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| Deadline | **Call for Concept Notes:**  **Mon 06 March 2023 23:59 CET** (SCI deadline Mon 20 Feb. 2023 12:00 CET) |
| Call name | **2nd BESTbelt Call** |
| www | [EGB: BESTbelt (europeangreenbelt.org)](https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/bestbelt/) |
| Focused on | Support of biodiversity along the European Green Belt on local and regional level, climate change adaptation or mitigation, sustainable regional development, environmental education |
| Applicant | Organisation established in countries along European Green Belt (EGB) (Norway, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Greece, Turkey), which is registered as a private or public legal entity. |
| Team | Researchers, scholars, engineers, technicians, innovators, officials, non-profit sector workers, municipality representatives, etc. |
| Eligible organisation | Organisation established in countries along EGB (Norway, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Greece, Turkey), which is registered as a private or public entity. Applicant organisation should be able to achieve impact in the EGB area (former “iron curtain”).  Examples of applicant organisation: research organisations, non-governmental organisation (NGOs), civil-society organisations (CSOs), non-profit organisations, micro and small enterprises, municipalities, cities of territory, communal services etc.    Lead applicant may apply individually or with co-applicant(s). The lead applicant is the main contact person for the BESTbelt Project and represents and acts on behalf of any other beneficiary and coordinated implementation of project. The lead applicant is fully responsible for technical and financial implementation of the project.  An organisation can only be awarded one grant as a lead applicant. |
| Provider | European Green Belt (EGB) Initiative |
| Call identifier | BESTbelt |
| Call info | BESTbelt provides a grant scheme to support actions on the ground of biodiversity conservation and restoration as well as sustainable development along the former Iron Curtain.  Supported projects must meet EGB vision: EGB is shared natural heritage along the line of former Iron Curtain. It should be conserved and restored to function as an ecological network connecting natural and cultural landscapes with respect to needs of local communities.  They aim of EGB Initiative is to harmonise human activities with natural environment and increase opportunities for development of local communities. |
| Research areas | Biodiversity conservation and restoration, sustainable development |
| Expected outputs |  |
| Call opens | Wed 18 Jan 2023 |
| SCI deadline | 20. Feb. 2023 |
| Deadline for concept notes | **Deadline for concept notes: Mon 06 March 2023 23:59 CET** |
| Notification to prepare full proposal | 24. Apr. 2023 |
| Deadline for submission of full proposal | 03. Jul. 2023 |
| Information of successful applicants | 25. Sept. 2023 |
| Agreement |  |
| Earliest date of implementation | 01 Nov 2023 |
| Latest date of implementation | 31 Oct 2025 |
| Sustainability | None |
| Project duration (min-max) | **12 to 24 months** |
| Call allocation | 880 000 EUR |
| Project budget (min-max) | **Small grant budget: 40 000 EUR**  In case of focus on transboundary cooperation: 60 000 EUR |
| Success rate | **NA** |
| Eligible costs | Personnel costs, equipment, supplies & services, travel costs, local office costs, cost derived from subcontracts.  Indirect eligible costs are eligible for flat-rate financing, but the total must not exceed 7 % of the total estimated eligible direct costs. |
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| Reimbursement | Small Grants requested must be 100% funded by BESTbelt: Co-funding cannot be included. |
| Mode of funding | The grant will be paid in several rates during project implementation. A first rate will be transferred after signing the contract to finance the start of the project.  Other rates will follow reporting scheme, which will be defined soon. |
| Language of application | English |
| Reporting | Will be defined soon |
| Proposal consists of | Two-step call  In the first step is requested:  Concept Note  Applicant Declaration  Co-applicant mandate  https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/fileadmin//docs/BEST\_Belt/2nd\_Call/2nd\_Call\_Concept\_Note.zip |
| Evaluation criteria | Two-step call.  1st step: Call for Concept Notes  Total score: max 100 points  2nd step: Full Proposal:  Total score: max 100 points   1. Consistency with basic objectives of BESTbelt and EGB (max 20pts) 2. Relevance and effectiveness (max 20 pts) (relevant subject and work plan, effective project measures, clear approach, sustainability and replicability of the project) 3. Project structure and methodology (max 20 pts) (transparent, consistent and logical project setup) 4. Cost efficiency and budget quality (max 20 pts) 5. Feasibility and resilience (max 20 pts) (realistic timelines and workforce, applicant must provide necessary capacities)   Evaluation criteria are the same for both steps.  Only successful concepts will be asked to submit full proposal |
| Eligible activities | Project activities must be located in one or more areas of the indicative spatial reference area of the the EGB ([Draft indicative map of the spatial reference area of the European Green Belt (arcgis.com)](https://euronatur.maps.arcgis.com/apps/SimpleViewer/index.html?appid=15d1f23a9920421db93d8132908c405d))  Project must have tangible and measurable impacts in terms of biodiversity conservation and/or ecosystem restoration, improving ecological connectivity, sustainable development and/or sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services, including nature-based solution, environmental education, ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation or mitigation.  Eligible activities must encourage partnership- based approach with local stakeholders.  Open access to data, results and information generated by the project.  If proposal includes research activities, they must be followed by actions using the research during the lifetime of the project (i.e. proposal of a practical management plan or new policy, or new protected area, design, new natural resources management plan, in vivo pilot site activities implementing the results of the research with new management or conservation actions).  Project must contribute to raise awareness about the EGB (e.g. with a EGB Days event, which are organised between 18-24 Sept. each year).  Project should enhance transboundary activities and cooperation. |
| Call info | [EGB: Calls for Proposals (europeangreenbelt.org)](https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/bestbelt/calls-for-proposals/) |
| Webinar for the Call | Feb 13, 2023, 15:30  [BESTbelt Webinar - 2nd Call - Central - Registration (lets-meet.org)](https://lets-meet.org/reg/8fc81bccbbed317e7b) |
| SCI contact | Please inform the Project Support about your intention to apply.  Do not hesitate anytime to contact us for consulting, discussion or help.  +420 38 777 5562, [projects@prf.jcu.cz](mailto:projects@prf.jcu.cz) |
| Download documents | [BESTbelt\_operational\_manual\_2nd\_Call.pdf (europeangreenbelt.org)](https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/fileadmin/docs/BEST_Belt/2nd_Call/BESTbelt_operational_manual_2nd_Call.pdf)  [2nd\_Call\_FAQs.pdf (europeangreenbelt.org)](https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/fileadmin/docs/BEST_Belt/2nd_Call/2nd_Call_FAQs.pdf)  https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/fileadmin//docs/BEST\_Belt/2nd\_Call/2nd\_Call\_Concept\_Note.zip |