



LOW INPUT GRAPEGROWING AND WINEMAKING

## Low Input Grapegrowing and Winemaking

# OPEN CALL – APPLICANTS' GUIDE



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## 1. Introduction

This document provides guidance information regarding the **LIGAWINE Open Call (OC)**, describing the eligibility and evaluation criteria, and along with all the associated documents of the OC kit must be read carefully prior to the submission of an application.

### 1.1 About LIGAWINE

Low Input Grapegrowing and Winemaking in Europe, LIGAWINE, 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, resilience, and competitiveness of the European wine sector through the deployment of low-input, environmentally friendly, and digitally enabled innovations.

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 combination of partners allows the project to connect technological development, business support, real-life testing environments, and regional innovation ecosystems.

The project supports the validation and scale-up of innovative solutions in real vineyard and winery environments, with a focus on reducing inputs such as water, energy, agrochemicals, and oenological additives while maintaining or improving wine quality and operational efficiency. Through its interregional approach, LIGAWINE aims to facilitate knowledge transfer between more advanced and Less Developed Regions and to support the replication of successful solutions across different wine-producing territories (Figure 1).

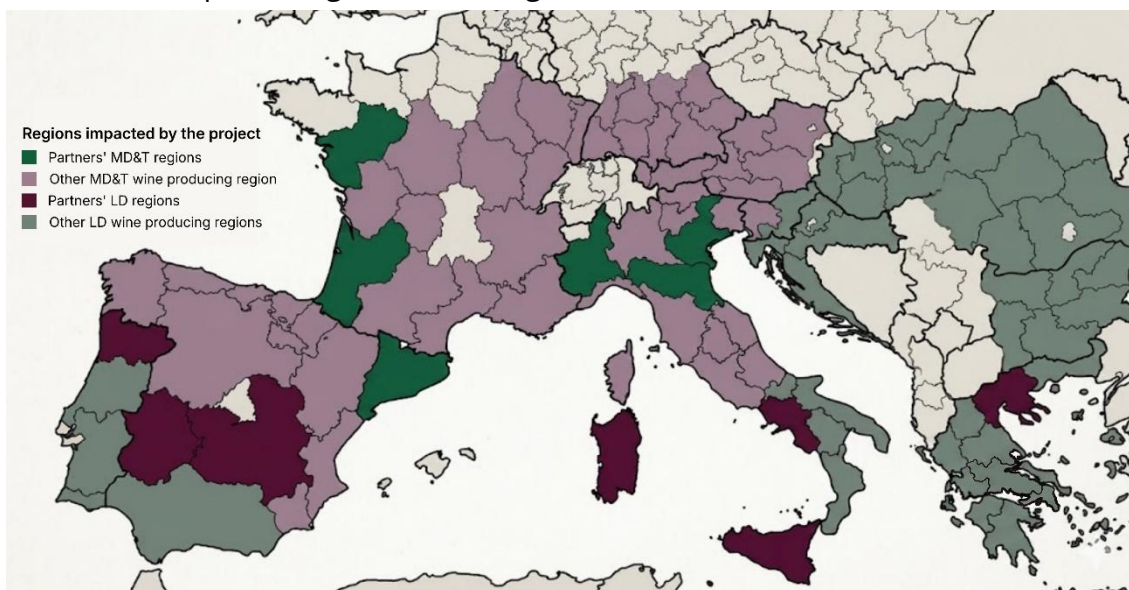


Figure 1 Map of regions impacted by the project

A central feature of LIGAWINE is the combination of large-scale innovation investments with Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) through this Open Call.

The Open Call is designed to extend the project's innovation ecosystem by involving SMEs such as additional technology providers, wineries, in the testing, validation, and market uptake of low-input solutions

By connecting technology providers with wine-sector end users, LIGAWINE seeks to accelerate practical innovation, support the adoption of sustainable technologies, and contribute to a more resource-efficient, climate-resilient, and competitive European wine sector.

The LIGAWINE strategy for continuing activities after the project's conclusion is based on the establishment and growth of WICA (Wine Innovation & Collaboration Alliance), which brings together BSO, research centers, technology providers, and end users in the wine sector who wish to collaborate on prioritizing challenges, identifying potential markets, and validating and adapting innovative technologies in the wine sector.

## 1.2 LIGAWINE Objectives

The overall objective of LIGAWINE is to accelerate the transition of the European wine sector towards more sustainable, climate-resilient, and resource-efficient production systems.

More specifically, LIGAWINE aims to:

- ✓ Promote low-input and sustainable wine production.
- ✓ Support the development and adoption of solutions that reduce the use of water, energy, chemical inputs, and other resource-intensive practices in vineyards and wineries.
- ✓ Foster innovation and digital transformation.
- ✓ Encourage the use of digital tools, precision agriculture technologies, automation systems, and data-driven decision-support systems for improved vineyard and winery management.
- ✓ Validate technologies in real operational environments.
- ✓ Support the demonstration of near-market technologies under real vineyard and winery conditions.
- ✓ Strengthen interregional collaboration and knowledge transfer.
- ✓ Connect innovation ecosystems, SMEs, clusters, technology providers, and wine-sector end users across European regions.
- ✓ Enhance competitiveness and business opportunities.
- ✓ Promote viable business models, market-ready solutions, and scalable innovations that can generate long-term value for the European wine sector.
- ✓ Support market uptake and replication across regions.
- ✓ Facilitate the transfer and adoption of validated solutions across different wine-producing regions, with particular attention to Less Developed Regions.
- ✓ Encourage BSO, technology providers, research centers, and end-users in the wine sector from Europe and beyond to join WICA.

### 1.3 LIGAWINE Open Call: Approach and planned realisation

The LIGAWINE Open Call will provide Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) to selected sub-projects. The financial support will be awarded following an open, transparent, and competitive call for proposals. Figure 2 provides a summary of the open call scheme.

