CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE TRAINING IN EGYPT AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN ITALY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE "NETWORK YOU" PROJECT

October 2025 – July 2026

The ***Network YOU* project** is launching a call for applications for the selection of **75 young Egyptian fresh graduated and technicians** to participate in an integrated international training and internship program. The initiative aims to strengthen technical, digital, and soft skills in key areas of the green and digital transition.

It is part of a broader circular migration initiative between Egypt and Italy, designed to foster employability and the development of qualified career paths in Egypt, building on knowledge and experience gained across both countries.

Participants will benefit from a dynamic learning experience, combining soft skills and technical training in Egypt and advanced technical and hands-on internships in Italy, particularly in the fields of agriculture, agri-food industries, and digital technologies. Participation in the program offers a concrete opportunity for personal and professional growth, combining learning, international exposure, and work placement in the agricultural, agri-food, and technological sectors.

Why Apply?

The *Network YOU* Training and Internship Program offers a unique pathway to develop cutting-edge skills in green and digital sectors while providing the opportunity to gain valuable international experience in Italy.

Selected participants will benefit from:

- A **certificate for each training phase**, issued by industry, professional, and institutional partners in Egypt and Italy.
- Access to a **Mediterranean network of companies**, **universities**, and **institutions**, opening doors to future employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.
- **Hands-on training and internships** in leading companies in Puglia, focusing on precision agriculture, food processing, and digital innovation.
- **Career coaching and mentorship**, including tailored guidance on CV development, job interviews, and business idea design.
- **Opportunities for entrepreneurship**, with connections to Egyptian and Italian incubators and innovation hubs.
- **All-inclusive support**, including travel, accommodation, and health insurance during the internship in Italy (if applicable).

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Contracted by
MPF Migration Partnership Facility
ICMPD International Centre for Migration Policy Development

The Training Program in Egypt

The first phase of the program consists of an intensive three-month training course that will take place in Egypt, starting indicatively in October/November 2025. The course will focus on the development of specialized technical skills in areas such as sustainable and precision agriculture, food processing, natural resource management (water, soil, energy), and digital solutions applied to the agri-food sector. The training will combine theoretical content with practical exercises and simulations, led by experts, tutors, and trainers from both Egypt and Italy.

In addition to technical content, the program will include sessions dedicated to strengthening cross-cutting skills such as problem solving, technical communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership. Participants will also follow an introductory module in Italian language and culture to support their future experience in Italy, along with basic concepts in business administration, project management, and career guidance. In addition to this, the preparation in Egypt will also include linguistic training, aimed at facilitating the level of exchange with Italian companies.

Target Profiles

The program is aimed at Egyptian youth aged between 20 and 35, with a university degree (mandatory requirement) in relevant fields such as agronomy, environmental engineering, food processing, renewable energy, or ICT.

Two main categories of candidates are encouraged to apply:

• **Fresh graduates with degrees in ICT or digital technologies**, aged between 20 and 30, motivated to work in the agri-food or environmental sectors using innovation-driven approaches. Ideal candidates may have academic or practical exposure to areas such as software development, systems engineering, IoT, data management, data analyses, cybersecurity, and cloud-based platforms applied to smart farming, energy optimization, or digital resource monitoring. Familiarity with basic programming languages (e.g. Python, JavaScript) and knowledge of database systems, front-end/back-end development, or GIS tools are considered a plus. Candidates who combine technical expertise with project-based experiences in applied innovation, Agri-digital solutions, or ICT for sustainable development will be particularly valued.

• **Technicians**, aged between 20 and 35, with an academic background in **agricultural**, **environmental**, or **food-related disciplines**, especially those coming from rural or underserved areas. Ideal applicants in this group are expected to show strong interest or prior exposure to sustainable food processing, circular economy principles, food safety, renewable energy, waste management, water efficiency, and traceability systems, and automation

technologies in food production. Multidisciplinary profiles that blend food science with environmental awareness, digital monitoring tools, and quality management systems will be especially appreciated. Previous experience or training in resource efficiency, industrial symbiosis, or process optimization will be considered an asset.
Particular attention will be given to **ensuring gender balance**, in line with the project's inclusion objectives, **ensuring that 50% of the participants are women**. **Cross-disciplinary knowledge and soft skills** such as communication, adaptability, teamwork, and critical thinking **will also be positively considered in the selection process**.

