


# ANNUAL REPORT 2024







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**JAIME BOTÍN-SANZ DE SAUTUOLA GARCÍA DE LOS RÍOS**  
Santander, 10 April 1936 - Santander, 15 August 2024





# Letter from the Chairman



For Fundación Botín, the year 2024 was unquestionably marked by the sad death of Jaime Botín-Sanz de Sautuola y García de los Ríos, a member of the Foundation's governing board since its creation in 1964 and vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees since its creation in 1995.

Not only was Jaime Botín one of the leading bankers of his generation, but, even more importantly, he was an enlightened man: cultured, open, ahead of the ideas of his time and, above all, a person with an intellectual honesty and a critical and constructive view of reality that gave him a privileged vision and a natural skill for leadership.

And throughout his very long life, he devoted considerable efforts to philanthropy through his involvement in Fundación Botín. At the outset, the aim was to assist, initially in Santander, the most needy groups that were still outside the scope of action of public administrations. In a second stage, in the early years of this century, the Foundation began to develop long-term programmes to contribute to the development of our society in the fields of science, education and rural development. More recently, the Foundation has further developed those programmes, expanded them, and above all innovated in its ways of intervening in society and acting as a network, to make them grow even beyond our borders, measuring and monitoring their social impact in order to ensure maximum efficiency in the use of its resources.

Jaime Botín was involved in all of this, and is largely responsible for it, following in the footsteps of our founders, Marcelino Botín and Carmen Yllera, and of the other generations of the family and collaborators who have worked for the Foundation's social mission from 1964 to the present day.

In 2018, Jaime Botín's commitment became even more visible, when he decided to donate to the Foundation a set of portraits from his personal collection, works by great masters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to be permanently exhibited in a new room created for this purpose at Centro Botín, accompanied by a very generous annual financial endowment. Not only will these works enrich the experience of visiting the Centre, but they will forever remind us of Jaime Botín and will be the best evidence of his philanthropy.





Even more so as, coinciding precisely with the presentation of this report, this room, newly refurbished and extended, is being re-opened. It will incorporate another nine magnificent works from his collection, this time, and in accordance with Jaime Botín's wishes, on loan from his heirs.

Those of us who are currently in charge of managing Fundación Botín take on the legacy of our predecessors. We are responsible for preserving and building on everything they did, as well as maintaining their commitment and their critical eye in order to contribute to the improvement and development of our society.

And I humbly believe that we are doing so. I am not referring only to Fundación Botín, but to the Spanish social sector in general, which in recent decades has played an important role in building a fairer, more sustainable and more humane society. In our view, this is being achieved through three fundamental levers: innovation, above all in how actions are carried out; collaboration, both with the public and private sectors and between the community organisations themselves; and, lastly, measuring social impact and efficiency, which has a lot to do with precisely defining our goals.

At Fundación Botín, we are convinced that, if we continue these endeavours, as we plan to, we in the social sector will continue to make a fundamental contribution to building a better future. And if, in addition, we further enhance our transparency and communication, as we are, we will also get society to recognise this venture, support it and make it grow.

**Javier Botín**



# Presentation

Fundación Botín was created in 1964 by Marcelino Botín Sanz de Sautuola and his wife, Carmen Yllera, to promote social development in Cantabria. Nowadays, while continuing to focus on the region, Fundación Botín operates throughout Spain and Latin America, contributing through its activity to the overall development of society by exploring new ways of uncovering creative talent and supporting it to generate cultural, social and economic wealth.

Chaired since 2014 by Javier Botín, Fundación Botín organises programmes in the fields of art and culture, education, institutional strengthening, science and rural development. It also has a Water Observatory specialising in the analysis of the governance and comprehensive management of water, from both the national and global perspectives.

The headquarters of Fundación Botín is located in Santander, and since 2012 it has also operated offices in Madrid, in order to handle the growing demands of its activity. Furthermore, in 2017, Fundación Botín launched Centro Botín: an international art centre that aims to bring a new perspective to the world of art, whose social mission is to promote the creativity of all its visitors through the arts in order to generate economic, social and cultural development. It has an ambitious exhibition programme comprising solo and group shows by Spanish and international artists and Fundación Botín scholarship holders. Its educational programme “Creativity, Emotions and the Arts”, which is based on research conducted over more than 13 years in conjunction with the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, is made up of artistic and cultural activities that spark the curiosity, imagination and creativity of all audiences, encouraging them to play and learn through the arts. Centro Botín is part of citizens’ daily lives and helps to strengthen the local social and cultural fabric. It is a meeting place which, through art, music, cinema, theatre, literature and dance, invigorates the city.



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Paloma Botín

Udo Kittelmann

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# 2024 in figures

## Centro Botín

<b>176,783</b> VISITORS 6.5% more than the previous year	<b>54,331</b> PEOPLE took part in the 367 artistic, cultural and training activities held	<b>3,672</b> NEW PASSES and 661 new Friends of Centro Botín
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## Education

<b>850</b> SCHOOLS belong to the International Educación Responsable Schools Network	<b>19,245</b> TEACHERS ENROLLED on the programme implementation platform	<b>211,193</b> STUDENTS BENEFITED at present
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## Institutional strengthening

<b>32</b> STUDENTS REPRESENTING 19 LATAM NATIONALITIES took part in the 15 <sup>th</sup> edition of the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina	<b>13,700</b> CANDIDATES applied for the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina in 2024	<b>406</b> COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS networking from Talento Solidario
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## Science

<b>+200</b> ATTENDEES at the 8 <sup>th</sup> National Congress of Enterprising Scientists	<b>159</b> HIGHLY-SKILLED JOBS created in <i>Mind the Gap</i> companies	<b>1,633</b> PATIENTS have participated in clinical trials of medical devices developed by <i>Mind the Gap</i> companies.
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## Rural development

<b>+60%</b> BUSINESS PLANS presented in <i>RuralEmprende</i> Valle de Valderredible are led by women	<b>65%</b> OF PRODUCTION CERTIFIED as IGP (protected origin) Cantabrian Meat	<b>20</b> YOUNG PEOPLE have developed 5 proposals to meet the challenges of the rural environment in the framework of the programme Talento Rural Joven
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## Water Observatory

<b>344</b> APPLICATIONS FROM 28 COUNTRIES received for the Sustainable Water Management Award in its first 10 editions	<b>39</b> PEOPLE, TEAMS OR ENTITIES from 11 different countries have won Sustainable Water Management Awards since 2014	<b>+2,000</b> PEOPLE walked along +70 rivers in the global #WalkingRivers event
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# Investments in the Foundation's primary objectives in 2024

Centro Botín	€10,081,610.40
Education	€1,115,773.16
Institutional strengthening	€2,624,425.41
Science	€1,025,355.44
Rural development	€339,577.33
Water observatory	€133,076.02
Collaborations	€589,654.78
Grand total	€15,909,472.54





176,783

VISITORS

View of the exhibition of the Japanese artist Shimabuku



3,672

NEW CANTABRIAN PASSES

and 661 new Friends of Centro Botín



Music and poetry show based on the work "Manual de espumas" by Gerardo Diego





# Centro Botín

Centro Botín is the most important project in the Foundation's history. It is an international art centre that aims to bring a new perspective to the world of art. Its social mission is to promote the creativity of all its visitors through the arts in order to generate economic, social and cultural development.



