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.
European forests cover more than 1/3 of the land area and play a vital role in Europe's environment, economy, and society. Forests provide many benefits to society regarding climate regulation, raw materials, habitats for biodiversity, and many other services. Climate change is a major challenge to European forests, as demonstrated by recent heat waves, extended drought periods and disturbances (storms, wildfires, insect outbreaks). Climate change may lead to shifts in tree species ranges, changes in forest productivity, tree mortality, and increased disturbance damage. Hence, it is essential to assess the extent of the impact of ongoing climate change on the functioning of trees and forests. Past and recent changes in forest structures and functioning can be analysed with data from large long-term forest monitoring programs such as ICP Forests[1], the national forest inventory (NFI) networks[2,3], or networks such as ICOS[4], LTER[5], or TreeNET[6,7,8] Within the FORWARDS Horizon Europe project, forest data from different programs, projects and other initiatives are collected, with a focus on quantifying the impacts of climate change on forests. These datasets are collected by the forthcoming ForestWard Observatory, a pan-European monitoring and evaluation tool that will help demonstrate the impacts of climate change on forests and guide decision-making for practical forest management. This call invites Applicants to propose projects developing applications that utilize or enrich the Forestward Observatory datasets, or systems for data collection that can be integrated, for instance developing web applications that link to the ForestWard Observatory and rely on its datasets to strengthen the outreach of practical knowledge and best practices for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies, including synergies with biodiversity, to practitioners and other end-users.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Reference	G-01-2026
Title	Knowledge to Practice: Develop applications and AI solutions utilizing the ForestWard Observatory
Maximum grant value	150,000
Maximum duration	10 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-01-2026.

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

II. Technical Description
   - Application Form- Part B, following Template annex 2
   - 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).
   - Technical Description shall be written in English

All the documentation (application forms and annexes) must be submitted in PDF (Two separate PDFs for I. and II.).

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-01-2026 Knowledge to Practice: Develop applications and AI solutions utilizing the ForestWard Observatory

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

3 April 2026 at 21:00 UTC +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 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)
- Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine

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:

13 March 2026

Questions and answers for this grant process will be published at https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-01-2026

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

- Answers for questions received during the period call launch – 18 February 2026, will be published on 27 February 2026
- Answers for questions received during the period 19 February 2026 – 13 March 2026, will be published on 20 March 2026

Individual questions will not be replied to separately.

Potential applicants are advised to visit https://efi.int/grants-training/grants/G-01-2026 regularly before the deadline for the submission of applications for any Q&A, updates or modifications regarding this grant process.

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