BioTechMed-Graz Call for Ideas:
Creating Research Synergy through Collaboration

The aim of this call is to strengthen research synergies and the efficient use of resources across the Graz research location through innovative, cooperative approaches. We invite the submission of **new ideas** that promote collaboration and research synergy among the BioTechMed-Graz partner universities.

1. Focus Topics

Submitted ideas should address areas that can be directly influenced by researchers. Ideas are particularly encouraged in the following topics:

- **Infrastructure Utilization**
  Optimization of the joint use of existing research infrastructure, such as equipment, laboratories, platforms, or digital tools.

- **Resource Use and Sustainability**
  Efficient and sustainable use of resources (e.g., samples, data, materials, energy) with the aim of avoiding waste and reducing the ecological footprint.

- **Science-Industry Linkage & Value Creation**
  Development of concepts for the economic utilization of scientific results, by-products, or "waste products." Examples include:
  - Cooperation with companies for the further use of residual materials from research.
  - Commercialization of by-products, data, or technologies.

2. Eligibility

- Only **new ideas** (not yet implemented projects) are eligible for submission.
- Applicants must be **full** or **associate members of BioTechMed-Graz**.
- Ideas must involve **at least two of the three BioTechMed-Graz partner universities**.
- Ideas can be submitted by one BioTechMed-Graz member or as a team application. Each BioTechMed-Graz member may submit only one idea as lead applicant, but may participate as a team member in additional ideas.

3. Award

- **The best ideas will be awarded with EUR 1,000 each (max. 3 prizes)**.
- The prize can be used for further research activities at the award recipient's institute or paid as a personal bonus. A personal bonus is subject to social security contributions, taxes, and other statutory deductions.
- Additionally, the three winning teams will have the opportunity to present their idea to the Steering Committee of BioTechMed-Graz.

4. Evaluation Criteria and Selection Process

- The **Board of Directors** will evaluate all submitted proposals based on the following criteria and select the ideas to be included in the shortlist:
    - **Potential for synergy and efficiency gains**
    - **Feasibility and sustainability**
    - **Collaboration aspects**
    - **Relevance to one or more focus topics**
- The shortlisted proposals will be **invited to present their ideas at the General Meeting** on December 16, 2026.
- Based on these presentations, the **Board of Directors and the Executive Committee** will jointly select up to three winning ideas based on the criteria listed above.

5. Submission Guidelines

- **Proposals must be submitted in English.**
- **Submit** one single PDF document **(maximum 2 pages) to the BioTechMed-Graz office (office@biotechmedgraz.at)** before November 16, 2026.
- **The submission must include** (no template will be provided)**:**
    - Project title and summary of the idea
    - Description of the cooperative approach and expected impact
    - Relevance to one or more focus topics
    - Team members and affiliations **(clearly indicating involvement of at least two partner universities)**
- **Format:** DIN A4, 1.0 line spacing, Nunito Sans, font size 11
- **Proposals exceeding 2 pages will not be considered.**

6. Timeline

- Submission Period: **October 19 – November 16, 2026**
- Shortlist Notification: **End of November 2026**
- Pitch Preparation: **December 1 – 15, 2026**
- General Meeting: **December 16, 2026** - Presentation of shortlisted projects to the representatives of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors

7. Contact & Further Information

For questions regarding the call or submission process, please contact the BioTechMed-Graz office (office@biotechmedgraz.at, 0316 380 5022/5027).