

## Successful fourth edition of the symposium "Bridging European Science" organized by Spanish scientists abroad

*The associations of European scientists in diaspora highlight the fundamental role of research networks to develop EU scientific policies and request sustainable support and visibility.*

**Redaction:** Network of Associations of Spanish Researchers and Scientists Abroad (RAICEX, contact: [comunicacion@raicex.org](mailto:comunicacion@raicex.org))

**Brussels, November 31st, 2023.** The symposium Bridging European Science (BES) held its fourth edition in Brussels on 20 and 21 October. This edition brought together on the one hand, more than 150 representatives of associations of scientists and researchers from the European Union who perform their scientific activities outside their home country and, on the other hand, relevant policymakers from different directorates of the European Commission, NATO, funding agencies as well as representatives of the Spanish institutions of science, technology and innovation, and the private sector.

Under the theme “*improving European research, innovation and evidence-informed policy through scientific networks*”, this edition explored the opportunities and challenges that scientific networks face within Europe on several levels, such as governance, policy making, or the relationship with the private sector. The symposium was articulated around a series of roundtables split thematically and linguistically in two days, interspersed with lively debates and networking opportunities. The first session, held on Oct. 20th in the auditorium of the Breydel building at the European Commission, analyzed how scientific networks in the diaspora could strengthen their involvement in science for policy, as well as contributing to European policies for science. The second session, held on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> at the Instituto Cervantes in Brussels, covered a variety of topics such as the usage of Spanish as a language for science and dissemination, the connections between academia and industry, and the role that scientists play within European institutions.

The Network of Associations of Spanish Researchers and Scientists Abroad (RAICEX), the Association of Spanish Scientists in Belgium (CEBE), the Association of Spanish Scientists in the Netherlands (CENL) and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) organized this “Bridging European Science” fourth edition within the context of the 5<sup>th</sup> Presidency of Spain of the European Council. The event was supported by strategic partners such as the Spanish Embassy in Belgium, the Ramón Areces Foundation, the Galician Agency for Innovation (GAIN), Instituto Cervantes de Bruselas, and the Association of Spanish people working for European Institutions (AEFICE), as well as the sponsors Cati Gómez and Mediterránea Catering.

### Relevant conclusions and working points

1. Research networks contribute to (1) strengthen European research and innovation capacity, (2) boost collaboration across disciplines and sectors, and (3) translate science into policy and practice.
2. The impact of these research networks is currently limited by their scarce resources and visibility. Sustainable funding and strengthened visibility are thus needed to achieve a substantial impact.
3. The liaison work between research networks and policymakers that contributes to the translation of science into policy should not stand on the shoulders of volunteer work done by researchers but become a remunerated full-time position.
4. Communicating scientific knowledge to policy makers and the general public in a plain yet comprehensive manner and whenever possible in their mother tongue, is necessary for proper knowledge transfer.
5. Given the historical ties between Spain and Hispanic America, further motivating scientific cooperation (based on equal socio-economic benefits) through our common Spanish language was remarked as a fundamental tool for improving regional cohesion and international development.
6. Researcher networks can provide bridges between academia and the private sector due to the broad profile of their members, in order to promote a sustainable and translatable research ecosystem.
7. Scientific profiles in European Institutions showcase the value of a scientific skillset within policy-making roles, thus highlighting the essential role that researchers play in the development of research and development policies. In this context, scientific networks provide visibility and volunteer training for such skillsets given their commitment to improving scientific policy and socio-economic development.

In this context, the scientific knowledge is visible and the capacity for voluntarism is dependent on the health and safety of the father to compromise on the political science and the social economics.

### Participating diasporas and associations

- Participating members of RAICEX: Spanish Scientists in Belgium (CEBE), Denmark (CED), Estonia (ACEE), France (SIEF), Germany (CERFA), Italy (ASIERI), The Netherlands (CENL), Norway (IENO), Sweden (ACES), Switzerland (ACECH) and United Kingdom (CERU)
- DOSZ - Association of Hungarian PhD and DLA candidates
- CONNECTS-UK - CONNecting European Communities Through Science in the UK
- CZEXPATS
- MCAA - Marie Curie Alumni Association
- Polonium Foundation
- YASAS - Young Academies Science Advice Structure

### About RAICEX

RAICEX is the network of Spanish scientists and researchers abroad and today it groups 21 associations in 5 continents with over 4500 members. RAICEX aims to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge among Spanish researchers and scientists abroad and all actors within the Spanish System of Science, Technology, and Innovation. It serves as an advisory body and a catalyst for international collaborations. More info: [www.raicex.org](http://www.raicex.org) // [www.bescience.raicex.org](http://www.bescience.raicex.org)

### Image information

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