



MERLIN INNOVATION AWARDS 2025

Call for companies with innovative products or services for freshwater ecosystems, powered by the MERLIN project.

Are you a company with an innovative product or service for freshwater ecosystems?

If yes, apply now for the MERLIN Innovation Awards 2025
in one of the two categories:

- PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2025
- SERVICE OF THE YEAR 2025

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MERLIN seeks **new** and **widely applicable solutions** for restoring or enabling financial benefit for freshwater ecosystems. **If your innovative product or service is market-ready**, you are eligible to apply.



MERLIN INNOVATION AWARDS 2025

Benefits

- Unique opportunity to pitch your product or service to 18 European freshwater restoration project managers and many other decision makers and stakeholders
- Chance to be part of the systemic transformative change of our society and economy
- Recognition within the European freshwater ecosystem community with your product or service featured on the widely read Freshwater Blog
- Automatic inclusion in the MERLIN Marketplace if your application is accepted for the MERLIN Innovation Awards 2025



When will the MERLIN Innovation Awards 2025 take place?

The pre-selection of 10 finalists (5 Products and 5 Services) will be conducted in January 2025 on a date to be announced, with the results to be announced to all applicants within 7 working days. The MIA 2025 online ceremony will be conducted in February 2025 on a date to be announced, with the winners of both PRODUCT and SERVICE competitions will be announced at the end of the online ceremony following all presentations based on jury members' decisions.

What is the selection process of the MERLIN Innovation Awards 2025?

The submitted applications will be evaluated by the MIA 2025 committee, consisting of CONNECTOLOGY representatives and MERLIN coordinators/steering group members. The pre-selection procedure will identify 10 finalists (5 Products and 5 Services) that will participate in an online ceremony during which they will conduct a 3-minute presentation and engage in a 4-minute Q&A session. The jury will be composed of freshwater restoration managers and other relevant freshwater community stakeholders and will evaluate finalists based on the following criteria: level of innovation, benefits for freshwater ecosystem and potential impact evaluation of their product or service.

How to apply?

In case your company owns the rights to commercialise the product or service, you can apply until the 13 December 2024 (17:00 CET). We encourage applications to be submitted as early as possible to allow for any correction of missing data.

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2025 APPLICATION FORM:

→ forms.gle/H3wdEjggKum4evVb9

SERVICE OF THE YEAR 2025 APPLICATION FORM:

→ forms.gle/wMgqfJeUPsr67ChL9

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About the MERLIN community

MERLIN (Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of freshwater-related ecosystems in a Landscape context: INnovation, upscaling and transformation) is a flagship project of the European Commission, endowed with 20 million Euros, that advocates for transformative ecosystem restoration and incorporates Nature-based Solutions for the urgent systemic change of our society. EU funding also goes to 18 case study areas from Finland to Israel, where streams, rivers as well as bogs and other wetlands are currently being restored to a near-natural state. These major projects will be expanded, upscaled and developed into European-wide models.

Through collaborations with local communities and key economies, MERLIN will co-develop win-win solutions spearheading systemic economic, social and environmental change.

More information and a list of all MERLIN partners – including universities, research institutes, nature conservation organisations as well as stakeholders from business, government and municipalities – can be found on the website: www.project-merlin.eu

www.project-merlin.eu

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