

## BIST Ignite Programme

### 6<sup>th</sup> Edition – Seeding Stage Call

#### Guidelines for participants and evaluators

##### Goal

The main goal of the BIST Ignite Programme is to promote new collaborations among BIST Community researchers, facilitating the exchange of knowledge among different scientific fields and exploring new approaches to address complex questions.

Conceptually, the output of the collaborative research projects supported by the BIST Ignite Programme may serve as the foundation for the preparation of joint multi-institutional proposals to apply for external competitive funding.

##### Description of the Programme

The BIST IGNITE Programme is a mechanism to foster **new collaborative research projects among the BIST community**. The projects will 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 Community Centres must be involved.**

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

1.- The **Seeding stage** is a call for new project proposals open to the full BIST Community. From this initial call, five project ideas will be selected to be funded with 20.000€ each, and researchers will have 8 months to develop them.

2.- The **IGNITE Award** is a second phase of exploratory nature and consists of an additional award of 50.000€ to be spent over a period of 12 months, for the two best projects out of the 5 selected during the seeding stage. The selection of projects in this second stage is 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 Community Centres, as well as setting the basis to promote the generation of a pipeline of new research projects, emerging from ideas and questions that require a multidisciplinary approach.

The BIST IGNITE organizing committee wants to **encourage associated researchers and postdocs to participate and lead the application and development of new collaborative research projects**. BIST IGNITE Programme can be an excellent opportunity for young researchers willing to progress their scientific careers.

The participation of groups from institutions that are not part of the BIST Community is possible, when they provide expertise otherwise not available within the BIST Community. However, at least two BIST Community Centres must still be involved in the project and external groups need to provide their own funding.

### Proposal preparation and application process – Seeding Stage

Project submission to be done online, using the [Slideroom Portal](https://bist.eu/ignite/), which will remain open until midnight of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (see the Call calendar below). Access to the portal is also provided through the BIST's webpage <https://bist.eu/ignite/>

The application consists of a short online administrative form plus a project proposal of 2-4 pages, **which must reflect the scientific content and the benefit of the proposed collaboration**. The budget must clearly indicate the percentage allocated to each center in case the project is granted. The funds provided can be used to cover any expenses required for the development of the projects, except for investment in equipment.

The projects should be written in a way that it is understandable scientists who are non-experts in the field.

**BIST IGNITE Programme Contact Points at BIST centers.** To solve doubts and provide guidance during the proposal preparation and application process, each center has a contact point person. The names of the contact point persons will be published at the BIST Ignite Programme webpage (<https://bist.eu/ignite/>)

Questions may also be addressed to BIST Director of Programmes, Núria Bayó ([nbayo@bist.eu](mailto:nbayo@bist.eu))

## Eligibility criteria

All applications must involve **at least two researchers from two different scientific fields and working in two different BIST centers. They should be equally committed to the delivery of the proposed activities.**

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

Researchers holding an Ignite grant at the moment of the call's closure, will not be eligible to participate and, in general, only one project submission per PI is accepted.

## 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:

- Multidisciplinarity and added value of the collaboration (40%)
- Novelty, and possible future impact of the idea (40%)
- Viability, both in terms of time and objectives (20%)

## 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. The list of reviewers will be defined by the representatives from Centres appointed by the BIST Research Committee according with the topics covered by the submitted proposals.

The evaluation committee will carry out a remote evaluation and will use an evaluation guide with scores and thresholds. All submitted proposals will be reviewed at least by three reviewers, two of them related to the topic, one will be external to BIST community, and at least one will be a woman.

The final decision on the winning proposals will be taken during a consensus meeting.

The communication of the winner projects will take place during October, and funds transferred in 2023 to ensure that the winning projects might start working as of the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.



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

### **BIST IGNITE 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Programme Calendar - Seeding Stage**

<b>17 May – 17 July 2023</b>	Seeding stage call
<b>18 - 24 July 2023</b>	Research Committee, propose list of evaluators
<b>25 – 31 July 2023</b>	Final composition Selection Committee
<b>1 September - 8 October 2023</b>	Remote evaluation
<b>9 – 11 October 2023</b>	Consensus Meeting
<b>14 October 2023</b>	Announcement of the call's results and transfer of funds
<b>1 November 2023– 1 July 2024</b>	Seeding stage research projects development
<b>1 September 2024</b>	Deadline for final report and BIST Ignite Award submission