



# Open Call #1: DEVELOP

## Frequently Asked Questions

<b>Project Website</b>	<a href="https://agrarian-project.eu/">https://agrarian-project.eu/</a>
<b>Opening Date</b>	December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2024
<b>Closing Date</b>	January 31 <sup>st</sup> 2025
<b>Open Call Platform</b>	<a href="https://agrarian.appliobox.gr/">https://agrarian.appliobox.gr/</a>

\*The submission deadline is specified in this Guidelines document. Please be aware that the submission platform's time is based on the user's configured time zone, which may or may not align with the correct deadline time. This variation is determined by the user's settings, not the platform. Any differences in system time will not be accepted as a reason for extending the deadline.

All the Open Call documents and templates are available for download at at <https://agrarian-project.eu/open-calls/> and through the application platform. .

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## 1. Who can apply for AGRARIAN Open Call #1 Develop?

The following entities are eligible to submit a proposal to Open Call #1 Develop developing applications and tools for agriculture:

- European SMEs - Start-ups if adhering to European [Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC16](#) and, the [SME user guide17](#)
- Universities
- Research Centres
- NGOs

The entity must hold legal registration in one of the countries listed as eligible. Large enterprises cannot participate.

### 1.1 SMEs

An SME is considered as such if it complies with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC1, and the SME user guide. As a summary, the criteria which define an SME are the following:

- Independent, partner or linked enterprises, with financial and staff figures calculated in accordance with instructions given by Recommendation 2003/361/EC3.
- It is a legal entity established and based in one of the EU Member States or an HE Associated country as defined in HE rules for participation (see section 3.2.3).
- Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 500.
- Annual turnover less or equal to €100 million.

If applicants are not sure whether they comply with the SME criteria, an online SME self-assessment questionnaire is provided by the EC, for these purposes, on this link: [SME self-assessment questionnaire](#).

### 1.2 Universities and Research Centers

One application is accepted per research group. It's important to note that within a department, multiple research groups exist, and while different groups from the same department can apply, it's crucial that individuals are not concurrently members of multiple research groups to ensure equitable allocation of resources and dedication to their respective research pursuits.

### 1.3 NGOs and foundations

Non-profit organizations and foundations with experience in agriculture applications, technologies and business aspects.

## 2. What countries are eligible?

Only applicants legally established/resident in any of the following countries (hereafter collectively identified as the "Eligible Countries") are eligible for funding:

- The Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions.
- Horizon Europe associated countries: according to the [updated list published by the EC](#) on the submission date of the proposal.

## 3. What are the conditions for applying organizations?

The following conditions apply to organizations submitting a proposal:

- Organizations must not have any convictions for fraudulent behavior, financial irregularities, or unethical/illegal business practices.
- Organizations must not have been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures.
- AGRARIAN project beneficiaries must have sufficient resources to carry out all project tasks without subcontracting key parts of the project.

## 4. Do I have any conflict of interest?

If your organization is not directly affiliated with an AGRARIAN partner or a member of the Advisory Board, there is no conflict of interest, and you are eligible to submit a proposal in the 1st Round of AGRARIAN Open Calls.

## 5. Can AGRARIAN consortium members apply to this call?

No, AGRARIAN consortium partners cannot be funded by the Call.

## 6. What should I do if I don't have a PIC number?

If someone doesn't have a PIC number, they will need to either obtain one or, if they are an SME, sign the SME declaration.

## **7. Which language may I submit my application in?**

All information and documents must be submitted in English, as it is the only accepted language for applications. They should be readable, accessible, and printable. Any applications submitted in other languages will be considered ineligible. Formal documents issued by national institutions may be in the national language; however, an English translation must also be provided.

## **8. Are there any page limits for proposals?**

Yes, proposals covering Sections 1-3 should not exceed 10 pages. If a proposal exceeds the page limit, it will not be considered for evaluation after the call deadline. Note that the Privacy Policy and Declaration of Honour included in the Annex will not be counted towards the page limit.

## **9. What is considered to be a successful proposal?**

A successful proposal will address topics related to the open call, utilize one of the four platforms or datasets, and be connected to one of the AGRARIAN pilots.

## **10. What is the funding per project for Open Call #1**

For the 1st Round of Open Calls each selected project will receive 50.000€.

## **11. Is multi-participation allowed?**

In this Open Call, each SME is permitted to submit only one application. For Universities and Research Centers, only one application per research group is allowed. As a result, multiple participations are not permitted in this Open Call.

## **12. Can I submit a proposal in consortia?**

Consortium applications are not permitted in this call; all applications must be submitted by a single entity.

### **13. Can I submit a proposal that has already received funding from another project?**

No, the proposal must be unique and not previously funded within the AGRARIAN project or any other project. This is to prevent double funding. Proposals that duplicate existing work will not be eligible for consideration.