Concert by 'Les Amazones d'Afrique'



## 54,331

PEOPLE

took part in the 367 artistic,  
cultural and training  
activities held

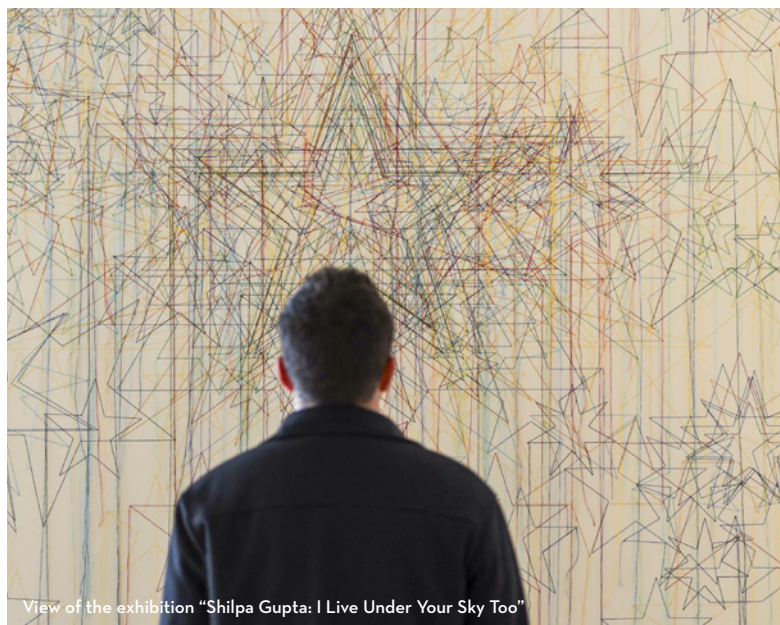


View of the exhibition "Silvia Bächli: Partitura"



Dance performance in collaboration with the UIMP





View of the exhibition "Shilpa Gupta: I Live Under Your Sky Too"



View of the exhibition "Shimabuku: Octopus, Citrus, Human"

In 2024, the Centro Botín received 176,783 visitors, 6.5% more than the previous year. Of these, 122,452 attended the exhibitions and 54,331 enjoyed the 367 artistic, cultural and educational activities programmed throughout the year, with an average satisfaction score of 4.75 out of 5 and an occupancy rate of 90%.

Local support has been evident in the continued growth of the Cantabrian Passes. In 2024, 3,672 new Passes were issued, bringing the total number of citizens with free and unlimited access to the exhibitions to 158,039. This support is also reflected in the 2,910 Friends of Centro Botín and in the 4 new sponsors that have joined the entities that collaborate with the project's sustainability and expansion, making a total of 28 supporting institutions and companies.

In addition, the rooftop, the Pachinko and the building's walkways were visited by 98,847 people.

## Exhibitions

Centro Botín's exhibition programme in 2024 brought visitors the work of three internationally renowned artists from distant locations and diverse cultural

contexts, all of them curated by Bárbara Rodríguez Muñoz, Director of Exhibitions and of the Centro Botín Collection.

In February we completed the journey through time proposed by the exhibition **El Greco / Tino Sehgal**, through the works *This youiiyou* and *Adoration of the Shepherds* (1577-1579) by El Greco, the latter belonging to Fundación Botín's art collection. On 23 March the 2024 exhibition programme began in Hall 2 with **Shilpa Gupta: I Live Under Your Sky Too**, an emotional presentation of the most recent work of this Indian artist. Through voice and poetry, with her installations, drawings, sculptures, textiles and texts, she brought us closer to the existence of people who have been silenced and blurred the boundaries that constrain movement.

On 11 May, the exhibition **Silvia Bächli: Partitura (Score)** opened its doors in Hall 1. This exhibition delved into the practice of drawing, so present in the artist's career since the 1970s. Mural compositions, sequences of drawings hung at different heights and intervals created musical scores that ran through the exhibition space.

In early Autumn, the first solo exhibition in Spain of the Japanese artist **Shimabuku: Octopus, Citrus, Human** was unveiled.

It comprised videos, photographs, sculptures, installations and texts, spanning from the early 1990s to the present day, as well as three pieces commissioned in 2024 specifically for this exhibition: *Flying People* (Santander), *Going to Meet the Octopuses in Santander* and *Something That Floats/Something that Sinks*, giving the exhibition its title.

The exhibition calendar closed with **Itinerarios XXIX**, the annual exhibition presenting the works of the international artists selected in Fundación Botín's 2022 art scholarships: six new perspectives on the most current debates in contemporary art through the projects of Patricia Domínguez, Laura Fernández Antolín, Antonio Menchen, Alice dos Reis, Belén Rodríguez and the duo formed by María Salgado & Clarisa Navas.

The programme was completed in the permanent hall with the portrait exhibition **Portraits: Essence and Expression**, with works by Francis Bacon, Pancho Cossío, José Gutiérrez Solana, Juan Gris, Henri Matisse, Nonell, Joaquín Sorolla and Daniel Vázquez Díaz, generously loaned to Centro Botín by Jaime Botín, who was a trustee of Fundación Botín until his death.

With regard to training, the **31<sup>st</sup> edition of Fundación Botín's Art Scholarsips**



Adrian Oetiker, an outstanding soloist and chamber musician with a brilliant global career.

In the performing arts section, the dance show *Recreo*, developed in collaboration with Menéndez Pelayo International University, in which the choreographer and dancer from Córdoba Antonio Ruz directed 11 dancers to use improvisation to generate an intimate dialogue with the architecture and physiognomy of Centro Botín.

As for cinema, this year was the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Cinema and Creativity and, to commemorate this first decade, a special session was programmed in which the winning short films from all the editions were screened. Additionally, the traditional *Summer Cinema* and *Cinema and Chocolate* cycles were held and, from 13 to 19 September, the 8<sup>th</sup> Santander Film Festival took place. Organised in collaboration with Morena Films, this event offered, among others, a selection of the best Ibero-American films, tributes to great film-makers, as well as several official competition sections, focusing on creativity, entrepreneurship and youth.

Also worthy of mention were the collaborations with various institutions, such as the 73<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Santander International Festival (FIS), Fundación Gerardo Diego, the 13<sup>th</sup> Festival Internacional de Circo en la Cuerda Floja, the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Festival Hágase la Luz, the Architects of Cantabria Association (COACAN), Santander Music Festival, Fundación Albéniz, Asociación Mujer y Talento, Teatro Real and Certamen Tipos.

