

CASCADE FUNDING

**1ST SMURF OPEN CALL FOR
SMALL FOREST OWNERS' ORGANISATIONS**

1st Online information session 18th September 2024

<https://www.smurfproject.eu/>



Funded by
the European Union

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!



Funded by
the European Union

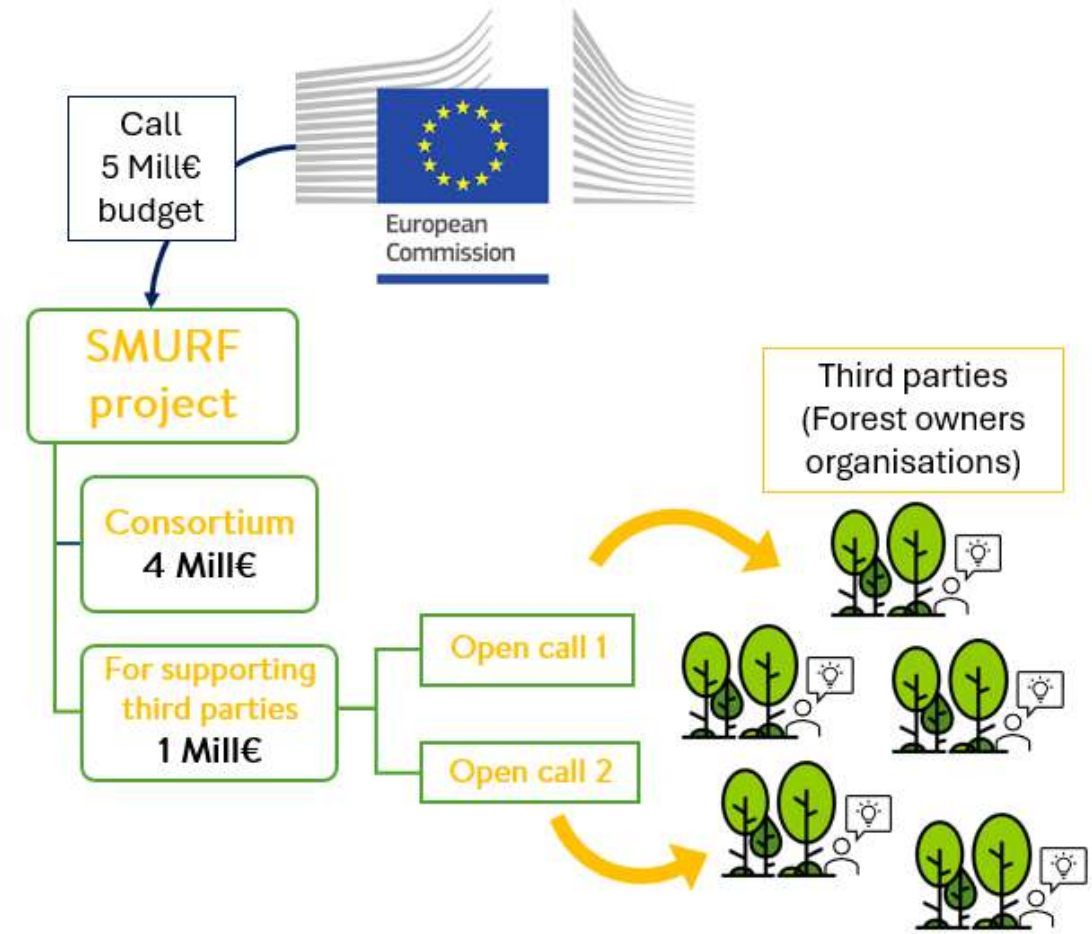
INDEX

1. WHAT IS CASCADE FUNDING
2. BASIC PRINCIPLES
3. CASCADE FUNDING IN THE SMURF PROJECT
4. KEY INFORMATION OF THE 1ST CALL
5. OPEN CALL PROCESS
6. FINAL IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS



1. WHAT IS CASCADE FUNDING?

- ❖ An European Commission mechanism to **distribute public funding** to third parties → to assist beneficiaries in the development of a project.





2. BASIC PRINCIPLES

🌱 Excellence

- 🌱 The proposal(s) selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call.

🌱 Transparency

- 🌱 Funding decisions must be based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants should receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals

🌱 Fairness and impartiality

- 🌱 All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants



2. BASIC PRINCIPLES (CONTINUED)

🌱 Confidentiality

- 🌱 All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidence

🌱 Efficiency and speed

- 🌱 Evaluation of proposals and award of the financial support should be as rapid as possible, commensurate with maintaining the quality of the evaluation and respecting the legal framework.



