

**EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE**

**Grant submission guidelines**

**G-03-2023**

**EFI AC: Young Scientists Session on Agroforestry (re-launch)**

## 1. ACTIVITY TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT

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Agroforestry is an ancient agricultural practice that is still widely implemented in several European countries. It is a dynamic system combining trees, crops and/or livestock on the same area of land. Examples are the dehesa in Spain (oak trees with livestock grazing or crops underneath) and the Fennoscandian area (including Finland, Norway, Sweden and a part of Russia), where reindeer husbandry is practised. Agroforestry is gaining renewed interest due to its many economic and environmental benefits.

The main types of agroforestry include silvopastoral and silvoarable systems, forest farming, hedgerows, riparian buffer strips and kitchen gardens. A comprehensive European project<sup>1</sup> on agroforestry suggests that it covers a total area of more than 15 million hectares in the EU, or 52 million hectares if reindeer husbandry is included.

With proper management, multifunctional agroforestry systems can provide many environmental benefits. They contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, protect the soil, enhance biodiversity and improve the overall condition of landscapes. They are also beneficial to the local rural economy, as those improved landscapes offer cultural and recreational opportunities. Moreover, agroforestry farmers can diversify their production, reduce some costs and achieve better productivity.

However, agroforestry is usually more complex and knowledge-intensive than conventional agriculture and may involve a greater administrative burden.

EFI is arranging a session at the EFI Annual Conference on 20 September 2023 (14:30-17:00 CET) in Novi Sad (Serbia), where the Agroforestry concept will be presented. This will be followed by a discussion on how agroforestry can contribute to creating more resilient landscapes, while offering new economic and social opportunities. The session aims to showcase the ongoing research of Young Scientists in this field in Europe.

EFI is providing grants for Young Scientists in the field of agroforestry in EFI Associate and Affiliate member organisations to participate in person in this session, giving a 10-minute presentation on their research, and participating in a panel discussion. EFI will provide financial support of 750 euros. For complete eligibility requirements, please see section 3 below.

The presented research shall address one or several of the following sub-topics on agroforestry:

- contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- fostering sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;
- contributing to the protection of biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem services and preserving habitats and landscapes;

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<sup>1</sup> AGroFORestry that Will Advance Rural Development (AGFORWARD)  
<https://www.agforward.eu/index.html>

- promoting employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the bioeconomy and sustainable forestry.

A maximum of 4 grants will be awarded.

## 2. QUESTIONS

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

grants.office@efi.int

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

16 July 2023

Questions and answers for this tendering process will be published at <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-03-2023> on:

19 July 2023

Individual questions will not be replied to separately.

Potential applicants are advised to visit <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-03-2023> regularly before the deadline for the submission of applications for any updates or modifications regarding this grant process.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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

Criteria	Description
E1	Applicant is affiliated with an EFI member organization (Associate or Affiliate Member), with membership not suspended
E2	Applicant has graduated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a MSc (or equivalent), graduation date 1 July 2018 or later or</li><li>• a PhD/Doctorate, graduation date 1 July 2020 or later</li></ul>

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

#### 4. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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All applications shall apply the following structure:

##### I. Administrative information

The Application shall include the following administrative documentation:

1. Cover letter, using template annex 1
2. CV of the Applicant, clearly indicating degree awarded (MSc and/or PhD) and date of graduation
3. Written confirmation from the EFI member organisation (Associate or Affiliate member) on Applicant's affiliation with the organisation, signed and dated by a representative of the EFI member organisation
4. Declaration – exclusion from funding, using template annex 2

##### II. Technical proposal

In order to evaluate the application against the award criteria, the Applicant shall submit a proposal consisting only of the following parts:

1. Written abstract of presentation/research, maximum 250 words
2. Introduction video:
  - length of maximum 60 seconds
  - must address:
    - short introduction of the candidate
    - topic of presentation/research
    - main points to be addressed during presentation
    - motivation for participation in the event
  - format must be .mp4 or .mov
  - resolution must be 720p HD at 30 fps
  - file size must not exceed 100 MB

### III. PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW FOR APPLYING I

The Grant application shall only to be submitted to the following address:

[grants@efi.int](mailto:grants@efi.int)

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

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

Application for grant G-03-2023, Young Scientist AF (re-launch)

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

26 July 2023, 23:00 UTC

## 5. AWARD CRITERIA

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Criteria that will be applied for awarding of the grant:

Criteria	
A1	Relevance of presentation: pertinence to the topic
A2	Quality of abstract: clarity
A3	Applicant's presentation skills

Applications will receive a score in the range of 0-5 for each of the criteria. Scores can be given in half points.

Applications must receive a score of at least 3.0 points in each of the categories A1, A2, and A3, to be considered for award of a grant.

The five applications with the highest total score  $A1 + A2 + A3$  will be awarded a grant.

In case of equal scores the following will apply: Applications will be prioritised according to score under criteria A1, thereafter A2 and lastly A3.



## 6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION

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- 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](mailto: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 applications 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
- 6.18. 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.
- 6.19. 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.

## Annexes

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- Annex 1      Cover letter
- Annex 2      Declaration – exclusion from funding
- Annex 3      Grant agreement