EUnita | EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy

FORESTPathways — FOREST Joint Call 2026

Open Call Analysis

Programme	Call position	Deadline
Horizon Europe · European Partnership FOREST (GA 101272463) · co-funded joint call	Joint Call 2026 'FORESTPathways' · two-stage · open since 15 September 2026	Pre-proposals: 2 December 2026, 13:00 CET · invited full proposals: 2 June 2027, 13:00 CEST

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

Decision in brief: CONDITIONAL GO for Romanian universities, research institutes, forest bodies and wood-sector companies with a real forest or wood research question and funded partners in at least two other participating countries. The conditions are a consortium in which every partner clears its own funder's rules by 17 November 2026, and ANC's written confirmation of the Romanian cap (€200,000 or €250,000) and of fundable TRLs. HOLD for single companies seeking a fast innovation grant.

1 Executive summary

FORESTPathways is the 2026 joint call of FOREST, the Horizon Europe co-funded European Partnership for forests, forestry and the forest-based sector (grant agreement 101272463, running June 2026 to May 2036 with a €70 million EU contribution). It funds 36-month transnational research and innovation projects across four topics: climate-resilient forest systems; adaptive and multifunctional forest management systems; timber and innovative wood-based products; and forest value chains, markets and governance. The indicative call budget is up to €40 million, of which 36 national and regional funders from 27 countries have provisionally reserved about €33 million; the EU co-contribution makes up the rest. [S1, S2, S17]

There is no common grant. Each partner is funded by its own national or regional funder, under that funder's caps, rates and cost rules, summarised in Annex II and set out in detail in Annex IV. Romania takes part through the National Authority for Research (ANC) with €1,000,000. ANC funds higher-education institutions, R&D institutes, research organisations, SMEs, large enterprises, public administrations and NGOs, covers all four topics, and caps indirect costs at 20% of direct costs. The Romanian cap per proposal is €250,000 with a Romanian coordinator and €200,000 otherwise according to Annex IV, while Annex II shows €250,000 in both cases and marks ANC as funding TRL 1–5 only. [S2, S4, S6]

The call runs in two stages on the ESES platform: pre-proposals by 2 December 2026, 13:00 CET; full proposals, by invitation only, by 2 June 2027, 13:00 CEST; final results on 21 September 2027 and project starts between December 2027 and April 2028. The Vinnova national page lists a single application date and a September 2027 decision, but the official Call Announcement, the FOREST call page, the webinar slides and the TÜBİTAK announcement all describe two stages, and the Call Announcement prevails. EUnita's provisional view is a conditional go for Romanian research-led consortia that can fix their partners and their ANC position by 17 November 2026. [S1, S2, S9, S13, S15, S16]

2 Call at a glance

Parameter	Verified position	Practical reading
Call	FOREST Joint Call 2026 'FORESTPathways — Building Knowledge and Solutions for Resilient Forests and Sustainable Forest-Based Futures' [S2]	A transnational research and innovation call, not a company grant
Programme	Horizon Europe co-funded European Partnership FOREST, HORIZON-COFUND, topic HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-15, GA 101272463 [S17]	The EU co-contribution is managed through the national funders, not paid directly to applicants [S2]
Budget	Up to €40 million indicative; about €33 million reserved by funders plus the EU co-contribution [S2]	Money is ring-fenced by funder: your partners' funders' envelopes matter more than the headline
Funders	36 funders from 27 countries; BNSF (Bulgaria) and CONFAP (Brazil) not eligible for EU co-funding [S2, S4]	Check every partner against its funder before fixing the consortium
Romania	ANC, €1,000,000; €250,000 per proposal with a Romanian coordinator, €200,000 for Romanian partners (Annex IV); Annex II shows €250,000 for both [S4, S6]	Plan on €200,000 unless Romania coordinates; confirm with ANC
Structure	Two-stage; pre-proposal compulsory; full proposal by invitation [S2]	The pre-proposal's content and main consortium are binding
Consortium	At least 3 independent legal entities from 3 participating countries, at least 2 EU-eligible; coordinator funded by a participating funder [S2]	Typically 4–8 partners; size alone does not score [S1]
Duration	36 months; start December 2027 – April 2028 [S2]	Long lead time between idea and money
Deadlines	Pre-proposal 2 December 2026, 13:00 CET; full proposal 2 June 2027, 13:00 CEST [S2]	57 days to pre-proposal from 6 October 2026
Platform	ESES, operated by PtJ: submission-forest.ptj.de/jointcall2026 [S9]	Coordinator PI registers and submits; partners use partner login
Evaluation	Three criteria scored 0–5 in whole points; threshold 3 each and 10 of 15 overall [S3]	Aim for 4 on every criterion
TRL	No call-wide TRL; funder-specific; Annex II marks ANC as TRL 1–5 [S2, S4]	Romanian tasks should stay in research and early development

