



Call for research projects demanding access to **Alliance4Life_BRIDGE** research infrastructure

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1. Call for projects

The **Alliance4Life_BRIDGE (A4L_BRIDGE)** partner institutions offer access to technologies and services in the area of life sciences and biomedical research to study biologically important cellular components and macromolecules - proteins, nucleic acids, and their complexes at different resolution levels, ranging from atomic to cellular with the aim of understanding the complexity of their structure and function.

1.1. Aim of the call

This call for projects aims to open up A4L_BRIDGE research infrastructure, to academic users from A4L_BRIDGE partner institutions proposing interesting scientific projects that can be implemented thanks to mutual usage of technologies and expertise existing in other A4L_BRIDGE institutions.

1.2. Beneficiaries/users

- ▶ Early Career Researchers¹ working for A4L_BRIDGE partner institutions
- ▶ PhD or Master students of A4L_BRIDGE partner institutions

Applicants must be members of the Virtual Research Center (VRC). If you are not yet a member, please register using the following link before submitting your application - <https://research.alliance4life.com/>.

For this call employment/student status of each applicant will be checked with the HR/student department of the relevant institution.

Only cross-border applications will be supported. It is not possible to request the measurement in the country of the applicant's origin.

Within one project proposal, the applicant can ask for one or more services/technologies from one or more A4L_BRIDGE partner institutions

1.3. Available equipment and services for this call

The following A4L_BRIDGE partner institutions participate in the call as service providers:

Institution name	Country code	Abbreviation
Masaryk University - CEITEC	CZ	CEITEC MU
St. Anne's University Hospital Brno/ICRC	CZ	FNUSA - ICRC
Medical University of Lodz - MUL	PL	MUL
Biomedical Research Center SAS	SK	BMC SAS

¹ Researcher within four (4) years after PhD.

School of Medicine - University of Zagreb	HR	UZSM
University of Ljubljana	SI	UL
Medical University Sofia	BG	MUS
Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest	RO	UMFCD
Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis	LV	LIOS
Vilnius University	LT	VU

For details about equipment and services available within this call, A4L_BRIDGE partners created an online database with all necessary descriptions and filtering options for available technologies and services which is available here: [Equipment and services database](#).

1.4. Selection process

The selection process is composed of three steps:

- ▶ **Administrative check** – formal check of the application (all compulsory fields filled); contact person from A4L_BRIDGE institution approves the employment/student status of the applicant
- ▶ **Technical feasibility** – heads of the respective A4L_BRIDGE core facilities and service laboratories judge the technical feasibility of the presented research project at their facilities. The head of each facility/laboratory requested in the project proposal needs to approve/reject technical feasibility. In case of approval, the preliminary budget for the project will be specified by the head upon the agreed methodology of cost claims. Each facility/laboratory head also creates an order of received applications which will be submitted for approval by the Scientific Committee.
- ▶ **Peer review** – Submitted applications will be evaluated using a point-based scoring system by an independent expert in the relevant scientific field. This expert will be selected from the Database of Experts, which was created under the previous A4L_ACTIONS project. Conflicts of interest will be duly addressed, and experts will not evaluate applications submitted by their own institution. Applications with the highest overall scores will be proposed for financial support, and the final approval of applications proposed for funding will be granted by the Scientific Committee.

At the end of this process, all applicants will be informed about the outcome of the selection process.

1.5. Deadlines and funding

The call is open from 2nd February 2026 till 2nd March 2026. The selection process will be finalized by 31st May 2026. All projects must be implemented by 31st May 2027 (eligible implementation time is 12 months). Timely communication with the service provider is necessary to ensure that implementation

deadline is met. Responsible FG5 members² should be included in all communication between the PI and the CF and be informed on the progress of the project and future plans- Communication should start no later than six (6) months after project approval. If properly justified, the implementation period can be extended by two (2) months to finalize the results.

