



LOW INPUT GRAPEGROWING AND WINEMAKING

Low Input Grapegrowing and Winemaking

Call for Evaluators



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CALL FOR EVALUATORS

LIGAWINE is seeking **independent external evaluators** to support the assessment of proposals submitted under the **LIGAWINE €1.8M Open Call**, funded by the European Union under the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3).

Selected evaluators will assess applications related to the deployment, validation, and scaling of **low-input, sustainable, and digitally enabled innovations** in viticulture and winemaking.

Evaluations will take place **remotely between August and October 2026**.

1. About LIGAWINE

LIGAWINE, Low Input Grapegrowing and Winemaking in Europe, is an EU-funded project under Grant Agreement No. 101228350. The project is funded under the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) and aims to strengthen the sustainability, climate resilience, and competitiveness of the European wine sector through the deployment of low-input, environmentally friendly, and digitally enabled innovations in viticulture and winemaking.

LIGAWINE brings together a multi-actor partnership from key European wine-producing regions, including innovation clusters, business support organisations, research and technology partners, wineries, wine-sector stakeholders, and regional innovation actors. This interregional approach supports knowledge transfer, capacity building, real-life validation, and the scaling of innovative solutions across different wine-producing ecosystems.

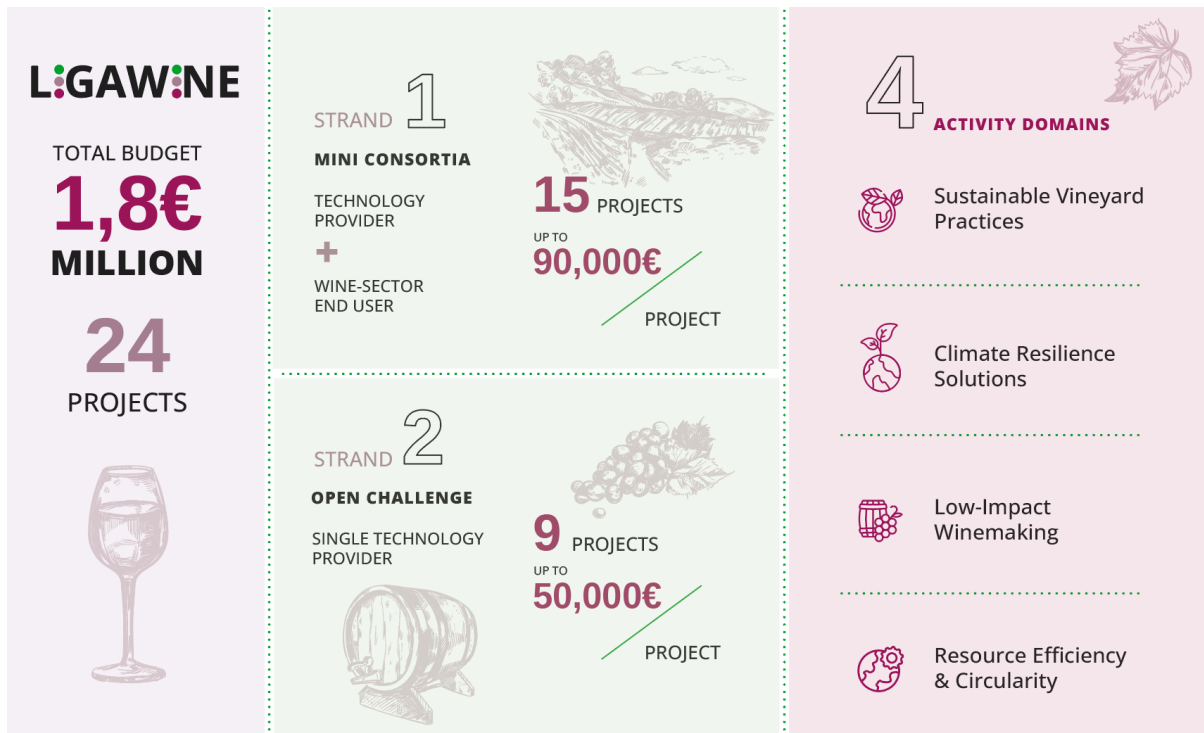
The project focuses on solutions that can reduce inputs such as water, energy, agrochemicals, and oenological additives, while maintaining or improving wine quality and operational efficiency. Through its Open Call, LIGAWINE will extend its innovation ecosystem by supporting additional technology providers, SMEs, wineries, and wine-sector actors to deploy and validate low-input solutions in real vineyard or winery environment

