

Accelerator Fund - Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of projects can be funded by the Accelerator Fund?

Built by Nature's Accelerator Fund is a **grant-making fund** that is looking for game-changing initiatives that will accelerate the timber transformation across the built environment, for the benefit of the public good.

We fund projects that address key barriers to mass timber adoption in the market. Examples of funded projects can include but are not limited to:

- Technological innovations within projects
- Network-strengthening events with frontrunners
- Industry standardisation protocols
- Local knowhow and capacity building for cities
- Feasibility studies for timber projects
- Targeted advocacy campaigns
- Collecting and publishing business case data
- Innovative risk-mitigation and reduction approaches
- Applied research for the re-use of timber products
- Documentaries and art exhibitions
- Timber demonstrations with large potential

Timber demonstrations with large potential We specifically fund projects targeting one or more of what we call “the big six” stakeholders in the built environment industry, with the aim to support their adoption of mass timber. The big six are:

- Developers
- Designers
- Investors
- Insurers
- Asset owners
- City governments

Please note that the Accelerator Fund is **not** a venture capital investment fund, and therefore cannot fund for-profit entities in the pursuit of bringing their solution to market and/or scaling

their venture. Instead, we fund projects that benefit the public good, meaning the sector, industry or market as a whole, without providing competitive advantage to any of the parties involved.

What are the priorities of the Accelerator Fund?

The current Accelerator Fund priorities are defined in consultation with our network of industry frontrunners, and are geared to address specific challenges to the scaling of mass-timber in the built environment.

The current priorities can be found on [this page](#) on the Built by Nature website.

How can I apply to the Accelerator Fund?

Applications to the Accelerator Fund are by invitation only.

To start exploring whether your idea or solution is fit for the Accelerator Fund, you can complete and submit the [Expression of Interest Form](#) and the Built by Nature team will be in touch about next steps.

When can I apply to the Accelerator Fund?

Anytime. Expressions of Interests are reviewed regularly and if aligned with our priorities, can then be developed into proposals, which are then taken to the Built by Nature Investment Committee for review, and ultimately, to the Built by Nature Board for approval.

Applications are reviewed and grants approved on a quarterly basis and the next deadline can be found [here](#).

Can the Accelerator Fund provide grants to for-profit organisations?

Yes, but only if the applicant organisation can clearly demonstrate that the initiative is geared towards supporting the **public good**, and that no profit-making will be supported and/or derived from the proposed project.

This means that the Accelerator Fund cannot fund for-profit or business development projects.

Which countries are within the scope of the Accelerator Fund?

We are currently growing our network across the European Union, the UK, Switzerland, and Norway.

We are constantly reviewing our strategy and will be looking to expand our scope in the future, so watch this space!

How much funding can the Accelerator Fund provide?

Grants typically range from €50,000.00 to €250,000.00 per application.

What are criteria for successful applications?

Successful applications are able to:

- Showcase the gap or barrier in the adoption of mass timber that they are addressing.
- Clearly demonstrate the intent to contribute to the public good through the initiative.
- Target one or more of the “big six” stakeholders.
- Meet at least one of the Accelerator Fund’s strategic priorities.
- Secure 25% or more co-funding from other sources (applications with lower levels of co-funding will also be considered).

Will the Built by Nature team provide guidance and feedback during the application process?

Yes, if your proposed initiative fits with the Accelerator Fund's priorities, the Built by Nature team will be available to discuss the proposal with you. Most proposals go through a series of iterations before being finalised for submission.

How many times can I apply to the Accelerator Fund?

An organisation may apply as many times as they wish to the Accelerator Fund. However, as a general rule, an organisation can receive funding no more than **two times**. We expect our grantees to secure scale-up funding from other sources rapidly to truly accelerate the timber transformation.

What are other ways in which I can engage with Built by Nature?

You can join the Built by Nature Network by filling out our [Join the Network form](#), to be kept up to date about what we're up to and participate in events along with frontrunner organisations in the transition towards mass timber. As a Built by Nature network member, you will also receive updates about Built by Nature activities and opportunities.