EUnita | EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy

Restack Open Call #1

Open Call Analysis

Programme	Call position	Deadline
Horizon Europe · Open Internet Stack · Restack (NLnet Foundation, GA 101299072) · FSTP	Open Call #1 of Restack's continuous calls — open	3 November 2026, 12:00 CET

Prepared 6 October 2026 | Public and general analysis | Source status checked on this date

Decision in brief: CONDITIONAL GO for open-source developers, SMEs, NGOs and research teams with one defined R&D task on an internet-stack component they will publish under a recognised open licence. HOLD for AI products below the 1-million-active-user test, closed-source business models, and requests that are really hosting or commercial roll-out. With 28 days left, the work that decides the outcome is scope, licence and a milestone budget the team can pre-finance.

1 Executive summary

Restack is a new cascade-funding programme that NLnet Foundation runs for the European Commission's Open Internet Stack initiative, financed through Horizon Europe grant agreement 101299072. By 2030 it will award €7 million in small and medium-size R&D grants for free and open-source building blocks across the internet stack. These run from core infrastructure and secure devices to the software supply chain, standards and interoperability. Open Call #1 opened on 3 September 2026 and closes on 3 November 2026 at 12:00 CET. [S1, S2, S10]

Newcomers can request €5,000 to €50,000. Proposals above €50,000, up to €150,000, are only for teams that have successfully concluded a Restack or equivalent NGI project. No third party can receive more than €500,000 over the programme. Anyone can apply, including individuals, informal teams, companies, NGOs, universities and public bodies, with no consortium and no legal entity needed at submission. The grant is a donation paid against delivered milestones, with no advance. [S1, S2, S4, S6]

Three rules decide most files. Results must be published under a recognised free or open-source licence. Research and development must be the primary objective. AI-related projects are out of scope unless they already have more than 1 million active human users and are directly relevant to the stack. Restack is not the programme behind EUnita's closed NGI Taler and NGI Fediversity entry. Those were thematic NGI pilot funds whose final calls closed on 1 August 2026; Restack is a broader, newly funded programme with its own rules and a larger follow-up tier. [S1, S2, S12, S13]

EUnita's position is CONDITIONAL GO. It suits teams with an existing open-source component, one defined R&D task and the cash to work until the first milestone is paid. The application is short and NLnet wants it in the applicant's own words. Outside support is therefore worth most for scoping, eligibility checks, and budget and milestone design, not for drafting. With 28 days left on 6 October 2026, the scope, licence and milestone budget should be settled this month. [S4, S6]

2 Call at a glance

Parameter	Verified position	Practical reading
Funder and instrument	Restack is a Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action (GA 101299072, topic HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-DATA-11), coordinated by NLnet Foundation, which re-grants to third parties.	The grant comes from NLnet, not directly from the Commission, so NLnet's procedures apply.
Call	Open Call #1. Restack plans continuous open calls until its budget is allocated.	No second deadline was published on 6 October 2026.
Opening and deadline	Opened 3 September 2026. Deadline 3 November 2026, 12:00 CET (noon).	That is 13:00 Romanian time, with 28 days left on 6 October 2026.
Programme envelope	€7 million in grants between now and 2030. No envelope is published for Call #1.	The budget is spread over several calls.
Grant size	€5,000–€50,000 for a first proposal. Up to €150,000 per proposal after a concluded Restack or equivalent NGI project. €500,000 lifetime per third party.	Newcomers should plan within €50,000.
Funding rate	No rate or co-funding rule is stated. The amount follows the proposed tasks, effort, rate and expenses, adjusted for ineligible costs.	In practice the agreed task budget, but overheads are generally excluded.
Payment	Nothing is paid up front. Each milestone is paid on request once it is reached.	The team pre-finances each milestone.
Applicants	Individuals, collectives, associations, foundations, NGOs, universities, institutes, public bodies, cooperatives, SMEs and corporations. No legal entity is needed at submission.	Very open; identity must be disclosed after selection.
Geography	EU and Horizon Europe associated countries get priority. Others only exceptionally, with a clear European dimension.	Romania is eligible and in the priority group.
Consortium	Not required.	Single applicant.
Scope exclusion	AI-related projects are out of scope unless they have more than 1 million active human users and are directly relevant to the stack.	Apply the test literally.
Licence	All software and hardware under a recognised open-source licence in its entirety; open access for scientific results.	Closed or open-core business models that keep funded work closed do not fit.
Duration	12 months by default. The programme ends in May 2030.	Longer only with justification.
Evaluation	Knock-out checks, then 30/40/30 weighted scoring with a threshold above 5.0 out of 7, a second-stage Q&A and an independent review committee.	NLnet expects decisions three to five months after the deadline.
Submission	NLnet online form, in English, plain text, in the applicant's own words.	Light: about ten text fields.