### Arts, emotions and creativity

As part of the creative development programmes, in 2024 actions, activities, workshops and courses were carried out for all audiences (children, young people, families and adults) and in all the arts (visual, music, performing, film and literature), with special emphasis on the enjoyment and well-being they generate, and with the ultimate goal of fulfilling the social mission of Centro Botín: to

was held, with projects by Elena Aitzkoa (Vitoria-Gasteiz, 1984), Sahatsa Jauregi (Salvador de Bahía, Brazil, 1984), Mar Reykjavik (Valencia, 1995), Naomi Rincón Gallardo Shimada (Raleigh, North Carolina, United States), Inmaculada Salinas (Seville, 1967) and Lorenzo Sandoval (Madrid, 1980) being selected from among 630 candidates from 65 countries. In addition, in the **18<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals for the Museum Management and Curating Scholarships**, Julia Polo Alabart was selected to continue her training at Goldsmiths, University of London, and Abril Cisneros Ramírez was renewed to complete her Master's degree in Art Curating, University of Amsterdam.

From 11 to 15 March 2024, the **Shilpa Gupta workshop** took place, with the participation of artists and art educators, and from 9 to 17 September, the **Cooking Sections workshop** was held, in which the artists shared their research with the participants, linking it to two locations in Cantabria: Valle del Nansa and Santander.

As every year, Fundación Botín's art collection has increased with the acquisition of works by Shilpa Gupta, Shimabuku, Silvia Bächli, Patricia Gómez and Ma Jesús González, Lucía Bayón, Fernando Sánchez Castillo and Jorge Satorre.

## Programme of activities

The cultural and creative development programme consisted of 367 activities, including 42 concerts, 32 film screenings, 13 dance and theatre performances, different types of visits to exhibitions, workshops, courses, etc. An average of 7 activities per week were conducted.

### Cultural programme

One of the highlights of the cultural programme was the concert in the *Música abierta* (Open Music) series by CimaFunk, a popular Afro-Cuban musician who mixes Caribbean and other classic Cuban rhythms with innovative fusions of funk, Afrobeat and hip hop, and who—along with his band La Tribu—gave a performance in the amphitheatre of Centro Botín as part of his European tour. Another highlight was the performance of Yeray Cortés, a virtuoso of the Spanish guitar and one of the most outstanding artists on the current national flamenco scene, who blurs the boundaries between the classical, the traditional and the avant-garde. He performed solo, for the first time in Cantabria and exclusively for Centro Botín. Notable in the *Classical Music* series were the concerts by Adolfo Gutiérrez Arenas, one of Spain's most internationally renowned cellists, and the Swiss pianist





Participatory creative action "Cometas, ¡a volar!"



Embroidery activity in the exhibition halls

enhance the creativity of all its visitors through the arts.

Of particular note were the creative workshops *La mirada poética*, *recuerdos de la infancia*, *Edición musical*, *Multiperspectivas*, *Exploradores imaginarios* and the one for dance professionals, *Recreo*, which was held with the company of the National Dance Award winner, Antonio Ruz.

With the aim of reaching out to teenagers and families through the benefits of listening to music and dancing freely, discos with live music for these audiences were held during the winter months. These events gave more than 1,000 people the chance to experience first-hand the well-being of dancing without being judged.

Throughout the year, and thanks to a new cycle called *Saborear las Artes* (Savouring the Arts), we learned from 6 artists how to use literature, theatre, dance, music, film and the visual arts in our daily lives to help us see things from new perspectives and discover our emotional and creative abilities. Through gastronomic analogies we better understood the potential of each of the arts to activate our creativity.

**“What we have experienced over these last few days has made me go home with a much greater desire to make this world a better place, and to do so through the powerful tool that is creativity.”**

Attendee at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference Creativity, Emotions, and the Arts

We ended the year with a radical change of perspective, a drone flight in the auditorium of Centro Botín, watched by more than 4,500 people, which also made us reflect on the power of doing things together, as a team.

The exhibitions allowed more than a hundred people to look at and photograph their neighbours' windows and imagine more about them, taking as a starting point the work of the artist Luz Broto, which made it possible to create a map of the windows of Cantabria. Thousands of visitors also participated in a collective sonic creation inspired by Shilpa Gupta's exhibition and many others painted while looking out over the bay, inspired by Silvia Bächli's work.

Over the course of 2024 we have tried to make Centro Botín's exhibition halls another space to visit in the city so that, through everyday artistic activities (such

as dancing, reading, writing, drawing, weaving, etc.) linked to the exhibition, our audiences can achieve well-being, inspiration and develop a new way of looking at themselves and their surroundings, which will help them to awaken and unlock their creative capacity.

In addition, in 2024 it is worth highlighting the consolidation of the programme for babies, more than 60 of whom, accompanied by their families, visited the exhibition *El Greco and Tino Shegal: This youiyou*, in a “meet-up” specifically for them. They also enjoyed concerts and immersive experiences suitable for this early stage of life. As for young people aged 16 to 25, their participation doubled compared to 2023, with the successful celebration of the second editions of the Festival ON and the ON Creación call, which on this occasion was open to all three Cantabrian universities. In a new development, and as a result of the



summer course entitled “Arts, Emotions and Creativity for Living Well over 65”, work began with and for the elderly, in a programme to bear fruit in 2025.

A total of 15,350 schoolchildren came to Centro Botín to participate in different activities (*ReflejArte*, guided tours, workshop visits, free visits, concerts, film festival, and so on). Of these, 2,368 enjoyed school concerts and more than 4,500 took part in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> editions of *ReflejArte*, an educational programme aimed at the emotional, social and creative development of students through exhibitions at Centro Botín. At the end of every school year, this programme culminates with an exhibition, open to the public, in the classrooms of Centro Botín, to showcase the creations made by the participants. 2,800 people visited the exhibition in 2024, which was titled *Somos creativos XVII: Retratos sonoros* (We are Creative XVII: Portraits in Sound).

Research continues in collaboration with Yale University into the role of emotion in the creative process, and how the arts and emotions can help us unlock our creativity. In 2024 we organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference: Creativity, Emotions and the Arts, presenting the

latest advances in research on how creative skills and “transformative creativity”, which generates positive advances for a better society, are developed. The event was attended by 250 people and included the participation of 8 international experts, 4 artists and 10 professionals who presented their research projects in Spain. The conference also included a programme open to the public with a round table, a workshop and an outdoor performance by the artist María Palma.

### Friends, passes, volunteers and sponsors

In 2024, 661 people joined the network of Friends of Centro Botín. The programme closed the year with a total of 2,910 members who, thanks to this annual subscription, obtain access benefits and discounts on activities, the store and the café at Centro Botín, while at the same time reinforcing, through their commitment to art and culture, our social mission and the projects that are carried out.

In addition, 10 Cantabrian Passes were issued each day, which means 3,672 more people born or registered in Cantabria now benefit from free and unlimited

access to the exhibitions at Centro Botín. More than 158,000 citizens already belong to this programme of cultural accessibility and social commitment.

And support is growing, with 4 new sponsors joining the Centro Botín project: City Sightseeing, Real Racing Club, Roche and the Cesine university centre. This support is key to contributing to the sustainability and expansion of the Centre's annual programming. Their inclusion brings the number of institutions and companies that are now supporting Centro Botín to 28. In 2024, they also include Fundación Mutua Madrileña, Fundación Prosegur, Cantur, Santander City Council, Fundación EDP, Bridgestone, Vocento, El Diario Montañés, Unidad Editorial, El País, Cadena SER, Spend In Magazine, Onda Cero, JCDecaux, Eurostars Hotels, Alsa, Iberia, Renfe, Viajes Mesana, IMEM, Café Dromedario, Uría Menéndez, Derwent Group and Micampus.

