

Academia Europaea | Barcelona Knowledge Hub

Report 2013





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1. Barcelona Knowledge Hub

In 2011, the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Barcelona City Council and the Obra Social "la Caixa", on one side, and the Academia Europaea on the other, agreed to initiate bilateral cooperation leading to the establishment of an office of the Academia Europaea based in and operating in Barcelona. The offer was made by a letter from the Minister of Economy and Knowledge of the Government of Catalonia to the Academia Europaea Board of Trustees, dated 10 December 2011.

On 13 April 2012, the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Barcelona City Council and the Obra Social "la Caixa", on one side, and the Academia Europaea on the other, signed a letter of intent to work to secure proper and agreed facilities and conditions, so as to enable and sustain the creation of a viable Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea in Barcelona.

Following this letter, the Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació (FCRi) was asked by the three sponsoring institutions (the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Barcelona City Council and the Obra Social "la Caixa") to act on their behalf to establish and sustain the Barcelona Knowledge Hub (BKH) of the Academia Europaea (AE).

On 14 December 2012, the FCRi and the AE signed a collaboration agreement with the aim to create a hub in Barcelona as the AE branch for Southern Europe and the Mediterranean area, fostering scientific knowledge and research, as well as activities in the field of the social sciences and the humanities. This agreement stated that the FCRi would assume the daily operating costs and the running expenses of the BKH. This agreement is valid for a period of 3 years and it can be automatically extended for an extra period of 2 years.

On 20 December 2012, the FCRi and the IEC signed a collaboration agreement to enable the hub to be located in the main venue of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC).

On 10 April 2013, the FCRi and the Barcelona City Council signed the collaboration agreement covering 2013.

2. Activities 2013

2.1 Office

In January 2013, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub (BKH) started its activities with the following structure: an Academic Director, office personnel and an Advisory Committee.



Professor Genoveva Martí, MAE and ICREA researcher at the Department of Logic, History and Philosophy of Science of the University of Barcelona, has been the Academic Director since January 2013.

Ariadna Barcelona along with Nicole Skinner (from January to August) and Joaquim Bosch (from September to December) have been the office personnel in 2013. In September, and responding to the increase of activities of the BKH, the role of the office personnel was redefined and Ariadna Barcelona assumed higher responsibilities than before (administrative) and Joaquim Bosch joined as Executive Director.

The Advisory Committee is composed of the following three AE members: Ricard Guerrero, Scientific Secretary of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC), Jordi Galí, director of the Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional (CREi), and Ramon Gomis, director of the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS).

During its very first year of existence, the BKH has adopted a corporative logo as a modification of the institutional logo of the Academia Europaea, where the legend "Barcelona Knowledge Hub" has been added.

English has been adopted as the official language of the BKH, and therefore it is the language of all events organized by the BKH, though the BKH may also take part or collaborate in the organisation of events in other languages.



Cloister of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, where the office is located



2.2 Website

The personnel of the BKH in collaboration with the FCRI Department of Informatics have launched the website of the BKH¹.

The website is kept up to date also by the BKH personnel with the support of the FCRI Department of Informatics.

2.3 Barcelona Disputatio

On November 27, the Saló de Cent of the Barcelona City Council hosted the Disputatio “Social and State-of-the-art medicine” with philosopher Thomas Pogge, President of the Health Impact Fund, and neuroscientist Mara Dierssen, group leader at the Centre for Genomic Regulation.

The event, organised along with the Barcelona City Council, was inspired in medieval *disputationes*, a formalized method of debate designed to uncover and establish truths in theology and in sciences. It was celebrated on the occasion of the 750 anniversary of the Disputatio of Barcelona, held in 1263 before King James I of Aragon, which was one of the inter-faith *disputationes* that took place between Christian and Jewish theologians.



Thomas Pogge



Mara Dierssen

The 2013 Barcelona Disputatio was structured in three blocks, the first two being presentations by the speakers and the third one questions addressed by the audience and answers by the speakers.

The Barcelona *disputationes* are intended to become the annual BKH flagship activity. A website has specifically been established for the Barcelona Disputatio², which includes historical references to medieval *disputationes*. The website currently includes a photo gallery, a video with the full Disputatio and a 7 minute video with highlights of the event.

