Call for EWA Young Talent Award

March 11-13, 2026, Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania

EW EDUNET WORLD ASSOCIATION

EWA Young Talent Award at International Conference on Smart Technologies & Education (STE2026)

"Today's factories offer the most technologically advanced workplaces in the world. Innovations are taking place in all areas of industry. Yet industry has an image problem: it is not seen by young people as tech-savvy or forward-looking. We urgently need to change perceptions about careers in industry to attract and retain the best talent from the 'mobile-first' generation," says Lawrence Whittle, Chief Executive Officer of global technology company Parsable and co-founder of the World Economic Forum.

Our world is facing major challenges. To tackle them, we need international collaboration – in research, development, and especially in the hands-on implementation of future-oriented topics like Industry 4.0, Smart Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, and the All Electric Society (AES). The EWA Young Talent Award is a call to action for all young people who don't just talk about a sustainable future – but want to actively build it. With this award, we shine a spotlight on innovative projects and bold ideas from around the world – as inspiring best practices. The focus is on digital skills, creativity, and teamwork: How can young engineers work together with industry to create solutions that truly make a difference?

For the STE2026, the best young engineering students, especially from the fields of Automation and Information Technology, are being sought worldwide and honored with the EWA Young Talent Award.

Conditions for participation:

Students or student groups of a Higher Education Institution (HEI) with a project or initiative can apply. The submitted projects or initiatives must have been developed in cooperation with an industrial company. Each project or initiative must also be accompanied by a supervisor from the HEI. Projects submitted as Bachelor's or Master's theses are not eligible. Thematically, the projects/initiatives should fit/be inline with the topics of STE2026.

Presentation format of the submission:

The following documents must be submitted

- Description of the project/initiative in the form of a DIN A0 poster. A poster template as well as examples can be found on the EWA website (https://www.edunet-wa.com/1).
- Short statement of the supervising HEI teacher (max. one DIN A4 page)
- Short statement of the supervising industry representative (max. one DIN A4 page)

Important Deadline

31 Dec 2025	Submission of the award documents

The project description and the statements have to be in English. The award documents are submitted via the STE2026 ConfTool.

Topics of Interest

All Electric Society solutions

Augmented & Virtual Reality

Artificial Intelligence in various fields

Cloud Technology

Digital Twins

Digital Platforms

Cyber Physical Systems

Cyber Security

Data Science

Engineering Education of the Future

Green Automation 4.0

Human Machine Interaction & Usability

Industry 4.0/5.0 solutions

Learning in Virtual Environments

Open Science Big Data

Online Engineering

Process Visualization

Remote Control & Measurement

Robotics

Smart Objects & Industry

Smart World (City, Buildings, Home etc.)

Sustainable Systems

Solutions for sustainability

Virtualization & Control from the cloud

Type of award

Five projects will be nominated for the award. One student or student group representative from each nominated project will be invited to STE2026. All costs for the participation of five nominees at the STE2026 will be covered by EWA (flight, hotel accommodation, participation fee for the STE2026).

Two winners will be selected from the five nominated projects. The first winner will receive a prize of **EUR 1,000** and the second winner **EUR 500**.

Award Committee

The nominees and the winners will be selected by a jury consisting of EWA members, members from industry, foundations and scientific institutes.

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