



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The participation of Spain in partnerships has experienced a significant increase during the last decade, being at the moment one of the most active countries in the EU.

The integration of the Spanish Research, Technology and Innovation System (SECTI) in the European Research Area, is one of the main goals of the new Spanish State Plan for Scientific, Technological Research and Innovation (PEICTI 2021-2023). It addresses the alignment of the main objectives and promotes the participation of Spanish entities (mainly RPOs and RFOs) in partnerships and joint programming initiatives.

For the Spanish researchers and entities, the participation in joint calls organised by partnerships allows for the less experienced to gain contacts and skills for future participation in Framework Programme calls.

91 H2020
public
partnerships (*)

Or **92%**
of total
(99 partnerships)

170
H2020 public
partnerships (*)
participations

Or **8%**
of total

5 H2020
public
partnerships (*)
coordinations

Or **5%**
of total

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014-2020) Excluding EIT-KICs, EuroHPC and ECSEL

(*) Horizon 2020 public-public partnerships include ERA-NET Cofunds, EJPs, Art 185 initiatives and JPIs.

Partnership participations: number of partnerships a specific country takes part as participant – for certain countries more than one national organisation may take part thus the participations may be more than the number of partnerships a country is part of. Total partnership participations: number of partners from a specific country participating with any role (i.e. coordinator, participant, observer, other) in partnerships. Partnership coordinations: number of partnerships a specific country coordinates.

€177.1 million

in actual national contributions in public partnerships
during H2020 (2014-2020)

Or **8%** of total

€1 362

per researcher FTE (average between 2014-2019 based
on EUROSTAT data)

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021), H2020 period (2014-2020)

Actual national contributions is the funding given by each country to cover the participation of national science and technology groups in the funded projects of the joint transnational calls launched by the public partnerships. Actual contributions for each researcher are the total actual contributions by a country divided by the number of researchers in the country estimated in full-time equivalents (FTE) average between 2014-2019 based on EUROSTAT data.

KEY INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

On the basis of the participation in partnerships, in H2020 calls, as well as the priorities of the PEICTI, Spain is willing to support strategic research areas such as energy, health, ICT, and environment, among others. As the figure above shows, Spain has participated in 92% of the total partnerships, showing the global country's interest in all thematic areas.



TABLE 1: Distribution of funding under the different H2020 instruments (P2Ps, JUs, cPPPs and other H2020 projects, i.e. CSAs, RIAs, IAs, etc.) across thematic priorities

THEMATIC PRIORITIES	P2Ps PROJECTS	JUs PROJECTS	cPPPs PROJECTS	OTHER H2020 PROJECTS
Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, Biotechnology	15.89 %	2.58 %	5.50 %	13.90 %
Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials	17.94 %	0.05 %	5.00 %	7.76 %
Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective Societies	1.72 %		7.88 %	5.95 %
Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research	27.50 %	14.27 %		7.53 %
Future and Emerging Technologies	2.48 %		1.92 %	6.03 %
Health, demographic change and wellbeing	24.22 %	16.66 %		13.35 %
Information and Communication Technologies		8.41 %	76.49 %	16.52 %
Secure, clean and efficient energy	6.10 %	3.82 %	3.20 %	13.70 %
Smart, green and integrated transport	4.16 %	54.22 %		15.25 %
	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%	100,00%

Source: ERA-LEARN database (cut-off date June 2021) based on actual national contributions for P2Ps; eCORDA based on net EU contribution; Values are calculated as the share of investments of the specific instrument in the specific theme in the total investments under the specific instrument

FIGURE 1: Eligible proposals, projects and success rates

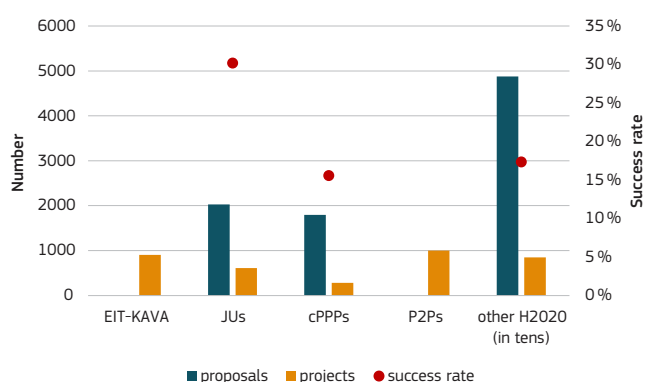
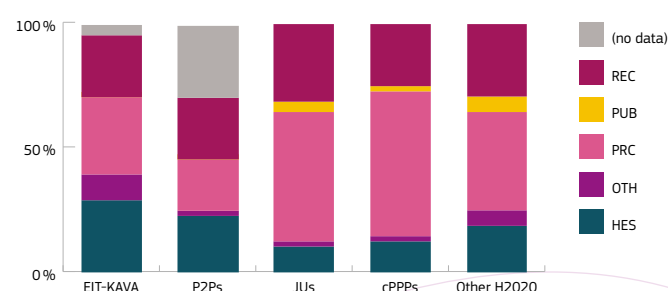


FIGURE 2: Types of project beneficiaries (%)



Source: ERA-LEARN database for P2Ps (cut-off date June 2021); eCORDA for EIT-KAVA, JUs, cPPPs, other H2020 projects (RIAs, CSAs, etc.)

No proposal data for P2Ps, EIT-KICs (Figure 1). EIT-KAVA: KIC Added Value Activities; HES: higher education; OTH: other; PRC: private for-profit companies; PUB: public bodies; REC: research organisations (Figure 2).



ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS AND QUALITATIVE IMPACTS

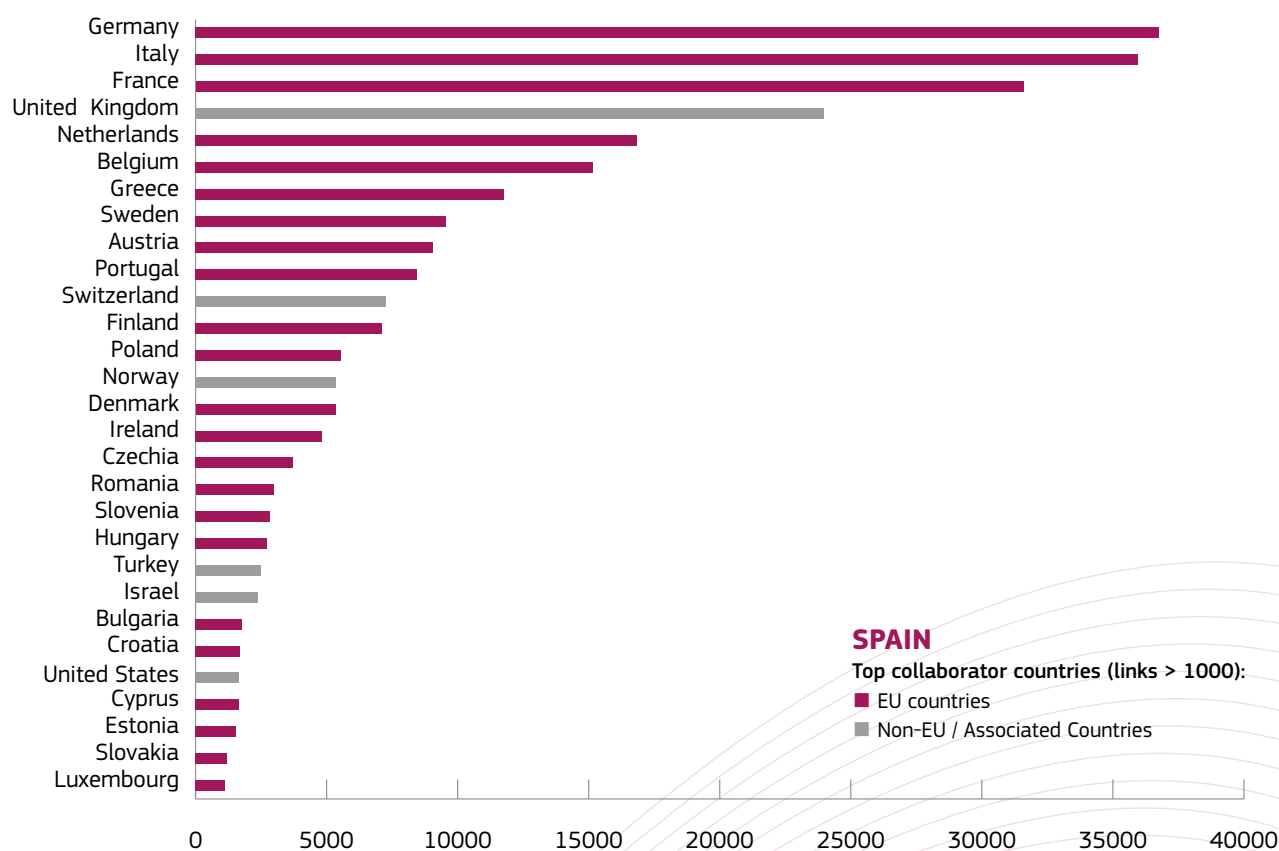
Participation in additional joint calls seems to be a successful mechanism for increasing R&I project funding while supporting the priority thematic areas. They have also contributed to the development of internationalization activities and policies, including at bilateral level outside the EU. Additional activities such as the participation in the development of thematic SRIAs have been an excellent opportunity for including the Spanish R&I priorities in the EU research agenda.

COMPLEMENTARY AND CUMULATIVE FUNDING

Funding agencies at National level have not used other EU Funds for cofunding Joint Transnational Calls during the period 2014-2020. Nevertheless, the PEICTI 2021-2023, counts with additional funding from the RRF to promote internationalisation of the STI system.

At regional level, some Smart Specialisation Strategies foresee the use of European Structural and Investment Funds to cofund joint international calls, enhancing the internationalisation of the regional STI systems.

FIGURE 3: Top collaborators of Spanish researchers under Horizon 2020 projects (including JUs, cPPPs, P2Ps and other H2020 projects)



Source: eCorda (showing countries of >1000 links)



SUCCESS STORIES

- ✦ Alignment of the PEICTI and the Horizon Europe Programme towards the European Research Area.
- ✦ Creation of a national Joint Programming Working Group, for the coordination of the Spanish participation in joint programming initiatives.
- ✦ Development of the Agencia Estatal de Investigación Dashboard with data on project funding through joint calls.
- ✦ New and simplified national granting processes as a sort of ‘seal of excellence’, for the allocation of funds, by automatically accepting the peer review done during the international evaluation.
- ✦ National funded platforms and infrastructures are aligned with European Research Infrastructures (e.g. Biobank platform with BBMRI-ERIC, platform for clinical research with ECRIN-ERIC, etc.) and European initiatives (Beyond 1 Million Genome Project with IMPACT)
- ✦ Continuation of the participation in joint international calls, beyond the end of EC funded ERANETS. E.g. the 4th EULAC STI Call is foreseen to be launched by the end of 2021. Calls started with the FP7 ERANET-LAC. In the 4th Call preparation, four H2020 projects have collaborated: EULAC ResInfra, EULAC PerMed, SINCERE and ENIRCH LAC. This multiple project collaboration is another success story.