We cannot forget the 42 volunteers who give us their time and selfless collaboration, helping us in every proposal, visit and activity, and whom we thank, along with all the others, for their commitment and devotion to art and culture.



# 211,193

STUDENTS BENEFITED



New educational resource "Crea tu historia musical"



Reading and Emotions in ER Murcia

"Coro de las Emociones" (Choir of Emotions) in ER Madrid



# 19,245

TEACHERS ENROLLED

on the programme implementation platform



Closure of the programme Experto en Educación Emocional, Social y de la Creatividad para la Transformación Educativa



# Education

In 2024, great progress has been made in this area, such as the updating of the theoretical framework of the programme *Educación Responsable*, as well as the training plan linked to educational resources. In addition, the programme has broadened its international impact by incorporating schools in a new country (Peru) and has increased its outreach in the rest of Latin America. The cycle of talks on “The Education we Want” focused on the mental health of both young people and educators, and the results of the programme’s 3<sup>rd</sup> psychological evaluation (research carried out by the University of Malaga) were published.



# 850

SCHOOLS

belong to the  
International  
*Educación  
Responsable*  
Schools  
Network







Initial ER training in Villarica, Chile

6<sup>th</sup> Trainers' Meeting

## Educación Responsable Programme

In 2024, *Educación Responsable* expanded in Latin America, reaching Peru for the first time through *Sinfonía por el Perú*, strengthening its presence in Honduras and developing in a penitentiary centre in Chile. In Mexico, six foundations supported the entry of 48 new centres.

In Spain, the 6<sup>th</sup> Trainers' Meeting was held in Santander and the 9<sup>th</sup> International Coordinators' Meeting took place in Murcia. The first international exchange of teachers was held with Mexico, and observation visits were organised between schools in Cantabria, Castilla y León and Murcia.

### Training plan

In 2024, the programme's theoretical framework was updated and five in-person training days were organised in Spain and Latin America, involving 19,245 teachers and 211,193 students.

In addition, a 10-hour synchronous itinerary was developed and tested at centres in Cantabria, Madrid and Bolivia. Specialisation courses for graduate schools were also offered, with 141 participants, covering a wide range of topics such as teacher care, classroom harmony and challenge-based learning.

### Educational resources for the classroom

The resource "Crea tu historia musical" (Create your musical history) was

implemented, thanks to a pilot project at centres in Spain, Mexico and Chile, which focuses on the design of learning scenarios combining the various arts, generating heritage and social value. "ReflejArte" proposed "Retratos sonoros" (Portraits in Sound), inspired by the exhibition *Retratos: Esencia y expresión* at Centro Botín, with 89 centres and more than 6,000 participating students in Cantabria and Madrid.

Within the educational resource "Lectura y Emociones", *El Mago de la Palabra* (Word Wizard) attracted more than 2,400 people, while 1,400 pupils took part in the play "Vecinos y manzanas" (Neighbours and Blocks).

In *El Coro de las Emociones* (The Choir of Emotions), teachers were trained in Cantabria and Madrid, and educational musical sessions were held at Centro Botín, attended by 2,403 students and teachers. In addition, the *Banco de Herramientas* (Tool Bank) incorporated new proposals for adult learners with a Lifelong Learning approach.

### Plan to support the schools

240 teachers took part in the Network Meeting with the expert Loli García, educator, psychologist and trainer, who spoke about *Feedback and the celebration of learning*. In addition, 610 teachers inaugurated the 2024-25 school

year together with Hannah Ulferts, OECD policy analyst, reinforcing the work with the OECD on the Education 2030 project.

The Attention to Diversity Group continued with 12 teachers from five communities sharing adaptations aligned with inclusive education.

### Programme evaluation

The longitudinal evaluation of the programme *Educación Responsable* provides solid evidence of its impact. The most recent study, carried out in 2023 by the Emotions Laboratory of the University of Malaga, directed by Dr. Pablo Fernández Berrocal, involved more than 1,000 students, aged 5 to 18, in seven Spanish communities. The results show significant improvements in emotional intelligence, empathy, creativity and emotional regulation. Students showed an increased ability to identify and manage emotions, make good decisions and relate positively. Fewer emotional and behavioural difficulties were also observed.

In 2024, a new evaluation was launched at centres in Aragon, Cantabria, Galicia, Murcia and Madrid, and also in Mexico, Peru and Chile, to assess the impact of the programme in different cultural contexts.

Cycle of talks on *The Education We Want* (9<sup>th</sup> edition)9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Network of Coordinators of ER Centres

## Cycle of talks on *The Education We Want*

For yet another year, Fundación Botín has continued its series of lectures on *The Education We Want*, sharing with experts, teachers and educational centres the keys to making the education we want a reality. In 2024, four key topics were addressed by leading experts: teacher mental health, with psychologist

and writer Tomás Navarro; evidence-based education, with researcher and disseminator Héctor Ruiz Martín; educational inclusion, with teacher and psychologist Coral Elizondo; and adolescent mental health, with social educator and psychotherapist Sara Desirée Ruiz.

More than 7,000 people attended these conferences, underpinning the relevance of this space as a meeting point between expert knowledge and an educational community committed to change.

## Programme Experto en Educación Emocional, Social y de la Creatividad para la Transformación Educativa

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of this Expert Programme, developed together with Francisco de Vitoria University, was held between January and October and involved 61 students from Spain and Chile, who took 26 ECTS credits across five modules. The individual accompaniment culminated in the presentation of their final theses and their incorporation into the *Alumni Network*.

In addition, more than 100 people participated in the fifth edition of the “AI vs teachers, enemies or allies?” challenge, in which Jorge Cerdio (UFV) and Sergio Travieso, authors of the book *Sé un maestro en la era de la inteligencia artificial* (Being a Teacher in the Age of AI), reflected on the role of AI as an ally for teachers.

The final theses address real challenges in the participants’ schools, from plans to improve coexistence to proposals for transforming tutorials. Many are already being implemented, generating significant and sustainable changes that reflect the programme’s commitment to educational improvement.

“In today’s world, in which our children and young people have little capacity to identify and manage their emotions, it is of utmost importance that we, as educators, harness the tools that allow us to help them on that path. Art, and music in particular, is the vehicle that allows us to bring the acquired knowledge to our beneficiaries; creating safe spaces where children can recognise, express and learn to manage what they feel gives us hope for a better society.”

Diana Arce Martínez, Vocal Specialist of the organisation Sinfonía por el Perú and teacher of *Educación Responsable*



# 32

STUDENTS OF 19  
LATIN AMERICAN  
NATIONALITIES

took part in the 15<sup>th</sup>  
edition of the programme  
Fortalecimiento de  
la Función Pública en  
América Latina



Students of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina at Centro Botín, Santander



Madrid Volunteering Point

# 406

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS  
networking from Talento Solidario



Presentation of the projects of the Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina programme's network during the meeting in Cartagena de Indias



In-person work session. Desafío Paraguay



Closure of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Digital Transformation Programme

# Institutional strengthening

In this field, we are working to strengthen institutions, something that is more necessary than ever to generate economic and social development. For this purpose, we conducted two programmes aimed at Spanish and Latin American social institutions (Talento Solidario and El Desafío) and another at public institutions in Latin America (programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina). The last call for proposals of the programme attracted 13,700 candidates from over 900 universities. We also support community organisations in Cantabria that work with particularly vulnerable sectors.

