

CIRIT. 25 YEARS

Fina Villar i López*

The Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT), now the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Board, was created 25 years ago last November. Despite the obstacles encountered over this period of our history, particularly in the field of research and innovation, the CIRIT has shown an infrangible and determined will to lead a project for the future of Catalonia in this field that, if it was necessary at the time of its creation, is all the more so today, albeit for different reasons.

This paper gives an account of the key developments in the evolution of the institution and provides some of the most relevant data regarding this evolution.

It consists of five sections. The first, entitled «First steps», tells of how the institution was set up, the social context, the personalities involved, the organisational instruments, the goals set, and the first measures that were taken. The following section, «Key developments», highlights the episodes that had an important influence on the evolution of the institution.

The sections «New impetus» and «Four-year plans» set forth the main features of the activities carried out in two differentiated stages, including relevant data and measures.

* Fina Villar is a sectoral monitoring analyst at the Technical Bureau of the Department of Education and Universities.

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1. Reflections

I must confess that it has been very gratifying for me to write this paper, as I have experienced a large part of the history of the CIRIT in person. I was rather surprised to discover that no history of this institution had been published, and I saw the fact as an opportunity.

However, it is no less true that this paper is intended as no more than an outline, and I think the effort should be made to gather together systematically and thoroughly all the documentation and information that is still available, and above all to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the testimony of the actors in this part of the story with reference to coordination, planning and the promotion of research and innovation.

In this regard, I would like to thank those who worked at the CIRIT for their invaluable help, with both the supplying of documentation and their

firsthand accounts (especially Anna Formiguera, Anna Llovet and Sílvia Coba), and also the present members of the CIRIT team.

2. First steps

The Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT) was created on 5 November 1980¹, by Decree 217/1980, with the support of the Institute of Catalan Studies, professional associations and also the main political parties. Article 9.7 of the 1979 Statute of Autonomy grants exclusive power over research to the Catalan government, without prejudice to the powers that Article 149.1.15 of the Spanish Constitution grants to the Spanish government over the general promotion and coordination of scientific and technological research.

The President of the Catalan government chaired the CIRIT, and its first vice-president, appointed

¹ DOGC (Official Journal of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia) No. 93, of 12/11/1980.

by Decree 227/1980, was Gabriel Ferraté i Pascual². It also had eight members (in representation of the Departments of Education, Industry and Energy, Economy and Finance, Regional Policy and Public Works, Health and Social Security, Trade and Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Employment), designated by their respective ministers, the director of the Catalan government's Central Institute of Statistics and Documentation, and a secretary.

The foundation of the CIRIT was the first step towards promoting and establishing a research structure in Catalonia, and sought to bring together and coordinate the research work of several institutions and departments.

The ceremony for the constitution of the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT) was held on 11 February 1981, with a speech by the President of the Catalan government, the Rt. Hon. Jordi Pujol³. His speech highlighted the situation of science and technology, and described the functions, lines of action and objectives of the CIRIT. He interpreted science and technology as a part of culture, at the same time recognising the need to face a profound transformation of their economical and social structures in order to adapt to a world in crisis.

The point of departure of the recovery of home rule first of all meant retrieving the work done for

science both in the times of the *Mancomunitat* and during the period of the Catalan government in the 1930s, which took the form of, for example, the creation of the Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC). It also meant promoting research in technology in a situation of scarce raw materials and insufficient energy resources.

The inherited situation showed a loss on two counts. Traditionally central government had lent hardly any attention to the subject of research, a fact reflected in the percentage of the GDP invested in research, which at 0.3% stood as one of the lowest in Europe. Furthermore, the situation was exacerbated by a serious shortage of resources and perspectives that lacked definition. The second issue was that the few resources that were available tended to accumulate in Madrid, a serious problem for an industrialised country like Catalonia awaiting entry into the EEC.

In this context, given the deficit that existed, the scheduled devolution of powers did not in itself offer a solution. The scarce resources had to be administered better, and they had to be coordinated together with the Spanish and international scientific community. One of the objectives that were set was to lever investment by central government in research up to 1% of the GDP in five years.

The foundation of the CIRIT was thus the first step towards promoting and establishing a research structure in Catalonia, and sought to bring together and coordinate the research work of several institutions and departments.

The following are just some of the many measures that the CIRIT planned to implement:

² DOGC No. 95, of 19/11/1980.

³ Published in the periodical *Ciència*. «La Constitució de la Comissió Interdepartamental de Recerca i Innovació Tecnològica». Special edition 1981, No. 5/6.

- To bring the entire infrastructure then existing in Catalonia into a position in which it could work normally and effectively.
- To push for the scientific community to offer decent working conditions for researchers, in keeping with their responsibility, experience and professionalism.
- To devote special attention to the network of scientific institutions and that of ancillary services such as libraries and databanks, documentation centres and test and control laboratories, and to combat regional imbalance.

The specific lines of action were as follows:

- To work in order to study and implement legislative measures ensuring that research in the world of production and services meets society's needs.
- To encourage cooperation between public research institutions and the industrial and service sector, cooperative research, and the establishing of potential priority sectors.
- To harmonise the world of science and technology and pursue a policy of decentralisation in all spheres.

According to the decree whereby it was set up, the goal of the CIRIT was to coordinate all the affected sectors in order to programme scientific priorities, set evaluation criteria and foster research, with a view to achieving beneficial results in devising an appropriate science policy in Catalonia, supporting scientific research in all its aspects, and encouraging technological research.

In order to be able to fulfil its objectives, the Commission was to be advised by the scientific commu-

nity and research institutions, which was made possible through the Science and Technology Board, as provided for by Decree 217. Joan Oró i Florensa chaired this board initially, in accordance with Decree 225/1980⁴. The duties of the Board were:

- To advise the Catalan government and provide whatever recommendations or reports on science policy and research were requested of it by the departments of the Catalan government.
- To study Catalonia's scientific and technological goals and research priorities, according to the country's needs.
- To assess scientific and technological activity and propose evaluation and selection criteria for general research programmes.
- To raise to the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission a project for the rational distribution of resources dedicated to research in Catalonia.
- To serve as an informative body in relations between the Spanish and Catalan governments on matters of scientific and technological research.
- To inform on cooperation agreements between the Catalan government and the universities, research centres and other public and private institutions.
- To study the relationship between research and the economy, in order to establish the most appropriate scientific methods leading to greater efficiency and economic promotion of fundamental and applied research.

The executive body of the Board was the Technical Bureau for Research, which also acted as the Secretariat of the CIRIT. It was organisationally attached to the Department of Education.

⁴ Decree 225/1980, of 6 November 1980, (DOGC No. 94, of 14/11/1980).

In turn, the Directorate-General of University Education (DGEU) was created in accordance with Decree 232/1980⁵ on the organisational structure of the Department of Education. According to Article 5 of this decree, the duties of the Directorate-General were:

- To plan and coordinate university teaching and research.
- To devise policies and action plans for teacher training and retraining at all levels of education.
- To inspect and evaluate the whole of the university system of Catalonia.
- All those duties derived from the exercise of the powers conferred on the Catalan government by Article 15 of the Statute of Autonomy, corresponding to the level of university education, as powers were devolved from the Spanish to the Catalan government.

Subsequently, in accordance with Decree 282/1980⁶ on the development of the organisational structure of the Department of Education, the Universities Service and the Teacher Training and Retraining Service were set up within the DGEU, and at the same time the Technical Bureau for Research came under the DGEU as a third service.

The Technical Bureau for Research was empowered to establish and implement the research promotion policies of the Department of Education, primarily in connection with research done at Catalan universities, and in this respect it played a leading role, together with the CIRIT.

The CIRIT Secretariat was created in 1981, by Decree 476/1981⁷, with the level of service. It

was organisationally and functionally attached to the Department of the Presidency, and assumed the duties until then performed by the Technical Bureau for Research. Narcís Majó i Clavell was appointed as its first secretary⁸. The necessary economic resources for its functioning were provided by the Department of the Presidency.

The first measures taken by the CIRIT responded to its foundational goals, and thus supported research through the awarding of grants, although the method used in most cases did not involve public announcements.

Some of these measures were taken on the initiative of the CIRIT, while in others the CIRIT acted in collaboration with other bodies. As the President of the Catalan government had stated in his inaugural speech, some of its most significant measures were aimed at ensuring that the existing infrastructure allowed work to be carried out normally and efficiently. Furthermore, it was important to push for the scientific community to have decent working conditions, and to devote special attention to ancillary services such as libraries.

Among the measures aimed at fostering human resources, the following stand out for their continued relevance, as they are still in operation today, and for the promotional role they have played.

