



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Women in AI Award



W allWomen

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The Women in AI Awards is a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to celebrating and empowering women-led Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects across the MENA region. Organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in partnership with allWomen and supported by the German Agency for International Development Cooperation (GIZ), this initiative highlights the contributions of women innovators who are shaping the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI). By recognizing trailblazing projects that address critical challenges and drive technological advancements, the awards seek to foster a more inclusive and dynamic AI ecosystem.

Despite their increasing impact in the AI field, women continue to encounter significant barriers, including underrepresentation, limited access to funding, and restricted professional networks. The Women in AI Awards aim to address these challenges by offering recognition, visibility, and opportunities to women-led AI initiatives. By showcasing their work and facilitating connections with industry leaders, the awards strive to elevate the role of women in shaping the future of AI-driven innovation.

Through this initiative, the UfM and allWomen are committed to supporting and amplifying the influence of women in AI. By acknowledging outstanding projects, fostering collaboration, and providing valuable resources, the awards contribute to an AI landscape where women's ideas thrive, solutions scale, and technological progress benefits all. Together, we can build a future where women innovators lead the way in AI-driven transformation across the MENA region.



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OBJECTIVES

Celebrate Innovation: Recognize AI projects that serve as inspiration and role models for women in the AI field.

Promote Inclusivity: Contribute to a more diverse and representative AI ecosystem by highlighting women-led initiatives that are driving technological advancements.

Address Barriers: Raise awareness of the challenges women face in AI, including underrepresentation, limited access to resources, and restricted networking opportunities.

Strengthen Connections: Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among women in AI to drive meaningful change and innovation in the industry.

Empower Growth: Equip women innovators with the tools, resources, and networks needed to develop, implement, and scale their AI projects.

Build Community: Create spaces for networking and mentorship, allowing women in AI to exchange experiences, share opportunities, and accelerate progress.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Women originally from **Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Tunisia, and Türkiye** —including those residing abroad in one of the **UfM member states**—. Open to **entrepreneurs and employees** working on AI projects.



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12 Finalists Will Travel to Istanbul for the Awards Ceremony

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Call for applications

Women originally from Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Tunisia, and Türkiye are invited to participate—including those residing abroad in one of the UfM member states. Applicants may apply as individuals or teams, provided they are actively involved in the technical development or leadership of the AI project.

Eligible submissions include AI-driven projects, products, or services that are either already making an impact or still in development with a clear vision and measurable progress. Participants must complete an online form detailing their project's objectives, innovation, social and environmental impact, scalability, and ethical considerations.

Applications must include a project summary, selection of award categories, and supporting materials such as a presentation deck (PDF, max. 10 pages) and an optional video pitch (max. 3 minutes). Additional documents, such as impact studies or letters of support, may also be submitted.

Evaluation criteria

- **Innovation & Originality:** Technological advancement, uniqueness, and a clear value proposition.
- **Impact & Relevance:** Social, economic, environmental, or technological impact with measurable benefits.
- **Feasibility & Scalability:** Practicality, viability, and potential for expansion across markets.
- **Sustainability:** Long-term financial, operational, and environmental viability.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Addressing data privacy, biases, transparency, and responsible AI practices.
- **Quality of Application:** Clarity, completeness, and professionalism of submission materials.

Judging panel

The jury is made up of leading women in AI, including both top-level executives and technical specialists, shaping the future of the field.

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CONTENTS CATEGORIES

The Women in AI Awards recognize outstanding women-led AI projects across three key categories. Applicants are welcome to apply to more than one category if they believe their project excels in more than one area. Below are the three categories in which submissions will be considered:

MOST DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION

This category celebrates pioneering AI initiatives that introduce significant technological advancements or revolutionary solutions. Projects in this category redefine industry standards, create new market opportunities, or push the boundaries of AI innovation.

MOST SOCIALLY IMPACTFUL PROJECT

This category highlights AI-driven projects that address critical social challenges and drive measurable positive change. Recognized initiatives contribute to societal well-being, focusing on underserved or marginalized communities through technology-driven solutions.

MOST SUSTAINABLE AI INITIATIVE

This category honors AI projects committed to sustainability and responsible development. Eligible initiatives demonstrate contributions to environmental conservation, ethical AI practices, or sustainable resource management, ensuring long-term positive impact.

Four finalists will be selected per category to travel to Istanbul, Türkiye, to participate in the Award Ceremony and a capacity-building workshop on May 27th. From these finalists, one winner will be chosen in each category. The winner will also have the opportunity to participate as a speaker in a panel discussion alongside a keynote speaker, who will be a woman leader in AI.

Capacity-Building and Growth Opportunities

Selected finalists will take part in a capacity-building workshop led by a distinguished woman leader in AI and will focus on foundational AI concepts, AI-powered business models, and practical business applications. Designed to be interactive, the workshop will foster dialogue, peer learning, and networking among participants.

