

## Evaluation Guidelines

### MOSTMICRO-ITQB Exploratory Projects

This call for exploratory projects aims to support MOSTMICRO-ITQB laboratories in obtaining preliminary results to support subsequent funding applications by enabling laboratories to develop novel research ideas that contribute to the growth of both the individual Labs and the Unit as a whole.

A total of **five projects** will be funded with **20 000€** for one year.

Each MOSTMICRO-ITQB Lab can submit **one application only as lead applicant**.

Collaboration between laboratories is allowed: no restrictions apply regarding the number of participations of a Lab as collaborator in a proposal lead by another Lab.

The involvement of other entities as partners in the project, is allowed but it does not grant them the status of funding beneficiary.

The application must be submitted until **8 of June 2026**

The project must start in 2026.

#### The Evaluation Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated by the MOSTMICRO-ITQB Scientific Advisory Board Members taking into consideration the following evaluation criteria:

**1. Scientific merit of the project (40%)**

Quality, originality/novelty, and scientific relevance of the proposed research.

**2. Feasibility of the project and capacity of the research team (20%)**

Feasibility of the proposed plan, adequacy of methodologies, and the team's expertise to successfully execute the project.

**3. Added value for the Research Unit and potential to attract future external funding (30%)**

Expected contribution to the Unit's strategic goals and the project's potential to strengthen future competitive funding applications.

**4. Funding need and justification (10%)**

Alignment between the laboratory's current funding status and the request; clarity of the applicant's motivation and expected impact of the requested fund.

**The final classification score will be expressed on a scale from 0 (minimum score) to 5 (maximum score) points.**

**The Evaluation Process**

The evaluation of submitted proposals should occur after confirming the eligibility of all submitted proposals.

Each proposal will be evaluated individually by at least two members of the SAB. The SAB members will then discuss the proposals until agreement on a recommended outcome is reached. Online meetings can be arranged upon request of SAB members.

After evaluation, the SAB will communicate the decision about the projects that will be funded and produce **individual evaluation reports** for each eligible proposal. The Executive Committee of MOSTMICRO-ITQB will inform the applicants about the outcome of the call.

NOTE: A template for the Evaluation Report and an Excel containing the list of Applications, Lab Heads' names, project keywords, and Evaluation criteria will be sent to all Scientific Advisory Board Members.

If you have any questions, please contact [soraia.chocho@itqb.unl.pt](mailto:soraia.chocho@itqb.unl.pt)