Prizes for encouraging the scientific spirit in young people. These were first called in the 1981-1982 academic year, with the intention of encouraging young people, together with their teachers, to perform study and research. The aim was to bring young people closer to the world of science, not

⁵ Decree 232/1980 of 18 November 1980 (DOGC No. 96, of 26/11/1980).

⁶ Decree 282/1980 of 1 December 1980 (DOGC No. 101, of 17/12/1980).

⁷ Decree 476/1981 of 14 December 1981 (DOGC No. 193, of 22/01/1982).

⁸ Order of 15 March 1982 (DOGC No. 215, of 16/04/1982).

as mere spectators but as protagonists of a scientific experience. As a result of the success of that first edition, the CIRIT Prizes have continued to be called every year, in 2006 reaching the 25th edition. The value of the prizes has risen gradually over the years; they were and still are modest, although this has done nothing to undermine their popularity. Thus, the prizes for the best projects and the best schools, which stood at 25,000 and 30,000 pesetas respectively in 1982, now stand at €500 and €2,000.

The requisites demanded of the projects that are presented for the prizes have also remained constant throughout this period, as regards both purely formal matters (such as length) and content, as has the requisite of the use of the Catalan language, an important point at such an early stage as 1982.

About 100 projects and schools have been awarded prizes each year. Since the first edition more than 7,000 projects have been presented, of which more than 2,000, from over 250 schools, have received a prize.

Over the years, the prizes have had the highest institutional recognition, through the participation of the highest authorities at the prize-giving ceremony. This has undoubtedly given it an added appeal, and has helped to reinforce the objective of the prizes: to nurture the scientific spirit in young people.

Study abroad scholarships. These were created with the aim of promoting a researcher training plan designed to cover all areas of knowledge, increase the depth of that knowledge and optimise available resources while awaiting the corresponding devolution of services. The scholarships were first offered in 1981, and have continued to be awarded until the present.

Several different types of scholarships have been given in the intervening years, including scholarships for «third-cycle» or postgraduate research activities, postdoctoral scholarships, and scholarships for teaching and research staff. The length of the scholarship has also varied; as well as long-term scholarships, short-term ones have occasionally been awarded. The format of the announcements has sometimes been that of a single public announcement with different types of scholarships, while on other occasions there have been a number of different announcements within the same edition. More than 2,000 researchers have benefited from this programme which has entailed total spending in excess of €12 million to date.

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In the area of support for research infrastructures, in 1981 service improvement grants were offered for institutions with incomplete equipment or facilities due to lack of resources or insufficient infrastructure or management (DOGC No. 170, of 28 October 1981), with the aim of enabling them to function normally and effectively.

In the field of devoting special attention to ancillary services such as libraries, a competition was called to establish collaboration agreements with science libraries to complete bibliographical collections. The purpose of this competition was to help to narrow the gap in the necessary bibliogra-

phy and scientific and technological documentation, and to make up for shortfalls in mechanisation, depending on the provisions of the agreements reached.

Among other measures taken on the CIRIT's own initiative, its research grants were paramount. In order to encourage scientific research, it was necessary to act on areas of interest for the development in Catalonia of science and technology in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. In this way, grants were awarded for research projects by university graduates or collaborators linked to Catalonia and engaged in a specific task of interest for the scientific and technological development of Catalonia.

Grants were also given for scientific meetings and congresses. Subsequently, in 1984,⁹ a procedure was established for applying for these grants by means of a public announcement.

The CIRIT had the possibility of acting through priority research lines. Specifically, the following lines were defined: genetic engineering and biotechnology, microelectronics, and the integrated study of ecosystems.

Simultaneously the CIRIT started up a line of collaboration with other institutions in order to promote their initiatives. The following are some of the most important:

- Specialist courses organised by the Institute of Catalan Studies and given by scientists living abroad.
- Support for the journal *Ciència*. This journal was first issued in the period 1926-1933. The

new publication set out to be an information platform and the first vehicle for the popularisation of science in the Catalan language. It was intended as a serious yet attractive and readable periodical, and as a mouthpiece for international scientific advances. A tribune for information and debate on the scientific and technological problems facing our national community and an effective tool in the process of the normalisation of Catalan as a language for scientific expression and teaching at the service of the cultural reawakening of the country.

- *White paper on research in Catalonia*. An initiative of the Institute of Catalan Studies, with which the CIRIT signed an agreement. The objective was to gain an in-depth picture of the human and material resources existing in Catalonia in the field of R&D, by taking a census of researchers.

3. Key developments

In the course of these first years of life, the CIRIT worked to ensure that the infrastructure then existing in Catalonia was in a position to function normally and effectively, to improve the opportunities of the scientific community in keeping with their responsibility and experience, and to devote special attention to the network of scientific institutions and ancillary services.

As a consequence of the awarding of the various grants and scholarships, this work had caused a considerable increase in the budget. By 1982 the CIRIT had multiplied its 1980 budget fivefold, from 50 to 250 million pesetas.

⁹ DOGC No. 423, of 6/04/1984.

Following the lines of action initially laid down, and with the intention of setting forth a general framework, Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) promoted a private bill in 1983 which was presented by all the parliamentary groups and followed up by the Bureau of the Parliament.

The aim of the law was to establish the conditions enabling efficient, quality scientific and technological research to take root in Catalonia, taking this research as a creative process and an instrument at the service of the progress of society. The law also sought to provide research policy with the human and financial means to achieve an increase in knowledge and to evaluate and apply the results obtained; an increase in industrial, health, agricultural and service potential; and the dissemination of scientific and technological information. Lastly, it also aspired to encourage the spirit of research and technological innovation in all citizens, and to enable them to participate, each according to his or her ability, in the development and dissemination of scientific and technological culture.

According to the provisions of the 1983 research and technological innovation bill, the CIRIT was to be the government body responsible for drafting and planning scientific and technological innovation policy and its budget, coordinating the research measures taken by the various departments of the Catalan government, and performing the primary coordination of all scientific activity carried out in Catalonia.

However, this initiative was cut short by the subsequent passing by the Spanish parliament of Law 13/1986, of 14 April 1986, on the Promotion

and General Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research.

The Catalan government appealed against this law on the grounds of unconstitutionality, alleging that it did not provide for neither the correct distribution of powers nor the coordination of their exercise, and furthermore that, with regard to those bodies created under preconstitutional legislation, it did not establish their adaptation to the structure of the State of autonomous communities. The appeal was dismissed in 1992.

The initiative for promoting a catalan research and innovation bill in 1983 was cut short by the subsequent passing by the Spanish parliament of Law 13/1986, of 14 April 1986, on the Promotion and General Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research.

In this context, the Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA) was created in 1985, by Law 23/1985.¹⁰ The Institute took the form of a public body and its objectives were to promote technological research and innovation in the agri-food sphere, and to facilitate both the rapid and effective transfer of its technological advances and also the coordination and collaboration of the public and private sectors in these areas, including the mobilisation and stimulation of public and private investment and the furtherance of technological improvement. Its work complied

¹⁰ Law 23/1985 of 28 November 1985 (DOGC No. 621, of 4/12/1985).

with the principle of non-discrimination against the private sector by the public sector.

Nevertheless, the devolution of powers ceased after the completion of those necessary for the creation of the IRTA, and thus the research centres of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) were not devolved.

Specifically, in the university sphere, Organic Law 11/1983 on University Reform (LRU)¹¹ stated in its second final provision that those autonomous communities that acceded to autonomy via Article 143 of the Spanish Constitution would assume the powers provided by this law in the periods fixed by their statutes of autonomy.

The devolution of powers ceased after the completion of those necessary for the creation of the IRTA, and thus the research centres of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) were not devolved.

The passing of the LRU paved the way for the devolution of the universities, by means of Royal Decree 305/1985,¹² of 6 February 1985 and with effect as of 1 February. Decree 83/1985 allocated the devolved services to the Department of Education.

However, the universities were only fully devolved with regard to their teaching activity, as the imminent Science Law was to establish that Spain's

universities as a whole were the bodies responsible for executing research, subject to the promotion and coordination of the central government.

The science policies of the Catalan universities and the Department of Education coincided for the most part, with the exception of the powers invested in the Catalan government for laying down guidelines. The universities set forth in their statutes, implicitly or explicitly, the main programmatic points of their science policy, which dealt with the fundamental need to increase human, material and financial resources for research.

