**Instructions**

Please fill in your application following the instructions provided in blue. Use mandatory headings, subheadings, and budget tables. Delete the instructions before creating the final PDF.

Formatting: Use Arial, size 11, for all text, captions, and tables. Set line spacing to single. Ensure all margins are set to 2 cm. Sections 2 and 4 have page limits—no need to see them as targets.

Submit your application as a single PDF to [borja.esteve@embl.de](mailto:borja.esteve@embl.de) before October 24th 2025 (23:59 CET)

**DELETE THIS PAGE BEFORE SUBMISSION**

**1. APPLICANTS INFORMATION** (does not count toward the page limit)

1. **EMBL Applicants**

**Full name**:

**Unit**:

**Site**:

**Contact email**:

**Member of the Infection Biology Transversal Theme:** [YES / NO]

**Member of the Microbial Ecosystems Transversal Theme:** [YES / NO]

1. **Co-applicants**

**Full name**:

**Institution**:

**Contact email**:

Copy/paste to add more co-applicants as needed.

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (7 pages maximum)

Excellence is the sole criterion for evaluation. Preliminary results are not mandatory, but they may be needed to support the feasibility of the project in some cases. Please bear in mind that the panel members assessing your project may not be experts in the most specific areas of the project.

1. **Title**
2. **Summary**

Summarise your research project. If your project is awarded, the summary will be reproduced on the Amplifying Funds project’s website at embl.org, make sure it does not contain sensitive data.

1. **Background**

Introduce the broader context of the research topic and its importance.

1. **State-of-the-art**

Describe the current knowledge directly related to the proposed research. Highlight recent research findings and any existing gaps. Include here any preliminary results, if any.

1. **Aims and Objectives**

Outline the specific aims of the project and the objectives devised to achieve them. Include any hypotheses to be tested and their rationale. Be mindful of the 2-year duration of the project.

1. **Research Plan and Methods**

Provide details of the research plan (including timeline) and methods. If needed, include tables for milestones, deliverables, and risk assessment.

1. **Expected Impact**

Discuss the potential outcomes of the project in advancing knowledge in infection biology and the means to achieve the expected impact.

**3. REFERENCES** (does not count toward the page limit)

*Please include your reference in a consistent format. You can use any citation style.*

**4. TRACK RECORD OF ALL RESEARCH GROUPS** (1 page maximum per group)

*Describe the track record of each research group involved in the project’s topic. If a PhD student or postdoctoral researcher is leading the implementation of the project, mention them by full name (if already hired) and describe how their expertise fits within the project scope. If the proposed project is partially funded by other means, please mention it in this section.*

*Provide up to 3 key references or outputs from each group that support the team’s expertise and feasibility of the research project.*

*Note that the total page limit of this section depends on the number of collaborating teams.*

**5. SYNERGIES AMONG RESEARCH GROUPS** (1 page maximum)

*Describe the synergy and/or complementarity between groups, including ongoing collaborations between research groups. Explain how the proposed project strengthens the collaboration between institutions and advances their research in infection biology. Note that evaluators will favor applications including more than two partner institutions, everything else being equal.*

*If external collaborators participate in the research activities, justify their contribution and describe their complementarity to the other research groups.*

**6. BUDGET** (does not count toward the page limit)

Itemise the estimated costs associated with the project and the respective institutional contribution. Also include any in-kind contributions, including those from external collaborators, marking them as *in-kind* in the **Institution** column in Budget Table A.

Distribute the budget evenly between years 1 and 2, unless your institution specifies otherwise. Seek your institution’s approval first to include an unbalanced distribution of funds between years. Bear in mind that carry over between years may not be possible based on your institution rules.

**Budget Table A.** General budget.

| **Item** | **Description** | **Cost (EUR)\*** | **Institution** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total Budget in EURO** *(including in-kind contributions)* | | | 0.00 |

*\* if using SEK or GBP roughly estimate conversion.*

**Budget Table B.** Distribution of funds requested per institution (EURO).

| **Institution** | **Year 1 (2026)** | **Year 2 (2027)** | **Total Costs** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EMBL** (EUR/GBP) | (max. 40,000 EUR) | (max. 60,000 EUR) |  |
| **Institut Pasteur** (EUR) | (max. 40,000 EUR) | (max. 60,000 EUR) |  |
| **MIMS** (SEK) | (max. 40,000 EUR) | (max. 60,000 EUR) |  |
| **GIMM** (EUR) | (max. 50,000 EUR) | (max. 50,000 EUR) |  |
| **HZI** (EUR) | (max. 25,000 EUR) | (max. 25,000 EUR) |  |