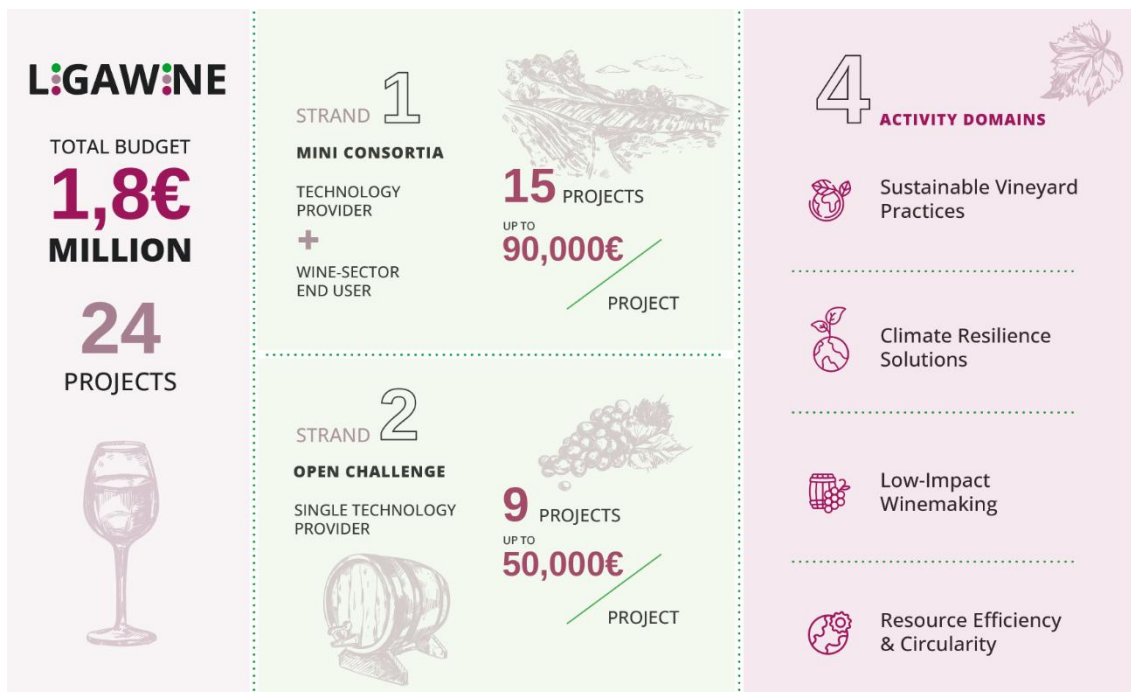


Figure 2 LIGAWINE Open Call Scheme

The Open Call will support two types of sub-projects, split across two specific strands:

#### Strand 1: Mini-Consortia

Collaborative projects involving one technology provider and one wine-sector end user, such as a winery or wine producer.

#### Strand 2: Open Challenges

Single-applicant projects led by technology providers addressing specific LIGAWINE challenges.

The total budget allocated to the Open Call is EUR 1.8 million, with a planned allocation of:

| Strand          | Target beneficiaries                         | Maximum funding  | Estimated total number of projects |
|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mini-Consortia  | Technology provider and wine-sector end user | Up to EUR 90,000 | 15                                 |
| Open Challenges | Single technology provider                   | Up to EUR 50,000 | 9                                  |

For Strand 1, the maximum funding per sub-project is divided between the two consortium members, with up to EUR 60,000 of financial support per third-party recipient from a total of EUR 90,000 for each mini-consortia project.

Funding will be provided in the form of lump sums, linked to the successful completion and acceptance of defined deliverables.

No pre-financing is foreseen.

**At least 70% of the total Open Call FSTP budget will be allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions.**

**This allocation will be checked at the portfolio-selection stage and will be calculated on the basis of the approved grant amount awarded to each beneficiary.**

### 1.4 Purpose and Objectives of the Open Call

The purpose of the LIGAWINE Open Call is to support the deployment, validation, and market-oriented development of innovative low-input solutions for viticulture and winemaking.

The Open Call aims to:

- support the validation of mature technologies in real vineyard or winery environments;
- address concrete operational challenges faced by wineries and wine-producing regions;
- accelerate the adoption of digital, sustainable, and resource-efficient solutions;
- strengthen collaboration between technology providers and wine-sector end users;
- increase the participation of actors from Less Developed Regions in European wine innovation value chains;
- support the scaling and replication of successful solutions across European wine regions.

The Open Call focuses on applied innovation and pilot validation.

Proposals should therefore go beyond concept development and demonstrate a clear pathway towards practical use, market uptake, and replication.

### 1.5 Open Call Expected Outcomes

Selected sub-projects are expected to contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

| Activity Domains                  | Expected Outcomes   | Examples of solutions   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Sustainable Vineyard Practices    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of agrochemical inputs</li> <li>• Reduction of water consumption</li> <li>• Optimise plant protection</li> <li>• Improved cost-efficiency of inputs</li> <li>• Enhanced product value through sustainable practices</li> </ul>                                       | <p><i>Input reduction technologies, organic solutions, frost protection innovations, machinery adapted to small plots, cost-monitoring tools for input use, Tools for pruning techniques and spraying practices to reduce inputs and improve efficiency, tools for precision irrigation, measurable practices to increase soil fertility and quality</i></p>    |
| Climate Resilience Solutions      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved environmental performance indicators</li> <li>• Reduced emissions or waste streams</li> <li>• Improved resource efficiency</li> <li>• Reduced financial risk from climate variability</li> <li>• Maintained grape quality aligned with market expectations</li> </ul> | <p><i>Adaptive vineyard management systems, extreme-weather mitigation tools, solutions to help the acidity/alcohol ratio in winemaking, Decision-support tools integrating economic risk, Market-oriented (sustainable) varietal or style adaptation, Tools to train staff on adaptive pruning and spraying strategies under climate stress conditions</i></p> |
| Low-Impact Winemaking             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimisation and reduction of energy use</li> <li>• Reduced emissions or waste streams</li> <li>• Achieve measurable technical performance improvements</li> <li>• Improved product consistency aligned with market demand for sustainable wines</li> </ul>                    | <p><i>Energy-efficient fermentation control, tartaric stability innovations, O2 management and temperature control, microbiological stability solutions, process optimisation tools</i></p>   |
| Resource Efficiency & Circularity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of water consumption</li> <li>• Reduction of energy use</li> <li>• Lower operational costs through resource optimisation</li> <li>• Improved data collection and monitoring</li> <li>• Improved operational management capacity</li> </ul>                           | <p><i>Waste reduction technologies, water reuse systems, energy reduction technologies, Valorisation of by-products, Monitoring tools for resource optimisation and data optimisation, Traceability tools</i></p>   |

All funded sub-projects must deliver tangible results within the implementation period and provide evidence of their technical, environmental, operational, and/or business impact.

## 2. LIGAWINE Open Call

A snapshot of the LIGAWINE Open Call can be found in the table below:

| Item                  | LIGAWINE Open Call  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Purpose               | Support deployment, validation and market uptake of low-input technologies for viticulture and winemaking |
| Total budget          | EUR 1,800,000   |
| Strand 1              | 15 mini-consortia, up to EUR 90,000 each  |
| Strand 2              | 9 single-applicant projects, up to EUR 50,000 each  |
| Funding form          | Lump sum  |
| Pre-financing         | No pre-financing foreseen   |
| Implementation period | January 2027 – September 2028   |
| Eligibility           | SMEs that are established in the regions covered by the consortium or in less developed region            |
| LDR allocation        | At least 70% of total FSTP budget to beneficiaries established in Less Developed Regions                  |

### 2.1 General Information

The LIGAWINE Open Call will provide Financial Support to Third Parties 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 will be implemented as a single call, with two strands as elaborated in the table below. The budget allocated to each strand is as follows:

| Strand          | Share of Open Call budget | Amount in EUR |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Mini-Consortia  | 75%                       | EUR 1,350,000 |
| Open Challenges | 25%                       | EUR 450,000   |

The funding will be provided as a lump sum and will be paid in instalments linked to the successful completion and acceptance of the mandatory deliverables. No pre-financing is foreseen. At least 70% of the total Open Call FSTP budget will be allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions<sup>1</sup>, as defined by (EU) 2021/1130 of 5 July 2021. 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.

