



## BIST Ignite: Call for Collaborative Seeding Projects

### Goal

To promote new collaborations among researchers from the BIST community, facilitating the exchange of knowledge among different scientific fields and exploring new approaches to address complex questions.

Ideally, by the end of the program, the output of the collaborative research projects should provide the means for the preparation of joint multi-institutional proposals to apply for external competitive funding.

### Description of the program

The BIST Ignite program is a mechanism to foster new collaborative research among the BIST community. This program currently has up to 200.000 € / year to fund seeding research projects that have a cross-disciplinary perspective.

The projects must involve at least two groups working in different BIST centers. The projects must be aimed at exploring new questions and technological challenges through novel multidisciplinary approaches, exchanging knowledge across disciplines, exposing researchers to multidisciplinary environments, and providing new insights to push the collaboration further.

The BIST Ignite program is based on a two-stage funding scheme, composed of two progressive calls.

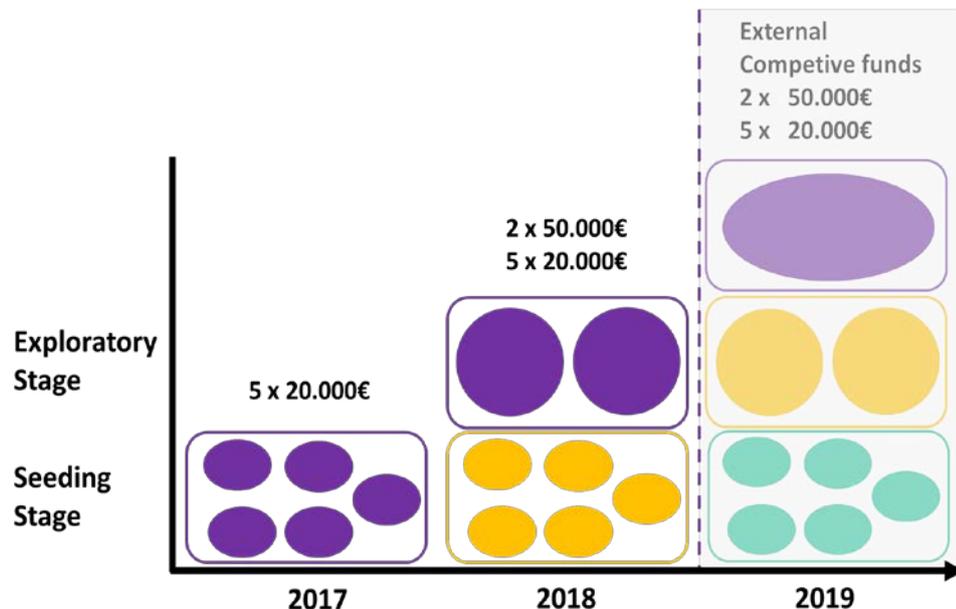
1. The **first stage** is an open internal call for project ideas, meant to be a seeding stage. From this initial call, 5 project ideas will be selected to be funded with 20.000 € each, and researchers will have 8 months to develop their ideas.
2. The **second stage** has an exploratory nature and consists on an additional award of 50.000 € / 12 months, for the 2 best projects out of the 5 selected during the first stage. The selection of projects in this second stage will be based on both the preliminary results obtained in the previous seeding stage and the viability and the justification of continuing

the collaboration. Both aspects must be clearly stated in the executive project report to be delivered at the end of the first stage. While in the first seeding stage no proof of concept is required, it will be fundamental for the second, exploratory phase.

The two-stage funding scheme aims at stimulating the generation, participation and active contribution of collaborative partnerships among BIST centers, as well as to set the basis to promote the generation of a pipeline of new research projects, emerging from ideas / questions that require a multidisciplinary approach. In this sense, the main goal of the BIST Ignite program is to provide seed funding to obtain enough preliminary data and research outputs, by the end of the exploratory stage, that serve as significant evidence to allow the collaborating groups to apply to more ambitious and competitive external funding calls.

The funds provided will be given to the center of the leading researcher and may be spent to cover any expenses required for the development of the projects, yet with the exception of equipment investment.

### Overall scheme of the program





## 2017 Program Calendar

### Seeding Stage

20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016	Call for projects opens
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2017</b>	<b>Call for projects closes</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Announcement of the call's results
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	Deadline for first-stage final report

### Exploratory Stage

15 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Selection of the 2 exploratory projects
15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Brief follow-up report
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Deadline exploratory-stage final report

## Selection Process

The applications for the first “seeding” stage will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of both internal (BIST Community) and external members, who will evaluate the quality and relevance of the proposal, as well as those best matching the objectives of the present call.

## Eligibility criteria

Three aspects will be taken into account during the evaluation of the first seeding stage:

- Multidisciplinarity and added value of the collaboration
- Novelty, and possible future impact of the idea
- Viability, both in terms of time and objectives

All applications must be led by at least two group leaders from two different scientific fields, and working in two different BIST centers. They are expected to be equally committed to the delivery of the proposed activities.



## BIST is encouraging

- Participation of early career researchers (recently appointed group leaders, post-doctoral fellows) at BIST centers. In the case of non-group leaders, acceptance from their group leader will be asked.
- Project proposals that address questions on BIST emergent research areas, such as Chemical Biology, Microscopy, Big Data and Graphene.

## Application process

Project submission will be done online using the Slideroom Portal, which will remain open until the 1st of March 2017. Access to the portal is provided through the link in the BIST webpage <http://bist.eu/ignite-call>.

The application consists of a short administrative form which will be completed online, plus a seed-project proposal of 2-4 pages which must reflect the scientific content and the added value of the proposed collaboration.

## Selection Committee

The selection committee will be composed of both internal and external evaluators who will firstly access the projects remotely and individually and will hold one face to face meeting to discuss and select the five finalist. In principle, the internal evaluators will be composed of the BIST working group for multidisciplinary research. However, in case of conflict of interest, the implicated member of the multidisciplinary research working group will be replaced by the representative from the same institute in the Academic working group or by another scientist designated by the corresponding Institute Director. As for the external evaluators, and depending on the amount of proposals, a group of 3 to 6 researchers with a wide range of scientific backgrounds will be proposed and invited to join the selection committee.