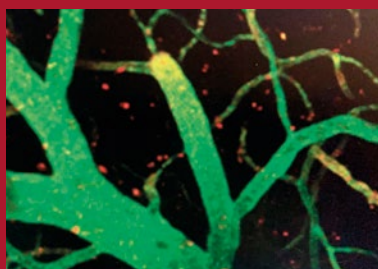




REPORT 2020



Design
Baixa Studio

Translation
Graham Thomson

Photographs
Jesús Barros, Belén de Benito, Gerardo Vela, Carlos Isabel La-Moneda, Informagen, Vicente Paredes and Dani Vidala.

Acknowledgements for the use of photographs: Asociación In Situ Arqueología Itinerante, Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), CycloMed Technologies, SL, Fundación Santander Creativa, Fundación Princesa de Girona, Gate2Brain, SL and Vaxdyn, SL.

© Fundación Botín
Pedrueca, 1. 39003 Santander. Tel. +34 942 226 072
Castelló 18C. 28001 Madrid. Tel. +34 917 814 132
info@fundacionbotin.org | www.fundacionbotin.org

D.L.: SA-864-2017

Introduction

The Fundación Botín has been promoting the social development of Cantabria for more than fifty years. Created in 1964 by Marcelino Botín Sanz de Sautuola and his wife, Carmen Yllera, today it maintains its focus on the region although it acts throughout Spain and Latin America, contributing with its activity to the integral development of society, exploring new ways to detect creative talent and betting on it to generate cultural, social and economic wealth.

Chaired since 2014 by Javier Botín, the Fundación Botín develops programmes in the fields of art and culture, education, institutional fabric, science and rural development. In addition, it has a Water Observatory which specializes in the analysis of the governance and integral management of water resources.

The headquarters of the Fundación Botín is in Santander and, since 2012, it also has an office in Madrid to respond to the growing demands of its activity. In addition, in Cantabria is the Rectory House of Puente Pumar, the Foundation's centre of operations in the Nansa Valley, from where it carries out its Rural Development, Heritage and Territory programme.

In 2017 the Fundación Botín inaugurated the most important project in its history: the Centro Botín: an art centre that seeks to bring a different point of view to the art world and whose social mission is to enhance the creativity of all through the arts, in order to generate development and social wealth. Thus, together with its exhibitions of works both from the Fundación Botín collection and by major contemporary artists, with the aim of offering visitors more opportunities to know and enjoy the best of the international art scene in an inspiring setting, the Centro Botín also provides a wide range of artistic, cultural and training activities, which year on year are realized in a varied programme that includes concerts, film cycles, dance and theater shows, different types of visit to the exhibitions, workshops and courses.

Board

CHAIR

Javier Botín

MEMBERS

Alfonso Botín
Ana Botín
Carmen Botín
Carolina Botín
Emilio Botín
Jaime Botín
Paloma Botín

SECRETARY

Iñigo Sáenz de Miera
(NON-VOTING)



Management team

Iñigo Sáenz de Miera
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Fátima Sánchez
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRO BOTÍN

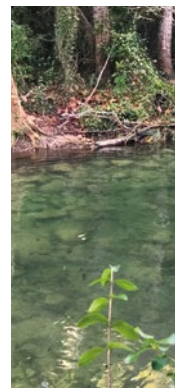
Javier García Cañete
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES

Francisco J. Moreno
DIRECTOR OF THE SCIENCE AREA

José María Ballester
DIRECTOR OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

José Manuel Setién
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

María Cagigas
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION





Advisory boards

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Luis Bassat
 Carlos Bustelo
 Pilar del Castillo
 Álvaro Fernández-Villaverde
 Pedro García Barreno
 Antonio Garrigues Walker
 Carmen Iglesias
 Francisco Jarauta
 Emilio Lamo de Espinosa
 Jaime Lamo de Espinosa
 Ricardo Martí Fluxá
 Regina Revilla
 Eduardo Serra
 Gustavo Suárez Pertierra

VISUAL ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vicente Todolí
 CHAIR

Paloma Botín
 Udo Kittelmann
 Manuela Mena
 María José Salazar
 Benjamin Weil

2020 in figures

CENTRO BOTÍN

54,845

visitors

OVER 58%

of visits to the exhibitions were by people from Santander and Cantabria

1,734

Permanent passes and 357 new Friends of the Centro Botín

EDUCATION

ALMOST 150,000

students work on their emotional and social education and creativity through the RE programme

OVER 20,000

consultations of the new educational content open to teachers and families

OVER 10,000

people have connected to the fifth annual lecture series *The Education We Want*

SCIENCE

3

advanced experimental therapies for rare haematological diseases are being successfully trialled in patients

€1,051,223

invested in Mind the Gap start-ups

€4.6M

total turnover of the Mind the Gap companies

SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY

6,900

social initiatives analyzed from all over Spain

263

Organizations working within the Spirit of Solidarity Network

2,600

connections generated between companies and NGOs

STRENGTHENING THE CIVIL SERVICE IN LATIN AMERICA

20

students from 13 Latin American countries were part of the 11th iteration

378

alumni representing 21 Latin American nationalities are part of the Network of the Programme to Strengthen the Civil Service

450

alumni from 19 Latin American nations are part of the Network of the Programme to Strengthen the Civil Service

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

25

business initiatives benefitted from the Entrepreneur Support Programme

€2.5M

turnover of farmers in the Livestock Promotion Project

600,000 kg

of meat brought to market

Investments in the Foundation's objectives in 2020

CENTRO BOTÍN	8,562,267.62 €
EDUCATION	1,044,258.30 €
REINFORCING THE INSTITUTIONAL FABRIC	2,052,557.61 €
SCIENCE	1,519,761.21 €
RURAL DEVELOPMENT	212,700.17 €
WATER OBSERVATORY	154,463.46 €
COLLABORATIVE VENTURES	466,254.74 €
OVERALL TOTAL	14,012,263.10 €

A Letter from the Chair



It would be strange to talk about 2020 without referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, its dramatic consequences and the way it has impacted on all areas of society, the economy, social relations and the role the public plays in society and, of course, in the Social Sector. As it did in the financial crisis of 2009, the response of the Social Sector has been exemplary and shown once again how essential it is to the functioning of society and the economy. We should not forget that it contributes 1.45% of our GDP, an amount that places it on the same level as sectors such as metallurgy or telecommunications, or that it employs 3% of the workforce in Spain.

The Fundación Botín, like everyone else, has been affected, although it is true that this crisis has enabled and impelled us to reflect on our strategy, an exercise that has reaffirmed the objectives our social programmes work to achieve, even more relevant today than ever. Thus, our Spirit of Solidarity programme has focused on accompanying Spanish social organizations in facing the specific challenges that this pandemic has posed for them. To do this we have opened a listening channel, thanks to which we have identified their most press-

ing needs, those that have been aggravated over the last year, and responded to 200 requests together with the more than 30 collaborating companies which support the programme. Furthermore, everything indicates that in the next few years it will be possible to engage more deeply in the process of transformation of the 263 social organizations that, working together in a network and innovating more and more, are succeeding in significantly improving their efficiency and their social impact.

This very special year has also shown how essential it is that our public institutions function properly – something that the Programme for Strengthening the Civil Service in Latin America has been pursuing for more than 10 years. Through this initiative, the Fundación Botín seeks to contribute to reinforcing the public sector in the region through a network of young public servants with more than 350 members from 20 countries. In this way, and in spite of the overall context, during 2020 we maintained this commitment and the 11th iteration of the programme saw 20 students from 13 Latin American countries get together in Spain, in full compliance with all the regulations and safety measures, to take part in blended learning sessions in Santander and Madrid.