### 2.2 Open Call Strands

#### 2.2.1 Strand 1: Mini-Consortia

Strand 1 supports collaborative pilot projects implemented by a single mini-consortium composed of two independent legal entities:

- one technology provider; and

<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021D1130>

- one wine-sector end user, such as a winery or wine producer.

The purpose of Strand 1 is to support the deployment and validation of a technological solution under real vineyard or winery conditions.

The maximum funding per Strand 1 sub-project is EUR 90,000, distributed as follows:

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

The technology provider is expected to lead the technical deployment of the solution. The wine-sector end user is expected to provide the real operational environment for validation and actively participate in testing, monitoring, data collection, and assessment of results.

### 2.2.2 Strand 2: Open Challenges

Strand 2 supports single-applicant projects led by technology providers addressing specific LIGAWINE challenges.

The purpose of Strand 2 is to support targeted technological solutions that respond to operational needs in viticulture or winemaking and demonstrate clear potential for adoption, replication, and market uptake.

Consortia are not permitted under Strand 2. The selected applicant will be fully responsible for the implementation, reporting, and delivery of the agreed results.

The maximum funding per Strand 2 sub-project is EUR 50,000.

## 2.3 Specific Requirements for Sub-projects

All proposed sub-projects must be aligned with the objectives of the LIGAWINE Open Call and contribute to sustainable, low-input, digitally enabled, and competitive wine production.

Sub-projects should address one or more of the following areas:

- ✓ precision viticulture;
- ✓ sustainable vineyard practices;
- ✓ low-impact winemaking;
- ✓ digital decision-support systems;
- ✓ resource efficiency and circularity;
- ✓ climate resilience solutions;
- ✓ reduction of water, energy, agrochemical, additive, waste, or emission intensity;
- ✓ improvement of operational efficiency, traceability, quality, or resilience.

Projects must focus on applied innovation, pilot validation, deployment, demonstration, or market-oriented adaptation. Basic research activities are not within the scope of this Open Call.

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed solution is sufficiently mature for deployment in real or relevant operational conditions. Where applicable, technologies should be at least TRL 6 at the time of application and should show potential to advance towards higher readiness levels during implementation.

Each selected sub-project must deliver the mandatory deliverables defined in this Guide and comply with the reporting, visibility, data protection, confidentiality, audit, and ethical requirements applicable to FSTP

## 2.4 Less Developed Regions Allocation Rule

In line with the LIGAWINE Open Call plan, at least 70% of the total 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 example, if a technology provider established in a Less Developed Region receives EUR 60,000 and a wine-sector end user outside a Less Developed Region receives EUR 30,000, only EUR 60,000 will count towards the 70% LDR allocation.

For Strand 2, the calculation will be based on the grant amount awarded to the single beneficiary.

After the technical evaluation and ranking, the LIGAWINE Open Call team will perform a portfolio allocation check to verify compliance with the 70% LDR funding requirement, while respecting the minimum quality thresholds and the available budget per Strand. Where necessary, the next highest-ranked eligible proposal involving an LDR beneficiary may be prioritised, provided that it has passed all applicable thresholds (Figure 3).

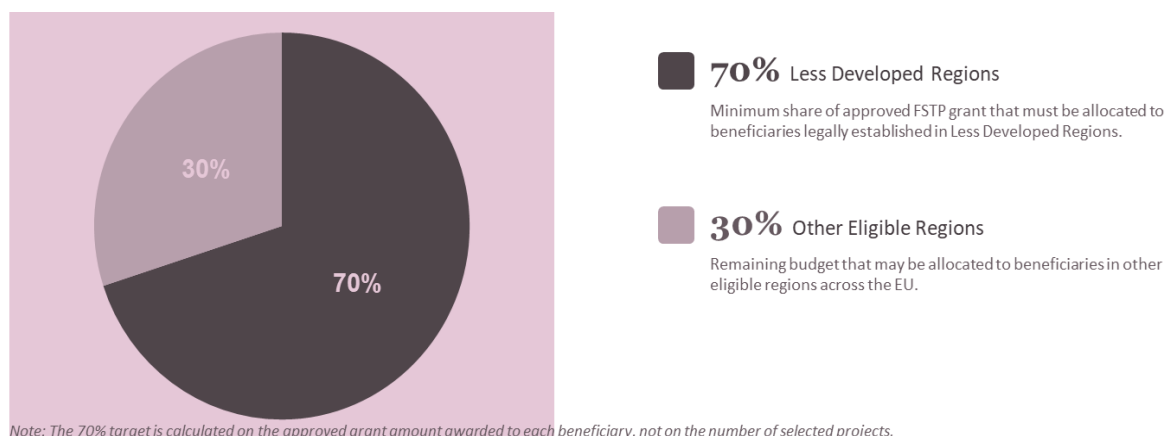


Figure 3 LIGAWINE OC Funding Allocation

This mechanism does not modify evaluation scores. It is applied only at the portfolio-selection stage to ensure that the final funding allocation complies with the LIGAWINE Open Call budget requirements.

**Important note:** Passing the evaluation thresholds does not guarantee funding. The final selected portfolio must respect the available budget per Strand and the requirement that at least 70% of the total FSTP budget is allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions.

## 2.5 Submission Procedure

Applications must be submitted digitally through the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform and will not be accepted through any other channels. Applicants must complete the online application process and upload all required documents before the submission deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted.

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.

Documents required during later stages, including contracting documents, will be submitted through the channels indicated by the LIGAWINE consortium. By submitting an application, applicants accept the terms and conditions of the Open Call as described in the Open Call Kit.

## 2.6 Language

English is the official language of the LIGAWINE Open Call and applications submitted in any language other than English will not be evaluated. All application documents, deliverables, reports, and formal communications with the LIGAWINE Open Call team must be submitted in English.

Official documents proving the legal existence of the applicant may be submitted in their original language. However, applicants may be requested to provide a translation of the relevant sections into English if needed for eligibility checking or contracting.

## 2.7 Documentation Format

**Any document requested from applicants during the application process must be submitted electronically in PDF format without restrictions for printing.**

The provided proposal template (**Annex 4**) must be used when preparing the proposal and should not exceed the limit of **15 pages**. This includes all relevant tables, figures and references. Excess pages will not be considered during the evaluation of the proposal.

**Important Note:** The Technical Proposal must be prepared using Annex 4 – Proposal Template. Sections A–C of the Proposal Template are mandatory but do not count towards the 15-page limit. The 15-page limit applies only to sections 1–7 of the Proposal Template. Applicants must not remove mandatory sections A–C, even though they are outside the page limit.

The reference font for the body text of applications is Arial, and the minimum font size allowed is 11 points. A minimum paragraph spacing of 6 pts and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions,

formulas, may deviate, but must be legible. The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) must be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).

The provided budget template (**Annex 5**) must be used and should be submitted as a separate ".pdf". Applicants should aim to limit the information to one page.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not comply with these requirements will be excluded from evaluation as non-eligible. **Applications that do not use the official proposal and budget template will be excluded from evaluation as non-eligible.**

## 2.8 Origin of the 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 the management of the Open Call 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 this Guide, the Open Call Kit, and the Sub-grant Agreement.

