

SciComm Funding Call & UCC+I Network- Spain

Izaskun Lacunza – FECYT
Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities

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Funded by the European Union

FECYT's Call for Grants for the Promotion of Scientific Culture

Objective: Promote communication and outreach activities nationwide, especially coming from universities and research centers.

Increasing the **number** of scicomm projects

Focus on **quality**: diversity & inclusion, participation (ie. citizen science), impact evaluation, evidence-informed practice, new formats (ie. art & science), etc.

Stakeholders/Beneficiaries:

- Research organisations
- Universities & higher education
- Healthcare entities
- Technology centres
- Any other legal entities

FECYT's Call for Grants

Drivers:



Barriers:

- Quantitative rather than qualitative assessment (social impact) of funding projects
- Little success in lines of funding to strengthen evidence-informed scicomm

FECYT's Call for Grants

Outcomes:

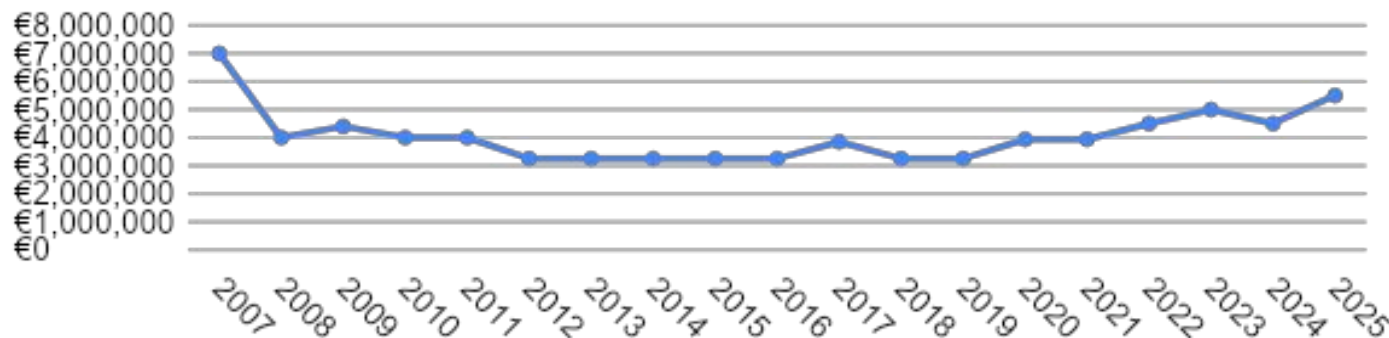
- **4000 SciComm projects**, since 2007.
- **72 M€ awarded**, since 2007.
- **Co-financing**: since 2009, 61 M€ granted by FECYT + **780 M€ mobilised** from other entities.

Impact. Survey on social perception of science and technology:

- Participation in science communication activities: 4.6% in 2006 → 12.9% in 2024

FECYT's Call for Grants

Resources & Sustainability:



Human Resources & capacity building: specialized team to manage the grant

FECYT's Call for Grants

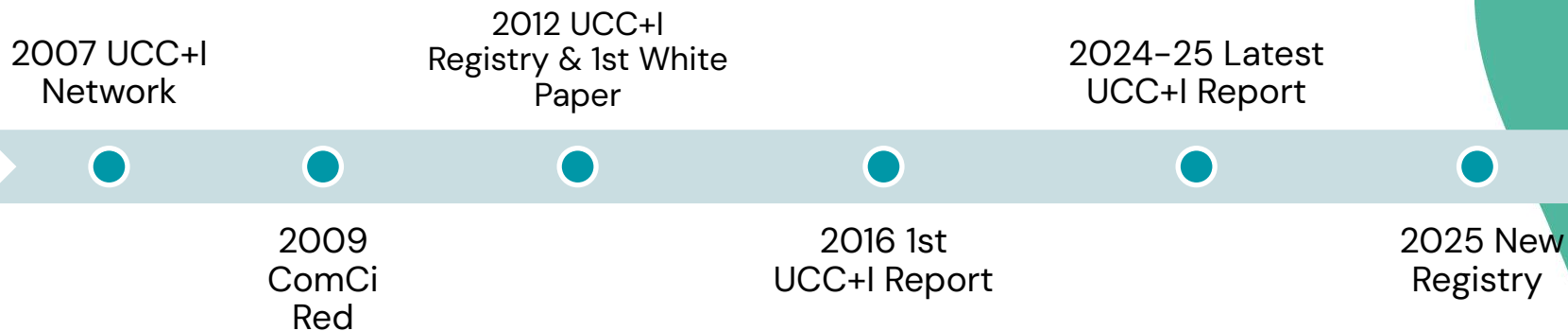
Transferability and lessons learned:

- When SciComm is developing: **useful for growing** the field.
- When there is some development: useful for **improving SciComm quality** and guiding important issues (inclusion, evaluation, etc.).
- Public funding allows for the implementation of **projects geared towards the needs of the public**, which are more difficult to finance by entities whose priority is institutional image.
- **High transferability**: consider the local context, especially for bureaucracy and beneficiaries.

UCC+I Network

Scientific and Innovation Culture Units (UCC+I) act as **intermediaries** between research institutions – who host them – and society, with the main **objective** of promoting scientific, technological and innovation culture.

Events, training for researchers, media liaison, school outreach and citizen engagement



Stakeholders: research institutions.

UCC+I Network

Drivers:



Barriers:

- Heterogeneity of UCCs and therefore of their institutional funding.
- Their growth in activity and involvement of research staff is not matched with an equivalent increase in their human and financial resources.
- Limited decision-making power at institutional level: risk of mixing science communication with other types of communication (institutional, PR).
- Focus on dissemination and lack of a two-way approach, participation and public engagement.

UCC+I Network

Outcomes:

- Network of 119 UCC+I.
- Annual ComCiRed meeting to exchange knowledge and best practices, since 2009.

Impact:

- They carry out many activities (workshops, conferences, public talks, etc.) on different channels, including social media, videos, etc., and reach different audiences.
- The number of science communication activities carried out and the % of researchers participating in them grew for most units since their registration year.
- 72% of the units offer communication training to their research staff.
- Intra Network collaboration.

UCC+I Network

Financial resources:

- Institutional Budget
- FECYT Call for Grants – specific line

Human Resources:

- **At FECYT:** Registry & ComCiRed management.
- **At Research institutions:** at least one person dedicated full-time to UCC+I activities.

Sustainability:

- Evidence pointing to well-established structures within their host institutions.
- The number of staff has increased in half of the units over the years.

UCC+I Network

Transferability and lessons learned:

- **Institutional network model:** enables a long-term cultural change in the institutions where UCC+I are hosted (greater involvement of researchers, the institution, etc.).
- **Central support + local autonomy:** Registration, training and annual meetings coordinated by FECYT provide cohesion, but the units operate adapted to their local contexts.
- **Professionalisation and specialisation:** at least one full-time dedicated person, slowly promoting the consolidation of professional profiles in SciComm.
- **Collaborative culture:** intra-network cooperation (between institutions) and serves as a forum for collective learning.
- **Conditional transferability:** it can inspire other countries, although in different contexts, alternative models may be more appropriate (e.g. NCCPE in the United Kingdom)

Thank you