

Euro-BioImaging Nodes' Expressions of Interest:

How to proceed after the evaluation

This document provides a brief information about the next steps of Euro-BioImaging towards the construction of Nodes and some general recommendations to all applicants for Nodes on possible actions they may consider after the evaluation by the Independent Evaluation Board.

Establishment of Euro-BioImaging Nodes includes three steps:

1. Submission of Expression of interest to establish a Euro-BioImaging Node by interested imaging facilities and evaluation of these EoIs by the Independent Evaluation Board. With the communication of the Evaluation Summaries to you, this step is now finished. The results will now be forwarded to the Intergovernmental Working Group (composed of national ministry and funding authority representatives) for their information and to provide support for their decision process.
2. **Decision by national funders to invest in and build the Nodes.** The Member States and national funders decide on funding Node construction in each country. They can – and we believe many will – use the Euro-BioImaging Open Call evaluation results as a recommendation for their decision-making. *However, there is no mandatory cut-off imposed by the evaluation results and the final decision on which Nodes to establish will remain at the discretion of the Member States.* This means that the funders can decide to fund Nodes which received a comparatively lower ranking if they see the possibility to make improvements and wish to realize the added value they would bring. Overall this second step will result in the construction or upgrade and opening of the national Nodes in many countries.
3. **Decision by the future Euro-BioImaging Board¹ which of the funded Nodes to include in the pan-European infrastructure.** The Nodes can already function and provide user access at the national level before this decision is made. From the pool of funded national Nodes, the Member State representatives that are assembled in the Euro-BioImaging Board will decide which Nodes to include in the Euro-BioImaging infrastructure. To start this common European level decision making process, the Euro-BioImaging project management will communicate the results of the independent evaluation to the Euro-BioImaging Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), which is a forerunner of the Euro-BioImaging Board and will guide Euro-BioImaging during the transition between the end of the preparatory and beginning of the construction phase. The IWG will take all major decisions along the way. It consists of representatives of funding bodies and ministries from 21 European countries that are engaged with Euro-BioImaging (the comprehensive list of current IWG members can be found at the end of this document). *In the next months the IWG will discuss the complete set of results of the 1st Open Call for Nodes and start to discuss the best balance between imaging technologies and regional distribution of Nodes that is desirable from*

¹ The Euro-BioImaging Board will be the decision-making body of the established European Research Infrastructure comprising the representatives from all Euro-BioImaging member states.

the funders point of view. At the end of the transition phase, the IWG will hand over decision-making power to the Euro-BioImaging Board. The IWG will likely already make recommendations to the Euro-BioImaging Board on which Nodes to include in the starting phase of the Euro-BioImaging infrastructure, but the final decision will have to be made by the Board itself.

Steps toward the establishment of Euro-BioImaging Node

WHO	WHAT
Interested imaging facilities and Euro-BioImaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Open Call for Nodes
Euro-BioImaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Evaluation results available to Node applicants and Intergovernmental Working Group • Facilitate and stimulate discussion on European level • Support activities of the Intergovernmental Working group
Node applicants, supported by Euro-BioImaging if requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach IWG representatives • Approach national funders to secure the funding for their Node • Talk to National Imaging Communities and Coordinators
National funding bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide which Nodes to fund • Establish and open National Nodes
Intergovernmental Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the best balance between imaging technologies and regional distribution of Nodes • Make recommendations to the Euro-BioImaging Board on which Nodes to include in the Euro-BioImaging infrastructure
Euro-BioImaging Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide which Nodes to include in Euro-BioImaging

What should Node applicants do now to realize their Euro-BioImaging Node plans:

- **Talk to your funders and IWG representatives**

In the coming months, all interested Node applicants, regardless of the final ranking and recommendation they received, should approach their funders, especially those funding bodies who are IWG members and thus represent your countries' interest in Euro-BioImaging. When approaching funders in your country, you should aim to achieve three goals: (i) point out how important it is that your country representative(s) strongly supports Euro-BioImaging construction, (ii) secure the funding for your Node and (iii) convince the funders that are represented in the IWG to lobby for your Node to be included in the Euro-BioImaging infrastructure.

In communication with funders, you should discuss the plan for becoming a Euro-BioImaging Node, referring to the evaluation results you received from the IEB, and if applicable point out the improvements of your plans that you would suggest based on the recommendations of the IEB. This applies to all Node applicants, regardless of the final ranking they received. The Evaluation Summary you received from the IEB informs you about the strengths and weaknesses of your submitted EoI, and may include recommendations on which aspects you may want to improve before approaching your national funders. **At this stage, no additional submission of written material to Euro-BioImaging is required.**

If Node applicants feel that recommended improvements require significantly more time to be implemented than available at the moment, they might decide to withdraw from this round of Node selection, and re-apply in the next of several call for Nodes.

If you would like to contact the IWG representative from your country, we will be happy to send you their contact details. Please email pzolda@eibir.org (Pamela Zolda), keppler@embl.de (Antje Keppler) or ninkovic@embl.de (Tanja Ninkovic).

- **Talk to you National Coordinators**

In parallel, we strongly recommend to get in touch with your [National Imaging Communities and their Coordinators](#), in order to coordinate and synchronize your national activities in approaching funders.

What will Euro-BioImaging do now:

The role of the Euro-BioImaging Project Management in this process is to support the activities of the Node applicants as well as the IWG and to facilitate and stimulate the discussion on the European level. We will be happy to support and advise you throughout the process of the negotiation with the funders, e.g. by organizing joint meetings in your country and of course help you in case you have questions about specific aspects of your evaluation.