EURAXESS Members in Focus: Spain

Spain's RDI system in figures

The Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation encompasses internationally recognised institutions where scientists and entrepreneurs are able to enjoy a variety of funding opportunities.

In 2014, Spanish institutions published 77,013 publications (3.19% of the total world production), ranking 10th in the world. In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications-top 10%), energy and veterinary medicine were the top research areas. The international collaboration of Spanish institutions keeps growing every year: up to 44.69 % of all Spanish documents in 2014 were co-authored with a foreign institution. The number of European patents with a Spanish origin in 2014 was 467.

Spain is a very active participant in European research projects. At the moment, around 9% of H2020 funding is allocated to Spanish institutions. Some of the areas which can be highlighted are: Energy, NMBP (Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing -see the JST co-funded H2020 call below- and the SME instrument.

Source: INE, ICONO, Spanish Strategy for STI

Research Excellence in Spain

The "Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence" programme for independent research centres and the "Maria de Maeztu Units of Excellence" programme for smaller unit recognises institutions from all areas of knowledge that perform cutting-edge research at world standards. The awarded centres and units show outstanding international scientific leadership and are open to international collaborations. The evaluation committees involved in the selection process are all foreign, highly respected researchers, including Nobel laureates.

National Recruitement Opportunities

Aside from H2020 recruitment opportunities (Spain hosts more than 300 European Research Council grants in more than 50 host institutions and is also very attractive for Marie Slodowska-Curie actions fellows), there are numerous national (Spanish state) recruitment opportunities.

RAMÓN Y CAJAL CONTRACTS

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers with an outstanding research career, either coming or returning to Spain.

Important information for incoming researchers:

The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) is the national EURAXESS coordinator. There are almost 100 services and local centres ready to support incoming researchers. All the information can be found at www.euraxess.es/eng

FECYT also publishes every two years a very exhaustive up-to-date information about the labour situation, everyday life, as well as the procedures necessary to become established in Spain: http://www.euraxess.es/eng/services/foreign-researchers-in-spain

In Spain can be found a number of so-called "Unique Scientific and technological infrastructures (ICTS)" composed of facilities of different scientific areas ranging from the life sciences to astrophysics/ engineering, distributed throughout the Spanish territory and areas and devoted to cutting edge research and the highest quality technological development.

MSCA: How to participate in MSCA in Spain: Spanish MSCA National Contact Points.

ERC: How to participate in ERC in Spain: Spanish ERC National Contact Points.

Contact: Subdirectorate General of Human Resources for Research (ramonycajal@mineco.es)

Description: The 5 year duration grants co-fund the recruitment of doctors at public and private research centres. The aim is to promote the incorporation of national and foreign researchers with outstanding careers as well as their stabilisation in Spain. The grants (EUR 33,720 per year), are allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security. Entities will receive an additional allocation of EUR 40,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses. Lastly, institutions which at the end of the "Ramón y Cajal" contract period hire the beneficiaries on a permanent basis, will receive a grant totalling EUR 100,000

JUAN DE LA CIERVA –INCORPORATION

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers

Contact: Subdirectorate General of Human Resources for Research (cierva.formacion@mineco.es)

Description: Thetwo-year grant addresses young PhDs who have completed their post-doctoral education and meet the scientific criteria requested and have proven scientific leadership. Within this grant, EUR29,000 per year is allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security. Entities will receive an additional allocation of EUR 6,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses.

JUAN DE LA CIERVA TRAINING

Recipients: Foreign and national early stage researchers who wish to get post-doctoral training in a university or research centre different from the one where their PhD was obtained.

Contact: Subdirectorate General of Human Resources for Research (cierva.formacion@mineco.es)

Description The grants, in the amount of EUR 25,000 per year, are allocated to co-funding the salary and employer's contributions to social security.

INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATES

Recipients: These grants co-fund the contracts of national and foreign pre-doctoral researchers, who aim to develop their PhD in industry.

Contact: Subdirectorate General of Human Resources for Research (predoctoral@mineco.es)

Description: Company beneficiaries of this grant need to co-fund the contract of the pre-doctoral researcher. The maximum amount of the grants, which will be allocated to co-funding salaries and social security contributions, will be EUR21,800. The grant is EUR 2,400/researcher and is aimed at stays in other institutions, together with EUR 1,500 to fund the expenses associated with the doctorate programmes.

