

General Activity Report

2023



MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN
Y UNIVERSIDADES



AGENCIA
ESTATAL DE
INVESTIGACIÓN

**Agencia Estatal
de Investigación**

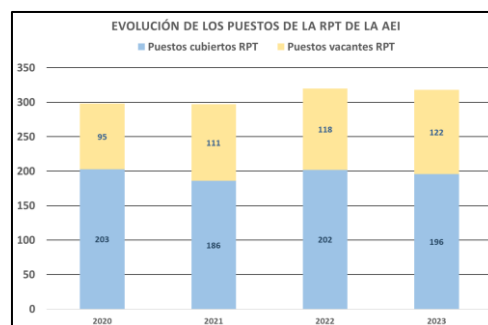
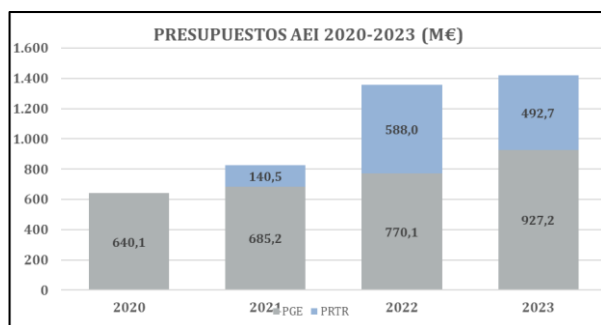
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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

In 2023, the SRA budget has increased over the 2020 budget for the third year in a row. The year 2021 represented an increase of 29% over 2020, 2022 an increase of 134% and 2023 an increase of 145% over the same year 2020.

The management of the 2023 budget has been carried out with practically the same human resources as in previous years, which implies an accumulated effort on the part of the SRA staff over the last three years.

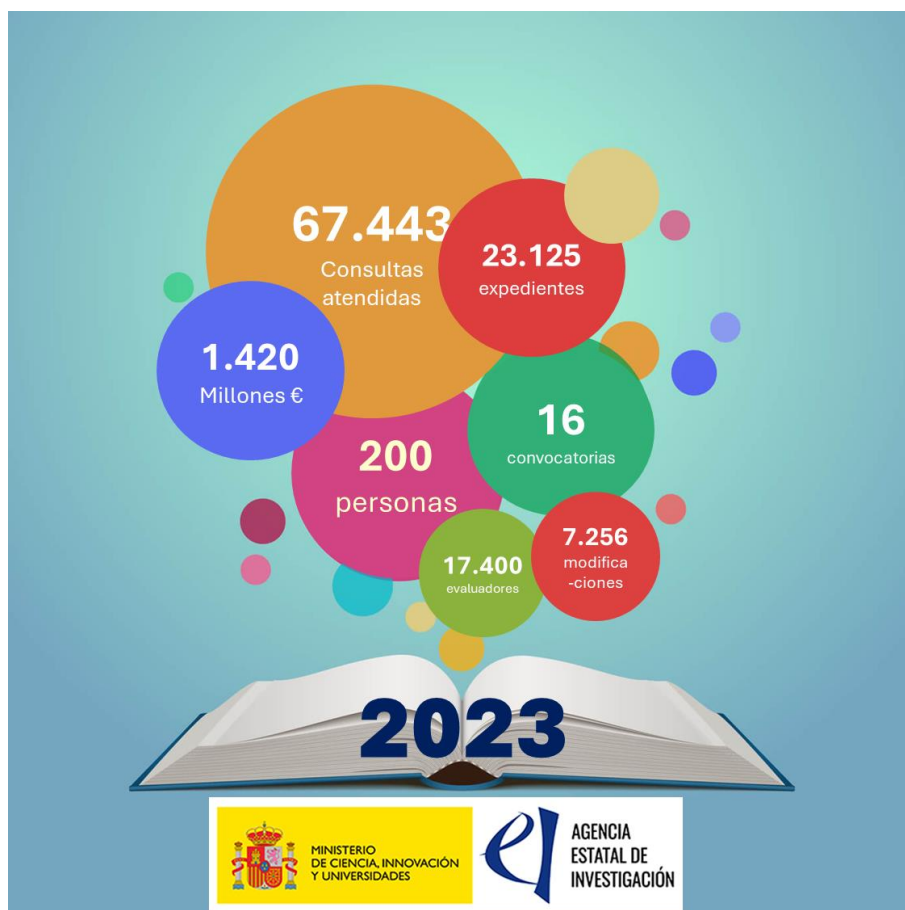


In 2023, 16 calls were drawn up and published, some of them for the first time, such as the ATRAE, Research Consolidation and R3 Certification calls. In the context of these 16 calls, 23,125 files have been processed. A total of 67,443 user queries have been answered, and 7,256 modifications have been made to the conditions of the awarding resolution.

OVERALL COMPLIANCE WITH EACH OF THE AXES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN:

1. **PUBLICATION OF CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS AND AWARDING OF GRANTS.** This is considered to have been satisfactorily fulfilled. All the planned calls have been processed, even though the number of dossiers was much higher than expected, requiring the issuance of more than 40,000 accounting documents.
2. **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS.** This is considered to be satisfactorily fulfilled. More than 21,000 applications have been evaluated, including in cases of MRR funding the evaluation of the DNSH (Do No Significant Harm) principle.
3. **MONITORING OF AID.** This is considered to have been satisfactorily fulfilled. The number of grants monitored has exceeded 11,500 and 7,200 resolutions to modify the conditions of the grant in the Award Resolution have been exceeded.
4. **MANAGEMENT OF AGREEMENTS, MANAGEMENT ENTRUSTMENT AND PROVISION OF SERVICES.** This is considered to be satisfactorily fulfilled. It is worth noting a decrease in the number of agreements due to the fact that the provision of scientific and technical evaluation services is now governed by the public price system.
5. **COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION and REPRESENTATION IN R&D FORUMS.** This line is considered to be satisfactorily fulfilled. Although some of the planned indicators have not been achieved, this is because the activity has been redirected to other activities that have had a greater impact on the expected objectives. For example, it has focused on a more structured presence on Twitter (reaching 5.8 M impressions), instead of opening new profiles on other social media or coordinating all the planned translations of reports.
6. **ACTIONS OF A TRANSVERSAL NATURE.** This line is considered satisfactorily fulfilled, even though the management contract and the proposal for a system of Productivity by Fulfilment

of Objectives could not be implemented for reasons beyond the control of the SRA, as the documents were approved by the Governing Council of the SRA, but have not progressed in the necessary processing at the Ministries of Science, Research and Universities, and the Ministry of Finance. Likewise, the creation of the Equality Unit has not been possible because it is included in the modification of the Statutes which, having been approved by the SRA in 2023, is still being processed by the Ministry of Finance.



0 INTRODUCTION

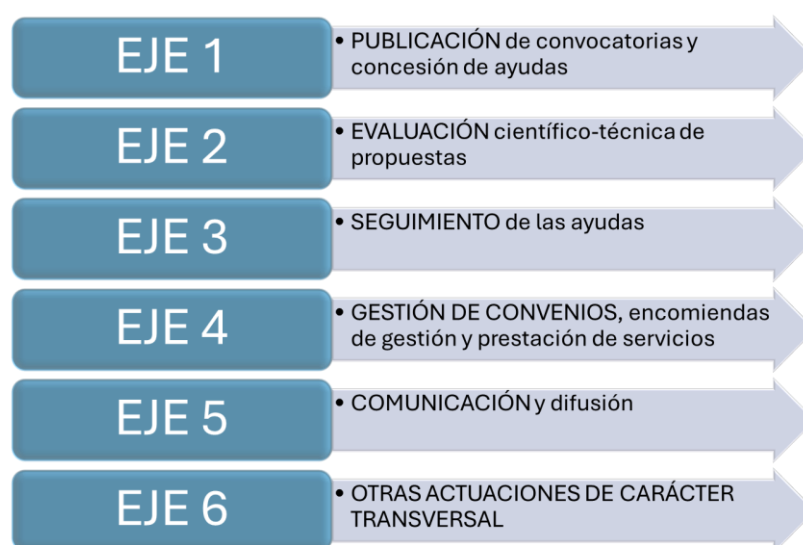
Royal Decree 1067/2015 of 27 November 2015 created the State Research Agency (hereinafter the Agency or SRA) and approved its Statute. Its effective constitution took place on 20 June 2016, with the constitutive meeting of its Governing Council.

