

European Free Alliance

Call for Projects 2026

Guidelines, Information, and Selection Criteria

Call for Projects for 2026 Work Plan – Guidelines

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Dear EFA Members,

We are pleased to launch the next round of the **Call for Projects (C4P)**. This is your opportunity to propose initiatives that support our shared political goals and strengthen collaboration across the EFA network.

To help you prepare your application, this info sheet outlines:

- What types of projects can be supported
- What can/cannot be covered
- Key guidelines and rules

Our goal is to make the process clearer, more transparent, and better aligned with EFA's political, financial, and communication standards.

We look forward to receiving your ideas and collaborating on meaningful projects.

What is a project?

Projects are a means for EFA member parties, Working Groups and other applicants to contribute to EFA's common goals through **joint activities**.

A project could be a conference or event, an online event, a workshop, a policy paper, a series of videos or podcasts, or whichever format the project proposer deems appropriate. EFA encourages members to submit various kinds of project, not only events.

(Publications should generally have a public-facing political focus, not only internal/research one. If you want to commission a research-based project, consider submitting a proposal to the [Coppieters Foundation](#) instead.)

EFA is a registered European Political Party (EUPP) under [EU Regulation 1141/2014](#). That means that strict rules apply about how we can use EU money. In particular, it is strictly forbidden for EFA to send money directly to its member parties; only **joint activities** are possible.

Projects are typically **co-financed** between EFA and a partner (e.g. member party). A typical co-financing split is 70/30; that is, EFA will pay 70% of the costs of a project and the partner pays 30%. Under no circumstances can EFA pay more than 70% in a joint project with a member party.

The EFA Bureau has set a total budget of **€50,000** for the 2026 Call for Projects. Furthermore, the Bureau has decided to **connect the Call for Projects with the EFA Working Groups** and to **promote cooperation between EFA member parties**.

Timeline

Approval by the Bureau of the Call for Projects 2026:	11 Dec 2025
Opening of the Call for Projects 2026:	15 Dec 2025
Deadline for submission:	31 Jan 2026
Decision by the EFA Bureau:	from 5 Feb ¹
Negotiation between the Project submitters and the Bureau:	from 5 Feb
Commencement date for projects:	from 1 Mar
Final date for projects:	14 Dec 2026

Values

The European Free Alliance is a pro-European party that supports the values of the European Union codified in [Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union](#). EFA believes in the right to decide for all peoples. Among EFA's political principles are the defence of democracy, human rights, and self-determination in Europe.

EFA is committed to working for peace, diversity, and international solidarity, building a sustainable world, and advancing gender equality and youth empowerment. EFA supports the internal enlargement of the EU and multi-level governance. EFA opposes discrimination, racism, islamophobia, and antisemitism. and defends the human, civil, and political rights of all peoples.

Project proposals should be developed and implemented in line with these values.

Furthermore, project proposals must comply with the conditions for EU funding. Applicants must respect European values ([Article 2 TEU](#)) and comply with EU sanctions on third countries ([Article 215\(2\) TFEU](#)). Violations of these conditions may result in EFA receiving a sanction! All project proposals should seek to promote the goals under which EFA receives EU funding: "to strengthen European democracy and promote EU politics to European citizens."

¹ The Bureau will consider the projects received and approve them individually, on an ongoing basis, following negotiations with the project proposers. No project may proceed before it has been approved by the Bureau!

Eligibility criteria and funding streams

Working Groups

EFA Working Groups and Forums may submit a project proposal, in line with the topic of their group:

- Working Group on Regional Development
Contact Lydie Massard (lydie-massard@gozmail.bzh)
- Working Group on Linguistic and Minority Rights
Contact Kerem Abdurahimoğlu (keremabdurahimoglu@hotmail.com)
- Working Group on Housing
Contact Livia Ceccaldi-Volpei (livia.ceccaldi@wanadoo.fr)
- Working Group on Digital Issues
Contact Zsolt Szilágyi (szilagyizsolt@hotmail.com)
- Working Group on Mountainous Regions
Contact Roberto Visentin (robvis@alice.it)
- EFA Women's Forum
Contact Joanie Willett (Joaniewillett@gmail.com)
- EFA Islands Forum
Contact Alice Webber (aweber@incaciutat.com)