12 May 2020 is a date that will long be remembered as the day on which the Centro Botín reopened after the confinement. We like to think that its opening – the first in Spain and one of the first in Europe – was

a sign of confidence and hope after many very difficult months, enabling people to enjoy once again the centre's artistic, educational and cultural activities and manifesting the conviction that, now more than ever, the arts play a fundamental role in our personal and social development.

Despite all the limitations, the range of artistic, cultural and educational provision offered by the Centro Botín in 2020 was embodied in a varied programme of 251 activities spread over 40 weeks, including concerts, film cycles, dance and theatre shows, different types of visits to exhibitions, workshops, courses and more. In order to carry out this programme the art centre adapted its procedures and the running of its activities to ensure its visitors' tranquillity and safety, and in so doing achieved a public approval rating of 4.7 out of 5, an occupancy percentage of 88.9% and an average of six activities a week throughout the year.

In Responsible Education, the possibility of remote working and the obligation to do so allowed us to contribute to making the situation more bearable by accompanying education centres and creating new content for use not only in schools but also at home. In the same spirit, we have created new online spaces for training, encounter and reflection to help teachers to address together, in a coordinated fashion, the new challenges that confront them and in doing this in the furtherance of emotional and social education and creativity.

But if this year has delivered anything of value it is that society as a whole has realized the importance of science and, very especially, of technology transfer in biomedicine, which is what our economic and social recovery will fundamentally depend on. This year has confirmed – and made more acute – the need to modernize our technology transfer systems, something that the Fundación Botín has been working on for more than 20 years now. For all these reasons, the Fundación Botín will continue to be strongly committed to this endeavour and, more specifically, to the creation of companies that develop products or services based on the research of our scientists.

We are convinced that, for all the severity of its impact, this crisis will strengthen our society, and that this will undoubtedly contribute decisively to the development of Spain and Europe. We must not lose hope. We know that we are on the right path and we are better prepared than we were ten years ago, but we still face the major challenge of continuing to promote greater and better collaboration between social organizations and between sectors, not only at the national level, but also globally, and in a coordinated manner, all working together to build a far better society for the future.

Javier Botín

Centro Botín

The Centro Botín is the most important project in the history of the Fundación Botín, an art centre that seeks to bring a different point of view to the art world and whose social mission is to enhance the creativity of all through the arts, in order to generate development and social wealth.

54,845

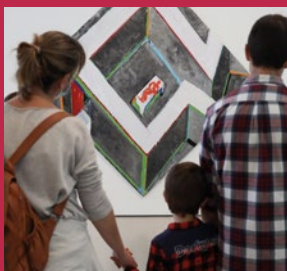
visitors

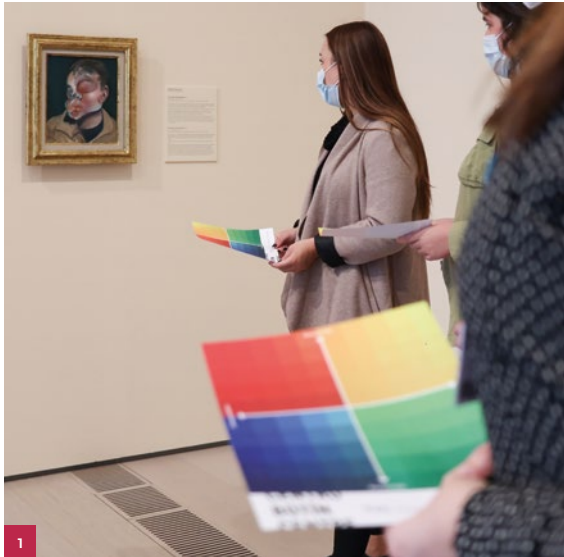
MORE THAN 58%

of visits to the exhibitions were by people from Santander and Cantabria

1,734

permanent passes and 357 new Friends of the Centro Botín in 2020





1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Keys. An activity created with Yale University.

2. On Session. From the origins of breakdance to the here and now.

3. A view of the exhibition *Art and Architecture: A Dialogue*

4. A visit-experience for families. *Smells and colours*. The exhibition *Art and Architecture: A Dialogue*

5. On Session. The dance floor.

6. A concert in the Centro Botín auditorium



The Centro Botín was the first art centre in Spain to reopen on 12 May.

Convinced that few things can match the arts in how much they foster well-being, personal development and creativity and contribute to the generation of economic and social wealth, especially in a year that was so difficult for everyone due to the pandemic, the Centro Botín wanted to be part of the renewal of activity and the revival of the economy by supporting the artistic sphere and facilitating access to and enjoyment of the arts live and in person. In this way, and after a period of confinement during which it was closed for 51 days, on 12 May the centre reopened its doors with the aim of contributing to the gradual recovery of the artistic and cultural sector, the local public and tourism in Santander.

Staying connected

The art centre of the Fundación Botín in Santander adapted its procedures and the running of its activities to ensure that people could enjoy a safe and tranquil visit. In addition, during the confinement, under the slogan “Staying connected” it launched

a whole digital strategy on the web, on social networks and the sending out of newsletters, creating a multimedia space for didactic audio-visual material and publications on art, culture and creativity.

A 12% rise in local visitors

During 2020, the Centro Botín received 54,845 visitors, while the building, its walkways, squares and exterior were visited by 390,240 people. Of course the pandemic is largely responsible for the decline in the number of visits this year, but quantity has never been the indicator by which the Centro Botín measures its impact.

More than 58% of visitors to the exhibitions were residents of Santander and Cantabria (22,380), a percentage significantly higher than in previous years, up by 12%. This reaffirms the consolidation of the Centro Botín as a project that, while having an outstanding international projection, prioritizes its integration in the city and its local impact. A little more than a

“Thank you so much for taking such good care of us and for making everything so easy. The concert went really well! We enjoyed it very, very much because all the ingredients were simply the best: the team, the hall, the rhythms and the audience! It’s not every day that you get a gig like that. What a pleasure to be able to enjoy being on stage so much.”

LA CHICA CHARCOS &
THE KATIUSKAS BAND
AUDITORIUM OF THE CENTRO BOTIN,
26 JANUARY 2020

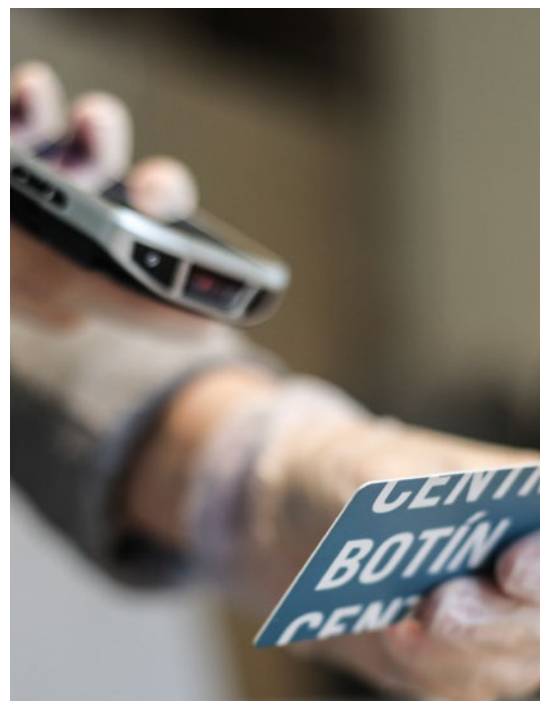
third of visitors, 35%, came from other autonomous communities, with Madrilenians and Basques chief among them, as usual. Despite the travel restrictions occasioned by the pandemic, 6% of the total were foreign visitors, from 62 different countries. The majority of these came from France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany, although the centre also welcomed people from more distant nations such as Australia, the Philippines, Korea, Brazil and Uruguay.