Closing ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina at University of the Andes, Colombia



# 13,700

CANDIDATES

applied for the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública in 2024





## Strengthening the social sector: Talento Solidario

The social sector plays a pivotal role in a country's economic and social development. Accordingly, more than a decade ago, Fundación Botín launched Talento Solidario, a programme aimed at strengthening the third sector and helping small and/or medium-sized NGOs by boosting their efficiency, incorporating talent into non-profit organisations and promoting innovation and networking.

In 2024 we have worked on:

**The preparatory actions for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Talento Solidario (2025)**, with the design and automation of the "Third Sector Professionalisation Index" tool, whose objective is to provide any NGO with a self-diagnosis that allows them to know how they are doing in their main management areas and to offer them a starting point against which they can measure themselves in order to improve going forward. This self-diagnosis has been tested with 450 NGOs.

Eight workshops were held in 8 autonomous regions, with the participation of 239 NGOs, which allowed us to examine in depth the barriers that hinder their growth with a view to designing the upcoming Talento Solidario call for proposals, which will be launched on the occasion of the programme's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Talento Solidario: El Desafío call for proposals

Aimed at fostering innovation and collaboration in the social sector, this initiative enables entities to work together to build projects that entail solutions to the new challenges of today's society.

The initiative was extended to 2 new Spanish regions (Extremadura and Asturias, with the participation of 34 NGOs) and started to be implemented in Latin America with 17 NGOs in Paraguay.

### Talento Solidario Network

Made up of all the community organisations that have taken part in the Talento Solidario and El Desafío calls for proposals, it is currently made up of 406 organisations. The community organisations have been accompanied in an intensive effort to:

- Support them in their digital transformation: 21 NGOs took part in this programme, receiving training in digital skills through 43 webinars and mentoring with digital experts to help them implement their digital transformation plans.
- Train managers of community organisations on governance issues, with 90 NGOs having participated.

- Promote spaces for meeting and pooling knowledge with other sectors of activity, specifically with the business sector, having organised 5 volunteering points in Spain (2 in Madrid and 1 each in Bilbao, Seville and Barcelona) in which 154 corporate volunteering projects have been presented, backed by 130 companies.
- We have continued to support the strengthening of other regional networks such as:
  - Red Corola in Extremadura (35 NGOs), with which we have continued to open lines of work thanks to the collaboration with Fundación Caja Extremadura.
  - Red Innova in Navarra, in collaboration with Fundación Caja Navarra, with which we carry out actions aimed at producing creative campaigns that connect with Gen Z. Twenty-four institutions have participated in these activities.
  - On the occasion of the severe flooding catastrophe in Valencia, we opened a channel of collaboration with 22 Valencian community organisations.



Students of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina arriving at Santiago Cathedral after completing several stages of the Camino (Pilgrim's Way)

## Consolidation of the Civil Service in Latin America

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina was based on the conviction that well-functioning institutions, especially public ones, are fundamental for the development of societies. The aim is to promote the region's progress through a network of public servants that fosters three fundamental values: integrity, proactiveness and a vocation for service. The programme tackles three public service challenges—inequality, global order and sustainability—under two strategic axes: good governance and education.

### Another record number of applications

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Fundación Botín's programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina was held in 2024, with 32 university students, representing 19 different nationalities, selected from among more than 13,700 candidates. This year, another record number of applications was received, reflecting the great scope and prestige of the programme, as well as the alumni network's commitment to institutional strengthening. More than 900 universities and students from 132 different degree programmes participated in this call for applications, all of them with excellent academic records and an unwavering vocation for public service.

### Development of the programme

The programme was held in Colombia, in the Madrid and Santander offices of Fundación Botín, the University of Salamanca, Valle del Nansa (Cantabria) and Galicia, where three stages of the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago de Compostela were completed. It was backed by the Organization of American States (OAS), University of Salamanca, University of the Andes (Colombia) and Fundação Getulio Vargas (Brazil), and involved prominent speakers, tenured university lecturers and public servants from Spain and Latin America.

Lasting seven weeks, the programme offered a multidisciplinary experience that combined personal skills training for public management with intensive training through master classes and meetings with leading personalities from the public, private and third sectors. In addition, and taking into account the high number of registrations received, an online format of the programme was held in 2024 for the second consecutive year, with the participation of 50 students from 19 Latin American countries.

### Standout sessions

Sessions were held with Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the OAS; Roberto Bosch, former Argentinean Ambassador; Cristina Gallach, Special Commissioner for the Alliance for the New Language Economy of the Government of Spain;

María Margarita Zuleta, Director of the School of Government of the University of Los Andes; Emilio Lamo de Espinosa, Founder of Real Instituto Elcano; Damián Cardona, Director of the United Nations Information Centre; Manuela Carmena, former Mayor of Madrid; Rafael Dezcallar de Mazarredo, Spanish diplomat; Carlos Carnero, MEP, member of the Convention that drafted the European Constitution; and Gregorio Luri, Spanish philosopher, educator and essayist, among others.

### Meeting with H.M. King Felipe VI

Various institutional visits were made as part of the programme's cultural agenda, including an audience with H.M. King Felipe VI, who received the students at the Royal Palace of El Pardo. In addition, visits were made to Centro Botín, the Presidency of Cantabria, the Bank of Spain, the Madrid Regional Transport Consortium (CITRAM), the Prado Museum, Talento Madrid (Madrid City Council) and Toledo, where an analysis was made of the coexistence of the three cultures present in the city, ending at the Puy du Fou theme park.

The closing ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition took place in Bogotá, Colombia, at the headquarters of the School of Government of University of the Andes. Afterwards, the 32 students travelled to Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) to participate in the meeting of the *Alumni Network* on the occasion of the programme's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary,





at the headquarters of the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID).

### Alumni Network 2024

In 2024, within the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the programme Fortalecimiento de la Función Pública en América Latina, the *Alumni Network* of Public Servants, made up of 506 graduates, met from 28 to 30 November at the Training Centre of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia). This was the setting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Meeting of the Public Servants *Alumni Network*, a space for reflection, learning and strengthening of the Alumni community that brought together 270 alumni, reaffirming the programme's impact over the years.

The event brought together leading experts, alumni and partners to discuss the challenges of governance in Latin America, the role of cross-sector collaboration and the importance of public service in the region. Renowned leaders in the fields of politics, economics and public management took part in a number of conferences and roundtables. They included Paca Zuleta, Director of the School of Government at the University of the Andes, who addressed the challenges and opportunities of governance and democracy in Latin America; Jonathan Malagón, President of Asobancaria, who presented strategies to generate trust and foster collaboration; Sergio Díaz Granados, President of CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, who reflected on the role of the public and

private sectors in building the future; and Felipe González, former President of Spain, who offered his vision on the levers and creativity needed for a new way of building.

