

Innovation

“To introduce new things, ideas or ways of doing something.”: that’s what ‘innovate’ means, according to the Oxford Dictionary.

Agility and flexibility are increasingly important in today’s environment: who doesn’t move fast enough, loses. In recent years, Spain has caught up in innovation and today stands out in several indicators, both in the business and scientific fields.



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01.

Increasing investment

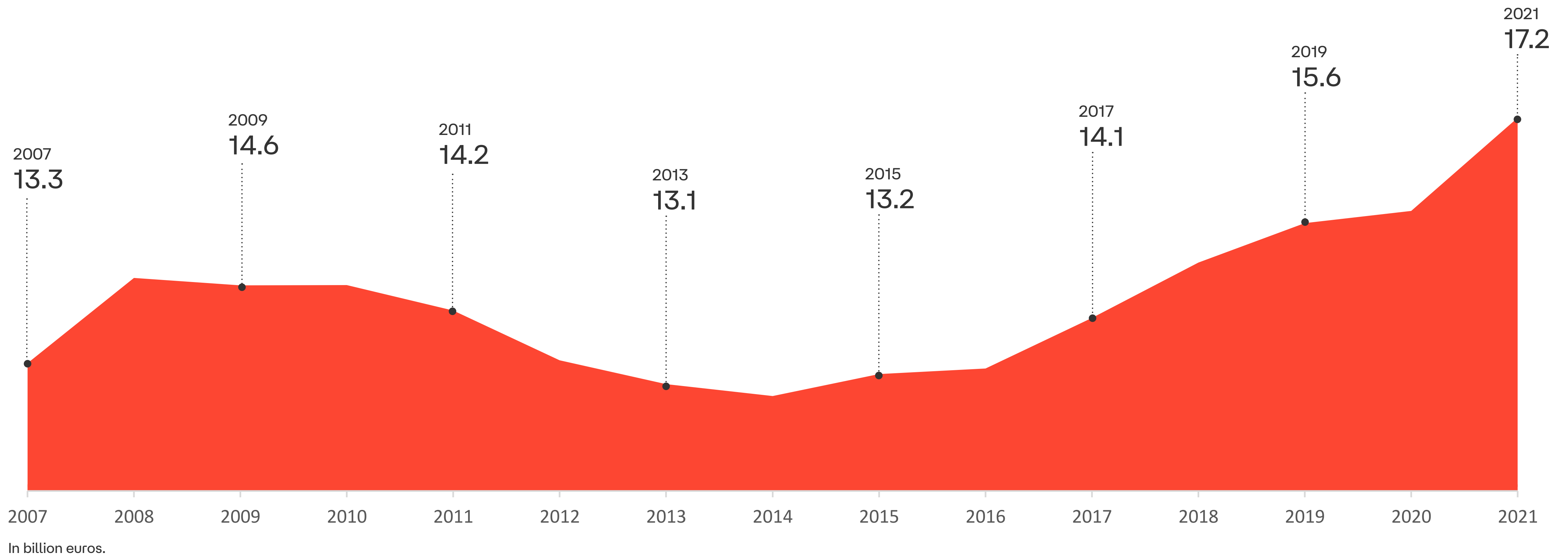


Spain, among the world's top 30 of most innovative countries in the world



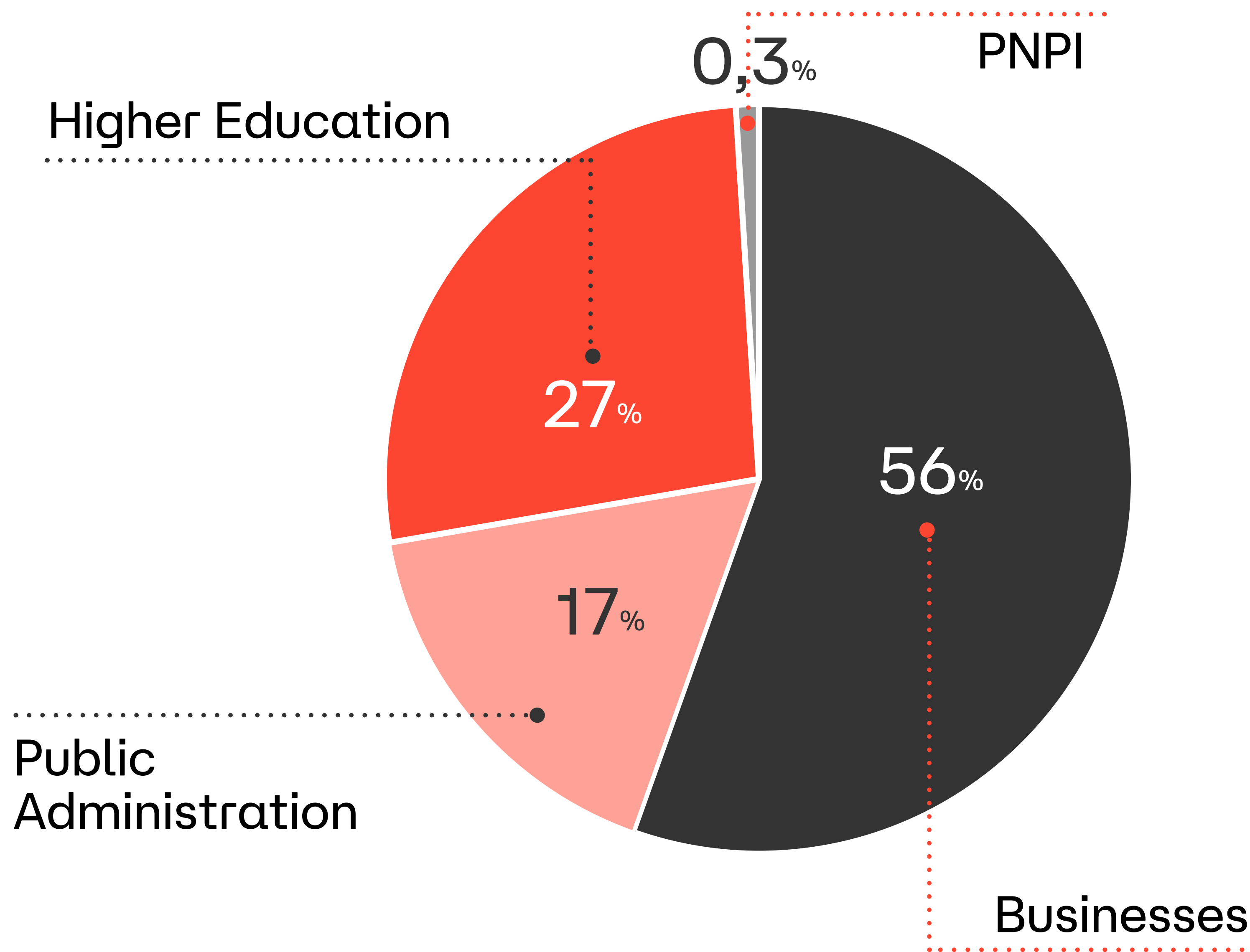
A 10-years record

Spain has strengthened its commitment to innovation in the last decade. Spending on scientific research and technological development (R&D) reached its peak in 2021, with 17.2 billion euros, and broke a historic record in relative terms, with 1.43% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