Passes, Friends, volunteers and sponsors

Another positive development was the issuing of 1,734 new Cantabrian Passes during 2020 in addition to the 141,852 that the Centro Botín had already issued. The centre also gained 357 new Friends, bringing the number of people with a *Friend of the Centro Botín Card* at the end of the year to 2,733. These figures are also complemented by the 30 volunteers, the 4 strategic partners (Fundación Ramón Areces, Fundación Mutua Madrileña, Viesgo and



Bubbles in the sea. Christmas 2020



The Friend of the Centro Botín card offers numerous benefits to its holders.

Fundación Prosegur), the 14 collaborating institutions (Vocento, *El Diario Montañés*, JCDecaux, Unidad Editorial, Iberia, *El País*, Eurostars Hotels, Spend In, Onda Cero, Cervezas Alhambra, Alsa, Cadena Ser, Orange and Renfe) and 7 corporate partners (Bridgestone, Viajes Mesana, Derwent Group, Café Dromedario, Lupa, Bathco and Uría Menéndez), without whose support none of this would be possible.

Exhibitions

The exhibition programme of the Centro Botín In 2020 it was oriented towards contributing to the further consolidation of its vocation as an outstanding international art centre. The Centro Botín had planned three international exhibitions and two Visual Arts Workshops with a view to achieving this objective, but the pandemic, the confinement and the other restrictions that followed, especially that on international travel, had a very significant impact on the exhibition

programme, as it did on museums and art centres all over the world. Nevertheless, the centre demonstrated a real ability to react and adapt, and faced with the impossibility of receiving artists from beyond our borders, loans of artworks and producing the shows it had planned, it extended until September the exhibition **ANRI SALA: "AS YOU GO (Châteaux en Espagne)"**. In this way, the local visitors and the tourists who came to Santander during the summer months were able to enjoy the three monumental installations in which the Albanian artist explored the interaction between the moving image, music and architectural space.

The collection as the great protagonist

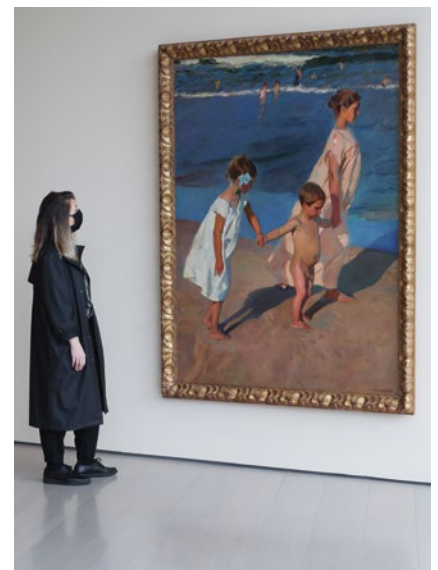
At the same time, the Fundación Botín art collection became the protagonist of the programme and made it possible to organize two exhibitions during the year. On the second floor, **Art and Architecture: A Dialogue**, which opened to the public in the month of October, set out to examine the relationships that artists have with the space in which they

present their works, showing how they appropriate the architecture of the exhibition space and investigating the influence of architecture on art.

In the exhibition gallery on the first floor, next to the permanent exhibition **Portraits: Essence and Expression** – with works generously loaned by Jaime Botín, patron of the Fundación Botín – and in the room that houses the Joan Miró sculptures, loaned by the artist's heirs, from November on **Looking at Art** offered three simultaneous perspectives on the works in the Fundación Botín collection shown in different contexts: **Painting** with works by Jannis Kounellis, Sol LeWitt, Rogelio López-Cuenca, Joan Hernández Pijuan, Julião Sarmento, Juan Ugalde and Juan Uslé; **Art in Series** by way of works by Basma Alsharif, Bleda & Rosa, André Guedes, Paul Graham, Asier Mendizabal, João Onofre, Mabel Palacín, Oriol Vilanova, Jorge Yeregui and David Zink-Yi; and **Art and Architecture**, considered not only as a subject in its own right but also from the con-



A view of the exhibition *Art and Architecture: A Dialogue*.



A view of the exhibition *Portraits: Essence and Expression*.

ceptual perspective of minimalist art with works by Atsuko Arai, Nora Aurrekoetxea, David Bestué, Carlos Bunga, Nuno Cera, Eva Fàbregas, Juan López, Jorge Méndez Blake, Julia Montilla, Clara Montoya and Juan Luis Moraza.

In addition, in 2020 the art collection of the Fundación Botín acquired important recent works by Martin Creed, Patricia Dauder, Fernanda Fragateiro, Fernando García and Sara Ramo.

Arts, emotions and creativity

The social mission of the Centro Botín is to generate development and wealth by means of the potential of the arts to awaken the creativity we all possess. Perhaps the trinomial *arts, emotions and creativity* best defines this mission, given the influence that the arts have on our emotions and, in turn, that our emotions have on how we look at the world around us. To be more creative and engage with day-to-day challenges in new ways, we need to look at

reality from new perspectives. Art helps us to do this and contributes to our well-being and the development of emotional and creative skills in the personal, family, social and occupational spheres.

Since 2013, the Fundación Botín, in collaboration with the *Yale University Centre for Emotional Intelligence*, has been researching and generating content to advance this social mission. Specifically, 2020 saw the start of the workshops and activities for families, young people and adults which have grown out of this collaboration. The goal here is to develop the emotional intelligence and creativity of the participants by means of the arts. Over the course of the year four complementary thematic workshops were carried out, each lasting 2-3 hours, as well as five short activities in the exhibition hall.

Advances in collaboration with the Fundación IE

In addition, since 2018 the Centro Botín has been working on a line of research with the Fundación IE to measure the impact of the art centre and its programmes for the development of creativity, not only individual –

which has already been measured with the Yale University – but collective.

As a result of this collaboration with the *Fundación IE*, 2020 saw the completion of the first report, entitled *The Centro Botín: Development of Social Creativity through the Arts*. This study is based on the data provided by 2,850 people who regularly took part in the artistic and cultural programmes of the Centro Botín and who have the Friend card or the permanent Pass. The results were presented in the first months of 2021 and one of the findings was that participation in artistic activities is significantly related to changes in creativity, with evident personal and social benefits. This being so, the artistic and cultural activities of the Centro Botín are an engine of human development, with this concept including the enhanced well-being of the people who visit it. These benefits are directly linked to the extent of their participation and the frequency of their visits, clearly positioning the Centro Botín as a catalyst of creativity, well-being and human development.



On Session. In collaboration with Pechakucha Santander.



Reflections of the bay. A participatory creative activity.

Programme of activities

The range of artistic, cultural and educational provision was embodied in a varied programme of 251 activities spread over 40 weeks, including concerts, film cycles, dance and theatre shows, different types of visits to exhibitions, workshops, courses and more.

In addition, the programme achieved a public approval rating of 4.7 out of 5, an occupancy percentage of 88.9% and an average of six activities a week throughout the year.

In 2020, the Centro Botín continued the process of segmenting more precisely the audiences at which its programme is oriented. To do this, it maintained its line of work with early childhood (aged 0 to 3) and began a strategy of attracting young adults (aged 16 to 25) to its exhibition halls and activities through the On Sessions initiative: special events and offers associated with the Young Friend card for that age range, establishing a common space with the optimal conditions to bring them to the Centro Botín and develop their creativity through the arts. During 2020, the centre put on ten activities of this kind, of note among these being the concerts by Drei and Pol Granch

and creative activities such as Seawater Poems, Dance Floor and Prize Shorts.