In addition to being a forum for reflection and learning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Meeting of the Public Servants Network was a unique opportunity to share experiences and best practices within the *Alumni* community. The regional networks presented new programmes on consolidating the public service in Latin America; inspiring stories were told, with testimonies of graduates who are making an impact in their countries; and social awareness visits were made in Cartagena de Indias in collaboration with local entities.

Throughout the year, the Public Servants *Alumni Network* has continued to develop the “Alumni Conversa”, “Café Alumni” and “Historias que Inspiran” (Stories that Inspire) initiatives, a framework in which more than 20 projects continue to be implemented, many of them in a collaborative manner, which have been accompanied and monitored by Fundación Botín. Likewise, and with the

aim of consolidating the links between its members, *Alumni* meetings were held in Madrid and Colombia, as well as multiple virtual meetings that have allowed them to maintain the connection and promote collaborative work between the members of the different regional networks. These initiatives have helped strengthen the *Alumni* community's commitment to transforming and improving the public sector in Latin America.

It is worth noting that, this year, ten *Alumni* from the Network took part in the IAP-Harvard programmes, run by the IAP of the Autonomous University of Madrid in collaboration with the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. Furthermore, in the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the programme, the Network participated actively at every stage, from the call for proposals to the development of the programme. Graduates from different editions, professions and countries have contributed to the training process through in-person and online sessions. This collaboration has reaffirmed the value of accompaniment and the richness of a community that is diverse but united by a strong commitment to its guiding principles.

**“This programme is really wonderful and incredible; the best experience I have ever had in my life. It helped me to bring out the best of my skills to serve my country.”**

Luis Chirinos, Venezuela, 15<sup>th</sup> edition.



## Support for the social sector in Cantabria

Since its inception, and at the express wish of its founders, Fundación Botín has conducted a support programme for the third sector in Cantabria, through institutions that have experience working directly with the groups that need it most.

### Aid for social integration

Fundación Botín continues its work with the food kitchen run by the Daughters of Charity (Cocina Económica de las Hijas de la Caridad) and with Cáritas Diocesana de Santander, helping to meet the basic needs of the most destitute and assisting people in precarious conditions. It also continues to work

with the Food Bank Association, which has been fighting poverty and food waste for over 30 years, and with Proyecto Hombre, which focuses on the rehabilitation and social reintegration of people with addictions.

Asociación Cantabria Acoge, which helps families and immigrants at risk of social exclusion, and Operarias Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, which provides training for girls from dysfunctional families, were also supported by Fundación Botín in 2024.

Marqués de Valterra kindergarten, Federación Cántabra de Asociaciones

de Vecinos and Asociación Social, Cultural y Deportiva Sautuola also received support from Fundación Botín to meet their most urgent needs.

The Amica centre for work-life balance and child development, Asociación Evangélica Nueva Vida and its project against gender violence, Fundación Obra San Martín, Fundación Síndrome de Down de Cantabria and Fundación Asilo San Cándido, once again received support from Fundación Botín. This year we also supported the Cantabrian Association of Parents of Children with Attention Deficit and/or Hyperactivity (Asociación Cántabra de Padres de Ayuda al Déficit de Atención y/o Hiperactividad).

### Other aid

The Diocese of Santander, the orders of Claristas de Villafrechós in Valladolid, Bernardas de Liérganes, the parishes of Nuestra Señora de la Consolación and Santa Lucía, both in Santander, and of Villalba de los Alcores in Valladolid, were also supported by Fundación Botín in covering their most urgent needs.

## Fundación Botín Scholarship Holders' Network

Two years ago, coinciding with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scholarships, a new impetus was given to Fundación Botín's Network of University Scholarship Holders. In that period, contacts between its members have been strengthened, with a high level of participation

in the activities organised, such as: presentations by members of the Network, visits to unique spaces and exhibitions, debates, etc. All this, culminating in the welcome to the new crop of scholarship holders and the Network meeting at the end of the year in Santander. These

activities cover different topics, such as literature, health, architecture and engineering, art and gastronomy... in short, different branches that highlight the diversity of this Network.





**+200**

ATTENDEES

at the 8<sup>th</sup> National  
Congress of Enterprising  
Scientists



Round table of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Enterprising Scientists

Plenary session of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Enterprising Scientists



**159**

HIGHLY-SKILLED JOBS

created in *Mind the Gap*  
companies



Oniria Therapeutics team in their laboratory



# Science

The science area aims to ensure that the knowledge generated in Spanish scientific laboratories is converted into innovative solutions that respond to the challenges and needs of society, thus driving the country's economic and social progress.

The Renalyse team in their laboratory



Gate2Brain team meeting



# 1,633

**PATIENTS**

took part in clinical trials of medical devices developed by *Mind the Gap* companies



Group photo of the scientific entrepreneurship workshop given by Fundación Botín as part of the Transfer Academy programme of the University of Navarra





The Vaxdyn team in their laboratory

## Technology transfer programme

In 2024, Fundación Botín's Science area celebrated 25 years of promoting the potential of Spanish science to address major social challenges, especially in the biomedical sector. Throughout this period, the Foundation has worked with researchers and institutions to bring laboratory knowledge to society, always with the clear objective of improving people's health and strengthening the productive fabric based on science and innovation, thus helping to generate social and economic wealth.

As part of this work, since the end of 1999 Fundación Botín has been supporting Dr Juan Bueren's laboratory, which in 2013 was established as the Innovative Therapies Division (ITD), a joint CIEMAT/CIBERER/IIS-FJD unit. Internationally renowned, the ITD develops advanced therapies for rare diseases, such as Fanconi anaemia, pyruvate kinase deficiency, leukocyte adhesion deficiency type I or graft-versus-host disease, some of which are already in advanced clinical stages. In 2024, new opportunities for technology licensing to industry were explored, and collaborations were initiated to develop new therapeutic strategies in the field of advanced therapies.

Fundación Botín and Fundación Damián Rodríguez Olivares (Fundación DRO) organised the 1<sup>st</sup> Madrid Science Entrepreneurship Week, which took place from 26-29 November with the support of Fundación para el

Conocimiento Madri+d, Hoffmann Eitle, Kinrel and E2IN2. As the main event, the 8<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Entrepreneurial Scientists brought together more than 200 attendees at Fundación Botín in Madrid, facilitated 65 meetings between entrepreneurs and investors and addressed key issues for the sector, such as financing, protection of innovation, internationalisation and the impact of artificial intelligence. In addition, training workshops were held throughout the week, as well as informative and interactive meetings on innovation and scientific entrepreneurship.

In 2024, training and capacity building actions in technology transfer were also carried out in collaboration with the University of Navarra, Fundación DRO, the Spanish Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas), Menéndez Pelayo International University, University of Nebrija and Marqués de Valdecilla Health Research Institute, IDIVAL.

### The *Mind the Gap* programme

Since 2010, *Mind the Gap* has been promoting biotech projects emerging in the academic environment through an impact investment model, which at the time was groundbreaking in Spain. The programme offers up to half a million euros per project and provides support to entrepreneurs, incorporating an experienced professional who advises and supports them in the early stages of business development.

