



LOW INPUT GRAPEGROWING AND WINEMAKING

Low Input Grapegrowing and Winemaking

OPEN CALL – Fiche



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1. Introduction

This fiche provides summary information on the LIGAWINE Open Call, including its objectives, funding strands, eligibility conditions, submission process, evaluation process, and implementation timeline. Applicants must read this fiche together with the full Applicants' Guide and all documents included in the Open Call Kit before submitting an application.

1.1. About LIGAWINE

LIGAWINE, Low Input Grapegrowing and Winemaking in Europe, is an EU-funded project under Grant Agreement No. 101228350. The project is funded under the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) and aims to strengthen the sustainability, climate resilience, and competitiveness of the European wine sector through the deployment of low-input, environmentally friendly, and digitally enabled innovations in viticulture and winemaking.

LIGAWINE brings together a multi-actor partnership from key European wine-producing regions, including innovation clusters, business support organisations, research and technology partners, wineries, wine-sector stakeholders, and regional innovation actors. This interregional approach supports knowledge transfer, capacity building, real-life validation, and the scaling of innovative solutions across different wine-producing ecosystems (Figure 1).

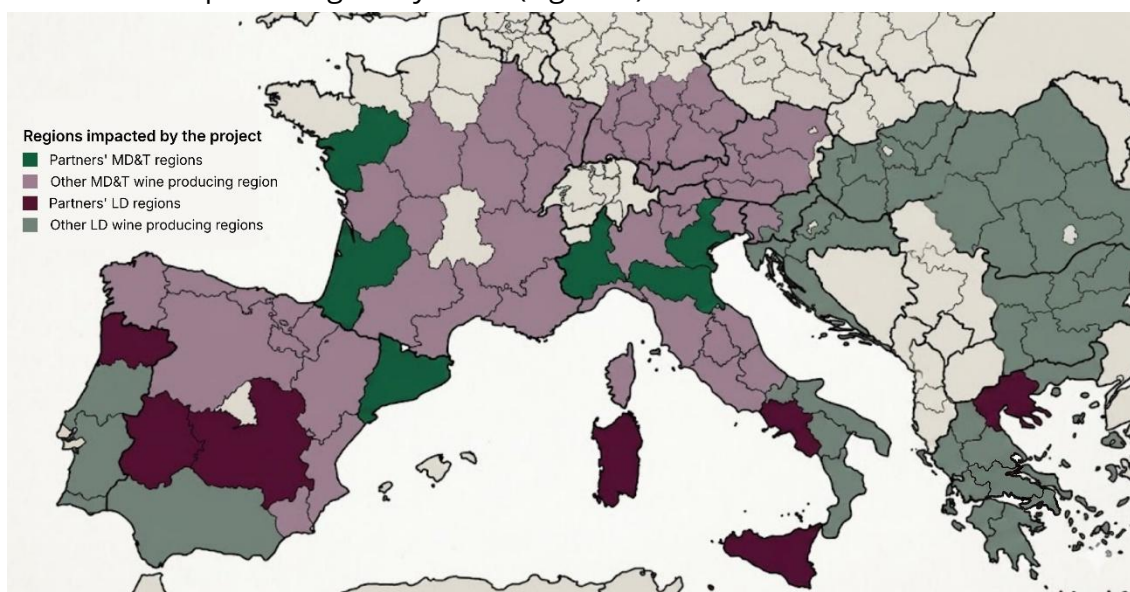


Figure 1 Map of regions impacted by LIGAWINE

The project focuses on solutions that can reduce inputs such as water, energy, agrochemicals, and oenological additives, while maintaining or improving wine quality and operational efficiency. Through its Open Call, LIGAWINE will extend its innovation ecosystem by supporting additional technology providers, SMEs, wineries, and wine-sector actors to deploy and validate low-input solutions in real vineyard or winery environments.

1.2. LIGAWINE Open Call

The LIGAWINE Open Call will provide Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) to selected sub-projects that contribute to the deployment, validation, and market uptake of low-input, sustainable, and digitally enabled solutions for the European wine sector.

