



Grants that open doors

Eusko Jaurlaritzak bultzaturik, beka ugari sortu dira industria eta hezkuntza sailetan zientzia eta teknologia ikasketak burutu dituzten ikasleek atzerriko esperientziak ezagutu ditzaten eta beren ezaguerak ikerketa berrietan jorratu ditzaten. Hona hemen landu diren proiektuen xehetasunak.

Fundación Centros Tecnológicos – Iñaki Goenaga is a private entity whose patrons are the three official industrial engineering professional associations of Alava, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, and technology centers Ceit, ESI, Gaiker, Ikerlan, Inasmet, Labein, Leia, Robotiker and Tekniker.

The main goal of the Foundation is to create and manage grant programs geared toward the scientific and technological training of young researchers in Euskadi and their subsequent incorporation into the job market, and in this way promote the culture of innovation. The Foundation promotes education and

training by offering different grant opportunities, with 25 announcements to date. More than 3,400 grants have been awarded so far, making it possible for many recent bachelor's degree recipients to further their education and enter into the work force.

Since early on, the Foundation's grant programs have received support from the Basque Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, which has provided public funding for grants included in the projects associated with Generic Research and Strategic Research (Etorrek).

The grants sponsored by Fundación Centros Tecnológicos – Iñaki Goenaga fall into the framework of research projects carried out at partner agents of the Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Network, of which the Foundation is also a member. Therefore, grants go towards work at such places as technology centers, other centers in the sector, technology parks, and so on.

The Foundation feels that the work it has accomplished over the years clearly benefits society for a number of reasons. First, because the training

in science and technology received by grant recipients has given nearly 90% of them direct access to the business world. Secondly, the grants also strive to strengthen the Science-Technology-Business-Society System in the Basque Country, since many of the grant holders end up working at one of the Science, Technology and Innovation Network partners agents.

Another aim is to disseminate the culture of innovation in Basque society. Many of the grant recipients are given positions of responsibility in companies where, after the grant program has finalized, they continue working. The Foundation feels modestly satisfied to have been able to contribute to their education and instill in them a set of innovation-based values as a means of generating wealth.

International grants and other projects

In addition to its traditional research, innovation and PhD grant programs, in March 2005 Fundación Centros Tecnológicos – Iñaki Goenaga implemented "Becas Etortek," the first grant program aimed at international training and incorporation of researchers.

The ultimate goal of this program is to bolster the Basque Science-Technology-Business-Society System incorporating around 100 researchers in the medium-term in strategic areas of research in the Basque Country (biotechnology, biomaterials, manufacturing, microtechnology, intelligent materials, wireless (environmental intelligence), microenergy, etc.

These new grants are for holders of PhDs, candidates with recognized research aptitude,

experienced researchers, and recent bachelor's degree graduates with excellent resumes. Successful candidates will spend an initial training period of one or two years abroad (at universities, research centers and laboratories known for their research excellence), and a second one- or two-year period in the Basque Country. As a result of this process the researchers are encouraged to join one of the different partner agents of the Science, Technology and Innovation Network (SARETEK) or companies involved in the areas of strategic research.

The period of international study will take place at prestigious centers in such countries as the United States, Canada, Germany, Belgium, France, Finland, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Switzerland.

Additionally, the Foundation will collaborate with the Basque Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism to implement "Guregana," a program aimed at designing a network of contacts between researchers and technologists in Euskadi and abroad. The purpose is to allow Basque researchers living in other countries to return to Euskadi to work within the Science, Technology and Innovation Network or companies active in R+D+i.

This program hopes to establish different levels of cooperation between Basque researchers and researchers working in other countries. Proposals range from specific one-off projects to bringing foreign researchers to Euskadi for longer periods of time to share and generate knowledge, and even stay on as permanent researchers in the Basque Country.

For more information:
www.fundacioncentrostecnologicos.org

Subsidies from the Department of Education

The policy on research grants implemented by the Basque Department of Universities and Research, and more concretely by the Office of Scientific Policy, promotes the training of scientists who, for the most part, will subsequently form part of the research network in the Basque Autonomous Community.

Financial aid is dedicated to two main areas: grants for PhD studies, and grants for post-doctoral training. The primary focus for the latter is to create a research specialization; therefore, grants are awarded to cover costs for previously determined areas of research.

In addition to grants, also available are subsidies, work

study programs and competitive job announcements, all of which center on reinforcing research projects and creating consolidated groups and networks of international cooperation. For more information visit

Jon Barrutia
Deputy Minister for
Universities and Research