



WeMed
Mediterranean
Sustainability
Award 2026

Call for Applications

wemedaward.org

Call For Applications

Resolution TER/2078/2026 of 23 June approving the call for applications pursuant to the regulatory bases governing the fifth edition of the Mediterranean Sustainability Award.

Having regard to Resolution TER/1921/2026 of 12 June, adopting the regulatory bases governing the fifth edition of the "Mediterranean Sustainability Award".

Having regard to Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, adopting the Consolidated Text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia and, insofar as this is deemed basic legislation, Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies, and the Regulation implementing it, adopted by Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July.

For all these reasons,

I hereby resolve:

To adopt and publish the call for the award set out in Annex I to this resolution.

1. Time limit and method for submitting nominations

The application submission period shall run from 9:00 a.m. on 1 July 2026 until 2:00 p.m. on 30 July 2026.

Applications or submissions must be processed exclusively in electronic format through a standardized application form for the different categories. This form is available on the website <https://www.wemedaward.org/>. Once the application has been submitted via <https://www.wemedaward.org/>, it shall be deemed submitted to the Waste Agency of Catalonia and will be automatically registered on the Tràmits Gencat platform (<http://tramits.gencat.cat>), in accordance with the terms set out in the call for applications.

If it was not possible to sign the online application electronically, the entity must provide documentary evidence that it has sent the signed documentation by post, and that this dispatch has been made within a period of 10 working days calculated from the virtual submission of the application. The technical secretariat of the award may replace this dispatch with a video call by the representative of the applicant entity.

To apply, nominees must submit a standardised nomination or participation form designed by MedWaves. Likewise, the form must include technical questions that nominees must complete in order to enable the jury to assess the nominations.

Applications and the other documents relating to the procedures associated with the WeMed award procedure must be submitted via their specific procedure and, therefore, documentation submitted as a "generic submission" in the Catalan Government's Procedures section will not be considered valid or accepted.

The application form shall include a link to download a technical annex that will contain a declaration on honour that must be signed by the legal representative of the applicant entity, stating that:

This Call for Applications was approved by Resolution TER/2078/2026, of 23 June, endorsing the call under the rules governing the fifth edition of the Mediterranean Sustainability Award.

This document is an English translation of the original text published in the Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya (DOGC) and is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency, or difference in interpretation between this translation and the original Catalan version, the Catalan text published in the DOGC shall prevail.

- ✓ the requirements to participate in the award are met,
- ✓ the person signing the application has the authority to act on behalf of the applicant entity, and to receive the financial endowment or the honorary award in the event that the application is successful.
- ✓ that all the information provided is accurate
- ✓ a virtual session of the entity in question will be accepted, in the event that the nominee obtains the highest score within their category. The purpose of the session will be to validate the data provided in the application form. It will be necessary for the jury to validate the final designation of the winner in each category.

This technical annex will be attached to the form available on the website <https://www.wemedaward.org/>, together with the following mandatory documentation:

- Tax identification document of the applicant entity
- Identity document of the representative
- Supporting documentation evidencing the powers under which the representative of the applicant entity acts (in the event that it exceeds the established size, attach only the pages evidencing such representation) where applicable.
- Certificate of bank account ownership

Participants may also include additional documentation to support the information provided in the application form (articles, a folder of photographs, links to view videos). This additional information shall be submitted in a single compressed file and shall be limited to a maximum of five documents (a folder of photographs being considered as one document). In the event that a report is submitted, it shall not exceed 30 pages. This documentation shall be considered in the second stage of the evaluation, once the applications to be assessed directly by the jury have been selected.

The nominee understands and acknowledges that any falsehood in the data or information provided and/or a negative verification will exclude their candidacy from the process.

In all cases, the Technical Secretariat of the awards reserves the right to request, at any time, the original copies of the documentation submitted in electronic format, in order to authenticate its content.

No changes will be accepted after the deadline for submitting nominations.

If additional information is required, MedWaves will request it from the nominee via the email address specified in the application.

The same legal person may not submit more than one application. Each nomination must expressly state which category it is being submitted to and will be limited to one only. The nomination will be submitted on an individual basis by each natural or legal person, in accordance with the subcategory of the award for which they are applying.

Each nomination will have a single representative, who will be the natural or legal person who submitted it. The representative is the person who receives all notifications relating to the Award, as well as the certificate and the financial endowment or the honorary award in the event that the nominee is granted an award. The representative, where applicable, may mention in the nomination submission form other persons or entities that have participated.

