

Banco Sabadell Foundation Marine Sustainability Award

2026/V edition

The Banco Sabadell Private Foundation, with the aim of encouraging and recognising the activities of research personnel in the field of regeneration and sustainable exploitation of the marine environment, announces the V Edition of the Banco Sabadell Foundation Award for Marine Sustainability. The Award promotes sustainable development (environmental, social, and economic) based on technology and knowledge.

The award consists of a cash prize of Thirty thousand euros (€30,000).

Terms and conditions

1. Category

The Award will be granted to a researcher with an outstanding curriculum in the field of:

- Sustainable use of marine resources, both in the field of traditional marine industries (fishing, transportation, aquaculture, coastal tourism, etc.) and in new emerging sectors (biotechnology, big data, renewable energies, regeneration, etc.).
- Regeneration of marine natural capital by recovering ecosystems' goods and services.

The awarded research activity must demonstrate its impact on:

- Increase or preservation of biodiversity
- Pollution reduction/containment
- Climate Change Mitigation/Reduction

And to show tangible evidence of the transfer of scientific knowledge into applications that promote sustainable economic development.

2. Award

The prize money is Thirty thousand euros (€30,000).

3. Applications

3.1 Candidates

Candidates must meet the following cumulative requirements:

- Be a researcher up to 42 years old (as of December 31, 2025) of any nationality, who has conducted research activity in an entity, national or foreign, located in Spain continuously for at least the last three years, counting from December 31, 2025, in the fields of activity indicated in section 1. Category.
- This age limit (42 years) could be extended up to a maximum of one year for each descendant when there have been interruptions in the professional career due to birth, adoption, and childcare leave and/or parental leave, and for the period during which the research activity was interrupted. In such cases, and to prove this circumstance, candidates must provide sufficient accreditation at the request of the Banco Sabadell Private Foundation. Exceptionally, the jury may consider the possibility of extending the age requirement, at the candidate's request, due to other circumstances different from the above, provided they are objective, exceptional, do not imply discriminatory or preferential treatment, and are sufficiently justified and accredited.

3.2 Submission

- Nominations must be proposed by individuals other than the candidate and with a recognised academic, institutional and/or professional trajectory, linked to universities, research centres or companies. Applications that do not prove compliance with the requirements indicated in these rules through the documentation specified in section 3.4. Documentation and Support will not be accepted. The candidate and the proponent may belong to the same institution, university, research centre or company.

3.3 Forms and deadline for submission

- Applications must be submitted online, in Spanish or English, from February 2, 2026 to April 7, 2026 (both inclusive), through the website: www.fundacionbancosabadell.com ("Calls" section, "Awards" section).

3.4 Documentation and support

Each application must include:

- A cover letter of the candidate, highlighting the reasons for supporting the application, in PDF format, drafted and signed by the proponent.
- The candidate's CV, in PDF format, in a maximum of 5 pages.
- A single document in PDF format containing, from the candidate, a list and description of the most relevant contributions made in the field of marine sustainability, including evidence of the development of initiatives to transfer scientific knowledge into profit opportunities, all the while preserving the sustainability of the marine environment (maximum 5).
- The document relating to the information on the processing of personal data and acceptance of the terms of the rules of the Award, signed by the candidate available on the www.fundacionbancosabadell.com website ("Calls" section, "Awards" section).

4. Jury

4.1 Appointment and constitution

- The jury is chaired by Dr. Isabel Cacho, Professor at the University of Barcelona, in the Department of Earth and Ocean Dynamics, and the jury members will be chosen from researchers of all outstanding specialties.

4.2 Veredict

- The jury's verdict, which cannot be appealed, will be made public from October 2026.

5. Award ceremony

- The winning candidate must attend the official Award Ceremony.
- The Thirty thousand euros (€30,000) cash prize will be paid on the date of the Award Ceremony by bank transfer to the account held by the winner in Banco de Sabadell, S.A.

6. Legal clauses

- The candidate, in the event of being awarded, in accordance with the provisions of art. 2.2 of LO 1/1982, of 5 May, on civil protection of the right to honour, personal and family privacy and self-image, hereby authorises the Banco Sabadell Private Foundation, free of charge, to capture by itself or through third parties, and to use, their images and voice, to the maximum extent permitted by law, so that the Banco Sabadell Private Foundation can disseminate the award ceremony, as well as its outcome. This authorisation includes the right to reproduce, exhibit, communicate internally, distribute, publicly communicate, and transform images and voice in any medium and format, including social networks, electronic communications, inclusion on websites and applications, without geographical limitation, free of charge, non-exclusively, for informative, promotional, advertising and commercial purposes related to the award ceremony. The Banco Sabadell Private Foundation reserves the right to decide whether the audiovisual material is finally displayed or published. By means of this authorisation, the candidate declares and guarantees: (i) that they have not committed their image rights to third parties in such a way as to impede the purpose of this authorisation and (ii) understands and accepts that the audiovisual material will become the property of the Banco Sabadell Private Foundation and that it will not be returned to them, waiving any right to receive any compensation for the use and transfer of it, given the marked free nature of this authorisation.
- The submission of applications implies full acceptance of these rules in all their terms.