Official basis: S1 call page and FAQ; S2 Call Announcement (15 September 2026); S3 Annex I; S4 Annex II (29 September 2026 file); S6 Annex IV (15 September 2026 file); S9 ESES; S17 CORDIS project record.

3 What the grant funds and what it does not

Funded	Not funded
Transnational research and innovation from fundamental to applied research and, where appropriate, demonstration [S2]	Single-organisation or single-country projects; consortia below three funded entities in three participating countries [S2]
Topic 1: carbon stocks and sinks, adaptation pathways, ecosystem processes, disturbance regimes (fire, pests, diseases), landscape dynamics, genetic diversity and assisted migration [S2]	Funding for organisations from non-participating countries — they join only as self-funded associated partners [S1, S2]
Topic 2: resilient silvicultural systems, sustainable harvesting and wood mobilisation, monitoring and planning tools, digital and operational innovation, risk reduction, ecosystem-service trade-offs [S2]	Romanian work that overlaps with other EU or national funding — ANC excludes double funding [S6]
Topic 3: engineered timber and construction systems, high-value wood products, chemicals and materials, alternatives to polluting treatments, standardisation and certification, underused species, innovative manufacturing, market acceptance [S2]	Romanian tasks above TRL 5, on the reading of Annex II's ANC row — to be confirmed with ANC [S4]
Topic 4: value chains and market organisation, business models and investment readiness, policy and governance instruments, barriers to uptake, cascading use and circularity, skills, raw-material resilience [S2]	Romanian third-party services above 25% of the public funding, and indirect costs above 20% of direct costs [S6]
Romanian eligible costs: staff, capital expenditure, supplies and inventory, third-party services, travel and indirect costs [S6]	Any cost a partner's own funder does not accept — rules differ inside one consortium [S1]

Business implication: the scope is wide — the FAQ confirms that agroforestry, tropical and urban forests, remote sensing and governance or policy work can all fit — but the money is national. A strong idea still fails if a Romanian, or any other, partner's tasks fall outside its own funder's TRL, cost or entity rules. Map each partner's work packages against its funder's entry in Annex IV before fixing the work plan, not after. [S1, S4, S6]

4 Programme and evaluator logic

FOREST is a Horizon Europe co-funded partnership coordinated by Finland's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, running from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2036 with an overall budget of about €240 million and a €70 million EU contribution. Its stated aim is to accelerate the transformation of the European forest-based sector into a resilient, knowledge-intensive contributor to a sustainable circular bioeconomy. Annex V maps the four topics to the EU Forest Strategy for 2030, the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the European Green Deal, the Bioeconomy Strategy and the Circular Economy Action Plan, and says expressly that the mapping illustrates alignment and does not limit scope. [S17, S7]

Evaluators reward three things. Scientific Excellence covers clear and original research questions, progress beyond the state of the art, sound methodology and open-science practice, including engagement of citizens and end-users. Relevance and Potential Impact covers contribution to European or global societal impact, fit with the topic, credible inter- and transdisciplinary co-creation and measures to maximise outcomes. Implementation covers a coherent work plan, management structures, a competent and complementary consortium and the added value of transnational collaboration. The call wants industry, SMEs, stakeholder associations, research organisations, public bodies and NGOs to work

together, and encourages living-lab co-creation. [S3, S2]

Two features matter in practice. A larger consortium or wider geography does not score better by itself; the test is genuine transnational added value. And each topic has its own ranking list, so the primary topic is a strategic choice: cross-cutting proposals are welcome, but they are ranked once, on the list of their primary topic. The topic bullet points are guidance on scope, not a checklist to tick. [S1, S2]

