WoodStock Open Call for Proposals

Terms of the Call – Grants for SMEs to support zero-waste, climate-smart wood construction solutions

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1. Context of the call

WoodStock is a Horizon Europe project that supports the transformation of the European construction sector towards climate-smart, zero-waste use of wood. Significant volumes of hardwood, residual wood, low-quality wood and damaged wood remain underutilised today; unlocking this potential can reduce waste, strengthen local value chains and create sustainable economic opportunities.

To activate the market and demonstrate the feasibility, replicability and scaling-up of zero-waste solutions for climate-smart wood construction, WoodStock will award grants to 4 European SMEs, start-ups, non-profit organisations, or consortia led by one of these, to develop systemic zero-waste wood construction solutions beyond Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 5.

These solutions are systemic and require strong collaboration between actors across the wood construction value chain; the call therefore stimulates multi-actor co-creation and collaboration. The grant allows awardees to test the implementation of their proposed solutions in the wood construction industry, including validation of technical and financial feasibility and the potential for scaling. Awardees can use the grant to develop demonstrators, perform tests and experiments, and deliver feasibility studies. The call includes the first draft of the zero-waste design guidelines (D6.5) and conceptual designs of zero-waste solutions created through the WoodStock Living Labs (D6.1). Awardees will receive support through the WoodStock Innovation Support Task Force (T2.2).

WoodStock defines strategies and solutions for different wood source types and applications (WP5 and T6.1), including a relation with local crafts and traditions. The goal is therefore to award grants across a range of different EU Member States (or countries associated with Horizon Europe), with a spread over different underutilised wood source types and applications.

Awardees are expected to share their experience with the consortium and document their innovations – including successful and unsuccessful innovation steps and the lessons learned throughout the process. This will feed into the evaluation of zero-waste solutions (T6.3), the development of the final design guidelines (T6.4), the WoodBook (T7.2), the exploration of sustainable business models (T9.2), and work on barriers, standards and policies (T10.2). Awardees' solutions will be shared through WoodStock's communication channels and feature prominently on the European Wood Construction Observatory (EWCO) and will be presented at the WoodStock closing event.

By validating solutions in a real industrial environment, sharing lessons learned, and creating visibility, this financial support to third parties allows WoodStock to more strongly activate and engage the wood construction market.

More information on WoodStock, including the grants webpage, is available on the project website: https://woodstockproject.eu/woodstock-grants

2. Objectives & scope of the call

This call aims to select 4 projects that develop and demonstrate climate-smart wood construction solutions beyond TRL5, making use of currently underutilised wood. Each selected project may receive up to €50,000 in financial support to test, validate and scale up its solution in a real-world context.

The selection committee will award a maximum of one grant per EU Member State (or Horizon Europe (Pillar 2) associated country) and will aim for a spread over the different underutilised wood source types defined by WoodStock: hardwood, damaged wood, low-quality wood, and post-consumer and residual wood.

Selected projects ("awardees") are expected to:

- develop climate-smart wood construction solutions beyond TRL5;
- jointly organise one co-creation session with a WoodStock Living Lab in the Netherlands, France, Slovenia, Poland, Ireland or Norway;
- document successful and unsuccessful innovation steps made, and the lessons learned throughout the process;
- share their experience and lessons learned with the WoodStock consortium;
- contribute to the WoodBook and the European Wood Construction Observatory (EWCO);
- align dissemination activities with the WoodStock communication partner and contribute input to WoodStock communication materials.

Upon selection, WoodStock will sign an agreement with the awardee(s). The allocated budget is transferred in two instalments: a first instalment after signing the agreement, and a second (final) instalment after positive evaluation of the final report in October 2028, including a financial report. As the main objective is to build knowledge to scale up impact, this call encourages and supports awardees to share their real-life knowledge and experience with the WoodStock project.

3. Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants must be:

- an SME, start-up, or non-profit organisation; or
- a consortium led by an SME, start-up, or non-profit organisation.

Applicants must be based in an EU Member State or in a country associated with Horizon Europe (Pillar 2).