Among all the activities carried out, special mention must be made of the collaborative ventures with other institutions, such as the Music in the Bay concert series, in partnership with Santander City Council, the cello and piano recital by Hayk Sukiasyan and Pallavi Mahidhara, in collaboration with the Fundación Isaac Albéniz, and the theatre shows *eMe* by Carlo Mò and *Complejo de Edipo* by Quico Cadaval, performed in conjunction with the Fundación Santander Creativa as part of its Fantastic Arts MAF festival of fantastic arts. In addition, the Centro Botín's outdoor amphitheatre hosted the audio-visual show *Transmutare QUYLLUR* by Laboratorio Klem, in collaboration with the Santander International Festival (FIS).

For its part, the 4th Santander International Film Week, organized in collaboration with Morena Films, once again brought together major industry figures and transformed Santander into a mecca for moviegoers and a meeting point for from the Spanish and Latin American cinema professionals.

Throughout the months of January, February and March, when it was still possible to carry out activities with school groups, some 2,800 children took part in the exhibitions and activities of the Centro Botín.

As in previous years, we brought 2020 to a close with a special Christmas programme designed to offer truly unforgettable moments through the arts. Under the slogan "For a unique and magical Christmas!", the aim of these activities was that we should take pleasure in the arts and interaction with artists, and over 2,000 people took part in them.

Education

Innovation and constant improvement have marked the work of the Education team in 2020, a year in which the Responsible Education (RE) programme has been more necessary than ever, not only in the classroom with teachers but also at home with families.

ALMOST
150,000

students work on their emotional and social education and creativity through the RE programme

OVER
20,000

queries posted to the new open educational content for teachers and families

OVER
10,000

people have connected to the lecture series *The Education We Want*





1



2



3



4



5

1. We Are Creative Sensory Shelters. A hospital classroom in the HM Montepíncipe de Madrid.

2. Annual get-together of RE trainers at Fundación Botín Madrid (23 and 24 January 2020)

3. A performance by the Magician of the Word.

4. 14th iteration of the We Are Creative Infinite Itineraries. Santander.

5. 14th iteration of the virtual exhibition *Infinite itineraries*. www.educacionresponsable.org



Annual get-together of RE Community Coordinators in Galicia (5 and 6 March 2020)



We Are Creative El Gran Buk at Fundación Botín. CC Bilingual Manuel Bartolomé Cossío, Fuenlabrada, Madrid. (17 February 2020)

“Working in RE gives us so much, professionally and personally, it allows us to develop our creativity, to improve as teachers and as people... We and our students really thrill to it... Each year is different and that is enormously enriching. That is why, year after year, RE continues to beat in our school. At the staff level, it has made us more of a team; we help each other, we share... we’re always there to lend a hand and with each new activity that we start the creativity flows more and better.”

YOLANDA MONGE APARICIO.
COORDINATOR OF THE RESPONSIBLE
EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN THE
REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ PRIMARY
SCHOOL, MADRID

Providing an immediate response to the state of confinement by reaching more education centres and generating new open content for schools and families has been the great challenge of the past year. To this end we launched the #IstayathomeRE proposal and RE Keys, which consist of a series of educational proposals for engaging with today’s educational challenges, grounded in the theoretical framework of the RE programme and its pedagogical resources, which proved of great interest to the educational community, with more than 20,000 visits to the website.

New online spaces for training, meeting and reflection have also been created to enable teachers who are part of the programme to successfully confront, together and in coordination, the new challenges that face them, and do so from the emotional and social education and creativity.

Responsible Education Programme

Resources

Among the processes for applying the educational resources in classrooms there are several activities leading up to the get-together of the *Network of Responsible Education Centres*. For example, from the “Reading and Emotions” resource, in January 2020 the *Magician of the Word* made appearances in Cantabria and Madrid in which 3,221 children took part, and in December made the appearance corresponding to the 2020/21 school year in an online format adapted to the public health situation, doubling the number of early years pupils from the entire RE Network taking part.

As for the Literature, Emotions and Creativity resource, the *We Are Creative El Gran Buk* took place in Cantabria and in Madrid, with a total of 350 participants. Another non-virtual activity for this resource was the play *Neighbours and Blocks*, performances of which were enjoyed by 393 Junior Secondary students. A total of 850 school students from Cantabria attended the educational concerts of the Choir of the Emotions resource at the Centro Botín,



Online Responsible Education training for education centres in the Region of Murcia (November 2020)

Lecture series *The Education We Want*

The series of lectures *The Education We Want* achieved its maximum participation in its fifth year, reaching more than 10,000 people around the world connected via streaming, multiplying by a factor of ten the number of participants in its previous iterations.

In 2020, the cycle focused on “the family” as a key element in education and reflected on technology, positive discipline, neuroscience, humour, the arts and mindfulness with professionals of the stature of Marisa Moya, Xosé Manuel Domínguez, Rosa Casafont, Luis Gutiérrez, María Zabala, Fernando Tobías and Marina Pascual.

Participation in the OECD Education 2030 project

In 2020, two International Meetings of OECD Working Groups were held within the Future of Education and Skills 2030 project. The first, in May 2020, focused on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the education system during the confinement and how schools can approach the transition to returning to the classroom. The second, in November, dealt with the redesigning of the curriculum from two perspectives: what subjects students should be learning in the 21st century and the analysis and monitoring of the current overload of the curriculum.

an innovation process has been launched to include new didactic proposals for teachers and the *We Are Creative* of the virtual exhibition *Infinite Itineraries* was created for the *ReflejArte* resource. Finally, the Tool Bench educational resource has seen the launch of an ambitious innovation plan in which the schools in the Network have been invited to participate.

Responsible Education Training

En relación a las acciones formativas del With regard to the RE training actions, of particular note are those referring to the extension of the programme, which was carried out off-line at the beginning of the year in Chile and Uruguay. Finally, the current context has prompted a digital transformation and the opening of online training windows (in place of in-person seminars in education centres) with additional online content which has enabled us to reach a greater number of teachers and generate even more exchanges between them.

Support for education centres

In relation to the support offered by the programme, new initiatives have been carried out to generate spaces for meeting and reflection in the *Network of Centres*. For example, **RE Converses** has brought together nearly a thousand teachers from different countries to think together about the chal-

lenges we have had to face in this time of pandemic and **RE Support** has organized specific Network meetings according to the type of educational centre, such as the Get-together of Hospital Classrooms in RE

Extension and basic teams of the Responsible Education Network of Centres

To contribute to the consolidation of the bases and contents of the programme, two encounters were held: the 4th Get-together of Network trainers in Madrid, which focused on the importance of communication in the classroom and how educational resources can be key tools with which to develop the theoretical framework in Responsible Education; and the 5th Get-together of general coordinators in Santiago de Compostela (Galicia), with the participation of the Xunta de Galicia's Minister of Education, Carmen Pomar, which focused on the strategic vision of the programme's future with the aim of ensuring that a greater number of centres can benefit from emotional and social education and creativity in a year in which the Network of Centres has come close to 500 schools.

Institutional Fabric

From this area we work to strengthen the institutions that maintain the social fabric, which are today more necessary than ever to the generation of economic and social development. We do this by way of two programmes, one aimed at Spanish social institutions (Spirit of Solidarity) and the other at public institutions in Latin America (Programme for Strengthening the Civil Service in Latin America). In addition, we also support social entities in Cantabria that engage with especially vulnerable sectors and groups.