5 Calendar and action points

When	Official or indicative event	Action
15 September 2026	Call launched; information webinar 17 September; partnering workshop in Brussels 30 September [S2]	Read the Call Announcement and Annexes I, II and IV in full
6 October 2026	Online networking webinar, 10:00 CET (registration closed) [S1, S2]	Use the ESES partnering tool to find or post partner offers [S12]
By 17 November 2026	Recommended last date to contact funders [S2]	Obtain ANC's written position on cap, TRL and eligibility
2 December 2026, 13:00 CET	Pre-proposal deadline [S2]	Submit by 30 November
December 2026 – March 2027	Eligibility checks and pre-proposal evaluation [S2]	Keep partners and budgets stable
23 March 2027	Pre-proposal results and invitations to full proposal [S2]	Start the full proposal the same week
6 April 2027	End of stage-one redress period [S2]	Redress covers procedure only, not expert judgement
2 June 2027, 13:00 CEST	Full proposal deadline [S2]	No partner may request more than in its pre-proposal
June – September 2027	Full proposal eligibility and evaluation [S2]	Prepare national contracting documents
21 September 2027	Full proposal results; national contract negotiations begin [S2]	Romanian partners contact ANC to start contracting
December 2027 – April 2028	Project start window; 36-month duration [S2]	Plan staffing and co-financing for 2028–2031
Month 18 and month 36	Mid-term and final summary reports with monitoring survey [S2]	Build reporting into the work plan

6 Funding, eligible costs and cash flow

Budget or payment item	Call rule	Decision implication
Call envelope	Up to €40 million indicative; about €33 million reserved by funders plus the EU co-contribution [S2]	Headline is pooled only on paper; each funder pays its own partners
Romanian envelope	€1,000,000 committed by ANC [S4, S6]	Roughly four to five proposals with Romanian participation at €200,000–€250,000 each
Romanian cap per proposal	Annex IV: €250,000 if the consortium is coordinated by a Romanian applicant, €200,000 for Romanian partners. Annex II: €250,000 as partner and as coordinator [S6, S4]	Plan on €200,000 unless coordinating; ask ANC whether the cap covers all Romanian partners together
Romanian funding rate	Basic research, industrial research and experimental development funded according to national rules and state-aid legislation; no percentage stated [S6]	Companies should expect less than full funding; get the exact intensity from ANC
Romanian indirect costs	Maximum 20% of direct costs [S6]	Model overheads at 20%, not at the institution's usual rate
Romanian third-party services	Maximum 25% of the public funding [S6]	Keep external services and subcontracting modest
Other national examples	Germany: all German partners together €250,000, or €300,000 if coordinating; Croatia (MZOM): €125,000, 100% public sector, 70% private sector; Poland (NCBR): €300,000 per project, research organisations 100%; Moldova (ANCD): €50,000 [S6]	Caps and rates differ sharply inside one consortium
Budget changes between stages	A partner's request at full stage may be lower but should not be higher than at pre-proposal, save very exceptional cases [S2]	Put realistic figures in the pre-proposal financial plan
Mandatory meetings	Budget for five mandatory meetings: kick-off, mid-term and final monitoring events plus two further partnership meetings [S2]	Include travel in every partner's budget
Payments	Paid by each funder under its national contract after negotiations from 21 September 2027; no payment schedule stated in the call documents or ANC entry [S2, S6]	Ask ANC about advances and payment stages before committing staff

Cash-flow reading: no money flows before late 2027. The Romanian partner's costs are reimbursed under a national contract, at ANC's rates, with indirect costs at no more than 20% of direct costs. For a university or institute this is a manageable research budget; for a company, the state-aid intensity decides how much of its own cash it must commit, and Annex IV does not state it. Confirm it before the pre-proposal, because the requested amount cannot rise later. [S2, S6]