The award will be presented solely to the representative of the nomination. In the event of joint participation, it is the responsibility of the persons comprising the nomination to reach an agreement on the distribution of the award and its tax implications.

Nominations that are in any of the following situations may not be eligible for the Award:

- That they are submitted simultaneously in more than one of the categories called for, under the same approach or a different one.
 - That the application has involved the active participation of a member of the panel.
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2. Data processing

As set out in the regulatory bases and in accordance with the legislation in force on data protection, ARC-MedWaves will guarantee adequate protection of personal data in accordance with its applicable rules and regulations and on the basis of the principles set out in the Organic Law on Data Protection and the European General Data Protection Regulation.

3. Effects

This resolution will take effect on the day following its publication in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia.

Against this decision, which does not exhaust the administrative procedure, an appeal to a higher administrative body may be lodged with the competent body, within a period of one month from its publication in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 121 and 122 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the common administrative procedure of public administrations (Official State Gazette No. 236, of 2.10.2015), and Article 76 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal regime and procedure of the public administrations of Catalonia (Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia No. 5686, of 5.8.2010).

Barcelona, 23 June 2026

Albert Planell i Saurí

Director of the Waste Agency of Catalonia

1. Opening of the call for nominations, object and purpose

1.1. Open the call for nominations for the awarding of the fifth edition of the “Mediterranean Sustainability Award”, also known as the WeMed Award, organised by Medwaves since 2021, as set out in the annex to this Resolution.

1.2 The purpose of the Award is to give visibility to sustainable business models and to reward the operators in the entrepreneurial ecosystem that directly support the creation and development of sustainable businesses in the Mediterranean (public entities, business support organisations, financial operators, educational institutions, and civil society organisations or individuals).

For the purposes of this call for nominations, the definition of a sustainable business is as follows: having regard to the interdependence between the environment, society and the economy, a sustainable business provides viable and innovative products and services that create value, both environmental (in response to environmental challenges and by reducing environmental impacts) and social (in response to social needs), through the deployment of eco-innovation formulas, assessment of the life cycle of the product or service, and eco-design.

Green, sustainable and circular economies are based on a diverse business ecosystem, in which companies are at different stages of development but share a single objective: to generate a positive impact on society and the environment, while building viable and scalable business models. Within the framework of this call, the focus is placed exclusively on two specific stages of business development: early stage and growth stage. This delimitation makes it possible to focus recognition and support efforts on those private initiatives that are at key moments in their growth, and that can decisively accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable and circular economy.

In order to focus efforts on initiatives with potential for growth and impact, the Award is divided into two main categories, according to the company’s stage of development:

Category A – Early Stage – €20,000

This category recognises sustainable business models in the initial stage. Entities meeting the following requirements may participate:

- Product or service on the market for less than 3 years.
- Integration of environmental and social values into the business model.
- Economically viable model.
- Business plan with potential environmental, social and/or ecosystem regeneration benefits and practices (not necessarily implemented) including the use of nature-based solutions.
- For-profit entities (SMEs, self-employed groups, cooperatives, foundations, etc.) with a maximum of 25 employees.
- Legally established in one of the beneficiary territories

Category B – Growth Stage – €20,000

This category recognises sustainable business models in the growth phase, including:

- Operating companies with businesses started between a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years ago, with quantifiable environmental and social benefits.
- Companies with more than 10 years of activity that have transformed their traditional model into sustainable and/or regenerative practices, including the use of nature-based solutions, with a marked social impact and an economically viable model.
- Entities, whether for-profit or non-profit, with a maximum of 250 employees.
- Companies legally incorporated in one of the beneficiary countries.
- Business plan with potential or actual environmental and social benefits.

MedWaves will use these categories to establish the legal framework for the award within its institutional framework, that is, the rules.

2. Award granting procedure of the award

2.1 The award procedure will be conducted under a system of competitive tendering, in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of Law 38/2003, on General Subsidies.

2.2 The instructing body is MedWaves which, as an area of the ARC, acts as the Technical Secretariat.

2.3 The body competent to issue the decision on the assigning the Award is the Director of the Waste Agency of Catalonia.

3. Competent bodies for the instruction and resolution of the procedure

3.1 The instructing body is MedWaves which, as an area of the Waste Agency of Catalonia, performs the role of the Technical Secretariat.

3.2 The body competent to issue the decision on the assigning the Award is the Director of the Waste Agency of Catalonia.

4. Requirements to obtain the status of beneficiary

The applicant must meet the requirements to acquire beneficiary status, in accordance with the provisions set out in the regulatory bases.