263

Organizations working within the Spirit of Solidarity Network

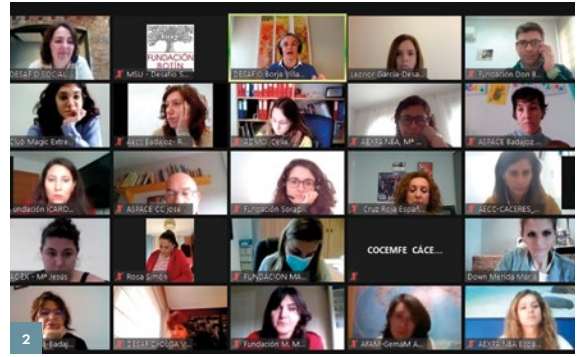
20

students from 13 Latin American countries were part of the 11th iteration

23

social entities received grants from the Fundación Botín





1. Meeting of the students of the 11th iteration with a group of Alumni of the Programme for the Strengthening of the Civil Service in Latin America.
2. Workshops with the entities participating in the Spirit of Solidarity Challenge in Extremadura.
3. Presentation of projects to the Evaluation Committee of the 11th iteration of Spirit of Solidarity by the participating entities.
4. Outdoor Training in the Mirador del Potro – Nansa Valley as part of the 11th iteration of the Programme for Strengthening the Civil Service in Latin America.
5. Defence of Innovation Projects as part of the 11th Iteration of the Programme for Strengthening the Civil Service in Latin America.
6. Students of the 11th Iteration of the Programme for Strengthening the Civil Service in Latin America.



Presentation of projects to the Evaluation Committee of the 11th iteration of Spirit of Solidarity

Spirit of Solidarity

This programme seeks to promote the strengthening of the tertiary sector by supporting small and / or medium-sized NGOs and helping them improve their internal efficiency, incorporating external talent and fostering innovation and collaboration in the sector.

13 new entities joined the Programme in its 11th iteration (2020-2021), where they have received training in strategy, fundraising, communication and digitization. In addition, they have had the support of mentors to develop their strategic, fundraising and communication plans.

Another novelty of the programme has been the creation of an evaluation system which has made it possible to measure for the first time its impact and to understand at first-hand the degree of improvement

experienced by social organizations on completing their two-year participation in the programme.

New call for the programme

In addition, in 2020 we launched new recruitment drive for unemployed professionals which made it possible to fill five posts in institutions in various regions of Spain, specifically in Fundabem (Ávila), Asociación Nupa (Madrid), Fundación Aljaraque (Sevilla), Pequeño Deseo (Madrid) y Fundación Cuin (Cantabria).

Furthermore, this year we have been more closely involved than ever with the organizations of the Spirit of Solidarity Network (263 social entities), opening a listening channel with which to detect and learn about their most urgent needs. We received 200 requests through this chan-

nel, which we digitized thanks to a platform that provides them with an effective coordinated response from the more than 30 companies that have collaborated with the programme in these years. At the same time the entities took part in training via webinars and many of them also received auditing services, legal / tax advice and coaching for their directors. Finally, we have evaluated the impact of the technology acceleration occasioned by COVID-19 in order to develop a second Digital Barometer of the Tertiary Sector.

Initiatives selected in the 11th iteration of the Spirit of Solidarity programme

ASOCIACIÓN CONCAES (Madrid)

Area of activity: Vulnerable groups (ex-offenders).

Mission: Support and social inclusion of former offenders and their families.

ASOCIACIÓN ABRIENDO PUERTAS (Huelva)

Area of activity: Mental, physical and / or sensory disability (children and adolescents).

Mission: To promote the training, assistance and recovery of young people and children with mental disabilities.

FUNDACIÓN PEGASUS (Madrid)

Area of activity: Physical and intellectual disability.

Mission: To normalize difference by means of leisure, culture and sport.

FUNDACIÓN GUREAK INKLUSIOA (Guipúzcoa)

Area of activity: Intellectual disability.

Mission: To support people with intellectual disabilities in finding employment.

FUNDACIÓN SANCHO Y MARINA (FUNDHOS) (Madrid)

Area of activity: Groups at risk of exclusion (children, adolescents and families).

Mission: To contribute to the integral development of the most vulnerable groups in the municipality of Cobeña.

FUNDACIÓN ECOMAR (Madrid)

Area of activity: Environmental issues.

Mission: To work with the culture of the sea to promote positive values, good sustainable habits and the practice of sport in young people.

ASOCIACIÓN AFÁVILA (Ávila)

Area of activity: Alzheimer's disease.

Mission: To improve the quality of life of people suffering from Alzheimer's and their families.

ASOCIACIÓN AMAR DRAGOSTE (Madrid)

Area of activity: Women (people trafficking).

Mission: To combat social inequality and counteract the conditions of vulnerability of people who are victims of trafficking or at risk of social exclusion.

ASOCIACIÓN AUTISMO ARAGON (Zaragoza)

Area of activity: Autism.

Mission: To promote the common good of people with autism, through support and, educational, recreational, cultural and sports activities.

ASOCIACIÓN ÁMBAR (A Coruña)

Sector de actividad de la entidad: Functional diversity.

Mission: To promote independence, personal autonomy and equal opportunities for people with functional diversity.

FUNDACIÓN SORAPÁN DE RIEROS (Badajoz)

Area of activity: Mental Health (Serious Mental Disorder).

Mission: The improvement of the quality of life of people with mental illness through preventive, therapeutic and socio-occupational integration interventions.

FUNDACIÓN ACORDE (Cantabria)

Area of activity: Mental health.

Mission: The promotion of the mental health and social well-being of the population of Cantabria.

ASPANSOR ZARAGOZA (Zaragoza)

Area of activity: Hearing impairment.

Mission: To represent and defend the rights of people with hearing disabilities and their families.



Meeting with Colonel Dr Ana Betegón as part of the 11th Iteration of the Programme for the Strengthening of the Civil Service in Latin America.



Students of the 11th iteration of the Programme for the Strengthening of the Civil Service in Latin America on the Pachinko of the Centro Botín in Santander.

Strengthening the Civil Service in Latin America

The objective of the Programme is to promote the development of the region through the creation of a Network of Public Servants with a high level of training and a real commitment to the general interest. At the same time, it aims to give prestige to the exercise of public service and to the role of the State in general among young university students in Latin America.

11th Iteration of the Programme

With this in view, the Fundación Botín works so that “more of the brightest and the best dedicate themselves to the public sector in Latin America” and, despite the general context, in 2020 it maintained this commitment and implemented the **11th Iteration of the Programme for the Strengthening of the Civil Service in Latin America**. As a result, the programme worked with 20 students from 13 Latin American countries, selected from more than 3,500 exceptionally well qualified candidates with a high degree of commitment and dedication to service.

From 26 October to 3 December the participants followed an intensive training pro-

gramme which, complying with all the regulations and safety measures in force, was carried out in a six-week blended format at the Fundación Botín headquarters in Spain, as well as including activities in the Nansa Valley in Cantabria and travelling along various stages of the Camino de Santiago in Galicia with the aim of further developing their social and leadership skills.

The programme, designed by the Fundación Botín, enjoys the active support of the Organization of American States, the University of Salamanca, the University of the Andes in Colombia and the Brazilian higher education institution Fundação Getulio Vargas, as well as other organizations and experts from both Spain and Latin America that nurture and sustain this vocation for knowledge, while contributing to the participants’ development of the attitudes, values and skills so necessary for the proper running of the public sector.

Furthermore, in 2020 we addressed three of the most significant challenges that these young people will face as public

servants: governance, inequality and sustainability, all with a creative and innovative perspective that allows them to seek different solutions to the complex problems that our societies experience.

At the end of the Programme the participants were inducted into the Alumni Network, which now comprises 378 graduates of 21 different nationalities, a virtual space for meeting and debating public service in Latin America.