2. The LIGAWINE Open Call

The LIGAWINE Open Call will provide Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) to selected sub-projects that contribute to the deployment, validation, and market uptake of low-input, sustainable, and digitally enabled solutions for the European wine sector.

The Open Call aims to support practical, market-oriented innovation projects that address concrete operational challenges in viticulture and winemaking. Selected

sub-projects are expected to validate mature solutions in real or relevant operational environments and demonstrate clear potential for uptake, replication, and contribution to sustainable wine production. Figure 1 provides an overview of the Open Call scheme.



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

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

The Open Call focuses on applied innovation and pilot validation. Proposals should therefore go beyond concept development and demonstrate a clear pathway towards practical use, market uptake, and replication.

There are two strands:

Strand 1: Mini-consortia

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

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

The purpose of Strand 1 is to support the deployment and validation of a technological solution under real vineyard or winery conditions. Each project can receive up to EUR 90,000, however no partner can receive more than EUR 60,000.

Strand 2: Open Challenges

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

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

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

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

Less Developed Regions Allocation Rule

At least 70% of the total Open Call FSTP budget will be allocated to beneficiaries legally established in Less Developed Regions. This requirement applies to the total amount of funding awarded to third-party beneficiaries, not only to the number of selected projects.

Implementation and payment

Selected sub-projects are expected to start in January 2027 and finish in September 2028. The implementation period will last 21 months and will be divided into three phases (Design, Development, Impact). Funding will be provided as a lump sum. No pre-financing is foreseen. Payments will be made only after the successful completion and acceptance of the relevant mandatory deliverable.

3. We are looking for evaluators!

Evaluators profile

We are looking for independent evaluators who will be able to assess the quality of applications received within the LIGAWINE Open Call, once it closes.

Evaluators must be:

- Citizens, or tax residents, of one of the EU Member States, including their outermost regions; or overseas Countries and Territories linked to EU Member States, where eligible under the applicable I3 rules.

- Experienced across viticulture and winery operations, low-input and precision practices, digital and smart agriculture technologies (IoT, sensing, AI/ML, robotics, decision-support tools), sustainability and environmental performance (LCA, footprints, biodiversity, circularity, climate resilience), and technology deployment and SME-focused innovation (TRL/MRL, market uptake, business models, commercialisation, tech transfer).
- Experienced in evaluating EC proposals or hold similar experience

Furthermore, evaluators must:

- Be independent from the LIGAWINE consortium and affiliated entities
- Have not applied for the LIGAWINE Open Call
- Have no conflict of interest with potential applicants
- Possess relevant professional experience in the thematic areas of the call
- Be able to evaluate in **English**
- Be available during the **August–October 2026** evaluation window
- Commit to confidentiality and ethical conduct throughout the process

All evaluators must declare beforehand any known conflicts of interest and must immediately inform the LIGAWINE Consortium staff if they detect a conflict of interest during the evaluation.

The evaluator's contract also requires evaluators to maintain strict confidentiality with respect to the whole evaluation process. They must follow any instruction given by the LIGAWINE Consortium to ensure this. Under no circumstance may an evaluator attempt to contact an applicant on his/her own account, during the evaluation process. Confidentiality rules must be adhered to at all times before, during and after the evaluation. All external evaluators will sign a confidentiality declaration. All evaluators must adhere to the guiding principles for independent experts set out by the EC including independence, impartiality, objectivity, accuracy and consistency.