4.1 The following may be beneficiaries of this Award:

- Legal persons, public or private.
- Other types of economic units or separate assets, such as cooperatives, foundations.

All entities must develop sustainable business models or innovative strategies in environmental and social matters and comply with the specificities of each category.

4.2 Participation requirements for CATEGORY A and B

Active sustainable businesses may apply for the award provided that they:

- Nominee entities or projects must be active and meet the following criteria according to the category:

Category A (Early Stage):

- Be operational and have started the business no more than 3 years ago.
- Be legal persons, with a maximum of 25 employees, as applicable.
- Bring to market, in exchange for a financial consideration, a product or service.
- Have a profitable business model that addresses ecological challenges and social needs.

Category B (Growth Stage):

- Be fully operational and have started the business no less than 3 years ago and no more than 10 years ago.
- Companies that have been in existence for more than 10 years and have transformed their model to a sustainable model are also accepted.
- Be legal entities, with up to 250 employees or members,
- Place on the market a product or service, with a profitable business model that addresses ecological and social challenges.

Compliance with these requirements is indispensable; any nomination that does not meet them will be excluded.

Nominations that are in any of the following situations may not be eligible for the Award:

- That they are submitted simultaneously in more than one of the categories called for, under the same approach or a different one.
- That the application has involved the active participation of a member of the panel.

5. Budget

5.1 The fifth edition of the award will be financed through the SwitchersFund initiative, specifically the reserves allocated to the Output 7.1.6 of the UNEP/MAP 2026-2027 Work Plan (€16,000) and the generic reserve (Chapter 4) of the ARC (€24,000).

5.2. The maximum total amount for this call may be increased in accordance with the provisions of Article 92.4(b) of Legislative Decree 3/2002 of 24 December, adopting the consolidated text of the Public Finance Act of Catalonia. The effectiveness of the additional amount will be conditional upon the effective availability of the credit at the time immediately prior to the decision on assigning the award.

6. Amount

The Award will provide, for each of the categories, the awarding of an accreditation diploma. In addition, for categories A and B, each call for nominations will establish a monetary award.

The awards will be defined in each call. In the fifth edition, the winners of the open categories will receive the following prizes:

- For category A (Early Stage), a monetary award in the amount of €20,000 will be awarded.
- For Category B (Growth Stage), a monetary award in the amount of €20,000 will be awarded.

Honorary mentions may be awarded to projects and initiatives which, although they have not received the Award, merit special consideration.

7. Documentation to be attached to the application

The application form shall include a link to download a technical annex that will contain a declaration on honour that must be signed by the legal representative of the applicant entity, stating that:

- ✓ the requirements to participate in the award are met.
- ✓ the signatory the application has the authority to act on behalf of the entity submitting, and to receive the financial endowment or the honorary award in the event that the application is granted an award.
- ✓ all the information provided is accurate.
- ✓ a virtual session of the entity concerned is accepted, should the nominee obtain the highest score within their category. The purpose of the session will be to validate the data provided in the application form. It will be necessary for the jury to validate the final designation of the winner in each category.

This technical annex will be attached to the form available on the website <https://www.wemedaward.org/>, together with the following mandatory documentation:- Tax Identification Number (NIF) document of the applicant entity

- Identity document of the representative
- Supporting documentation evidencing the powers under which the representative of the applicant entity acts (where it exceeds the established size, only the pages evidencing such representation must be attached) where applicable.
- Bank account ownership certificate

Participants may also include additional documentation to support the information provided in the application form (articles, a folder of photographs, links to view videos). This additional information shall be submitted in a single compressed file and shall be limited to a maximum of five documents (a folder of photographs being considered as one document). In the event that a report is submitted, it shall not exceed 30 pages. This documentation shall be considered in the second stage of the evaluation, once the applications to be assessed directly by the jury have been selected.

The nominee understands and acknowledges that any falsehood in the data or information provided and/or refusal to undergo verification will exclude their candidacy from the process.

In all cases, the Technical Secretariat of the awards reserves the right to request, at any time, the original copies of the documentation submitted in electronic format, in order to authenticate its content.

No changes will be accepted after the deadline for the submission of nominations. If additional information is required, MedWaves will request it from the nominee at the email address specified in the application.

Submission of the application form authorises the competent body to verify that the data it contains and that are declared are accurate.

Any inaccuracy, falsification or omission of an essential nature in any data in the application form or in any document accompanying it will render this procedure without effect from the moment it becomes known, and following prior hearing of the person concerned, and, consequently, will entail the inadmissibility of the nomination. If the act or omission becomes known once the award has already been assigned, it will constitute grounds for revocation and/or the imposition of a penalty.