Project proposals that successfully pass through the selection/review procedure will be supported by the A4L_BRIDGE project funded by the European Union's Horizon EUROPE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101136453. The total allocation of the call is 40.000 EUR and the upper limit per application is 5.000 EUR.

Use of the research infrastructures including training and interpretation of the obtained results is provided for free; the users will be obliged to provide his/her samples in a sufficient quality. The grant does not cover travel & accommodation expenses, as well as shipping costs that need to be paid by the users institution.

A4L_BRIDGE partner institution/s providing the service will get the reimbursement of the service costs via the budget transfer from the A4L_BRIDGE coordinator together with interim/final payment. Therefore, the measurement/service needs to be pre-financed by the institution providing the service.

It is the responsibility of the project partners to fix the responsibilities of respective partners in a mutually signed agreement covering but not limited to sample delivery, quality control and result reporting.

1.6. How to apply

Click here to [fill in the application online](#).

1.7. Contacts

For general enquiries please contact us at a4lopenaccess@ceitec.muni.cz.

Questions about available technologies and the technical feasibility of your research project shall be directed to the heads of the respective A4L_BRIDGE core facilities and service laboratories, whose contact details are mentioned in the database.

² The list of FG5 members will be sent to all successful applicants.

2. General Conditions of Access

2.1. Intellectual Property and Co-Authorship

The user is responsible for the protection of the eventual intellectual property rights. In case information provided to the facility/laboratory is of a confidential nature the user shall negotiate the execution of a mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) between the user's organisation and the facility/laboratory

Intellectual Property generated within the research projects belongs to the user. In case of the mutual written agreement between the facility/laboratory and the user, the facility/laboratory is entitled to use the results in a non-commercial way for its own research, projects, development and teaching/education activities. Any use of the results of the service/measurement must be acknowledged following the rules defined in Chapter 2.3.

In the case of cooperation/collaboration between the user and facility/laboratory, the results (intellectual property) are owned by the party that generates them. The user and facility/laboratory as a service provider own result jointly if they have generated them jointly. The joint owners shall agree (in writing) on the allocation and terms of the exercise of their joint ownership ('joint ownership agreement').

In case of creative input and/or substantial contribution from the facility/research laboratory staff to the publication, co-authorship should be always discussed between the laboratory Head and the PI of the project at the beginning of the measurement/service.

2.2. Nature of research and publication of results

This call intends to support projects of basic research conducted in academic institutions. All research results achieved under this call shall be published. An exception to the publication of results may apply to cases falling within the author's patent intentions.

2.3. Acknowledgements

Publications resulting from work undertaken on A4L_BRIDGE core facilities and service laboratories have to contain an acknowledgement according to the following pattern:

A4L_BRIDGE project funded by the European Union's Horizon EUROPE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101136453, is gratefully acknowledged for the financial support of the measurements at the [name of the institution/unit].

Or in a short version: *We acknowledge [name of the institution/unit] of A4L_BRIDGE, supported by European Union's Horizon EUROPE under grant agreement No. 101136453.*

A similar acknowledgement should be included during conference presentations, including the proceedings, and at other public presentations.

Disclaimer: “This **[insert type of result]** is part of a project that has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon EUROPE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136453”.

Users shall notify us of all publications resulting from their work in the A4L_BRIDGE research infrastructure, by sending the PDF file and reference details of a publication as soon as it has been published to a4loopenaccess@ceitec.muni.cz. Please indicate the type of publication: Scientific Journal, Book, Patent, Proceedings, article on www, other. These publications should also carry the acknowledgement given above.

2.4. Safety Requirements

Users must comply with all relevant health and occupational safety rules.

Users who carry potentially dangerous materials and/or equipment must notify the user office and host organization in the application.

All visitors bringing material, including samples or equipment are advised that such equipment or material remains entirely in the responsibility of the visitors concerned.

2.5. Final Report

Each user is obliged to send a final report on services used under this call including feedback related to quality of service and quality of outputs. This report has to be sent to a4loopenaccess@ceitec.muni.cz within one month of receiving the measurement results.