7 Strands and geography

Topic or geography	Verified position	Practical reading
Topic 1 — Climate-resilient forest systems	Carbon, adaptation, ecosystem processes, disturbances, landscape dynamics, genetic diversity [S2]	Suits ecology, forest-health and monitoring teams
Topic 2 — Adaptive and multifunctional management	Silviculture, harvesting, monitoring and planning tools, digital and operational innovation [S2]	Suits forest administrations working with research institutes
Topic 3 — Timber and wood-based products	Engineered timber, wood materials and chemicals, treatments, standards, manufacturing [S2]	The most company-relevant topic; watch ANC's TRL 1–5 marking
Topic 4 — Value chains, markets and governance	Business models, policy instruments, circularity, skills, raw-material resilience [S2]	Suits economists, policy researchers and sector associations
ANC topic coverage	All four topics ticked for ANC in Annex II [S4]	No topic restriction for Romanian partners
Participating countries	Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom [S4]	Partners requesting funding must come from these
EU co-funding status	Bulgaria (BNSF) and Brazil (CONFAP) not eligible for the EU co-contribution [S2]	They do not count towards the two EU-eligible countries
Other countries	Associated partners only, self-funded; exploitation must focus on participating countries [S2]	Useful for expertise, not for budget

Geography is a funding question as much as a scientific one. Annex II shows large envelopes in Sweden (FORMAS €3,000,000), the United Kingdom (DEFRA €2,200,000), Germany (€2,000,000) and Finland (AKA €2,000,000), and small ones in Latvia (LAAFS €50,000) and Moldova (€100,000). Because invitations are normally limited to three times each funder's budget, a consortium spread across funders with room in their envelopes carries less selection risk than one relying on a small envelope. Not every funder covers every topic: FORMAS and Vinnova, for example, are marked for Topics 3 and 4 only. [S4, S2]

8 Applicant and partner eligibility

Gate	Official condition	Evidence or decision to prepare
Consortium minimum	At least three independent legal entities requesting funding, from three different participating EU Member States or associated countries [S2]	List partners, countries and funders on one page
EU-eligible countries	At least two countries eligible for EU funding; BNSF and CONFAP are not [S2]	Romania counts; add at least one more EU-eligible funded country
Coordinator	Must request funding from a participating funder; cannot be an associated partner [S2]	Choose a coordinator whose funder has budget and fits the topic
Person limits	The same person cannot be PI of the coordinator in more than one proposal; a researcher with several affiliations represents one partner only [S1, S2]	Check overlapping submissions across your institution
Associated partners	Self-funded; do not count to the minimum; letter of intent at pre-proposal, letter of financial commitment at full stage; contribution must not be essential [S2]	Collect letters early on the ESES template
Each funder's rules	Failure of any partner or associated partner, including on its funder's rules, rejects the whole proposal [S2]	Written confirmation from every funder by 17 November 2026
Romanian entity types	Accredited public and private HEIs, national R&D institutes, other research organisations, SMEs, large enterprises, local and central public administrations, NGOs [S6]	Confirm legal status and research capacity of each Romanian partner
Romanian double funding	ANC will avoid funding work that overlaps with other EU or national funding [S6]	Declare and separate related ongoing projects
National application	None required for Romania; Bulgaria (BNSF) requires a parallel national application [S4, S6]	Bulgarian partners must file nationally as well
Annex VI organisations	Listed FOREST research beneficiaries may apply under firewall rules; Annex VI is not a list of eligible applicants; no Romanian organisation is listed [S1, S8]	No effect on Romanian eligibility

9 Application package and portal sequence

Sequence	Control point
1. Read the Call Announcement, Annex I, Annex II and Annex IV	Every partner checks its own funder's entry; Romanian partners read the ANC entry on page 37 of Annex IV [S2, S6]
2. Contact funders	Romanian partners write to ANC; all partners contact their funders no later than 17 November 2026 [S2, S5]
3. Coordinator registration in ESES	The coordinator's PI registers and holds the login; two-factor authentication applies from October 2026 [S9, S2]
4. Invite partners	The coordinator invites partners, who complete their data through the partner login; associated partners complete a profile [S9, S2]
5. Download templates	Pre-proposal project description, pre-proposal financial plan, CV and associated-partner letter-of-intent templates are in ESES [S9]
6. Upload and check	Uploads over the page limit are technically blocked; the proposal must be complete with all mandatory annexes [S2]
7. Submit stage one	The coordinator's PI submits before 2 December 2026, 13:00 CET [S2]
8. Stage two if invited	Full proposal by 2 June 2027, 13:00 CEST, with associated partners' letters of financial commitment [S2]

Technical support for ESES is at ptj-forest-calls@ptj.de; call questions go to calloffice-jc2026@forest-partnership.eu. The Call Office asks applicants to read all call documents before writing to it. [S9, S2, S13]