With regard to the declaration on honour, this entail that the interested party has the relevant supporting documentation evidencing the data declared. If the Administration ascertains the inaccuracy or falsity of the data declared, this will entail, following prior hearing of the interested party, rendering the corresponding procedure void. If this conduct is classified as an infringement under the applicable legislation, it gives rise to the initiation of the corresponding sanctioning proceedings.

8. Jury

8.1 The applications for the Award will be assessed by a jury constituted for that purpose.

8.2 The decision will indicate which categories are called for each edition and the following aspects:

- a) The participation requirements.
- b) The evaluation criteria.
- c) The deadline for the submission of applications and the documentation that must be attached.
- d) The composition of the jury that will evaluate the applications.
- e) The amount of the financial endowment of the Award for each category, where applicable, and the budget appropriation to which it will be allocated.

8.3 Each call for nominations for the Award will have a single jury that will evaluate all categories in that edition.

MedWaves will appoint an independent jury balanced by gender and nationality to serve on a voluntary basis to evaluate a set of pre-selected award applications.

The jury will be composed of an odd number (maximum of 7 members):

- (i) two professionals with experience in ecodesign, eco-innovation and other green, blue and circular economy solutions for businesses;
- (ii) a professional with experience in policy frameworks for green and circular economy enterprises;
- (iii) one representative of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD);
- (iv) a representative of a business support organisation, business association or similar entity from one of the beneficiary countries;
- (v) a person representing the entities that form part of the governance of MedWaves; and
- (vi) a representative of MedWaves.

8.4 The jury will evaluate the 10 nominations with the highest score in each category. Given that the jury is composed of an odd number of members (maximum of 7 members), the possibility of a tie in the selection of the winners is not envisaged. The members of the jury must sign a confidentiality agreement in order to ensure the protection of the nominees' personal data.

MedWaves, acting as the technical secretariat of the award, will carry out an initial assessment of the nominations in order to eliminate those that are incomplete for a detailed assessment. Subsequently, MedWaves will assess the complete nominations and submit to the jury the list of the 10 highest-scoring nominations for each category.

Once the jury's assessment has been completed, MedWaves will organise a virtual session for the highest-scoring nominees in each category, as awarded by the jury, in order to validate the data submitted in the application form. If the outcome of each session is positive, the winners will be confirmed and the award resolution will be prepared. Otherwise, a virtual session will be organised with the 2nd nominee on the list, and so on.

For the granting of the award, MedWaves, acting as the secretariat thereof, will prepare a technical report in order to initiate the preparation of the prize-awarding decision by the Director of the Catalan Waste Agency.

The winning application must obtain, at a minimum, a simple majority of the votes in favour of the members of the jury

9. Technical Secretariat and Organisation

9.1 The Technical Secretariat is the managing body of the Award and is responsible for the administrative and logistical management thereof.

9.2 The Technical Secretariat corresponds to MedWaves, as an area of the ARC.

9.3 The functions of the Technical Secretariat are:

- a) Ensure the proper dissemination of the call for the Award and of its granting.
 - b) Manage the application files.
 - c) Convene the meetings of the panel.
 - d) Provide logistical support to the jury meetings and draft the minutes thereof.
 - e) Manage the awarding of the Award and communications with the awardees.
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10. Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria are divided into 2 groups:

Basic criteria that will carry greater weight in the final assessment and whose compliance is indispensable, and additional criteria, on the other hand, which, although important and to be assessed in order to capture the nature of the sustainable business, will carry a lesser relative weight, and non-compliance with any of them will not preclude winning the award.

The actions submitted to the call for nominations will be prioritised in accordance with the criteria set out below. Projects that do not obtain a minimum of 50 points overall may not be awarded.

The assessment criteria for the applications will be as follows

Criterion category	No. of criterion and description	Maximum score for the assessment
Basic (indispensable)	Criterion a.1 The business model is profitable, in accordance with its economic results and its own viability.	25
	Criterion a.2. The business model addresses ecological challenges and reduces the environmental impacts. It is a good example of the efficient use of resources, energy efficiency and productivity. Eco-innovation, the assessment of the life cycle of the product or service and eco-design, among others, contribute to the prevention of pollution, the saving of resources and a sustainable lifestyle for consumers. The business model incorporates nature-based solutions that use natural processes and systems to address environmental, social and climate challenges. Initiatives that contribute, inter alia, to the restoration of ecosystems, biodiversity, the sustainable management of water and soil, climate resilience, the bioeconomy or the provision of ecosystem services, while generating economic and social value, will be particularly valued.	40
	Criterion a.3. The sustainable business model addresses social needs, empowers communities and operates in a network.	15
Additional (convenient)	Criterion a.4. The business model has an equitable and inclusive working system in terms of gender and governance, offers decent working conditions or applies a cooperative business model or provides fair self-employed services. The business model addresses contextual socio-economic difficulties through successful strategies.	10
	Criterion a.5. The business model is potentially replicable and scalable.	10

