.org** indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals *RES4Africa- Young talent Award 2023*.

RES4Africa is not obliged to give clarifications to questions received after this date, and all replies will be addressed no later than 10 working days before the deadline for submission of application.

10. GENERAL TIMELINE FOR APPLICANTS

Publication of the Call for application	23/03/2023
Last date to request clarifications by the applicant	20/05/2023
Last date on which clarification are issued by RES4Africa	30/05/2023
Deadline for Application submission	04/06/2023
FIRST ROUND: RES4Africa notification to **pre-selected finalist applicants**	30/06/2023
FIRST ROUND: pre-selected finalist applicants' participation to the "R4A Young Innovator of the Year contest"	by 31/07/2023
SECOND ROUND: Notification of the Winner Applicants	10/09/2023
Final Public Ceremony	31/10/2023
Invitation to Public Conferences	From November 2023

RES4Africa Foundation (Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa) envisions the sustainable transformation of Africa's electricity systems to ensure reliable and affordable electricity access for all, enabling the continent to achieve its full, resilient, inclusive and sustainable development. The Foundation's mission is to create favourable conditions for scaling up investments in clean energy technologies to accelerate the continent's just energy transition and transformation. See more: