



Youth Innovation Award

For Mediterranean Sustainable Food Systems



#CIHEAM60

Are you a CIHEAM student or graduate under 40?

Have you developed an innovative and disruptive project?

Does your project contribute to more sustainable, inclusive and equitable agri-food systems in the Mediterranean?

If so, apply for the CIHEAM YOUTH INNOVATION AWARD!

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION (2022)

Why does the CIHEAM reward Youth Innovation?

Ensuring food and nutritional security in a context of climate change, scarcity of resources and socio-economic crises is one of the major challenges for Mediterranean societies. Although it is often connected to production, innovation in agri-food systems can also cover societal issues that are at least as important. Changes in consumption patterns, social practices like multi-stakeholder dialogue and co-construction of projects, digitization of knowledge sharing are also indeed conducive to **innovative practices and solutions to overcome challenges in Mediterranean Agri-food systems.**

If the CIHEAM has rewarded (and will continue to do so) the [quality of the scientific works of its young researchers](#), it is time to recognize and award today the innovative, disruptive and audacious nature of a project designed and led by a CIHEAM student or a former student, and contributing to **more sustainable, inclusive and equitable Mediterranean food systems.**

In 2022, the CIHEAM celebrates its 60th anniversary with the aim of projecting the organization into the Mediterranean of tomorrow, responding to new emerging challenges and mobilizing young people. This special year is the ideal time to inaugurate this award for innovations carried out by young people and give it greater visibility.

Protect the Planet “by struggling against triple waste”

- Sharing knowledge and promoting traditional know-how
- Managing natural resources and energy (water, soil forests, energy, biodiversity, sea...)
- Reducing agricultural losses and food waste all along food chains

Crises and Resilience “by contributing to tensions management”

- Tackling the root causes of the rural exodus
- Fostering climate change prevention and adaptation
- Providing solutions concerning animal and plant health
- Contributing to a more transparent agricultural market



Food Security and Nutrition “by boosting sustainable agriculture and food”

- Promoting the “Mediterranean Diet”
- Enhancing agro-ecological practices
- Improving food safety and quality
- Increasing access to food

Inclusive Development “by investing in new generations and fragile territories”

- Contributing to youth socio-economic inclusion
- Supporting the sustainable development of rural and coastal regions
- Promoting gender equality and women empowerment
- Encouraging the emergence of smart rural territories and of innovative agro-fishing models

CIHEAM Strategic Agenda

In line with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), the Member States of the CIHEAM have adopted the [CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean \(CAPMED 2025\)](#) that identifies the missions of the Organisation revolving around the 4 domains represented below in this figure

Each of the 4 pillars is a component of Sustainable Food Systems. This framework constitutes the grid for selecting initiatives for the [CIHEAM Youth Innovation Award](#).

Criteria

The CIHEAM Youth Innovation Award will recompense an initiative contributing to more sustainable, equitable and inclusive food systems, **falling within the CAPMED themes**, including innovations in the production and in food security, innovations in the implementation of sustainable practices or innovations contributing to the empowerment of local communities. Equal opportunity and the promotion of diversity are core values of CIHEAM. As such, it encourages, both young women and men to participate.

Criteria to apply

- Be a CIHEAM student or graduate
- Be **under 40 years**
- To be eligible, projects need to be **already implemented** in a relevant environment and have demonstrated results, at least on a pilot basis
- **Application file must be completed in all its parts**

Selection Criteria

The Award will recompense a **professional**, **associative** or **R&D project** implemented in the **Mediterranean region** covering the following criteria:

1. Innovative and disruptive project with regard to the existing context and falling within the CAPMED themes (*VETO CRITERIA*)
2. Quantitative and qualitative impact of the innovation
3. Sustainability of the project
4. Potentiality of the project (scale-up, replication...)
5. Overall coherence of the project

The Award

The CIHEAM's Youth Innovation Award will be both material and promotional. The winner will be awarded **5 000 €** and receive a **CIHEAM Medal and Diploma**. The winning project will also be promoted in the different platforms of communications of the CIHEAM and in the events and meetings organized by the CIHEAM.

IMPORTANT: The reward paid is intended to support the current project (with a posteriori control)

Agenda

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| 26 JULY 2022 | OPENING OF THE CALL |
| 15 SEPTEMBER 2022 15 OCTOBER 2022 (new deadline) | CLOSING OF THE CALL |
| 4-7 DECEMBER 2022 | WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT DURING THE MEDFORUM 2022 (CIHEAM CHANIA) |

APPLY HERE

For any queries, please contact secretariat@ciheam.org