Alumni Network 2020

In 2020, a year that put the whole of humanity to the test, the Alumni Network of the Programme for the Strengthening of the Civil Service in Latin America sought to be more united than ever in supporting and cooperating to engender hope through proactivity, integrity and the vocation of service. Global isolation was no impediment to creating training and meeting spaces for graduates and teachers, with new virtual formats such as **Alumni Conversa** and **Café Alumni**. These frameworks have hosted more than 15 sessions

on outstanding current issues, in which those alumni who hold positions of responsibility in international organizations have shared their experience and knowledge.

In addition, the **regional networks** have continued to articulate their efforts and initiatives to generate a greater impact in the region. The **Challenges** identified at Cartagena 2019 – the commemorative meeting marking the tenth year of the Programme – have been implemented thanks to the collaborative work of the graduates, accompanied by teachers and members of the Fundación Botín team. Alumni also created the virtual space **Inspiring Stories**, a series of interviews and recordings which set out specific cases of improvement and strengthening of the public sector through projects, actions and enterprises involving graduates who are already contributing to the improvement of public service in Latin America.

At the same time, graduates from different iterations, professions and countries offered online sessions for the students of the 11th iteration, highlighting the value of ongoing support and the richness of a network as heterogeneous as it is committed to the principles that underpin it.

Finally, the year closed with the first **Alumni Network Ebook**, a collection of 110 testimonies to the challenges learnings and the challenges they have experienced as a community. Above all, the Ebook talks about how to overcome these obstacles as a network and how to gain momentum to continue adding new actions that encourage more of the brightest and the best to dedicate themselves to the public.

“How grand life is to confront us with a challenge like the one experienced in the midst of the global crisis. Intense months translated into moments, debates and viewpoints that enabled us to demolish our absolute truths and build a dream together. This Programme is the result of a commitment to change so great that it convinces us of the need to encourage the best to place themselves in the service of society.”

IORELLA DI PARDO BURGOS,
ALUMNI 11TH PSCSLA

Support for the social sector in Cantabria

Since its creation, and at the express wish of its founders, the Fundación Botín has implemented a Programme of Support for the voluntary sector in Cantabria in collaboration with institutions with extensive experience of working directly with those groups most in need of assistance.

Aid for social integration

The Fundación Botín continues to work closely with key partners the Economic Kitchen of the Daughters of Charity and Cáritas Diocesana de Santander to attend to the most urgent needs of people in precarious conditions, and also with the Food Bank Association, the Cantabrian Association for the Fight against Unemployment and its Brumas youth workshops, Cantabria Acoge and the missionary workers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, helping the latter in the training of girls from unstructured families.

The Fundación Botín also supports the Bishopric of Santander, the Asilo San Cán-

dido foundation, the Nuns of Saint Clare of Villafrechós, the Bernardines of Liérganes, the parishes of Nuestra Señora de la Conciliación and Santa Lucía, both in Santander, and Villalba de los Alcores in Valladolid, helping all of them respond to the most urgent needs.

The Sautuola Social, Cultural and Sports Association, the Marqués de Valterra nursery school, the Cantabrian Federation of Neighbourhood Associations and the Colegio San Roque school in Santander also received the support of the Fundación Botín in 2020.

Care for the sick and for people with disabilities

The Amica family conciliation and child development centre once again benefitted from the help of the Fundación Botín, as did as the Obra San Martín foundation, the New Life Evangelical Association, Proyecto Hombre and the Cantabrian Down Syndrome Foundation.



An activity in the Talleres Juveniles Brumas

Science

In 2020, a year in which the COVID-19 pandemic showed science and innovation to be more important than ever, the Fundación Botín remained firm in its ongoing commitment to technology transfer in the field of the life and health sciences.

3

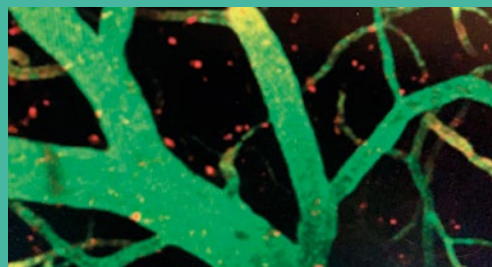
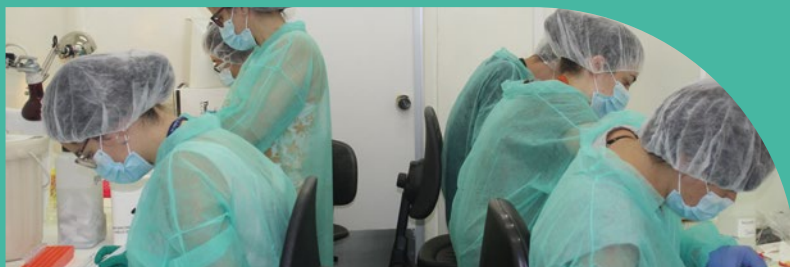
advanced experimental therapies for rare haematological diseases are being successfully trialled in patients

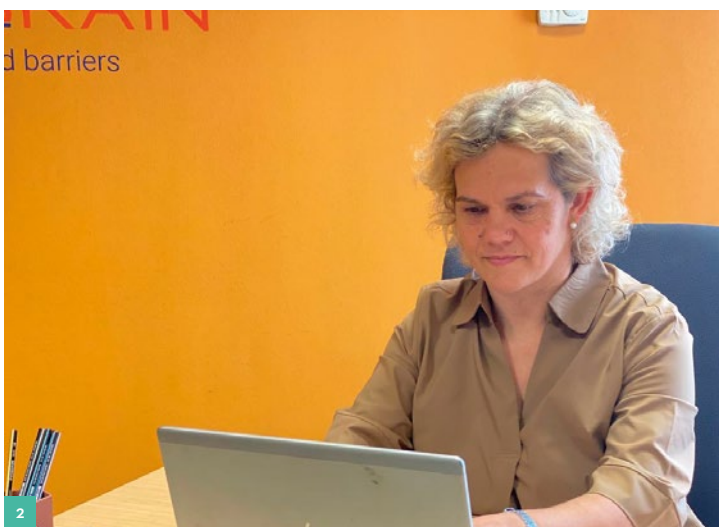
€1,051,223

invested in Mind the Gap start-ups

€4.6M

total turnover of the Mind the Gap companies





1. The CycloMed Technologies, SL team with the prototype of the AMIT cyclotron.
2. Meritxell Teixidó, general manager and scientific director of Gate2Brain, SL.
3. The joint CEDEX-CIEMAT applied electromagnetism laboratory, the R&D centre of CycloMed Technologies, SL.
4. A Vaxdyn, SL vaccine generation procedure, carried out at the Institute of Biomedicine in Seville, where Vaxdyn was founded.
5. A CIEMAT clean room where advanced therapy drugs are manufactured for trials.

Technology Transfer Programme

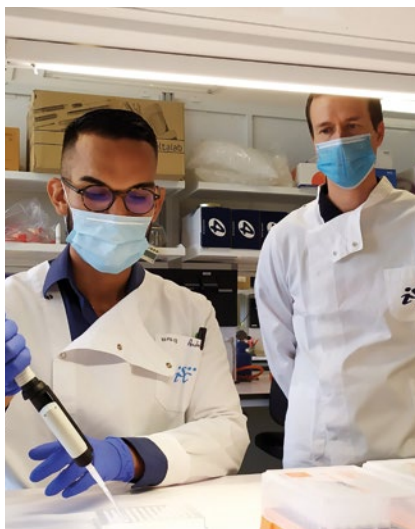
After more than two decades of working in the field of technology transfer, the Foundation is currently engaged in developing new frameworks for institutional collaboration.

On the one hand, the Foundation supports the management of technology transfer activities of the projects of the Innovative Therapies Division (CIEMAT-CIBERER / IIS-FJD), directed by Dr Juan Bueren, focused on the development of advanced therapies for patients with rare diseases for which there is no effective treatment, many of which affect children.