The Open Call aims to support practical, market-oriented innovation projects that address concrete operational challenges in viticulture and winemaking. Selected sub-projects are expected to validate mature solutions in real or relevant operational environments and demonstrate clear potential for uptake, replication, and contribution to sustainable wine production. Figure 1 provides an overview of the Open Call Scheme. The total budget available for the Open Call is EUR 1,800,000.

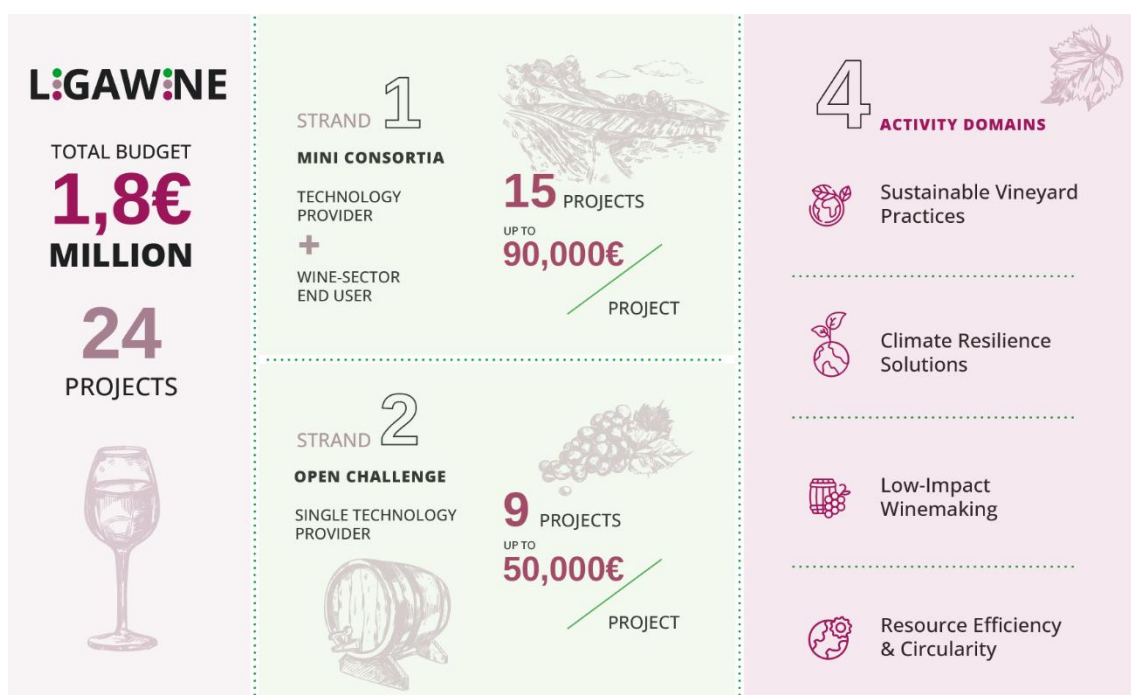


Figure 2 Overview of the LIGAWINE Open Call scheme

Funding will be provided as a lump sum, with no pre-financing, and payments will be linked to the successful completion and acceptance of mandatory deliverables.

Strand	Applicant structure	Indicative budget	Maximum funding	Expected projects
Strand 1: Mini-Consortia	One technology provider + one wine-sector end user	EUR 1,350,000	Up to EUR 90,000 per sub-project	15

Strand 2: Open Challenges	One technology provider	EUR 450,000	Up to EUR 50,000 per sub-project	9
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For Strand 1, the maximum financial support per third-party recipient is EUR 60,000. The total funding requested by the mini-consortium may not exceed EUR 90,000.

2. LIGAWINE Open Call Strands

2.1. Strand 1: Mini-Consortia

Strand 1 supports collaborative pilot projects implemented by a mini-consortium composed of two independent legal entities: one technology provider and one wine-sector end user, such as a winery or wine producer.

The purpose of Strand 1 is to support deployment and validation of a technological solution under real vineyard or winery conditions. The technology provider is expected to lead the technical deployment of the solution, while the wine-sector end user provides the operational environment for testing, monitoring, data collection, and validation.