From a general perspective, the Department of Education (more specifically, the Directorate-General of University Education) sought through its research development and promotion programme to advance in the following lines of action:

- To achieve more decision-making power in the orientation of science policy in Catalonia.
- To provide support for the strategic coordination and planning of university research.
- To promote priority lines and centres of excellence within universities.
- To continue the policy of creating and assisting common research support services and workshops.
- To assist in the evaluation of the results of university research.
- To foster relations between university and society
- To provide support for training and retraining programmes and scientific exchanges for researchers.
- To gain insight into the reality and needs of university research and to encourage participation in the programmes and projects of the

¹¹ BOE (official Spanish government bulletin) No. 209, of 1/09/1983.

¹² DOGC No. 522, of 20/03/1985.

European Economic Community.

- To deal with the repercussions of the development of the new Law for the Promotion and General Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research.

4. New impetus

In spite of the circumstances mentioned in the section above, the initiatives that the CIRIT had developed from its creation up until that moment had enabled it to make its presence felt in all the areas that made up the Catalan scientific and technological fabric. Its activities, together with those of the Directorate-General of Universities, rendered these two bodies the main public funders of scientific research in Catalonia.

In 1984 the steep rise in the CIRIT budget –which in three years had grown tenfold– was interrupted. The resources for executing science policy in Catalonia had not been transferred, and furthermore, as a result of a deficient funding system for the autonomous communities, the financial situation of the Catalan government was difficult.

The scenario was entirely different from that initially envisaged, and required a new approach to CIRIT activity.

This marked the beginning of a long period, which opened with some disquiet and uncertainty but eventually recovered an upward trend and culminated in the creation of the Universities and Research Commission in 1992. During these years, the CIRIT underwent some far-reaching changes.

Considering the state of affairs described above, the CIRIT decided to base its activity on two main aspects:

- Complementary action aimed at promoting the country's scientific activity and technological research.
- Emphasis on those aspects of scientific and technological activity that central government policies did not take into account and yet was of relative importance in Catalonia.

After the turning point represented by the year 1984, in 1985 the CIRIT was given new impetus: it was raised to the rank of directorate-general by Decree 365/1985, of 13 December 1985, on the reorganisation of the CIRIT.¹³ Its budget was back in keeping with the initial trend.

In order for the CIRIT to be able to carry out its tasks more effectively and efficiently, it was assigned, as a body with decision-making powers, responsibility for defining, in accordance with Catalan government guidelines, the appropriate science policy for Catalonia, and for supporting and promoting research and technological innovation. According to these principles it was the duty of the CIRIT:

- To establish the general lines of action regarding research and technological innovation in Catalonia.
- To coordinate the various activities and programmes of the departments of the Catalan government in the field of scientific research and technological innovation.
- To represent the Catalan government in the corresponding general functions, with regard to

¹³ Decree 365/1985 of 13 December 1985 (DOGC No. 631, of 31/12/1985).

- science and technological innovation policy.
- To draft an annual proposal for CIRIT expenses and reach an agreement on their distribution.
 - To make a proposal for the distribution of resources destined for the performance and promotion of research and technological innovation in Catalonia.

It was therefore the responsibility of the CIRIT not only to coordinate Catalonia's science policy but also to undertake all the necessary coordination with the science and technology policy of the Spanish government, in accordance with the principles and regulations of the Law for the Promotion and General Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research.

Specifically, in 1987, despite limitations in the application of Article 6.2.c) of the aforementioned Law 13/1986 on the Promotion and General Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research, Catalonia succeeded, through the CIRIT,

in getting its Fine Chemicals Programme¹⁴ accepted as being of interest for the National Scientific and Technological Research Plan, out of the 10 presented by Catalonia through the CIRIT and the 16 presented by the totality of Spain's autonomous communities.

The announcement for the Fine Chemicals Programme was published in 1989¹⁵ and entailed funding for projects worth 2,633 million pesetas over a total period of seven years, as shown in Table 1.

In 1986, in order to improve its funding, the CIRIT Secretariat underwent internal restructuring, through Decree 141/1986¹⁶, and new initiatives continued to be promoted.

One of the most significant of these initiatives was the creation of the Biotechnology Agency of Catalonia, by Decree 140/1986, as a body attached to the Department of the Presidency and grouped

Table 1
Figures for the Fine Chemicals Programme

Year	Action 1*				Action 2**			
	Requested		Awarded		Requested		Awarded	
	Applications	Funding	Applications	Funding	Applications	Funding	Applications	Funding
1989	32	468,505,635	17	170,250,000	11	360,895,000	3	35,606,097
1990	19	233,122,297	15	139,100,000	4	94,000,000	3	47,800,000
1991	42	933,854,188	27	682,451,000	2	72,500,000	2	71,200,000
1992	63	1,011,555,671	26	340,000,000	3	86,900,000	1	31,200,000
1993	79	1,315,206,338	43	327,987,000	6	175,700,000	4	112,700,000
1994	70	696,216,832	32	186,377,000	5	158,900,000	1	28,000,000
1995	72	988,167,944	41	362,636,000	4	130,500,000	3	98,000,000
Total	377	5,646,628,905	201	2,208,801,000	35	1,079,395,000	17	424,506,097

* Research, infrastructure and special action projects.

** Concerted projects.

¹⁴ BOE No. 167, of 14/07/1989.

¹⁵ DOGC No. 1171, of 21/07/1989.

¹⁶ Decree 141/1986 (DOGC No. 692, of 30/05/1986).

within the CIRIT Secretariat. Its purpose was to promote development and technology transfer aimed at obtaining products and services. For this reason, it was intended to assist the activity of Catalonia's research teams working in the field of biotechnology, through the promotion of basic research infrastructure, support services, programmes and projects, and the promotion of training in biotechnology.

The Agency also sought to promote the development of biological techniques by encouraging their application and use. Its activities were carried out either on its own or in collaboration with research centres, enterprises, bodies and institutions by means of the corresponding agreements.

Another of the new initiatives was the creation of the International Centre for Numerical Methods in Engineering Consortium, by Decree 150/1987. It was formed by the CIRIT and the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) with the aim of providing support for this activity and incorporating the centre into the international network of centres of excellence for computer applications in engineering (INCCA).

In 1988, Decree 144¹⁷ attached the CIRIT Secretariat to the Department of Education, and it was chaired by the Catalan Minister of Education. The secretary was to have a rank equivalent to that of a deputy director-general.

Heribert Barrera replaced Gabriel Ferraté as vice-president,¹⁸ and in turn Artur Bladé replaced Narcís Majó as secretary.¹⁹

It is important to stress the effort that was being made by the Directorate-General of Universities of the Department of Education, through its Technical Bureau, to back research in universities, especially after 1985, when they were devolved. However, in 1986 the impact was felt of the passing of the Spanish Law for the Promotion and General Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research. A clear recovery could be seen in 1987, 1988 and 1989, through measures in coordination with the CIRIT Secretariat together with other new initiatives that were to have a strong influence from that time on, such as the calls for research training, research infrastructure and highly qualified staff at the Catalan public universities.

The evolution of the budget of the Technical Bureau can be seen in Graph 1 below.

As mentioned above, the Technical Bureau for Research was set up in 1980, and acted as the executive body of the CIRIT Secretariat and the Science and Technology Board until the CIRIT Secretariat itself was created in 1981. In 1982 the Bureau began to carry out university research promotion work, and continued to do so until 1992, when it became part of the Directorate-General for Research as a result of the creation of the Universities and Research Commission. In 1994 it came under the vice-presidency of the CIRIT, and began to perform study, advisory and technical and administrative support functions for the Plenary Session and the Delegate Committee.

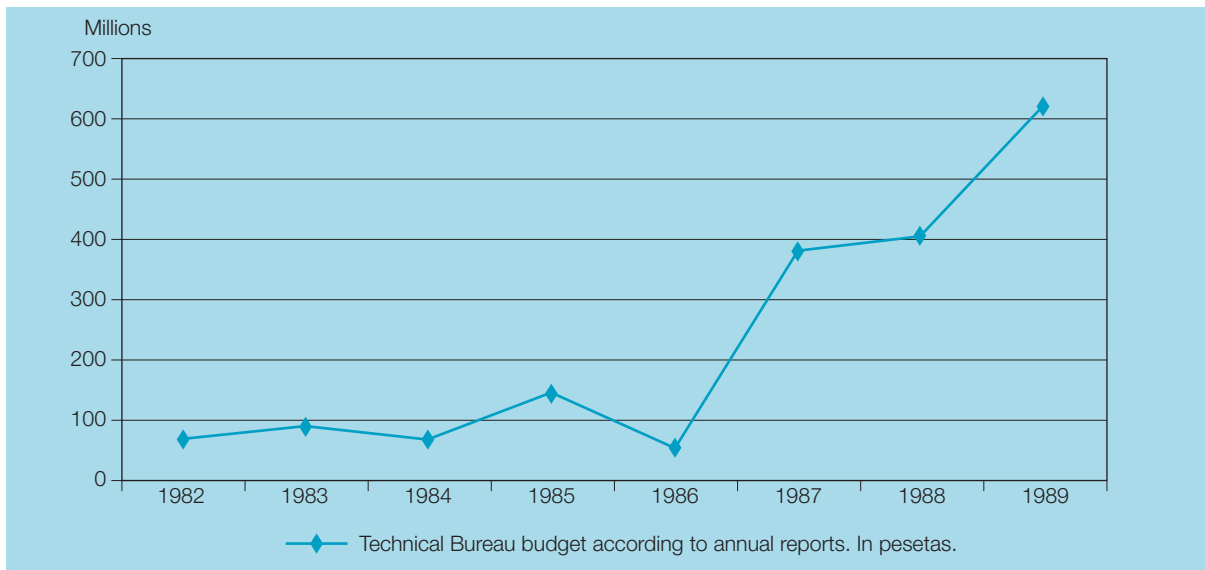
The Bureau's efforts in these areas coincided with a particularly interesting period, before the deploy-

¹⁷ Decree 144/1988 of 5 July 1988 (DOGC No. 1015, of 8/07/1988).