The Agency was created with the mission of contributing to the promotion of scientific and technical research in all areas of knowledge through the competitive and efficient allocation of public resources, the monitoring of funded actions and their impact, and advice on the planning of actions or initiatives through which the R&D policies of the General State Administration are implemented.

Article 23 of the Agency's Statute stipulates that the Director must draw up and submit to the Governing Board for approval the General Activity Report (IGA) for each financial year within the deadline established for this purpose in article 15.1 of the former Law 28/2006 of 18 July on State Agencies for the improvement of public services, i.e. before 30 June of the year immediately following.

In compliance with this forecast, the Agency's General Activity Report for the year 2023 has been prepared and submitted to the Governing Board for approval at its meeting of **27 June 2023**.

The general activity report has been prepared in line with the objectives, programmes and activities contained in the [Agency's Annual Action Plan 2023](#). Accordingly, it reports on the activities carried out in the following areas:



The document is therefore structured in the aforementioned axes, and within each one, the activities and indicators selected for the evaluation of the fulfilment of the objectives are described. The information on the activities and indicators is shown in a table that includes the target values and the expected % of compliance that were described in the [Annual Action Plan for the year 2023](#).

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
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The final columns of the indicator tables show the actual value realised in each case and the determination of whether implementation (IMPL) is considered achieved. Where necessary, explanations for why compliance is considered adequate or not are described with an asterisk,

as well as any additional observations made in the "Activity highlights in 2023" section below the table.

CALLS AWARDED IN 2023 BY THE AGENCY

The following are the calls for which the award decision has taken place in 2023, some of them having been launched in 2022.

ID	TITLE	Budget (€)	Grant (€)	DATE OF CONCESSION
RED2022	Research Networks	4.000.000,00	4.942.950,00	17/07/2023
PLA2022	Technology and Innovation Platforms	6.000.000,00	5.985.465,46	20/07/2023
PCI2023-1	International Collaborative Projects PCI2023-1	13.823.524,00	13.738.824,00	24/07/2023
CNS2022	Research Consolidation	76.000.000,00	75.672.386,40	28/07/2023
PRE2022	Pre-doctoral contracts for the training of PhD holders	149.755.720,00	133.997.842,00	20/10/2023
CR32023	R3 Certificate	-	-	07/11/2023
JDC2022	Juan de la Cierva	33.700.000,00	32.015.000,00	29/11/2023
EUR2023	Europe Excellence Projects	2.500.000,00	2.288.261,00	30/11/2023
DIN2022	Contracts for the training of PhDs in companies (Industrial Doctorates)	4.000.000,00	3.469.889,00	04/12/2023
PTQ2022	Torres Quevedo	15.000.000,00	13.573.186,80	04/12/2023
PID2022	Knowledge Generation Projects	625.393.679,41	622.479.894,50	13/12/2023
CPP2022	Public-private partnership projects	260.000.000,00	201.742.326,35	13/12/2023
GPE2023	Preparing and managing European projects and facilitating the attraction of international talent	11.900.000,00	11.900.000,00	13/12/2023
RYC2022	Ramón y Cajal	126.308.900,00	113.322.700,00	15/12/2023
PCI2023-2	International Collaborative Projects PCI2023-2	11.999.910,00	11.803.890,00	19/12/2023
PTA2022	Technical Support Staff	9.000.000,00	8.487.600,00	20/12/2023
ATRAE2023	Aid to encourage the incorporation of consolidated talent "ATRAE Programme".	25.000.000,00	27.499.050,00	22/12/2023
PLE2023	R&D&I projects in strategic lines - Transmissions	60.000.000,00	55.422.798,83	22/12/2023
TOTAL		1.434.381.733,41	1.338.342.064,34	

HUMAN RESOURCES IN 2023

The staff of the State Investigation Agency as at 31 December 2023 included in the RPT is as follows.

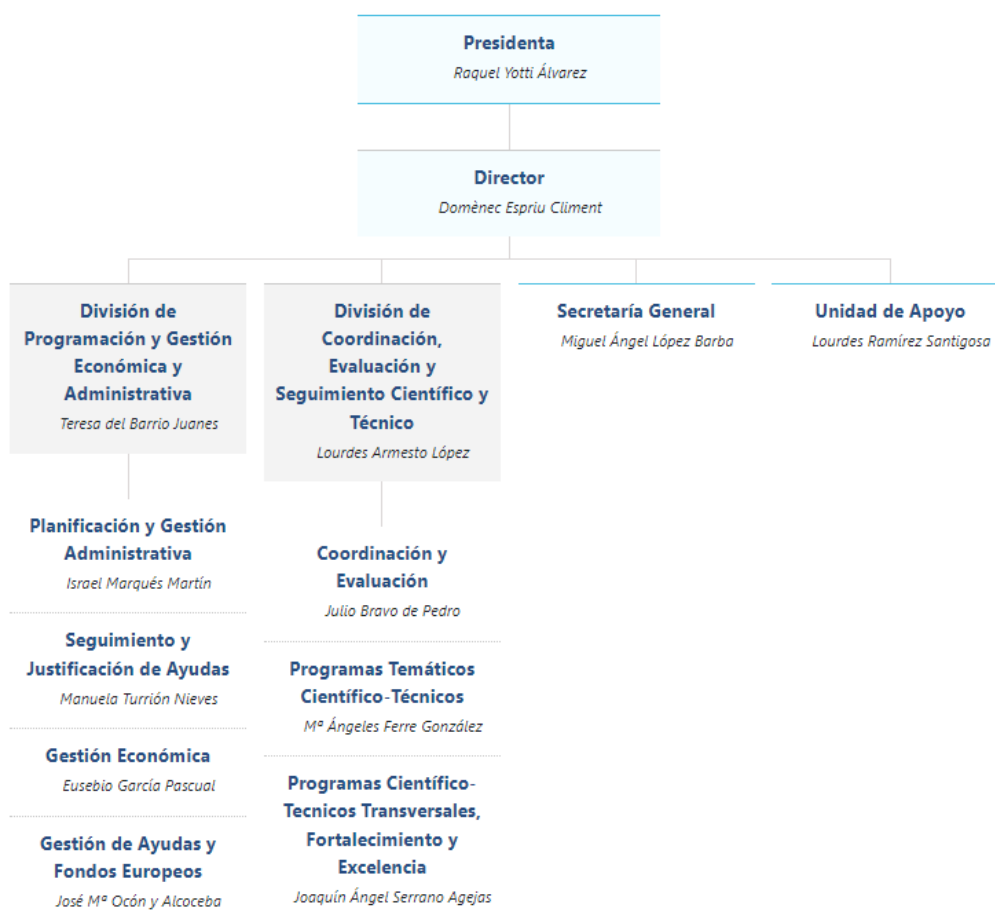
Unit	No. of jobs		RPT
	Filled	Vacancies	Total
Support Unit	9	2	11
General Secretariat	31	14	45
Division of Coordination, Evaluation and Scientific and Technical Follow-up	4	6	10
Coordination and Evaluation Branch	17	6	23

Unit	No. of jobs		RPT
	Filled	Vacancies	Total
Scientific and Technical Thematic Programmes Branch	26	7	33
Cross-cutting Scientific and Technical Programmes, Strengthening and Excellence Branch	20	9	29
Division of Programming, Economic and Administrative Management	3	5	8
Planning and Administrative Management Branch	28	18	46
Economic Management Branch	14	4	18
Grant Monitoring and Justification Branch	32	22	54
European Funds Grants Management Sub-Division	16	4	20
TOTALS	200	97	297

AGENCY'S BUDGET IN 2023

REVENUE	Amount (thousands of €)
Fees, public prices and other revenues	1.100,00
Current transfer	29.984,02
Actual investments: Repayments on capital operations	30.000,00
Capital transfer	1.358.891,59
Financial assets	20,00
Total income	1.419.995,61
EXPENDITURE	Amount (thousands of €)
Staff costs	12.345,37
Current expenditure on goods and services	19.002,35
Financial expenses	300,00
Current transfers	85,00
Real investments	70,00
Capital transfers	823.666,84
Financial assets	20,00
Real investments PRTR	2.500,00
Capital transfers PRTR	562.006,05
Total expenditure	1.419.995,61

ORGANISATION CHART OF THE AGENCY IN 2023



1 LINE 1. PUBLICATION OF CALLS AND AWARD OF GRANTS



This line comprises the set of actions aimed at complying with the actions programmed in the State R&D&I Plan and the Annual Action Programmes, for the promotion and impulse of R&D&I, for which the State Research Agency receives the appropriate allocation of budgetary credits.

