



FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE 2023 & 2024

Hosting institutions – call for applications

Based on a successful project funded by the EU H2020 Research and Innovation Programme (www.enablenetwork.eu), the FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference series is a joint initiative of FEBS, IUBMB and four leading biomedical research institutes across Europe. Since 2017, the ENABLE consortium (see Table 1 for a full list of members) has promoted international, interdisciplinary 3-day conferences organised by and for young researchers from the molecular life sciences disciplines, bringing together up to 300 participants from all over the world. Each one of these annual gatherings has been hosted by a partner research institute involved in the consortium. Since the launch of ENABLE, FEBS and IUBMB have been the main sponsors of the events, awarding more than 40 travel grants and thus allowing young researchers to attend the conferences in Barcelona, Copenhagen and Nijmegen¹. FEBS, IUBMB and ENABLE have now joined forces to give continuity to these successful events and to **offer research institutes devoted to molecular life sciences worldwide the opportunity to host and participate in the organisation of one of these conferences.**

These events stand out because they have been organised by a Scientific Committee of young researchers (PhD students and postdocs) from several European institutions. The annual gatherings comprise various parts, the most significant being a scientific symposium, which seeks to explore the latest research and pioneering developments in the molecular life sciences. Coupled to this symposium, a wide range of activities focused on employment opportunities, including a career day, career workshops and a job fair, are also organised. These conferences also seek to engage the public via outreach activities especially tailored to target certain audiences. In addition to the relevance of public engagement, these activities provide an ideal training opportunity for PhD students and postdocs interested in science communication.

The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE conference series seeks to empower young researchers by giving them the necessary tools and inspiration to successfully organise a set of activities aimed at their peers.

Table 1. ENABLE participants within the EU-funded project (2016-2020¹)

ENABLE: a young researchers' network to celebrate achievements in molecular life sciences and clinical research and development	
Institution	Mission
Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona)	Barcelona 2017 ...to understand fundamental questions about human health and disease.
Radboud Institute for Molecular Life Sciences (RIMLS)	Copenhagen 2018 ... to understand the molecular mechanisms of disease by
The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Protein Research (CPR)	Nijmegen 2019 ... to promote basic and applied discovery research on human proteins of medical relevance.
European School of Molecular Medicine (SEMM)	Milan 2021 ... to promote training and research within emerging sectors of biomedicine, such as genomics, molecular medicine, nanotechnologies and bioethics.

¹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event that should have been held in Milan in 2020 was postponed to May 2021 and was held online.



Table 2. FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE adhered institution (2022)

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Symposium: a PhD and Postdoc meeting	
Institution	Mission
<i>New!</i> Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla (IBiS)	Sevilla 2022... to carry out research on the causes of the most prevalent pathologies in the population and develop new diagnostic methods and treatments for those diseases.

Do you want to host a FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE event?

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE are looking for two new institutions to host the 2023 and 2024 events respectively. The 2023 event needs to be held in a country with a [FEBS Constituent Society](#), while the 2024 event is open to any country with a [IUBMB Adhering or Associate Adhering Body](#), except those allowed in 2023. This event will be organised by a committee of young researchers belonging to the 5 ENABLE institutions (Tables 1-2) plus the selected host institution (new associated institution). It will be organised following the standards and structure of the previous ENABLE events (more information on previous conferences at www.enablenetwork.eu) as summarised below:

- The topic of the conference has to revolve around the molecular life sciences research undertaken at the institutions involved. However, the topic should be broad enough to ensure interdisciplinarity and a sound understanding by an audience with different levels of expertise.
- The scientific symposium of the conference has to involve the participation of renowned international experts as speakers.
- The conference has to include activities in which young researchers can discover career opportunities in the molecular life sciences.
- The conference has to include activities that allow discussion and communication between scientists and the general public.
- The conference has to be organised by young researchers (namely PhD students and postdocs). The 2023 and 2024 Scientific Organising Committees (SOC) will be formed by 2 young researchers from each of the **actual ENABLE institutions (thus, ten from the founding organisers)** and 2 young researchers from the **associated institution**. The committee will also have 2 members from FEBS and the IUBMB Young Scientists Forum (YSF).
- A Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the associated institution will support the SOC in all practical and logistical aspects that need to be arranged in the hosting city (according to previous editions, the LOC is normally formed by around 20 young researchers from the hosting institution). Two members of this committee also form part of the SOC. The LOC will be organised in subcommittees, which will be responsible for all aspects related to the venue, catering and restaurants, travel arrangements for invited speakers, and accommodation, etc.
- The Organising Committees (SOC and LOC) will need to ensure that a certain number of travel grants are awarded to participants, in order to broaden the impact of international participation. Sponsors have to be sought for these travel grants. Companies that have



sponsored past ENABLE conferences can be a starting point. In this regard, **it has to be ensured that travel grants are also provided to the members of the Organising Committee of the 2023 event.**

- The LOC and SOC should have administrative support from their own institutions. In particular, the LOC should have local support from the Human Resources, Academic Office, PR/Communications Dept. and secretarial assistance of the associated institution. In this regard, the hosting institution should manage the registration and accounting processes, as well as the budget. All logistical details related to the venue and associated catering will also fall under the responsibility of the hosting institution.
- Activities must include systems to allow online and live streaming lectures, seminars and roundtables to be combined with face-to-face seminars. This option will facilitate access to young researchers worldwide.