PRE-DOCTORAL GRANTS-TRAINING DOCTORS

Recipients: National and foreign bachelors holders admitted or enrolled in a doctorate programme at the moment of signing the grant.

Contact: Subdirectorate General of Human Resources for Research (predoctoral@mineco.es)

Description: Grants devoted to the training of pre-docs in universities, research centres, etc., in any discipline. The grants, in the amount of EUR 20,600 per year, are allocated to co-fund the salary and employer's contributions to social security.

PRE-DOCTORAL GRANTS. TRAINING OF TEACHERS

Recipients: Bachelors aiming to earn their PhD admitted and/or enrolled in a doctoral programme during 2015 or enrolled in a programme that allows them to access a doctoral programme in 2016.

Description: The is grant aimed at fostering the training of pre-docs in high quality doctorate programmes. The maximum amount of the grants, which will be allocated to cofund salaries and social security contributions will be EUR17,768.16 for the two first years of the grant and EUR20,333.76 for years three and four.

TORRES QUEVEDO CONTRACTS

Recipients: Doctors who wish to be employed by companies which perform R&D&I to develop experimental and innovative research projects.

Description: Grants for permanent contracts for doctors in the private sector. The amount of the grants will be determined in accordance with the eligible budget and the type of project and company. However, the annual eligible budget will only cover gross annual remuneration equal to or more than EUR18,000, and may not exceed EUR 55,000. The grants must co-fund the salary and the employer's contribution to social security for the researchers recruited.

Regional Recruitement Opportunities

IKERBASQUE

Recipients: High level researchers interested in pursuing careers at research institutions in the Basque Country.

Description: Ikerbasque offers two types of grants: **Research fellows grants**: contract positions for postdoctoral researchers; **Research professors contracts:** permanent contracts for experienced researchers. Only high level researchers with a solid track record in research and international research experience will be considered.

ICREA

Recipients: Researchers from all over the world.

Description: The selected researchers are given a permanent position, ICREA Research Professorship (equivalent to tenure) and become ICREA employees. ICREA researchers go through an evaluation process (promotion) at regular intervals throughout their entire career

ARAID

Recipients: Researchers of any nationality with excellent research record and leadership capabilities interested in coming to the region of Aragon.

Description: The successful candidates will become permanent staff of ARAID. The scientific performance of researchers is periodically subjected to external

evaluation. ARAID will assist foreign researchers with their visa and work permit procedures.

OPORTUNIUS

Recipients: ERC Grant holders.

Description: Oportunius offers ERC Grant holders a permanent contract with the Galician Innovation Agency (GAIN), and is subject to evaluations every 5 years by an external committee. It also provides specific support for young scientists with the potential to obtain one of the prestigious ERC Grants.

FUNDACIÓN SÉNECA

Recipients: Junior and senior researchers interested in pursuing their career in the region of Murcia.

Description: Research internships will be funded for researchers with proven experience. Séneca holds two different calls: **Senior researcher**: researchers who have held a doctoral degree for at least ten years and, **Junior researcher**: researchers who have held a doctoral degree for at least five years.

Opportunities for Research, Technology Development, Innovation

The Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology - CDTI - Spain's National Innovation Agency, is a public entity promoting private RDI, thus, raising the technological level of Spanish companies' by funding their R&D projects, both at national and international level. CDTI is also the public agency that funds industry-driven R&D projects.

CDTI manages the participation of Spain in Horizon 2020 and multilateral programmes, promoting Industrial R&D cooperation within EUREKA, IBEROEKA and EUROSTARS. CDTI has agreements with several R&D funding agencies in Asia and developed industrial R&D funding programmes with Japan (NEDO), which were aimed at promoting and financing industry-driven and market-oriented R&D projects/collaborations.

ACE-Japón researchers association

ACE-Japón, the Association of Spanish scientists in Japan, is an initiative of the Spanish scientific community resident in Japan. Its members are from diverse disciplines and stages of scientific life.

Its objectives are to create a network of Spanish scientists in Japan to facilitate the integration of its members, and to share both professional and personal experiences; creating an agency to serve as backup and to support to its members, so that they can carry out their scientific activities productively, helping them to adapt to the Japanese environment and increase social perception of science and technology. Public outreach by organising activities of