The professional profiles at the heart of the program have been identified based on the needs expressed by companies and local stakeholders in both Egypt and Puglia and reflect the evolving demands of the green and digital job markets. These include:

- **Digital Agronomist**: combining agronomic and digital skills, working with tools such as IoT, sensors, GIS, and decision support systems.
- **Sustainable Food Processing Expert**: specializing in sustainable food production, traceability, process automation, and optimization.
- **Agricultural Resource Management Specialist**: focusing on sustainable use of natural resources, environmental regulations, and green technologies.
- **Agri-Digital Solutions Developer**: developing digital tools and technology interfaces for the agri-food sector, with competencies in programming, data management, and cybersecurity.

All profiles combine strong sector-specific technical skills with transversal soft skills, in line with both labor market demands and the goals of the project.

Participant Selection

The selection process for the 75 participants will be **transparent and rigorous**, aimed at identifying highly motivated candidates whose background and personal profile align with the objectives of the *Network YOU* project.

Applications must be submitted exclusively online, by completing the English-language application form and uploading the following documents:

- An up-to-date **curriculum vitae**.
- A **motivational letter** outlining interest in the project and personal/professional expectations.
- A clear copy of a **valid ID** (passport or national identity card).
- A **language certificate** proving a minimum **English proficiency level of B2 (CEFR), officially translated into English.**
- A **copy of the University Degree certificate, officially translated into English.**
- **Signed copy of the Privacy Information Notice** (attached to this call)

All the documents must be submitted in **English**.

The selection will take place in two phases:

1. **Initial evaluation** of the submitted application materials, conducted by a joint Italian-Egyptian technical committee composed of trainers, sector experts, and institutional representatives. Additional documentation (such as the criminal record and military status certificate) will be requested from pre-selected candidates prior to the online interview.
2. **Online interview** for shortlisted candidates, focusing on motivation, communication skills, and consistency with the program's objectives.

The assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance of academic or professional background** to the program themes (agriculture, agri-food, environment, ICT).
- **Level of motivation** and potential for personal and professional development.
- **English language proficiency**, essential for engaging in training activities and cross-cultural communication.
- **Gender balance**, in line with the project's inclusion goals.

Selected candidates will be notified officially via email. At the end of the training in Egypt, all participants will undergo a **structured assessment** of the skills acquired. This evaluation will also consider participation, commitment, and teamwork skills.

Based on the results, the **top 50 students** will be selected to access the second phase of the project: a curricular internship in Italy, hosted by companies in the Puglia region. This selection will also be merit-based and transparent, with the goal of recognizing talent, preparation, and motivation.

The remaining 25 participants will receive a certificate of participation but will not take part in the internship.

The Internship in Italy

The second phase of the project involves the transfer of the **50 selected participants** to Puglia, where they will carry out **a three-month extracurricular internship** in local companies. The goal is to consolidate the knowledge acquired during the training and gain hands-on professional experience. Host companies will be active in sectors such as precision agriculture, sustainable food processing, agri-food software development, and environmental resource management.

Each intern will be assigned a **company tutor** and supported by a **technical and administrative team**. The experience in Italy will serve as a key opportunity for intercultural learning, career development, and international networking, ultimately facilitating the reintegration of participants into the Egyptian labor market or the launch of local entrepreneurial initiatives.

All costs related to international travel, accommodation, and health insurance in Italy will be fully covered by the program.

How to Apply

The call for applications will officially open from **August 8 to September 15, 2025**. Interested candidates must complete the online form available on the official project website: **https://network-you.eu/call-for-applications**

Selected candidates will be notified via email, and the training course will begin **indicatively in October/November 2025**.

Information and Contacts

For further information about the program and the selection procedure, please contact us at: networkyouproject@gmail.com

Personal data and disclaimer

Applying to this call the applicants explicitly authorize CIHEAM Bari to the processing of their personal data for the management and monitoring of this Call and explicitly provide for the full acceptance of the "Information about collecting, storing and processing personal data" provided by CIHEAM Bari, as fully reported in the document available at **https://network-you.eu/call-for-applications/**

CIHEAM Bari accepts no responsibility for incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete, damaged, lost, delayed, misdirected or intercepted entries, or for any incorrectly submitted or received entries, unreadable, damaged, lost, delayed, misdirected or intercepted, or about participant registrations that, for any reason, are not received, or electronic or other communications that are delayed, or other technical problems related to the submission and uploading of content under this initiative.

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