

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Applying to the Open Call

- How do I submit my application?

Applications must be submitted through the online application form before the deadline [GroundWork - GroundWork Open Call - Apply Now](#) . Applications sent by email or through any other channel **won't** be accepted.

- What language should my application be submitted in?

Your application must be in English, and all mandatory sections must be completed.

- Who can apply? Do I need to apply as an individual farmer or as a registered entity?

All farmers and individual entities engaged in farming activities (regardless of their legal form) can apply.

- What are the eligibility requirements for farming projects?

Before applying, please make sure your farm meets the GroundWork Programme's minimum eligibility requirements, including participation commitments, farm management criteria, and project monitoring obligations. For the complete eligibility criteria and conditions, please refer to the [Terms & Conditions](#)

- Which countries or regions are eligible to apply?

Your farm should be in the countries where Living Labs (LLs) are located (Portugal, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Serbia).

- What is the application deadline?

The Open Call closes on 19 November 2026 at 15:00 (Brussels time). We strongly recommend submitting your application well before the deadline to avoid last-minute technical issues.

- Can I edit my application after submitting it?

Yes. You can update and resubmit your application at any time before the deadline. After the deadline, no changes can be made.

- Will I receive confirmation that my application was submitted?

Yes. You should receive an email confirmation after successfully submitting your proposal. If you do not receive one, please contact us as soon as possible at GroundWork.Help@fundingbox.com

- Can I submit more than one proposal?

No. Only **one proposal per applicant** is allowed. If multiple applications are submitted, only the latest one submitted before the deadline will be evaluated.

Evaluation Process

- How will my application be evaluated?

Each eligible proposal is assessed independently by **two independent experts** using predefined evaluation criteria.

The evaluation process consists of several stages:

- Initial eligibility check
- Independent evaluation by two experts
- Selection Committee consensus meeting
- Formal eligibility verification
- Sub-grant Agreement signature

- What evaluation criteria are used?

Applications are evaluated against three criteria:

- **Excellence** – how clear and ambitious your farm's regenerative objectives are, and how well they align with GroundWork's core goal of integrating regenerative livestock grazing practices (RLGPs).
- **Impact** – the expected environmental and climate benefits of your project, and how well you understand the needs and challenges of your Living Lab's region, so the project can respond to them effectively.
- **Implementation** – how realistic and well-defined your objectives and work plan are, and whether you (and anyone helping run the project) have the management capacity, farming know-how, and resources to deliver what you're proposing.

- How is the scoring system organised?

Each evaluation criterion is scored **from 0 to 5**.

- Minimum score per criterion: **3/5**
- Maximum total score: **15 points**
- Minimum overall score required: **10 points**

The final score is calculated using the combined assessments of the two independent evaluators.

- What happens if two applications receive the same score?

Priority is given first to the **Excellence** score and then to the gender balance of the project team.

- Does the highest score automatically guarantee funding?

Not necessarily. While proposals with the highest scores are generally selected, the Selection Committee may decide not to fund a proposal if, for example, it falls outside the project scope, presents ethical concerns, creates conflicts of interest, or has limited expected impact.

- When will I receive the evaluation results?

Applicants will be informed as soon as the evaluation results become available. Individual timelines may vary depending on the evaluation stage.

Formal Verification

- What happens if my proposal is selected?

If your proposal is provisionally selected, you will be invited to complete a formal verification process before signing the Sub-grant Agreement.

- What documents will I need to provide?

You may be asked to submit documents such as:

- Company registration certificate
- Tax identification number
- Ownership information
- Financial statements
- Bank Identification Form (BIF)

Additional documents may also be requested if necessary.

- What happens if I do not submit the requested documents?

Failure to provide the required documents within the specified deadline, without a valid justification, may result in your proposal being excluded from further consideration.

Grant and Payments

- How much funding can I receive?

Each selected Farming Project may receive **up to EUR 27,000** as a lump-sum grant during the 3 years of the Programme

- How are payments made?

Payments are linked to the successful completion of project milestones and are planned as follows:

- Month 1: up to EUR 3,000
- Month 12: up to EUR 6,000
- Month 24: up to EUR 9,000
- Month 36: up to EUR 9,000

- Do I need to submit invoices or receipts?

No. Payments are based on the successful completion of agreed milestones and deliverables rather than reimbursement of costs.

- What is the Custom Farm Evolution Plan (CFEP)?

The CFEP is prepared together with your assigned mentor during the first month of the programme. It defines your project's objectives, activities, deliverables, timeline, budget and key performance indicators (KPIs). Once approved, it becomes part of the Sub-grant Agreement.

- How is my project progress monitored?

Before each payment, your progress is reviewed based on:

- Quality of deliverables
- Achievement of technical performance indicators (KPIs)
- Compliance with agreed deadlines

A weighted score of at **least 7 out of 10** is required to continue in the programme.

- What happens if I need to withdraw from the programme before the 3 years are over?

If you need to withdraw, you will only receive payment for the time you participated in the Programme. You will not need to return the amounts already received, as they correspond to the already fulfilled stages of the Programme.

- Who owns the IoT sensors and equipment installed on my farm?

The IoT sensors installed by CYRIC will remain the property of the farm after the end of the project. The related monitoring, data visualisation and other services provided by CYRIC are offered free of charge during the project. After the project ends, farmers who wish to continue using these services can do so by paying the applicable fee directly to CYRIC

- What type of data will be collected on my farm as part of the project?

Depending on your Living Lab, this may include soil health assessments, animal welfare assessments, environmental performance data, and social impact data, alongside data collected through IoT sensors installed on your farm.

- Will I have access to the data collected on my farm and its analysis?

Yes. All data collected or generated on a farm belong to that farm, so farmers will have access to their own farm's data and its analysis. Each farmer will receive an individual login to the project database (T4.9), providing secure access only to their farm's data.

In addition, CYRIC is developing an app that will allow farmers to submit data directly from their smartphones, alongside access through the web-based database.

The farm-specific data may also be used for targeted training, which can provide more relevant and beneficial support to each farmer.

Complaints

- Can I appeal the evaluation results?

You may submit a complaint within five calendar days after receiving your evaluation results if you believe an error occurred during the evaluation process.

- What types of complaints will be reviewed?

Complaints are accepted only for procedural or administrative issues (such as evaluation errors, technical problems, human mistakes, or clerical errors), not for disagreements with the experts' scientific or technical judgment.

- How long does the complaint process take?

Complaints are normally reviewed within **seven calendar days**. If additional time is required, you will be informed by email.

General Questions

- Who owns the intellectual property generated through my project?

Applicants retain ownership of their intellectual property rights (IPR).

- Will my application remain confidential?

The GroundWork Consortium will make every effort to keep submitted information confidential. Applicants are responsible for clearly identifying any confidential or commercially sensitive information in their application.

- Can the Open Call be modified or cancelled?

Yes. The GroundWork Consortium reserves the right to modify or cancel the Open Call if necessary. Applicants will be informed accordingly.

- Who can I contact if I need help?

For any questions about the Open Call or technical issues, please contact:

GroundWork.Help@fundingbox.com

When reporting technical issues, please include:

- Your username, email address and phone number
- A description of the issue
- Any error messages
- Screenshots, where possible