### **14. How will proposals be submitted for the AGRARIAN project?**

All proposals must be submitted electronically via an Open Call platform developed by AGRARIAN, which ensures confidentiality, event tracking, security, and privacy for evaluators, observers, and consortium members.

### **15. Will I be able to modify my proposal after the submission?**

Yes, until the deadline. After the deadline no modification will be possible.

## **16. Evaluation**

### **16.1 Who will assess my application?**

Applications will be evaluated by independent experts with backgrounds in technology and entrepreneurship.

### **16.2 Eligibility Check**

To ensure your proposal passes the eligibility check, please verify the following:

1. Your entity is legally established and recognized as a legal entity.
2. The type of legal entity (e.g., non-profit, academic institution, private company, etc.) is clearly indicated.
3. The proposal is submitted by a single entity, not as part of a consortium.
4. This is the only proposal submitted by your entity or research group for this call.
5. You confirm that neither the application nor any part of it has received other funding.

6. Neither you nor any employees are currently working for any of the AGRARIAN beneficiaries.
7. The Declaration of Honor and Privacy Policy are attached to the proposal form.

### 16.3 Which are the evaluation criteria?

Overall eligibility criteria for the AGRARIAN Open Call 1 are:

- Applicants need to be Start-up/SME/University/Research Center/NGO/foundation
- The applicant must have a valid VAT number.
- Existing consortium members of AGRARIAN project and their affiliated entities are not eligible.
- The proposal must be delivered before the defined deadline, applying the requested submission procedure.
- Proposals shall only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished and will be carried out after having been selected for funding.

*Note: AGRARIAN consortium reserves the right to ask for additional explanations from the applicants during the eligibility check.*

### 16.4 When will I receive the results of my application?

The results of the Open Call will be announced in the next two months after the submission deadline. No information regarding the evaluation process will be disclosed before this date. Applicants will receive an email containing a letter with the decision and next steps (if applicable). In addition, an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be provided for both successful proposals and those evaluated but not selected.

### 16.5 Budget justification: Can I spend the grant received as I wish?

Budget justification is not needed (lump sum).



## **17. Pilots/Testbeds**

### **17.1 Pilot 1 – Livestock Monitoring and Management in Greece**

#### What Pilot 1 is about?

This pilot project focuses on utilizing drones for monitoring and managing livestock spread across mountainous terrains in Crete. The goal is to enhance livestock tracking and health monitoring for breeders in the region. By employing UAVs equipped with hyperspectral cameras, breeders can monitor the whereabouts and health of their animals and detect any anomalies or sick animals. The ambition of the project includes advancing the technology, adapting it to the AGRARIAN framework, providing targeted services to small and medium-sized farmers, and validating the technologies for long-term sustainability.

### **17.2 Pilot 2 – Field crops monitoring in Romania**

#### What Application Scenario 2 is about?

In this pilot project, edge computing is used to process agriculture data near its source to overcome limitations of cost, timeliness, and privacy associated with cloud-based processing. The pilot in rural Southern Romania aims to assist farmers in reducing production costs by providing data on crop uniformity, water levels, and weather-related damages. The key performance indicators (KPIs) include reduction in latency, automation, uniform management of infrastructure, energy optimization, data security, and the development of a decision support system tailored to farmers in rural communities.

### **17.3 Pilot 3 – Vineyards Management in Portugal**

#### What Application Scenario 3 is about?

Terraview GmbH, a Swiss climate SaaS startup, collaborates with Ubotica Technologies to enhance vineyard management using satellite data, weather information, IoT sensors, and AI models. The goal is to provide vineyard managers with data-driven insights for optimal decision-making. The pilot involves developing AI models for detecting critical information like frost, disease, and irrigation management directly on satellites to enable near-real-time delivery of insights to farm managers. The focus is on deploying edge computing solutions to improve data processing speed and efficiency for time-sensitive agricultural applications.

## 18. Testbeds

### 18.1 Testbed 1 (Greece): Geosynchronous Satellite Communications with EDGE capabilities

This testbed enables users to test applications over a non-terrestrial network using a geosynchronous satellite network emulator hosted on NCSR servers. Applicants connect remotely via VPN to access the emulator, which simulates a full satellite communication setup, including a ground terminal, a GEO satellite, and a ground gateway. Applicants can install, run, and test their applications on this testbed to assess the edge capability and performance of their applications over a satellite network.

### 18.2 Testbed 2 (Germany): Non-Geosynchronous Orbit (NGSO) Satellite Communications with EDGE capabilities

This testbed allows users to test applications on a Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit (NGSO) network, specifically a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation. Hosted by DLR, the testbed simulates a small LEO constellation, including one ground station, a configurable number of satellites, and a configurable number of IoT nodes. The testbed includes simplified edge computing functionalities on the satellites, enabling users to analyze how routing and load balancing are performed and evaluate the edge computing performance in this satellite network environment.