Notably, in 2020, significant advances have been made in the development of therapies against three low prevalence haematological diseases: Fanconi anaemia subtype A, pyruvate kinase deficiency and leukocyte adhesion deficiency type I. The three projects are in the clinical phase and have obtained the first positive results in patients.

On the other hand, the Fundación Botín collaborates with the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) in the development of a strategic programme focused on innovation as the key to improving the university's competitiveness and fostering an culture of innovation and cooperation between academia and industry. Within this framework, the Foundation has lent significant support to the second iteration of the university's UPF INNOValora programme for promoting the transfer of knowledge and innovation, and has also been part of the UPF's pilot mentoring programme, providing guidance and advice to the five projects in this iteration.

Among the advances made in 2020 it is worth highlighting the results achieved by one of the researchers supported by the Foundation, Dr Salvador Aznar-Benitah of the Institute for Research in Biomedicine in Barcelona (IRB Barcelona), which have led to the creation of ONA Therapeutics,



An efficacy test of the Vaxdyn vaccine in the laboratory of Dr Michael McConnell, founding partner of Vaxdyn, SL and researcher at the National Centre for Microbiology in Madrid.

a start-up dedicated to the development of new drugs for the treatment of metastatic cancer. Following an initial investment of 1.5 million euros, in 2020 ONA Therapeutics obtained a second round of financing that reached 30 million euros.

Mind the Gap

The Mind the Gap programme exists to support the earliest phases of biotechnology business projects originating in the academic sphere. Created in 2010 on an "impact investment" model, since 2016 the programme has implemented its investments through a co-financing vehicle in which the Fundación Botín is one of a group of private investors, in what is a pioneering initiative in the Spanish context.

Of note among the advances achieved by the programme in 2020 are the major investments in three new companies: **Vaxdyn**, with a project aimed at developing vaccines to combat antibiotic-resistant infections; **MiWEndo Solutions**, which is developing a device to improve the diagnosis of colorectal cancer, and **Gate2Brain**, whose primary focus is an innovative technology that facil-

"Mind the Gap is one of the few bridges that exist in Spain to help scientists with an entrepreneurial spirit and a strong project to cross over into the world of business. The assistance it provides is not confined to financial contribution but extends to offering young entrepreneurs expert inputs to help turn their project into a company."

PILAR DE LA HUERTA, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF ARQUIMEA HEALTH, IS PART OF THE EXPERT ADVISORS

itates the transport of drugs to the brain to improve their efficacy against diseases of the central nervous system.

In addition, in April 2020 two of the Mind the Gap portfolio companies, **Life Length** and **Epidisease**, joined the "COVID-19 Alliance", a private consortium led by Arquimea Medical which was created in response to the need urgent to increase the capacity for diagnosing COVID-19 in Spain.

Mind the Gap invested more than one million euros in startups in 2020, a figure that totals 4.7 million since the start of the programme. It currently has a portfolio of 10 companies, which in 2020 employed 84 people, most of them highly qualified. In addition, four of these companies have already come onto the market with 20 innovative technological products or services, and between them summed a turnover of 4.6 million euros in 2020. Mind the Gap companies have also raised close to 17 million euros of additional private capital and together have a market valuation of over 55 million euros.

Mind the Gap Companies

GATE2BRAIN, S.L.

The company's focus is on improving the delivery of drugs to the central nervous system, and its first product is a therapy against a currently incurable paediatric brain tumour, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

RESEARCHER: MERITXELL TEIXIDÓ, BARCELONA INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN BIOMEDICINE

NEW INVESTMENT

MIWENDO SOLUTIONS, S.L.

The company is developing a medical device which uses microwave imaging to improve the identification of colorectal cancer precursor lesions.

RESEARCHER: MARTA GUARDIOLA, POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY

NEW INVESTMENT

VAXDYN, S.L.

VAXDYN focuses on the development of a vaccine against bacteria resistant to antibiotics (so-called "superbugs"), one of the main global health threats identified by the WHO.

RESEARCHERS: JERONIMO PACHON AND MICHAEL MCCONNELL, INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICINE OF SEVILLE / NATIONAL CENTRE FOR MICROBIOLOGY

NEW INVESTMENT

CYCLOMED TECHNOLOGIES, S.L.

The company is developing a compact cyclotron whose small size allows it to be easily transported for on-site production of radiopharmaceuticals.

RESEARCHERS: LUIS GARCÍA TABARÉS, CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

EPIDISEASE, S.L.

A diagnostics company based on epigenetic techniques that is developing, among others, the ScolioPro® test for the diagnosis and monitoring of idiopathic scoliosis in adolescents.

RESEARCHER: JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA JIMÉNEZ, ONLINE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

INNITIUS (ULTRASOUND INNOVATION MEDTECH, S.L.)

Its work centres on the development of diagnostic technologies based on the use of torsion waves. Its first product is the Fine Birth device for assessing the dangers of preterm labour.

RESEARCHERS: GUILLERMO RUS AND FRANCISCO MOLINA, UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA / ANDALUSIAN HEALTH SERVICE

HG BEYOND, S.L.

The company based on a technology for the manufacture of hydrogels for the controlled release of molecules, the first application of which is in the production of comfortable medicated contact lenses.

RESEARCHERS: CARMEN ALVARES AND ÁNGEL CONCEIRO, UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

NOSTRUM BIODISCOVERY, S.L.

The company focuses on the use of supercomputing to support the initial phases of drug discovery, thereby reducing the cost, time and risk of development.

RESEARCHERS: MODESTO OROZCO AND VÍCTOR GUALLAR, BARCELONA INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN BIOMEDICINE, BARCELONA SUPERCOMPUTING CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA AND CATALAN INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND ADVANCED STUDIES

TEXTIA INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, S.L.

The company's current work is based on Varstiff®, a patented textile material whose flexibility can be adjusted by altering its internal pressure and whose special properties facilitate the development of innovative products in various sectors.

RESEARCHER: JAN VENEMAN, TECNALIA RESEARCH & INNOVATION

LIFE LENGTH, S.L.

A diagnostics company dedicated to the measurement of telomeres, chromosomal structures whose length can be used as a biomarker of biological age, for early diagnosis of diseases and risk stratification.

RESEARCHER: MARÍA BLASCO, NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE

Rural Development

The Rural Development, Heritage and Territory Programme in the Nansa Valley and Peñarrubia consists in implementing a model of territorial, economic and social management in rural areas, promoting the interaction of the various public and private actors to reverse the negative trend in rural dynamics.

25

business initiatives benefitted from the Entrepreneur Support Programme

€2.5M

turnover of farmers in the Livestock Promotion Project

600,000 kg

of meat brought to market





Participants in the Online Reading Club held from March to May.

Social dynamization

Over the course of 2020 the programme maintained the major part of its cultural revitalization activities, suitably adapted to comply with the health regulations in force at all times. Of note among these activities are the **Reading Club** and the **Memory Workshops** stand out, which have made it possible to keep in contact with the elderly population of the municipalities of Upper Nansa by means of telephone calls and videoconferencing.

During 2020, the year in which the impact of COVID-19 generated far-reaching changes for all of us, the Rural Development Programme maintained its commitment to the inhabitants of the Nansa Valley and Peñarrubia, adapting its procedures to maintain contact with a large part of the population, whom it had a commitment to accompany and support. In this way there emerged initiatives for the elderly, such as the Online Reading Club; for young people, such as coordination groups; and for specific sectors such as livestock farmers, with the introduction of video calls to carry out coordination meetings of the Livestock Project.