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

## 2.9 Opencalls.fund Platform

The [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform is a digital platform for the management of applications for financial support to third parties and accelerator programs, developed and maintained by [reframe.food](https://reframe.food). The LIGAWINE Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) will be published through the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform.

**Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the Open Call webpage and the FAQ section regularly during the application period.**

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 supports transparency, equal treatment, confidentiality, conflict-of-interest prevention, and procedural consistency, including validation of the final selection process and review of redress requests. **The OCAB does not replace the independent external evaluators and does not modify evaluation scores.**

## 3. Proposal Submission and Selection

All applicants must comply with the eligibility, submission, evaluation, and contracting rules described in this section. Applications that do not meet the eligibility or submission requirements will not proceed to technical evaluation.

- **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.

At the time of submission, applicants must provide the required documents using the official templates included in the Open Call Kit.

| Document                        | Strand 1: Mini-Consortia        | Strand 2: Open Challenges |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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             |

Documents requiring signature must be signed by the legal representative of the relevant applicant or consortium member. Electronic signatures are accepted where legally valid. The Open Call process from launch to implementation is demonstrated in Figure 4.



Figure 4 LIGAWINE Open Call Process

### 3.1 Open Call Publication

The LIGAWINE Open Call will be published on the LIGAWINE project website, the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform, and the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. The indicative Open Call dates are:

| 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          |

The Open Call Kit includes the following documents:

| Annex # | Document                       | Purpose   |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1       | Open Call Fiche                | Summary of scope, budget, deadlines, and main rules       |
| 2       | Open Call Handout Summary      | Short applicant-facing summary                            |
| 3       | Applicants' Guide              | Present document  |
| 4       | Proposal Template              | Technical proposal template                               |
| 5       | Budget Template                | Budget justification template                             |
| 6       | Consortium Declaration         | Required for Strand 1                                     |
| 7       | Declaration of Honour          | Required for all applicants                               |
| 8       | SME Declaration                | Required for all applicants                               |
| 9       | Bank Account Information Form  | Required only from selected applicants during contracting |
| 10      | Indicative Sub-grant Agreement | Reference contract for selected applicants                |
| 11      | Call for evaluators            | Define the requirements for and guidelines for evaluators |

Applicants bear the sole responsibility for checking the Open Call webpage, and its respective FAQ section, regularly during the application period for periodic updates.

## 3.2 Eligibility Criteria

Only proposals that comply with all applicable eligibility requirements will proceed to technical evaluation.

### 3.2.1 Overall Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be legally established entities;
- be an SME the following European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC criteria<sup>2</sup>;
- be established in the regions covered by the consortium<sup>3</sup> or in other less developed regions as defined by the European Union;
- submit the application before the deadline through the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform;
- use the official Open Call templates;
- submit all mandatory documents;
- propose activities aligned with the objectives and scope of the LIGAWINE Open Call;
- request funding within the maximum amount allowed for the relevant Strand;

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2003/361/oj/eng>

<sup>3</sup> Non-Less Developed regions covered by the consortium: Catalonia, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Emilia-Romagna, Pays de la Loire, Piemonte, Veneto.

- declare that the same activities are not receiving double EU funding;
- comply with the applicable conflict of interest, ethics, data protection, and audit requirements.

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 EU rules.

Natural persons are not eligible. Activities that have already been completed before submission are not eligible for funding.

For the purposes of this Open Call, eligible applicants must be SMEs. Applicants must apply under one of the following roles:

| Role                 | Strand Eligibility    | 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 training, communication, legal, financial, or services **without a deployable technological solution** are not considered technology providers for the purposes of this Open Call.

### 3.2.2 Strand 1 Eligibility: Mini-Consortia

Strand 1 proposals must be submitted by a mini-consortium composed of two independent legal entities: one technology provider and one wine-sector end user.

Eligible wine-sector end users may include:

- ✓ wineries;
- ✓ wine producers;

- ✓ wine cooperatives with operational production facilities;
- ✓ integrated grape-growing and winemaking operators;
- ✓ contract vinifiers with operational facilities, where relevant.

The wine-sector end user must actively participate in the pilot, including testing, monitoring, data collection, and validation of results. A passive letter of support is not sufficient.

The maximum funding per Strand 1 sub-project is EUR 90,000, with a ceiling of EUR 60,000 per applicant, to be distributed among the mini-consortium members at their discretion.

The two consortium members must be independent from each other, unless a justified exception is accepted during eligibility checking under the applicable Open Call rules.

### 3.2.3 Strand 2 Eligibility: Single Technology Providers

Strand 2 proposals must be submitted by an SME, provided that it controls or is authorised to deploy the proposed solution and has the capacity to implement the sub-project.

The applicant must demonstrate:

- technical capacity to implement the proposed activities;
- sufficient maturity of the proposed solution for deployment or validation;
- clear relevance to low-input, sustainable, digitally enabled, or climate-resilient wine production;
- potential for exploitation, market uptake, or replication.

The maximum funding per Strand 2 sub-project is EUR 50,000.

**Important note:** Consortia are not permitted under Strand 2.

### 3.2.4 Definition of 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 the regions covered by the consortium<sup>4</sup> or in any other less developed regions<sup>5</sup> or outermost regions.

The eligibility status applicable to each applicant will be assessed on the basis of the rules valid at the Open Call deadline and during contracting. Applicants may be

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<sup>4</sup> Non-Less Developed regions covered by the consortium: Catalonia, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Emilia-Romagna, Pays de la Loire, Piemonte, Veneto.

<sup>5</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Cohesion\\_policy\\_indicators#Is\\_my\\_region\\_covered?](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Cohesion_policy_indicators#Is_my_region_covered?)

requested to provide evidence of their legal establishment, country, and regional location during eligibility checking or contracting.

For the purposes of the LIGAWINE Open Call, Less Developed Regions are regions classified as less developed under the applicable EU cohesion-policy classification. The 70% LDR allocation rule will be calculated on the basis of the approved grant amount awarded to beneficiaries legally established in such regions.

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.

### 3.2.5 Participation Limits and Proposal Uniqueness

Each proposal must be unique and must clearly indicate the selected Strand, under the following rules:

| Rule                                   | Strand 1           | Strand 2         |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Number of applicants</b>            | Two legal entities | One legal entity |
| <b>Consortium allowed</b>              | Mandatory          | Not permitted    |
| <b>Maximum proposals per applicant</b> | One per Strand     | One per Strand   |
| <b>Duplicate proposals</b>             | Not permitted      | Not permitted    |
| <b>Same solution submitted twice</b>   | Not permitted      | Not permitted    |

A technology provider **may** participate in both Strands **only** if the proposals are clearly distinct, non-overlapping, and independently implementable. If duplicate, substantially similar, or **artificially split proposals** are detected, any and all relevant proposals may be rejected.

