



BIST Ignite: Call for 2017 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 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. At least two different BIST centers must be involved.

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

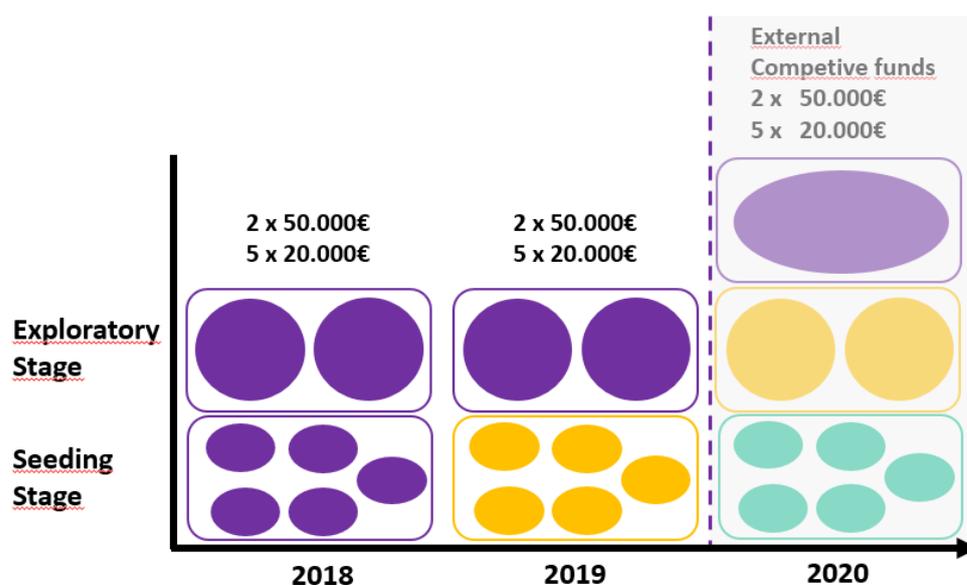
1.- The **first stage** is an open internal call for project ideas, meant to be a seeding stage. From this initial call, 5 project ideas will be selected each year to be funded with 20.000€ each, and researchers will have 8 months to develop them.

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 stage.

The two-stage funding scheme is aimed at stimulating the generation, participation and active contribution of collaborative partnerships among BIST centers, as well as setting 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.

Overall scheme of the program:



2017-2018 BIST Ignite Program Calendar - Seeding Stage

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 20th Oct 2017 | First stage (seeding stage) call for projects opens |
| 15th January 2018 | First stage (seeding stage) call for projects closes |
| March 2018 | Announcement of the call's results and transfer of funds |
| 1st December 2018 | Dead-line for first-stage final report |

Proposal preparation and application process:

Project submission will be done online using the [Slideroom Portal](#), which will remain open until midnight of the 15th January 2018. 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 to be completed online, plus a project proposal of 2-4 pages **which must reflect the scientific content and the added value of the proposed collaboration**. The budget must clearly indicate the percentage to be allocated to each of the BIST centers in case the project is granted. The funds provided may be spent to cover any expenses required for the development of the projects, with the exception of investment in equipment.

To solve doubts and provide guidance during the proposal preparation and application process, each BIST center counts with a contact point, the list of which is provided below:

Ignite Programme Contact Points at BIST centers

CRG – Elvan Boke <elvan.boke@crg.eu>

IBEC – Samuel Sánchez <ssanchez@ibecbarcelona.eu>

ICFO – Romain Quidant <romain.quidant@icfo.eu>

ICIQ – Pau Ballester <pballester@ICIQ.ES>

ICN2 – Stephan Roche <stephan.roche@icn2.cat>

IFAE – Federico Sánchez <fsanchez@ifae.es>

IRB Barcelona – Travis Stracker <travis.stracker@irbbarcelona.org>

Eligibility criteria:

All applications must involve **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.

Associated researchers and postdocs are welcome to apply, as long as they have a clearance / acceptance letter from their group leader, which must be submitted along with the proposal. The non-compliance with this criteria will render the application invalid.

Researchers holding an Ignite grant at the moment of closing the call, will not be eligible to participate.

Evaluation Criteria

The panel of experts will review the applications for the first “seeding” stage analyzing the quality and relevance of the proposal, and determining those best matching the objectives of the present call.

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

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

The complete evaluation criteria form provided to the reviewers can be downloaded from the BIST webpage.

Selection process

The applications for the first “seeding” stage will be peer reviewed by a selection committee composed of both internal (BIST Community) and external members through the following process:

- 1.- The internal reviewers (one per center) will do a first evaluation and grading of all of the proposals according to the eligibility criteria. They will do so remotely, and using an evaluation guide with scores and thresholds.
- 2.- During an in person meeting, the best compliant “runner-up proposals” (at least ten) to be sent to at least 3 external evaluators. Researchers with proposals not passing to the second stage of evaluation will be informed at this stage.
- 3.- The final decision on the winning proposals will be taken during a consensus meeting between both internal and external evaluators.

The list of internal and external evaluators will be provided through the BIST webpage.

The communication of the winner projects will take place before the end of March, and funds transferred to ensure that the winning projects may start working as of the 1st April.

Unfortunately, due to limited resources, we are not able to provide individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.