¹ <http://barcelona.acadeuro.org>

² <http://www.barcelonadisputatio.com>



The BKH and the Disputatio websites, as well as the youtube channel of the Barcelona City Council, offered the possibility to follow the event on line via streaming. So far, the videos of this event have had nearly 400 visits.

Over two hundred people attended the Saló de Cent. The Board was chaired by the Mayor of Barcelona, Xavier Trias, who was accompanied by the President of the Academia Europaea, Lars Walløe, the Minister of Economy and Knowledge of the Catalan Government, Andreu Mas-Colell, the Vice President of the Academia Europaea, Anne Buttimer, and the Academic Director of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub, Genoveva Martí.



Speakers and Board of the Barcelona Disputatio 2013. From left to right: Genoveva Martí (Academic Director of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub), Lars Walløe (President of the Academia Europaea), Xavier Trias (Mayor of Barcelona), Mara Dierssen (group leader at the Centre for Genomic Regulation, speaker), Thomas Pogge (President of the Health Impact Fund, speaker), Anne Buttimer (Vice President of the Academia Europaea) and Andreu Mas-Colell (Minister of Economy and Knowledge of the Catalan Government).

2.4 Homo Scientificus Europaeus

On November 8, the Ateneu Barcelonès hosted the debate “Homo scientificus europaeus. The search for a sustainable future for European science”, organised by Ateneu Barcelonès, Euroscience and the Obra Social “la Caixa”. The Barcelona Knowledge Hub took part in this debate, held in Barcelona.

The debate dealt with the critical situation R&D is going through in certain countries in Southern Europe. AE members José Mariano Gago (International Risk Governance



Council) and Federico Mayor Zaragoza (former Director-General of UNESCO), with a recorded speech, took part in this event, along with Gilles Mirambeau and Peter Tindemans (Euroscience), Amaya Montoro (CSIC, Spain), Varvara Trachana (University of Thessaly, Greece), Francesco Sylos (CNR, Italy) and José Manuel Fernández (Precarios, Spain).

The languages of the event were English and Spanish.

2.5 AE 26th Annual Conference

The event that has probably demanded more dedication throughout 2013—and that will certainly concentrate most of the work in 2014—is the organisation of the 26th Annual Conference of the AE, which will take place in Barcelona in July 2014.

In 2013, an Organising Committee and a Programme Committee were established. The Organising Committee is chaired by the Academic Director of the BKH, Genoveva Martí. The Programme Committee is composed of 18 members of the Academia Europaea plus a member of the Young Academy of Europe.

The Conference will deal with realities, dilemmas and opportunities for the new generation from a multidisciplinary approach. The scientific programme will be structured in three blocks: Medical and Health Breakthroughs, Social Issues and Opportunities i Environment and Sustainability.

The Conference will take place from the 16th to the 18th of July at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans and CosmoCaixa.

2.6 Networking

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub has contacted academic research institutions from Southern Europe and the Mediterranean.

Contacts have been established with the Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility of the United Nations University (UNU-GCM), established in Barcelona; the Young Academy of Europe; the Ateneu Barcelonès; and the geophysics project Topo-Europe.

3. Economic report

Following the letter of intent signed on 13 April 2012, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub has been sponsored by the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Barcelona City Council and the Obra Social "la Caixa".



The budget of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub is included in the overall budget of the FCRI, and therefore it is subject to public audits in Catalonia and Spain.

3.1 Income

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub has been funded by the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Barcelona City Council and the Obra Social "la Caixa"; each organisation has contributed with a 50,000.00 euros grant.