Official basis: S1 call page; S2 Guide for Applicants; S3 Eligibility; S4 FAQ; S6 proposal form; S10 CORDIS; S11 F&T topic data. The Funding & Tenders Portal listing for this cascade call could not be read on 6 October 2026 because the page loads its data by JavaScript.

3 What the grant funds and what it does not

Funded	Not funded
Design and development of free and open-source software and open hardware	AI-related projects that fail the 1-million-active-user test or are not directly relevant to the stack
Validation of, or constructive inquiry into, existing or novel technical solutions, and scientific research	Running software as a hosted service; NLnet treats this as a service, not R&D
Software engineering to adapt to new usage areas or improve software quality	Deliverables that are wholly or partly proprietary, or that depend on closed technology
Formal security proofs, security audits, software testing and continuous-integration set-up	Work carried out before the proposal is officially selected
Documentation and educational material for researchers, developers and end users	Facilities and administrative (overhead) costs, except in exceptional circumstances, then capped at 25%
Standardisation, including membership fees of standards bodies, and participation in events such as hackathons, IETF, W3C and FOSDEM	Events that do not contribute directly to an actual R&D project
Usability and inclusive design, packaging for wider deployability, project management, and out-of-pocket infrastructure costs essential to the above	Marketing and commercial roll-out, which are not listed among eligible activities

Business implication: Restack pays for engineering and research effort on open components, plus the expenses needed to deliver it. It is not a subsidy for a product launch or a hosting operation. NLnet says plainly that recipients may still charge for hosting, support or consulting around the open-source results. A company can therefore build a commercial service on top, provided the funded work itself is fully open and does not depend on closed technology. [S1, S3, S4]

4 Programme and evaluator logic

Restack comes from the 2025 Horizon Europe topic 'Open Internet Stack: development of technological commons/open-source 3C building blocks' (HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-DATA-11). That topic funded one €10 million Research and Innovation Action. CORDIS records Restack as running from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2030, with NLnet as coordinator receiving a net EU contribution of €7,833,031.10. Restack's own page lists 16 organisations behind the programme, including FSFE, OW2, the NixOS Foundation, GÉANT, Radically Open Security and HAN University of Applied Sciences. [S5, S10, S11]

NLnet presents Restack's first objective as an agile, low-threshold funding mechanism with short, non-bureaucratic cycles. In practice evaluators want building blocks that others can reuse, which strengthen security, privacy, accessibility, licensing hygiene or standards, and which close a real gap in an open stack. The second stage is a dialogue. Reviewers ask about differentiation, risks, claims, collaboration, budget, sustainability and the upstream view, and they check facts independently through expert networks. [S2, S5]

How Restack differs from EUnita's closed NLnet entry. The live hub entry 'NLnet NGI Zero — Open-Source Internet Grants (Taler & Fediversity)' covered two thematic NGI pilot funds. Both are now closed. Restack is a separate programme under the new Open Internet Stack banner. NLnet says the offer and requirements have largely stayed the same, but the funding basis, scope and grant tiers are

new. [S7, S12, S13, S15]

Point	Restack Open Call #1 (open)	NGI Taler and NGI Fediversity (EUnita closed entry)
Funding basis	Open Internet Stack; Horizon Europe GA 101299072	Next Generation Internet; GA 101135475 (Taler, with Swiss SERI) and GA 101136078 (Fediversity)
Scope	The whole internet stack, from infrastructure to devices, security, supply chain and standards	GNU Taler privacy-preserving payments; Nix/NixOS-based hosting and service portability
Envelope	€7 million to 2030	At least €676,000 (Taler); €450,000 (Fediversity)
Grant size	€5,000–€50,000 first; up to €150,000 follow-up; €500,000 lifetime	€5,000–€50,000
Status	Open; deadline 3 November 2026, 12:00 CET	Final calls closed on 1 August 2026

