

**European Forest Institute**

**Grant process G-04-2023**

**Establishing Climate-Smart Forestry and forest restoration pilots in Europe**

**Questions and answers**

Published 1 September 2023

#	Question	Answer
1.	Does the rule “Beneficiary or associated partner of the FORWARDS project under the Grant Agreement No. 101084481” are not eligible, apply to all researchers/departments/institutes within these organisations, or only those directly associated with FORWARDS	It applies to the entire organization.
2.	Is it permissible to submit a grant application for a smaller project with a significantly lower budget, considering that the Call for Grants specifies a maximum value of EUR 140,000?	Yes.
3.	<p>In ‘Annex 2 – B.4 Excellence’ a description of the applicants own methodology, concepts and models is required. The Grant Submission Guidelines however, under ‘Supported projects and activities’ describe a fixed set of field measurements.</p> <p>To what extent do supported projects’ activities have to adhere to a fixed set-up and measurement protocol? In other words: is the provided grant to be used for carrying carry out CSF research with considerable degrees of scientific freedom or intended for carrying out a fixed protocol for the collection of specific data as determined by the Forwards projects?</p> <p>If a specific protocol is to be followed for the experimental set-up and monitoring, could any details of these protocols be provided? If there is no fixed experimental setup, it would be good to state which management practices are covered by Climate Smart Forestry practices as intended in the Forwards project?</p>	There are considerable degrees of scientific freedom in terms of experimental set-up and CSF and restoration management practices to be covered, within the frame of instructions and information stated in the grant submission guidelines.
4.	With the exception of soil processes, measurable responses on the effects of forest management stretch over decades. Given the relatively short project duration (18 months + 3 years of monitoring), we consider it relevant to use historical data on forest growth, biodiversity etc. and environmental variables in order to draw conclusions on the effectivity of	Historical data may accompany the new measurement data from the field trials.

	management practices on the parameters as described in the Grant Submission Guidelines however, under 'Supported projects and activities'. Does the use of historical data fit within Forwards' projects intentions?	
5.	What is the expected timeline for grant approvals and project commencement?	We expect that information on grant awards is given by December 2023 and project start in January/February 2024.
6.	I was unable to find the financial guidelines for the call, could you perhaps help me with finding these guidelines	All information for this call is available at: <a href="https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-04-2023">https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-04-2023</a>
7.	Since this is a project under the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme, we would like to know under which project type this project falls: research and Innovations (RIA), coordination and support actions (CSA) or innovation actions	FORWARDS is a Research and Innovation Action funded by HORIZON EUROPE.
8.	We would much appreciate if you could point us to stakeholders from your network that you may know about planning to apply for this call.	We cannot provide this type of information.
9.	Is it possible to candidate two discontinuous areas for the same grant where to implement the activities. For example, could we candidate two different areas in the same region which are not contiguous? The activities proposed for the two areas could be different but part of the same project.	There are considerable degrees of scientific freedom in terms of experimental set-up, within the frame of instructions and information stated in the grant submission guidelines.
10	The call guidelines state that the activities shall be completed at the latest by August 2025. However, the guidelines further state that the continuation of the trial(s) must be assured for a minimum of three years following the completion of the project (i.e. 18 months). Could you please clarify if there is likely to be another call within FORWARDS open where it will be possible to apply for further funding following the project completion or whether the proposal authors shall search for funding elsewhere and state that in the proposal.	We cannot provide information on possible future calls.
11	The institutions that are a part of FORWARDS consortium cannot be a part of the proposed project? In other words, staff from e.g. Wageningen University or WSL cannot be a part of the proposed project.	Beneficiaries and associated partners of the FORWARDS project under Grant Agreement No. 101084481 are not eligible and cannot participate in any project funded under this call.