

**GUIDO BERLUCCHI FOUNDATION  
MINI-GRANT PROGRAMME  
CALL 2026**

The Guido Berlucci Foundation Mini-Grant Programme 2025 aims to support young Principal Investigators performing basic research in oncology by financing laboratory running costs.

**Applications can be submitted from April 1st to April 30th, 2026, at 13:00 (Central European Time).** Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

**PI eligibility**

The Guido Berlucci Foundation Mini-Grant Programme is open to researchers here referred to as Principal Investigators (PI) with a doctoral degree (PhD) or medical speciality, and at least 5 years of post-doctoral/specialty research experience.

Applicants can be of any nationality and must be 40 years old or younger by the time of the call deadline (i.e., the Applicant's birth date must be May 1st, 1986 or after). One-year age limit extension is allowed for each parental, sick and military duties leave, as declared in the *Application Form*.

The PI at the time of the submission:

1. must have at least 5 original articles as first/last/corresponding author;
2. must not have received funding for research amounting to more than 40,000 euros that are still active in the 12 months following the call deadline.

The PI is not eligible when he/she:

- 1) was awarded a Berlucci Foundation Mini-Grant;
- 2) is currently working with a member of the Guido Berlucci Foundation Technical Scientific Committee (CTS described here: <https://fondazioneberlucchi.org/it/governance>);
- 3) in the past 3 years has published with a member of the Guido Berlucci Foundation Technical Scientific Committee, and both persons hold a relevant position (first, last, or corresponding author) in the publication.

**Project eligibility**

The project should be knowledge gain-driven and focused on basic oncology research. There are no pre-defined priority research topics, but priority will be given to fundamental research projects with focus on cancer onset and progression mechanisms.

The project must be commensurate with the candidate's experience and with the grant duration and funding amount.

The project will start on 15 January 2027.

**Funding rules**

The Guido Berlucci Foundation Mini-Grant is a fixed contribution of 40,000 euros to support laboratory running costs to be spent within maximum 24 months from the first instalment.

The Hosting institution must be an Italian public or private non-profit Organisation.

In order to promote a balanced distribution of resources among beneficiary institutions, the Foundation will fund a maximum of one project per Hosting institution, choosing the best ranking one.

The PI must have an employment relationship with the Hosting institution at the time of the Mini-Grant activation. The Grant will end automatically if the employment relationship between the PI and the hosting Organization is terminated, and the unspent Grant amount will be returned to the Guido Berlucci Foundation. Brief interruptions in the PI's contract must be discussed with the Guido Berlucci Foundation.

The hosting Organization must not withhold more than 7% overheads on the Mini-Grant and must guarantee the availability of working space and materials for the PI's project.

Eligible laboratory running costs:

- *Consumables* such as materials and reagents.
- *Services* such as the use of the Organisation core and animal facilities and external services, as for sequencing, imaging, cloning, etc.
- *PI's missions* such as travelling costs and scientific events attendance fees.
- *Publication costs*, such as editorial fees, limitedly to publications in which the PI is first, last, or corresponding author and in which the Guido Berlucci Foundation is acknowledged.
- *Small equipment* such as common appliances within the limit of 10% of the grant.

### **Application procedure**

Applicants should submit their Application *in the "Bandi" area of the [www.fondazioneberlucci.org](http://www.fondazioneberlucci.org)* before the deadline.

In order to be considered eligible, Applications must include:

- *Application Form*, duly filled in all its parts;
- *Proposal*, duly filled in all its parts;
- *Applicant's Curriculum Vitae*, preferably in Europass format, including a complete list of grants and publications reporting the Impact Factor of the latest Journal Citation Reports;
- *Privacy statement*, duly filled in all its parts and signed;
- *Hosting Organisation Engagement Letter*, signed by the legal representative.

The templates of the *Application Form*, *Proposa*, *Privacy statement*, and the *Hosting Organisation Engagement Letter* are annexed to this Call.

### **Evaluation procedure**

Applications will be subjected to an administrative eligibility check. They will then be evaluated by the Technical Scientific Committee of the Guido Berlucci Foundation, plus an eventual external referee chosen on the basis of the topic of the research project.

Applications will be evaluated according to the Evaluation Criteria published as annex to this Call. In the present Call, the Guido Berlucci Foundation will support a maximum of seven Mini-Grants.

The application to the Call implies the acceptance of the unquestionable decisions concerning the selection of projects and the subsequent awards.

### **Funding and Payments**

The successful PI will receive from the Guido Berlucci Foundation the first instalment equivalent to the 50% of the Mini-Grant, within three weeks from the receipt of the "*Dichiarazione di accettazione del finanziamento*" signed by the hosting Organization.

The balance payment request can be submitted to the Guido Berlucci Foundation, jointly with the *Mini-Grant Progress Report*, at any time after month 6 of the project. The balance payment is subject to unquestionable evaluation of the *Mini-Grant Progress Report* by the Technical Scientific Committee of the Guido Berlucci Foundation. If the *Mini-Grant Progress Report* is approved, the balance payment will be made within three weeks from the approval. If the *Mini-Grant Progress Report* is not provided or approved by the Technical Scientific Committee, the PI will not receive any further payment.

Within one month from the end of the project, the *Mini-Grant Final Report* should be sent to the Guido Berlucci Foundation.

### **Contact**

If you have any query regarding the Call or the application process, please contact the Guido Berlucci Foundation at [info@fondazioneberlucci.org](mailto:info@fondazioneberlucci.org). In your email indicate also a phone number, where you could be reached, if needed, during working hours. You will receive a written answer within three working days.

The awarded PI will be given access to a personal area in the Fondazione Guido Berlucci web portal to be used for any contact with the Guido Berlucci Foundation, including document uploading.

### **Annexes**

Application Form -Template

Proposal -Template

Privacy statement -Template

Hosting Organisation Engagement Letter - Template

Evaluation Criteria - for vision

Progress/Final Report -Template –for vision

Dichiarazione di Accettazione Finanziamento – for vision