Evaluation method for the evaluation criteria CATEGORIES A and B

The assessment of the nomination will be carried out by means of a review of the candidates' responses to two types of questions:

- Open guiding questions which will help the applicant to explain, in the nomination submission form, how their business model meets the proposed criterion.
- Checklist of determining elements, quantifiable by means of a score.

Criteria	Method of assessment	Description
a.1	Guiding questions	The questions will request information on the nature and value of the sustainable business model (product or service). Likewise, it will be necessary for the candidate to provide economic data attesting to the profitability thereof.
a.2	Checklist	<p>The list of questions will be based on the indicators used to assess the potential of a Switcher to reverse the environmental and social impacts of economic activity, in accordance with the sector to which it belongs.</p> <p>The assessment will focus on the efforts undertaken rather than on specific indicators, in order to ensure fair competition between services and products from different sectors, and with uneven impacts on the environment.</p> <p>In order to assess the environmental impact, information will be requested on the measures adopted in relation to greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, the discharge and management of wastewater, waste generation, the efficient and circular use of resources, etc.</p> <p>Questions will also be asked to determine the degree of environmental innovation offered by the product or service.</p>
a.3	Guiding questions	<p>Does your product or service integrate nature-based solutions? If so, describe them.</p> <p>Which ecosystems or natural processes benefit directly (water, soil, biodiversity, landscape, etc.)?</p> <p>How does your project contribute to climate resilience and/or environmental restoration?</p> <p>Are these benefits measured or do they have monitoring indicators?</p>
a.4	Guiding questions	<p>The questions will help the candidate to explain how they contribute to social challenges such as the inclusion of people at risk of social exclusion, better education, and the preservation of culture. It will be necessary to ascertain whether part of its profits are reinvested in society or, in general, how it improves the quality of life of its community.</p> <p>They will also be questioned about their participation in communication and business collaboration networks, among other things.</p>

a.5	Guiding questions	<p>The questions will focus on staff recruitment models and their remuneration, in order to assess whether they include the principles of equity, gender equality, inclusion, and participation and horizontality in decision-making.</p> <p>As regards gender equality, aspects such as equal pay and parity in management and/or governing bodies, flexibility and working arrangements to promote shared responsibility among workers will be assessed.</p> <p>Businesses that implement non-discrimination policies, gender equality plans, plans for the prevention of violence in the workplace and gender-based violence, and inclusion policies for persons with disabilities and/or at risk of social exclusion will also be assessed positively.</p>
a.6	Guiding questions	<p>A single open question will be posed regarding the potential to export the business idea to other Mediterranean contexts with an equal level of benefit for the environment and society.</p>

With regard to the open guiding questions, the jury will assign a rating, depending on how the nominee's business manages to align with the objective of the assessed criterion, by assigning a level: High - Medium - Low - Unsuitable (High-Medium-Low-Unsuitable).

The check-list will be accompanied by a numerical calculation allowing the degree of fulfilment of the criterion to be quantified and compared among the nominees.

11. Resolution of the procedure and notification to the interested party

The Director of the Waste Agency of Catalonia will issue the decision granting the Award in the categories announced. The decision will be notified to the interested parties in accordance with the regulations in force, by means of publication on the e-noticeboard.

12. Payment

12.1 The proposal for payment of the award is made with prior certification attesting that the requirements for access to the Award are met, in accordance with the documentation submitted with the application and the information available in the databases and registers. The power to carry out the aforementioned certification is delegated to the instructing body.

12.2 Payment of the Award to the beneficiary persons will be made by bank transfer to the account indicated in the application form.

The monetary award for Category A and Category B will be paid by bank transfer solely into the bank account indicated by the representative of the candidacy. In the event of joint participation, it is the responsibility of the persons comprising the candidacy to reach an agreement on the distribution of the award and its tax implications.

12.3 The beneficiaries are required to provide all the information requested of them by the General Intervention of the Catalan Government, the Audit Office or other competent bodies, in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, approving the consolidated text of the Law on the Public Finances of Catalonia.



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