

BIST Ignite programme

8th Edition 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.

The **Seed 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.

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 seed stage. The selection of projects in this second stage is based on both the preliminary results obtained in the previous seed 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 seed 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 programme wants to **encourage associated researchers and postdocs to participate and lead the application and development of new collaborative research projects**. This programme can be an excellent opportunity for young researchers willing to further 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.

Eligibility Criteria

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

Associated researchers and postdocs are welcome to apply provided they comply with the following criteria:

- Researchers must hold a PhD by the time the call for their intended phase (Seed/ Award) closes.
- Researchers must have clearance and an acceptance letter from their group leader, stating they have an active contract until the end of the phase to which they are applying to.
- Researchers holding an Ignite grant at the time of the Ignite Seed call's closure will not be eligible to participate.

Non-compliance with these criteria will render the application invalid. This information shall be submitted with the proposal.

Only one project submission per project leader is accepted. More than one project might be presented from the same research group, provided that it does not come from the same project leader, but that fact will be taken into account during evaluation to ensure diversity of awarded projects.

Evaluation Criteria

A panel of experts will review the applications for the first "seed" stage analysing the quality and relevance of the proposal and determining those best matching the objectives of the present call. Three aspects will be considered during the evaluation of the first seed stage:

- Multidisciplinary 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 evaluation committee consists of both internal (BIST Community) and external experts. The internal reviewers will be appointed by the directors of the BIST Community centres.

The evaluation committee will carry out a remote evaluation with scores. 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.

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

Application for the Seed Stage

Project submission to be done online, using the [Slideroom Portal](#), which will remain open from June 19th until midnight of August 18th, 2025 (see calendar below).

The application consists of a short online administrative form plus a project proposal of 2-4 pages, **which must reflect the scientific content, its novelty and the benefit of the proposed collaboration**. The budget must clearly indicate the percentage allocated to each centre if 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 is understandable to scientists who are non-experts in the field.

Closure of Seed Stage & Application for the Ignite Award

The closure of the Seed Stage and the submission for the Ignite Award will be done simultaneously through the Ignite Award Call. Submission will be done online, using the [Slideroom Portal](#), which will remain open from July 1st until midnight of September 4th, 2026 (see calendar below).

The closure of the Seed Stage and the simultaneous application for the Ignite Award consists of three items:

- 1.- Justification of expenses incurred during the Seed Stage. The template will be available in the BIST's webpage <https://bist.eu/research/ignite/> and shall aggregate the expenses of each centre and be uploaded through the slideroom portal. There is no need to send the original invoices. However, the centre is responsible for archiving them and, in case BIST requires them, to present the originals. Any expenses required for the development of the projects can be presented, **except for investment in equipment**.
- 2.- A scientific report on the accomplishment of the Seed Stage project (max. 6 pg.). The report must highlight the scientific results and the benefits of collaboration.
- 3.- If applying for the Ignite Award, a 2–4-page proposal detailing the project's next phase. It shall be indicated if there are any changes on the original team. New project leaders should comply with the eligibility criteria of the call. The continuation budget must clearly indicate the percentage allocated to each centre in case the project is granted. The funds provided can be used to cover any expenses required for the development of the project, except for investment in equipment.

Closure of the Ignite Award

At the closure of Ignite Award cycle, it shall be submitted a justification of expenses incurred and a scientific report. For the justification of expenses, the template will be available on the BIST's webpage <https://bist.eu/research/ignite/> and shall aggregate the expenses of each centre and be uploaded through the slideroom portal. There is no need to send the original invoices. However, the centre is responsible for achieving them and, in case BIST requires them, to present the originals.

The funds provided can be used to cover any expenses required for the development of the projects, except for investment in equipment. The scientific report must highlight the **scientific results and the benefits of collaboration**.

Communication with applicants

The project leaders will receive reminders in a timely manner about call opening/closing for each stage (Seed and Ignite Award). Administrative personnel will not receive any reminders from BIST. It is the responsibility of the applicants to contact their administrative personnel to obtain their expense report and submit it with the rest of the materials when the closure of the stage is due.

Questions about the Ignite Programme may be addressed to ignite@bist.eu.

BIST Ignite 8th Edition Programme Calendar

19 June – 18 August 2025	Seed Stage Call
24 July – 30 July 2025	Final Composition Evaluation Committee
3 Nov. – 23 Nov. 2025	Remote evaluation Seed Stage
24 Nov. – 28 Nov. 2025	Consensus Meeting Seed Stage
29 Nov. – 30 Dec. 2025	Seed Stage Call Resolution*
2 Feb. 2026 – 30 Sep. 2026	Seed Stage Research Project Development
1 Oct. – 30 Nov. 2026	Ignite Award Call
1 Dec. – 22 Dec. 2026	Remote Evaluation Ignite Award
7 Jan. – 15 Jan. 2027	Consensus Meeting Ignite Award**
16 Jan. – 31 Jan. 2027	Ignite Award Call Resolution
1 Feb. 2027 – 31 Jan. 2028	Ignite Award Research Project Development
1 Mar. 2028	Deadline for Ignite Award closure submission

*The public announcement of the Call's results, might be delayed making it coincident with the BIST Forum 2026 (March 2026)

** The timeline for the Consensus Meeting of the Ignite Award could differ slightly from this schedule

13th of January 2026