



Call for Applications

Milan Executive School 2026

Edition: XIII°

Host City, Country: Milan, Italy

Dates: 23 November – 4 December 2026

Executive Summary

The Milan Executive School is RES4Africa Foundation's flagship executive education programme, designed to strengthen the technical, regulatory, financial, economic, and managerial capacities of professionals leading Africa's sustainable energy transition.

Delivered in partnership with leading international institutions, universities, and industry experts, the programme combines academic excellence with business-oriented experience, offering participants a multidisciplinary learning journey focused on renewable energy, electricity markets, energy planning, and sustainable development.

Through an interactive learning environment that promotes peer exchange, networking, and cross-sector collaboration, the Executive School equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and professional network required to accelerate the deployment of sustainable energy solutions across Africa.

About RES4Africa Foundation

Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa Foundation (RES4Africa Foundation) is an international, non-profit foundation established in 2012 to support Africa's sustainable energy transition by promoting renewable energy deployment, sustainable electrification, and investment-enabling policy frameworks.

The Foundation brings together a unique multi-stakeholder network of public institutions, development finance institutions, utilities, private companies, technology providers, research



organisations, consultancies, and academic institutions from Africa and Europe. By facilitating dialogue among public and private stakeholders, RES4Africa Foundation contributes to creating the conditions needed to accelerate investment in clean energy technologies and support the long-term development of Africa's energy sector.

RES4Africa Foundation promotes an integrated approach to sustainable electrification, supporting renewable energy generation, electricity transmission and distribution, electrification planning, smart grids, digitalisation, productive uses of energy, sustainable industrialisation, and the electrification of end uses. Through policy dialogue, technical assistance, knowledge sharing, and capacity building, the Foundation works to strengthen local ecosystems and contribute to an inclusive, resilient, and just energy transition across the continent.

About the Milan Executive School

The Milan Executive School is the flagship executive education programme of the Foundation and one of its longest-standing capacity-building initiatives dedicated to advancing Africa's sustainable energy development.

Designed for high-achieving professionals, managers and emerging leaders, the programme provides advanced multidisciplinary training covering the technical, regulatory, economic, financial, and managerial dimensions of sustainable energy systems.

Building on the belief that investing in people is as important as investing in infrastructure, the Executive School equips participants with the competencies required to accelerate renewable energy deployment, strengthen institutional capacity, improve energy planning, and support evidence-based decision-making.

The programme includes lectures delivered by internationally recognised academics, policymakers, development finance institutions, utilities, technology providers, and private sector leaders. Interactive workshops, case studies, collaborative group work, and technical site visits provide participants with practical insights and opportunities for peer learning.

One of the programme's defining characteristics is its pan-African perspective. By bringing together professionals from different countries, institutions, and areas of expertise, the Executive School promotes regional cooperation, cross-sector dialogue, and the exchange of best practices while fostering long-lasting professional relationships.



Since its launch in 2014, the Executive School has welcomed more than **1.300 professionals** from across 38 Countries, representing ministries, regulatory authorities, utilities, private companies, financial institutions, universities, research centres, and international organisations. Today, many alumni occupy key technical, managerial, and decision-making positions, contributing to the design of national energy policies, the implementation of renewable energy projects, the expansion of electricity access, and the mobilisation of sustainable investments.

Beyond the classroom, participants become part of a growing pan-African community of energy professionals committed to sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and supporting the continent's sustainable energy transition.

The Milan Executive School 2026

The **XIII^o Edition** of the Executive School will be held in **Milan**, from the **23rd of November** to the **4th of December 2026**

The programme is organised by RES4Africa Foundation in partnership with **GSE** (Gestore Servizi Energetici) and with the support of the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)**, **Enel Foundation**, and the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** and in collaboration with **POLIMI Graduate School of Management**, and **SDA Bocconi School of Management**.

Programme duration: two weeks

Training modality: In-person

Language: English

Venue: Milan, Italy

This edition has been designed to address the evolving priorities of Africa's energy transition while promoting dialogue among participants from different countries, institutions, and professional backgrounds.

Why Apply?

Participating in the Executive School offers a unique opportunity to:

- Gain cutting-edge knowledge on renewable energy technologies, electricity markets, regulation, finance, and energy planning.