3. CASCADE FUNDING IN THE SMURF PROJECT

❖ **SMURF project** → ensure the participation of the required stakeholders for the development of the different project' tasks.

❖ Two calls:

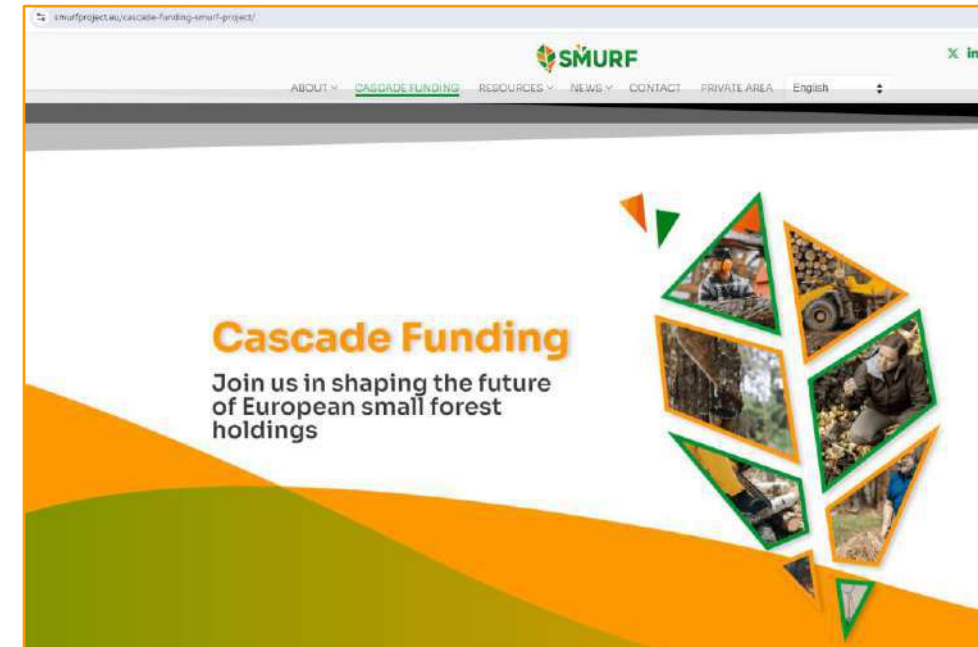
Sept 2024

January 2025

❖ All the info can be found in the project' website

→ [smurfproject.eu/](https://www.smurfproject.eu/)

<https://www.smurfproject.eu/cascade-funding-smurf-project/>





3. CASCADE FUNDING IN THE SMURF PROJECT

Why your organisation should apply?

Cascade Funding

Join us in shaping the future
of European small forest
holdings

**MAKE YOUR VOICE
HEARD!**



3. CASCADE FUNDING IN THE SMURF PROJECT

Cascade Funding

Join us in shaping the future
of European small forest
holdings

Why your organisation should apply?

- ❖ To **share your problems** and improve the search of solutions for your forest owners and managers.
- ❖ To **take knowledge exchange** and **networking** among EU27 forest organisations **into action**.
- ❖ To provide your “**real-life**” **expertise** and contribute to the success of this European initiative.
- ❖ To **be part of a network** of forward-thinking forest owners and managers, contributing to a more sustainable and profitable future for European forests.
- ❖ To participate in the **elaboration of guidelines** to support policy-makers.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!



3. CASCADE FUNDING IN THE SMURF PROJECT

🌿 1st call → Open now until 30th October 24 - 17.00 CET

🌿 Budget: 200,000€ → Lump sum ranging up to €5,000 per grant

🌿 Execution of activities: until 31/12/2025.

🌿 Specific Objectives:

- 🌿 1. **Enlarge the number of entities** participating in the SMURF project' activities: 40 assoc.
- 🌿 2. Obtain **direct information** about European Small Forest Holdings (Eu SFH) and Forest Owners
- 🌿 3. Capture the **diversity of forest associations and cooperatives** throughout Europe
- 🌿 4. Get to promote the SMURF project' activities **in as many countries and regions of Europe as possible**

🌿 Activities (*all are mandatory*)

- 🌿 Small Forest Holdings and associations **characterization** (3.000 €)
- 🌿 Attending conference and **networking** (1.000 €)
- 🌿 **Communication and dissemination** activities (1.000 €)

DETAIL OF THE ACTIVITIES CAN
BE FOUND IN THE

[FULL DETAILS DOCUMENT CALL](#)



3. CASCADE FUNDING IN THE SMURF PROJECT

🌿 2nd call → Open in January until April 2025

🌿 Budget: 800,000€ → Lump sum ranging up to €55,000 per grant

🌿 Execution of activities: 2026-27.