Working Group projects should follow one of the following formats:

<u>Fully EFA-owned project</u>	<u>Project with a host party</u>
The project is hosted by EFA via the Working Group.	The Working Group nominates one or more member parties to 'co-host' the project.
EFA covers 100% of the cost.	EFA covers 70% , the host party covers 30% (or more).
All visibility and branding belongs to EFA and the Working Group.	The host party has a 30% share of visibility and branding.
If the project is an event, ideally it would take place online or in Brussels to ensure EFA ownership.	If the project is an event, it can take place in the host party's territory .
EFA has full ownership and the right to decide the final format .	The design of the project is subject to negotiation between EFA and the host party .
Project should be submitted by the Working Group coordinators .	Project can be submitted by the Working Group coordinators or one of the host parties .

Member parties who wish to submit a project proposal in line with one of the Working Group policy topics should **reach out to the Working Group coordinators** to discuss their ideas. Please see the contacts above.

If your party is not yet active in one of the EFA Working Groups, reach out to the coordinators to discuss how you can get involved – even beyond the Call for Projects process.

Member parties

Member parties who wish to submit a project must ensure that their proposal fits within one of the following **four funding streams**. The party must explain in its application how its proposal meets the goals of the funding stream.

- 1) Empowering women and young leadership
- 2) Strengthening cooperation between EFA local councillors
- 3) Building narratives to confront the far right
- 4) Local-to-European storytelling Campaigns

Projects submitted under any of these funding streams can be public-focused or internal-focused (strategy). However, member parties that wish to submit a policy-focused project should consider whether it better belongs under one of the Working Groups indicated above.

All project proposals submitted by member parties **must be jointly submitted by at least three EFA member parties**, representing a minimum of **two different states**. This rule is intended to promote horizontal cooperation and ensure meaningful cross-border involvement. The EFA Secretariat and Bureau can help make suggestions and put you in contact with other parties – [contact us](#) to discuss your idea or to request help reaching out to like-minded EFA member parties.

Co-financing: Member party projects typically have a **70/30 split**, meaning EFA will cover up to 70% of the project costs. The remaining 30% can be split among the contributing parties however they choose. If the partner parties want to contribute more than 30%, this is possible. In return they can take a higher proportion of speakers, visibility etc. However, majority ownership must always remain with EFA.

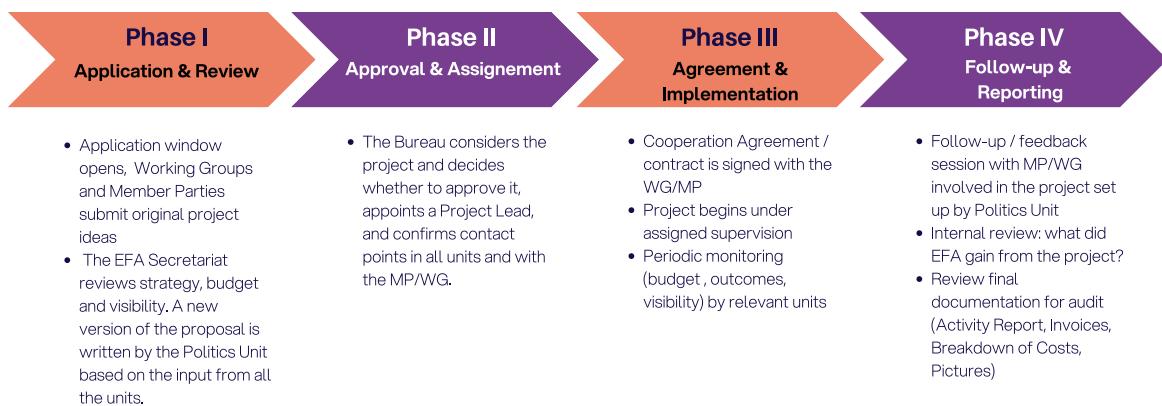
Non-members

The Call for Projects is also open to non-EFA members to submit proposals. In these cases, the maximum funding allocation is **51%/49%**, with EFA as minority partner. Projects submitted by non-EFA members must still respect EFA's values and political priorities.