How will the event be funded?

FEBS and IUBMB will fund the event up to a total of:

- 2023 up to €65,000 + (€5,000 for organising committee travel and accommodation costs)
- 2024 up to €65,000 + (€10,000 for organising committee travel and accommodation costs) (these costs are calculated on the basis of the average expenses of previous ENABLE conferences). FEBS and IUBMB will transfer most of the funds in advance of the start of the event, with a small sum retained until after its successful completion. Any remaining costs are to be covered by registration fees or other revenue.

The funds will be transferred in accordance to the schedule in the table below:

Schedule of payments for 2023 and 2024	- 14 months	- 12 months	- 6 months	- 3 months	+3 months	total
FEBS	5%	35%	20%	10%	0%	70%
IUBMB	2%	20%	4%	0%	4%	30%

The **Application Form** includes a **budget table** to be completed by the Associated Institution. The total income shown in this table consists of the FEBS and IUBMB grant, registration fee for participants and all other available support. The FEBS and IUBMB grant provides funds to cover the travel (economy class) and accommodation expenses of invited speakers and organising committee (entries a, b), and general costs of event organisation, including secretarial help and event materials (entries c–g). Please note that the funding from FEBS and IUBMB cannot be used to pay honoraria for speakers.

After approval of the submitted application, the Associated Institution will receive a Decision Letter, together with Disclaimer and Declarations Forms. The two latter documents should be completed and returned to the FEBS Treasury – details for their return are provided on the forms. Once the forms have been received by FEBS, which will share the details with the IUBMB, the allocated grant will be transferred to the bank account indicated by the Organiser. FEBS and IUBMB will make every effort to send the funds in a timely manner. Note that the Organiser is fully responsible for the



proper use of the funding provided by FEBS and IUBMB and for covering any deficit in the case of an overspend. Any surplus remaining after the event should be returned to FEBS and IUBMB by the end of reporting period, proportional to the amount of funding each one provided. Any significant changes to the approved budget require approval from FEBS and IUBMB. Note that the Organisers have no right to enter into any commitments or render any services in the name of FEBS or IUBMB.

Three months after the event has taken place, the Organisers are required to send FEBS and IUBMB a Financial Report. This should give a summary of the income and expenditure for the event and is to be signed by the Associated institution and legal representative.

Eligibility requirements

Institutions interested in applying to host the event must:

- Be an academic institution (either university or research institution) with a strong research background in molecular life sciences
- Be located in countries whose national Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Societies are Constituent Societies of FEBS or IUBMB Adhering Bodies or Associate Adhering Bodies, or both. Please check the country eligibility of this call before applying ([FEBS](#) and [IUBMB](#)).
- Have an established young researchers' organisation (Student Council, Young Researchers Association or similar).
- Have an administrative structure devoted to providing support to young researchers (Academic Office or similar) with experience in event management.
- Be able to host the event (in its country) in November 2023 (FEBS country, 3 days) / November 2024 (IUBMB country (except FEBS country), 3 days).
- Have a letter from their national Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Society, which is a FEBS and/or IUBMB member, expressing support of the organisation of the ENABLE event.
- Be able to provide a venue with suitable capacity and requirements for the planned activities (main auditorium with 250-300 places, rooms for workshops, open-plan area for a job fair).

In addition, the following points will be positively evaluated:

- Support of the local national molecular life sciences society/ies with respect to offering travel grants to its members (either for the conference organisers or participants).

Application procedure & timeline

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE 2023 | country with a [FEBS Constituent Society](#)

Institutions interested in hosting this event should complete the **application form** and the **budget table**, duly signed by the legal representative of the institution, and send it to info@enablenetwork.eu. The deadline for applications is **31 January 2022**. For additional information, please contact info@enablenetwork.eu

Call opening 1 November 2021

Deadline for applications: **31 January 2022**

Notification of results: 25 February 2022



Setup of SOC: 25 March 2022—first face-to-face meeting of all SOC members
Invitations to speakers for the 2023 Conference: April 2022

Please check the country eligibility of this call before applying.

FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE 2024 | country with a [IUBMB Adhering or Associate Adhering Body](#), except those allowed in 2023

Institutions interested in hosting this event should complete the **application form** and the **budget table**, duly signed by the legal representative of the institution, and send it to info@enablenetwork.eu. The deadline for applications is **31 March 2022**. For additional information, please contact info@enablenetwork.eu

Call opening 1 November 2021

Deadline for applications: **31 March 2022**

Notification of results: May 2022

Setup of SOC: January 2023—first virtual meeting of all SOC members

Second SOC meeting: November 2023—first face-to-face meeting at the 2023 event

Invitations to speakers for the 2024 Conference: June 2023

Please check the country eligibility of this call before applying.

Evaluation of the proposals:

The FEBS-IUBMB-ENABLE Team (FEIT; composed of 2 FEBS coordinators, 2 IUBMB coordinators and 5 institutional academic coordinators) will evaluate the proposals against the following criteria:

- Robustness of the Training/Students/Predoctoral Programme of the associated institution.
- Level of organisation and activity of the Student Council (or similar) at the associated institution.
- Level of internationalisation and quality of the research undertaken at the associated institution. In this regard, the number of publications of the institution, as well as the number of projects and international agreements in which the institution is involved, will be taken into account.
- Readiness and capacity to organise an event of such characteristics.