¹⁸ Decree 350/1988, of 1 December 1988 (DOGC No. 1801, of 14/12/1988).

¹⁹ Order of 4 January 1989 (DOGC No. 1095, of 20 /01/1989).

Graph 1
Budget of the Technical Bureau for Research in the period 1982-1989*



* Data taken from the annual reports of the Technical Bureau for Research.

ment of the public university system; work was well under way towards the creation of Pompeu Fabra and Rovira i Virgili Universities and the Universities of Girona and Lleida, all soon to become a reality. Specifically:

- Pompeu Fabra University, by Law 11/1990.²⁰
- University of Lleida, by Law 34/1991.²¹
- University of Girona, by Law 35/1991.²²
- Rovira i Virgili University, by Law 36/1991.²³

An important step was taken in 1991 towards coordinating research and reorganising the CIRIT, by means of Decree 195/1991,²⁴ of 16 September.

As of that moment, the functions of the CIRIT were:

- To plan, coordinate and evaluate activities in the field of research and technological innovation in Catalonia.
- To draft a proposal for the Four-Year Research Plan, defining the objectives and strategic lines for the development of research in Catalonia.
- To represent the Catalan government in the corresponding functions with regard to science and technological innovation policy, especially before the Spanish administration and regional and international administrations.
- All those other functions expressly assigned to

²⁰ Law 11/1990 (DOGC No. 1308, of 22/06/1990).

²¹ Law 34/1991 (DOGC No. 1541, of 15/01/1992).

²² Law 35/1991 (DOGC No. 1541, of 15/01/1992).

²³ Law 36/1991 (DOGC No. 1541, of 15/01/1992).

²⁴ Decree 195/1991, of 16 September (DOGC No. 1504, of 11/11/1991).

it by the Catalan government, on the basis of its objectives.

The study, advisory and technical and administrative support functions performed for the Plenary Session and the Delegate Committee were in the hands of a consultancy depending directly on the vice-president of the CIRIT. The CIRIT determined the personnel and equipment needed for the functioning of this consultancy and could request temporary transfers of technical staff specialising in research and technological innovation management from other departments to the Bureau, in an evaluative and advisory role.

The functions of general planning, coordination and funding were assumed by the CIRIT, which was to avail itself of the appropriate instruments of consultation, evaluation and study of R&D activities in Catalonia, whereas the management functions were the responsibility of the departments involved in the activities concerned, and those of general research promotion belonged to a new body.

It was in this context that Decree 318²⁵ created the Universities and Research Commission and regulated the organisation and distribution of functions with regard to universities and research.

The universities and research powers until then in the hands of the Department of Education were assumed by the Department of the Presidency. The newly created Universities and Research Commission, dependent on the Department of the Presidency, took charge of the management, planning and execution of powers in this area, in accordance with the guidelines set by the Cata-

lan government and under the orders of the head of the department to which it belonged.

The following bodies depended on the Commission: Universities and Research Management, the Directorate-General of Universities and the Directorate-General for Research.

In the the year 1992, the functions of general planning, coordination and funding were assumed by the CIRIT, whereas the management functions were the responsibility of the departments involved in the activities concerned, and those of general research promotion belonged to the newly created Universities and Research Commission.

It was the responsibility of the Directorate-General for Research to execute the powers of the Catalan government in the following fields: general research promotion; the promotion of the creation of scientific and technological research centres; the promotion of the participation of the Catalan universities in the research and training programmes of the European Economic Community; the fostering of scientific and academic relations between institutions within Catalonia and elsewhere in the world; promotion and support for enterprise-university relations; support for the Interuniversity Council of Catalonia in the sphere of scientific and technological research; the compilation of reports on proposals for the

²⁵ Decree 318/1993 (DOGC No. 1690, of 4/01/1993).

creation or abolition of university institutes; the drafting of projects for regulations in the areas under its responsibility; the performance of those functions assigned to it by the Research Plan passed by the Catalan government; and collaboration and coordination with the CIRIT and other Catalan government bodies concerned with the promotion and performance of research in Catalonia.

The Deputy Directorate-General for Research and the Technical Bureau for Research, both of which depended until then on the Directorate-General of Universities of the Department of Education, came to be attached structurally and functionally to the Department of the Presidency and to depend on the Directorate-General for Research.

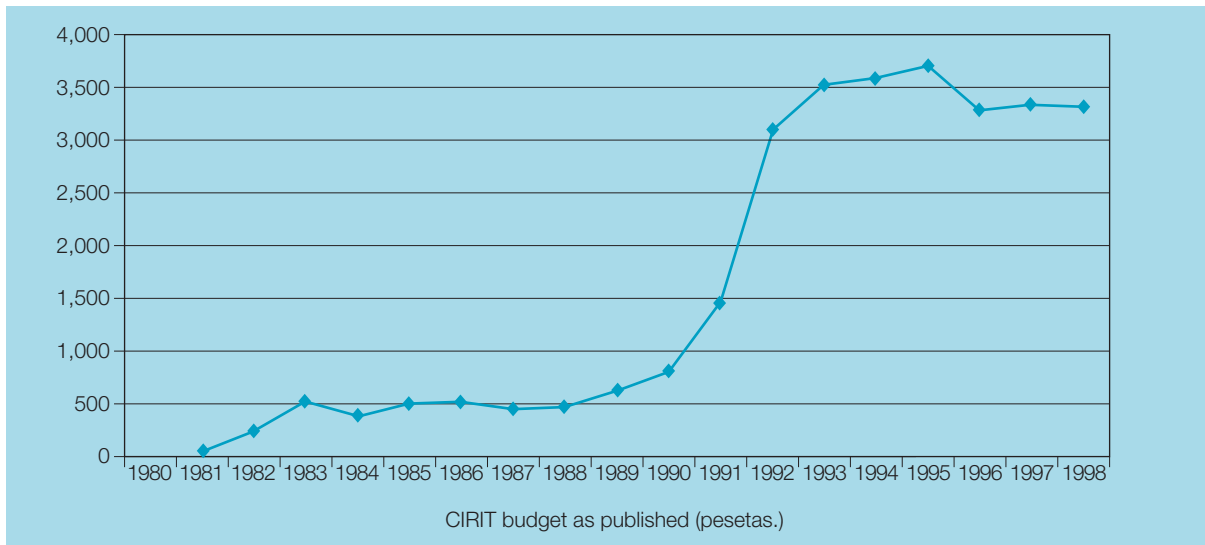
The Biotechnology Agency of Catalonia (ABC), created by Decree 140/1986, of 10 May 1986²⁶, came to depend directly on the Director-General for Research.

The CIRIT budget was to be allotted by itemised appropriation in the budget section corresponding to the Department of the Presidency.

The creation of the Commission coincided with the dismissal of the appeal filed against the Law for the Promotion and General Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research on the grounds of unconstitutionality.

Graph 2 shows the evolution of the CIRIT budget as published in the *Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya* (DOGC).

Graph 2
CIRIT budget as published in the DOGC for the period 1981-1998*



* In 1980 the allocation increased by 21M pesetas.
In 1999 the budgets of the CIRIT and the DGR were unified.

²⁶ Decree 140/1986 of 10 May 1986 (DOGC No. 735, of 3/09/1986).

From its creation until 1983, the CIRIT multiplied its budget tenfold in the expectation of being able to assume the transfers that had been scheduled. By 1984 the difficult financial situation due to the lack of effective transfers had become evident. Later on, in 1987 and 1988, the economic effect of the passing of Law 13/1986 took its toll.

