

**ISSNAF Open Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award**  
**Intesa Sanpaolo Award for Innovation and Circular Economy**

**Call for Applications 2017**

*ISSNAF - Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America Foundation* yearly presents awards to acknowledge the research of young Italian investigators working in North America, whose commitment to their discipline of study is innovative, potentially impactful and honors their country of origin.

**ISSNAF Board of Trustees encourages all Italian researchers currently working in the United States or Canada to submit their application to compete for the following award:**

**Intesa Sanpaolo Award for Innovation and Circular Economy**

In 2017, the Open Innovation and Entrepreneurship Chapter of ISSNAF decided to focus on the importance of the implementation of the Circular Economy, therefore this award is dedicated to projects involving the potential or actual execution of one of the main principles of the circular economy<sup>1</sup>. The winner will receive a certificate and a monetary prize of \$3,000. All finalists will receive a Travel Award.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- Proof of Italian Citizenship (Italian passport or ID card);
- Current or past affiliation with a research Institution (i.e. university, hospital, research entity) in the United States or Canada for at least a year;
- Being in the process of creating a new product or service, related to the implementation of one or more circular economy principles;
- Being one of the co-founders of an established venture in the United States or Canada, offering services or products related to the implementation of one or more circular economy business model such as:
  - Circular Supplies: provides fully renewable, recyclable or biodegradable resource inputs that underpin circular production and consumption systems;
  - Resources Recovery: enables a company to eliminate material leakage and

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<sup>1</sup> For more info on the main principles of the circular economy, see <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy/overview/principles>

maximize the economic value of product return flows;

- Product Life Extension: allows companies to extend the lifecycle of products and assets. Maintain or even improve the products' value by repairing, upgrading, remanufacturing or remarketing them;
- Sharing Platforms: promotes a platform for collaboration among product users, either individuals or organizations;
- Product as a Service: provides an alternative to the traditional model of "buy and own." Products are used by one or many customers through a lease or pay-for-use arrangement.

It is important to re-think and re-design the way we make stuff and how, through a change in perspective, we can re-design the way our economy works - designing products that can be "*made to be made again*" and powering the system with renewable energy. The applicant is invited to demonstrate her/his effort and competencies in circular design to facilitate product reuse, recycling and cascading, in areas such as: material selection, standardized components, designed-to-last products, design for easy end-of-life sorting, separation or reuse of products and materials, and design-for-manufacturing criteria that take into account possible useful applications of by-products and wastes.

#### REVIEW PROCESS

- A Review Board composed of international experts in the field will score all acceptable applications according to the candidates' curricula (affiliation(s), patent(s), and entrepreneurial achievements) and quality of the application (slide deck) with reference to the innovativeness, feasibility, impact of the described idea or venture.
- Up to 5 (five) candidates will be selected to present during a dedicated event to be scheduled in late spring 2017 and hosted by Intesa Sanpaolo Hub in New York. Finalists will present in oral sessions.
- Presenters will be evaluated by the Award Jury, focusing on their presentations skills and the quality of their projects. The Award Jury will select the winner amongst the presenters and the award will be presented during a formal ceremony on the same day.
- The decisions of the Review Board and of the Jury are final.

#### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Applications must be submitted by sending an e-mail to ISSNAF's Executive Director, Ms. Monica Veronesi at [veronesi@issnaf.org](mailto:veronesi@issnaf.org);
- Applications must consist of a copy (as a pdf file) of the picture page of the Italian passport or Italian ID card, a full CV (word or pdf file) and a slide deck with the presentation of the idea/venture (ppt or pdf, max 15 slides);

- Applications that do not contain the necessary materials (Italian citizenship ID, CV, and slide deck) will not be considered. No paper applications will be accepted;
- All presentations must be in English.
- Information contained in the presentations must be non-confidential.

#### **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

- All applications must be submitted **by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 (23:59PST)**
- The Review Board will select finalists by **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

#### **TRAVEL AWARDS**

Finalists (up to three) presenting in New York City will be acknowledged with a travel award proportional to the distance of their Institution from New York City:

West Coast, British Columbia, Alberta: \$350

Mid West, Southern States, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec: \$250

US East Coast (over 250 miles): \$100

US East Coast (between 100-250 miles): \$50

For more information about the application process write to [awards@issnaf.org](mailto:awards@issnaf.org)