To be eligible (Step 1), proposals must:

- be submitted before the call deadline, through the Evalato platform described in Section 6;
- be in line with the description of this call and involve participant(s) from an EU Member State or a country associated with Horizon Europe (Pillar 2);
- demonstrate how the proposal will achieve at least ambition level I for each of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) values – together, sustainable, beautiful – using the NEB Compass;
- demonstrate how the proposal will facilitate the use of at least one type of currently underutilised wood source as defined by WoodStock: hardwood, damaged wood, low-quality wood, or post-consumer and residual wood.

Only proposals meeting all of the above criteria will be considered admissible and further evaluated. Applications not fulfilling the eligibility criteria will be rejected. By submitting an application, the applicant commits to providing accurate information.

Please note that there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget. Applicants will be required to confirm that the project, in whole or in part, has not received funding from any other EU grant and has not been or will not be submitted for funding under any other EU grant.

4. Award criteria

Selection follows a two-step process. Step 1 checks the eligibility criteria listed in Section 3. Eligible proposals then move to Step 2, where they are scored against six evaluation criteria, each worth 0 to 5 points. A proposal must score at least 3 points on every criterion to remain in contention. Based on the overall scores, all proposals that meet this threshold on every criterion are ranked, and the highest-ranked proposals are awarded, subject to the selection process rules described in Section 7.

Criterion	What we are looking for
1. New European Bauhaus	Embedding the NEB values (together, sustainable, beautiful). Applicants should specify their ambition levels and demonstrate how they make use of the NEB working principles: participatory process, multi-level engagement, and a transdisciplinary approach.
2. Circularity	Demonstrating, in qualitative and (preferably also) quantitative terms, the benefits in local wood use, resource efficiency, zero-waste design, longevity, and environmental gains. This criterion will be evaluated against the WoodStock design guidelines.
3. Community-based	Integrating clearly into the local community through co-creation activities, local employment, or a positive social impact.
4. Scalability	Providing a realistic and concise plan for scaling and replicating the innovation to increase its potential for positive impact.
5. Systemic	Contributing to systemic change across the wood construction value chain. Consortia that create meaningful collaborations between otherwise disconnected actors will be preferred.
6. Capacity of the applicant	Demonstrating sufficient expertise, experience, equipment, and networks to achieve the project's objectives.

The following criteria provide added value for the selection but are not required for eligibility:

- Innovative business model: proposals with a clear plan for a circular and (environmentally and socially) sustainable business model will be preferred, supported by the sustainable business model canvas (NEB Toolbox);
- Existing building stock: solutions applicable to upgrading the existing building stock (including renovation, building extensions, or valorisation of underused urban spaces) will be preferred.

5. Financial support

5.1. Available funding

Each selected project may receive up to €50,000 in financial support. €30,000 will be paid upon signing the grant agreement. A progress report is required after half a year, and the final payment (up to the remaining balance) will be made in October 2028 following positive evaluation of the final report after 1 year, including a financial report.

All proposals must include a concise breakdown of the requested budget, together with a justification of the planned activities that motivates how they contribute to the objectives of the call and of the proposal. The selection committee may propose an altered budget (never higher than €50,000) if it considers the requested budget unsuited to the proposed activities. Funding restrictions defined by the European Commission or the Research Executive Agency for Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) may apply.

In case an SME is involved in multiple project applications, be aware that the total amount of funding received within the WoodStock grants cannot exceed €60.000, in accordance with FSTP regulations for Third Parties.

5.2. Activities that qualify for financial support (closed list)

All proposals must include a concise budget estimation showing how the awarded funds will be used and how this will contribute to scaling zero-waste wood construction solutions. The following activities qualify for financial support:

Activity	Description
Demonstration	Prototyping and experimental set-up of innovations related to WoodStock.
Testing	Physical and mechanical validation of the solution, and work towards certification.
Co-creation	Activities organised with local actors and potential users to improve the solution and embed it in the local value chain and community.
Training	Workshops dedicated to developing new skills and knowledge.