### 3.3 Eligible Costs

The LIGAWINE Open Call provides funding in the form of lump sums. Applicants must nevertheless provide a budget justification using the official budget template. The following cost categories may be considered eligible, where they are necessary for the implementation of the sub-project and properly justified:

- ✓ personnel costs;
- ✓ travel and subsistence costs directly linked to the sub-project;
- ✓ equipment depreciation costs, where applicable;
- ✓ consumables and supplies;
- ✓ testing, validation, and pilot deployment costs;
- ✓ dissemination and communication costs;
- ✓ protection of results, certifications, translations, publications, and other goods or services;
- ✓ subcontracting, where justified as described below;
- ✓ indirect costs, where applicable under the budget rules.

**Subcontracting must be justified, proportionate, and necessary. Coordination or core project-management tasks may not be subcontracted. Subcontracting must respect best value for money and avoid conflicts of interest. Subcontracting should not exceed 25% of the total budget.**

The following are **not eligible**:

- double-funded activities;
- costs unrelated to the sub-project;
- activities already completed before submission;
- basic research outside the Open Call scope;
- infrastructure construction;
- costs that do not comply with applicable EU eligibility principles;
- costs incurred outside the approved implementation period;
- costs linked to entities that are not eligible under EU rules.

No detailed financial reporting will be required for payment of the lump sums. However, sub-grantees must keep records and supporting documents in case of checks, audits, or reviews.

## 3.4 Application Process

### 3.4.1 Applicant Registration

Applicants must register on the LIGAWINE Open Call page of the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform.

- For **Strand 1**, the Consortium Lead Partner must register and submit the application on behalf of the mini-consortium.
- For **Strand 2**, the single applicant must register and submit the application directly.

The registered contact person will be responsible for receiving notifications and responding to any clarification requests. Applicants must ensure that the contact details provided are accurate and monitored regularly.

### 3.4.2 Application Preparation

Applications must be prepared using the official templates and submitted through the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform. Applicants must upload all required documents in **PDF format**, as elaborated above.

For Strand 1, the application must include:

- ✓ Online Application Form;
- ✓ Technical Proposal;
- ✓ Budget Form;
- ✓ Consortium Declaration signed by both consortium members;
- ✓ Declaration of Honour signed by each consortium member;
- ✓ SME Declaration
- ✓ any additional supporting documents requested in the Open Call Kit.

For Strand 2, the application must include:

- ✓ Online Application Form;
- ✓ Technical Proposal;
- ✓ Budget Form;
- ✓ Declaration of Honour signed by the applicant;
- ✓ SME Declaration
- ✓ any additional supporting documents requested in the Open Call Kit.

Applicants may delete greyed-out instructional text, guidance notes, examples, and the table of contents from Annex 4 before submission. The final submitted proposal should contain the completed applicant responses and required tables only.

**Incomplete applications or applications not using the official templates will be rejected during the eligibility check.**

### 3.4.3 Application Reception

Applications must be submitted before the deadline through the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) platform, prior to **31 July 2026** at **17:00 CET**. After the deadline, no further submissions, modifications, or additional documents will be accepted, except where clarifications are requested by the Open Call team during eligibility checking.

The time recorded by the submission platform will be considered definitive.

Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the final hours before the deadline to submit their application. Technical problems on the applicant's side, including internet connection issues, browser problems, upload failures, or file-format errors, will not justify late submission.

### 3.4.4 Use of Generative AI in Proposal Preparation

Applicants may use generative artificial intelligence tools to support proposal preparation, but they remain fully responsible for the content of the proposal. Applicants must disclose any substantive use of generative AI tools in a short note at the end of the Technical Proposal. Applicants must ensure that any AI-assisted content is accurate, appropriate, original, and compliant with intellectual property and data protection rules.

Applicants should:

- ✓ verify the accuracy of AI-generated content;
- ✓ check all references and citations;
- ✓ avoid plagiarism or reproduction of protected material;
- ✓ disclose the use of AI tools where requested in the proposal template;
- ✓ ensure that confidential or sensitive information is not entered into tools that do not provide appropriate data protection safeguards.

The use of generative AI does not reduce the applicant's responsibility for the quality, originality, and reliability of the proposal.

### 3.5 Evaluation Process

The evaluation process consists of the following two stages:

1. eligibility check;
2. remote evaluation by external evaluators.

Only proposals that pass the eligibility check will proceed to remote evaluation and the process is explained in the flowchart below (Figure 5).

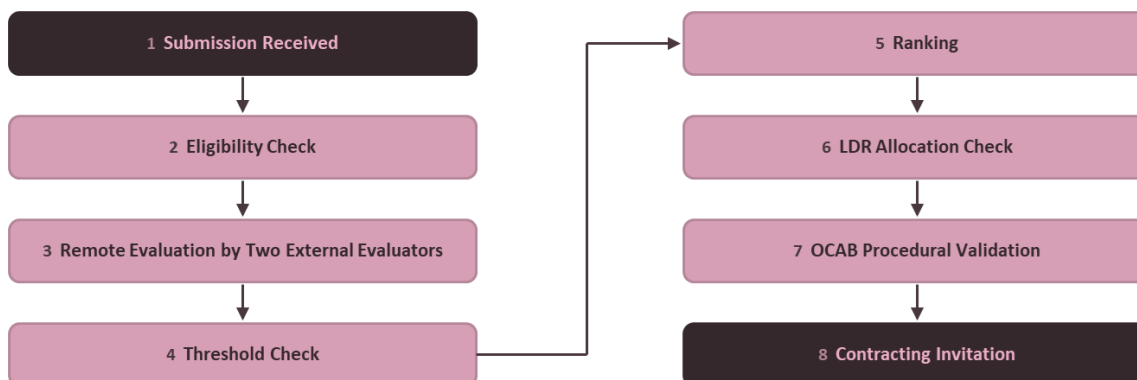


Figure 5 LIGAWINE Open Call proposal evaluation logic

#### 3.5.1 Eligibility Check

After the Open Call deadline, the LIGAWINE Open Call team will check all submitted applications against the eligibility requirements described in this Guide. The eligibility check will verify, among others:

- ✓ timely submission;
- ✓ use of official templates;
- ✓ completeness of documents;
- ✓ applicant eligibility;
- ✓ compliance with Strand-specific rules;
- ✓ funding request within the maximum amount;
- ✓ absence of obvious duplicate submissions;
- ✓ compliance with participation limits;
- ✓ completion of mandatory sections A–C of Annex 4, including proposal identification, applicant details, and declarations;
- ✓ alignment with the Open Call scope.

Applicants may be requested to provide clarifications or missing administrative explanations where the issue concerns an ambiguity, inconsistency, or obvious clerical error. **If clarification is requested**, the applicant will normally have five working days from the day following notification to respond. Failure to respond within the deadline may result in rejection.

Clarifications must not substantially modify the proposal.

#### 3.5.2 Remote Evaluation and Key Points

Eligible proposals will be evaluated remotely by two independent external evaluators. If the difference between the total scores of the two evaluators is more

than 5 points, a consensus process may be organised. If consensus cannot be reached, a third evaluator may be appointed.

Evaluators will assess proposals 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 alignment which is scored at a minimum of 4, and the overall threshold of 16 points. A proposal that scores below 3 in any criterion will not be selected for funding, even if its total score is 16, or higher.

