

RAISE AFRICA

RENEWABLE ACCELERATOR FOR INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN AFRICA

Call For applications

For More information: res4africa.org





RAISEAfrica

Call for application

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1. INTRODUCTION: RAISEAFRICA

RES4Africa Foundation believes that the **key to a thriving and sustainable future for Africa lies in the innovative thinking of its youth**. A future where **universal access to energy is a reality that can be achieved by empowering young talents, innovators, entrepreneurs, and start-ups** with opportunities and a platform to voice their ideas.

In pursuit of this objective and with the backing of **Enel Green Power, EDP, CSIR, and SAICA ED**, all renowned for their expertise in the renewable and innovation sectors, **RES4Africa is introducing RAISEAfrica - Renewables Accelerators for Innovative Startups and Entrepreneurs in Africa**. This initiative, encompassing **pre-acceleration and acceleration programs**, is specifically designed for the **renewable energy sector in Africa**.

The overarching goal of RAISEAfrica is to **support and scale up renewable energy-focused businesses within the African startup ecosystem**. This involves assisting innovative business ideas from **both aspiring and established entrepreneurs** in the African renewable energy sector, fostering the development and expansion of their enterprises.

Under this initiative, **young innovators are invited to submit innovative business proposals, ranging from new ideas to on-going projects**. **RAISEAfrica will select a minimum of three startups/entrepreneurs to be included in the pre-acceleration and acceleration programmes**, that include a comprehensive package of services, encompassing **Mentoring & Coaching, Networking & Visibility, Fundraising, and various other activities**.

Visibility is identified as a pivotal asset for startups, attracting customers, employees, and potential investors. Leveraging our **extensive global recognition, particularly in the African continent**, selected entrepreneurs and start-ups will have the opportunity to **participate in conferences, meet & greets, speak in panel discussions, and partake in site visits organized by our esteemed partners**.

2. THEMATIC FOCUS

We encourage **applications from young African entrepreneurs and professionals**, emphasizing Entrepreneurship and Renewable Energy solutions. The envisioned concepts and projects should showcase the ingenuity of these individuals and focus **on various aspects including but not confined to areas such as Technology, Manufacturing, Digitalization, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Circular Economy, and New Business Models**. In essence, we welcome proposals that foster innovation through the perspective of start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures in the **dynamic field of renewable energy**.

3. MONETARY PRIZE

As an integral component of the RAISEAfrica program, **participants will have exclusive access to a growth fund of up to 20,000 euros**. This dedicated fund is designed to provide crucial financial support to the most **promising entrepreneurs and startups that demonstrate significant potential and growth prospects by the conclusion of the program**. The disbursement of funds **at the end of the program** underscores our commitment to fostering the development and success of these entrepreneurial ventures, empowering them to thrive and make a lasting impact in the renewable energy sector.

4. PRE-ACCELERATOR AND ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

RAISEAfrica comprises both **an accelerator and a pre-accelerator**, each designed with specific objectives.

The Pre-Accelerator is aimed at **aspiring entrepreneurs and startups in the early stages of developing a business idea**. The primary goal is to assist them in crafting and validating their business plan, creating a Minimum Viable Product, and establishing functional market access.

The Accelerator is tailored for **entrepreneurs and startups looking for market validation and business expansion**. The primary objectives include developing a bankable product, finalizing a robust team, building an expansive business network, and solidifying a recurring clientele.

The primary distinction lies in the inclusion, but not limitation, of a Minimum Viable Product in the pre-accelerator phase.

5. ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR THE PRE-ACCELERATOR

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

- Entrepreneurs must be between 18 and 35 years old
- Startups that are not registered can apply
- Solution should address the African market
- Ownership: to be eligible either the entrepreneur must possess an African country citizenship either the startup must be registered in Africa
- The startup must operate in the renewable energy sector.

Eligible applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the problem/need identified and ability to impact the renewable energy sector while fostering access to energy, job creation, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and economic growth.
- Novelty of the proposed solution.
- Financial feasibility and solidity of the idea/business model.
- Scalability of the solution.
- Predisposition of the entrepreneur to be self-driven, resilient, committed and available for mentoring and coaching activities.

6. ELIGIBILITY AND EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ACCELERATOR

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

- Entrepreneurs must be between 18 and 35 years old.
- Solution should address the African market.
- Ownership: to be eligible either the entrepreneur must possess an African country citizenship either the startup must be registered in Africa.
- The product/service must be at least at Minimum Viable Product stage.
- The startup must operate in the renewable energy sector.

Eligible applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the problem/need identified and ability to impact the renewable energy sector while fostering access to energy, job creation, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and economic growth.
- Novelty of the enterprise's solution.
- Financial feasibility and solidity of the business model.

- Market sustainability of the enterprise.
- Ability to demonstrate the business case, value proposition, and competitive advantage of the enterprise.
- Scalability of the solution.
- Predisposition of the entrepreneur to be self-driven, resilient, committed and available for mentoring and coaching activities.

7. CROSS CUTTING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE-ACCELERATOR AND ACCELERATOR)

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

Groups of work are also considered eligible. 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.

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

All information is available on <https://www.res4africa.org/>

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

1. **Complete the Online Standard Application form**, properly completed in all its parts, mandatory:
 - **Pre-accelerator:** [here](#)
 - **Accelerator:** [here](#)
2. Please note that the form should contain all the following information:
 - **Name of association/entity/start-up (for registered organization); name of entrepreneur (for single entrepreneur application); name of team leader and members (for group application).**
 - **CV of the lead applicant** (.doc or .pdf, mandatory).
 - **Identification Document** (mandatory).
 - **Letter of references**, (desirable but not mandatory; .doc or .pdf).
3. Evidence or example of the **impact of your idea/business** (Video or slideshow - 5 mins max - of description of the proposed project or innovation; pictures, PPT...).

All documents must be provided in English.

For any doubts/clarifications please contact giovanni.formicola@res4africa.org

9. SELECTION PROCESS

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 5, 6, and 8 **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 RAISEAfrica. The Selection Committee will identify a subset of applications that may undergo interviews with representatives of the committee. These interviews will serve as a crucial step in the final selection process to determine the ultimate participants.

10. EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee following the criteria mentioned in section 4,5,6. Evaluation will be based on:

Step 1: Administrative and Eligibility check

- Applications are in line with section 4,5,6.
- Administrative documents are provided and complete (section 8).

Step 2: Evaluation

- Evaluation based on criteria highlighted at section 4, 5, 6, 8 including:
 - Effectiveness of project evidence (Video, PPTs, Pictures...).
 - English knowledge and public speaking skills assessed during interviews.

11. DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

The deadline for the submission of **application form** is **February 29th, 2024**.

The applicants are advised not to wait until the last day to submit their application and proposal, in order to avoid last minutes constraint due 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.

12. GENERAL TIMELINE FOR APPLICANTS (TENTATIVE)

Publication of the Call for application	20/12/2024
Deadline for Application submission	29/02/2024
Notification of the Winner Applicants	April 2024
RAISEAfrica Kick-Off	May 2024

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: www.res4africa.org