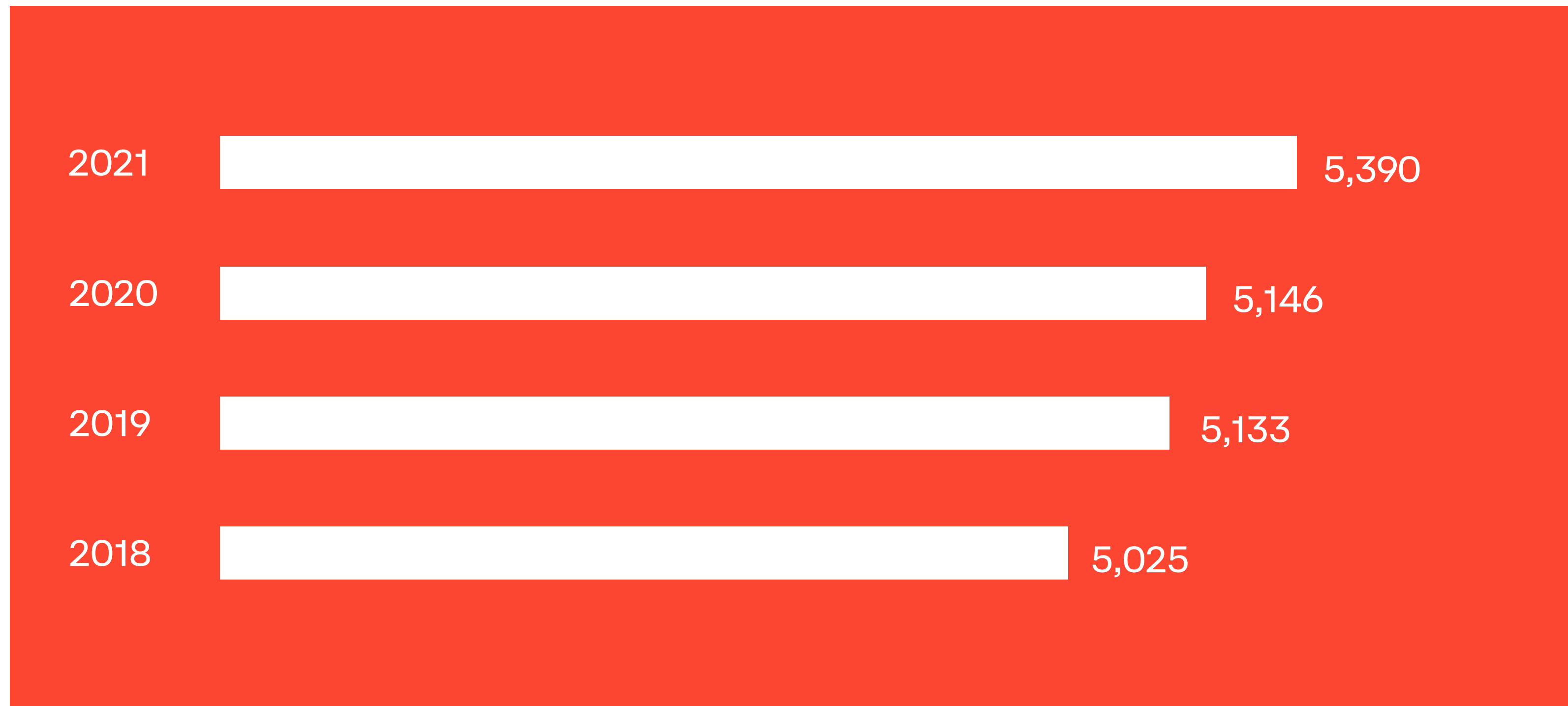
Businesses drives the investment

More than half of the spending in internal R&D comes from companies, a share that has barely changed in recent years, while the public administration provides a 27% of the total. The rest corresponds to higher education and, with a residual share, Private Non-Profit Institutions (PNPI).



Spanish researchers

The number of researchers per million inhabitants rose consecutively between 2017 and 2021, reaching 5,390 professionals dedicated to research by million inhabitants. 23.2% of the inventions were made by women.



23.2% of the inventions in Spain are made by women

Researchers per million inhabitants.

02.

Cutting-edge companies

Top 50 most innovative companies

Three Spanish companies have been included in the World's most innovative companies ranking by BCG.

