**Supplementary Information** 

Supplementary Figure 1. 3D- classification scheme.



### Supplementary Figure 2. Local resolutions of eIF2B - eIF2(αP) complex.



(a) Local resolutions of eIF2B - eIF2( $\alpha$ P) complex in map 2 (related to Fig. 1a) showing surface (left) and two cross-sections around eIF2 $\alpha$ -D1 binding site and location of Ser-51(52 sequence numbering).

(b) Same as in (a), but in in map A (related to Fig. 1b).

## Supplementary Figure 3. Superposition of the ISRIB bound human eIF2B to eIF2B - eIF2(αP) complex.



(a) Superposition of eIF2B-eIF2( $\alpha$ P) complex with human ISRIB bound eIF2B (black) (PDB 6CAJ) showing elongation of eIF2B hetero-decamer towards catalytic poles upon binding of eIF2 by ~ 12 Å.

(b) Same superposition as in (a), but also including S. pombe eIF2B structure (grey) (PDB 5B04), shows that elongation of eIF2B is mainly induced by closure eIF2B  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  around eIF2 $\alpha$ -D1 displacing eIF2B $\gamma$  outwards.

(c) Same superposition as in (a), showing displacement of  $eIF2B\gamma$  in  $eIF2B-eIF2(\alpha P)$  complex in one of the eIF2B poles.

(d) The binding site of eIF2 $\alpha$ -D1 contacting the superposed eIF2B $\alpha$  subunit showing reduced contacts with eIF2B $\delta$  and local rearrangement of eIF2B $\alpha$  interacting helices (indicated with an arrow).

(e) The other binding site of eIF2 $\alpha$ -D1 showing that on this side the binding pocket for eIF2 $\alpha$ -D1 formed by eIF2B  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  is wide open.

#### Supplementary Figure 4. Structural model fitting of eIF2α-D1 in a density map.



(a) Overall density for the contact of eIF2 $\alpha$ -D1 with eIF2B  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  subunits.

(b) Close view of the density around Ser51(P) (S52 sequence numbering) and our structural model fitting into the density.

(c) Same as in (b) but at different orientation.

(d) Fitting of c structural model cu'l p't ghgt gpeg'3 of the same region as in (b) in our density map.



# Supplementary Figure 5. Examples of structural models fitting in density maps.

- (a) Density for eIF2B $\delta$  in contact with eIF2B $\beta$  and eIF2B $\alpha$  subunits.
- (b) Density for  $eIF2B\alpha$  subunit.
- (c) Density for eIF2Bɛ PLD domain.
- (d) Density for eIF2B $\epsilon$  L $\beta$ H domain.

# Supplementary Figure 6. Multiple sequence alignment of eIF2B regulatory subunits using Clustal Omega. a

elF2Bα_HUMAN elF2Bα_YEAST elF2Bα_SCHPO	40 E 1 40 E 1 53 K 1	I C A A I S	QGI AEM SEI	L <mark>R</mark> MI FM	AN NT DI	L T I K L Q	S S N	A I S T G S	E I E F N T	Γ - Ξ L Γ L	L C I K K E	G G G	VI II V(	0 S 2 N 2 N	S S N	V A V S I S	V L L	S R S	S G A G A G	G C C	EI DI DI	F F F	L I M I Q I	R F R F R F	I V V	SI LF TF	A N S	S I L H L H	L E H L H D	Y S Y C V C	D D D D	85 86 99
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(a) Alignment of human, S. cerevisiae and S. pombe eIF2B $\alpha$  sequences in the region of eIF2 $\alpha$  binding site between  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  subunits of eIF2B. Residues important for the interaction with eIF2 $\alpha$  kp/tgh4 and this paper are boxed.

(b) Alignment of human, S. cerevisiae and S. pombe eIF2B $\delta$  sequences in the region of both eIF2 $\alpha$  binding sites. Residues that important for the interaction with eIF2 $\alpha$  kp<sup>+</sup>tghgtgpegu'4"cpf '5, and this paper are boxed.

(c) Alignment of human (Homo sapiens), mouse (Mus musculus), chicken (Gallus gallus), green sea-turtle (Chelonia mydas), fish (Oreochromis niloticus), fruit fly (Drosophila melanogaster), Caenorhabditis elegans, S. cerevisiae and S. pombe eIF2B $\beta$  sequences in the region of alternative eIF2 $\alpha$  binding site between  $\beta$  and  $\delta$  subunits of eIF2B. Residues important for the interaction in in this site based on the structures of human eIF2B-eIF2 complex \*tghu'4, 5+are boxed. Alignment shows conservation of these residues (N132 and E135 according to human numbering) in vertebrates, however they are not conserved in yeast. Also part of the loop - tether (boxed), which in yeast interacts with eIF2B $\alpha$ , is missing in the species where alternative binding site evolved. Drosophila melanogaster lost the tether, however alternative binding site is not entirely conserved.

## Supplementary Figure 7. Biochemical and MS analysis of eIF2B-eIF2α(P) complex.



(a) SDS PAGE of eIF2B - eIF2( $\alpha$ P) complex with eIF2B subunits labelled in black and eIF2 subunits in red.

(b) Western blotting of eIF2 using antibodies specific against human eIF2 $\alpha$ (P) (Invitrogen 44-728G) before and after phosphorylation with PKR (5 µg of eIF2 protein was loaded in each lane).

(c) Mass spectra of the 2+ and 3+ charge states of eIF2 $\alpha$  peptide 36-53 (LLEYDNIEGMILLSESRR) after eIF2 was phosphorylated with PKR. Phosphorylation (89.4 %) was calculated based on the area of the peaks of modified (phosphorylation) and non-modified peptides in both charge states.

Supplementary Figure 8. Cryo-EM methods.



- (a) Typical micrograph of eIF2B eIF2( $\alpha$ P) complex (see methods for details).
- (b) FSC curves.

(c) Representative 2-D classes after 2-D classification of  $eIF2B - eIF2(\alpha P)$  complex.

(d) Orientation distribution plot for the eIF2B-eIF2 complex map from dataset I. Efficiency of the reconstruction measured with cryoEF<sup>4</sup> is  $0.62 \pmod{>} 0.8$ ; bad < 0.5) which shows that the complex suffers from some preferred orientation.

(e) FSC curve of the model versus map.

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