🌿 Specific Objectives:

- 🌿 To engage other organizations in other SMURF project activities
- 🌿 Develop sustainable and profitable forestry solutions for small forest holdings, involving the whole forest-based value chain
- 🌿 Foster innovation, co-creation and collaboration among forest associations and cooperatives throughout Europe



3. CASCADE FUNDING IN THE SMURF PROJECT

🌿 2nd call → Open in January until April 2025

🌿 Activities

(Some voluntary and some mandatory)

- 🌿 Attending workshops and trainings
- 🌿 Setting up living labs focused on new business models
- 🌿 Setting up demonstrative stands for close-to-nature silviculture
- 🌿 Promoting pilot projects for carbon credits
- 🌿 Attending conference and networking
- 🌿 Communicating and disseminating activities

*The idea is that **beneficiaries of the first call will also participate in the second call and maintain their participation in the project***



4. KEY INFORMATION OF THE 1ST CALL

Title of the call	1st SMURF open call for small forest owners' organisations
Total funding	200.000 €
Funding per grant	Lump sum ranging up to €5,000
Number of grants to be funded	40, <i>from the 27 countries</i>
Target applicants	Associations, federations, confederations or cooperatives of small forest owners
Opening of the call	02/09/2024 – 08.00 CET
First online information session	18/09/2024 – 11.00 CET – Register here
Second online information session	16/10/2024 – 11.00 CET – Register here
Closing of the call	30/10/2024 – 17.00 CET
Communication of results	20/12/2024
Duration of the grants	until 31/12/2025
Start of the activities	Immediately after sign grant agreement – January 2025



4. KEY INFORMATION OF THE 1ST CALL

4.1. Detail of activities:

1st CALL ACTIVITIES						
Activity number	Activity title	Time to perform the task (month)	Forecasted Start	Forecasted End	Budget (€)	Number of activities per association
1	Small Forest Holdings and associations characterization					
1.1	1 Survey to characterize the association/cooperative	3	M13	M15	3.000,00 €	1
1.2	1 Interview to characterize the association/cooperative	3	M18	M20		1
1.3	15 Basic surveys to characterize associates (forest owners)	4	M13	M16		15
1.4	3 Detailed surveys associates (forest owners) on forest holdings accountability and registries	2	M18	M20		3
1.5	3 Detailed interview associates (forest owners) on forest holdings accountability and registries	2	M18	M20		3
1.6	1 Detailed interview with the national (or regional) forest authority	5	M18	M22		1
1.7	1 Detailed interview with the national (or regional) support system	5	M18	M22		1
1.8	Review documents: the resulting national profile of characterization, legal regime and support systems.	2	M20	M22		3
2	Attending conference and networking					
2.1	Attending the European Conference on Small Forest Holdings	1	M17	M17	1.000,00 €	1
3	Communication and dissemination activities					
3.1	Communication and dissemination activities to the associates on 2025	11	M13	M24	1.000,00 €	1
TOTAL BUDGET					5.000,00 €	



4. KEY INFORMATION OF THE 1ST CALL

4.2. Grant disbursement:

- ❖ Lump sum
- ❖ Payments will be disbursed in two phases of meeting designated milestones and
- ❖ Delivering specific outputs. The payment will be made according to the justification of activities with the activity final report.

Payment schedule	Amount	Date
1st payment	50% (2,500€)	January 2025, after signature of grant agreement
2nd payment	50% (2,500€)	After the activities are completed, deliverables are sent and verification of execution is made by Cesefor



4. KEY INFORMATION OF THE 1ST CALL

4.3. Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the grant

Criteria	Description of criteria	Clarification
E1	Applicant is a legal entity based in an EU27 country.	This call is not open for applications from natural persons. The legal entity must have a VAT number and an active European bank account .
E2	The applicant is a legal organisation dedicated to representing forest owners	Organisations representing small forest owners, public or private, across 27 EU Member States (like associations, federations, confederations, cooperatives or others similar) at local, regional, national, supranational or European level.

