

Science communication empowers citizens



JORDI MAS is the director of the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI), created 1986, aiming at promoting research and disseminating scientific knowledge among society, especially among children to awaken scientific vocations. FCRI organizes annually the Catalan Science Week (in November) and the Research National Awards. www.fundaciorecerca.cat

surtderecercapercatalunya.cat

Surtderecercapercatalunya.cat aims to make known to all the public the scientific dissemination activities carried out by research centres and universities in Catalonia, as well as museums, natural parks, foundations, various institutions, etc. In addition to the surtderecercapercatalunya.cat information portal, the various activities can also be consulted via the Twitter account [@surtderecerca](https://twitter.com/surtderecerca) as well as on the [Surt de Recerca Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/surtderecerca) page.

The main aim is at increasing social interest in science and technology, building a perception of scientific research as a key and successful model for progress economic development and the well-being of Catalonia. The webpage has a dual purpose: on the

Catalonia has not enough natural resources to sustain steady economic growth. We must rely on human capital, on the knowledge accumulated by talented people in order to develop into one of the most innovative and attractive territories in Europe. Land of creativity and innovation, Catalonia attracts a talented community of students and researchers in the pursuit of knowledge. Antoni Gaudí applied the most innovative building technologies of late 19th century to design and build Sagrada Família. Today, the Polish Maciej Lewenstein ICFO-ICREA, 32th Research National Award in 2021, develops quantum physics to build the supercomputer of the future. Nowadays, many scientists in Catalonia follow the path of 1906 Nobel Prize Santiago Ramon y Cajal who elaborated his neuron theory in Barcelona in 1888, or Jaume Ferran who developed the cholera vaccine back in 1885.

Science communication is the responsibility of researchers. Knowledge from science must be transmitted to society where its benefits belong. Catalan scientific community devote time and effort in explaining the citizens about the benefits of science. Scientific knowledge makes citizens empowered and more capable of making decisions based on facts. We must fight fake news and make

evidence-based decisions. The final aim is having a more democratic society.

Our role at FCRI is to value the science assets of our territory making science an attractive issue in everyday life. Through our scientific routes we make available interesting spots in villages and the natural environment. Visiting the major landmarks of science history and our science museums one can get the understanding of many years of scientific research that make what the world is like now. Visiting the Observatori Fabra on the top of the Collserola hill in Barcelona, dated 1904, or the Alba Synchrotron in Cerdanyola del Vallès, one of the main research infrastructures in Europe, one gets the feeling that the quest of scientists for knowledge is one of the forces that make us human.



one hand, to bring science closer to and accessible to everyone, especially to the family audience; and, on the other, to awaken future scientific vocations among young people. The Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation wants to promote the knowledge of science as a leisure activity to highlight the research carried out in our country.

Our focus is families with children. Besides just visiting, some other activities help children engage actively on citizen science projects such as the one monitoring the distribution and behaviour of bats, butterflies, mosquitos, jellyfishes, etc. Together with our school programs to promote scientific vocations we are committed to make society progress through science communication.