

bist

BIST Catalysers (2nd edition) Guidelines 2026-2027



With the support of:

B Sabadell
Foundation

1. Introduction to the BIST Catalysers

The BIST Scientific Community has a significant track record of fostering disruptive innovation. With the support of the Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT)/Innovation offices, BIST Community researchers have translated their discoveries into 59 spin-off companies, 46 of which are active, and has generated 271 active patent families. These ventures have collectively raised more than €360 million in private and public funds and are creating a significant number of qualified jobs.

To further strengthen the innovation mindset of the BIST Community, and with the support of the BIST institutional board member Banc Sabadell Foundation and the leadership of the BIST Innovation Commission, BIST is launching the **2nd edition of the BIST Catalysers programme**. BIST Catalysers offers a training programme featuring specialised sessions and workshops on innovation-related topics, including round tables, practical exercises and visits to BIST centers and European innovation hubs.

2. Programme Objectives

The BIST Catalysers programme aims primarily to foster an entrepreneurial spirit and an innovation-oriented mindset within the BIST community through specialised training and immersion in innovation ecosystems. It is aimed at a small cohort of participants—PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and scientists from diverse disciplines—who will become catalysts for change in the local research system.

The specific objectives include:

- Strengthening the mindset with which researchers approach innovation, promoting a more open attitude towards risk, change and learning from failure.
- Providing them with tools and knowledge to understand how the system works, assess risks and opportunities, and recognise the value of diversity in innovation.
- Creating a support network among participants that enables them to view research from an innovation perspective in their professional career paths.
- Empowering the broader BIST community by offering open activities related to innovation, facilitating the translation of research into social and economic impact.

3. Programme practical details:

a) Participants:

The BIST Catalysers programme will be open to PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, senior scientists, and other members carrying out their activity at one of the centres within the BIST community.

b) Duration

The programme will run over a nine-month period, from October 2026 to June 2027:

- The initial training phase will be concentrated in the first months to minimise interference with research activities.
- The remaining activities (workshops, visits, practical exercises, etc.) will be scheduled regularly throughout the calendar.

c) Location

The programme will take place at various locations in the Barcelona metropolitan area, most of them at: Travessera de les Corts, 131-159, Recinte Maternitat, 08028 Barcelona.

a) Price

Free of charge for participants. The Banc Sabadell Foundation cosponsors this programme together with the centres of the BIST community and the BIST foundation.

4. Programme – sessions:

Session
Catalysers 2nd edition Kick-off event * Oct 14, 2026 (10h – 13h), TBD
From Science to Business Course - ESADE Oct 19, 20, 21, 29, 2026 (09h – 18h) ESADE Oct 30, 2026 (09h – 14h) ESADE
Mind skill for Entrepreneurs, Creativity, Design thinking (Innovation exercise 1) - Iolanda Marchueta Nov 9, 2026 (10h – 17h) BIST (Sala Garbí) Nov 16, 2026 (10h – 17h) ICIQ (<i>this day includes visit to ICIQ facilities</i>)
Patent and IP law for scientists – ZBM Patents Nov 23, 2026 (10h – 17:30h) BIST (Sala Garbí)
Sales Techniques - Grau Innovation Nov 25, 2026 (10h – 17:30h) BIST (Sala Garbí)
Company Incorporation Dec 2026
Innovation Exercise 2 – Iolanda Marchueta Jan - Feb 2027
Oral & Presentations skills - TBD Feb - Mar 2027
Roundtable with Entrepreneurs * Mar – May 2027
Roundtable with Investors * Mar – May 2027
Roundtable with Catalysers Alumni * Mar – May 2027
Visit to a European Innovation hub Mar – May 2027
Innovation Exercise 3 – Iolanda Marchueta Jun 2027
Closing Ceremony * Jun 2027

* The Kick-off event, the Roundtables and the Closing ceremony are open to the BIST Community.