10 Proposal content and limits

The pre-proposal presents the project idea and the consortium without a detailed work plan; it is written in English on the ESES templates. Page and character limits are set in those templates and enforced by an upload block; the templates are binary files inside ESES that EUnita could download but not read as text on 6 October 2026, so the exact limits are not stated here and must be checked in the system. [S2, S9, S10]

Annex I indicates that the pre-proposal is judged on expected results and impact, while the full proposal adds a communication, dissemination and exploitation plan; the same three criteria apply. The proposal includes an ethics self-assessment section, and funded projects must deliver a FAIR data management plan within six months of the start. Because the pre-proposal binds the scientific scope, objectives and activities, the short stage-one document must already state what the project will do, with whom and for how much. [S3, S2]

- State the research questions and the progress beyond the state of the art in the first half page. [S3]
- Name the primary topic and explain any cross-cutting contribution. [S1]
- Show stakeholder co-creation in the design — practitioners, industry, public authorities, living labs. [S2, S3]
- Justify why the work needs partners in these countries, not just why the partners are good. [S3]
- Give each partner a budget it can defend at full stage and that respects its funder's cap. [S2, S6]

11 Evaluation and selection

Criterion	Maximum	Threshold	What to prove
Scientific Excellence	5	3	Clear, original questions; sound methodology; open-science practice and end-user engagement [S3]
Relevance and Potential Impact	5	3	Societal impact at European or global level; topic fit; co-creation; measures to maximise outcomes [S3]
Quality and Efficiency of Implementation	5	3	Feasible work plan; management; complementary consortium; transnational added value [S3]
Total	15	10	All three criteria are weighted equally; whole points only [S3]
Invitation to stage two	Not stated	Not stated beyond Annex I	Ranked by topic; requests normally up to three times each funder's budget; broad country participation; topic balance [S2]

Each eligible proposal is scored by three members of the International Expert Panel, who agree consensus scores and a Joint Evaluation Statement that the coordinator receives. Four ranking lists, one per topic, are drawn up, and the Call Steering Committee selects in ranking order within the funders' budgets and the EU contribution; each funder then takes the final funding decision under its own rules. No tie-break rule is stated in the documents checked. A redress procedure is open for 14 calendar days after each result, on procedural grounds only. [S2, S3]

12 Legal, IP, data and ethics

Data: funded projects must deliver a data management plan within six months, applying FAIR principles and open data sharing, and Excellence scores open-science practice from stage one. Ethics: proposals complete an ethics self-assessment; proposals that breach fundamental ethical principles are not selected, and full proposals may be referred to a FOREST ethics adviser. Gender: proposals should seek gender balance among the named research personnel and consider gender in the expected benefits. [S2, S3]

Intellectual property is not regulated in the Call Announcement; it is governed by each partner's national rules and by the consortium agreement. Some funders require a signed consortium agreement before releasing funds, and the call points to the DESCA model. Funding is subject to state-aid rules, which determines company intensities in Romania. On funding, the partnership publishes the project summary, requested funding and partner organisations, and posts in the partnering tool are public after review, so keep confidential details out of them. [S2, S6, S12]

13 Contracting, implementation and reporting

After results on 21 September 2027, each partner negotiates its own contract with its funder under national rules; Romanian partners contract with ANC. Projects run for 36 months and are expected to start between December 2027 and April 2028. Consortia submit a mid-term report at month 18 and a final summary report at month 36, each with a monitoring survey, and may be asked for popular-science summaries. Financial reporting follows each partner's national rules. [S2, S1]

Five meetings are mandatory and must be budgeted: the kick-off, mid-term and final monitoring events and two further partnership meetings. Between stages, only limited changes are allowed: minor budget or administrative adjustments with funder approval, one additional partner from an under-represented country, changes to associated partners with Call Office approval, and changes requested by funders or experts. The PI may change only in force majeure. [S2, S13]

14 Best-fit applicant profiles

- **Strong fit:** a Romanian university or national R&D institute in forestry or wood science coordinating a 4–6 partner consortium with research partners in two or more EU-eligible countries. [S2, S6]
- **Strong fit:** a Romanian wood-processing or timber-construction SME working with a research institute on cleaner treatments, underused species or engineered timber, with tasks kept within TRL 1–5. [S2, S4]
- **Strong fit:** a Romanian forest administration or NGO providing field sites, data or living-lab settings in a Topic 1 or Topic 2 project. [S2, S6]
- **Weak fit:** a company wanting to fund product launch, scale-up or demonstration at industrial scale on the Romanian side. [S4]
- **Weak fit:** a team without funded partners in two other participating countries six weeks before the deadline. [S2]
- **Weak fit:** a project already financed, wholly or partly, from another EU or national source. [S6]