Other considerations:

- Public or private forests, owned by individuals or collectivities.
- Small forest holding < 500 hectares of forest area.
- Only one application per organization is allowed



4. KEY INFORMATION OF THE 1ST CALL

4.3. Award criteria:

- Territorial level of the applicants (supranational, NUTS classification level).
- Criteria 1. Type of forest properties represented in the association
- Criteria 2. Number of associated forest owners
- Criteria 3. Gender balance of associated forest owners

• Territorial level of the applicants

- **Supranational candidates:** Up to 3 recipients may be selected. (If there are more than 3 applications, criteria 1-3 may be applied).
- **National candidates:** 1 recipient will be selected per country if the applicant is the only national candidate, if there are more than one candidate, prioritisation based on NUTS classification levels: National > NUTS1-NUTS2 > NUTS3. If same NUTS level → criteria 1-3 may be applied.
- Once one award recipient has been selected per country, the remaining candidates will be prioritized: NUTS3 > NUTS1-NUTS2 > National level. If same NUTS level → criteria 1-3 may be applied

Criteria 1 Public-private diversity of forest owners represented within the organisation	Scoring
Public & private	5
Only Private	4
Only Public	3

Criteria 2 Number of associated forest owners	Scoring
>10.000	5
1.000-10.000	3
0-1.000	1

Criteria 3 Gender balance of associated forest owners	Scoring
>40% women	5
20-40% women	3
0-20% women	1



5. OPEN CALL PROCESS

5.1. Submission of application through the [website](#) →

Access the Application form



The screenshot shows the 'Cascade Funding Application Form' page. At the top, there is the SMURF logo and the European Union flag with the text 'Funded by the European Union'. Below this is the title 'Cascade Funding Application Form'. A section titled 'Notes for Applicants:' contains instructions to ensure all sections are completed and to sign and attach the application signature and commitment letter in section 5 as a pdf file using the template provided in Annex 2. It also states the deadline: 'Submit the completed application form before the specified deadline (30th October 17.00 CET)'. The 'Section 1: Applicant Information' section includes input fields for 'Organisation native name', 'Organisation name in English', 'Abbreviation', '27 EU Member country' (with a dropdown menu), and 'Website'.

The application is considered *complete* if submitted:

- 1) Online Application form.
- 2) Application signature and commitment letter signed by applicant representatives to comply with the project activities (Annex 2).



5. OPEN CALL PROCESS

5.2 Evaluation of applications:

- ❖ The evaluation committee will evaluate the applications considering the eligibility and criteria following the application score form.
- ❖ The highest-ranked applications will be selected sequentially until the overall budget for the call is exhausted (until a total of 40 recipients is reached).
- ❖ No more than **4 applicants per country** may be selected.

Application score form	
Reviewer	
Date of revision	
Number of applicant reviewed (assigned automatically at the reception of the applications to anonymize the process)	
Country	
Organisation' territorial level (NUTS and others)	
Date and time of submission	
¹ Forest Area (ha) represented by the organisation	
CRITERIA 1 - Public-private diversity of forest owners represented within the organisation	Scoring
CRITERIA 2 - Categories of number of associated forest owners	Scoring
CRITERIA 3 - Gender balance of associated forest owners	Scoring

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS TO APPLICANTS → **20TH DECEMBER 2024**



5. OPEN CALL PROCESS

5.3 After grant process timeline

- ♦ Sign grant agreement and initial payment → January 2025
- ♦ Monitoring activities, verification of compliance and final payment → throughout 2025
- ♦ Closure → 31/12/2025



6. FINAL IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

🌱 Language:

- 🌱 The language of this granting process is **English**. Applicants must submit their applications in **English**.

🌱 Accuracy of information:

- 🌱 By presenting the application and signing the commitment letter, the applicant affirms the accuracy of the declared information.

🌱 Compliance with activities:

- 🌱 By applying you will be indicating that you plan to get involved in all the activities specified in the call



QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS ?

Please, type your questions in the chat
and or raise your hand

info@smurfproject.eu



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT MODELS
AND VALUE CHAINS FOR SMALL FORESTS

THANKS A LOT !

Project Coordinator

Álvaro Picardo
CESEFOR

alvaro.picardo@cesefor.com

Project Officer

Elena Moreno
CESEFOR

elena.moreno@cesefor.com



Visit our website!



HORIZON EUROPE

Funded by the
European Union

cesefor
CORAZÓN FORESTAL, espíritu investigador