Banco Santander

.....
#42 in 2010

Iberdrola

.....
#39 in 2009

Inditex

.....
#41 in 2021

A hub for
innovative
companies
from all over
the world



90 out of the top
100 companies in
the R&D field have a
subsidiary in Spain

Projects that attract European investment

Amadix and Spotlab are just two of the Spanish companies that have recently obtained European funding for innovative projects.

Amadix

A biotech from Valladolid that develops an early colorectal cancer detection blood-based test.

Raised

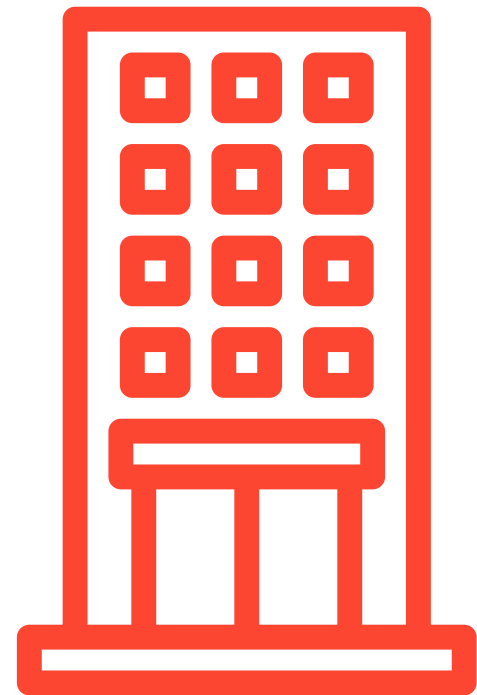
2.8
million euros

Spotlab

A Madrid-based startup that uses AI to help diagnose infectious diseases by automating the detection and counting of parasites in blood samples.

Raised

1.4
million euros



Acciona won the Open Innovation Innovative Approach Award in 2018

Awarded by the EU's open innovation platform, Startup Europe Partnership (SEP).