Extension of the programme to Valderredible

Within the framework of the agreement signed by the Fundación Botín, the Government of Cantabria and Valderredible Town Council for the drafting of a revitalization plan that will contribute to the development of the municipality, during 2020 the meetings of experts were held digitally, as were the monitoring committee sessions in which representatives of the participating institutions took part. These virtual meetings resulted in the Strategy Document for the Development of the Valderredible Revitalization Plan, which was delivered in December.

Economic development

The Fundación Botín maintained its commitment to the promotion of entrepreneurial talent in rural areas through the Entrepreneurship Support Programme, which, complying with regulations, continued to support entrepreneurs in the area and help them to promote their initiatives on the social networks, as well as promoting networking and generating synergies between them.

Meanwhile, the Project to Promote Stockfarming continued to exercise a leading role in the area, encompassing 65% of certified animals in the region. Specifically in 2020, 2,454 head were slaughtered, representing an increase of more than 30% over the 2019 figures and revenues of 2.5M euros for the 131 affiliated farmers. As a result, the project has contributed to the economic stability of the suppliers, who have maintained their regular day-to-day activity. In this way, AFTECA, the association which coordinates the inspection and slaughter of animals, continues to consolidate its leading role in the production of certified PGI Carne de Cantabria meat.

Over the summer, workshops and talks were organized for the children of the Valley, focused on helping them acquire through fun activities and in familiar settings the necessary guidelines to interact in the new normality and, especially, to work on all these new needs for the return to the classroom.

Commitment to young talent

As a new departure, an initiative has been carried out to foster the development of talent in the young people of the Nansa Valley, by means of a group of university students who, as a result of the revitalization and stimulus activities, have come together to highlight the value of their territory and the rural environment. As a pilot project these young people launched an initiative to market personalized craft-made baskets with agri-food and other craft products from the Nansa and Saja valleys. At the close of the first season, in which they sold more than 400 baskets, they set up the EntreValles (*AmongValleys*) association to work in the region.

“The project has given us a so much, both personally and professionally. We are proud to have supported our local producers in these difficult times through the promotion of their products and the encouragement of 0 kilometre consumption.”

MEMBERS OF THE ENTREVALLES PROJECT

Water Observatory

The Fundación Botín Water Observatory is an interdisciplinary think tank which aims to contribute to present and emerging debates on water management, both in Spain and in the rest of the world.

10

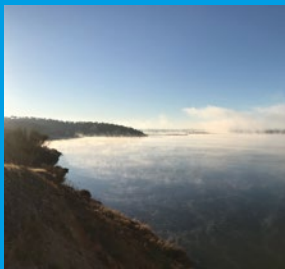
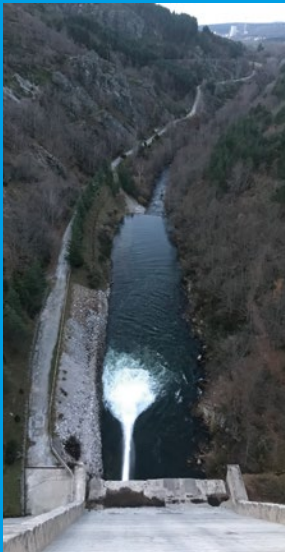
webinars and informative
online talks on water
management

1,140

participants connected to online
events during 2020

13

articles and interviews in
communications media to make
know the results of the research





Data collection campaign in the Cenia river basin, Júcar River Basin District.

“This PhD thesis by Antonio Bolinches is an exemplary piece of applied research, impregnated with dialogue and interaction with public authorities, water companies and society as a whole. It is a milestone in the understanding of water management in the Middle Tagus.”

A MEMBER OF THE TRIBUNAL THAT EVALUATED ANTONIO BOLINCHES' DOCTORAL THESIS, 11 DECEMBER 2020

Created in 2008, this ideas lab specializes in analysis of the ownership and integrated management of water resources and works to promote and improve water policy, to ensure the transfer of knowledge to society and to foster sustainable water management.

Promoting and improving water policies

In the last few years the Water Observatory has focused its activities and its research on improving the state of Spain's rivers and aquifers, generating an understanding of key aspects of water management, serving as a platform for dialogue and the skills enhancement of water professionals and promoting the involvement of society in that improvement.

Webinars for the water sector

During 2020, eight webinars were organized for experts in the water sector, with two of these being carried out in collaboration with the University of California's *Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy*.

These online seminars addressed a variety of issues related to the Water Observatory's research, such as the use of machine learning techniques to improve water management, the challenges of public procurement of water infrastructures or the effect of dams on the flow rate of Spain's rivers. The webinars were attended by people in many parts of the world, especially Latin America.

In addition, in December Antonio Bolinches defended his doctoral thesis. A PhD student attached to the Water Observatory, his work centred on the impact on the state of rivers of the discharge of treated urban wastewater, and the progress of his research generated knowledge and served as a focus of encounter and debate on improving the quality of the rivers of the Community of Madrid and the middle course of the Tagus River. His work has made it possible to propose concrete solutions to a problem that has not been resolved for decades.

Activities for the general public

“Walk the Water” is an initiative of the Fundación Botín's Water Observatory, in conjunction with the Complutense University of Madrid, which aims to create spaces of connection between citizens and water, with a view to promoting the efficient and sustainable use of water resources. These guided walking tours with experts introduce the participants to the abundance of natural, ethnographic and cultural riches to be found in the waterways that articulate the territory. Within the framework of this initiative, during 2020 two online informative talks on water were held in the city of Madrid, as well as a workshop-cum-walk to learn more about water in the urban environment, using drawing as a tool for observation and learning.

Collaborations

The Fundación Botín develops programmes in the fields of art and culture, education, strengthening the institutional fabric, science and rural development. In addition, it collaborates with other institutions and foundations with which it shares strategies and objectives.

10

institutions received support from the Fundación Botín

40

cultural projects designed by companies and associations of the local fabric and financed by the Fundación Santander Creativa

7,000

young people have taken part in the Fundación Princesa de Girona's "Redeemers of Talent" programme





Hayk Sukiasyan, cello, and Pallavi Mahidhara, piano. A concert in the ReEncounter season. Centro Botín, July 2020.



Excavation project at the Temple of Millions of Years of Thutmose III in Luxor: moving the false door stele of Pharaoh Thutmose III.

During 2020 the Fundación Botín maintained its support for the Santander Creativa Foundation, which, given the difficult situation of the performing arts as a result of the health crisis, launched a special programme to contribute to the recovery of the sector and generate quality activity. Under the rubric “Scenic Santander”, this initiative staged almost 60 performances, with 26 different shows by 26 different companies, which were attended by some 3,000 people.

The Princesa de Girona Foundation continued to receive the support of the Fundación Botín in the furtherance of its commitment to the country's young people and the improvement of their employment prospects and their professional and personal development through training or mentoring, among other resources. So too did the Fundación Isaac Albéniz, specifically with regard to the running of its summer courses and the activities of the Reina Sofía School of Music.

Other significant contributions went to the Ateneo de Santander, to Empieza por Educar, to the Asociación Plaza Porticada, to the Casa de Cantabria in Madrid and the restoration of the altar in the church there, to the Santander International Festival and to the excavation, restoration and highlighting of the value of the funerary temple of Pharaoh Tuthmosis III in Luxor.

“In 2021, Santander Creativa will be ten years old. During our journey we have had the committed support of the Fundación Botín in a joint effort to strengthen the local cultural fabric to the benefit of the professionalization of the sector and the enrichment of the range of cultural provision on offer in the city.”

ALMUDENA DÍAZ,
DIRECTOR OF THE FSC



Screening of the concert in the ReEncounter season outside the Centro Botín. July 2020.

