Three former MCA students shortlisted for the Barilla award

A “game-diary” to waste less food in everyday life

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Helping people waste less food: this is the aim of the project of three former students of the SISSA Master’s in Complex Actions, among the ten finalists for the YES 2013 award offered by the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition. The project, started while attending the Master’s course in 2012, proposes a new way of recording and reducing the amount of food that families waste, and is especially aimed at young people (with the collaboration of schools). The winners will be announced on November 27.

How much food do we throw out every day? This is the question addressed by Maurizio Garrione, Alessandro Cicerale and Simone Racca, three former students of the Master’s in Complex Actions (MCA) of the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste, who proposed an idea to reduce daily food wastage. The project, conceived when the three were attending the Master’s course in 2012, has been chosen among the ten finalists for the Young Earth Solutions (YES) 2013 award of the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition, the international idea center which analyses key issues related to food and nutrition at the global level.
“The project avails itself of three tools: a website, a food-waste diary and an app”, explains Garrione. “These three tools are chiefly aimed at keeping track - ‘through a game’ - of food wastage among households, by interacting with the user with statistics, advice, and suggestions capable of promoting a critical self-assessment and stimulating a new consciousness of the issue”. The project provides for the direct involvement of the younger generations, even through the help of schools.

“i-dontwaste: self-monitoring and improving our food wasting attitude" is the full title of the project that will be presented by Garrione and colleagues on April 26, on the occasion of the fifth Forum on Nutrition and Food in Milan. The following day, the winning project will be announced which is to receive a prize of euro 1,000 and the possibility of taking part in a BCFN research project in 2014.

More in detail …

The Master’s in Complex Actions (MCA) is promoted by the Interdisciplinary Laboratory of SISSA in Trieste. The MCA is a school for PhD students, research scientists, young professionals and entrepreneurs with a background in physics, mathematics, chemistry, cognitive science, biology, nanotechnology or engineering.

The Master’s combines the frontiers of science with entrepreneurial competences, to educate “hybrid” professionals capable of responding to global challenges, such as food, management of water resources, climate changes and much more besides. Enrolments for the academic year 2013-2014 opened last November 1 and will close on December 2 (for online enrolment and further information: [http://www.mca.sissa.it/?p=930](http://www.mca.sissa.it/?p=930))

USEFUL LINKS:
- MCA website: [http://www.mca.sissa.it](http://www.mca.sissa.it)

IMAGE:
- Simone Racca, Maurizio Garrione e Alessandro Cicerale - Image credits: Maurizio Garrione

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