### Alignment

Evaluators will assess:

- ✓ Applicants should demonstrate how well the proposed solution aligns with the objectives of the LIGAWINE Open Call and the selected Strand.
- ✓ Alignment with LIGAWINE objectives: Clarity of how the proposed activities contribute to low-input and sustainable, enabled viticulture and winemaking.
- ✓ Relevance to wine-sector challenges: Appropriateness of the proposed solution in addressing real operational needs identified by wineries and regional stakeholders.
- ✓ Alignment with the networking and cooperation strategy of LIGAWINE beyond the end of the project
- ✓ Proof of an interregional project

### Excellence

Evaluators will assess:

- ✓ Applicants should demonstrate the quality and technical soundness of the proposed solution.
- ✓ Quality and clarity of the concept;
- ✓ Degree of innovation compared to existing solutions;
- ✓ Technological maturity (minimum TRL 6 at submission);
- ✓ Operational and economic efficiency

### Impact

Evaluators will assess:

- ✓ Applicants should demonstrate the expected contribution of the proposal to sustainability, competitiveness and resilience in the European wine sector.

- ✓ Quantified environmental and operational benefits (reduced labor, reduced risks);
- ✓ Reduction of chemical, water, or energy inputs;
- ✓ Economic viability and margin improvement potential;
- ✓ Interregional Replicability and scalability;
- ✓ Clear market pathway and exploitation perspective.

### Value for Money

Evaluators will assess:

- ✓ Applicants should demonstrate that the requested budget is proportionate and justified.
- ✓ Adequacy and transparency of the budget;
- ✓ Coherence between costs and planned activities;
- ✓ Cost-effectiveness of the proposed implementation;
- ✓ Justification of resources in relation to expected results.

### Implementation

Evaluators will assess:

- ✓ Applicants should demonstrate the organisational and operational capacity to successfully deliver the project.
- ✓ Coherence and realism of the work plan;
- ✓ Clear structure of activities, milestones and deliverables;
- ✓ Team competence and complementarity (for Strand 1 consortia);
- ✓ Risk awareness and mitigation measures.

The score interpretation is as follows:

- 1 - Poor: the criterion is inadequately addressed or contains serious weaknesses
- 2 - Fair: the criterion is broadly addressed but with significant weaknesses
- 3 - Good: the criterion is addressed well, although shortcomings are present
- 4 - Very good: the criterion is addressed very well, with only minor shortcomings
- 5 - Excellent: the criterion is fully addressed

#### 3.5.3 Ranking, Portfolio Balance and LDR Allocation Check

Proposals must pass all individual criterion thresholds and the overall threshold to be considered for funding. 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. 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;

- ✓ sufficient coverage of LIGAWINE innovation domains;
- ✓ compliance with the requirement that at least 70% of the total Open Call FSTP budget is allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions.

If the 70% LDR allocation requirement is not met by the highest-ranked portfolio, the next highest-ranked eligible proposal involving an LDR beneficiary may be prioritised, provided that it has passed all thresholds. This portfolio mechanism does not change evaluation scores. It is applied only to ensure compliance with the Open Call funding allocation requirements.

**Important note:** 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.

#### 3.5.4 Tie-Break Rules

If two or more proposals have the same total score and compete for the final available funding position within a Strand, priority will be given in the following order:

1. proposal with the highest Alignment score;
2. proposal with the highest Impact score;
3. proposal with the highest Excellence score;
4. proposal with the highest Implementation score;
5. proposal with the highest Value for Money score.

If a tie remains after applying these rules, the LIGAWINE Open Call Advisory Board may consider portfolio-related factors, including geographic diversity, contribution to the 70% LDR allocation, complementarity with selected projects, and lower implementation risk.

#### 3.5.5 Redress Procedure

Applicants may request redress only where they believe that a procedural error has occurred. Redress requests may concern:

- ✓ eligibility check results;
- ✓ procedural aspects of the evaluation process.

**Redress requests** may not challenge the **scientific** or **technical judgement** of the external evaluators. For **eligibility check results**, applicants may submit a written request for redress within ten working days of receiving the eligibility notification. For evaluation results, applicants may submit a written request for redress within ten working days of receiving the Evaluation Summary Report.

The request must:

- be submitted by the legal representative of the applicant or, for Strand 1, by the Consortium Lead Partner;
- clearly describe the alleged procedural shortcoming;
- explain how the shortcoming may have affected the decision;
- be submitted within the applicable deadline.

If a procedural shortcoming is confirmed and may have affected the outcome, corrective measures may be taken, including partial or full re-evaluation. The final outcome after redress will be definitive. **Only one redress request per proposal will be accepted.**

### 3.5.6 Contracting

Selected applicants will be invited to enter the contracting phase after validation of the evaluation results and confirmation of the ranked list.

During contracting, selected applicants must provide the legal, administrative, and financial documents required to prepare the Sub-grant Agreement. The objective of this phase is to verify the legal status of the selected applicant or consortium members, confirm the approved budget allocation, and finalise the contractual obligations for implementation.

**For Strand 1: Mini-Consortia**, the contracting phase will involve both consortium members: the technology provider and the wine-sector end user. The approved budget allocation must clearly identify the grant amount assigned to each consortium member and must respect the maximum funding limits per recipient.

**For Strand 2: Open Challenges**, the contracting phase will involve the selected single technology provider.

Selected applicants will be required to provide, at minimum, the following documents:

| Required document   | Strand 1: Mini-Consortia               | Strand 2: Open Challenges |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Proof of legal existence, such as registration extract, company register, official gazette, or equivalent document</b> | Yes, for each consortium member        | Yes                       |
| <b>VAT registration certificate or national registration number, where applicable</b>                                     | Yes, for each consortium member        | Yes                       |
| <b>Declaration or official proof that the entity is not under bankruptcy, insolvency, or liquidation proceedings</b>      | Yes, for each consortium member        | Yes                       |
| <b>Bank Account Information Form</b>  | Yes, for each funded consortium member | Yes                       |

|   |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| <b>Signed Sub-grant Agreement</b>   | Yes, according to the contracting model defined by LIGAWINE | Yes              |
| <b>Any additional declaration or clarification requested by the LIGAWINE Open Call team</b> | Where applicable  | Where applicable |

The bank account must belong to the selected beneficiary and must correspond to the legal entity receiving the funding. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the bank account information provided is accurate and complete.

The Sub-grant Agreement will define the final scope of work, approved budget, deliverables, payment schedule, reporting obligations, visibility rules, audit requirements, intellectual property provisions, confidentiality obligations, data protection rules, and any other applicable conditions.

Where evaluators have identified minor shortcomings or clarification points in the Evaluation Summary Report, the LIGAWINE Open Call team may request limited adjustments during contracting. These adjustments may clarify the work plan, budget, deliverables, or implementation arrangements, but they must not substantially change the proposal, the evaluation outcome, or the ranking.

If a selected applicant does not provide the required documents, does not complete the requested clarifications, or does not sign the Sub-grant Agreement within the deadline communicated by the LIGAWINE Open Call team, the proposal may be rejected and the next highest-ranked eligible proposal from the reserve list may be invited to the contracting process.