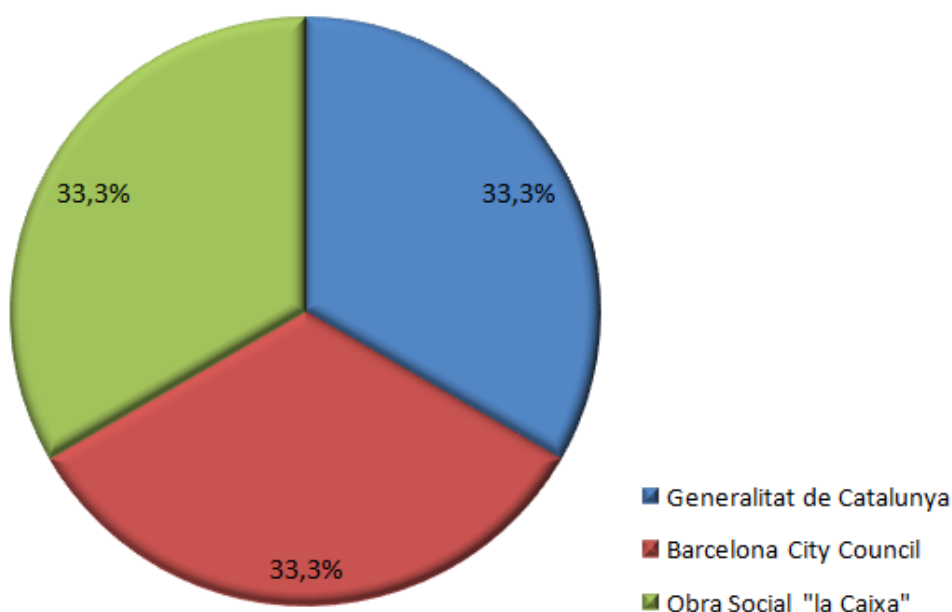


Figure 1: distribution per source institution of the income budget

It is worth pointing out that the Barcelona Knowledge Hub ha also benefits from the participation of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, with the cession of an office and basic services in its main venue, following the collaboration agreement signed between the FCRI and the IEC.

3.2 Expenditure

Figure 2 shows the distribution of the expenditure budget. Wages and the contribution to the Academia Europaea general budget concentrate most of the expenditure.

Running expenditure includes overheads to the FCRI.

As for activities, about 75% of the expenditure belongs to the Barcelona Disputatio, but it also includes trips and other expenditures associated with events of the AE, such as attendance to a Board of Trustees meeting held in Munich in April and attendance to the 25th Annual Conference held in Wroclaw.

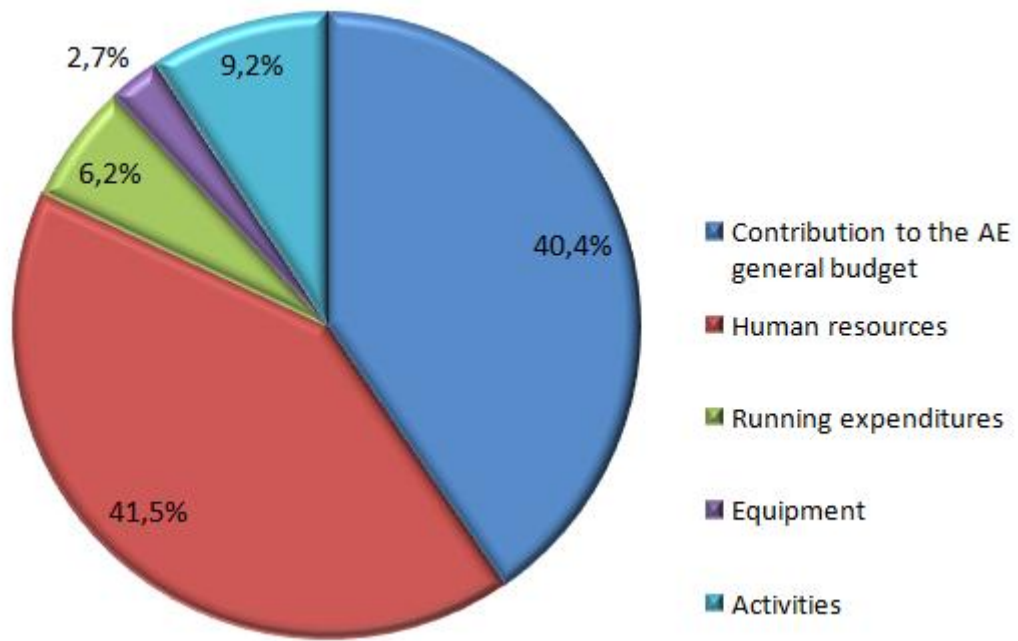


Figure 2: distribution of the expenditure budget.

Barcelona Knowledge Hub, March 2014