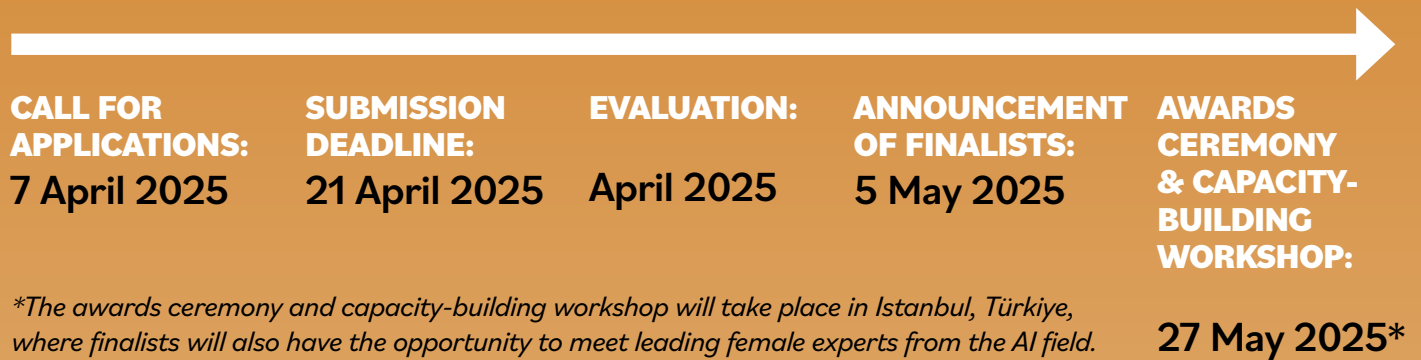
Finalists will also take part in the Award Ceremony, which will include a keynote presentation, a panel discussion, and opportunities to network with other leaders in the AI ecosystem. These activities aim to create a strong network of women in AI, empowering participants to advance their initiatives, gain visibility, and explore new opportunities for growth and collaboration.

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TIMELINE



CONTEST GUIDELINE - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Who can apply?

- Women originally from Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Tunisia, and Türkiye are invited to participate—including those residing abroad in one of the UfM member states.
- Applications are open to individuals and teams, with the requirement that when submitting a team project, one person must act as the representative in charge of the submission. This person will also represent the project if selected to participate in Istanbul.
- Entrepreneurs, startups, and individuals or teams employed by small, medium, or large companies are encouraged to apply. In the application form, you will be asked to provide details about the size of the company, if applicable.

Project requirements

Participants can submit projects, products, or services that have already been implemented and are generating impact. Projects still in development are also eligible, as long as they have a clear vision, demonstrate tangible progress, and provide an overview of their next steps.

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CONTEST GUIDELINE - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Required information

To apply for the Women in AI Awards, participants must complete an online form providing key information about their AI project. The required details are as follows:

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

- Full Name
- Contact Information (Email and Phone)
- Passport Number of the Project Representative

SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION

- Project Title
- Award Category
- Project Summary (max. 250 words):
- Concise summary describing the main objective, methodology, and potential impact of the project.

SECTION 3: DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- **Innovation Description** (max. 500 words):
How does the AI solution differ from existing solutions? What makes it innovative?
- **Social and/or Environmental Impact** (max. 500 words):
Measurable social or environmental impacts of the project, with clear links to the AI-driven approach.
- **Scalability and Sustainability** (max. 300 words):
Potential for scaling or sustaining the project over time, including markets or user bases.
- **Ethical Considerations** (max. 250 words):
Ethical considerations, such as data privacy, transparency, fairness, or bias mitigation.

SECTION 4: SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- **Project Presentation Deck** (PDF, max. 10 pages):
A detailed deck presenting the project in a clear and professional manner.
- **Video Pitch** (Optional, max. 3 minutes):
A video pitch to complement your application and showcase your project.
- **Supplementary Documentation** (Optional):
Impact studies, references, or letters of support that strengthen the application.

LANGUAGE OF SUBMISSION

- Submissions must be in **English**

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CONTEST GUIDELINE - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission Method and Deadline

All submissions must be made through the provided online application form. Please ensure all required information and supporting materials are submitted by the deadline.

- **Deadline for Submission:** 21st April 2025, 23:59 (CET)
- **Submission Method:** Applications must be submitted through the following link:
<https://allwomentech.typeform.com/to/otXUCH5C>

Evaluation criteria

- **Innovation & Originality**
- **Impact & Relevance**
- **Feasibility & Scalability**
- **Sustainability**
- **Ethical Considerations**
- **Quality of Application**

Selection Process

1. **Eligibility and Completeness Check:** All submissions will be reviewed to ensure they meet the application requirements and eligibility criteria.
2. **Assessment and Scoring:** A panel of esteemed women leaders in AI will evaluate the qualified applications, focusing on innovation, impact, scalability, and ethical considerations.
3. **Finalists Announcement:** The finalists will be revealed on May 5th.
4. **Winners Announcement:** The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on May 27th in Istanbul, Türkiye.





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