These allocated appropriations are generally mobilised in the form of subsidies, which requires the publication of procedures for direct award or competitive calls for applications and the award of grants, as well as the associated financial management.

Programme 1.1. Instruction of the procedure for awarding calls

This programme is implemented primarily by the Planning and Administrative Management Branch, with the following activities being the main ones:

1. **Drafting and publication of calls.** This includes, in addition to the drafting of the texts of all calls, the request for the mandatory reports and authorisations, the signing and publication in the Official State Gazette and in the National Grants Database (BDNS). Of particular importance is the adaptation to the modifications introduced in 2022 and 2023 in [Law 14/2011, of 1 June](#).
2. **Instruction.** This activity includes the technological configuration processes of the communication interfaces with the beneficiaries and internal processing applications, the administrative review of the applications, the rectification and processing of possible withdrawals and the notification of the provisional and final decision proposal and the decision to award the call.
3. **Maintenance of the system of entities.** The system of entities is the repository where the entities applying for grants from the Agency must register, providing the necessary documentation to accredit both their legal nature and the valid representation of the natural persons designated as their legal representatives.
This repository is connected to all the systems for processing aid, so it is essential that all the information is kept up to date and that a system for registering new entities is allowed.
4. **Advice to applicants.** Throughout the application submission process and instruction of the calls for applications, it is essential to provide correct advice to the entities on the configuration of the application reports, eligibility requirements, correct allocation of eligible costs, responsible declarations, hearing procedures, etc. This advice is provided through the manuals and FAQ files published on the institutional website, as well as through e-mail accounts.
5. **Updating of the National Grants Database (BDNS).** In order to guarantee the right of citizens to know about all the public subsidies and grants awarded and to contribute to the principles of publicity and transparency, the information on the public subsidies and grants awarded by the State Research Agency is updated in the BDNS.

6. **Definition and loading of information in CoFFEE-MRR.** CoFFEE-MRR is the application that manages compliance with the milestones and objectives defined in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR) and concentrates all the information provided by the different bodies that contribute to the PRTR. The Agency, as the managing body and executing entity of the different PRTR actions, sends information on the definition and execution of the measures in which it participates for the adequate monitoring of the execution of the projects in accordance with the European regulation of the funds, with the frequency, procedure and format required by the authority responsible for the funds.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
1.1.1	Drafting and publication of calls	No. of calls published	16	100%	16	YES
1.1.2	Instruction	No. of files processed	19.800	100%	23.125	YES
1.1.3	Maintenance of the system of entities	No. of applications for registrations/deregistrations /modifications processed	2.300	100%	2.217	YES
1.1.4	Advice to aid applicants	No. of emails answered	19.200	100%	19.389	YES
1.1.5	BDNS Update	No. of awards to beneficiaries	6.000	100%	7.250	YES
1.1.6	CoFFEE-MRR definition and charging	No. of calls financed with MRR funds. No. of beneficiaries financed with MRR funds.	3 5.000	100%	3 1.798	YES*

Activity highlights in 2023

The following calls have been drafted and published in 2023:

1. ATRAE2023 - ATRAE Programme
2. CEX2023 - "Severo Ochoa"/"María de Maeztu".
3. CNS2023 - Research Consolidation
4. CPP2023 - Public-Private Partnership Projects
5. CR32023 - Certificate R3
6. EUR2023 - Europe excellence
7. GPE2023 - European Project Management
8. JDC2023 - Juan de la Cierva
9. PCI2023-1 - International Collaborative Projects - 1
10. PCI2023-2 - International Collaborative Projects - 2
11. PDC2023 - Proof of Concept
12. PID2023 - Knowledge Generation Projects
13. PLE2023 - Projects in Strategic Lines
14. PTA2023 - R&D&I Technical Staff
15. PTQ2023 - Torres Quevedo
16. RYC2023 - Ramón y Cajal

In 2023, 3 RRM calls were launched:

- Europe Excellence 2023
- Proof of Concept 2023
- Research Consolidation 2023.

* The 1,798 awards during 2023 are from the calls Europe Excellence 2023, Research Consolidation 2022, Public-Private Collaboration 2022 and Juan de la Cierva 2022.

Proof of Concept 2023 and Research Consolidation 2023 are granted in 2024.

Programme 1.2. Economic and Budgetary Management

This programme is implemented by the Economic Management Branch, with the participation of the European Grants and Funds Management Branch in activity 5 described below and of the Transversal Scientific and Technical Programme Branch in activity 2. In this line of action, the activities described below stand out.

1. **Prior audit of the calls for aid that require it.** The number of calls subject to prior audit by the Delegate Auditor of the Ministry of Science and Innovation corresponds to those with chapter 8 available for funding.
This process includes, for each of the different accounting phases necessary to execute the expenditure, the preparation of the documentation that, with regard to the basic requirements for prior audit, is set out in the Agreement of the Council of Ministers of 30 May 2008.
2. **Review of the requirements for obtaining the status of beneficiary and for the payment of multi-annual aid.** This activity includes both the review of the responsible declarations and certificates provided by applicants and, in the event that prior authorisation has been given, verification through the web servers set up for this purpose of compliance with obligations to the Tax Agency and Social Security.
This review is carried out only once for each entity, irrespective of the number of grants awarded.
3. **Issuance of accounting documents.** This includes the issuing, accounting and payment, where appropriate, of all accounting documents that, in accordance with each of the expenditure phases, are necessary to process the calls managed by the Agency.
4. **Payment of grants.** In the payment of grants, as in the entire economic management procedure, a distinction must be made between the Agency's own budget and the budget of the Ministry of Science and Innovation, i.e. Chapter 7 or 8. In the first case, once the aid reflected in the respective OP document has been accounted for, it will be transferred to the unit in charge of managing the Agency's Treasury, in order to order the necessary transfers, always taking into account the Treasury's situation. In the case of Chapter 8 operations, once the accounting document has been recorded by the Delegated Financial Controller, the payment order corresponds to the Public Treasury, a process in which the Agency does not intervene at any time. All aid granted, regardless of its form, must be registered in the National Subsidies Database.
5. **Cancellation of Chapter 8 Repayable Advances granted under the FEDER and FSE.** The procedure for the cancellation of repayable advances involves several bodies of the General State Administration, in particular the SRA itself, the FEDER and FSE Certifying Authorities (Directorate General for European Funds of the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration and the FSE Administrative Unit of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy) and the General State Comptroller (IGAE). The SRA is responsible for linking each FEDER operation to each loan (registered in the PRESYA application by the IGAE).
Finally, for the 2014-2020 period, the Managing Authority's Funds 2020 application already requires, as information to be filled in, the loan number for each operation, so the SRA is uploading this information as the expenditure certifications are processed.

6. Advice to aid applicants. Advice is provided to beneficiaries, especially with regard to the presentation of guarantees and the characteristics of bank accounts. This advice is provided through e-mail accounts available on the institutional website.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPLEMENTATION
1.2.1	Prior control of calls that require it	No. of calls audited	3	100%	3	YES
1.2.2	Review of eligibility and payment requirements.	No. of revisions	8.200	100%	8.600	YES*
1.2.3	Issuance of accounting documents deriving from the concession	No. of accounting documents issued	32.600	100%	40.322	YES
1.2.4	Payment of aid	No. of transfers made	17.900	100%	24.224	YES
1.2.5	Cancellation of repayable advances	FEDER/FSE co-financed operations	550	100%	550	YES
1.2.6	Advice to beneficiaries	No. of emails answered	900	100%	1.650	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

* In addition to the reviews carried out by the Economic Management Branch, it is necessary to highlight the reviews carried out by the Cross-cutting Scientific and Technical Programmes and Strengthening Branch on transnational calls.

In the review of the implementation of the 2023 activities, the following activities have been identified as needing to be taken into account.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
1.2.7	Issuance of payment letters and 069 at the request of beneficiaries	No. of documents issued	2.800	100%	3.187	YES
1.2.8	Revenue control	No. of supervised admissions	10.100	100%	11.749	YES
1.2.9	Decisions on undue income	No. of resolutions issued	360	100%	502	YES
1.2.10	Resolutions modifying amortisation tables	No. of resolutions issued	100	100%	122	YES
1.2.11	Resolutions of reimbursement and PDC	No. of resolutions issued	700	100%	1.485	YES

2 LINE 2. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS



The Agency is responsible for the organisation and management of the *ex ante* and *ex post* scientific and technical evaluation of proposals, actions or initiatives, where appropriate using evaluation criteria based on internationally recognised scientific and technical merit, as well as those criteria established in the corresponding calls, as set out in its Statute (Article 5.b).

