

4th Call for Jóvenes-AIL Projects

Call opening: 28/01/2022

The Iberian Association of Limnology (AIL) launches the 4th call for Jóvenes-AIL Projects with the primary goal of promoting scientific networking among young researchers of the AIL (Jóvenes-AIL) and SIBECOL, and to create synergistic interactions that lead to new knowledge in limnology.

Although many scientific advances result from the application of novel and often expensive techniques, collaboration among multiple scientists still allows for planning innovative experiments with relatively minor budgets. These collaborative projects have the potential for combining outstanding research with networking, and thus can be very interesting for scientists in early career stages. The projects submitted to this call should aim at **original research on any aspect of the ecology of inland waters and involve as many members of Jóvenes-AIL/SIBECOL from different institutions as possible**. Projects relying on an original and well-designed use of inexpensive and simple methodology and favoring multidisciplinary interactions among Jóvenes-AIL/SIBECOL members, might have higher chances of being selected.

PARTICIPANTS

Only members of the Jóvenes-AIL and/or SIBECOL before the publication of this call can apply. These can be students or postdocs who defended their PhD thesis up to 6 years before the publication of this call. The projects submitted should be designed to include a large number of participants but they should also be feasible with a low number of participants. The team of the project will be completed only after the project is approved, within a period of three months, by searching for interested Jóvenes-AIL and/or SIBECOL participants through a call sent by the monthly Alquibla Newsletter and Jóvenes-AIL and SIBECOL mailing lists.

TIME SPAN AND BUDGET

The project should be completed within two years after the team constitution; publication of scientific outputs is not included within this time frame.

This 4th call for projects has an available budget of 4,500 euros (VAT included) for the implementation of the selected project, which can be supplemented by funds provided by the participants. This subsidized budget may cover the consumables, services and travel expenses required exclusively for the development of the project, but also conference's registration fees (and travel, but not accommodation) and publication costs if these take place during the project duration. Eligible costs should be specified on the proposal according to the objectives of the project; budget to attend meetings should prioritize the AIL congress. Salaries and inventory material cannot be paid by the subsidized budget.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Each young researcher can only submit one project. However, each project can have up to two proposing researchers, which are assumed to coordinate the project.

Young researchers interested in submitting a project should fill the Project Form and send it by e-mail to the secretary of AIL (Romina Álvarez, secretaria@limnologia.net), indicating 'Jóvenes-AIL Project' in the subject line. The name of the Project Form file should include the

name of the principal researcher(s) (e.g. 'Jóvenes-AILProject_AnaSilva' or 'Jóvenes-AILProject_AnaSilva+JuanPozo'; without spaces or accents, with the 1st letter of each word in caps). The project should be submitted as a single file; the annexes should be merged at the end of the Project Form. Mandatory annexes are: (i) time table, (ii) letter(s) testifying that the applicant(s) will have the support from the host institution to carry out the project in case it is granted and (iii) certificate of PhD defense (if the applicant(s) already hold the title). The deadline for the submission of projects is **31 March 2022 at 9 am (Portuguese time) / 10 am (Spanish time)**, acting the time of the e-mail header as proof of date. A response e-mail will be sent to acknowledge the reception of the application within 3 days of reception.

PROJECT EVALUATION

After the submission deadline, the projects will be collated and sent to the members of the jury for evaluation. The jury will be constituted by four members to be nominated by the Executive Board of AIL between renowned limnologists without any link with the presented projects. Each submitted project will be evaluated by all four members of the jury according to the following criteria:

A. Potential to create synergies and favor multidisciplinary interactions among Jóvenes-AIL/SIBECOL members. Feasibility for the inclusion of the maximum number of participants. Expected networking outputs.

B. Scientific merit, innovative nature, relevance and originality of the project. Expected results and their contribution to scientific knowledge. Expected scientific outputs.

C. Feasibility of the work-plan. Organization of the project in terms of the proposed objectives, time and resources. Original and well-designed use of inexpensive and simple methodology. Availability of instrumental resources at the centers where the research will be performed that can be used for the project.

Only one project will be selected. The decision of the jury will be announced not later than three months after the end of the call, by e-mail sent to all young researchers who have submitted a project. The selected project, and the titles and applicants' names of the non-selected projects, will be published in the Alquibla Newsletter. Applicants will also receive the evaluation reports issued by the jury addressing the above-mentioned criteria. The decision from the jury is final.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The team of the project will be completed within three months after the project is approved. Those young researchers willing to participate in the project will need to write a commitment letter. The supervisors of the young scientists should encourage, approve and facilitate their participation in the project as well as the use of inventory material. Those Jóvenes-AIL/SIBECOL members interested in joining the project will send an e-mail/letter expressing their interest and commitment to the project coordinators. Once the project coordinators have a list of potential participants, this will be sent to the AIL secretary, who will confirm their AIL/SIBECOL membership. After the project team is created, the project will develop as proposed in the Project Form and under the supervision of the proposing researcher(s).

All expenses of the selected project, up to the maximum budget available for this call, will be directly paid or reimbursed by the AIL's treasury upon reception of legal invoices of non-inventoried materials, products or services, issued on behalf of the *Asociación Ibérica de Limnología* with CIF G-80028186 and stating the acronym of the project. Every three months, the project coordinator(s) will send the invoices, which must be addressed to the *Asociación Ibérica de Limnología* as costumer. In order to facilitate the management and the track of the expenses, the project coordinator(s) will share a file with the AIL treasurer (e.g. in Dropbox), where they will update the expenses, invoices and destination of the funds. If additional

expenses occur besides those specified here, a short formal request should be addressed to the treasurer and the president of AIL for approval.

The president of AIL (or delegated person) will review the progress of the project works and authorize payments by the treasurer every three months. Also, the president of the AIL (or delegated person), together with the secretary of the AIL, will be responsible for ensuring that the project is carried out following the proposal and regulations.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

1) An extended final report, long enough to reflect all results and conclusions of the project, should be written by the project coordinator(s) at the end of the project to provide the main scientific results, conclusions and present expected deadlines for the scientific outputs. This report should be sent by e-mail to the president of AIL no more than three months after the end of the project. The report will be published free of charge as e-book in 'Limnetica Internet'.

2) At least one scientific paper will be submitted to Limnetica not later than three years after the start of the project, covering complete or partial aspects of the research done. This paper should be based on the scientific results from the experiment conducted in the project. AIL funding should be acknowledged in the paper(s) derived from the project.

3) One presentation of the project results should be given in the next AIL Congress after the end of project. The presentation will be oral.

4) All participants in the project will be considered as potential co-authors in the project outputs. The AIL secretary will extend certificates of participation in the project to all the participants.

The project coordinator(s) and participants will be provided access to the Jóvenes-AIL Blog in order to facilitate the communication among project members and communicate the progress of the project to the community.



Romina Álvarez Troncoso
Secretary of the Iberian Association of Limnology
Barcelona, 1 April 2022