



Contracting Authority: Africa-Europe Foundation

Africa-Europe Foundation Youth Awards Scheme

Call for Expression of Interest 2025

Road to Luanda 25

Guidelines for Applicants

**Deadline for submission of applications
1st September 2025 (17:00 Brussels, 18:00 Addis Ababa)**



1- OVERVIEW

The Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) is launching a special **Youth Awards Scheme** and invites **youth-led organizations across Africa and Europe** that showcase, amplify, and bring visibility to the contributions of **young people** in shaping the **Africa-Europe partnership** in the lead-up to the **7th AU-EU Summit in Angola (November 2025)**.

This call for youth-led initiatives, anchored within the AEF **#RoadtoLuanda25** campaign, provides micro-grants to **amplify young changemakers' contributions** to the Africa-Europe partnership. **#RoadtoLuanda25** is a cross-continental initiative led by the Africa-Europe Foundation, bringing fresh thinking, bold ideas, and diverse voices to the heart of the Africa-Europe partnership.

By funding innovative projects—from digital campaigns to grassroots dialogues—it elevates youth-driven solutions that will directly inform the AU-EU Summit and foster a more equitable continental collaboration.

1- PROGRAMME

About the AEF

The Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) is the only organisation of its kind shared equally by stakeholders from both Africa and Europe. AEF is a 'think and do tank' for the AU-EU Partnership, complementing existing institutional mechanisms and working in close cooperation with the AU/EU Member States and the Commissions in Addis Ababa and Brussels.

Co-founded in 2020 by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and Friends of Europe in partnership with ONE and the African Climate Foundation, AEF is an independent platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, frank debate and strategic analysis that brings together experts and leaders from diverse organisational settings to strengthen the partnership between our two continents. The Founding Charter of AEF underlines that "to embed ownership at all levels, we must create space for all stakeholders, including civil society, private sector, cities, media, and youth, and make sure they are involved in evaluating progress on the commitments made, advocating on programmes for those commitments and facilitating practical areas of implementation."

Background

The 2025 edition of the Partners Initiative is fully dedicated to amplifying the visibility of youth-led efforts that promote and strengthen the partnership between Africa and Europe. This year's call focuses exclusively on supporting projects that showcase the leadership, creativity, and impact of young people working to advance Africa–Europe collaboration

2025 Call for Express of Interest

This call aims to support **youth-led and youth-focused projects** that bring visibility to real actions, campaigns, and voices contributing to a more connected and meaningful partnership



between the two continents. From local dialogues to creative digital campaigns, selected initiatives will highlight how young people are shaping this cooperation.

This Call is organised in **A Standard Grant – €5,000:**

- Supports youth-led and youth-focused initiatives that promote awareness and engagement on the Africa–Europe Partnership.
 - Projects can be at local, national, or regional levels.
 - Eligible formats include in-person events, campaigns, creative outputs, and storytelling initiatives.
 - Proposals must demonstrate:
 - Meaningful youth involvement
 - Clear communication objectives
 - Concrete, achievable impact during the grant period
- An **exceptional Grant – Up to €10,000** will be granted to two organisations with strong digital mobilisation and media impact capabilities. This would require proof of:
 - Outreach of at least 10,000 young people across Africa and Europe.
 - Eligible activities may include social media campaigns/ Multimedia storytelling/ Video production/ Influencer-driven initiatives/ Other innovative digital formats

Proposals should prioritise:

- Innovation in outreach and engagement
- Wide visibility at a continental scale
- Demonstrated track record of digital or media impact

2- APPLICATION & EVALUATION CRITERIA

Key elements:

- Awarded grants can either fully fund a new activity proposed in a grant application or contribute, through co-financing, to a larger activity that is funded through other sources, but which objectives and implementation aligned to the objectives and scope of this Call.
- The allocated grant funding should be used to (co-)finance the direct costs of organising the activities (logistics, communication, personnel, etc.).
- In addition to (co-)financing in the form of the micro- and small-award, as part of its commitment to build capacity of youth and youth-based organisation and when requested, the AEF support may include providing input on content and methodology as well as quality assurance.
- One organisation can submit only one application. In their applications, organisations need to demonstrate strong digital presence, and necessary resources should they be interested in getting the exceptional grant of 10,000 Eur.

Application

To apply, applicants are required to submit the online application form including:

- Organisation profile and contact info (legal and fiscal registration)



- A 500-word concept note (objective, format, target audience)
- A 200-word impact plan (reach, methods, visibility)
- A budget summary (use of funds, any co-financing)
- Proof of legal and fiscal registration (mandatory).
- Proof of Bank ownership certificate.

Applications must be written in English.

A single application is permitted per organisation.

The applications need to be submitted via the online form no later than by 30th August 2025 (17.00 Brussels, 18.00 Addis Ababa)

No additional documents/annexes than those requested should be sent at the time of submission.

Clarification will only be requested when information provided is not sufficient/unclear and thus prevents the contracting authority from conducting an objective assessment.

Late applications will not be considered.

Eligibility criteria

The Call is intended for a variety of youth organisations that are registered in any one of the Member States of the AU or EU (including EEA/EFTA).

All applying organizations **must be entirely youth-led** (governed and managed by young people aged under 36) and belong to one of these categories:

- Youth organizations (grassroots, local, national, regional or international)
- Youth networks and associations
- Youth-led civil society platforms & NGOs
- Youth-run local authorities, city councils or community associations

Evaluation

The selection process will be undertaken by the appointed Evaluation Committee comprised of AEF internal management team with subject matter expertise as well as compliance expertise. Evaluation will focus on: 1) compliance with the Call objectives and requirements, 2) alignment to the AEF priority themes and initiatives.

Evaluation grid

To ensure a fair and transparent process the Evaluation Committee will use the following score card when evaluating applications.

Criteria	Marks Available
Relevance to chosen thematic focus area (link to the 7 th AU-EU summit and the Road to Luanda 2025 Campaign)	10 Points



Dialogue focus on Africa – Europe partnership and incorporation of participants from both Africa and Europe	10 Points
Proposed outreach and visibility target	10 Points
Methodology and cost-effective implementation	10 Points
Innovation and use of online platforms to amplify visibility	5 Points
Clear impact and outcomes of the initiative	5 Points
Total Possible Score: Minimum Score (applications with lower scores will be disqualified):	50 Points 25 Points

TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
Open Applications and Online Announcement	Friday 31 July 2025
Close of Applications	Monday 1st September 2025
Announcement of awarded projects	Monday 8 th – Friday 13 th September 2025
Awarded micro-projects implementation period	Monday 15 th September - Friday 31 st October 2025
Final reports due by	Friday 1 st November 2025

Application through the [online application form](#)