From that moment on, a manifest and determined effort was made, as can be seen by the increase in the budget, especially noticeable in the period 1988-1995, which coincided with some regulations and measures that we mentioned in the previous section and the reader should be aware of here.

Specifically, we are referring to Decree 195/1991, which reoriented and focused the functions of the CIRIT, and Decree 318/1992, which set up the Commission that entrusted the management tasks involved in research promotion to the Directorate-General for Research. These regulations meant that the CIRIT budget, and also that managed by the Technical Bureau for Research for the promotion of university research, came to form part of the newly created body.

However, on this point it can be very enlightening to analyse the promotion activity that the CIRIT carried out from its beginnings until 1992. Table 2 shows the various announcements that were made for grants and scholarships.

5. Four-year research plans

The CIRIT had got the message sent by the new political situation: it was no longer enough to pursue the basic promotion policy that it had been developing on all fronts, despite its unquestionable importance, later to be acknowledged in the evaluation of the 1st Research Plan, which inherit-

ed and validated some of the main programmes from this period.

It was now necessary to reinforce its structure and develop planning, coordination and representation activities. The restructuring undertaken in this period was along these lines, and its positive results speak for themselves.

From this time on, in accordance with the new approach, the CIRIT was to focus much of its effort on preparing and implementing the successive research plans that were intended as the main instrument to strengthen the general research and development policy of the Catalan government. The research plans were conceived as an integrating and coordinating element for R&D activities, especially in the public sector, and at the same time a stimulus for complementary activities promoting special interest sectors and increasing and optimising resources to the full in other sectors.

The research plans were conceived as an integrating and coordinating element for R&D activities, especially in the public sector, and at the same time a stimulus for complementary activities promoting special interest sectors and increasing and optimising resources to the full in other sectors.

The objective of the 1993-1996 Research Plan, passed in 1993, was to carry on with the activities that were already under way, aimed at giving structure for the Catalan science and technology system.

Table 2
Grants and scholarships managed by the CIRIT in the period 1981-1992*

	1981		1982		1983		1984	
	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount
Study abroad scholarships	12	9,588,000	33	27,037,939	53	48,549,000	69	64,107,000
Grants for scientific and technical cooperation with European regions (AIRE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stays abroad	-	-	80	11,998,000	186	30,804,000	142	31,223,000
Research grants	151	19,538,690	247	64,018,923	220	78,602,000		
Grants for congresses	8	900,000	9	2,707,000	27	7,669,920	43	14,336,040
Grants at county level	-	-	7	5,250,000	7	5,000,000	8	6,000,000
Agricultural research scholarships	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	3,910,000
Graduate scholarships for research at public centres (for companies)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate scholarships in support of R&D departments of SMEs in Catalonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scholarships for industrial supervisors and specialist technicians	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	9,660,000
Technological Innovation	-	-	4	40,000,000	6	44,100,000	5	12,576,583
Grants for sociolinguistic projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ferran Soldevila grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for research on the media and phenomena of mass communication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for preparing European projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants to university departments for scientific journals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for research on the European Communities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for projects on Catalan terminology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialisation scholarships for doctoral researchers	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14,280,000
Grants for studies on the labour market	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel grants for participation in conferences, congresses, meetings and symposia on science, the humanities and technology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for projects for introduction to research (CIRIT budget)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fine Chemistry grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fine Chemistry predoctoral scholarships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Institutional grants	15	30,000,000	-	-	99	127,294,000	15	70,853,783
Priority lines	-	-	14	41,400,000	-	-	-	-
Bibliographical collections	13	6,584,257	30	12,654,000	63	27,648,000	12	11,203,710
Encounters with Science	-	-	-	-	7	7,000,000	29	10,956,761
Youth Prizes	-	-	100	2,600,000	100	2,600,000	100	3,000,000
CIRIT courses	18	3,000,000	9	5,000,000	13	5,000,000	10	5,000,000
CIDC Prizes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stays in Quebec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other action	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
«Ciència» journal	1	1,976,250	1	3,000,000	11	3,675,000	11	3,553,500
White Paper	-	-	1	1,500,000	1	2,500,000	1	4,000,000
Publications	-	-	-	-	6	3,776,573	20	13,431,168
Total	218	71,587,197	535	217,165,862	799	394,218,493	521	278,091,545

* Data taken from CIRIT documentation and archives in combination with DOGC publications.

Table 2
Grants and scholarships managed by the CIRIT in the period 1981-1992*

	1985		1986		1987		1988	
	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount
Study abroad scholarships	61	59,140,344	77	65,856,000	70	59,416,000	65	58,521,000
Grants for scientific and technical cooperation with European regions (AIRE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stays abroad	181	34,239,000	170	35,446,000	131	29,805,500	174	42,408,000
Research grants	237	80,288,000	234	69,787,000	220	70,315,000	229	76,529,000
Grants for congresses	54	12,762,535	73	17,545,048	49	17,407,746	13	4,750,000
Grants at county level	6	3,000,000	11	4,200,000	10	5,000,000	1	762,000
Agricultural research scholarships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate scholarships for research at public centres (for companies)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate scholarships in support of R&D departments of SMEs in Catalonia	-	-	-	-	40	28,800,000	43	30,960,000
Scholarships for industrial supervisors and specialist technicians	27	11,340,000	40	16,440,000	61	25,620,000	95	27,000,000
Technological Innovation	4	26,950,000	8	30,000,000	13	47,247,200	7	40,637,785
Grants for sociolinguistic projects	10	3,000,000	12	3,500,000	-	-	-	-
Ferran Soldevila grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for research on the media and phenomena of mass communication	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1,775,000
Grants for preparing European projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants to university departments for scientific journals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for research on the European Communities	-	-	-	-	14	3,105,000	4	1,500,000
Grants for projects on Catalan terminology	11	4,889,000	22	7,096,000	10	3,288,000	9	3,000,000
Specialisation scholarships for doctoral researchers	11	10,850,076	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for studies on the labour market	-	-	-	-	4	1,600,000	4	1,600,000
Travel grants for participation in conferences, congresses, meetings and symposia on science, the humanities and technology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for projects for introductory research (CIRIT budget)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fine Chemistry grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fine Chemistry predoctoral scholarships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Institutionals grants	10	41,190,695	-	-	-	-	-	-
Priority lines	5	4,845,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bibliographical collections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encounters with Science	31	16,794,701	15	8,092,924	14	8,456,208	14	12,420,766
Youth Prizes	100	3,000,000	100	3,000,000	100	4,000,000	80	5,400,000
CIRIT courses	24	6,000,000	23	5,000,000	32	6,772,093	29	7,600,000
CIDC Prizes	1	202,011	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stays in Quebec	-	-	3	750,000	2	500,000	5	1,250,000
Other action	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
«Ciència» journal	5	2,757,500	8	2,097,804	25	4,448,884	12	2,478,404
White Paper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Publications	9	6,007,807	12	8,865,070	11	8,748,913	8	5,816,968
Total	787	327,256,669	808	277,675,846	806	324,530,544	798	324,408,923

* Data taken from CIRIT documentation and archives in combination with DOGC publications.