The scientific-technical evaluation of proposals and their internationally contrasted development protocols are the fundamental pillars that guarantee the correct functioning of competitive concurrence based on criteria of excellence and the correct allocation of budgetary funds. In 2021, the Agency adhered to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#), so it has been necessary to implement these principles. To this end, it has been necessary to continue to make progress in reforming the models of the documentation provided in the application, reports, as well as in other aspects related to the training of the Agency's collaborators and experts.

This line of action is carried out by the Coordination and Evaluation Branch, in collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Thematic Programmes and Transversal Scientific and Technical Programmes, Strengthening and Excellence Branches. Thus, the Programme Branches collaborate in those calls that require a scientific-technical panel evaluation, participating in:

- The assessment and validation of the experts proposed for membership of the scientific/technical panels.
- Participation in the technical commissions of those actions in which the results of the scientific-technical monitoring must be assessed.
- The control and uploading to the corresponding computer applications of the funding granted in the calls whose scientific-technical monitoring is carried out from the subdivision of programmes, both in the Provisional Resolution Proposal (PRP) and in the Final Resolution Proposal (PRD) phases.
- The review of the final evaluation reports resulting from the scientific-technical commissions.

Programme 2.1. Evaluations stemming from the Annual Action Plan

This programme has been divided into the activities described below.

1. **Management of individual peer reviews.** This activity begins with the search for the best available experts in each of the thematic areas to which the proposals correspond, with the aim of obtaining a peer review evaluation of each application. This process in turn involves close monitoring of the execution of the evaluations themselves and the reassignment of

proposals to new evaluators in cases where the evaluators assigned in the first instance reject the proposal, or where there is a discrepancy between the evaluations issued.

2. **Management of the technical evaluation commissions.** This activity includes tasks such as the designation of the members of the commissions themselves, as well as the organisation of the technical and human resources necessary for them to be held.
3. **Preparation of final evaluation reports.** This activity consists of the generation of the final reports that gather the information obtained from all the applications submitted and from the technical reports produced by the peer review and the technical commissions, all with the main objective of achieving the final prioritisation of all the proposals.
4. **Elaboration of allegation reports.** Possible allegations presented by applicants, related to the scientific-technical evaluation of their proposals, are studied in detail by experts or external collaborators, and the corresponding technical reports are issued.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
2.1.1	Management of evaluations	No. of applications assessed	18.900	100%	14.644	YES
2.1.2	Management of the Technical Evaluation Commissions	No. of technical evaluation commissions held	170	100%	203	YES
2.1.3	Allegation and appeal reports	No. of allegation reports carried out	2000	100%	1.739	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

In the management of evaluations (number of applications evaluated), the DNSH evaluation dossiers have not been considered separately in the context of the PRTR grants, as it was considered that this would be a duplication of dossiers, even though it has meant an additional effort to the usual scientific-technical evaluation.

Programme 2.2. External evaluations

This programme refers to the evaluations of calls external to the Agency, both with public and private entities, with which a collaboration agreement has previously been signed for this purpose or in application of the order of public prices for evaluation activities. Once these institutions transfer the projects or actions to be evaluated to the Agency, the process followed is equivalent to that developed in the evaluations indicated in programme 2.1, except for the development of the technical evaluation commissions, which usually correspond to the entities or bodies responsible for financing said calls, according to the particular characteristics of each one of them.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
2.2.1	Management of evaluations	No. of applications assessed	5.700	100%	6.496	YES
2.2.2	Allegation and appeal reports	No. of allegation reports carried out	80	100%	631	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

The evaluated applications and the allegation reports made are significantly increased by the number of R3 applications (3,076 applications, with 527 allegations) which were not foreseen at

the time of the 2023 Annual Action Plan. In addition, as reflected in indicator 4.1.2, the number of evaluated external calls has been much higher than expected (132 instead of 80), which has contributed to the increase in the number of evaluated applications.

In an attempt to alleviate the continuous increase in requests for evaluation of external calls, which to some extent limits the ERA's own activity, in November 2011 a [Resolution](#) was signed [by the Director of the ERA](#), establishing the requirements for external calls to be evaluated by the state research agency. The impact of this resolution is expected to be reflected in the 2024 General Activity Report.

3 LINE 3. MONITORING OF AID



The Agency's functions include monitoring and advising on the management, financing, justification and results of all actions directly implemented by the Agency (Article 5 e) of the Statute).

In turn, the same statute establishes that the Agency's functions shall include the verification, monitoring and ex-post evaluation of the activities financed by it and their scientific, technical and socio-economic impact, as well as the control of the justification of compliance with the conditions and objectives of the aid granted (Article 5c of the Statute).

The Agency's activity in this area has therefore been subdivided into Programme 1 for the scientific and technical monitoring of the implementation of grants and Programme 2 for the economic monitoring of the implementation of grants.

Programme 3.1. Scientific and technical monitoring of the implementation of grants.

Grants awarded following the evaluation of proposals should be monitored to ensure that they are being implemented at the levels of excellence that justified their award. Furthermore, the assessment of the development of the aid programmes must be used to progressively improve the definition of these programmes. For all these reasons, the scientific and technical monitoring of the implementation of grants is one of the fundamental components of the Agency's activity.

This programme is implemented primarily by the Scientific and Technical Thematic Programmes and Cross-cutting Scientific and Technical Programmes, Strengthening and Excellence Branches, as well as by the Directorate of the Scientific and Technical Co-ordination, Evaluation and Monitoring Division. Of particular note are the activities described below.

1. **Management of the scientific-technical monitoring programmed in each call.** This scientific-technical monitoring process is carried out following two protocols for the assessment of the scientific-technical reports, as indicated in each call. In both cases there are common tasks such as: the design and preparation of the formats for the reports, the preparation of the computer applications for the presentation of the execution reports by the beneficiaries of the grants, the complaint of the reports not received or the correction of those that are not complete, among others.

Once the scientific-technical reports have been received, they are assessed using two different procedures:

- Reports are assessed by external scientific-technical partners and reviewed and validated by SRA staff.
- The reports are assessed by the technical staff of the SRA.

Once the report has been assessed and validated, the assessment information is sent to the beneficiary of the grant. In the interim reports and, as dictated by the call, if the assessment is favourable, the necessary certificates of conformity will be issued in order to release the following payments. On the other hand, in cases where the assessment is unfavourable, the processing of the corresponding forfeiture of the right to payment or the files for reimbursement of the aid, as the case may be, will be initiated. In the case of final reports, failure to submit or a negative assessment will trigger the partial or total reimbursement of the aid.

The assessment of the scientific-technical monitoring may be taken into account in the evaluation of applications for actions submitted by the same PI or research group, when so provided for in the call.

2. **Assessment of grants in follow-up meetings.** This activity consists of the development of meetings for the presentation by the researchers of the state of implementation of the funded activities under evaluation. The face-to-face monitoring meetings will be led by the scientific and technological partners or by Agency staff, and may be attended by the external experts who carried out the evaluation, as well as by officials from the monitoring subdivisions (thematic or transversal).
3. **On-site monitoring visits.** When foreseen in a call, scheduled inspection visits will be made. These actions are carried out by technical staff of the subdivisions in charge of scientific-technical monitoring.
4. **Resolutions authorising/refusing modifications to the conditions of the aid.** Those requests for modification of the conditions of the aid contemplated in the call for applications that are justified and appropriate in each case will be processed for authorisation. To this end, the collaboration of the scientific and technological collaborators may be requested, who will draw up the technical assessment reports that support the decisions to authorise or reject the modifications to the initial grant. This section also includes the management of early cancellations that may occur in grants.
5. **Citizen information and advice to beneficiaries.** Throughout the entire process of the scientific and technical implementation of the grants, it is essential that beneficiaries are properly advised on the completion of the implementation reports, the submission of incidents, procedural doubts, etc. This advice will be provided primarily through e-mail accounts created for this purpose.
6. **Ex-post evaluation reports of funded actions** The Coordination, Evaluation and Technical Scientific Monitoring Division has among its functions the organisation, coordination, management and execution of the ex-post technical scientific monitoring of the actions funded by the Agency.