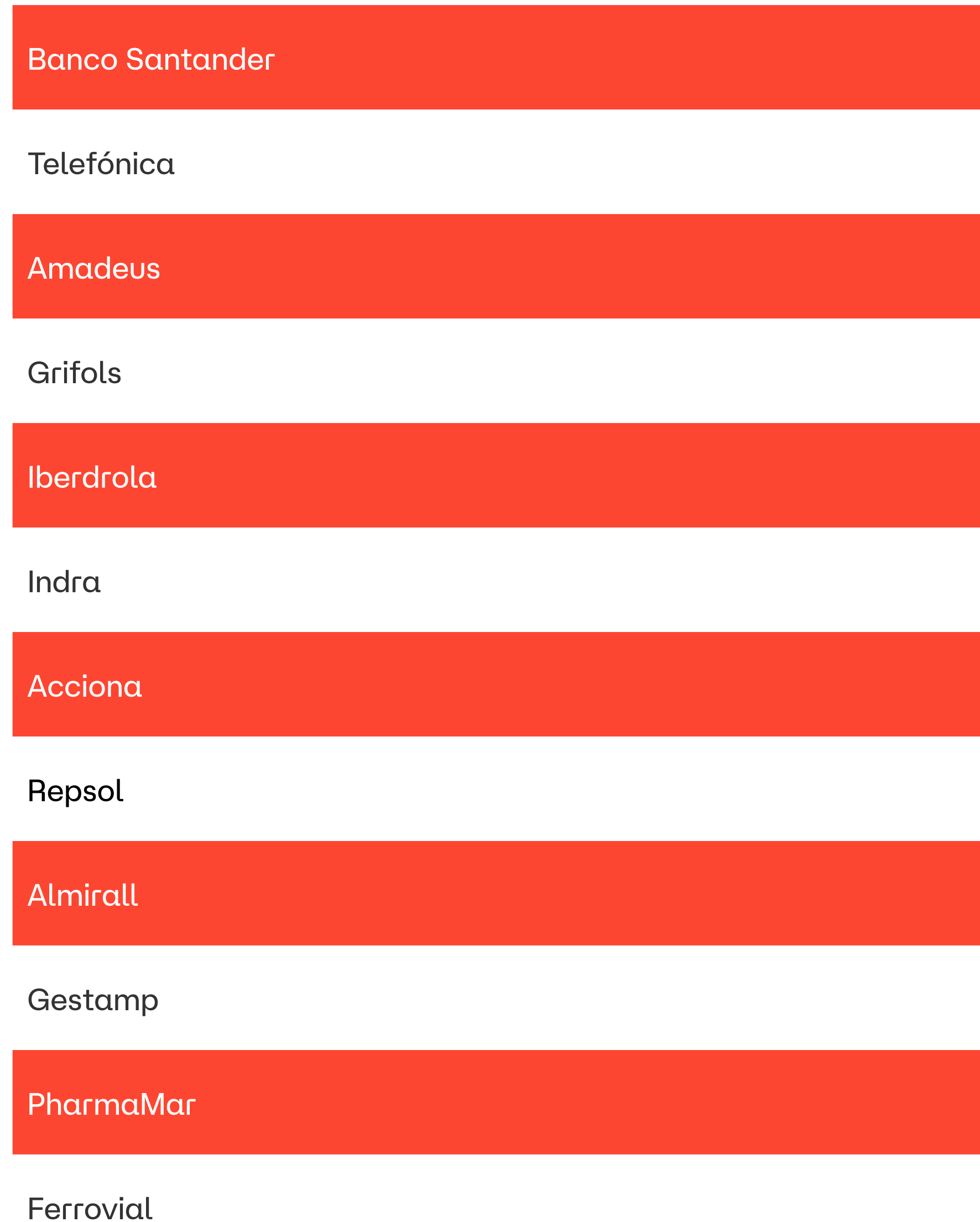


The first edition of the European Union Prize for Citizen Science

Has awarded four Spanish projects: Mosquito alert, Surfing for Science, GEOVACUI-2, and Projecte Rius.

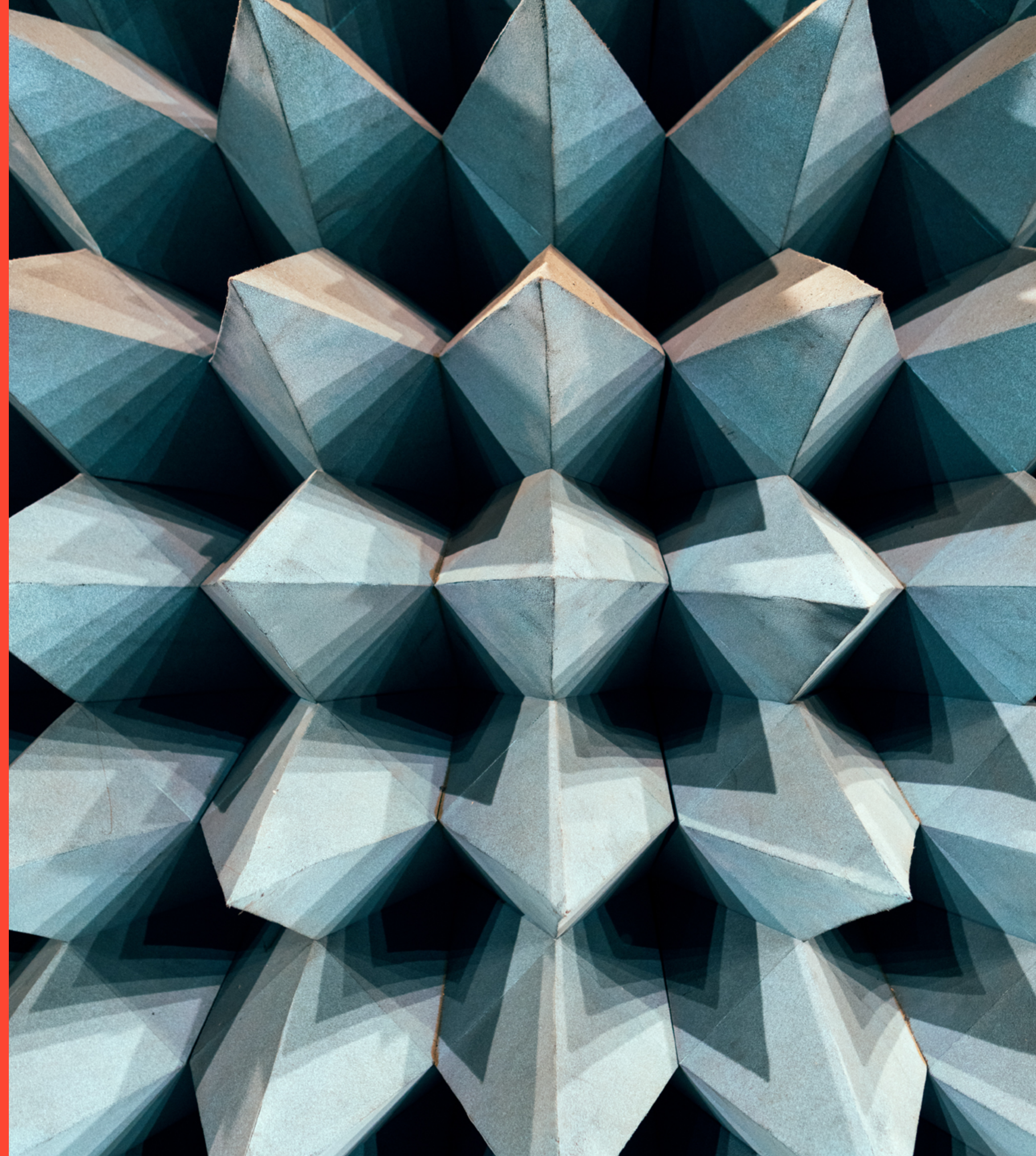
Spanish companies in innovation rankings