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- Learn directly from internationally recognised academics, policymakers, industry experts, and development finance institutions.
 - Exchange experiences and best practices with professionals from across Africa.
 - Build a strong professional network that extends beyond the duration of the programme.
 - Join a growing community of Executive School alumni actively contributing to Africa's sustainable energy transition.
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Programme Structure

The Milan Executive School offers approximately **80 hours** of executive education delivered through:

- Academic lectures;
- Industry case studies;
- Policy and regulatory sessions;
- Interactive workshops;
- Collaborative group work;
- Networking activities;
- Technical site visits.

The multidisciplinary curriculum combines theory and practice, equipping participants with the knowledge and tools required to address the challenges and opportunities of Africa's rapidly evolving energy sector.

Strategic Focuses of the 2026 Edition

Building on the evolving priorities of Africa's energy transition, the 2026 Executive School will feature dedicated sessions on two strategic themes.

AI-Driven Innovations in the Power Sector: from Renewables to Grids

Participants will explore how Artificial Intelligence is transforming the power sector, with a focus on machine learning-based energy production forecasting, intelligent demand-response systems for balancing electricity supply and demand, early fault and anomaly detection, and AI-driven predictive maintenance for power infrastructure.

Access to Electricity in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas



With the urban population in Sub-Saharan Africa expected to double by 2050, while approximately 110 million people living in urban and peri-urban areas still lack access to electricity, the programme will examine innovative and scalable solutions to address this challenge. Building on RES4Africa Foundation's recent analysis of ten African cities, this module will focus on strategies to accelerate universal electricity access in rapidly growing urban environments.

Participants

Each edition of the Executive School brings together a carefully selected cohort of high-achieving African professionals with demonstrated experience and leadership potential.

Participants represent a wide range of institutions across the energy ecosystem, including:

- Government institutions and ministries;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Utilities;
- Transmission and Distribution System Operators;
- Renewable energy developers;
- Energy agencies;
- Financial institutions;
- Universities and research centres;
- Civil society organisations;
- International organisations.

For this edition, the Executive School will welcome **30 African professionals**, selected through an open, transparent, and merit-based process.

RES4Africa Foundation is committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and gender equality throughout the selection process. Applications from qualified women are strongly encouraged.

Scholarship

As part of its commitment to strengthening local capacities and supporting Africa's energy transition, RES4Africa Foundation awards a limited number of full scholarships each year to outstanding African professionals selected to participate in the Executive School.

The scholarship includes:

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- Tuition fees;
 - International round-trip flights;
 - Accommodation;
 - Meals during the programme;
 - Local transportation;
 - Educational materials;
 - Participation in lectures, workshops, networking activities, and technical site visits.

The scholarship does not cover:

- Visa application fees;
- Medical and travel insurance;
- Transportation to and from the departure airport in the participant's home country;
- Personal expenses.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants should:

- **Be a national of, or legally reside in, an African country;**
- Have at least **10 years** of professional experience in the energy sector (where applicable);
- Demonstrate leadership potential and a strong commitment to sustainable energy development;
- Be fully proficient in English;
- Be eligible to travel to the host country.

Required Documents

Applicants will be required to submit:

- Curriculum Vitae;
- Motivation Letter;
- Passport copy (or national ID where applicable);
- Reference letter(s);
- Any Additional documents specified in the application form.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.



Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated through selection process conducted by the Selection Committee.

The evaluation takes into account:

- Professional experience;
- Academic background;
- Leadership potential;
- Motivation;
- Geographical representation;
- Gender balance.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to ensure an appropriate balance in terms of geographical representation, professional background, institutional affiliation, and gender.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

RES4Africa Foundation reserves the right to consider applicants for admission to other capacity building programmes organized in other hubs in Africa.

Application Timeline

Milestone	Date
Call opening	August, 4
Application deadline	August, 31
Evaluation period	Up to September, 6
Notification of selected participants	September, 8
Confirmation of participation	September, 15



How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through the **online application form** available on the RES4Africa Foundation website.

Applications received after the deadline or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Contact Information

For further information regarding the Executive School or the application process, please contact:

Flavia Pezzano (flavia.pezzano@res4africa.org)

Assia Bellaroto (assia.bellaroto@res4africa.org)