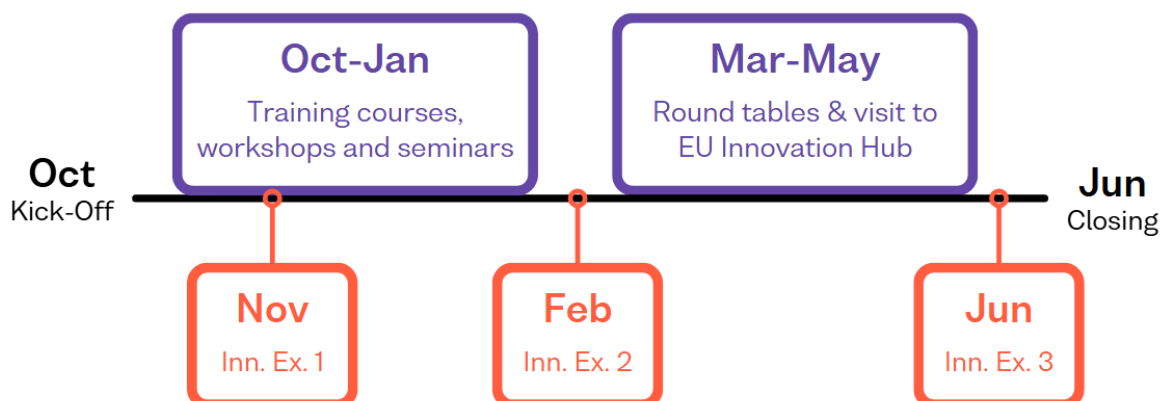


Figure 1. BIST Catalysers calendar overview

5. Eligibility Criteria:

- I. The applicant must be a researcher developing an activity at one of the BIST Community centres as a PhD student, Postdoctoral researchers, senior researchers, or staff.
- II. The applicant must have at least a year of contract/grant remaining at the centre, starting at the date of notification of the results of the selection process.
- III. The candidate must be interested in innovation, not only to be applied to its own research, but in a wider sense.
- IV. The participant must be registered in the current From Science to Business (FS2B) course (BIST-ESADE) or have completed it in previous years.
- V. The participant must commit to participate in **75%** of the sessions.
- VI. Supervisors need to write a supporting letter (required for PhD students, Postdoctoral researchers, and associated researchers). Not needed if researcher is independent.

6. Evaluation Criteria:

Candidates will be evaluated based on their scientific excellence, potential, and motivation to promote innovation and knowledge transfer in academia or industry.

- The decision for supporting a candidate of a BIST community centre will be made by the KTT director of that centre and the designated KTT representatives.
- Special consideration will be given to ensuring diversity of experiences and institutional profiles.
- Despite post-proposal PhD students and early postdocs being the preferred applicants, group leaders and other roles will be considered, if the rest of the conditions are fulfilled.

Equal opportunities shall be guaranteed, no discrimination for ethnics, age, culture, national or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language, disability, political opinion, or any other non-scientific aspect shall bias the evaluation.

The applicants will receive adequate confidential treatment. No information of whatsoever kind shall be disclosed outside the collective forming part of the evaluation procedure.

7. Call calendar:

Call for BIST Catalysers applicants	
Activity	Dates
Call open	29 th June – 17 th July 2026
Selection of participants	20 th July – 31 st July 2026
Notification of participants	August 2026

8. Registration and communication:

Contact your KTT office to present your candidacy to the BIST Catalysers programme:

CRG: diana.dominguez@crg.eu

IBEC: techtransfer@ibecbarcelona.eu

ICFO: ktt@icfo.eu

ICIQ: fbravo@iciq.cat

ICN2: business.innovation@icn2.cat

IFAE: ktt@ifae.es

IRB Barcelona: innovation@irbbarcelona.org

For further information about the programme, contact:

Berta Gumí Audenis, Head of Strategic Programmes at bgumi@bist.eu

23rd of June 2026