In each case, whether submitted by a Working Group, EFA member or non-member, an EFA Bureau member will be assigned responsibility to define the format of the project, to lead negotiations to match it to the criteria listed in these guidelines, and to oversee its implementation. The decision will be presented to the whole Bureau for approval before it is implemented. **No implementation of projects is possible without the Bureau's explicit approval!**

Implementation process

Call for Projects Roadmap



Process

- **Phase 01: Pre-launch**
 - Applicants submit project proposals (using the application form provided)
 - The EFA Secretariat reviews strategy, budget and visibility:
 - The Politics Unit conducts an initial assessment and reviews compliance with eligibility criteria, funding line alignment, and political relevance.
 - The Finance and Communications Units then review the proposal for financial feasibility, EU-funding compliance, and visibility requirements.
 - The Secretariat and the EFA Bureau draft a revised version of the project, reflecting EFA rules and any adjustments negotiated with the applicant
- **Phase 02: Approval and Assignment**
 - Once a final project draft is received, the Bureau considers the project and decides whether to approve it.
 - The Bureau approves a Project Lead (a Bureau member with responsibility to oversee the project implementation) and confirms contact points in each Unit of the EFA Secretariat (Finances, Comms, Politics) and in the member party or Working Group.
- **Phase 03: Contracting and implementation**
 - Cooperation Agreement is signed.

- Project starts with ongoing supervision and periodic monitoring by the Project Lead and the Secretariat Units (with regard to budget, results and visibility).
- **Phase 04: Follow-up and reporting**
 - After the project is complete, a feedback session is organised between the Project Lead and the applicant for internal evaluation.
 - All final documentation is submitted: Activity Report, Invoices, Breakdown of Costs, Pictures or other deliverables.

Design and implementation rules

Politics and strategy

- Remember EFA is given money from the EU budget with a clear condition: "to **strengthen European democracy** and **promote EU politics** to European citizens". The project must be justified with this goal in mind. Projects should focus on **political impact**, not cultural aspects.
- The project should have a **European scope** (ideally about EU policy; if not, at least a cross-border dimension). Projects limited exclusively to a single territory or national issue are not eligible.
- When it comes to **proposals for speakers** (for events), **authors** (for publications), etc., the EFA Secretariat and Bureau can help you find the right profiles, particularly speakers from other EFA member parties to give the project a cross-border dimension.
- **Projects outside the EU** are not forbidden but are subject to much higher scrutiny from the European Parliament's auditors. We propose to only hold events in the EU, but we can bring speakers or participants from outside.
- If you wish to invite **speakers from other political parties** (e.g. non-EFA MEPs), that is permitted but their travel/accommodation costs should **not be paid from the EFA share of the funding**. Please ensure an EFA speaker (e.g. Bureau member, MEP) is given **equal billing** to any non-EFA speaker, for example as a keynote speaker.
- **Gender equality** must be ensured in the composition of panels at conferences and publications.

Comms and visibility

- **All material** produced through the project (e.g. publication, event poster, handouts, videos, etc.) must include the **EFA logo**, the **European Parliament logo**, and the European Parliament **disclaimer text**:
 - *This event receives financial support from the European Parliament. The contents of the event are the sole responsibility of the author, and the European*