According to the European Commission, twelve Spanish companies are among the leading R&D investors in Europe in 2020



03.

Science and technology



Spanish patent applications in Europe



1,925

patent applications in 2022



Top 10

countries in the EU by patent applications



Reaching 17th

position in the world's ranking

Published scientific publications

105,431

Including papers, conference proceedings, and annual reviews.

 **11th** in the world

Source: [Fecyt](#)

Impact of published documents

15.1%

Percentage of documents appearing in the 10% of most cited papers in their field.

 **17th** in the world

1.7%

Percentage of documents appearing in the 1% of most cited papers in their field.

 **15th** in the world

Source: [Fecyt](#)

Patents granted

4,277

 **21st** in the world

Source: [Ompi](#)

17%

of the scientific Spanish publications in 2019, among the most cited in the world

Source: [Fecyt](#)

59.8%

of the Spanish scientific productions were published in the best journal in their field

Source: [Scopus](#)

20%

above the world average is the Spanish scientific production cited

Source: [Scopus](#)

Spain, one of the most cited countries in the world in scientific publications

Chemical Engineering	30.4% of publications
Chemistry	29.1% of publications
Immunology and Microbiology	27.1% of publications
Environmental Sciences	26.9% of publications
Physics	15.6% of publications
Medicine	15% of publications
Space Sciences	14.3% of publications
Molecular Biology and Genetics	14% of publications

Source: [Scopus](#) and [Web of Science \(WOS\)](#)

Spaniards, at the forefront of the innovation



Avelino Corma, European Inventor Award 2023 granted by the European Patent Office.



Begoña Vila, astrophysicist, and chief systems engineer at NASA.



