

CONCLUSIONS

The research results and efficiency of the Catalan system places it in a prominent position within Spain and in an intermediate position internationally.

In terms of attracting financial resources from both competitive and non-competitive sources, Catalan public universities have seen a continuing downward trend, with 19% fewer resources. Analysed in greater detail, it is clear that competitive resources at the national level as well as non-competitive resources are on the decline, and the only funding that has increased is that from the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, with a 27% increase compared to 2011.

The average income earned by teaching and research staff has followed a downward trend as well, decreasing by 18% and standing at €30,878 per individual.

Scientific output has not been affected by the decline in financial resources, and the average number of publications per full-time equivalent researcher in 2013 (1.23 publications) was higher than in 2012 (1.18 publications). As for doctoral theses, there has also been an upward trend with a 33% increase over the last five years. All of this means that the Catalan research and innovation system, which consists of universities, hospitals, and research centres, occupies leading positions both in Europe and worldwide.

Progress in knowledge transfer and innovation can be assessed by indicators including patent generation, which has increased by 33% this year; the creation of technology-based companies, of which 118 were active in 2012; and university-business chairs, with 63 in 2012.

The aggregate revenue obtained from non-competitive funds by universities and their related institutions has declined over recent years and currently stands at around 80 million euros.

This report shows that at the level of production and the efficiency of the Catalan research and innovation system has great potential. Efforts now need to focus on further improving our ability to attract European funding, increasing our international involvement, and reinforcing the value of university research results. At the same time, we need work in closer cooperation with the community to promote creativity from within and foster change towards a more innovative society, thus elevating the research and innovation of the Catalan public research system to levels of excellence.