Parliament cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

- **Very important!** This is a regulatory requirement for European funding.
- All materials should be developed, overseen, and/or approved by the EFA Communications Unit.
- For event **posters**:
 - Posters should be designed **in English**. A version in the local language can be made for the member party's use.
 - The poster will be **published** on the EFA website and social media at least 3 days before the event.
 - The poster must be developed, overseen or approved **by the EFA Comms Unit**.
- For visibility **during an event**:
 - The **EFA logo** must appear on stage (e.g. projected on a backdrop, a roll-up banner).
 - **Photos** should be taken, including at least one that clearly shows the EFA logo.
 - If the EFA Comms Unit is not present, **photos of the event must be sent to them ASAP** during or after the event. A minimum of 4 good photos, including: speakers, the room, EFA representatives, EFA merchandising and logo.
- Promotion:
 - In case of **paid promotion** (political advertising), the [EU Regulation on political advertising](#) applies. Include the tag and transparency notice. Contact the EFA Communications Unit if you have doubts.
 - Communications about the project (e.g. event poster, publication) should be **in English first**, with a version in the local language.
- Project outputs should clearly be displayed as a **cooperation** between EFA and the project proposer, for example:
 - Panels of speakers at events should include more EFA-affiliated participants than participants affiliated with the project proposer.
 - Authors for publications should include more EFA-affiliated authors or contributors than ones affiliated with the project proposer.

Financial rules

General principles

- Project budgets must **not** include provisions for funding **human resources** or coordination.
- Each project proposal must be for a **stand-alone activity** and **cannot constitute regular operational costs** (e.g. a General Assembly) neither of EFA nor of the project proposer.

- Project costs must be **reasonable and not excessive**. Expenditure considered excessive or reckless is ineligible for EU funding.
 - For instance, allocating €500 per person for a dinner during an event, when alternative options are available at €50 per person, would be considered excessive.
 - Events should avoid any elements that suggest luxury.
- Location of activities:
 - **Projects outside the EU** are subject to significantly greater scrutiny by the European Parliament auditors. Applicants must always **check with the EFA Finance Team** before planning such activities.
 - EFA recommends holding events **inside the EU**, though participation of speakers from outside the EU is possible.

Cost Sharing & Documentation

Each project must clearly show the agreed **cost-sharing proportions** (e.g., 70% of costs paid by EFA – 30% of costs paid by the EFA member party). This means that the EFA will cover some costs, up to a maximum of 70%, while the partner will pay others. It does **not** mean that every invoice will be split 70/30.

Each partner must **keep complete documentation**: invoices, receipts, and a cost-sharing spreadsheet listing the supplier's name, service description, invoice number, amount, payer (EFA or partner), and VAT applied. EFA needs to receive **all** the financial documentation, not only the invoices for costs covered by EFA.

Costs must reflect real transactions; no hidden subsidies or donations are permitted.

Eligible Payments & Invoicing

The European Free Alliance will not transfer any funds, directly or indirectly, to the partner; instead, **the partner must ensure that EFA receives an invoice from relevant suppliers, addressed to EFA and including EFA's VAT number where applicable**.

European Free Alliance (EFA)
Boomkwekerijstraat 1/4
1000 Brussels, Belgium
VAT BE0866.016.691

Joint-event invoices must **clearly indicate the payer** (EFA or partner), the nature of the services, the VAT applied, and the date and location of the activity (if applicable).

Project partners will sign a project **cooperation agreement**, outlining the terms of the cooperation, partnership, and cost-sharing.

If the project proposal involves an in-person event, then travel reimbursements funded by EFA must be based on actual costs, supported by the required evidence including, where relevant, **inbound and outbound boarding passes** for flights.

If you are uncertain about anything financial (invoicing, VAT, etc.), please **consult the EFA financial team** at info@efaparty.eu, the HR & Finance Manager, Federica Grisoni (fgrisoni@efaparty.eu), or the Financial Officer, Nicolò Vernaci (nvernaci@efaparty.eu). If the supplier is outside the EU, contact EFA before finalising the transaction.

Activities involving non-EU Partners

Cooperation with non-EU entities may be possible, but it is strictly prohibited for EFA to receive any funds from outside the EU. **The origin of all contributions must be verified** for compliance with EU Regulation 1141/2014.

Co-Financing Requirements

As mentioned above, non-Working Group projects should be co-financed at a rate of at least 30% for EFA members and 51% for non-members.

EFA cannot cover more than 70% of project costs, as doing so may be deemed to constitute indirect funding of another party. The cost-sharing proportion must reflect the actual involvement of EFA and of the partner.

