

PLAN



Action Plan 2010-2013

**Humanities and Social
Sciences Area**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



N.B.: If you require any further information about the specific content of any particular Area 1 Centre or Institute's Strategic Plan, please ask for it by sending an e-mail to: pe2010-13@csic.es. Thank you

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1 Humanities and Social Sciences Area

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Description of the area

This Area encompasses the whole range of research into history, the history of science and thought, archeology, literature, language, arabic and hebrew studies, geography, demographics, social sciences, economics, political studies, bibliometrics, musicology, etc.

It is an area which is currently undergoing a process of change, motivated by the need for transformation, the constant negotiation of its scientific status vis-a-vis other disciplines and areas of knowledge, the search for meaning in the social reality, the search for its own meaning, a concern with increasing its relevance and interaction with its environment, and the need to standardise its functioning and objectives.

Short history

From the Centro de Estudios Históricos (Centre for Historical Studies) and the Escuela Española en Roma de Arqueología e Historia (Spanish School of Archaeology and History in Rome), down to the Instituto de Arqueología de Mérida (Merida Institute of Archaeology, IAM), the area's history has been marked by multiple reorganisations, leading to its present 19 institutes. The first institutes were founded in 1910, at the same time as the Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Físico-Naturales (National Institute of Physical and Natural Sciences), the Asociación de Laboratorios (Laboratories Association), the Residencia de Estudiantes and the Patronato de Estudiantes. These institutions were created with reform in mind, and played a fundamental role in the development of Spanish research. The IAM was created in 2001. The area's newest centre is the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales de Albasanz (Albasanz Social and Human Sciences Centre), which, although it began operating in 2007, was officially opened in February 2009 by Cristina Garmendia, the Minister for Science and Innovation.

Mission and Vision

Mission

To produce, through scientific research, rigorous knowledge about our social

reality in order to explain (where possible) or interpret (otherwise) its mechanisms of production and reproduction, in the past and present, and thus contribute to the active transformation of society and the development of social well-being through an increase in self-awareness and reflexiveness in absolute terms, through the generation of content, critiques and values, and by defining the specific horizons of application and reevaluation

Vision

To produce high quality internationalised science promoting the social relevance of research and multiplying its practical effect.

Institutes and Centres that comprise the Area

The Humanities and Social Sciences Area has 11 research centres in Spain. These are distributed across most of the country and are located in 7 Autonomous Regions (Madrid, Catalonia, Aragón, Valencia Region, Andalusia, Extremadura and Galicia). One of these centres, the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales (Human and Social Sciences Centre, CCHS) is the result of a strategic regrouping of 7 different institutes (completed under the CSIC's previous strategic plan). Of all the area's centres, one (the CCHS) is multidisciplinary in nature, three are social sciences institutes (located in Barcelona, Valencia and Córdoba) and seven are humanities institutes (in Barcelona, Valencia, Santiago, Zaragoza, Granada, Seville and Mérida). At the same time, Area 1 is responsible for the scientific project of the Escuela de Historia y Arqueología de Roma (Rome School of History and Archaeology, EHAR).

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Institutes

Region	Location	Name	Abbrev	Founded	Joint Centre	
MADRID	Madrid	Human and Social Sciences Centre	CCHS	2007 (30 oct)		
Encompasses						
		Institute of History	IH	HH	1910	
		Institute of Science and Technology Studies	IECYT	CS	1953	
		Institute of Philosophy	IFS	HH	1986	
		Institute of Philology	IFL	HH	1985	
		Institute of Economics and Geography	IEGD	CS	1986	
		Institute of Public Policies	IPP	CS	1999	
		Spanish Language Institute	ILE	HH	1999	
CATALONIA	Barcelona	Institució Milà i Fontanals	IMF	HH	1968	
	Barcelona	Institute of Economic Analysis	IAE	CS	1985	
VALENCIA REGION	Valencia	Institute of the History of Medicine and Science	IHMC	HH	1985	Univ. of Valencia
	Valencia	Institute of Innovation and Knowledge Management	INGENIO	CS	1999	Valencia Polytechnic University

ARAGÓN	Zaragoza	Institute of Islamic and Ancient Oriental Studies	IEIOP	HH	2000	Cortes de Aragón
ANDALUSIA	Granada	School of Arab Studies	EEA	HH	1932	
	Seville	School of Latin American Studies	EEHA	HH	1942	
	Córdoba	Andalusian Institute of Advanced Social Studies	IESA	CS	1992	1995: Joint centre with the Junta de Andalucía
EXTREMADURA	Mérida	Merida Institute of Archaeology	IAM	HH	2001	Consejería de Cultura and Consorcio de Mérida
GALICIA	Santiago	Padre Sarmiento Institute of Galician Studies	IEGPS	HH	1944	2000: Joint centre with the Xunta de Galicia

2. CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE AREA

SWOT ANALYSIS

Weaknesses

- The special status of the "Humanities and Social Sciences" in relation to other scientific disciplines in the CSIC.
- Internal heterogeneity and lack of identity as an Area. No clear definition of the humanities and social sciences in the Spanish and European scientific system.
- Individual research focuses still predominate despite the effort to integrate research into lines.
- Uneven quality of the research lines, and a considerable imbalance in

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their critical mass.

- High average age of research personnel.

Threats

- The traditional perception of the "humanities and social sciences" as marginal and pre-scientific disciplines still prevails.
- Complacency and conformism. May cause distancing from other Areas, and isolation from the Spanish and international environment.
- Widening gap between the social sciences and humanities.
- The lack of understanding of the relevance of research in humanities and social sciences and its specificities among science policy managers.
- The localism of some of the Area's branches.
- The absence of a defined scientific career.
- Excessive external demand for commissioned publications.
- The CSIC's difficulty accessing postgraduate training is a serious threat to its ability to attract talented young people.

