

## EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

### CALL FOR GRANTS

#### I. ACTIVITY TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT

A shorter description of the activity/activities to be supported by the grant.

FORWARDS is a project funded by the European Union that will prototype the Forest-Ward Observatory, a pan-European monitoring and evaluation system that will help assess how European forests respond to the impacts of climate change. It will document current restoration activities concerning forests, biodiversity, carbon, and soils and explore various restoration options to guide decision-making processes towards climate-smart forest management. One of the aims of the FORWARDS project is to engage and empower citizens and stakeholders in the co-creation of solutions that will support the future of forests amidst climate change challenges. In the project, engagement and co-design will help in shaping a platform solution that is responsive to specific stakeholder interests and prioritizes user needs. This approach ensures that project results resonate effectively with diverse stakeholder groups, fostering greater uptake and implementation of project outcomes. For sustained impact, engagement activities on different administrative levels are important, including policy-related dialogues or consultations that span across sectors.

To set up the Observatory and support the implementation and scaling up of CSF and restoration sites, this call seeks to promote greater engagement of citizens and stakeholders in advancing CSF and restoration efforts. It aims to (1) increase awareness of the need for CSF, (2) assess the potential social impacts of CSF, and (3) develop inclusive initiatives that empower local communities, organizations, and other stakeholders to actively co-create and contribute to CSF decision-making processes and the development of policy recommendations.

#### II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Reference	G-01-2024
Title	Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement in CSF and forest restoration
Maximum grant value	EUR 17,500
Maximum number of Grants	5
Number of lots	4
Maximum duration	18 months

The Grant submission guidelines, which contain more detailed information on the requirements stated in this Call for grant, are available at the EFI website at <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-01-2024>.

In addition to the terms and conditions as stated in the Call for grant, and Grant submission guidelines, EFI applies the EFI Grant rules which have been made available at <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/efi-grant-rules>.

### III. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applications shall apply the following structure:

- I. Administrative information
  - Application Form - Part A, using template provided in annex 1
  - Power of Attorney for Coordinator, as applicable, using template provided in annex 3
  - Declaration on Principles for funding and Exclusion from funding, using template provided in annex 4
  - Ethics declaration and self-assessment using template provided in annex 5
  - Gender Equality Declaration using template provided in annex 6
  - All the administrative information (annexes 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 must be submitted in a single pdf document)
  
- II. Technical Description
  - Application Form - Part B, using template provided in annex 2
  - The technical description shall be submitted in one single PDF document (this does not include the instructions and guidance provided in annex 2).
  - Technical Description shall be written in English

Formatting rules for the documentation under I. and II.

- Font: Calibri
- Minimum font size: 11 pt (except for tables and figures where it should be minimum 10 pt)
- Line spacing: 1
- Orientation: Portrait. For the tables or any Gantt/pert chart, landscape orientation can be used if necessary for the purpose of fitting of the tables or for legibility.
- Page size and margins: Page size A4, all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 2 cm (not including any footers or headers)

All the documentation (application forms and annexes) must be submitted in PDF (separate pdfs for I. Administrative information and II. Technical Description).

What procedures to follow for applying:

Grant application shall only to be submitted by the applicant (coordinator as applicable) to:

grants@efi.int

Please note that it is not allowed to send the email to another recipient (not in the To: field, the cc: field, or the bcc: field)

The email with the application shall contain only the following heading in the subject line:

G-01-2024 Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement in CFS and forest restoration

The grant application must have been received by EFI by the following deadline at the latest:

1 September 2024 at 21:00 UTC

#### IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Grant applications can be submitted by one legal entity or a consortium of legal entities.

Applicants must, by the deadline for submission of the Application, meet the following criteria to be eligible for the grant:

Criteria	Description of criteria	Clarification
E1	Applicant is a legal entity (legal person)	If the application is submitted by a consortium (grouping of legal persons represented by a coordinator), this criterion applies to all the participants. This call is not open for applications from natural persons.
E2	Applicant eligible for funding under the European Union Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme	If the application is submitted by a consortium, this criterion applies to all the participants.

Applications not fulfilling the above stated eligibility criteria will be rejected.

Furthermore, the following legal entities (legal persons) will not be eligible:

- Beneficiary or associated partner of the FORWARDS project under the Grant Agreement No. 101084481 Entities subject European Union restrictive measures
- Israeli entities due to activities in the territories occupied by Israel (European Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/05)
- Public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust (Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506)

Applications not fulfilling the above-stated eligibility criteria will be rejected.

#### V. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the grant process must only be sent to the following address:

forwards@efi.int

Questions can be sent until:

31 July 2024

Questions and answers for this grant process will be published at <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-01-2024>.

The following schedule will be followed for publication of questions and answers:

- Answers for questions received during the period 30 April 2024 - 31 May 2024 will be published on 10 June 2024
- Answers for questions received during the period 1 June 2024 - 30 June 2024 will be published on 10 July 2024
- Answers for questions received during the period 1 July 2024 – 31 July 2024 will be published on 9 August 2024

Individual questions will not be replied to separately.

Potential applicants are advised to visit <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-01-2024> regularly before the deadline for the submission of applications for any Q&A, and updates or modifications regarding this grant process.

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**Funded by  
the European Union**

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