Compliance & Risks

Misuse of funds, VAT errors, or non-compliance may result in repayment obligations, suspension of project funding, or EU-level sanctions (Regulation 1141/2014, Art. 27).

Required Documents from Partners

Each partner must submit:

1. A completed **cost-breakdown** spreadsheet
2. **All invoices and receipts** paid for by the partner
3. A brief **event report** (if applicable – for events)
4. **Photos** or an **attendance list** (if applicable – for events) or any other **deliverables** (e.g. publications, handouts, videos)
5. Documents clearly displaying the **co-funding nature** of the project

EFA reserves the right to withhold payment of invoices until the above documents are received.

Application instructions

To apply, participants must complete the Project Proposal Form in Annex I. The form should be completed **in English** if possible.

Every section of the form must be filled in with the requested information, including, but not limited to, a detailed description of the activity/project and an estimated budget.

Once completed, sign the document, and send it to info@efaparty.eu by the submission deadline (31 January 2026) in both .doc (Word) and .pdf format.

Selected projects will be jointly carried out by EFA and the Partner. The projects are expected to run between March 2026 and December 2027.

Selection criteria

Each project will be evaluated based on criteria such as the following:

- Budget
- Priorities of the Working Groups
- Completeness of the project proposal
- Output and Political Impact
- Pan-European approach
- EU Agenda Topic

Projects submitted by **EFA Working Groups** or Forums will be evaluated within the thematic priorities, objectives, and political direction established by those structures. **Non-WG/Forum projects** must fall under one of the **four funding streams** lines listed above (*Empowering women and young leadership; Strengthening cooperation between EFA local councillors; Building narratives to confront the far right; Local-to-European Storytelling campaigns*.)

The EFA Bureau has set a total budget of **€50,000** for the Call for Projects 2026. The Bureau reserves the right to turn down or modify projects to fit within this budgetary limit.

The Bureau will select a **minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10 projects** for the year. If more than this number of projects are received, then the Bureau will select the projects it sees as having the greatest political potential for EFA. Favour will be given to projects with a clear political

output that will contribute to EFA's visibility at local, national, and EU-wide levels, policy priorities or strategic goals.

In selecting the projects, the Bureau reserves the right to request changes to project proposals, e.g.:

- To revise the budget
- To increase the project's European dimension
- To modify the project participants (event speakers or publications authors &/or contributors)

Changes may be subject to negotiation, but **the final project decision must be approved by the Bureau**. Any negotiation must take place through official channels only: e.g. Email correspondence with the assigned Project Lead, the whole Bureau and/or the Secretariat.

FAQ

1. Can we submit documents and propose projects in a different language other than English?

We encourage you to submit project proposals written in English.

Projects may be run in local languages, but translation of any outputs should be available in one or more of the above-listed languages, owing to the project's pan-European scope.

2. Can EFA finance a cultural event, such as an art exhibition?

Although EFA promotes cultural diversity, cultural events, art exhibitions, or mass rallies will not be funded. Projects should have a political impact, rather than a cultural focus.

3. Can a member party propose more than one project?

Member parties can submit more than one project, but the Bureau will only approve one project per group of parties, on the basis of which project it feels has the most potential for EFA.

4. Is there a maximum budget per project proposal?

The total budget for projects this year is 50.000€. Some projects may have to be turned out for budgeting reasons.

5. Is there a right to appeal the bureau's final decision?

The Bureau reserves the right to make the final decision on each project proposal. Negotiations may be possible, but the final decision rests with the Bureau. Any such negotiation must take place through official channels only: e.g. Email correspondence with the whole Bureau and/or Secretariat.

Contacts

If you have any questions or want to discuss your project ideas, please write to:

info@efaparty.eu – Secretariat general email, for all inquiries

fgrisoni@efaparty.eu and nvernaci@efaparty.eu – Federica and Nicolo', HR and Finance Unit, for finance questions

pbutcher@efaparty.eu and lwilliams@efaparty.eu – Paul and Llŷr, Politics Unit, for project design and policy questions

mvinardell@efaparty.eu and pmoco@efaparty.eu – Marina and Pedro, Comms Unit, for communications and visibility questions