The common thread is a research question that needs several countries to answer, and a Romanian role that is clearly research or early development. Romanian coordination adds €50,000 of headroom under Annex IV but also the management burden of a transnational consortium and of five network meetings. [S2, S6]

15 Strategic application angles

Topic 3 is the natural route for Romanian industry: alternatives to polluting wood treatments, the use of underutilised softwood and hardwood species, standardisation and testing, and innovative manufacturing are all named in the call. Pair a Romanian company with a Romanian or foreign research institute, keep the Romanian tasks in research and validation rather than industrial demonstration, and let a partner whose funder covers higher TRLs carry any demonstration step. [S2, S4]

Topics 1 and 2 suit monitoring and management work: early detection of disturbances, carbon accounting, remote sensing — confirmed in the FAQ — and decision-support tools for adaptive silviculture. Romanian public forest bodies and NGOs can contribute sites and data and take a funded research role, which strengthens the co-creation and stakeholder elements that Impact rewards. [S1, S2, S3]

Topic 4 suits economists and policy researchers: business models, investment readiness, governance instruments, skills and raw-material resilience across value chains. In all cases, build the consortium around funders with room in their envelopes, check topic coverage in Annex II — FORMAS and Vinnova, for instance, fund only Topics 3 and 4 — and decide early whether Romania coordinates. [S2, S4, S6]

16 Risks and decision blockers

Risk	Why it matters	Mitigation
One ineligible partner	Rejects the whole proposal at either stage [S2]	Written confirmation from every funder by 17 November 2026
Romanian cap conflict	Annex IV €200,000 as partner vs Annex II €250,000 [S4, S6]	Budget at €200,000 unless ANC confirms otherwise in writing
ANC TRL limit	Annex II marks ANC as TRL 1–5 only [S4]	Keep Romanian tasks in research and validation; confirm with ANC
Binding pre-proposal	No substantial content change; budgets may not rise [S2]	Decide scope, partners and budgets fully before 2 December 2026
Oversubscription	Invitations up to about three times each funder's budget [S2]	Target 4 or 5 on every criterion; spread across funders with room
Company co-financing	State-aid intensity not stated in Annex IV [S6]	Obtain the applicable rate from ANC before setting the budget
Cost-rule ceilings	Romanian services capped at 25% of public funding; indirect costs at 20% [S6]	Build budgets around staff and direct research costs
Long lead time	Nine months between stages; start December 2027 – April 2028; PI changes only in force majeure [S2]	Name a stable PI and a deputy inside each partner

17 EUnita opportunity scorecard

Provisional public-market score: 57/100. This is EUnita's commercial and delivery assessment of the call, not an official evaluator score or applicant success forecast. The call is valuable for Romanian research-led consortia and for a narrower set of companies working with them, but the Romanian envelope is small, the burden is high and the money arrives late. [S2, S4, S6]

Dimension	Score / 20	Rationale
Funding value	11	€200,000–€250,000 for the Romanian share over 36 months, within a €1,000,000 national envelope; meaningful for research teams, modest for companies once state-aid rates apply [S6]
Access and fit	13	Broad Romanian eligibility and all four topics funded, but three funded countries are required and Annex II limits ANC to TRL 1–5 [S4, S6]
Strategic value	15	Entry into a ten-year Horizon Europe partnership (2026–2036) with a €70 million EU contribution and 36 funders [S17, S2]
Delivery burden	7	Two stages, binding pre-proposal, every partner against its own funder's rules, national contracts, five meetings and two reports [S2]

Dimension	Score / 20	Rationale
Timing and competition	11	57 days to the pre-proposal from 6 October 2026; invitations up to three times national budgets mean at most about one in three invited Romanian requests can be funded [S2]
Total	57 / 100	Conditional go for well-partnered research-led consortia

18 Official sources and document availability

The links below are the official source set used for this analysis. URLs are printed in full so they can be checked; all were checked on 6 October 2026.

