



Mediterranean Award for Best Practices in Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction

Background – Introduction of the Zero Waste Campaign

The Mediterranean Award for Best Practices in Food Loss and Waste Prevention and Reduction is an international recognition established in 2026 to acknowledge and promote outstanding initiatives contributing to the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste and food system sustainability.

The Award builds upon the experience of the Zero Waste Campaign, a spin-off of Last Minute Market, which has promoted the “Premio Vivere a Spreco Zero” (Living at Zero Waste Award) in Italy for 14 editions. Over the years, the Award has recognised and supported innovative projects, good practices and concrete actions aimed at preventing and reducing food waste, while fostering sustainable food systems and responsible resource management.

Mediterranean Award - 2026 edition

The 2026 edition introduces the special “Mediterranean Zero Waste Award”, dedicated to projects, initiatives, and best practices that promote concrete and virtuous actions to prevent and reduce food waste and promote food system sustainability.

For the 2026 edition, applications are eligible only if the proposed project, initiative, or best practice is implemented in, or primarily concerns, one of the participating countries: Albania, Egypt, or Tunisia. Applicants are not required to be resident or legally established in one of these countries, provided that the proposed project meets this geographic eligibility requirement.

The Award is open to individuals and legally registered organizations of all types, including: associations, non-profit organizations, social enterprises, start-ups, companies, universities and research institutions. Individual applicants must be 35 years old or younger on the application deadline. No age requirement applies to organizations.

Applications submitted by multiple applicants are accepted. In such cases, one applicant must be designated as the main applicant, while the other applicant(s) must be identified as co-applicant(s). Only the main applicant will be eligible to receive the financial award.

Particular consideration will be given to initiatives that actively engage and benefit young people and/or socially vulnerable groups in the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste.

A challenge open to everyone!

How to apply to the Zero Waste Campaign Call

Are you a public authority, a company, an association, a third sector organisation, a school, a research institution, or a citizen?

Have you promoted and/or supported measures, actions, or projects aimed at preventing and reducing food waste and loss and food system sustainability?

Have you promoted or supported, within an educational context, measures, actions, or projects capable of raising awareness among students and their families about food waste, while also fostering food education and the values of healthy and sustainable diets?

Have you promoted and/or supported a significant project characterised by digital and/or technological innovation that has demonstrably contributed to the prevention/reduction of food waste and loss and/or to raising awareness on circular economy and sustainable development issues?

Have you promoted and/or supported a project that promotes the Mediterranean Diet, a UNESCO heritage since 2010 and universally recognised as a healthy and sustainable lifestyle?

Have you published, during 2025 and until 31 July 2026, an essay, a novel, or a short story on topics related to food waste prevention and reduction or food system sustainability?

IF SO, APPLY NOW!

Applications must be submitted by 20 September 2026 through the form available on the Zero Waste Campaign website: [apply now!](#)

Or via email to premiosprecozero@gmail.com and must include:

- Contact details of the applicant (full name; email address; phone number; country);
- A brief description of the project/initiative/best practice (max. 2.000 characters) including the project's objectives, the main activities carried out or planned, the results achieved or expected and its actual or potential impact on the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste and the sustainability of food systems;
- Photos and/or videos of the project;
- Any relevant links and/or PDF documents related to the project;
- Short video (max. one minute) presenting the project/initiative/best practice, highlighting its objectives, main activities, and the results achieved or expected, as well as its contribution to the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste and the sustainability of food systems. Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered. Should any technical difficulties occur while completing the application process, applicants are kindly requested to contact the Award Secretariat at premiosprecozero@gmail.com

Winners will be announced on 8 October 2026.

The first-ranked project will receive a financial award of € 2.000,00; instead the second- and the third- ranked initiatives will receive visibility through the Zero Waste Campaign's social media channels and events.

Award Jury and selection criteria

The Jury of the “Mediterranean Zero Waste” Special Award is composed of a team of experts in sustainability.

Selection criteria will include:

Relevance – Contribution to the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste and alignment with the objectives of the Award.

Impact – Demonstrated or potential environmental, social and/or economic benefits.

Innovation – Originality of the approach, solution or methodology adopted.

Replicability and scalability – Potential for the initiative to be replicated or adapted in other contexts.

Engagement – Ability to involve communities, young people and/or relevant stakeholders.



Information, call for applications and updates : www.sprecozero.it