Dissemination	Communication about the solution to a wide audience, including video production. Activities in this category can account for a maximum of 20% of the total budget.

Eligible expenses may include (but are not limited to) equipment, laboratory tests, materials, logistics and multimedia production and and staff costs related to the above-mentioned activities.

5.3. Payment terms

The allocated budget is paid in two instalments directly to the awardee: a first instalment after signing the grant agreement, and a second (final) instalment after positive evaluation of the progress report in October 2028. The agreement will specify the maximum amount of support, based on an assessment of needs and the list of activities the awardee will undertake, together with an overview of planned expenses.

6. The application process

6.1. Documentation & contacts

The call documents – the terms of the call (this document) and the online application form – can be found on the WoodStock website: https://woodstockproject.eu/woodstock-grants. The call is also announced through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, the WoodStock newsletter, social media, and the communication channels of the project partners and Living Labs.

Funding body: Ghent University

For questions about the call, please contact: grants@woodstockproject.eu

6.2. Submission process

All applications must be submitted online through Evalato, the dedicated application management platform used by WoodStock for this call (https://woodstockproject.eu/woodstock-grantshttps://woodstockproject.eu/woodstock-grants). Applications sent by e-mail or through any other channel will not be considered.

To submit an application:

1. **Access the Evalato portal: WoodStock website or directly https://11619.evalato.com/**
2. Create an account or log in – register as an applicant with your e-mail address, or log in if you already have an Evalato account for WoodStock.
3. Start your application – select the “WoodStock Grants” programme and click “Apply” / “Start application”.
4. **Complete the application form and upload it into the portal.**
   Upload supporting documents – attach any required annexes as separate files (e.g. budget template, PDF file with visual material, SME self-assessment, letters of support for consortia).

5. Respect the file size limit – each uploaded file must not exceed 20 MB. Files larger than this must be compressed or split into smaller parts before upload.
6. Save and review – Evalato allows you to save your application as a draft and return to it later; incomplete mandatory fields are flagged before submission.
7. Submit before the deadline – once all sections are complete, click "Submit". Only fully submitted applications received before the deadline will be considered admissible; only one application per solution is allowed.
8. Keep your confirmation – a confirmation e-mail is sent automatically upon successful submission. Please keep it as proof of timely submission.

The deadline for submitting an application to this call is **15 December 2026 17:00 CET**.

7. The selection process

7.1. Selection process

The call for proposals is launched on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal and remains open for three months, from 15 September 2026 to 15 December 2026. It is disseminated through the WoodStock website, newsletter, social media, and the communication channels of the project partners and Living Labs.

Submissions are evaluated by a selection committee. The committee consists of at least 1 member of the NEB Academy, 1 member of the sister project TIMBERHAUS, and 2 members of the WoodStock consortium. There will be gender balance and representation of at least 4 different EU Member States on the committee. All jury members will sign a declaration on confidentiality and conflict of interests.

The committee will award a maximum of one grant per EU Member State (or Horizon Europe (Pillar 2) associated country). One project will be granted per underutilised wood source type (hardwood, low-quality wood, damaged wood, post-consumer wood and residual wood). If a wood source type has no application that reaches 3 points on every evaluation criterion, the overall second-best proposal from among the other underutilised wood source types will be granted instead.

Upon selection, WoodStock will sign an agreement with each awardee, detailing the planned activities, budget, and payment schedule described in Section 5.

7.2. Summary timeline

Milestone	Date
Online info session for potential applicants	5 June 2026, 1–2 PM (recording available on Zenodo)
Online info session for potential applicants	1 September 2026, 4–5 PM
Publication of the call	15 September 2026
Deadline for submitting an application	15 December 2026 17:00 CET
Evaluation period	January 2027
Information to applicants	February 2027

Signature of the grant agreements	February – March 2027
Starting date of the actions	March – April 2027 (latest)
Progress report	After 0.5 year
Final reporting	After 1 year
Reports of the actions evaluated	September 2028
Final payments	October 2028