Table 2
Grants and scholarships managed by the CIRIT in the period 1981-1992*

	1989		1990		1991		1992	
	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount
Study abroad scholarships	68	65,000,000	63	70,000,000	91	128,487,000	99	187,839,000
Grants for scientific and technical cooperation with European regions (AIRE)	45	13,258,200	36	14,911,000	54	35,634,000	135	14,862,000
Stays abroad	181	47,802,000	158	45,665,000	166	63,161,000	165	74,982,000
Research grants	200	80,000,000	172	79,550,000	213	108,540,000	-	-
Grants for congresses	117	30,000,000	119	30,000,000	134	35,000,000	155	40,000,000
Grants at county level	-	-	-	-	18	7,280,000	32	10,000,000
Agricultural research scholarships	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Graduate scholarships for research at public centres (for companies)	25	31,500,000	13	10,920,000	10	4,800,000	16	9,120,000
Graduate scholarships in support of R&D departments of SMEs in Catalonia	27	19,440,000	24	21,640,000	15	14,400,000	16	18,240,000
Scholarships for industrial supervisors and specialist technicians	40	12,000,000	44	15,840,000	47	27,620,000	70	43,200,000
Technological Innovation	3	21,700,000	13	30,530,000	16	29,615,000	45	135,400,000
Grants for sociolinguistic projects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ferran Soldevila grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for research on the media and phenomena of mass communication	6	1,620,000	8	1,800,000	8	1,800,000	7	2,000,000
Grants for preparing European projects	7	1,542,145	10	2,005,000	-	-	-	-
Grants to university departments for scientific journals	24	925,615	20	1,173,898	-	-	-	-
Grants for research on the European Communities	11	2,730,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for projects on Catalan terminology	10	10,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specialisation scholarships for doctoral researchers	5	8,100,000	11	19,800,000	15	27,200,000	17	32,640,000
Grants for studies on the labour market	-	-	-	-	3	1,500,000	-	-
Travel grants for participation in conferences, congresses, meetings and symposia on science, the humanities and technology	95	2,903,500	226	7,160,000	178	12,216,000	-	-
Grants for projects for introduction to research (CIRIT budget)	-	-	184	80,000,000	205	108,540,000	-	-
Fine Chemistry grants	21	166,700,000	-	179,050,000	-	-	-	-
Fine Chemistry predoctoral scholarships	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	25,125,000
Institutionals grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Priority lines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bibliographical collections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encounters with Science	12	10,761,867	-	15,000,000	-	-	-	-
Youth Prizes	95	6,450,000	95	7,000,000	95	6,000,000	90	6,700,000
CIRIT courses	44	7,703,216	-	8,535,900	25	6,443,900	21	5,742,505
CIDC Prizes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stays in Quebec	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other action	-	-	-	-	33	298,000,000	-	-
«Ciència» journal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White Paper	1	4,807,661	-	-	-	-	-	-
Publications	6	5,022,119	-	7,732,128	-	-	-	-
Total	1043	549,966,323	1196	648,312,926	1326	916,236,900	893	605,850,505

* Data taken from CIRIT documentation and archives in combination with DOGC publications.

However, other elements for the advancement of R&D were also put into operation, including the creation of a network of reference centres for research made up of the Biotechnology Reference Centre,²⁷ the Food Technology Reference Centre,²⁸ the Reference Centre for Research and Development in Language Engineering²⁹ and the Catalan Government Reference Centre for Research and Development in Advanced Production Technology³⁰, as an instrument of coordination.

Another of these dynamising elements was the launching, through public announcements, of thematic networks³¹ and research groups.³² A committee was also set up to promote a synchrotron laboratory in Catalonia, as one of the priority lines included in the Plan.

The 1st Plan and those that succeeded it were evaluated by CIRIT support bodies, namely the Advisory and Monitoring Committee³³ and the Science and Technology Evaluation Board.

The evaluation of the 1st Plan focused on the Pre-doctoral Scholarships Programme (FI), the Mobility Programme, the Infrastructure Programme and the Fine Chemicals Programme.

With regard to the first of these programmes, it was considered that it had satisfactorily fulfilled its researcher training objectives, by encouraging the production of doctoral theses, and that it had also been very positive in providing support for research in Catalonia. Nevertheless, the number of

researchers was still below the European average, and it was important to maintain and increase pressure in this direction. The Mobility Programme was also assessed satisfactorily, as it was regarded as having contributed positively to the internationalisation of research. Likewise, it was found that the Infrastructure Programme had been important for the scientific development of Catalonia. Lastly, the Fine Chemicals Programme, promoted and managed by the CIRIT, was judged to have been highly positive both for the university and company research groups and for the participation of the Catalan government, through the CIRIT.

During the year 1993, apart from the research plans, other elements for the advancement of R&D were also put into operation, including the creation of a network of reference centres for research, the launching, through public announcements, of thematic networks and research groups or the creation of a committee to promote a synchrotron laboratory in Catalonia.

In 1994, Decree 203,³⁴ on research coordination and the reorganisation of the CIRIT, restructured the Technical Bureau for Research, which came to depend directly on the vice-president of the CIRIT, under the orders of the CIRIT secretary, in order to

²⁷ Government Accord of 26 July 1994 (DOGC No. 1969, of 7/11/1994).

²⁸ Government Accord of 16 November 1994.

²⁹ Government Accord of 5 July 1996 (DOGC No. 2237, of 31/07/1996).

³⁰ Government Accord of 5 July 1996 (DOGC No. 2237, of 31/07/1996).

³¹ Resolution of 6 April (DOGC No. 1885, of 18/04/2006).

³² Resolution of 5 November 1993 (DOGC No. 1821, of 15/11/1993).

³³ Order of 8 August 2001 (DOGC No. 3477, of 20/09/2001).

³⁴ Of 26 July 1994 (DOGC No. 1930, of 5/08/1994).

perform study, advisory and technical and administrative support functions for the Plenary Session and the Delegate Committee. It depended organisationally on the Department of the Presidency and was attached to the Universities and Research Commission. The CIRIT could request temporary transfers of technical staff specialising in research and technological innovation management from other departments to the Bureau, in an evaluative and advisory role.

The basic functions of the Technical Bureau for Research were as follows:

In the year 2000, the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) was created and structured.

- To lend study, advisory and technical and administrative support services to the CIRIT, both in relation to the exercising of the functions entrusted to the CIRIT by the Catalan government and in relation to the development of the Research Plan.
- To prepare the annual report on the Plan.
- To prepare reports on the suitability of new proposals for the Research Plan.
- To coordinate the management of Research Plan activities and the various agents that take part in their development.

In this way, the Technical Bureau for Research recovered its original link with the CIRIT, in spite of the change in functions.

In 1997, a Government Accord was made public whereby the 2nd Research Plan for Catalonia (1997-2000) was passed. Its aim was to consolidate the model initiated by the 1st Plan and the structure of the system, with special emphasis on the transfer and use of scientific and technological knowledge. Although it yielded positive results, the Plan suffered the economic restrictions imposed by the need to meet the conditions of European convergence and participation in the euro zone.

In the year 2000, through Decrees 123³⁵ and 127,³⁶ the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) was created and structured. Its president was the President of the Catalan government, the vice-president was the minister responsible for the DURSI, and the head of the CIRIT, a post occupied by Antoni Oliva,³⁷ came to have the organisational rank of director-general. In turn, the Technical Bureau for Research came to depend on the Directorate-General for Research, and its functions were:

- To assist the director-general and the CIRIT in the drafting of the Research Plan for Catalonia.
- To lend study, advisory and technical and administrative support services to the CIRIT and the director-general.
- To provide support for the director-general and the CIRIT in the evaluation and monitoring of measures taken in connection with research.

A Government Accord was made in 2001 that passed the 3rd Research Plan of Catalonia (2001-2004). The Plan focused on the European Research Area and the specific goals of improving

³⁵ Decree 123/2000, of 3 April (DOGC No. 3112, of 3/04/2000).

³⁶ Decree 127/2000, of 3 April (DOGC No. 3113, of 4/04/2000).

³⁷ Decree 255/2000, of 24 July (DOGC No. 3200, of 8/08/2000).

the organisation and coordination of the R&D programmes of the Member States, increasing the mobility of human resources, planning major facilities, providing incentives for enterprise to invest in research and technological innovation, and making an effort to bring science closer to citizens.

The 3rd Plan set up the Advisory, Monitoring and Evaluation Board (CASA). The CASA, in its reflections on the 2nd Plan, considered that the creation of the three new structures in compliance with the 1st Research Plan (i.e., research groups, thematic networks and R&D reference centres) had increased the vitality of the public research system, and that the 2nd Plan had consolidated these structures. The consolidated research groups had made for the cohesion of the groups and the configuration of the research map in Catalonia. The thematic networks had stepped up collaboration between groups in the same field. The Network of Reference Centres had enabled the Catalan government to promote strategic themes. Further still, the development of centres and major facilities was judged to be one of the most positive contributions of the 2nd Plan.

It was also found that EU policy at that time was seeking to narrow the gap between Europe and the USA in development and technological innovation. The action taken by the European Union was directed at large corporations, whereas the Catalan government targeted small and medium-sized enterprises, for which technological innovation was vital. The initiatives taken in the development and technology transfer programme were a step in the right direction, but funds were insufficient. They needed to be enhanced with tax incentives, but that depended to a large extent on central government.

With the restructuring of the DURSI in 2004, by Decree 313/2004,³⁸ the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission was renamed Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Board (CIRIT). The body retained its high political profile; it continued to be chaired by the President of the Catalan government, and the first vice-president was still the minister responsible for the DURSI. In addition, two more vice-presidencies were created; the second was occupied by the Minister of Employment and Industry and the third by the Minister of Health. Furthermore, the CIRIT was equipped with a Science Committee and a Social Committee as advisory bodies for consultation on any aspect related to research and innovation policy in Catalonia. Lastly, its functional organisation was restructured with a view to fulfilling its new strategic objectives.