Both programmes use the same NLnet proposal form. Former NGI grantees count as 'equivalent' for Restack's route above €50,000. CodeSupply (GA 101298846) is a sister Open Internet Stack fund with the same deadline: €400,000 for packaging-metadata and supply-chain work, chosen on the same form as a separate 'call'. It deserves its own entry. [S2, S6, S14]

5 Calendar and action points

When	Official or indicative event	Action
3 September 2026	Official: Call #1 opened.	—
6–20 October 2026	Indicative: 28 days remain on 6 October.	Run the scope, AI, licence and European-dimension checks; fix tasks, rate and milestones.
28 October 2026	Official: NLnet online office hour on Matrix (general Q&A, listed for 16:00 Amsterdam time). NLnet does not pre-review proposals.	Use it only for clarification questions.
3 November 2026, 12:00 CET	Official: deadline (13:00 Romanian time). The last complete version received counts.	Submit a complete version at least two working days earlier.
After the deadline	Official: the second stage asks clarifying questions; no timing is published.	Answer within the allotted time or risk deferral to the next call.
February–April 2027	Indicative: three to five months from the deadline, per the FAQ.	Plan cash flow; do not count pre-selection work as funded.
After selection	Official: Memorandum of Understanding with NLnet; identity disclosed.	Agree milestones you can deliver and pre-finance.
12 months after start (default)	Official default project length.	Request payment milestone by milestone.
May 2030	Official: programme end.	No project can run beyond it.

Sources: S1, S2, S4, S6, S17. Dates marked indicative are EUnita's planning suggestions or derived from NLnet's stated review time, not NLnet commitments.

6 Funding, eligible costs and cash flow

Budget or payment item	Call rule	Decision implication
First grant	€5,000–€50,000	Size it to one defined deliverable; a lean budget scores on value for money (30%).
Follow-up grant	Up to €150,000 per proposal, only after a concluded Restack or equivalent NGI project	Former NGI grantees can plan larger work now, subject to the audit condition below.
Security audit	Projects above €50,000 MAY face an independent security audit at the end; parts of the payment may depend on its outcome	Keep a time and cost reserve for fixing audit findings.
Lifetime cap	€500,000 per third party over the programme	Relevant only for repeat grantees.
Funding rate and co-funding	Not stated; the amount is adjusted for ineligible costs and any extra activities Restack recommends	No match-funding is needed, but the budget must be credible line by line.
Personnel	Form asks for tasks, effort and the hourly, daily or monthly rate used	State and justify a realistic local rate; the review committee checks for frugal budgets.
Overheads	Generally ineligible; up to 25% only in exceptional circumstances	Do not build overhead into the request.
Expenses	Out-of-pocket infrastructure essential to the work, standards-body fees, and events that contribute directly	List each expense and its purpose.
Payment	No advance; payment on request once a milestone is reached	The team pre-finances each milestone.
Pre-selection work	Not covered; the grant covers the period from official selection to the end of the MoU	Keep working, but expect no reimbursement for it.
Tax	Paid as a donation by a Dutch public-benefit foundation; treatment depends on the recipient's country	Romanian applicants should confirm the tax position with their accountant before signing.

Illustration, not an official example: a €40,000 grant split into four milestones of €10,000 means the team carries roughly €10,000 of its own time and costs before each payment. The same grant in two milestones doubles that exposure. Because NLnet pays only on delivery, milestone design is the main cash-flow tool available to the applicant. The example Memorandum of Understanding allows payment claims up to six months after the agreed end of the project. [S2, S4, S6, S9]

7 Strands and geography

Call #1 has no separate strands, topics or lots. It is bottom-up within the Open Internet Stack scope set out in the summary, and the only thematic exclusion is AI, as defined above. [S1]