S1 FOREST Partnership — Joint Call 2026 'FORESTPathways' call page, incl. FAQ, timeline and links (checked 6 October 2026)
https://forest-partnership.eu/jointcall2026/

S2 FOREST Joint Call 2026 — Call Announcement, 15 September 2026 (GA No. 101272463)
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/260915_FOREST_JC2026_Call_Announcement_FINAL-1.pdf

S3 Annex I — Evaluation criteria
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/260914_FOREST_JC2026_Annex_I_Evaluation_criteria.pdf

S4 Annex II — Summary of funding options per funder (file dated 29 September 2026)
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Annex_II_FOREST_JC2026_Summary_funding_options_29092026.pdf

S5 Annex III — Funder contacts (file dated 16 September 2026)
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Annex_III_FOREST_JC2026_FunderContacts_16092026.pdf

S6 Annex IV — Funder Regulations (national/regional rules; file dated 15 September 2026; Romania/ANC entry p. 37)
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/260915_FOREST_JC2026_Annex_IV_Funder_Regulations.pdf

S7 Annex V — EU policy alignment
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/260914_FOREST_JC2026_Annex_V_EU_Policy_Alignment.pdf

S8 Annex VI — FOREST research performing beneficiaries (RPOs) and firewall
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/260914_FOREST_JC2026_Annex_VI_FOREST_RPOs.pdf

S9 FOREST Electronic Submission and Evaluation System (ESES, run by PtJ) — Joint Call 2026
https://submission-forest.ptj.de/jointcall2026

S10 ESES call document — Pre-proposal Project Description template (download ID 515)
https://submission-forest.ptj.de/jointcall2026?genericModule=callDocuments&action=download&id=515

S11 ESES call document — Pre-proposal Financial Plan template (download ID 326)
https://submission-forest.ptj.de/jointcall2026?genericModule=callDocuments&action=download&id=326

S12 FOREST Pathways partnering (partner search) tool
https://submission-forest.ptj.de/index.php?index=212

S13 Information webinar slides, 17 September 2026
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/FOREST_INFO_WEBINAR_17092026.pdf

S14 Schedule of national information webinars
https://forest-partnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/FOREST_JC2026_National_Webinars.pdf

S15 Vinnova call page — FORESTPathways (Sweden)
https://www.vinnova.se/en/calls-for-proposals/forest-joint-calls/forestpathways-building-knowledge-and-2026-03160

S16 TÜBİTAK announcement — FOREST Partnership 2026 Joint Call (Türkiye)
https://tubitak.gov.tr/en/announcement/horizon-europe-programme-forest-partnership-2026-joint-call-open-applications

S17 CORDIS — FOREST European Partnership, project 101272463 (HORIZON-COFUND, HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-15)
https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101272463

Checked but not found as standalone public files: a separate guide for applicants, full-proposal template and IPR rules beyond the Call Announcement; a Romanian (ANC) national call page or national information webinar — none appears in the national webinar schedule. The pre-proposal project description and financial plan templates were downloaded from ESES but could not be read as text, so page limits are not verified. A short-form Annex VI link (…_JC2026_FOREST_RPOs.pdf) returned a 404

error; the version linked on the call page (…_Annex_VI_FOREST_RPOs.pdf) is available. [S9, S10, S11, S14]

19 Final verdict

CONDITIONAL GO. For Romanian universities, national R&D institutes, forest administrations, NGOs and wood-sector companies with a genuine research question and partners in at least two other participating countries, FORESTPathways is a sound, well-structured route to €200,000–€250,000 of ANC funding inside a European consortium. The conditions are concrete: every partner cleared with its own funder by 17 November 2026; ANC's written position on the €200,000 or €250,000 cap and on TRL; and a pre-proposal treated as final in scope, consortium and budget. It is a HOLD for single companies seeking quick innovation money and for teams without a consortium in place by mid-November. [S2, S4, S6]

20 How EUnita can help

EUnita can check a Romanian applicant's eligibility and budget against ANC's rules and prepare the questions to put to ANC, help find and vet partners in participating countries using the call's partnering tool and our network, test the consortium against the minimum-country, EU-eligibility and per-funder rules, draft and edit the pre-proposal and its financial plan on the official templates, and, if invited, write the full proposal and prepare national contracting. Each assignment would be scoped to the applicant's verified facts and the current official documents.

21 Contact

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