

Research

In January 2006, the Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII), which is dependent upon the Ministry of Health and Consumers' Affairs, signed an agreement to collaborate with fourteen Autonomous Communities to stabilise the contracts of their researchers and intensify the research activities of the National Health System.

The agreement has been signed by the respective foundations for health research and innovation of Andalusia, Aragon, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castile-La Mancha, Catalonia, Madrid, Valencian Community, Extremadura, Galicia, Basque Country, Asturias and Murcia, although more communities may join in the future.

As part of the National Programme for Strengthening Human Resources in R + D + I in the National Plan for Scientific Research, Development and Technological Innovation 2004-2007, the agreement has as its principal aims to encourage the autonomous communities to hire research personnel with stable contracts and intensify the involvement of health care personnel in research activities.

Altogether, the stabilisation programme and the intensification of research activities, with financial aid for the communities from ISCIII amounting to two million euros, led to the hiring of nearly a hundred scientists.

In research, the activities of the communities were channelled into the drawing up of guidelines for carrying it out, or through the financing and public support of this activity.

Andalusia has found a new form of regulating research activity, with the proposal of a new model of economic contract for the performance of clinical trials with medicines in the public health system of Andalusia¹⁰⁶.

As regards the public financing of research, the autonomous communities have promoted their research systems after passing the rules and subsidies for research programmes and research training and Healthcare R + D with three groups of programmes: support for research projects, subsidies for individuals and entities (Andalusia¹⁰⁷ and Basque Country).

106 Resolution of the 23rd of May 2006, in which the new model of economic contract for carrying out clinical trials with National Health Service medicine was approved.

107 Resolution of the 3rd of May 2006, calling for applications for subsidies for financing research projects and research training plans in the Health Sciences, in the area of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia for the financial year 2006.

Alongside the generic offers of subsidies for research in healthcare, there have also been specific projects for developing research into certain health problems, such as AIDS, in Galicia¹⁰⁸.

Within the Quality Plan, research into inequalities in health is being encouraged, and the financial support for investigation into questions of health and gender has been continued with the call for research projects, and a new line of investigation into equity has opened with the call for evaluation of health technologies and services.

A series of workshops with health professionals from 10 Autonomous Communities has carried out an analysis to agree on the needs that exist and to improve the submissions and rates of project approval in competition, as well as improving scientific production and the distribution of the results of these lines of investigation. The resulting information will guide activities over the coming years.

To reinforce research into equity, a study has been started, following the guidelines laid down by the European Union, to find out the relative participation of men and women in research within the National Health System. The results show that there are different patterns for men and women in terms of the type of project requested and the type of project approved.

108 Order of the 9th of May 2006, in which the bases of the call for subsidies in competitive conditions for research projects and actions related with the global anti-AIDS effort were approved.