### 18.3 Testbed 3 (Ireland): Satellite Edge AI Compute Emulation Testbed

This testbed, provided by Ubotica, allows users to test and evaluate AI models on emulated satellite compute hardware that mimics what would be used on CubeSats. The testbed consists of edge compute hardware controlled remotely by a Ubotica server. Users can access this server to run their AI models on the emulated hardware, which closely resembles the specialized compute boards found on CubeSats. Since these platforms use specific hardware, AI models and machine learning algorithms may need adjustments to run properly, potentially leading to performance differences between platforms. Through this testbed, users can evaluate the performance, accuracy, and readiness of their AI applications and understand how they will perform on a space edge AI platform.

#### 18.4 Testbed 4 (Spain): SEED-5G: SpaceEdge AI-Enabled Delay-Tolerant NB-IoT Platform

Non-Terrestrial Network NB-IoT end-to-end testbed, supporting edge/AI applications running on a Linux-based computer which emulates the satellite, provided by SATEL.

#### 18.5 Dataset: Thermal & Multispectral EO Dataset (LANDSAT) & associated historical weather and land elevation data

Thermal & Multispectral EO Dataset (LANDSAT) & associated historical weather and land elevation data (e.g. weather stations, sensors, aerial camera etc.) to test and evaluate the proposed Application/Solutions (including 26000 Hectares of vineyards, 3 TB of sensors, weather, map data etc, >70 TB of soil moisture content dataset.

### 19. **What's the difference between pilots and testbeds? Should application take both into account?**

**Pilots:** The use cases of AGRARIAN. Pilot 1 for livestock monitoring, Pilot 2 for crops monitoring and Pilot 3 for vineyard management. Your application should related to one of these as a topic. You do not have to consider any special local characteristics of our actual pilot sites, just the topics, meaning that your application needs to be relevant to either Livestock monitoring or crops/vineyard monitoring/management. Example: An application that detects and identify vineyard pests and diseases: Eligible because it is relevant to pilot 3. An application that measure the air quality: Not Eligible because it is not relevant to any of the pilots.

**Testbeds:** AGRARIAN platforms for provide edge/near edge hosting of the proposed applications. Example: The applicant installs the application on the edge server of testbed 2, so the data from the sensors (that the applicant will provide) to pass through the satellite emulated network of the testbed and consumed by the application on the edge server of the testbed.

**Dataset:** AGRARIAN provides an agricultural dataset for the applicants to train/develop new applications (more information on AGRARIAN open call documents and infodays videos).

The applicant **must choose 1 of the 3 pilots plus 1 of the 4 testbeds or the dataset.** Example 1: pilot 2 and testbed 3. Example 2: Pilot 2 and dataset.

## 20. What "Project proposals should be in line with the Governance Vision and the AGRARIAN research topics identified during the project (WP2 and WP3)." means?

AGRARIAN is aligned with the vision of "[Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal \(HORIZON-CL6-2023-GOVERNANCE-01\)](#)" which you may find in this [LINK](#).

AGRARIAN research topics are presented in the first sections of the open call document "[Applicant's Guide](#)", while the open call topics are described in section 2.2 along with representative examples.

## 21. What type of support is available for preparing the proposal?

The '**Guidelines for Applicants**' serves as the primary reference document, offering comprehensive information about the evaluation and selection process requirements. Applicants will find all necessary information through the following digital channels:

Online Document: <https://agrarian-project.eu/open-calls/>

Online Info Days: 9/12/2024 at 11:00 CET & 19/12/2024 at 11:00 CET

Helpdesk: [support@agrarian-project.eu](mailto:support@agrarian-project.eu)

## 22. What is the payment schedule and payment condition?

Phase	Schedule	Funding	Justification
<b>DESIGN</b>	M1	25%	Clearly defined work plan and a list of KPIs
<b>DEVELOP</b>	M3	40%	Acceptance of progress deliverable: KPIs 75% completion
<b>DEMONSTRATION</b>	M6	35%	Acceptance of final deliverable: KPIs 100% completion, results and demonstration

**23. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Issues: The IPR stays with whom?**

The IPR will belong to the IPR holder(s) as it will be specified in the Project Proposal. The AGRARIAN will have NO claims over this IPR.

**24. When will the sub-grant agreement be signed?**

The Sub-Agreement will be signed after the results of the 1st Round of AGRARIAN Open Calls are announced. Prior to signing the agreement among the consortia of selected projects, a legal review must be conducted.

**25. Are your questions answered?**

For any further questions, we advise you to consult the Guidelines– application form of this call. If any question persists, contact us at Helpdesk [support@agrarian-project.eu](mailto:support@agrarian-project.eu).