



*During the closing session of the 10th edition of BIOSPAIN 2021*

## **The Minister of Science and Innovation, Diana Morant, emphasised that biotechnology drives economic progress in BIOSPAIN 2021**

- **Mikel Irujo, Counsellor for Economic and Business growth, referred to Navarra's leadership and highlights the importance of BIOSPAIN when promoting relationships between companies in Navarra and other regions, as well as global relationships**
- **The international congress concludes with around 1000 professionals from the sector, representing around 600 companies from 30 countries, and more than 2000 'one to one' meeting have been held**

**Pamplona, 1 October 2021.** "Biotechnology drives economic progress and social wellbeing. You are a strategic sector, able to turn knowledge into innovative solutions which will improve peoples' health". This was the statement given by **Diana Morant, Minister of Science and Innovation**, who closed the 10th edition of BIOSPAIN, a congress held this week in the Congress Palace and the Navarra-Baluart Auditorium in Pamplona-Iruña.

"Biotechnological is more alive, more present and more recognised than ever. It protects us, takes care of us and helps us to make progress, but it has never done so as much as it does now", explained the minister. She emphasised the role that biotechnology had played in 2020, thanks to the development of Covid-19 vaccines in record time.

Morant stated that "we can celebrate this joint success thanks to a historic public investment and we have sped up the administration process. However, this success is mainly thanks to the scientific cooperation between countries and the public and private sector's willingness to work together and in coordination for a common, global and urgent cause, such as preservation of life".

**Mikel Irujo, Counsellor of Economic and Business Growth**, described this sector as "strategic to the promotion of economic growth, with great potential for job creation. Navarra has a very



favourable and constantly developing ecosystem, which is vital for the promotion of bio-entrepreneurship in the territory”.

To connect the industrial and academic tissue to other companies which promote collaboration in R+D, national and international risk capital, large pharmaceutical companies and companies which provide services are “fundamental” for the counsellor. He pointed out that BIOSPAIN is “key, as it promotes this type of relationship between companies in Navarra and those in other regions. It also attracts the attention of large investors and companies in the international sector who are looking for new business opportunities”.

Choosing Navarra as the host region for BIOSPAIN was not done randomly. The 5th edition of the Congress, which is a reference in the field of health, was held here. ‘Biotech’ is a strategic sector, and as Irujo pointed out, Navarra will continue to be a regional reference within this industry.

This industry comprises 30 biomedical companies, and 40 further companies in other areas of healthcare. Navarra boasts 5 research centres, which employ more than 2400 people, 2 universities and 2 leading hospitals. This sector is highly specialised in pharmaceutical and biotechnology products, with 17,1% of patents in Navarra, compared with 13,1% of patents in Spain and 7,5% in the EU, and with an extensive public and private healthcare network.

### **Main data from the 10th edition of BIOSPAIN**

BIOSPAIN 2021 was organised by the Association of Spanish Biocompanies (AseBio), in coordination with the Navarra Local Government and collaboration with Merck, ICEX Spain Exportation and Investments, the Galician Innovation Agency, GAIN, and CINFA.

Around 1000 professionals from around 600 companies from 30 countries attended this edition. More than 2000 one-to-one meetings were held to promote innovation, collaboration and new business opportunities and around 40 international investors also attended. Several scientific roundtable discussions took place, focusing on developing the future, managing possible new pandemics and the challenges and opportunities in Spain regarding access to and management of cancer treatment and the impact of new genomic editing techniques, among others.

Among the different messages discussed this week, one in particular stood out: Spain is not only in 8th place worldwide for ‘biotech’ scientific production, private biotechnology investment in the country has also grown by 50%. This data emphasised that the development of the biotechnological sector in our country and biotechnological companies is growing faster than in other countries. According to the latest available data, there are already 3585 companies, and biotechnology is the main activity in 790 of these.



### About AseBio

AseBio brings together 270 companies representing the entire Spanish biotechnology sector in Spain. Our mission is to become leaders in the country transformation, using science, innovation and particularly biotechnology as a driving force for economic growth and social wellbeing. Our partners include companies, associations, foundations, universities, and technology and research centres which directly or indirectly carry out biotechnology-related activities in Spain.

### About Sodena

Sodena, The Navarra Development Society Ltd (*Sociedad de Desarrollo de Navarra, S.L.*) is the Navarra Government's financial instrument used to win and develop entrepreneurial projects which are of added value for Navarra. They support these projects financially, accompanying and facilitating their location, making available their contacts network, and coordinating the design and implementation of the regional Intelligent Specialisation Strategy. The purpose of all this is to contribute to regional development and to the creation of quality jobs. Sodena is currently directly participating in around 100 entrepreneurial projects and in seven specialised risk capital funds. As part of their commitment to sustainability, Sodena supports the Sustainable Development Objectives established in the 2030 agenda, applying the environmental, social and corporate government criteria and the Responsible Investment Principles to their usual practices.

### Sponsors Platinum

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