Partner type	Maximum funding
Technology provider	Up to EUR 60,000
Wine-sector end user	Up to EUR 60,000
Total per mini-consortium	Up to EUR 90,000

The internal budget distribution between the two consortium members must be justified in the proposal and must respect the maximum ceiling of EUR 60,000 per third-party recipient and the total cap of EUR 90,000 per mini-consortium.

2.2. Strand 2: Open Challenges

Strand 2 supports single-applicant projects led by technology providers addressing LIGAWINE-relevant operational challenges in viticulture or winemaking. Consortia are not permitted under Strand 2. The maximum funding per Strand 2 sub-project is EUR 50,000.

3. Funding, Timeline and Implementation

3.1. Open Call Budget

The total budget available for the LIGAWINE Open Call is EUR 1,800,000.

Strand	Share of Open Call budget	Indicative budget
Strand 1: Mini-Consortia	75%	EUR 1,350,000

Strand 2: Open Challenges	25%	EUR 450,000
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Funding will be provided as a lump sum. No pre-financing is foreseen. Payments will be made only after the successful completion and acceptance of the relevant mandatory deliverable.

3.2. Key dates

Step	Date
Open Call launch	22 May 2026
Deadline for applicant questions	13 July 2026, 17:00 CET
Publication of final FAQ answers	17 July 2026
Submission deadline	31 July 2026, 17:00 CET
Eligibility check and evaluation	August–October 2026
Sub-grant agreement preparation	November–December 2026
Start of selected sub-projects	January 2027
End of selected sub-projects	September 2028

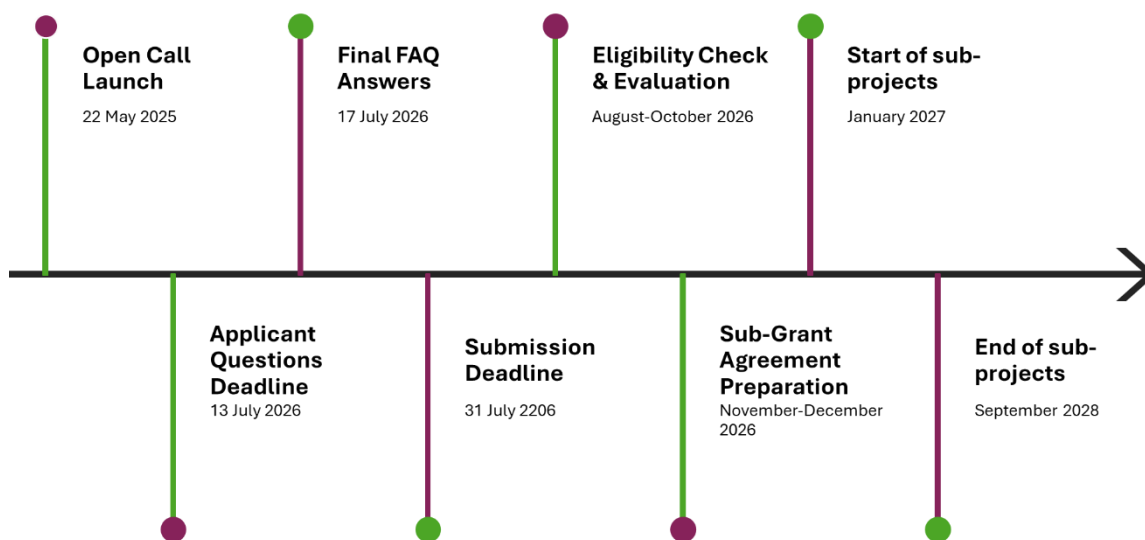


Figure 3 LIGAWINE Open Call Timeline

3.3. Implementation Phases and Payments

Selected sub-projects are expected to start in January 2027 and finish in September 2028. The implementation period will last 21 months and will be divided into three phases (Figure 4).



Figure 4 LIGAWINE sub-project implementation phases

Payments are deliverable-based and subject to acceptance of the relevant deliverable by the LIGAWINE Open Call team.