On the proposal form the applicant chooses between 'Restack Fund', 'CodeSupply Fund' and 'Other / open call'. Work centred on packaging metadata and supply-chain data may fit CodeSupply better. A proposal sent to the wrong fund can be resubmitted to the right call, which NLnet describes as the quickest fix. [S4, S6, S14]

Geography: proposals are accepted worldwide, but a European dimension is a hard criterion. Between equal proposals, the EU and Horizon Europe associated countries get priority. Elsewhere, exceptional

quality and unique expertise are needed, together with a clear European dimension, and the form says applicants should usually be 'mostly' from Horizon Europe-eligible countries. Involving people from Europe in the project is NLnet's own suggested way to meet the requirement. Romania is an EU Member State, so Romanian individuals, companies, NGOs and universities apply on the same footing as any other EU applicant. There is no national co-funding layer. [S3, S4, S6]

8 Applicant and partner eligibility

Gate	Official condition	Evidence or decision to prepare
Applicant type	No categorical exclusions; individuals and any type of organisation	Decide who receives the donation (person or entity), because this affects tax and the MoU.
Legal entity	Not required at submission; identity needed after selection; a pseudonym can be used publicly	Have identity and bank details ready for contracting.
Minors	Under-18s can submit; a guardian's consent is needed before negotiation	Arrange consent early if relevant.
European dimension	Hard criterion; priority to EU and associated countries	Show European team members, users or deployments.
Scope fit	Must align with Restack and Open Internet Stack goals	Name the layer of the stack and who depends on the component.
R&D primary objective	Research and development must be the primary objective	Describe engineering and research work, not operation or sales.
AI exclusion	Out of scope unless more than 1 million active human users and directly relevant to the stack	If AI is involved, document user numbers and relevance, or choose another call.
Licence	Software and hardware under a recognised open-source licence in its entirety; open access for science	Confirm the licence, third-party code rights and patent position.
Conflicts of interest	Paid staff and leadership of consortium partners, Commons Caretakers, NLnet investee companies, review-committee members and their relatives are excluded	Check team members' affiliations.
Grant tier	Above €50,000 only after a concluded Restack or equivalent NGI project	Collect evidence of prior completion: open release, WCAG compliance, audit follow-up.
Lifetime cap	€500,000 per third party	Count earlier Restack grants.
Multiple proposals	Allowed but discouraged; they must be independent, and the applicant may have to choose	Submit one strong proposal rather than several coupled ones.

Sources: S2, S3, S4, S6. Company size (SME status), sanctions screening and double-funding rules are not stated in the Restack documents checked on 6 October 2026.

9 Application package and portal sequence

Sequence	Control point
1. Open nlnet.nl/propose and select 'Restack Fund'	Choosing the wrong fund means resubmitting to the right one.
2. Contact, organisation type and country	A pseudonym is allowed; the country is the country of residence 'or what comes closest'.
3. Project text and budget	Fill in the fields and limits set out in section 10.
4. Generative-AI disclosure and optional attachments	Add the AI log only if AI was used; attachments are not needed (up to 50 MB).
5. Submit before 3 November 2026, 12:00 CET	The last complete version counts. After the deadline, clerical errors go to NLnet by email, quoting the application number.

Sources: S2, S4, S6. No pre-submission eligibility check is offered.

10 Proposal content and limits

Form field	Limit	What evaluators need to see
Abstract / summary	1,000 characters	The component, the layer of the stack, the R&D to be done and the outcome.
Requested amount and budget	4,000 characters	Tasks, effort, rate, expenses, and how they map to milestones.
Comparison with existing efforts	4,000 characters	Why this work is needed next to existing projects, and the upstream relationship.
Technical challenges	4,000 characters	The hard problems and how the team will solve them.
Ecosystem and engagement	2,000 characters	Users, downstream projects, standards bodies, and how results will be adopted.
Relevant experience	2,000 characters	Track record in this or related projects.
Other funding	1,000 characters	Past and current funding, to show there is no overlap.
Generative-AI disclosure	8,000 characters or a file	Prompt and output log, only if AI was used.