The evaluators will be in charge of providing a neutral yet technical/scientific review of the received applications on the following aspects:

- Alignment
- Excellence
- Impact
- Value for Money
- Implementation

The full evaluation criteria for the LIGAWINE Open Call can be found in the Applicant's Guide. The Applicant's Guide as well as the other documents included in the Open Call Kit will be shared with the selected evaluators. A more detailed description of the evaluation process including reimbursement will also be provided.

It is important to note that the number of applications per evaluator depends on several factors: the number of submitted applications, the number of selected evaluators and the time availability of the selected evaluators.

The evaluators' daily rate amounts to 450€ and is based upon the EC rules. Two evaluators will be assigned to each proposal, with a projected capacity of three – four proposal evaluations per day, depending on the total number of proposals received. Payment will be made in Euros by bank transfer on the personal account of the evaluators, up to 60 days after submission of the consolidated Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs) and receipt of an invoice from the evaluator.

4. Evaluation procedure

The entire evaluation process will take place remotely on the <https://opencalls.fund/> platform; no physical meetings are planned. The evaluation process will start with a short briefing meeting (online), provide additional project context, and elaborate on the procedures and expectations, with a particular focus on the evaluation criteria. An Evaluator's manual will also be shared at this time.

Each proposal will be assigned to two evaluators. Each evaluator is expected to individually score each evaluation criterion and provide comments that justify their score. Evaluators are expected to work within their expertise for each criteria and ensure that any comments made align with the score they give. After completing their evaluation, each pair of evaluators will have to consolidate their evaluations into one (1) report, ensuring that they reach a mutual agreement on the proposal's merits. The process will be monitored and facilitated by the OC manager. This collaborative process ensures consistency in judgement and guards against bias, ultimately leading to the selection of the most deserving proposals. The effort of consolidation is included in the overall fee and is not reimbursed separately.

If the difference between the total scores of the two evaluators is more than 5 points, a consensus process may be organised. If consensus cannot be reached, a third evaluator may be appointed.

Evaluators will be selected by the LIGAWINE Open Call Advisory Board based on their competencies and the needs of the Open call.

External evaluators will:

- Independently review proposals submitted to the LIGAWINE Open Call
- Assess proposals against defined criteria (Alignment, Excellence, Impact, Value for Money, Implementation)
- Provide clear, unbiased, and well-justified scoring
- Participate fully remotely
- Follow a Code of Conduct, confidentiality obligations, and conflict-of-interest rules

5. How to Apply

If you are interested in being an evaluator, create an evaluator profile on the opencalls.fund (Figure 2) and fill in all necessary fields.

Apply [here](#)

Please **register as an evaluator** by checking the appropriate box.

