



The Dusmet Award, Second Edition: “Life Science – Artificial Intelligence”

The G.B. Dusmet Foundation, in collaboration with Expomedicina, is promoting the second edition of the Dusmet Award, dedicated in 2026 to the theme “Life Science – Artificial Intelligence.” The initiative was created to showcase products, services, models, and technologies capable of combining scientific innovation, ethical responsibility, and social impact. At the heart of the Award is a clear vision: to use artificial intelligence not merely as a technological tool, but as a lever to make the social and healthcare system more equitable, accessible, and closer to people.

The award ceremony will take place on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, during Expomedicina, running from October 25 to 28 at the Le Ciminiere exhibition center in Catania.

An artificial intelligence that cares

This year's edition of the Award looks at applications of artificial intelligence capable of producing a concrete improvement in people's lives, with particular attention to vulnerable communities and healthcare/social-care settings. Proposals may cover, among other things, predictive systems for early detection of need, virtual assistants, smart medical devices, advanced diagnostic tools, remote monitoring platforms, and mental health solutions.

Projects focused on optimizing care pathways, managing waiting lists, home care, active ageing, community welfare, and building local proximity networks will also be evaluated. Particular weight will be given to initiatives that explicitly address algorithmic transparency, data protection, bias mitigation, and compliance with European AI regulations.

The areas covered by the 2026 Dusmet Award

Applications must address at least one of the following areas:

- Health and wellbeing of vulnerable communities;
- Innovation in health and social care services;
- E-health, advanced diagnostics, medical devices, and minimally invasive surgery;
- Prevention, health promotion, and active ageing;
- Home care, remote monitoring, and mental health;
- Cohousing, community welfare, and proximity networks;
- Training and AI literacy in healthcare;
- Ethical, safe, and responsible use of AI.

In every proposal, artificial intelligence must be a substantial component of the solution, not merely an accessory element.

Who can apply

The Award is open to:

- Third Sector organizations, foundations, associations, and social cooperatives;
- Civilly recognized ecclesiastical entities;
- Startups and spin-offs, including those with a social mission;
- Civic innovators;
- University researchers active in Life Sciences and social innovation.

The Evaluation Committee may also directly invite entities and individuals deemed particularly deserving.

How to apply

Participation takes place in a single phase. By 11:59 PM on September 30, 2026, each interested party must submit:

- A project description, no longer than two pages;
- A detailed explanation of the artificial intelligence component used;
- A focus on the proposal's innovative aspects;
- Information on economic and financial sustainability;
- Any supporting photos, videos, slides, articles, or other materials.

Documentation should be sent to: info@dusmetnews.it.

Evaluation, recognitions, and Communities of Practice

Applications will be reviewed by a Committee of Experts from the fields of health, research, innovation, artificial intelligence, and social work. Evaluation criteria include impact on people's lives and territories, degree of innovation, ethical and responsible use of AI, long-term sustainability, replicability of the project, and consistency with the values of the G.B. Dusmet Foundation.

The winning project will be publicly presented during Expomedicina 2026 and will be involved in the activities of the Dusmet Foundation and the School of Formation for socio-political engagement, cooperation, and development of the Mediterranean. Alongside the main award, special mentions and recognitions called “Communities of Practice” may also be granted, awarded to organizations that have, over time, built networks, shared expertise, and generated replicable models of intervention for the benefit of the community.

Bring your idea to Expomedicina 2026

Have you developed a project in which artificial intelligence improves people's health, care, or quality of life? Submit your application by September 30, 2026.

Send your application to: info@dusmetnews.it

Award ceremony: October 28, 2026, Le Ciminiere – Catania.

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