Cross-cutting Scientific and Technical Programmes, Strengthening and Excellence Subdivision

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
3.1.1	Management of the scientific and technical monitoring of grants	No. of aid monitored	2.600	100%	2.973	YES
3.1.2	Assessment of aid in follow-up meetings	No. of aid assessed in follow-up meetings	250	100%	485	YES
3.1.3	On-site monitoring visits	No. of on-site visits	5	100%	17	YES

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
3.1.4	Decisions authorising/refusing changes to the conditions of aid	Number of decisions modifying the conditions of the aid	1.200	100%	1.487	YES
3.1.5	Citizen information and advice to beneficiaries	No. of emails answered over the number of emails received	22.000	100%	21.745	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

In addition to the activities included in the 2023 AAP, it is important to highlight the implementation of the following activities:

1. Requests for the initiation of reimbursement and requests for the initiation of forfeiture of entitlement to payment. As a result of the scientific-technical monitoring, cases may be found in which the aid has not been properly implemented, with the subsequent initiation of proceedings for the loss of entitlement to payment of subsequent annual instalments and/or reimbursement of annual instalments received.
2. Reports on appeals. Those appeals whose subject matter falls within the competence of the monitoring subdivisions must be reported to the legal service in charge of processing them. Thus, a report is issued in response to allegations of reimbursement, loss of entitlement to payment and appeals lodged.

Scientific and Technical Thematic Programmes Subdivision

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
3.1.8	Management of the scientific and technical monitoring of grants	No. of aid monitored	8.100	100%	8.542	YES
3.1.9	Assessment of aid in follow-up meetings	No. of aid assessed in follow-up meetings	3.100	20%	577	YES
3.1.10	On-site monitoring visits	No. of on-site visits	74	25%	22	YES
3.1.11	Decisions authorising/refusing changes to the conditions of aid	Number of decisions modifying the conditions of the aid	5600	100%	5.769	YES
3.1.12	Citizen information and advice to beneficiaries	No. of mails answered over the number of mails received	10.000	100%	11.758	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

As indicated in the LINE 2. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS, it highlights that the staff of the Scientific and Technical Thematic Programmes Subdivision collaborate in the evaluation of proposals in those calls that require a scientific-technical panel evaluation, participating, in coordination with the Coordination and Evaluation Subdivision, in:

- The assessment and validation of the experts proposed for membership of the scientific/technical panels.

- Participating in the technical commissions of those actions in which the results of the scientific-technical monitoring must be assessed.
- The control and uploading to the corresponding computer applications of the funding awarded in the calls whose scientific-technical monitoring is carried out by the Scientific-Technical Programmes Subdivision, both in the Provisional Resolution Proposal (PRP) and in the Final Resolution Proposal (PRD) phases.
- The review of the final evaluation reports resulting from the scientific-technical commissions.

Division of Coordination, Evaluation and Scientific and Technical Follow-up

The functions of the Scientific and Technical Coordination, Evaluation and Monitoring Division include the coordination and preparation of reports and studies on the scientific-technical, social and economic impact of the Agency's actions. The aim is to provide society as a whole, and especially the scientific community, with an analysis of the impact of the results obtained through the calls financed by the State Research Agency in which they have participated.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
3.1.13	Evaluation of the actions financed	Number of reports	2	100%	1	YES

Programme 3.2. Economic monitoring of the implementation of aid.

This programme is mainly carried out by the Grants Monitoring and Justification Subdivision and the Grants and European Funds Management Subdivision. The activities related to the maintenance of the NSDB are carried out by the Directorate of the Programming and Economic and Administrative Management Division and by the ICT Area of the General Secretariat, and the cancellation of guarantees and seizure of collateral is carried out by the Economic Management Subdivision.

Within this line, the activities described below stand out.

1. **Administrative review of the supporting account and financial audit of expenditure** for all files for which the financial justification has been finalised. The stages of checking the validity of the expenditure charged by the beneficiaries will depend on the type of supporting account, and may range from checking the ROAC (Official Register of Auditors) auditor's report to the exhaustive checking of all the supporting documents of expenditure provided by the beneficiary and, where appropriate, the processing of the request for correction.
2. **Monitoring visits.** When so stipulated in the general calls or in the regulations governing the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF), on-site verification will be carried out, at the headquarters of the beneficiary entities, of the accounts and supporting documents for the expenditure provided, as well as, where appropriate, of the tangible fixed assets financed. This activity is envisaged for calls from 2013 onwards.
3. **Reimbursements.** This procedure includes issuing the agreement to initiate the reimbursement, opening the hearing, assessing the allegations presented by the beneficiary

and notifying the final reimbursement decision. It includes the issuance of the payment letters from the SRA, in the case of grants, or the request for the payment document form 069 to the Delegated Intervention in the case of loans and reimbursable advances, and the corresponding transfer to the beneficiary.

4. **Preparation of reports in relation to appeals for reconsideration against reimbursement decisions.** Beneficiaries have one month from the day following notification to file an appeal for reconsideration against reimbursement decisions. These appeals must be reported prior to being sent to the General Secretariat, together with a copy of the file, for study by the legal department.
5. **Maintenance of the National Grants Database (BDNS).** It shall be necessary to upload, with reference to calls registered in the BDNS, the payments and voluntary repayments made by the beneficiaries of the grants, as well as the reimbursement files that are initiated.
6. **Cancellation of guarantees and seizure of guarantees.** The procedure for the cancellation of guarantees submitted to the Caja General de Depósitos includes the issuance of the cancellation order in accordance with the models of the Caja General de Depósitos and the referral to it, as well as the notification to the beneficiary that the referral has been made so that the beneficiary may proceed to cancel the guarantee. The procedure for the seizure of guarantees includes notifying the beneficiary of the start of the procedure, as well as the opening of the hearing, the assessment of the allegations and, in the event that these are rejected, issuing the request for seizure and sending it to the Delegated Comptroller for audit and to the General Depositary's Office (Caja General de Depósitos).
7. **Certification of European Structural Funds.** The certification of structural funds implies the justification before the Managing Authorities of the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund of the eligible expenses of the co-financed projects, in order for the European Commission to proceed with the payment of the aids with these structural funds.
8. **Advice to beneficiaries.** Advice will be provided to beneficiaries at all stages of the procedure, especially with regard to the submission of the supporting account. This advice will be provided through e-mail accounts available on the institutional website.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
3.2.1	Administrative review of the supporting account and audit of expenditure	No. of files reviewed	46.000	38%	11.991	YES*
3.2.2	Follow-up visits	No. of visits made	190	100%	277	YES
3.2.3	Start-up Agreements	No. of start-up agreements	28.000	31%	9.431	YES*
3.2.4	Refund decisions	No. of reimbursement decisions	28.000	34%	8.997	YES*
3.2.5	Analysis of appeals for reconsideration	No. of reports sent to the General Secretariat	450	100%	400	YES
3.2.6	Maintenance of the BDNS. Payments	Number of updates per payment	20.000	N/A	34.715	YES
3.2.7	Maintenance of the BDNS. Refunds	Number of updates by refund	750	N/A	967	YES
3.2.8	Maintenance of the BDNS. Returns	Number of updates per return	6.000	N/A	1.448	YES*
3.2.9	Cancellation of guarantees and forfeiture of collateral	No. of collateral cancelled, partially cancelled or seized	700	100%	776	YES

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
3.2.10	Certification of EIE funds	No. of certified operations	12.000	100%	7.265	YES
3.2.11	Advice to beneficiaries	No. of emails answered	12.500	100%	12.790	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

* For "Administrative review of the supporting account and audit of expenditure" the "Estimated workload" has been calculated taking into account the total number of files for which the presentation of the supporting account is expected to be finalised in 2023, although it is not possible to review all of them during 2023. For "Agreements of Initiation" and "Reimbursements", the "Estimated workload" are the revisions that will lead to them. In the case of "Follow-up visits" it is counted as the number of visits planned for the issuance of the interim report of the visit.

The reason for the percentage below 100% is that the target is in line with the estimated capacity with the available means and the medium-term objective is to increase this percentage.

* The returns and refunds that have been transferred to BDNS correspond to the calls that are in BDNS. However, many more returns and refunds have been handled for older calls, which are not loaded in BDNS.

* In relation to the "No. of certified operations" indicator for "SRA Funds", it should be noted that the workload estimate was made by projecting the number of operations that in 2023 would be in a position to be certified. This number has been lower than expected, but all those that were in a suitable state of verification to be certified have been certified. As for the amounts of these operations, it was sufficient to achieve an execution in 2023 of more than 100% of the FEDER path allocated to the SRA in the 2014-2020 period.

