

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC SYNTHESIS ACTIONS WITHIN THE SEVERO OCHOA SO2 PROGRAMME - (SO2-SA-2026)

AIM OF SYNTHESIS ACTIONS

To provide the opportunity to develop ground-breaking, cross-disciplinary and wide-ranging collaborations across CREA and through networks of international researchers, primarily via the organisation of in-situ or remote workshops. These events will address the [ECO-RESILIENCE 360 research topics](#), related to resilient ecosystems for resilient societies, that guide the research goals of the current Severo Ochoa award.

CONDITIONS

Financial support can be requested for workshops dedicated to::

- Creation/consolidation/analysis/synthesis of large but currently unexploited data banks.
- Development of new methodological and/or analytical tools directed at the analysis or exploitation of existing databases.
- Development of multi-disciplinary conceptual frameworks for the solution of complex ecological/environmental problems.
- Preparation of high-profile synthesis papers addressing novel theoretical or empirical issues with the potential of achieving publication in the most important reference journals of the field.

Each proposal can request between 10,000 and 15,000 euros to cover costs associated with participants travel and accommodation in Barcelona, catering and room reservation, booking and use of remote workshop facilities, and production of a final publication. It is expected that between one and two proposals will be funded in this call. It is very likely that this is the last Synthesis Actions call within the Severo Ochoa 2 program. Proposals for workshops dedicated to the preparation of EU or other international grant proposals are discouraged.

In order to foster collaboration across CREA research teams, proposals must include the participation of at least two research teams from CREA, where these teams are defined as:

- a) Different SGR research groups;

- b) Or researchers that have not shared formal participation in a research project in the last 5 years.

PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

The proposal must be written in English and will contain the following elements: a one- page presentation of the activity plan, followed by the body of the proposal, which will contain the following elements; a) statement of the scientific question that the activity aims to address, b) specific aims; c) expected outcomes; d) proposed participants; e) requested budget; f) calendar, and g) list of proponents. The body of the proposal is expected to be around two-three pages at 1.5 line spacing (about 1,500 words).

The proposal will contain a clear description of the intended outcome of the workshop, whether or not a specific product (paper, tool, analysis) is foreseen and how the proponents intend to achieve this objective. The proposal will specify the role that the intended participants will have prior to, during and after the meeting (Examples: a) prior to: data or tool provision, expertise in specific areas, general background; b) during: session chairing, rapporteur, workshop synthesis; c) after: paper writing, statistical analyses, etc.). The proposal will finally explain the nature and benefits of the activity in relation to each of the evaluation criteria mentioned below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposal is assessed based on:

1. Scientific quality (60%). Criteria employed to assess scientific quality include the following:
 - a) Potential for excellence in the achievement of the aims of the synthesis activity (novelty, broad interest, coherence);
 - b) Evidence of the inter-disciplinary scope of the proposal, via the invitation of a diverse panel of international experts;
 - c) High level of collaboration across CREA with the participation of three or more research teams (as defined in the 'Conditions' section);
 - d) Evidence that the proposal contributes to increasing the international visibility of CREA, is consistent with the CREA mission, aims to establish or consolidates existing network of collaborators and/or has potential for future expansion;
 - e) Justification that the proposal addresses at least one topic within the context of the general goal of the SO2 programme ("ECO-RESILIENCE 360°: Transformative ecology to manage the future of ecosystems and human wellbeing"). These topics are:

- i. (T1) Assessing the potential of nature-based solutions.
- ii. (T2) Understanding and forecasting the risks to ecosystems.
- iii. (T3) Adapting ecosystems for resilience.

2. Proposal organization (40%). Criteria employed to assess proposal organization include the following:

- a) Clarity and appropriateness of the requested budget;
- b) Evidence of gender balance in the invited participants;
- c) Balance between early/mid—career (<8 years post PhD) and established researchers among the proposed participants, with evidence that early/mid- career scientists are leading the proposal.
- d) Consideration of open and reproducible science principles (e.g. data management plan, workshop outcomes in open-access publications, data and code in public repositories).

EVALUATION PANEL

The panel will be composed of one international expert and two CREA researchers proposed by the Synthesis Actions coordinator and accepted by the SO management panel. Internal members of the panel will refrain from submitting proposals during the period of their tenure.

CALENDAR AND CONTACT PERSON

The call for applications will open on the 9th of October 2025 and will close on the 16th of November 2025. Selected proposals will be published in December 2025. The selected proposals will be executed within the 12 months following the publication of the call results.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY FILLING THIS FORM

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