In addition to the phase deliverables, each selected sub-project must produce the mandatory communication and exploitation outputs described in the Applicants' Guide, including a thematic video, an Extended Practice Abstract for the Innovation Catalogue, and a business model and exploitation plan.

3.4. Less Developed Regions Allocation Rule

At least 70% of the total Open Call FSTP budget will be allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions. This requirement applies to the total amount of funding awarded to third-party beneficiaries, not only to the number of selected projects.

For Strand 1, the calculation will be made separately for each consortium member according to the approved budget allocation. For Strand 2, the calculation will be based on the grant amount awarded to the single beneficiary.

Passing the evaluation thresholds does not guarantee funding. While all proposals must meet the applicable quality thresholds, the final selected portfolio will be adjusted where necessary to ensure that at least 70% of the total FSTP budget is allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions, while also respecting the available budget per Strand.

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be legally established SME entities, in line with European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC. Eligible applicants may include SME start-ups, scale-ups, technology providers, digital solution providers, equipment manufacturers, solution integrators, testing laboratories, wine producers, wineries, wine cooperatives, and other SME organisations, provided that they meet the role-

specific requirements of the selected Strand. Natural persons or entities that are not SME are not eligible.

Role	Eligible under	Description
Technology provider	Strand 1 and Strand 2	A legal entity that develops, owns, commercialises, integrates, or significantly customises a technological product, process, system, digital tool, equipment, or technical solution that can be deployed and validated under real vineyard or winery conditions.
Wine-sector end user	Strand 1 only	A legal entity operating in the wine production value chain that can host or support real-life pilot validation and actively participate in testing, monitoring, data collection, and assessment of results.

Organisations that provide only general consultancy, training, communication, legal, financial, or advisory services without a deployable technological solution are not considered technology providers for the purposes of this Open Call.

4.2. Eligible Countries and Regions

Applicants must be legally established in a country eligible for participation and funding under the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) and the applicable rules of the LIGAWINE Grant Agreement.

For the purposes of this Open Call, eligible applicants must be legally established in:

- ✓ EU Member States, including their outermost regions; or
- ✓ Overseas Countries and Territories linked to EU Member States, where eligible under the applicable I3 rules.

Entities established in Horizon Europe associated countries are not eligible for funding under this Open Call solely on the basis of their Horizon Europe association status, as the I3 instrument is not Horizon Europe.

Applicants established in countries or territories subject to EU restrictive measures, exclusion rules, or specific funding limitations are not eligible to receive financial support.

For the purposes of the LIGAWINE Open Call, Less Developed Regions are regions classified as less developed under the applicable EU cohesion-policy classification. Applicants will be considered LDR-based if their legal seat is located in a NUTS 2 region classified as a Less Developed Region under the applicable EU cohesion-policy classification.

Applicants must be established either in one of the regions covered by the LIGAWINE consortium or in another Less Developed Region as defined by the European Union. The non-Less Developed regions covered by the consortium are Catalonia, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Emilia-Romagna, Pays de la Loire, Piemonte, and Veneto.

4.3. Participation Limits

Rule	Strand 1: Mini-Consortia	Strand 2: Open Challenges
Number of applicants	Two legal entities	One legal entity
Consortium allowed	Mandatory	Not permitted
Maximum proposals per applicant	One per Strand	One per Strand
Duplicate proposals	Not permitted	Not permitted
Same solution submitted twice	Not permitted	Not permitted

A technology provider may participate in both Strands only if the proposals are clearly distinct, non-overlapping, and independently implementable.

4.4. Exclusion Criteria

The following entities are not eligible to receive funding under this Open Call:

- LIGAWINE consortium partners;
- affiliated entities of LIGAWINE consortium partners;
- entities involved in the management, evaluation, or implementation of the Open Call in a way that creates a conflict of interest;
- entities subject to EU restrictive measures or exclusion rules;
- entities that submit duplicate or substantially identical proposals in breach of the participation rules;
- entities that cannot provide proof of legal existence during contracting;
- entities established in countries or territories not eligible for funding under the applicable I3 rules.