The form asks for plain text in English, 'in your own words', and says spelling and grammar do not matter, only ideas. The FAQ asks applicants to write the proposal themselves. Undisclosed AI-generated content is likely to lead to rejection, and the form states NLnet is not interested in AI-generated projects or proposals. NLnet's Generative AI Policy (version 1.1, effective 26 January 2026) requires a prompt provenance log for any AI use. NLnet's 3 September 2026 announcement says a revised, stricter policy without exceptions is coming. The FAQ says applicants report finishing in less than an hour, but a competitive budget and comparison take longer. [S4, S6, S7, S8]

11 Evaluation and selection

Criterion	Maximum	Threshold	What to prove
Knock-out: fit with Restack goals, R&D as primary objective, European dimension, English	Pass / fail	Must pass all	A clear R&D task on an open-stack component with a European link.
Technical excellence / feasibility	30% weight	Not stated per criterion	A credible technical plan and a team able to deliver it.
Relevance / impact / strategic potential	40% weight	Not stated per criterion	Who depends on the result and how it strengthens the Open Internet Stack.
Cost effectiveness / value for money	30% weight	Not stated per criterion	A lean budget with realistic rates and no padding.
Weighted total	7	Above 5.0	Strength across all three; relevance carries the most weight.
Second stage	Revised rating (the original applies if the revision is lower)	Not stated; cut-off set by quality and remaining budget	Fast, factual answers to reviewers' questions.
Independent review committee	Validation	Eligibility and frugal budget	No concerns on eligibility or cost.

Projects that fail a knock-out criterion get no further review. Those below the first-stage threshold are told promptly so they can look elsewhere. Projects that cannot answer second-stage questions in time, or that raise committee concerns, can be moved to the next call. The FAQ adds that projects from under-represented groups, human-rights aspects and standards contributions are considered as strategic dimensions. NLnet does not publish success rates for Restack. As a reference only, NGI Zero funded about 1,215 projects from nearly 8,500 applications across its five programmes. [S2, S4, S16]

12 Legal, IP, data and ethics

Licensing is the decisive legal condition. All software and hardware must be published under a recognised open-source licence in its entirety, and scientific outcomes as open access. A project counts as successfully concluded only once its deliverables are public under recognised open licences, its software artefacts are WCAG compliant and any security-audit findings are dealt with. Copyright holders may offer additional licences, including proprietary ones for compatibility, provided the open release stands. Work may run in a proprietary environment if the funded project is itself open and does not depend on closed technology. Patents, granted or pending, must be disclosed; they do not disqualify a project automatically. [S2, S4]

Generative AI is governed by two separate rules. The scope rule excludes AI-related projects unless they have more than 1 million active human users and are directly relevant to the stack. The conduct rule, NLnet's Generative AI Policy, bars passing off AI output as human work and requires provenance logs for proposals and for AI-assisted code. Breaches can lead to rejection or termination of a running grant. The Commission's topic text lists AI-based agents among trust technologies, but the Restack call's own exclusion is what applicants must meet. [S1, S8, S11]

Data and confidentiality: NLnet treats proposals and applicant details as confidential and shares only minimal information with partners when needed. Applicants may use a pseudonym until selection, and NLnet can use an alias in public communication afterwards. Accessibility is treated as standard, with expert mentoring and audits by HAN University of Applied Sciences available. [S4, S6]

13 Contracting, implementation and reporting

Selected projects sign a Memorandum of Understanding with NLnet. The grant amount is set in it, and the applicant may decline the amount offered and withdraw the proposal at any point before signing. The work is divided into milestones, each with an amount, and payment is requested once a milestone is reached. Plans can be adjusted during the project in discussion with the NLnet contact. A substantial continuation needs a new proposal. [S2, S4]

NLnet's example Memorandum of Understanding is generic and undated, so it indicates practice rather than Restack-specific terms. It describes the grant as a donation, not an employment or business contract. Donations become final when milestones are verified, payment claims are allowed up to six months after the project's agreed end, and public progress reporting every two months is expected. Restack also offers non-financial support, including audits, packaging, licensing, governance and standardisation help. Projects above €50,000 may undergo an end-of-project security audit, and payment of parts of the grant can depend on how its findings are handled. [S1, S2, S9]