## 4. Implementation of the LIGAWINE Open Call

Implementation begins once the selected applicants have completed contracting and the Sub-grant Agreement has entered into force.

During implementation, sub-grantees carry out the approved activities, produce the agreed deliverables, provide evidence of progress and results, and cooperate with the LIGAWINE Open Call team for monitoring and payment approval.

The process is organised in phases to ensure that each sub-project moves from planning to deployment, validation, and impact assessment.

### 4.1 Implementation Timeline and Activities

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 the three phases (Figure 6).



Figure 6 Sub-Grant Implementation Timeline and Activities

The Design phase will start with an online kick-off meeting organised by the LIGAWINE Open Call team.

The purpose of the kick-off meeting is to introduce selected sub-projects to the LIGAWINE framework, explain the monitoring and reporting process, and clarify expectations for deliverables and payments.

All funded activities must be completed within the approved implementation period. Activities implemented before the official start date or after the end date of the sub-project will not be eligible for funding.

The LIGAWINE consortium may organise periodic monitoring meetings with selected sub-projects to review progress, risks, deliverables, communication activities, and compliance with Open Call obligations.

#### 4.2 Mandatory Deliverables

Each selected sub-project must submit the following mandatory deliverables:

| Deliverable                | Due Date                           | Purpose  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Activity Plan              | February 2027<br>Phase 1: Design   | Confirms the detailed work plan, baseline, KPIs, risk plan, timeline, responsibilities, and pilot preparation                      |
| Report on Results/Outcomes | March 2028<br>Phase 2: Development | Presents interim technical, environmental, operational, and business results against the agreed KPIs                               |
| Final Report               | September 2028<br>Phase 3: Impact  | Documents final validated results, impact, lessons learned, exploitation pathway, replication potential, and communication outputs |

The mandatory deliverables are the basis for payment approval.

Each deliverable must be submitted in English using the template or structure provided by the LIGAWINE Open Call team.

Deliverables should include sufficient evidence to allow the LIGAWINE consortium to assess whether the agreed activities have been completed. Evidence may include, where relevant:

- description of activities performed;
- technical documentation;
- photos or screenshots of pilot deployment;
- testing or validation results;
- KPI measurements;
- user feedback;
- environmental or operational performance data;
- business or exploitation information;
- communication and dissemination evidence.

More specifically, each sub-project is required to plan and deliver the following mandatory outputs concerning communication and dissemination:

- A thematic video presenting the innovation and its project results
- An Extended Practice Abstract for inclusion in the Innovation Catalogue
- A business model and exploitation plan

The completeness and quality of these deliverables will carry significant weight in the evaluation of the final report.

The Open Call team may request clarifications, corrections, or additional supporting evidence before accepting a deliverable.

Additional outputs may be requested where they are included in the approved proposal, the Sub-grant Agreement, or the relevant reporting template. These outputs must remain consistent with the original set of deliverables and must not replace the mandatory deliverables listed above.

### **4.3 Monitoring and Payment Conditions**

Payments will be made only after the successful completion and acceptance of the relevant phase deliverable. No pre-financing is foreseen.

The LIGAWINE consortium will review each deliverable to verify that:

- ✓ the activities have been implemented as described in the approved proposal and Sub-grant Agreement;
- ✓ the deliverable provides sufficient evidence of completion;
- ✓ the reported results are consistent with the agreed objectives, KPIs, and timeline;
- ✓ any deviations are justified and acceptable;
- ✓ the sub-project complies with visibility, ethics, data protection, confidentiality, and audit obligations.

If a deliverable is incomplete or does not provide sufficient evidence, the Open Call team may request revisions. Payment may be suspended until the deliverable is accepted.

If a sub-project fails to implement the agreed activities, breaches the Sub-grant Agreement, or does not submit acceptable deliverables, the LIGAWINE consortium may reduce, suspend, or recover payments in accordance with the Sub-grant Agreement.

For Strand 1, the approved budget allocation will identify the grant amount assigned to each consortium member. The payment mechanism will be defined in the Sub-grant Agreement and will ensure that the maximum funding per third-party recipient is respected.

Sub-grantees must keep appropriate records and supporting documents for audit and control purposes, even though payments are based on accepted lump-sum deliverables rather than reimbursement of actual costs.

Payments will be made according to the following schedule, subject to acceptance of the relevant deliverable:

| Phase                | Payment trigger                     | Payment share |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Phase 1: Design      | Activity Plan accepted              | 30%           |
| Phase 2: Development | Report on Results/Outcomes accepted | 50%           |
| Phase 3: Impact      | Final Report accepted               | 20%           |

## 5. Applicants' Responsibility

Selected applicants will become recipients of Financial Support to Third Parties under the LIGAWINE project. They are responsible for the proper implementation of their sub-projects and for complying with the obligations set out in the Open Call documents, the Sub-grant Agreement, and the applicable EU funding rules. By submitting a proposal applicants acknowledge the terms of the LIGAWINE open call and promise to abide by them.

### 5.1 Conflict of Interest

Applicants and selected sub-grantees must take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective implementation of the sub-project.

A conflict of interest may arise from, among others:

- family or personal relationships;
- economic or financial interests;
- political or national affinity;
- professional links;
- direct or indirect interests involving LIGAWINE consortium members, evaluators, or other applicants.

Applicants must declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest at application stage and must immediately inform the LIGAWINE Open Call team if such a situation arises during evaluation, contracting, or implementation.

Applicants may not be affiliated with LIGAWINE consortium partners or be involved in the management or evaluation of the Open Call.

If a conflict of interest is identified and cannot be properly mitigated, the application may be rejected, or the Sub-grant Agreement may be terminated.

## 5.2 Ethics, Data Protection and Confidentiality

All sub-projects must comply with applicable ethical principles, data protection rules, and confidentiality obligations.

Applicants must identify in their proposal any ethical or legal issues that may arise during implementation, including issues related to:

- involvement of individuals or organisations in testing, validation, interviews, surveys, or feedback activities;
- collection or processing of personal data;
- use of digital tools, sensors, platforms, or automated decision-support systems;
- environmental or safety impacts;
- data ownership, access, and sharing;
- potential bias, misuse, or unintended impacts of the proposed technology.

Sub-projects must follow an “ethics by design” approach, meaning that ethical, legal, privacy, and safety considerations should be integrated from the beginning of the project.

Where personal data is collected or processed, sub-grantees must comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and any applicable national data protection rules. Personal data must be collected only where necessary, processed lawfully and transparently, stored securely, and accessed only by authorised persons.

Sub-grantees must keep confidential any information, document, data, or material identified as confidential. Confidential information may only be used for the purpose of implementing the sub-project and may not be disclosed to third parties without prior written authorisation, unless disclosure is required by law.

Confidentiality obligations will apply during the implementation of the sub-project and for the period defined in the Sub-grant Agreement.

## 5.3 Promoting the Action and Giving Visibility to EU Funding

Sub-grantees must promote their sub-project and acknowledge the financial support received through LIGAWINE.

Unless otherwise instructed by the LIGAWINE consortium, all communication and dissemination activities related to the sub-project must:

- ✓ acknowledge EU support;
- ✓ display the European emblem;
- ✓ display the LIGAWINE logo where required;
- ✓ include the required funding statement and disclaimer;
- ✓ present information accurately and responsibly.