Activities already completed before submission are not eligible for funding.

5. Submission Procedure

Applications must be submitted digitally through the opencalls.fund platform. Applications submitted through any other channel will not be accepted.

Applicants must complete the online application form and upload all required documents before the submission deadline: 31 July 2026, 17:00 CET.

In case multiple versions of the same application are submitted before the deadline, only the last submitted version will be considered for evaluation. All previous versions will be discarded.

Document	Strand 1: Mini-Consortia	Strand 2: Single Applicant
Online Application Form	Yes	Yes

Technical Proposal	Yes	Yes
Budget Form	Yes	Yes
Consortium Declaration	Yes	No
Declaration of Honour	Yes, for each consortium member	Yes
SME Declaration	Yes, for each consortium member	Yes
Additional supporting documents	If applicable	If applicable

Applications must be submitted in English. For Strand 1, the application must be submitted by the Consortium Lead Partner on behalf of the mini-consortium. For Strand 2, the application must be submitted by the single technology provider.

The official proposal and budget templates must be used. The technical proposal must not exceed 15 pages, excluding the cover page, table of contents, and budget tables. **By submitting an application, applicants accept the terms and conditions of the Open Call as described in the Open Call Kit.**

6. Evaluation and Selection

The evaluation process consists of two stages: eligibility check and remote evaluation by external evaluators. Only proposals that pass the eligibility check will proceed to remote evaluation. Eligible proposals will be evaluated by two independent external evaluators according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Score	Minimum threshold
Alignment	1–5	4
Excellence	1–5	3
Impact	1–5	3
Value for Money	1–5	3
Implementation	1–5	3

Proposals must reach both the individual threshold of 3 points for each criterion, except for Alignment which requires a minimum score of 4, and the overall threshold of 16 points out of 25. A proposal that scores below 3 in any criterion will not be selected for funding, even if its total score is 16 or higher.

Proposals will be ranked in descending order of final score within each Strand. Funding will normally be allocated starting from the highest-ranked eligible proposal until the available budget for the Strand is exhausted. In case of equal scores, tie-break rules will be applied as described in the Applicants' Guide.

Applicants will be informed of the evaluation outcome through the contact details provided in the platform. Where applicable, applicants will receive an Evaluation Summary Report. Before confirming the final list of selected proposals, the LIGAWINE Open Call team will perform a portfolio check to ensure compliance with the available budget per Strand, complementarity of selected projects, and the requirement that at least 70% of the total Open Call FSTP budget is allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions.

Applicants may request redress only where they believe that a procedural error has occurred. Redress may not challenge the scientific or technical judgement of the external evaluators.

The LIGAWINE Open Call process will be managed by the LIGAWINE Open Call team, with procedural oversight from the Open Call Advisory Board (OCAB). The OCAB does not replace the independent external evaluators and does not modify evaluation scores.

7. Origin of Funds

The funding provided through this Open Call originates from the LIGAWINE project, funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement No. 101228350.

Selected applicants will sign a **dedicated Sub-grant Agreement** with the **relevant LIGAWINE consortium body** responsible for Open Call management and payments.

Financial Support to Third Parties recipients are not direct beneficiaries of the LIGAWINE Grant Agreement, but they are recipients of EU funding through the LIGAWINE project. Therefore, they must comply with the applicable obligations described in the Applicants' Guide, the Open Call Kit, and the Sub-grant Agreement.

These obligations include proper implementation, reporting, record keeping, visibility of EU funding, avoidance of double funding, data protection, confidentiality, ethics, conflict of interest, and audit requirements.

8. Points of Contact

Questions related to the LIGAWINE Open Call may be submitted through:

- Email: ligawine@opencalls.fund
- Platform: FAQ section of the opencalls.fund platform

Questions may be submitted until 13 July 2026 at 17:00 CET.

Answers to questions of general relevance will be published anonymously in the FAQ section to ensure equal treatment of all applicants. Applicants are responsible for consulting the FAQ regularly during the application period.

The LIGAWINE Open Call team will not provide individual advice on the content, quality, or expected score of a proposal.