14 Best-fit applicant profiles

- **Strong fit:** a Romanian or other EU maintainer or small team behind an open-source networking, security, identity, packaging or hosting component with real downstream users, needing €20,000–€50,000 for one defined R&D step.
- **Strong fit:** a former NGI Zero, Taler or Fediversity grantee with a concluded project and a justified follow-up of up to €150,000.
- **Strong fit:** a university or research group implementing an open standard or an interoperability test suite, with code released openly.
- **Moderate fit:** an SME running a commercial hosted service that is willing to release, in full, the funded R&D on its underlying open-source component.
- **Weak fit:** AI products under the 1-million-active-user test, closed or open-core products where the funded part stays closed, and requests for hosting, marketing or sales.
- **Weak fit:** teams that need money before delivery, or whose plan exceeds €50,000 without a concluded earlier project.

The winning profile combines a modest, well-defined task, visible users or dependants, and a fully open licence. The call documents set no conditions on company size or revenue. [S1, S2, S4]

15 Strategic application angles

- Hardening an existing component: security-audit fixes, testing and continuous integration, reproducible builds and packaging. These match the eligible-activity list word for word.
- Standards and interoperability: implementing or testing an IETF or W3C specification, with standards-body fees and meeting participation costed in.
- Open alternatives to closed services: a measurable step that removes a proprietary dependency for users or operators already on the stack.
- Decoupling and deployment: tooling that makes self-hosted or federated services easier to deploy and move between providers.
- Follow-up for NGI alumni: scale a concluded NGI result to up to €150,000, budgeting for a possible security audit.

- Supply-chain metadata work: compare with CodeSupply before choosing the fund.

Whatever the angle, start smaller than the ceiling. A first grant delivered on time, openly licensed, WCAG compliant and audit-clean is the gateway to the €150,000 tier and the €500,000 lifetime cap. A Romanian SME that sees Restack as a stepping stone should plan two or three successive projects rather than one large one. [S1, S2, S3, S14]

16 Risks and decision blockers

Risk	Why it matters	Mitigation
AI scope exclusion	AI-related projects are out unless they have more than 1 million active human users and are directly relevant to the stack.	Test it first; if it fails, choose another call.
R&D knock-out	Hosting, operations or marketing proposals fail before scoring.	Describe engineering and research outputs only.
Licence conflict	Everything funded must be open in its entirety.	Audit dependencies and IP; decide what will be released.
No pre-financing	Payment comes only after each milestone.	Use small milestones; check cash for the first one.
Slow decision	Three to five months from the deadline; pre-selection work is unfunded.	Plan the start for spring 2027 at the earliest.
Generative-AI policy	Undisclosed AI use can mean rejection or termination; a stricter policy is announced.	Write it yourself; log any AI use.
Second-stage delay	Late answers can push the project to the next call.	Keep capacity free in the weeks after the deadline.
Audit-linked payment (above €50,000)	Part of the payment can depend on audit findings being handled.	Budget time and money for remediation.
Tax on a foreign donation	Treatment varies by country.	Confirm Romanian tax treatment before signing.

Sources: S1, S2, S4, S7, S8.

17 EUnita opportunity scorecard

Provisional public-market score: 63/100. This is EUnita's commercial and delivery assessment of the call, not an official evaluator score or applicant success forecast. Restack is accessible and light, but tickets are small, payment is on delivery and the field is narrow: open-source internet technology, not AI.

Dimension	Score / 20	Rationale
Funding value	9	€5,000–€50,000 for newcomers, with no co-funding stated; up to €150,000 for proven teams; paid on delivery.
Access and fit	15	Open to individuals and any organisation, Romania in the priority group, no consortium; limited to open-source stack R&D, with AI excluded.
Strategic value	14	A first step to €150,000 follow-ups and a €500,000 lifetime cap; credibility in the European open-source ecosystem.

Dimension	Score / 20	Rationale
Delivery burden	16	About ten plain-text fields; second-stage Q&A, WCAG and possible audit obligations come later.
Timing and competition	9	28 days left on 6 October 2026; decisions three to five months after the deadline; NGI Zero's history suggests heavy competition.
Total	63 / 100	CONDITIONAL GO for well-scoped open-source R&D; HOLD for AI, closed-source or deployment-led requests.