Since 2017, *Mind the Gap* has had a group of private investors who, together with Fundación Botín, finance these projects through a co-investment vehicle. To date, two vehicles have been set up with a total commitment of 6 million euros. In 2024, the sixth *Mind the Gap* call for proposals was launched, aimed at business projects based on scientific and technological knowledge developed at Spanish research institutions. Of the 50 applications submitted, four are expected to be funded and will start in the first half of 2025.

The *Mind the Gap* portfolio currently consists of 10 companies, which in 2024 supported 159 mostly highly skilled jobs, invoices around 5 million euros, secured 10.9 million euros in grants and subsidies from competitive calls for tender and attracted 1.1 million euros in private investment. Since its inception, *Mind the Gap* has invested 6.69 million euros in the beneficiary projects, which have gone on to obtain 29.7 million euros in public subsidies and 26.8 million euros in private capital. This means that for every euro invested by the programme, another 8.4 million euros of private investment have been unlocked. In addition, more than 1,600 patients have participated in clinical trials of products under development by *Mind the Gap* companies.

**“The support of Fundación Botín has been pivotal to the organisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Entrepreneurial Scientists, guaranteeing a high quality edition in terms of speakers and the success of the event. Fundación Botín's drive to bring science and business together is essential to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in Spain.”**

Carlos Cosculluela, Director of Fundación Damián Rodríguez Olivares (Fundación DRO)

## Mind the Gap companies

### RENALYSE

**Control and management of chronic kidney disease**

Source: Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona

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### ONIRIA THERAPEUTICS

**Therapy against resistant cancer tumours**

Source: University of Barcelona, Instituto de Oncología Vall d'Hebron and Institución Catalana de Investigación y Estudios Avanzados

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### MIWENDO SOLUTIONS

**Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of colorectal cancer**

Source: Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña and Hospital Clínic de Barcelona

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### GATE2BRAIN

**Treatment of paediatric brain tumours**

Source: Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Barcelona, University of Barcelona and Hospital Sant Joan de Déu

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### VAXDYN

**Prevention of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections**

Source: Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla and Centro Nacional de Microbiología

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### CYCLOMED

**Technologies based on superconductivity with applications in different sectors**

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas and Madrid Carlos III University

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### EPIDISEASE

**Epigenetic diagnosis of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis and septic shock**

Source: Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red

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### INNITIUS

***In vivo* diagnosis of pathologies associated with pregnancy**

Source: University of Granada and the Andalusian Healthcare System

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### NOSTRUM BIODISCOVERY

**Design of drugs and other molecules of biological interest using advanced computational simulation**

Source: Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Barcelona and Centro de Supercomputación de Barcelona

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### LIFE LENGTH

**Diagnosis of diseases and ageing based on telomere measurement**

Source: Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas

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# Rural development

In 2024, Fundación Botín reaffirmed its commitment to the development of rural areas in Cantabria and other regions of Spain, not only through entrepreneurship and territorial revitalisation initiatives, but also through strategies aimed at professionalising the livestock sector and promoting youth leadership and innovation, placing young people at the forefront of change in their communities.



60 %

OF BUSINESS PLANS

presented in RuralEmprende Valle de Valderredible, led by women

65 %

OF PRODUCTION CERTIFIED

as IGP (protected origin) Cantabrian Meat



20

YOUNG PEOPLE

have developed 5 proposals to meet the challenges of the rural environment in the framework of the programme Talento Rural Joven

In 2024 Fundación Botín consolidated its commitment to entrepreneurship in different regions of Spain, harnessing its experience to boost resources, promote heritage and the economy, and respond to the social needs of each area from a holistic viewpoint. This undoubtedly allows it to promote innovative and comprehensive rural entrepreneurship. The first two editions of RuralEmprende were successfully completed in Comarca Natural de la Serranía de Ronda and in Valle de Valderredible. This programme is financed by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), through the General Directorate for Policies against Depopulation.

#### **RuralEmprende in Comarca Natural de la Serranía de Ronda**

The first edition of RuralEmprende in Comarca Natural de la Serranía de Ronda concluded in February with the presentation of 9 finalist projects to the Evaluation Committee. Three of them were selected to receive seed capital for their development. This programme has nurtured the connection between entrepreneurs, overcoming blurring the administrative borders between the provinces of Malaga and Cadiz, and generating synergies in a territory that shares resources and needs.

#### **RuralEmprende Valle de Valderredible**

During the first half of the year, the first edition of RuralEmprende took place in Valle de Valderredible, strengthening its impact in the region.

The training cycle began on 4 April, with the participation of 26 entrepreneurs from Valderredible and neighbouring municipalities in Cantabria and Palencia. The programme, held at the CEDETER in San Andrés de Valdelomar, included more than 80 teaching hours, combining intensive sessions and training pills, which allowed participants to define and work on the viability of their business projects.

On 23 July, the Evaluation Committee selected 4 of the 11 plans submitted to

receive seed capital. It is worth noting that more than 60% of the finalist projects are led by women.

As in the Andalusian edition, the involvement of stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce of Cantabria, the local government and experts in accompaniment has been key to generate synergies and provide useful tools for the development of the projects.

*“My time at RuralEmprende Valderredible was a path of constant training, building on the foundations of “Raíces y Sueños”. Almost a year after I started, I can only say that RuralEmprende has been exciting and enriching, as well as revolutionary within the region, always open to innovative ideas and a great host for professionals with good ideas. We will remain committed to education and motivated by rural change.”*

Jorge Cuevas, finalist of RuralEmprende Valle de Valderredible

#### **Promoción Ganadera programme**

2024 marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme Promoción Ganadera for the Marketing of Quality Beef, a Fundación Botín initiative that promotes the production of meat certified as IGP (protected origin) Cantabrian Meat and which has cemented its place as a key tool for professionalising the primary sector. With the support of the SEMARK-LUPA Group, which absorbs 99% of the production, the programme maintains its

leadership by certifying more than 65% of the animals slaughtered under the PGI.

Despite the difficulties in the sector, the Association for the Promotion of Veal in Cantabria (AFTECA) has increased the number of members, reinforcing the commitment of farmers and the LUPA supermarket chain, which has improved its purchasing conditions. In 2024, 2,549 calves were slaughtered (-7.91%), with 627,898 kg of meat produced (-5.01%). However, the increase in average weight to 246 kg (+3%) and the increase in average price (+3%) led to a turnover of 3.6 million euros, just 2.5% lower than in 2023, reflecting the positive evolution of the model.

#### **Talento Rural Joven**

Fundación Botín has focused its efforts on training and supporting young people in rural areas, strengthening the Talento Rural Joven programme as a key initiative to encourage young people to put down roots and develop their leadership skills. In 2024, 20 young people took part in this pilot project, which included training, mentoring and networking to develop skills for rural challenges.

Three training sessions on project management and innovation were held during the year. Practical challenges linked to real problems in the territory were addressed and solutions were proposed. These forums also facilitated the exchange between young people from different backgrounds, creating a network of collaboration. The inclusion of urban youth in the last stage of training brought new perspectives and methodologies.

Likewise, support has continued for the youth association Entre Valles, which continues to promote cultural and social activities in Valle del Nansa, as well as accompanying young people in the primary sector, encouraging their professionalisation in a context where generational change is key to the sustainability of the rural environment.



