

EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

Grant submission guidelines

G-02-2023

EVOLTREE Opportunity Call 2022/2023

1. ACTIVITY TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT

Background

EVOLTREE Network is a cooperation mechanism under which research and networking activities are facilitated by the European Forest Institute.

The mission of the EVOLTREE Network is to link four major disciplines (Ecology, Genetics, Genomics and Evolution) to address global issues that European forests are currently facing as environmental change and erosion of biodiversity.

The overall objective of the EVOLTREE Network is to strengthen the durable integration of research in the field of forest genetics and genomics on a pan-European scale.

In order to fulfil its mission, the members of the EVOLTREE Network endeavour in particular to:

- facilitate and strengthen research in the field of forest genetics and genomics on a pan-European scale,
- maintain and develop the network created during the EU support phase as NoE (resources, infrastructures, training & dissemination),
- develop and support strategies for durable integration of research in the field of forest genetics and genomics on a pan-European scale,
- propose scientific and strategic orientations of the EVOLTREE programme.

Objective

Within the broad scope of the EVOLTREE research and networking activities directed towards the durable integration of research in the field of forest genetics and genomics on a pan-European scale, the grant under this call will support an independent research activity linked to the following major disciplines: Ecology, Genetics, Genomics and Evolution aiming at increasing knowledge on climate adaptation, forest health, productivity and conservation in forest ecosystems, using population and quantitative genetics, and genomics approaches.

Expected outcome

It is expected that the activity funded under the grant will contribute to an increased understanding on genetic diversity, local adaptation, genetic control of key traits and drivers of adaptation to predict the adaptive capacity of tree populations, inform forest management and conservation decisions, and improve breeding for productive trees in order for forests to withstand future challenges.

The activity should last one year, with the possibility of extending it to two years upon request.

Grant value

1 grant of 10,000 euros

2. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the grant process may be sent to the following address:

grants.office@efi.int

EFI is not bound to reply to questions received later than the following deadline:

21 July 2023

Questions and answers for this grants process will be published at
<https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-02-2023> on

28 July 2023

Individual questions will not be replied to separately.

Potential applicants are advised to visit <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-02-2023> regularly before the deadline for the submission of applications for any updates or modifications regarding this grant process.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications shall, to be eligible for funding, comply with the following eligibility criteria:

Criteria	Description of criteria	Clarification
E1	Applicant is an individual employed in an EVOLTREE member institute or holding a scholarship to do research in an EVOLTREE member institute	List of EVOLTREE member institutes: https://www.evoltree.eu/about/members
E2	Applicant has graduated with a MSc degree and/or PhD/Doctorate	
E3	Applicant has no more than 10 years work experience after award of MSc degree or PhD/Doctorate, whichever is the latest degree awarded	

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

4. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applications shall apply the following structure:

I. Administrative information

- Cover letter, using template annex 1
- Declaration, using template annex 2
- CV of the Applicant, clearly indicating
 - degree awarded (MSc degree and/or PhD/Doctorate) and date of graduation
 - work experience, including dates
- Written confirmation from an EVOLTREE member institute confirming that Applicant is employed in the EVOLTREE member institute or holding a scholarship to do research in the EVOLTREE member institute, signed and dated by a representative of the EVOLTREE member institute

II. Technical proposal

1. Description of the proposed activities, maximum of four (4) pages, reflecting on the objectives and expected outcomes of the call, and addressing:
 - Contribution to EVOLTREE research activities and/or use of existing EVOLTREE experimental sites
 - Involvement of research teams from different countries, including non-EVOLTREE members
2. Work plan, maximum of two (2) pages
 - A description of the methodological approach
 - A timeline for the activities supported by the grant

Procedure to follow for applying:

The Grant application shall only be submitted to:

grants@efi.int

Please note that this is not the same as the address grants.office@efi.int

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

G-02-2023, EVOLTREE Opportunity call 2022/2023

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

31 October 2023, 23:00 UTC

5. AWARD CRITERIA

Criteria that will be applied for awarding of the grant:

Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The scientific quality of the proposed research
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Contribution to ongoing EVOLTREE research activities and/or use of existing EVOLTREE experimental sites▪ Involvement of research teams from different countries, including non-EVOLTREE members
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned are in line with the objectives and expected output of the activities

Applications will receive a score of 1-5 for each of the criteria.

Applications must receive a score of at least 2.5 points in each of the categories *Excellence*, *Relevance*, and *Implementation*, to be considered for award of the grant.

The Application with the highest total score will be awarded the grant.

In case of equal scores: Applications will be prioritised according to score under criteria *Excellence*, and after that *Relevance* and last *Implementation*.

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

- 6.1 In addition to what has been stated in the Call for grant and these Grant submission guidelines, EFI applies the EFI Grant rules which have been made available at <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/efi-grant-rules>
- 6.2 By submitting an application for a grant, the applicant accepts all the terms and conditions set out in the Call for grant and these Grant submission guidelines (including its annexes), and waives all other terms.
- 6.3 EFI may reject an application that is not in compliance with the instructions in the Call for grant or the Grant submission guidelines.
- 6.4 No information communicated in this grant process, including the Call for grant and these Grant submission guidelines (including its annexes), bind EFI in any way to an award or a grant agreement. EFI shall only be bound by written grant agreements.
- 6.5 An applicant must be able to prove, to the satisfaction of EFI, any information given as part of its application. Failure to do so, within a time limit set by EFI, may result in rejection of the application.
- 6.6 EFI may ask the applicant for clarifications regarding any information submitted as part of the application. EFI may reject any applicant from the grant process that fails to submit the requested clarification.
- 6.7 Only applications sent to grants@efi.int will be considered.
- 6.8 Applications submitted after the deadline for submission will not be considered.
- 6.9 An Applicant may only submit one application. In case of multiple applications from the same economic operator EFI will only consider the last one received.
- 6.10 Withdrawal of an application shall be done in writing.
- 6.11 All amounts shall be quoted in Euros.
- 6.12 Expenses incurred in the preparation and dispatch of an application will not be reimbursed by EFI.
- 6.13 Applications must be legible. EFI may reject applications that are not legible.
- 6.14 EFI will disregard any information given by an Applicant outside the format for submission as stated in the Call for Grant or Grant submission guidelines.
- 6.15 The application shall be complete when submitted. EFI will disregard additional documentation or information submitted separately from the application, where not requested by EFI.
- 6.16 EFI may at its own discretion disclose the contents of any application, as well as information on the Beneficiary awarded the grant as well as any other information of the grant awarded.
- 6.17 Unless otherwise stated in the Call for grant and these Grant submission guidelines, the Application and all correspondence related to it shall be in English. EFI retains the

right to correspond in English with the Applicant even if the application may be submitted in a language other than English.

- 6.18 Applicants are not entitled to contact EFI staff members or any other person referred to in the EFI grant rules after the closing date of the receipt of applications to ask for information on the evaluation. EFI may eliminate from the evaluation any Applicant contravening this provision.