18 Official sources and document availability

The links below are the official source set used for this analysis. URLs are printed in full so that readers can check every statement against the original documents, checked on 6 October 2026.

S1 NLnet Foundation — Restack call page (Open Call #1)
https://nlnet.nl/restack/

S2 NLnet Foundation — Restack Guide for Applicants
https://nlnet.nl/restack/guideforapplicants

S3 NLnet Foundation — Restack Eligibility
https://nlnet.nl/restack/eligibility/

S4 NLnet Foundation — Restack FAQ
https://nlnet.nl/restack/faq/

S5 NLnet Foundation — Restack: Who is behind this (consortium)
https://nlnet.nl/restack/background/

S6 NLnet Foundation — Proposal submission form
https://nlnet.nl/propose/

S7 NLnet news, 3 September 2026 — Apply for funding before November 3rd 2026
https://nlnet.nl/news/2026/20260903-call.html

S8 NLnet Foundation — Generative AI Policy (version 1.1, effective 26 January 2026)
https://nlnet.nl/foundation/policies/generativeAI/

S9 NLnet Foundation — Example Memorandum of Understanding (generic, undated)
https://nlnet.nl/foundation/request/sample_MoU.pdf

S10 CORDIS — Restack project record, grant agreement 101299072
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101299072

S11 EU Funding & Tenders Portal — topic data HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-DATA-11
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/data/topicDetails/horizon-cl4-2025-03-data-11.json

S12 NLnet Foundation — NGI Taler fund page (closed)
https://nlnet.nl/taler

S13 NLnet Foundation — NGI Fediversity fund page (closed)
https://nlnet.nl/fediversity

S14 NLnet Foundation — CodeSupply fund page
https://nlnet.nl/codesupply/

S15 NLnet Foundation — NGI Zero Commons Fund page (closed)
https://nlnet.nl/commonsfund/

S16 NLnet news, 12 June 2026 — NGI Zero stocktaking
https://nlnet.nl/news/2026/20260612-NGIZero-stocktaking.html

S17 NLnet events — Office hour, 28 October 2026
https://nlnet.nl/events/20261028/office-hour/index.html

S18 NLnet news, 31 January 2026 — Restack selected
https://nlnet.nl/news/2026/20260131-restack.html

Checked but not found as standalone public files: a separate call-text PDF for Restack Open Call #1 (the call rules are published as web pages); a Restack-specific evaluation rubric beyond the weights and threshold in the Guide for Applicants; and a Restack-specific Memorandum of Understanding (only NLnet's generic example is public). Also not found: a published date for the next Restack deadline, and

NLnet's announced revised Generative AI Policy (version 1.1 was still the published version). The Funding & Tenders Portal listing for this cascade call (competitive call 48400841) was fetched, but its content loads by JavaScript and was not readable on 6 October 2026.

19 Final verdict

CONDITIONAL GO. Restack Open Call #1 is a sound, low-burden opportunity for open-source developers, small software companies, NGOs and research groups. It fits those with a defined R&D task on a component of the internet stack, the willingness to release everything under an open licence, and the cash to work until each milestone is paid. Romania is fully eligible and in the priority group. It is not a fit for AI products under the 1-million-user test, closed or open-core business models, hosting or commercial roll-out, or newcomers who need more than €50,000. With the deadline on 3 November 2026 at 12:00 CET, the deciding work is scope, licence and a milestone budget, and it should be done in October. [S1, S2, S3, S4, S6]

20 How EUnita can help

EUnita can screen a project against Restack's knock-out rules: R&D as the primary objective, the AI exclusion, the open-licence requirement, the European dimension and the conflict-of-interest exclusions. It can also advise whether Restack, CodeSupply or another open call is the better route. It can help structure tasks, effort, rates and milestones into a lean, defensible budget that the team can pre-finance. Because NLnet asks applicants to write in their own words and restricts AI-generated text, EUnita would review and challenge the applicant's own draft for completeness and clarity rather than write it. EUnita can then support second-stage answers, Memorandum of Understanding milestones and payment requests, and coordinate a tax check on the donation with the applicant's accountant. Each assignment would be scoped to the applicant's verified facts and the current official documents.

21 Contact

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