With the restructuring of the DURSI in 2004, the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission was renamed Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Board.

By Decree 132/2004,³⁹ Marta Aymerich was appointed director of the CIRIT.

As of that moment, the functions of the CIRIT can be divided into three main lines of action:

1. Planning, coordination and evaluation of R&D and innovation policy. With the coordination of

³⁸ Decree 313/2004 of 8 June (DOGC No. 4151, of 10/06/2004).

³⁹ Decree 132/2004 of 20 January (DOGC No. 4055, of 23/01/2004).

the CIRIT, the 2005-2008 Research and Innovation Plan (PRI) was passed in January 2005, research and innovation thus being encompassed in the same plan for the first time. Essentially, the Plan was devised jointly by the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) and the Department of Employment and Industry (DTI). The Department of Health also took part in the process, and the rest of the departments of the Catalan government made their contribution.

The objectives of the Plan included raising the quality of research, with particular attention to emerging disciplines and frontier fields, and promoting innovation in the whole of the Catalan production system.

The PRI incorporates two new features: it encourages research to feed the potential of priority economic sectors, and it benefits collaborative structures between major infrastructures, universities, research centres and businesses, for the development of local production environments in emerging and interdisciplinary fields.

Again in the planning line, in compliance with the mandate of the Catalan Government Accord of 5 April 1994, concerning the communication of information between the departments and bodies of the Catalan government for the annual programming of R&D activities, the CIRIT collects this information, supplied by the coordinators and collaborators of each department. Table 3 shows the data for the years 2001-2004.

2. Involvement in the European Research Area. The CIRIT, according to the Decree restructuring the DURSI, of 8 June 2004, defines the activities of the Office of the European Knowledge

Area (OEEC) with regard to the European Research Area.

One of the foremost activities in this field has been the creation of the European and International Projects Service (SPEI), with the aim of encouraging full Catalan participation in the European Research Area and promoting the return of European funds to Catalonia. The SPEI, which forms part of the OEEC, has the support and financial backing of the CIRIT and the Inter-university Council of Catalonia (CIC).

In the framework of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion, set up in 2004 as a joint initiative by the autonomous governments of Aragon, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands and the regional councils of Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées, the CIRIT contributes to the development of the university and science Euroregion. This is understood as a sphere, within the European and global context, that meets the needs of the Euroregion as a knowledge society, strengthening cooperation in terms of the new production economy.

The CIRIT also promotes the EuroBIOregion. This project is intended to provide added value for the regions involved (Aragon, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées), and for Europe as a whole. The aim is to reinforce the development of biotechnology and health sciences in the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion and establish alliances between the regions, particularly the BioRegion of Catalonia and the Pôle of Toulouse, and to yield future opportunities for the Balearic Islands, Languedoc-Roussillon and Aragon.

In addition, within the framework of the promotion of the BioRegion of Catalonia, a protocol

Table 3
Funding of research and innovation by the departments of the Catalan government*

Departments		2001	2002	2003	2004
Agriculture and Fisheries		8,805,563.84	9,390,197.85	9,290,234.26	15,078,517.99
Welfare		2,015,747.80	2,920,591.13	5,147,461.48	1,939,120.39
Trade, Consumer Affairs and Tourism		(1)	(1)	(1)	0.00
Culture	(2)	2,705,707.46	2,273,059.19	2,402,076.82	2,422,626.81
Economy and Finance		451,423.42	471,958.23	398,809.57	474,234.50
Educació		3,096,777.32	2,780,434.14	2,991,288.60	3,707,142.00
Governance and Public Administrations	(3)	358,258.70	427,419.95	449,994.76	109,397.00
Interior		637,903.68	1,676,438.10	725,691.01	672,887.66
Justice		212,984.18			139,225.59
Environment and Housing	(4)	4,863,021.61	4,447,025.35	3,402,408.19	4,756,216.97
Regional Policy and Public Works	(5)	4,277,674.59	5,125,252.70	4,131,409.15	4,533,352.92
Presidency	(6)	657,898.71	1,166,648.93	830,583.09	2,652,662.71
Institutional Relations and Participation	(7)	(7)	(7)	(7)	757,889.70
Health*		56,933,876.65	61,067,969.88	65,879,699.00	78,311,348.00
Employment and Industry	(8)	12,631,174.91	21,958,670.03	16,128,309.40	15,874,008.56
Universities, Research and the Information Society		212,746,771.93	233,617,265.60	259,496,487.28	294,258,037.97
Total		310,394,784.80	347,322,931.08	371,274,452.61	425,686,668.77

(1) Until 2003 formed part of the Department of Industry.

(2) In 2004 lost TERMCAT, Language Policy, and Sports, which went to Presidency.

(3) In 2004 lost Institutional Relations.

(4) In 2004 gained Housing.

(5) In 2004 lost Housing.

(6) In 2004 gained TERMCAT, TERMCAT, Language Policy, and Sports.

(7) Until 2003 only a small part of Institutional Relations existed, within the Department of Governance.

(8) In 2001, Department of Trade and Tourism plus Department of Industry; in 2002 and 2003 Department of Employment, Industry, Trade, Consumer Affairs and Tourism.

*Data supplied by the CIRIT, taken from the 2005 annual report of the Department of Universities, Research and Information Society.

has been signed to set up EuroBioCluster South, a metacluster formed by several European bioregions, specifically the axis Barcelona-Lyon-Milan-Geneva-Munich-Heidelberg.

Lastly, by way of fulfilment of the Mobility, Cooperation and Internationalisation Programme established by the PRI, in 2005 the CIRIT contributed to the international promotion of Catalonia as a country of high-quality research. Contacts have been made with South Korea in

this field for the first time, while the cooperation started up in previous years with Quebec has continued, with specific agreements enabling this cooperation to meet new needs.

3. Promotion of dialogue and collaboration between society, the scientific community and the administration. In this direction, the CIRIT has worked on the projects of the BioRegion, the TechnoRegion (Tic.Cat) and the Knowledge Transfer Consortium.

The Catalan government, with the coordination of the CIRIT, took on the role of facilitator in order to get the BioRegion of Catalonia project off the ground; it was constituted as a private foundation on 14 February 2006. During 2005, with legal advice from the departments involved in the project, work went ahead with the definition of its legal structure in the form of a private foundation, its bylaws were drafted, an outline Strategic Plan was drawn up, and data were managed and compiled on the biomedical and biotechnological sector in Catalonia. Work was also done on the corporate image and the web site. The objective of the BioRegion of Catalonia is to consolidate Catalonia as an international point of reference in biomedicine and biotechnology, with research excellence, a competitive business fabric, and a sturdy and dynamic knowledge transfer system. The foundation will manage its visualisation, communication strategy and value-creating activities, both within Catalonia and internationally.

The Catalan government, with the coordination of the CIRIT took on the role of facilitator in order to get the BioRegion of Catalonia project off the ground; it was constituted as a private foundation on 14 February 2006.

With regard to the TechnoRegion, the CIRIT has promoted, in collaboration with various departments of the Catalan government, the Tic.Cat project, the purpose of which is to foster research and innovation in the field of the information and communication technolo-

gies (ICT) in order to concentrate research capacity, attract international companies and institutions, stimulate the development of new businesses and the improvement of existing ones, and endorse Catalonia internationally as a leading European region in ICT. As part of the project, in coordination with the CIRIT, a blueprint has been drawn up on the basis of fieldwork conducted with the actors in the ICT sector in Catalonia and an international benchmarking study performed by a group of experts.

As regards the Knowledge Transfer Consortium (CTC), the Catalan government adopted the Accord for its constitution and the passing of its bylaws on 14 June 2005, with the aim of promoting the transfer of scientific knowledge generated in universities and research centres to the social and productive fabric, with the collaboration of all the agents involved in this process. The CTC was formed by the Catalan government, through the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society (DURSI) and the Department of Employment and Industry, together with all Catalonia's universities. The CTC has started to function, it has been presented to the range of institutions and corporations that make up the science-technology-enterprise system in Catalonia, and its corporate image has been defined.

Lastly, we will mention the science and business innovation promotion bill, passed by Government Accord on 28 February 2006. The project ratifies the importance of the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Board as a body for coordinating the activity of the various departments of the Catalan government in these spheres.

At present the CIRIT is linked to the Department of Education and Universities, because of the latest restructuring of the Catalan government⁴⁰. Its director is Ramon Agustí i Comes, according to the Government Accord of 20 June 2006.