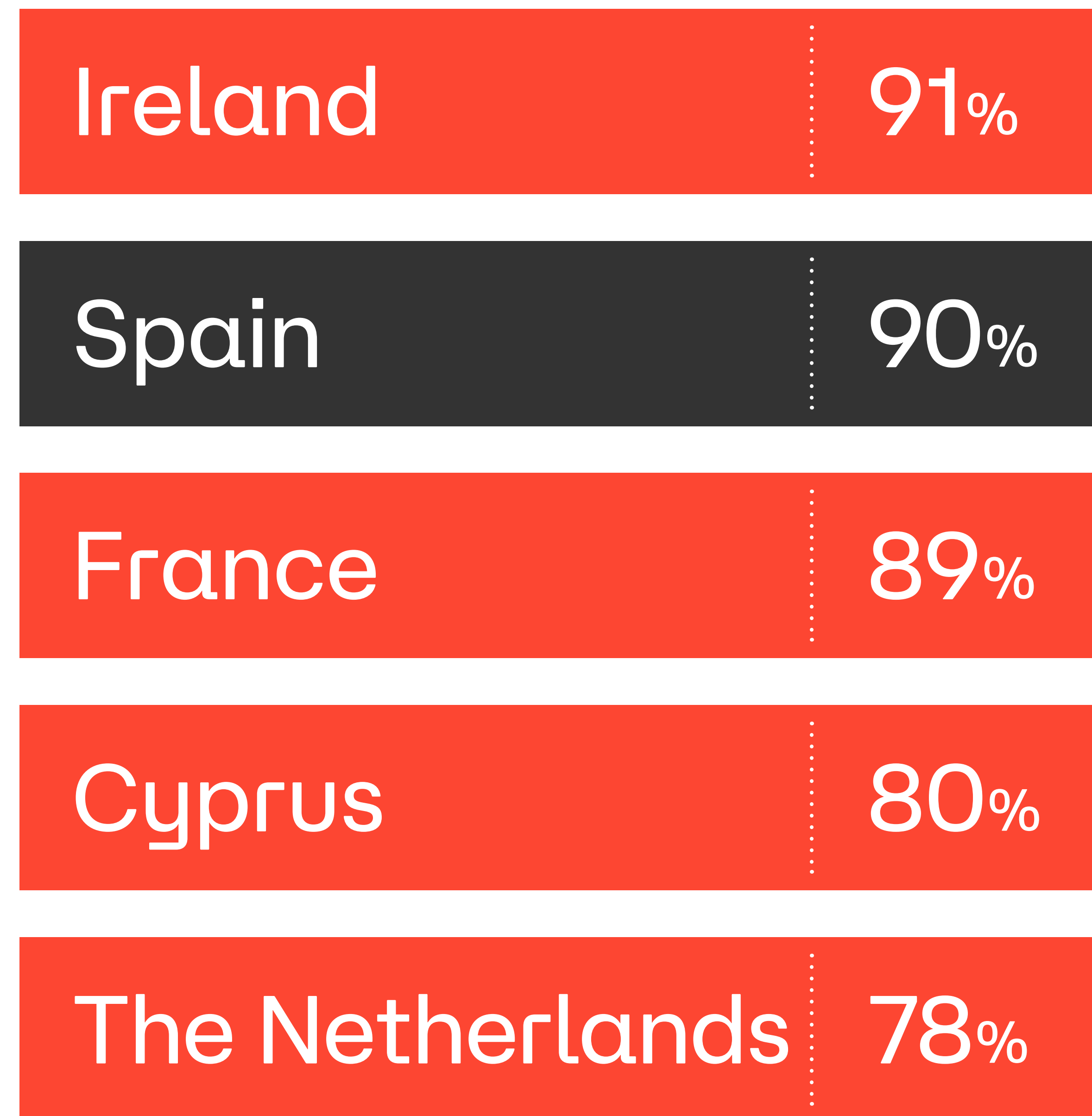
Juan Ignacio Cirac, physicist, director of the theoretical division of the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics in Garching, Germany.



María Blasco, director of the National Center for Oncological Research and winner of the European Körber Science Prize.

Spain is the second European country in open data according to Open Data Maturity in Europe 2019, after Ireland.

Spain achieved the top 2 largest share in open data, with a 90%, second to Ireland's 91%.





Leading
Brands of Spain
Forum