



Innovation Village Award

Italy's platform for sustainable innovation



Innovation Village Award in one minute



A national contest that discovers and showcases sustainable innovation projects aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda

Organised around an ecosystem: Knowledge for Business, ASviS, ENEA, partners, juries, companies, investors and research actors

IVA is not only a prize: projects receive visibility, coaching, pitching opportunities, networking and access to thematic special awards

The format turns innovation selection into a public, gamified pitch competition designed to accelerate transfer to market

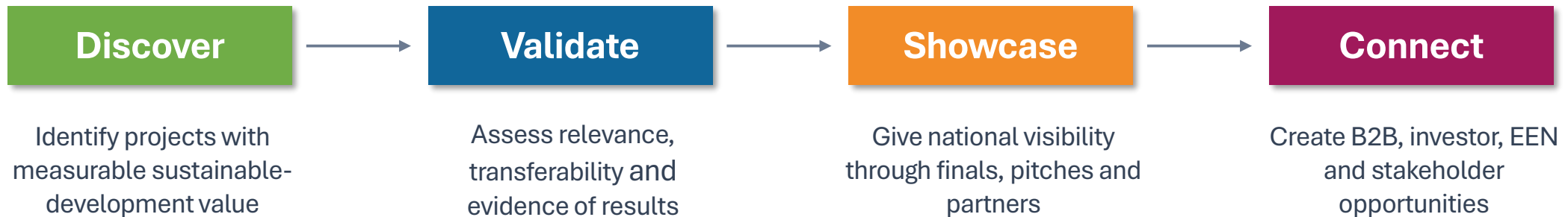
Innovation Village Award is an ecosystem engine: it converts sustainable projects into visible, assessable and connectable opportunities



Function: from sustainable projects to market connections



The Award is explicitly aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and is designed to valorise technologies, products and solutions with economic, social and environmental impact



Research → business → market → impact

National scale: a growing Italian innovation pipeline



8th

edition reached by the
2026 Award

1,400+

applications
collected in the first
eight editions

205

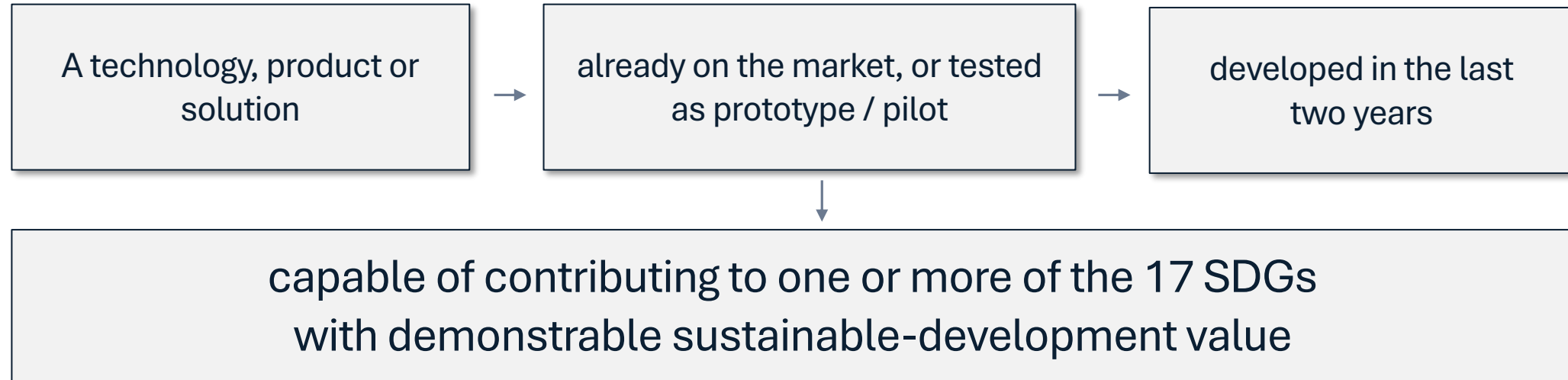
applications
received for the
2026 call

24

finalists selected
for the Finals in
each edition

The Award is positioned as a national meeting point for sustainable innovation. It draws applications from across Italy and connects them with a national network of partners, juries and innovation stakeholders

What the Innovation Village Award looks for



Evaluation criteria

SDG coherence

Does the project contribute to one or more SDGs?

Innovation relevance

Is it meaningfully beyond the state of the art?

Diffusion potential

Can it be transferred without major technical, regulatory or financial barriers?

Demonstrable results

Is there evidence that it works?

Innovation domains covered by the Award



Cultural heritage
Digital education
Creative industries
Social innovation
Tourism



Aerospace
Logistics
Sustainable mobility
Smart city



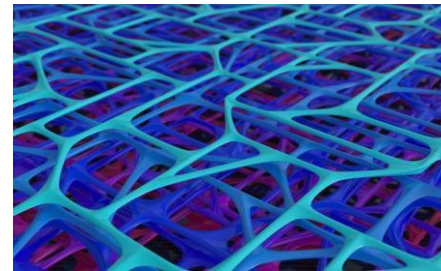
Environment
Blue growth
Sustainable building
Energy



ICT, IoT, AI
Robotics
Smart technologies



Sustainable agriculture
Agritech



Digital manufacturing
Innovative and advanced
materials



Life sciences
Technologies and digital
applications for sport



Start Cups winners
(University competitions of
Campania, Puglia and
Lazio regions)



8

**domains
of
innovation**

Who participates?