The CIRIT's role of promoter of research plans as a driving force for research and development policy is unquestionable, especially in the light of the 2005-2008 Research and Innovation Plan, which was conceived with the intention of enhancing the capacity of cooperation and interaction between the various actors: government, enterprise and

The CIRIT's role of promoter of research plans as a driving force for research and development policy is unquestionable, especially in the light of the 2005-2008.

universities. In this direction, the CIRIT has worked particularly hard to encourage dialogue and collaboration, and to become prominent within the European Research Area.

⁴⁰ Decree 212/2006 of 23 May 2006 (DOGC No. 4641, of 25/05/2006).

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ANNEX: Legislation consulted

Document	Legislation consulted	DOGC
DECREE 217/1980	Of 5 November, creating the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission	93 of 12.11.1980
DECREE 232/1950	Of 18 November, on the organisational structure of the Department of Education	96 of 26.11.1980
DECREE 282/1980	Of 1 December, developing the organisational structure of the Department of Education	101 of 17.12.1980
DECREE 476/1981	Of 14 December, reorganising the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT)	193 of 22.01.1982
DECREE 307/1982	Of 8 September, on new initiatives by the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT) in the field of technological innovation	262 of 29.09.1982
DECREE 456/1982	Of 10 December, on initiatives by the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT) in Priority Research Lines	288 of 24.12.1982
ORDER	Of 28 June 1983, passing the bylaws of the Science and Technology Board	349 of 29.07.1983
DECREE 279/1984	Of 6 September, restructuring Presidency	472 of 26.09.1984
ROYAL DECREE 305/1985	On the devolution of services from the State Administration to the Catalan Autonomous Government with regard to universities	522 of 20.03.1985
DECREE 365/1985	Of 13 December, reorganising the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT)	631 of 31.12.1985
LAW 23/1985	Of 28 November, creating the Institute for Food and Agricultural Research and Technology	621 of 04.12.1985
DECREE 141/1986	Of 9 May, structuring the Secretariat of the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT)	692 of 30.05.1986
DECREE 200/1986	Of 4 July, restructuring the Secretariat-General of the presidency and creating the Deputy Secretariat-General	712 of 11.07.1986
DECREE 140/1986	Of 10 May, creating the Biotechnology Agency of Catalonia	735 of 03.09.1986
DECREE 150/1987	Of 13 March, constituting the International Centre for Numerical Methods in Engineering Consortium	841 of 20.05.1987
DECREE 144/1988	Of 5 July, partially redistributing the powers and functions corresponding to the departments of the Catalan Autonomous Government	1015 of 08.07.1988

Document	Legislation consulted	
DECREE 322/1988	Of 14 November, modifying Decree 365/1985 of 13 December, reorganising the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT)	1071 of 21.11.1988
ORDER	Of 17 July 1989, publicly announcing a resolution of 5 July 1989 by the Interministerial Science and Technology Commission for the awarding of grants for the Fine Chemicals Programme in Catalonia	1171 of 21.07.1989
ORDER	Of 28 September 1989, publicly announcing the rules of procedure of the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT)	1205 of 11.10.1989
DECREE 195/1991	Of 16 September, on the coordination of research and the reorganisation of the CIRIT	1504 of 11.10.1991
DECREE 318/1992	Of 28 December, creating the Universities and Research Commission and regulating the organisation and distribution of functions with regard to universities and research	1690 of 04.01.1993
GOVERNMENT ACCORD	Of 23 February 1993, passing the Research Plan of Catalonia for the period 1993-1996	
DECREE 89/1993	Of 9 March, creating the Committee for the promotion of a synchrotron laboratory in Catalonia	727 of 29.03.1993
DECREE 173/1993	Of 12 July, creating the Steering Committee for the organisation of the Administration of the Catalan Autonomous Government and the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee	1771 of 16.07.1993
ORDER	Of 1 February 1994, creating the Advisory and Monitoring Committee and the Science and Technology Evaluation Board as CIRIT support bodies for the development of the Research Plan of Catalonia (1993-1996)	1859 of 11.02.1994
DECREE 26/1994	Of 8 February, creating the Catalan Autonomous Government Network of Reference Centres for research and development	1862 of 18.02.1994
DECREE 122/1994	Of 30 May, modifying Decree 318/1992, of 28 December, creating the Universities and Research Commission and establishing its structure	1904 of 03.06.1994
RESOLUTION	Of 30 June 1994, delegating functions to the manager for universities and research	1921 of 15.07.1994
DECREE 203/1994	Of 26 July, modifying Decree 195/1991, of 16 September, on the coordination of research and the reorganisation of the CIRIT, and structuring the Technical Bureau for Research	1930 of 05.08.1994
RESOLUTION	Of 26 October 1994, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 26 July 1994, accepting and designating the Biotechnology Centre as a Catalan Autonomous Government reference centre for research and development and including it in the Catalan Autonomous Government Network of Reference Centres	1969 of 07.11.1994
GOVERNMENT ACCORD	Of 5 April 1994, concerning the communication of information between the departments and bodies of the Catalan Autonomous Government for the annual programming of R&D activities	
RESOLUTION	Of 23 November 1994, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 16 November 1994, accepting and designating the Food Technology Centre as a Catalan Autonomous Government reference centre for research and development and including it in the Catalan Autonomous Government Network of Reference Centres	1981 of 05.12.1994

Document	Legislation consulted	
RESOLUTION	Of 12 July 1996, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 5 July 1996, concerning the Catalan Autonomous Government Reference Centre for Research and Development in Language Engineering	2237 of 31.07.1996
RESOLUTION	Of 12 July 1996, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 5 July 1996, concerning the Catalan Autonomous Government Reference Centre for Research and Development in Advanced Production Technology	2237 of 31.07.1996
RESOLUTION	Of 4 February 1997, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 30 January 1997, passing the 2nd Research Plan of Catalonia (1997-2000)	2333 of 18.02.1997
ORDER	Of 10 June 1997, creating the Advisory and Monitoring Committee and the Science and Technology Evaluation Board as CIRIT bodies for scientific and technological evaluation, consultation and monitoring of the 2nd Research Plan of Catalonia (1997-2000)	2415 of 18.06.1997
DECREE 49/1999	Of 23 February, creating the Science and Technology Advisory Committee	2839 of 03.03.1999
DECREE 87/1999	Of 23 March, modifying Decree 195/1991, of 16 September, on the coordination of research and the reorganisation of the CIRIT	2864 of 09.04.1999
RESOLUTION	Of 10 November 1999, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 13 October 1999, concerning the Catalan Autonomous Government Reference Centre for Research and Development in Aquaculture	3025 of 29.11.1999
RESOLUTION	Of 10 January 2000, publicising the collaboration agreement between the Science and Technology Office (OCIT) of the Presidency of the Government and the Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT) to promote synchrotron light activities	3062 of 24.01.2000
DECREE 123/2000	Creating the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society	3112 of 03.04.2000
DECREE 127/2000	Of 3 April, structuring the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society	3113 of 04.04.2000
ORDER	Of 8 August 2001, creating the Advisory, Monitoring and Evaluation Board as an Interdepartmental Research and Technological Innovation Commission (CIRIT) body	3477 of 20.09.2001
RESOLUTION	UNI/918/2003, of 7 March, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 4 March 2003, accepting and designating the Reference Centre for Research and Development in Advanced Materials for Energy (CeRMAE) as a Catalan Autonomous Government reference centre and including it in the Catalan Autonomous Government Network of Reference Centres for R&D	3866 of 16.04.2003
RESOLUTION	UNI/919/2003, of 7 March, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 4 March 2003, accepting and designating the Reference Centre for Bioengineering of Catalonia as a Catalan Autonomous Government reference centre and including it in the Catalan Autonomous Government Network of Reference Centres for R&D	3866 of 16.04.2003
RESOLUTION	UNI/920/2003, of 7 March, publicly announcing the Government Accord of 4 March 2003, accepting and designating the Reference Centre for Analytical Economics (CREA) as a Catalan Autonomous Government reference centre and including it in the Catalan Autonomous Government Network of Reference Centres for R&D	3866 of 16.04.2003

Document	Legislation consulted	
RESOLUTION	UNI/940/2003, of 9 April, creating the Special Initiative for the Development of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Catalonia	3867 of 17.04.2003
DECREE 313/2004	Of 8 June, restructuring the Department of Universities, Research and the Information Society	4151 of 10.06.2004
DECREE 212/2006	Of 23 May, structuring the Department of Education and Universities	4641 of 25.05.2006
ORGANIC LAW 11/1983	On University Reform	BOE 209 of 01.09.1983
RESOLUTION	Of 4 July 1989. Agreement with the Interministerial Science and Technology Commission for the funding, management and execution of the Autonomous Community «Fine Chemicals» Programme	167 of 14.07.1989