# +2,000

PEOPLE

walked along 70  
rivers in the global  
#WalkingRivers event



#WalkingRivers hike along the Duerna River, León

## Water Observatory

Fundación Botín's Water Observatory is an interdisciplinary think tank that aims to contribute to current and emerging debates on water management, both in Spain and in the rest of the world.



Summer course on urban wastewater management in the context of the new European regulations, UIMP, Santander



10<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Water Management Awards Ceremony

# 39

PEOPLE,  
TEAMS OR  
ENTITIES

from 11 different  
countries have  
been honoured  
at the Sustainable  
Water  
Management  
Awards since  
2014



#WalkingRivers hike along the Astico River, Italy

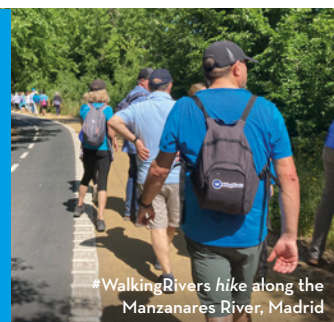
# 344

APPLICATIONS FROM 28 COUNTRIES

received for the Sustainable Water  
Management Award in its first 10 editions



#WalkingRivers hike along the  
Manzanares River, Madrid



#WalkingRivers hike along the  
Manzanares River, Madrid



Since its creation in 2008, this think tank has focused on examining the governance and comprehensive management of water. Its mission is to contribute to sustainable water management by generating useful and relevant knowledge in this field. It also functions as a forum to nurture dialogue and training for professionals in the sector, while promoting the active participation of society in the improvement of water management.

## Generating scientific knowledge

The Water Observatory focuses its research on the quality of surface and groundwater in rural Spain. Two doctoral theses are currently underway, one focusing on the quality of drinking and pre-drinking water, with a special emphasis on small and medium-sized municipalities; and the other on the evolution of irrigation in Spain and its impact on water resources. In this context, in July 2024, PhD student Gabrile Arbonès undertook a research fellowship at the University of Wageningen (Netherlands). In autumn 2024, PhD student Delia M. Andries started a six-month pre-doctoral fellowship at the University of California - Agricultural and Natural Resources.

## Scientific meetings and international collaborations

To contribute to current and emerging debates in the water sector, the

Observatory organises meetings and seminars, bringing together specialists from academia, business, government and NGOs and Foundations. Three meetings were organised in 2024. The first of these sought to answer the question “Is Spain’s current irrigation model viable?”. The challenges facing irrigated agriculture were discussed among more than 40 participants.

Subsequently, in early July, the summer course “Residual, but not marginal: urban wastewater management in the context of the new European regulations” was held at Menéndez Pelayo International University (Santander). Co-organised with the Spanish Association of Urban Water Services Management Companies (AGA), the course was aimed at experts in the urban water cycle sector. The third and last one took place on 4 October on “Water Resilience for Economic Resilience in the context of climate change: managing economic and financial risks”, in collaboration with the University of Alcalá and Water Resilience for Economic Resilience.

## The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sustainable Water Management Awards

The Observatory announced the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of its Awards, for which 40 nominations were received this year from Argentina, Australia, Spain, Iran, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. The awards, which over the years have rewarded 39

projects, people or entities whose talent and effort have contributed to sustainable water management, were presented at a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala ceremony.

## The importance of bringing people closer to rivers

On 11 May 2024, the Water Observatory, in partnership with the Iberian Centre for River Restoration (CIREF) and Wetlands International, organised the global *WalkingRivers* event. On that day, some 2,000 people walked along a stretch of more than 70 rivers on 5 continents, thus highlighting the value of their rivers and showing the world the importance of caring for them.

In October, the Water Observatory collaborated with Fundación Botín’s *Educación Responsable* programme team in developing an in-person teacher training activity in Santander on the resource “Literature in movement”, aimed at primary and secondary schoolchildren. The resource encourages pupils to be interested in different literary styles through outdoor activities related to water.

**“As well as being an honour, this award inspires us to continue exploring new ways to contribute to the development of technologies that make water management more sustainable. It motivates us to continue to innovate and to demonstrate that young people can make a difference in the future of water resources.”**

Oriol Carbó Monmany, winner at the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sustainable Water Management Awards.





10

INSTITUTIONS RECEIVED  
the support of Fundación Botín  
in 2024

ExE School of  
Opportunities



2024 Princesa de Girona Awards Ceremony



"Encuentro de Música y Academia de Santander"  
concert



ExE programme 2024-2026

# Collaborations

Fundación Botín organises programmes in the fields of the arts and culture, education, institutional strengthening, science and rural development. It also collaborates with other institutions and foundations with which it shares strategies and goals.



São Paulo Symphony Orchestra. Santander International Festival

28

PROJECTS  
DESIGNED

by the city's  
social fabric have  
been funded  
by Fundación  
Santander  
Creativa



Graduation ceremony for the fourth class of  
the programme Generación docentes



Álvaro Pombo. Presentation of his novel, *Santander, 1936*

Fundación Botín continued to support the work carried out by Fundación Santander Creativa (FSC) in 2024, a year in which, among other things, the entity financed cultural proposals designed by the local community, organised its own projects and promoted the programming of Enclave

Pronillo, its headquarters since 2012. Both institutions collaborated in the second edition of “Espacios Brecha”, which took place at Centro Botín. This is one of the projects organised directly by the FSC and which offered the city’s visual arts sector the chance to participate in a professional conference with experts from elsewhere, such as the art historian and cultural disseminator Sara Rubayo from Madrid. In addition, as on previous occasions, the two entities teamed up to organise the Tipos talks, part of the “Tipos24” graphic design competition. Some of the best designers and studios in Europe took part in this event.

For its part, Fundación Princesa de Girona continued to receive support from Fundación Botín in line with its commitment to young people. So did Fundación Isaac Albéniz, whose contribution was used to help hold its summer courses and for its music school programme Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía.

Other grants were allocated for the maintenance of the cultural activities at Ateneo de Santander, the association Red de Estudios de las Monarquías Contemporáneas, the association Plaza Porticada, the Renzo Piano Foundation

and the Santander International Festival, which held its 73<sup>rd</sup> edition in 2024. Also Fundación Empieza Por Educar, which was able to reach hundreds of schools where the most disadvantaged students are and continue to provide them with the help they need to become whatever they want to be.

Fundación Botín also supported the Diocese of Santander in repairing the bells of the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Socabarga, located in the municipality of Villaeclusa, and the roof of the Church of Santa María de Cudeyo, in Valdecilla.

**“Thanks to Fundación Botín for supporting, once again this year, the work of Fundación Santander Creativa (FSC). Their contribution allows us to continue working to implement our own projects, which foster the development of the city’s cultural fabric, thus promoting its consolidation and professionalisation and, in addition, financing initiatives created and designed directly by professionals in the local sector.”**

Almudena Díaz, Director of Fundación Santander Creativa (FSC)



Northwest Live Performance at Mecha Estudio Espacios Brecha 2024. Fundación Santander Creativa





Small informational label next to the painting, containing text in Spanish.