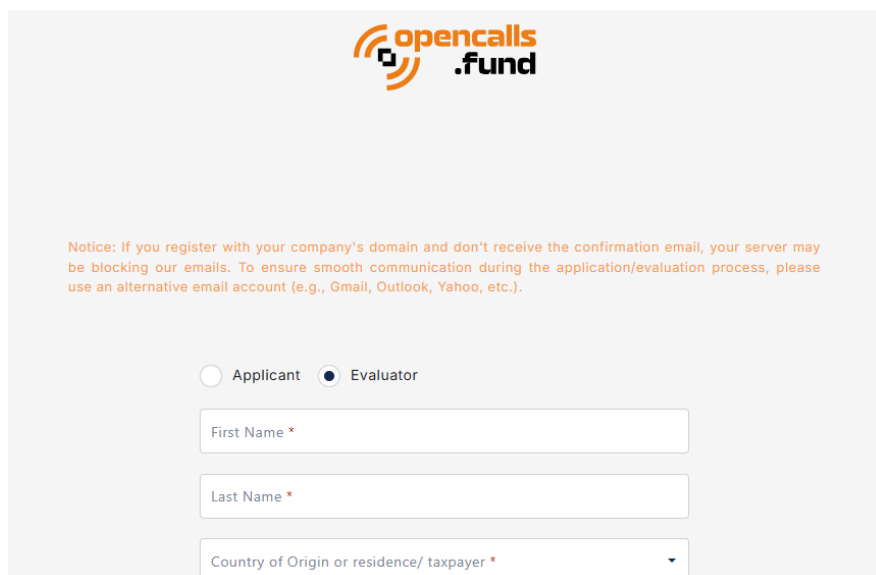


Figure 2 opencalls.fund registration page

If you know someone else who might be qualified for this task and might be interested, please forward this to him or her. By applying to LIGAWINE Call for Evaluators, applicants automatically accept all the rules and conditions described below.

Tentative timeline of activities for Open Call*

- LIGAWINE call for evaluators launch and close: May 22, 2026- June 30, 2026
- Evaluator selection process: July 2026
- Contracting with selected evaluators: August 2026
- Evaluation period for the LIGAWINE Open Call: September-October 2026

*Dates may be revised/ amended, subject to approval by EC services.

6. Terms and conditions

6.1 Evaluator's liability

Prior to the start of evaluations, all evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and a non-disclosure agreement with the LIGAWINE consortium prior to the start of evaluation.

By applying to the LIGAWINE Call for evaluators and registration to the opencalls.fund, the expert:

- Understands that applying (registration) does not guarantee their selection as an evaluator for any of the Open Calls.
- Understands that they will have to sign a contract with the following annexes: code of conduct and Declaration of Honor (DoH) along with any other requested documents, if he/she is selected to serve as an evaluator for a specific Open Call published on opencalls.fund.
- Understands that they will be required to follow the evaluation timeline and acknowledge that they will be expected to provide availability to the Open Call team and attend at minimum one (1) briefing meeting.
- Accepts that each Open call must follow a specific procedure, which may differ. They also accept that participating as an evaluator in previous Open Calls does not exclude them from following all meetings and procedures in the current call they have been selected for.
- Confirms their interest in being informed about the future opportunities to act as an evaluator for other Open Calls that will be conducted on OCF.
- Assures that he/she will only evaluate the applications for which she/he does not have a Conflict of Interest (Col).

6.2 Admissibility

- Applicants must be a citizen or tax resident in one of the following:
 - EU Member States, including their outermost regions; or overseas Countries and Territories linked to EU Member States, where eligible under the applicable I3 rules.
- Applications can be submitted at any time starting from May 22, 2026 but not later than June 30, 2026
- Applications must be submitted electronically via the opencalls.fund platform uploading a CV in .pdf format. Paper or email submissions will NOT be accepted.
- All application/registration fields must be completed and uploaded CVs should be readable, accessible (no user rights requested) and printable.

If the admissibility criteria are respected, then the evaluation of the expert will be performed by the Advisory Board of each project whose Open Call is conducted via opencalls.fund platform.

To formalise the collaboration, a service contract will be signed between reframe.food and the evaluators.

By applying for evaluators, interested applicants automatically accept the Guidelines in this Call for Evaluators and all the guidelines and requirements emerging from documentation included in the Open Call kit.

6.3 Conflict of interest

Evaluators must not have a conflict of interest at the time of their appointment and must sign a contract with a declaration that no such conflict exists. They also must inform the consortium should such a conflict arise in any of the applications they have been assigned. When a potential conflict of interest is reported by the evaluator, the project consortium will analyse the circumstances and any objective

elements of information available. If the consortium concludes that there is conflict of interest, the evaluator will be excluded from the evaluation of that application. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully. Please see more info [here](#).

6.4 Confidentiality

Evaluators are bound by confidentiality, as all information relating to the assessment process is strictly confidential. They are not allowed to disclose any information about the applications submitted and results of the assessment and selection to anyone. They are also not allowed to use the ideas of the application for their own purposes.

For questions related to the evaluator call:

ligawine@opencalls.fund

Good luck and thank you for your interest.

We are looking forward to collaborating with you!

The LIGAWINE Open Call Team