

## 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 Horizon Europe project that will prototype the ForestWard Observatory, a pan-European monitoring and evaluation tool that will help demonstrate the impact of climate change on forests and guide decision-making for practical forest management.

This call aims to set up pilots for long-term climate impact forest monitoring sites across Europe. Current long-term forest monitoring networks provide important information on the impact of climate change on forests. Still, most monitoring networks are not particularly focused on assessing climate change impacts.

With this call, the aim is thus to increase the potential of existing forest monitoring sites – especially but not inclusively ICP Forests, ICOS or LTER sites (i.e., sites which already provide a basic set of monitoring data) – to assess the impact of climate and climatic extremes on trees and forests. European forests cover more than 1/3 of the land area and they play a vital role in Europe's environment, economy, and society. Forests provide many benefits including climate regulation, raw materials, habitats for biodiversity, and removal of air pollution. Climate change is a major challenge to European forests, as demonstrated by recent heat waves, extended drought periods, and disturbances (storms, wildfires, insect outbreaks). FORWARDS aims to prototype the ForestWard Observatory – a European observatory for forests' climate change impacts to support decision-making at strategic and operational scales. On the European and national scale, a major objective is to provide a broad perspective of disturbances, future risks, and critical vulnerabilities and threats to forests as strategic support. Current long-term forest monitoring networks provide important information on the impact of climate change on forests but are not designed to provide real-time information for studying forest disturbances. Prompt detection and characterization of forest disturbance and the production of official statistics are of primary importance and a crucial priority for effectively reacting to global warming and properly planning the current and future management of European forests. Accordingly, FORWARDS will provide a comprehensive and pan-European assessment of forest disturbances, as well as tools and operative frameworks for monitoring carbon loss and recovery due to forest disturbances by exploiting satellite-based remote sensing data. Of primary importance, FORWARDS will provide a consistent, and statistically robust disturbance assessment for Europe.

#### II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Reference	G-07-2024
Title	Characterization of European forest disturbances
Maximum grant value	EUR 150,000
Maximum number of Grants	5
Number of lots	3
Maximum duration	24 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-07-2024>.

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
  - i) Application Form - Part A, using template provided in annex 1
- II. Technical Description
  - i) Application Form - Part B, following Template annex 2
  - ii) The length of the technical description must not exceed 12 pages and shall be submitted in one single PDF document (this does not include the instructions and guidance provided in annex 2).
  - iii) Technical Description shall be written in English

Formatting rules for the documentation 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 (Two 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](mailto: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-07-2024, Characterization of European forest disturbances

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

31 January 2025 at 21:00 UCT+2

#### 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 Program	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](mailto:forwards@efi.int)

Questions can be sent until:

18 January 2025

Questions and answers for this grant process will be published at <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-07-2024>

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

- Answers for questions received during the call launch -2 December 2024, will be published on 11 December 2024
- Answers for questions received during the period 3 December 2024 – 3 January 2025 will be published on 14 January 2025
- Answers for questions received during the period 4 January 2025 – 18 January 2025 will be published on 24 January 2025

Individual questions will not be replied to separately.

Potential applicants are advised to visit <https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-07-2024> regularly before the deadline for the submission of applications for any Q&A, updates or modifications regarding this grant process.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Funded by  
the European Union**

*FORWARDS has received funding from the EU Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 101084481.*