The following acknowledgement must be used where applicable:

This sub-project has received funding from the LIGAWINE project, Grant Agreement No. 101228350, through its Open Call funded by the European Union.

The following disclaimer must also be used:

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

The European emblem must be displayed visibly and at least as prominently as other logos where applicable.

The LIGAWINE consortium and the European Commission may publish basic information about selected sub-projects, including the name of the sub-grantee, project title, short description, funding amount, country or region, and public results.

#### 5.4 Financial Audits and Controls

Although funding is provided as a lump sum, sub-grantees must keep appropriate records and supporting documents to demonstrate that the sub-project was properly implemented.

Sub-grantees must retain documents related to the Sub-grant Agreement, implementation, deliverables, payments, and supporting evidence for audit and control purposes.

The LIGAWINE consortium, the European Commission, EISMEA, the European Court of Auditors, OLAF, or other authorised bodies may carry out checks, reviews, audits, or investigations in accordance with the applicable EU rules and the Sub-grant Agreement.

Sub-grantees must cooperate with any audit or control procedure and provide access to relevant information, documents, premises, systems, or staff where required.

If irregularities, breach of obligations, double funding, non-implementation, or false declarations are identified, payments may be reduced, suspended, or recovered.

#### 5.5 Sub-project Communication

Sub-grantees are expected to contribute to the communication and dissemination objectives of LIGAWINE. This may include, where relevant:

- providing a short public description of the sub-project;
- sharing non-confidential results and success stories;
- participating in LIGAWINE events, webinars, or dissemination activities;
- providing visual material, such as photos or screenshots, where appropriate;
- contributing to public communication outputs requested by the LIGAWINE consortium;
- supporting the dissemination of project news through their own channels.

Selected sub-grantees are expected to engage, where relevant, with the **Wine Innovation & Collaboration Alliance (WICA)** as part of the LIGAWINE innovation ecosystem. This may include participation in knowledge-exchange activities, matchmaking or networking opportunities, contribution to non-confidential innovation showcases, sharing of lessons learned, and support to replication or uptake activities promoted through WICA. Such engagement is intended to **strengthen visibility, collaboration, and long-term exploitation** of sub-project results, without replacing the mandatory deliverables defined in Section 4.2.

All communication must respect confidentiality, data protection, intellectual property rights, and the visibility rules described in this Guide and in the Sub-grant Agreement. Sub-grantees must not publish confidential information or commercially sensitive information without the prior agreement of the relevant parties.

### 5.6 Originality of the Sub-granted Projects

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their proposal and sub-project are original and do not infringe third-party rights. Applicants may use existing technologies, tools, methods, data, software, equipment, or background knowledge, provided that they have the necessary rights, permissions, licences, or authorisations to do so. Applicants must not falsely claim ownership of intellectual property that they do not own or control.

Any dispute, claim, or legal challenge arising from the use of third-party rights is the sole responsibility of the applicant or sub-grantee. The LIGAWINE consortium is not responsible for verifying ownership of the proposed technologies or for resolving disputes between applicants and third parties. If infringement or lack of rights is identified, the application may be rejected, or the Sub-grant Agreement may be terminated.

### 5.7 IPR Ownership of the Sub-granted Projects

Sub-grantees retain ownership of their pre-existing background knowledge and of the results they generate during the sub-project, unless otherwise agreed in the Sub-grant Agreement or between the sub-project partners.

For Strand 1 mini-consortia, the technology provider and the wine-sector end user should agree internally on ownership, access rights, use of data, confidentiality, and exploitation of results before implementation starts.

The Sub-grant Agreement may require sub-grantees to grant the LIGAWINE consortium limited rights to use non-confidential information, summaries, results, images, and public outputs for monitoring, reporting, communication, dissemination, and impact-assessment purposes.

Such use will not transfer ownership of the results to the LIGAWINE consortium.

Applicants must clearly identify any relevant background intellectual property in their proposal and must ensure that the proposed sub-project can be implemented without infringing third-party rights.

## 5.8 Liability

Sub-grantees are responsible for implementing their sub-projects at their own risk and under their own responsibility. The LIGAWINE consortium, the European Union, and the granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage, loss, cost, claim, accident, delay, infringement, or dispute arising from the implementation of a sub-project.

Sub-grantees are responsible for:

- ✓ compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- ✓ obtaining any permits, licences, approvals, or authorisations required for implementation;
- ✓ ensuring safe deployment and testing of technologies;
- ✓ managing relations between Strand 1 consortium members;
- ✓ protecting confidential information and personal data;
- ✓ respecting third-party intellectual property rights;
- ✓ ensuring the accuracy of information submitted to the LIGAWINE consortium.

If a sub-grantee breaches its obligations, the LIGAWINE consortium may take measures under the Sub-grant Agreement, including payment suspension, payment reduction, termination, or recovery of amounts already paid.

## 6. Checklist

Before submitting the application, applicants should verify that all requirements have been met. Incomplete applications, late applications, or applications submitted through channels other than [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund) will not be accepted.

| Check item   | Strand 1:<br>Mini-Consortia | Strand 2:<br>Open Challenges |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| The correct Strand has been selected                         | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| The applicant or consortium is eligible                      | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| The proposed activities are aligned with LIGAWINE objectives | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| The funding request respects the maximum amount              | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| The proposal uses the official template                      | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| The budget uses the official template                        | Yes                         | Yes                          |
| The Declaration of Honour is signed                          | Yes, by each partner        | Yes                          |
| The Consortium Declaration is signed                         | Yes                         | Not applicable               |

|   |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>The SME Declaration is included</b>  | Yes         | Yes         |
| <b>All documents are uploaded in PDF format</b>   | Yes         | Yes         |
| <b>The application is submitted through <a href="https://opencalls.fund">opencalls.fund</a></b> | Yes         | Yes         |
| <b>The application is submitted before the deadline</b>   | Yes         | Yes         |
| <b>The proposal is written in English</b>   | Yes         | Yes         |
| <b>The contact person's email address is correct and monitored</b>                              | Yes         | Yes         |
| <b>Alternate contact person and details have been provided</b>                                  | Yes         | Yes         |
| <b>The applicant has checked the FAQ before submission</b>                                      | Recommended | Recommended |

## 7. Points of Contact

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

- ✓ **Email:** [ligawine@opencalls.fund](mailto:ligawine@opencalls.fund)
- ✓ **Platform:** FAQ section of the [opencalls.fund](https://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.

## 8. Updates

Keep up with the project by following the LinkedIn page at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ligawine/>

## 9. Open Call Kit Annexes

- Annex 1: Open Call Fiche
- Annex 2: Open Call Handout Summary
- Annex 3: Applicants' Guide
- Annex 4: Proposal Template
- Annex 5: Budget Template
- Annex 6: Consortium Declaration
- Annex 7: Declaration of Honour
- Annex 8: SME Declaration
- Annex 9: Bank Account Information Form
- Annex 10: Indicative Sub-grant Agreement
- Annex 11: Call for evaluators