



FRB CESAB call for proposals

IdeaShare 2025 call

FRB-CESAB, in partnership with HEIRS¹, launch a call to fund two types of complementary groups: the IdeaShare and the DataShare. This call aims to advance biodiversity research by supporting the generation of innovative interdisciplinary approaches and the development of accessible high quality datasets, respectively.

- IdeaShare projects emphasize the creation of new concepts, models, and methods through interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together biodiversity experts with specialists from other fields to explore new perspectives and frameworks.
- DataShare projects focus on accelerating the assembly, curation, harmonization, and open sharing of biodiversity-related datasets, ensuring that they are accessible and reusable for future syntheses and analyses.

The work achieved within each group can be seen as a preliminary - but not mandatory - step before submitting a research proposal to more 'classical' calls from Biodiversity Synthesis Centres (e.g. CESAB, sDiv, NCEAS) or elsewhere.

Will be funded within this call **four 2-year projects**:

- Three *generic* groups funded by the FRB-CESAB with no restrictions on the biodiversity topics;
- One *thematic* group, co-funded by the FRB-CESAB and the HEIRS, will have to focus on Biodiversity and Human Evolution.

This text relates to IdeaShare projects.

Context of the call

Biodiversity, as a complex and multifaceted study object, calls for interdisciplinary approaches that use concepts and methodologies from various scientific disciplines. Improving our understanding of biodiversity dynamics also contributes crucial information and insights to numerous scientific fields.

¹ Hub for Human Evolution Research Synthesis, a unit of the research environment of ICAREHB – the Interdisciplinary Center for Archaeology and Evolution of Human Behaviour, hosted at the University of Algarve, <https://heirs.icarehb.com/>

The **IdeaShare** offers an innovative and collaborative funding framework for projects to **advance biodiversity research through interdisciplinary approaches**. By providing a forum for brainstorming and idea generation, IdeaShare groups are positioned to **facilitate the emergence of new research concepts, models and methods**.

The funded groups will bring together experts from biodiversity-related fields with experts from any other scientific field(s). **All organizational levels of biodiversity** are concerned, from genes to ecosystems.

Working-group composition

The working groups will consist of **core** members and **associate** members:

- Core members will attend all group meetings and will be strongly involved in the group dynamics.
- Associate members will only participate in some meetings and/or virtual meetings. The pool of associate members may vary in size depending on the development stage of the project and does not necessarily need to be complete or set in stone at the time of proposal submission.

Each working-group proposal must:

- be led by **two principal investigators (PIs)**²:
 - one PI must be a researcher with a permanent position in a French research organization or a French university;
 - the other PI must have a permanent position or a contract that runs until the end of the project, within any organization worldwide. He/she must come from a different laboratory than the first PI.
- consist of a **core group of up to 8 members** (including the PIs) and a **pool of associate members** (that can vary during the course of the project). This core group:
 - should include international members; to reduce the carbon footprint, we advise the group not to have too many participants traveling from locations very far from Europe;
 - be well-balanced and diverse in terms of gender, range of expertise and career stage³;
 - include experts in the different disciplines and research fields necessary to tackle the proposed project objectives.

The *thematic* core-group focusing on Biodiversity and Human Evolution should include **at least one member of ICAREHB**⁴.

² There is no hierarchy between the PIs, who must share equally the scientific direction and the animation of the group throughout the project. Their names will appear in alphabetical order on the group presentation materials.

³ Please note that the group must be stable in composition for at least three years (including the year of the proposal evaluation), which is incompatible with including too many non-permanent members (we recommend one or two non-permanent researchers at most if justified).

⁴ <https://www.icarehb.com/team/>

Working group timeline and outcomes

Timeline

The *generic* groups are expected to **meet three times in person** at the CESAB (5-day meetings) during the two years of the project. The *thematic* group focusing on Biodiversity and Human Evolution will meet twice at CESAB in France (first and last meetings) and once at HEIRS in Portugal (second meeting).

All groups are expected to organize regular virtual meetings. A schedule of proposed in-person and virtual meetings, their duration, regularity and objectives should be presented and explained in the proposal.

The composition of the group at the three in-person meetings will include the 8 core members (including the PIs) with 4 participants from the pool of associate members (for a total 12 in-person participants). More participants can join the 3 meetings on their own funds.

The groups are strongly encouraged to organize a **final dissemination event** (e.g., conference, symposium, training session) open to the scientific community during their final (third) in-person meeting.

Working group outcomes

Publications and conference communications describing the group's breakthroughs are expected during and after the two-year project period.

The group will have to provide a **final report**, based on a template provided by the CESAB.

Budget

Each working group will be funded for 2 years, including:

- **meeting costs** for 3 workshops of 5 days each (12 participants max);
- **publication costs** up to 3000 €; note that if the group is willing to cover its publication fees by other means or publish in journals with no publication fees, this funding can also be used to cover for additional participants;
- **administrative support**;
- support for the organization of the final dissemination event in Montpellier.

The budget will be handled by the CESAB and HEIRS and does not need to be detailed in the project proposal.

The nature of the IdeaShare functioning and group composition allows the group to build on other sources of funding to fuel their dynamics. Additional funding is thus welcome, but not mandatory, and can be described in the section B.2 of the proposal.

Selection criteria

Working groups will be selected according to the following criteria:

- the scientific importance and the originality of the addressed topic;
- the level of inter-disciplinary expertise of the working group in relation to the addressed topic as well as the level of integration of different fields to respond to the proposed research questions.

Calendar and submission procedure

Deadline for submissions: **8 Sept. 2025 at 13:00 CEST.**

Results will be announced mid-December 2025.

1. Request for the proposal form, filling out this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/v5w0qnevRT>;
2. Send your proposal in pdf before 8 Sept. 2025 at 1 pm CEST, by email to cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr.

Contact

Contact: cesab@fondationbiodiversite.fr