



Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Effective R & D

Dr Cristina Martinez-Fernandez from the Urban Research Centre is collaborating with the Spanish Research Council's IESSA Research Centre in Cordoba to explore strategies for bridging the gap between academic research and technological innovation in Spain.



'This project aims to study the causes contributing to the so-called "European Research Paradox" – or the divide between academic research and the subsequent development of the results of that research into practical, innovative technologies' says Dr Martinez-Fernandez. 'Concentrating on one of Spain's most research intensive and innovative regions, the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, the project will attempt to describe and explain the reasons for the cultural and organisational split between institutions that produce scientific knowledge (universities and public research centres) and the producing sector (government and business).'

The Autonomous Community of Andalusia is one of Spain's largest and most populous regions, and houses an internationally recognised DNA bank and three research and technology driven universities. The region specialises in research around telecommunications, new technologies, biotechnology, and environment and renewable energies. Dr Martinez-Fernandez will collaborate with the Spanish research team in the design and analysis of surveys, interviews and case studies to gather information regarding investigators and partners' experiences of co-operative research and joint projects between research centres and Andalusian enterprises. This data will be used to produce material adapted to a range of audiences, such as researchers, R&D managers, regional government institutions, the Spanish Research Council and the business sector on the elements and conditions for management of academic and business partnerships effectively.

The strategies developed through this project will have the potential to increase technological advances through research and business collaborations, thus improving the economic stability of the technology sector in Spain and globally.

Project Title: Conditions for the production and use of scientific research in Andalusia

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