4 LINE 4. MANAGEMENT OF AGREEMENTS, ENTRUSTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND PROVISION OF SERVICES



The Agency is responsible for carrying out the activities or providing the services entrusted to it by the General State Administration or, by virtue of contracts, agreements and in general legal transactions, by other entities [Article 5 i) of the Statute]. Also, for the exercise of its functions, the Agency may enter into the necessary management agreements and entrustments (Article 24 of the Statute).

This Line is mainly carried out by the Legal Department of the General Secretariat, and the following activities are noteworthy.

1. **Collaboration agreements, management commissions and other legal instruments** with other public and private non-profit institutions.
2. **Provision of services**, mainly in the field of scientific and technical evaluation of R&D&I activities of other institutions.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
4.1.1	Signing of agreements, entrustment of management and other legal instruments	No. of instruments signed	15	100%	8	YES
4.1.2	Activities for the provision of scientific and technical evaluation services	No. of activities carried out	80	100%	132	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

During the year 2023 the activities for the provision of scientific-technical evaluation services came to be governed by the system of public prices , and therefore agreements for the regulation of these were no longer signed. This explains the reduction in indicator 4.1.1, but the indicator is considered to be met.

Evaluation service delivery activities have been much higher than expected.

5 LINE 5. COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND REPRESENTATION IN R&D FORUMS



One of the Agency's basic principles of action is transparency in all its administrative activities, accountability and commitment to present accurate and complete information on all results and procedures used.

This Line is coordinated by the Management Support Unit, but all the Agency's units are involved in its implementation, which is where the information is generated.

Programme 5.1. Communication, dissemination and outreach

Communication, dissemination and outreach activities aim to give visibility and transparency to all the Agency's actions, to fulfil mandates of the funds obtained and to promote a culture of dissemination favourable to science. The public interested in the Agency's activities includes actors in the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System (SECTI), research personnel, the media, government ministries and society in general. In short, the aim is to maintain open channels for exchange, helping to improve the vision of the work in the scientific community and in the rest of Spanish society, and to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee maximum transparency in the exercise of the Agency's functions.

1. **Media relations.** Creation of a media agenda, a press dossier sending press releases and information to the media and dissemination.
2. **Social media.** Creation of a LinkedIn profile and increased interaction on Twitter with users through the institutional profile.
3. **Webinars.** Carrying out webinars and expanding the topics covered in them, and improving accessibility to the videos generated.
4. **Events.** Collaboration with SECTI agents by organising and participating in their own and joint events.
5. **Transparency measures.** Make the results obtained through the calls financed by the State Research Agency available to society as a whole and especially to the scientific community.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
5.1.1	Media references	No. of references	10	100%	3.653	YES
5.1.2	Press releases	No. of press releases	30	100%	32	YES
5.1.3	Social networks: Activity	No. of content communicated through social networks	350	100%	685	YES
5.1.4	Social networks: Profiles	Creation of a LinkedIn network profile	1	100%	0	NO*
5.1.5	Media interviews	No. of interviews	2	100%	14	YES

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
5.1.6	Webinars	No. of videos on Youtube	10	100%	10	YES
5.1.7	Organisation of own events	Number of events	2	100%	1	YES
5.1.8	Organisation of events in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Innovation.	Number of events	1	100%	0	NO*
5.1.9	Active participation in institutional events	Number of conferences and lectures	10	100%	12	YES
5.1.10	Website advertising: updating and adding new content	New call sheets and all their associated content	25	100%	16	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

* It has been decided not to create a LinkedIn channel for the time being due to the type of potential users of the SRA, as an analysis has been made of what type of information reaches them and this is already covered by other SRA channels.

* Although some events had been planned in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Innovation, the early call for elections meant that these events, which are expected to be held later, were moved to a later date: in 2024 it is hoped to hold the awarding of accreditations for the Severo Ochoa and María de Maeztu centres of excellence, and in 2025 it is hoped to hold an event related to the 25th anniversary of the Ramón y Cajal programme.

With regard to "Active participation in institutional events", only institutional participations from the SRA Directorate have been reported.

During 2023, for the first time, a press kit and a media agenda have been created for the EIG.

The following is data for the social network Twitter during 2023.



The efforts and modernisation of the SRA in communication can be seen in indicators that have been measured for the first time, such as the following:



Programme 5.2. Communication with SECTI actors

The following actions are considered within this programme.

1. **Meetings with the Agency's collaborating staff**, for the development and monitoring of the Agency's actions.
2. **Meetings with the Agency's strategic groups**, to improve communication of activities, collect doubts, proposals and complaints, and feedback and improve the Agency's processes.
3. **Institutional meetings**. Representation activities are carried out at national and international meetings and forums related to scientific funding, as well as representation at R&D policy forums when so determined by the Ministry of Science and Innovation. Trade fairs involving SECTI actors are also attended.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
5.2.1	Workshops with the chairpersons and coordinators of thematic areas	No. of days	2	100%	1	YES
5.2.2	Workshops with the chairpersons of the thematic areas	No. of Conferences	4	100%	5	YES
5.2.3	Conference of the chairs of the thematic areas and the members of the Technical Scientific Committee	No. of Conferences	1	100%	1	YES
5.2.4	Meetings of the Managers' Forum	No. of days	2	100%	2	YES
5.2.5	Meetings with the Beneficiary Advisory Committee	No. of days	2	100%	2	YES
5.2.6	Meetings with the Technology Platforms Advisory Board	No. of Conferences	2	100%	0	YES*

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
5.2.7	Participation in international forums	No. of forums in which active participation takes place	65	100%	66	YES
5.2.8	Participation in international meetings	No. of meetings	1.100	100%	1.168	YES
5.2.9	Participation in national forums	No. of forums in which active participation takes place	70	100%	20	YES
5.2.10	Participation in fair with stand	Number of own stands realised	1	100%	1	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

* In 2023 it was not necessary to convene the Platforms Advisory Committee. Collaboration with Technology Platforms is currently managed by the Scientific and Technical Thematic Programmes Subdivision of the SRA, which is responsible for monitoring the call for Technology and Innovation Platforms. This call finances these entities and grants the designation of "Technology Platforms" in Spain.

Three general information meetings were held in 2023 with all the platforms currently funded by the SRA and more than 50 individual meetings with specific platforms. In addition, a multitude of dissemination activities have been organised, such as conferences promoted by the platforms in which the State Research Agency participates, and participation in fairs. Of particular note is the use of a representative space for the promotion of these entities at the Transfiere 2023 fair, financed and promoted by the SRA.

In 2023, the SRA organised in Madrid, on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the Union, the annual meeting of the European Quantum Technologies Initiative Quanteria, which was attended by more than 300 European authorities and scientists, including two Nobel laureates in quantum physics (Prof. Serge Haroche, Nobel Prize 2012 and Prof. Anton Zeilinger, Nobel Prize 2022).

Programme 5.3. Performance Reporting and Other Publicity

The following actions are considered within this programme.

1. **Results reporting.** Preparation of reports of the main calls, and collaboration in other official reports of the MICIU and other ministries.
2. **Abbreviated results reports.** Production of communications in small report format or infographics.
3. **Other publicity measures.** Updating, modernisation and maintenance of the Agency's website and portals.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
5.3.1	Reports on the results of the actions financed	Number of reports	5	100%	1	NO*

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
5.3.2	Website advertising: update and inclusion of new calls	No. of publications	16	100%	16	YES
5.3.3	Advertising in the National Grants Database	No. of publications	17	100%	17	YES
5.3.4	Translation into English of documents relevant to the Agency's activity.	No. of documents	2	100%	1	NO*
5.3.5	Translation into English of extracts from the calls	No. of documents	18	100%	0	NO*
5.3.6	Publication on the Transparency Portal of documents relevant to the Agency's activity.	No. of documents	2	100%	2	YES
5.3.7	Annual Accounts of the State Investigation Agency	No. of documents	1	100%	1	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

* Although only 1 report has been published in report format, it is important to note that public information on the results has been extended for the use of the scientific community, and the SRA now has a [search engine for grants awarded](#) which is updated in real time and facilitates consultation of this information.

* On the translation of relevant SRA documents and call extracts into English, these activities have not been carried out due to an excessive workload in other activities.