The call is open to a broad mix of innovators, from individual researchers to startups, SMEs, spinoffs and associations

Innovators, professionals and makers

Researchers, individuals or teams

Startups and incorporated spin-offs

SMEs and social enterprises

Associations and foundations

Coaching & training

B2B networking

Pitch show

The Award as a long-running innovation observatory



Across its editions, the Award does more than select winners: it continuously surfaces what Italian sustainable innovation is producing, where it is emerging and how mature it is

Project flow

applications over time reveal volume, maturity and recurring barriers

Thematic signals

SDG domains show where solutions are concentrating or diversifying

Ecosystem map

labs, universities, startups, SMEs and territories become visible together

Market readiness

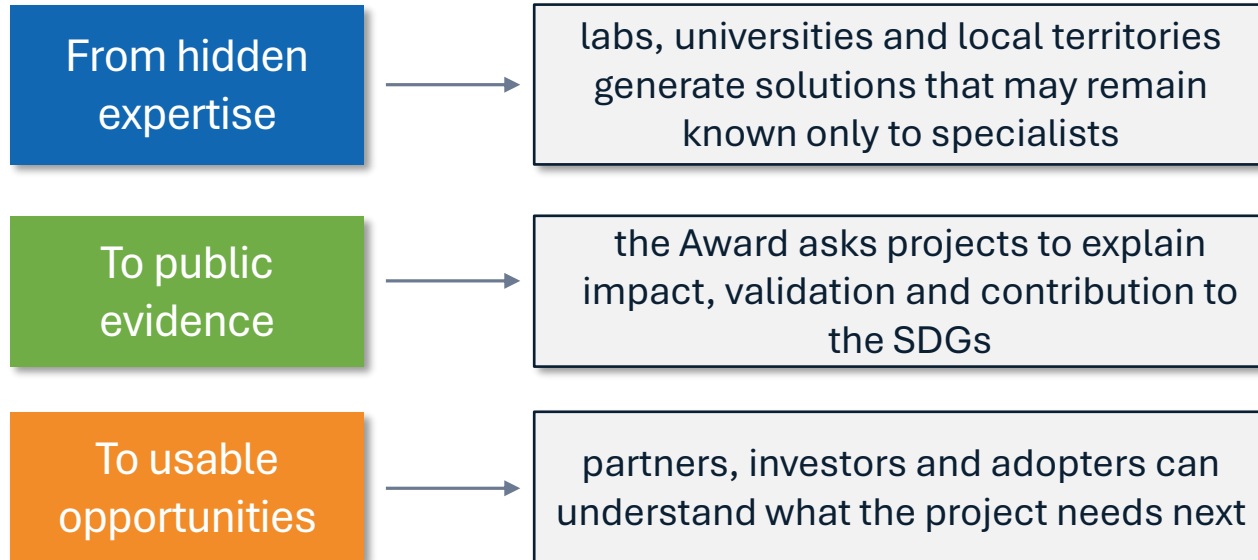
prototype, pilot and market-stage projects can be compared

From award to knowledge base

The accumulated pipeline becomes an informal observatory: a practical reading of trends, capabilities and needs in the Italian innovation ecosystem

Valorising research that often lacks a public channel

Many strong research projects are technically solid but under-communicated



Gamification turns pitching into a learning format



The Finals format is not just entertainment. It is a structured training environment where researchers, students and innovators learn to make complex projects clear, simple and decisive

Clarity

say what the solution is and
for whom

Simplicity

translate technical language
into a story

Evidence

show what has been tested or
achieved

Decisiveness

close with a concrete next
step or ask

Competition design creates practice pressure: short pitch times, juries, knockout stages and visible comparison force participants to refine message, proof and market relevance

An event where business, sport, and creativity combine to test individual and team skills in conveying the value of a project idea

Special awards: a win-win technology scouting mechanism



Special awards are not only rewards. They work as partner-led micro-calls: focused opportunities where innovators receive support and companies scout technologies already developed enough to discuss collaboration.

WIN FOR PARTICIPANTS

- Cash prizes and service packages that reduce early growth barriers
- Mentoring, incubation and acceleration to refine the project pathway
- Joint pilots, testing spaces and visibility within the Innovation Village ecosystem

match

WIN FOR PARTNER COMPANIES

- Small thematic calls focused on specific technology needs
- Scouting of developed solutions from research, startups and SMEs
- Direct contact with innovators for pilots, co-development and collaboration

The prize becomes an early collaboration funnel:
concrete value for innovators,
targeted technology scouting for companies,
stronger connections for the ecosystem

Innovation Village: turns the Award into a platform



The Award does not end with the ranking.

It gives participants occasions to be seen, heard and connected during the main fair-event Innovation Village

From candidates

to

**visible innovation
actors**

inside a national ecosystem

Platform visibility

Participants can be valued through the Innovation Village platform, its communication channels and partner ecosystem

Exhibition presence

Projects are often showcased in the exhibition area, where innovation becomes tangible for visitors and partners

Workshops & panels

Projects and teams can enter thematic workshops, conferences or panels, connecting research with sector conversations

Partner amplification

Partner networks extend exposure beyond the final event and open routes to follow-up meetings and collaborations



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www.innovationvillage.it

Thank you