Programme 5.4. Internal communications and briefings

Finally, in the area of communication, there is a need to make further progress in involving employees in the Agency's activities and issues of common interest, either through corporate mailings and/or general meetings or by Units using internal channels such as mailing lists and the intranet, as well as actively seeking staff's perception of their work and their wishes.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
5.4.1	Internal communications and briefings	Corporate mailings, intranet communications, noticeboards and meetings	10	100%	99	YES
5.4.2	Staff survey	Staff survey on internal communication	1	100%	0	NO*

Activity highlights in 2023

* The staff survey on communication issues has not been carried out, but the following related activities have been carried out to assist in the proper implementation of this activity:

- Letter from the Director to staff asking for their collaboration in improving the Agency's processes.
- Development of a participatory equality plan, including surveys of SRA staff. The completion of this survey provides an insight into how this means of consultation has worked, which will enable further surveys to be carried out in 2024.

6 LINE 6. CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS



This line is mainly implemented by the General Secretariat. In the case of the Equality Programme, this is coordinated by the Management Support Unit, but staff from several of the Agency's units are involved in its implementation.

Programme 6.1. Approval of the management contract

In 2023, the Agency intended to undertake the preparation and approval of its management contract, through the procedure and with the content determined by article 108 ter of Law 40/2015, of 1 October, following the modification made by the thirty-fourth final provision of Law 11/2020, of 30 December, on the General State Budget for the year 2021.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
6.1.1	Drafting, processing and approval of the Agency's Management Contract, in accordance with article 108 ter of Law 40/2015, of 1 October.	Approval of the management contract	1	100%	1	-

Activity highlights in 2023

Both the management contract and the proposal for a target-based productivity system were drafted by the SRA and approved by the Governing Board. However, neither document could be implemented as they have not been approved by the Ministry of Finance.

The indicator is considered neither met nor not met, as the pending procedures do not depend on the SRA.

Programme 6.2. Human Resources Management

This programme aims to advance in the design of the general framework for action in the area of human resources, which focuses on determining the working conditions of the Agency's public employees, including aspects relating to the organisation, structure and framework for action in the area of human resources, remuneration, etc., with the participation of the relevant staff representatives and trade union organisations.

The activities included in this programme are the following.

1. Elaboration, processing, approval and implementation of a system of Productivity by Compliance with Objectives (PCO).

Development during 2023 of a proposal for meeting objectives aligned with the content of the management contract proposal. This programme aims to incentivise the

productivity and performance of the Agency's staff, which will favour the fulfilment of its objectives, rewarding effort and dedication. It also aims to make jobs at the Agency attractive, so as to help fill current vacancies and retain qualified staff currently on secondment.

The PCO is based on the definition of objectives to be met and on the indicators for meeting these objectives and would be remunerated on a small part of the income generated annually from the reimbursement of aid and the provision of services.

The proposal is expected to be approved in 2023, making it possible to generate credit for productivity in 2024, based on the degree to which targets are met in 2023.

2. **Development and implementation of the 2023 Training Plan.** Drawing up a Training Plan aimed at improving the skills necessary for the correct functioning of the organisation and the efficient provision of services. Implementation of the Plan with the participation of employee representatives, with the aim of providing 21 training courses.
3. **Drawing up and implementation of the 2023 Social Action Plan.** Preparation and implementation of the social action aid plan for the Agency's employees for 2023, focusing on both individual measures (aid for staff studies, health protection, descendants and ascendants, transport, disability, situations of gender violence and exceptional situations) and collective measures (medical check-ups, canteen aid, etc.).
4. **Measures for the incorporation of new staff into the Agency.** Approval, publication and resolution during the year 2023 of a general merit-based competition and a specific competition for the provision of civil servant posts in the Agency, which will allow a minimum of 40 currently vacant posts to be offered. Likewise, carrying out a study and proposal of posts to be included in the Public Employment Offer for the year 2023.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
6.2.1	Approval and implementation of the OCP	Approval of the programme by the Ministry of Finance and implementation of productivity.	1	100%	-	-
6.2.2	Elaboration and implementation of the Training Plan	Approval and implementation of the plan and delivery of 15 courses	21	100%	27	YES
6.2.3	Elaboration and implementation of the Social Action Plan	Approval and implementation of the plan	1	100%	1	YES
6.2.4	Measures to recruit new staff	Approval, publication and implementation of two competitions for transfers - preparation and submission of a proposal for the EPO	3	100%	3	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

Both the management contract and the proposal for a Productivity by Objectives system were drafted by the SRA and approved by its Governing Board. However, neither document could be implemented as they have not been approved by the Ministry of Finance .

Compliance with the indicator associated with the OCP is considered neither met nor unmet, insofar as the pending procedures do not depend on the SRA.

Programme 6.3. Consolidation of common services

In order to consolidate the services necessary for the functioning of the Agency, the following activities are expected to be undertaken in 2023:

1. **Complete the implementation of the computing and storage infrastructures**, and the associated support, security, backup and systems services, which are shared with the Ministry of Attachment.
2. **Continue the implementation of a new IT system** for aid processing, commissioned to TRAGSATEC in 2021. The commissioning started in 2021 and will be completed by the end of 2023.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
6.3.1	Implementation and consolidation of computing and storage infrastructures, and associated support, security, backup and systems services.	Complete implementation and consolidation	1	100%	1	YES
6.3.2	Continue with the implementation of the new computerised system for processing aid.	Completion of the order milestones foreseen for 2023 (8 milestones in May 2023 and 8 milestones in November 2023, according to the order schedule).	16	100%	12	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

During the 2023 financial year, the actions to consolidate the computer and storage infrastructures and the associated support, security, back-up and systems services were completed. With regard to the implementation of the new computer system for processing aid, difficulties arose in TRAGSATEC due to the high turnover of technicians due to the labour market situation. This made it necessary to extend the assignment to 2024, when all the milestones foreseen in the 2023 Annual Action Plan are expected to be completed.

Programme 6.4. Equality actions

At the Governing Board meeting held on 20 January 2021, the I Gender Equality Plan 2021-2023 of the SRA for R&D&I funding activities was approved. This document describes the planning for its implementation until 2023.

Activities for 2023 are foreseen:

1. **Adaptation of the composition and functions of the Strategic Equality Group** (GEI-SRA) to the equality needs of the SRA, the activities contemplated in the I Equality Plan of the funding activities, and those derived from the National Government's Equality Plan. This adaptation is done on an ongoing basis, but will be monitored with quarterly coordination meetings.
2. **Creation of an Equality Unit** in the State Research Agency, complying with the requirements of Royal Decree 259/2019, of 12 April, which regulates the Equality Units of the General State Administration.

#	ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	TARGET VALUE	TARGET %	REAL VALUE	IMPL
6.4.1	Creation of an Equality Unit	Implementation	1	100%	0	-
6.4.2	Adequacy of the IEG To the equality activities of the EIG Equality Plan the EIG	Number of coordination meetings	3	100%	3	YES

Activity highlights in 2023

During 2023 the competences on equality in the Agency have been organised including a new organisation and strengthening at the highest level in the proposed statute of the SRA, approved by the Governing Board which includes the creation of the Equality Unit under the Management Support Unit of the Agency. The new statute document is pending approval by the MICIU and the Ministry of Finance.

In addition, the SRA's strategic equality group has been re-launched and meets regularly. Coordination and communication have been improved and its activities redefined.

7 EXTERNAL COLLABORATORS



Article 19 of Law 7/2022 on Science, Technology and Innovation establishes that public funding agents and their bodies, agencies and entities may temporarily assign, on a full or part-time basis, career civil servants who are researchers, experts in technological development or specialists in the field of research, to collaborate in the preparation, management, monitoring and evaluation of scientific and technical research programmes, with the prior authorisation of the competent bodies and the entity in which the research personnel provide their services.

The Agency makes use of this fundamental authorisation for the evaluation and scientific-technical monitoring of the actions financed by the Agency within the State R&D&I Plan.

There are two types of secondment:

- Temporary collaborators who carry out continuous and part-time technical support and advisory tasks in the evaluation and scientific monitoring of grants. This collaboration has an average duration of 4 years.
- Evaluators, who are assigned on an ad hoc basis the scientific-technical evaluation of proposals submitted to the Agency's and external calls.

In 2023, the Agency had 17.394 evaluators and 376 different collaborators, of which a total of 314 have been directly assigned to the scientific-technical areas, the rest being directly assigned to management, to the Coordination, Evaluation and Monitoring Division for specific tasks outside of the areas (R3 certificate, evaluation of the DNSH principle, support for the monitoring of PEJ, Severo Ochoa and Maria Maeztu calls or international calls or European projects), or to the European projects, evaluation of the DNSH principle, support for monitoring of PEJ, Severo Ochoa and Maria de Maeztu calls, international calls or European projects), or to other units of the Agency (Management Support Unit, Subdirectorate of Justification or the Subdirectorate of European Funds).

The monthly average number of collaborators has been 312, although in some months this figure has increased as a result of the need to reinforce the number of collaborators due to the increase in some of the evaluation and/or scientific-technical monitoring tasks on an ad hoc basis.

8 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY



Since its creation, the Agency has participated in more than 50 programmes, initiatives and projects at European and international level in various fields of knowledge, ranging from humanities to quantum technologies, environmental sciences, animal and human health, advanced materials and raw materials, agriculture and many others, with the main objective of co-financing international collaborative R&D projects through the call for International Collaborative Projects (ICP).

During 2023, the Agency has maintained its participation in the existing ERA-Nets Cofunds of Horizon 2020 (Framework Programme 2014-2020) and in the co-funded partnerships established in the Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2021-2022. In addition, it has been involved in the definition, preparation and management of the co-funded partnerships of the Work Programme 2023-2024.

Under several of the initiatives/programmes/partnerships, there have been joint calls for projects funded through the PCI calls (143 projects in PCI 2023).

The management of these initiatives requires the Agency's staff to attend more than 300 meetings per year, both face-to-face and remote, which it is not appropriate to list in a general Agency report.

Within Horizon 2020, the following programmes can be distinguished according to their main activity or their involvement in future Horizon Europe partnerships (non-exhaustive list).

- AMR2 cofund, antimicrobial resistance research.
- NEURON COFUND 2, neuroscience research.
- ICRAD, animal health research
- CHANSE cofund, research on social and cultural transformations.
- GENDERNET Plus, on gender research.
- CHISTERA 4 cofund, research on emerging communication technologies and information systems.
- QUANTERA 2, research on quantum science and technology.
- FLAG-ERA cofund, a project to support the European Graphene Flagships and the European Brain Project (HBP).
- M-ERA cofund 2, advanced materials research.
- ERA-Min cofund, research on raw materials and recycling.
- Aquatic Pollutants, research on pollutants in marine and inland waters.
- CSP cofund, on concentrating solar power.
- SOLAR, on solar energy.
- ENUTC, on urban planning research
- SUSCROP, on sustainable agriculture and agrobiodiversity.

- ForestValue2, forestry research.
- PRIMA for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean area based on Art. 185 of the TFEU, with participation of non-European Mediterranean countries in the areas of water, agriculture and food.

Within the framework of the current Horizon Europe, the following partnerships should be highlighted (complete list of active partnerships and those defined and submitted in 2023 to the European Commission for evaluation):

Assets in 2023:

- European Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking (KDT-JU) and is based on Article 187 of the TFEU. In November 2023, it was transformed into the new Chips JU, one of the European Union's major commitments to support European sovereignty in the field of microelectronics, within the framework of the Chips Act.
- European Partnership or Joint Undertaking on High Performance Computing (EURO-HPC JU), which funds European High Efficiency Computers and associated projects and is based on Art. 187 of the TFEU.
- Driving Urban Transitions DUT, European partnership on urban transition towards a sustainable future.
- Clean Energy Transitions Partnership CETP, European partnership for the energy transition to clean energy.
- Biodiversa +, a European partnership for the rescue of biodiversity in order to safeguard life on Earth.
- Water4All, European partnership for water security for the planet.
- Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, SBEP, a European partnership for a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive blue economy.
- ERA4Health, a European partnership on human health.
- THFS, European partnership on improving health services.

Partnerships defined and/or presented in 2023:

- Agroecology, European partnership on agroecology and living labs. Submitted and approved in 2023.
- AH&W, European partnership for animal health and welfare. Submitted and approved in 2023.
- PSFS, European partnership on food systems. Submitted and approved in 2023.
- Agro-DATA, European partnership on data in agriculture. Preparing for 2024.
- AMR-One-Health partnership for antimicrobial resistance research. Preparation for 2024.
- Brain4Health, future partnership for research and innovation in brain and nervous system health. Preparing for 2025.

Within and outside the institutional framework of the European Commission, the Agency participates in the following governing bodies:

- GPC-ERAC: European Research Area (ERA) High Level Group for the definition of Joint Programming. Set up by the European Council and the European Commission. The SRA participates in this group together with the CDTI.
- Partnerships Knowledge Hub PKH: High Level Group for the coordination of Horizon Europe partnerships.

- **Joint Programming Group:** Created in 2016 on the recommendation of the Spanish roadmap towards the European Research Area (ERA). The SRA is the coordinator of the Group made up of representatives of the SRA itself, CDTI, ISCIII, FECYT and with the participation of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.
- **JPI WATER:** Joint Programming Initiative related to water research. The ERA participates in the governing board and the executive board. Two ERA-Nets Cofunds are managed under this JPI, Waterworks 2017 and Aquatic Pollutants.
- **JPI OCEANS:** Joint Programming Initiative related to ocean research. The SRA participates as a partner country. In relation to this JPI, inter alia, a programme for the capitalisation of knowledge on sea level rise has been managed.
- **JPI CLIMA:** Joint Programming Initiative related to climate observation. The IEPA participates as a partner country.
- **JPI CULTURAL HERITAGE:** Joint Programming Initiative related to European cultural heritage research. The SRA participates as an associated country. In relation to this JPI, the call 'Cultural Heritage and Climate2023' has been managed, and the Agency participates in the ARCHE action as a preparation project for the next cultural heritage partnership in 2025.
- **JPI HDHL:** Joint programming initiative related to diet and healthy living. The SRA participates in its governing bodies together with the ISCIII.
- **JPI MYBL:** Joint Programming Initiative related to research on ageing. The SRA participates in the governing board together with ISCIII.
- **JPI AMR:** Joint Programming Initiative related to antimicrobial resistance research. The SRA participates in its governing bodies together with ISCIII. Under this JPI, the AMR One-Health partnership proposal for 2024 has been prepared.
- **JPND:** Joint Programming Initiative related to research on Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases. CDTI participates in its governing bodies together with ISCIII. The SRA maintains a monitoring position.
- **JPI URBAN:** Joint Programming Initiative related to research on the global management of cities, including social and sustainability aspects. The EIG participates as an observer. This JPI includes the ERA-NET Cofund ENUTC and the co-funded partnership DUT.
- **KDT-JU Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking (KDT-JU).** This JU is a continuation of the ENIAC and ECSEL programmes, in which the Agency also participated, and a precursor to the Chips JU (launched in November 2023).
The SRA has participated in the definition of the KDT and Chips programmes together with the State Secretariat for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence (SEDIA-MAETD), and in the 2022 and 2023 calls. The SRA funds the participation of academic entities, while SEDIA funds the participation of the private sector.
- **Euro-HPC-JU:** Joint Undertaking for European High Performance Computing. The SRA has participated in the governing board in 2023 together with the MCIU and the CDTI.

At the international level, in addition to the European Union's R&I Framework Programme, the Agency collaborates in the following programmes:

- [CRCNS Programme](#). Collaboration agreement with the United States on computational neuroscience, signed by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Energy (DOE) of the United States and by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación and the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, on the Spanish side. In 2018, the SRA and the Instituto de Salud Carlos III signed a tripartite collaboration agreement with the US National Science Foundation (NSF) that gave access to the CRCNS programme. The agreement has been renewed in 2023 between the SRA and the NSF.

This is a highly competitive programme in which only five countries participate in addition to the US: Japan, France, Germany, Israel and Spain.

- [CYTED](#). Science and Technology for Development Programme, created by the governments of Ibero-American countries to promote cooperation in science, technology and innovation for the harmonious development of Ibero-America.
- European Interest Group (EIG) [EU-CELAC](#). Composed of 28 funding agencies from Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe willing to collaborate on bi-regional science, technology and innovation (STI), and the implementation of the EU-CELAC Common Research Area through joint actions.
- [European Interest Group \(EIG\) Concert Japan](#). for collaboration with Japan in various scientific and technical areas.
- Agreement with the German Research Society (in German, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) for the opening of the respective national R&I calls. Agreement with the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (in Portuguese, Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, CNPq) for the opening of the respective national R&I calls.