Strengths

- Autonomy of research in humanities and social sciences, as their development does not require large investments or significant financial resources.
- Youth and dynamism of certain centres, which enable initiatives which have innovative management and modes of relationship to the environment to be undertaken.
- Greater degree of internationalisation of CSIC centres in comparison with a large share of equivalent university departments.
- High ratio of scientific personnel to total staff (technicians, support personnel, administrative staff, pre-doc and post-doc research assistants).
- High quality of research carried out by some of the Area's researchers, with high visibility in the media and popular science.
- Existence of a network of humanities and social sciences institutes distributed across Spain, with presence in a large share of Spain's regions, constituting a valuable instrument for the execution of national scientific policy.
- Good documentary resources (libraries, archives, photo archives, etc.)

and prestigious wide circulation journals.

- Existence of well established research lines

Opportunities

- Possibility of implementing a process of standardisation of the humanities and social sciences Area in the CSIC.
- The implementation of the Agencies Act makes it possible to identify new ways of organising research to meet current demands.
- The central position of the humanities and social sciences in the process of creating a knowledge economy.
- Identification of the new humanities and social sciences centre in Madrid as the main opportunity to offer a more up-to-date scientific organisation of the Area, given the likely facilities associated with the availability of space, and the organisational possibilities deriving from its creation.
- The CSIC's environment represents an opportunity to promote interdisciplinary contacts to a greater extent than that of a university.
- The preparation of Strategic Plans is a good opportunity to introduce strategic thinking in the centres, goal-oriented planning, the logic of continual evaluation, and the requirement for self-appraisal.
- The ability to transmit knowledge through the media on topics of great public interest and give a response on issues of importance to the public (migrations, demographics, living conditions, poverty, youth, etc.) can give Area 1 a high degree of visibility if it is able to exploit this potential.

HORIZONTAL ANALYSIS OF THE RESEARCH LINES

Of the 43 lines presented, 6 obtained the highest rating, 9 have been rated as "to consolidate", 23 "maintain," and 5 are set to be discontinued.

Once the evaluation reports had been analysed, along with the comments made on them by the people in charge of each of the lines, the Area Commission performed a critical analysis of each. The lines from centres that presented only a single research line for the centre as a whole were excluded from this list.

3. ANALYSIS OF THE AREA'S 2006-2009 STRATEGIC PLAN

Overall, the Area's general objectives described in the 2006-2009 Strategic Plan were met satisfactorily, including the creation of the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales de Albasanz and the even redistribution of resources between social sciences and humanities.

From the quantitative point of view, the results are also satisfactory, although fulfilment has been uneven in some centres and institutes.

Publications by type	2003			2004			2005		
	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS
Article	703	191	75	745	194	72	769	333	90
Book	118	42	6	137	68	6	110	48	11
Congress	502	110	21	506	189	27	234	182	43
TOTAL:	1323	343	81	1388	451	96	1113	563	144

Publications by impact	2003			2004			2005		
	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS
High	23	3	6	26	0	7	29	7	9
Intermediate	8	1	4	9	1	4	11	2	10
Low	13	3	2	18	1	1	11	5	4
Unindexed	659	206	63	692	192	60	718	319	67
TOTAL:	703	213	75	745	194	72	769	333	90

Publications by type	2006			2007		
	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS
Article	788	324	115	896	301	128
Book	125	77	10	151	49	10
Congress	302	217	46	287	192	97
TOTAL:	1215	618	171	1334	542	235

Publications by impact	2006			2007		
	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS
High	24	6	14	44	9	17
Intermediate	13	1	9	9	1	19
Low	17	11	3	19	1	3
Unindexed	734	306	89	824	290	89
TOTAL:	788	324	115	896	301	128

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Funding type	2003			2004			2005		
	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS
CSIC	13	33	0	27	35	2	152	435	12
National Plan	1448	307	220	1624	175	49	910	276	402
International Autonomous Regions	382	7	148	645	16	344	206	148	0
Miscellaneous	373	118	62	95	86	162	370	289	195
Contracts	5	11	0	0	8	0	0	76	0
Consolider	2023	1032	2132	1780	1820	2619	1055	662	2775
Cenit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ciber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Profit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Large facilities	0	0	0	0	106	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4243	1504	2563	4170	2247	3175	2693	1884	3385

Funding type	2006			2007		
	CCHS	HH	CCSS	CCHS	HH	CCSS
CSIC	589	170	164	667	21	90
National Plan	1638	483	661	1569	375	43
International Autonomous Regions	109	88	24	153	202	25
Miscellaneous	57	258	208	131	562	6
Contracts	27	0	0	0	30	13
Consolider	4300	965	2335	2115	941	4576
Cenit	0	0	0	75	5000	30
Ciber	0	0	0	0	0	0
Profit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petri	0	0	0	0	0	0
Large facilities	0	0	72	0	0	0
TOTAL	6721	1965	3464	4709	7132	4783

4.OBJECTIVES 2010-13

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- **Objective G1:** increasing the Area's output, quality and visibility.
- **Objective G2:** bringing about a quadruple cultural change in the Area: A change in the **purpose of its work**; a change in the **research culture**; a change in the **organisational culture**, so as to orient it towards integrating individual research into lines; and, a **change in attitudes** towards work so as to reconcile competition with cooperation.
- **Objective G3:** redefining the focus of scientific careers and dedication to expand their goals, effects and impact on the research undertaken in the Area. This entails
- **Objective G4:** finding a horizon of application for the humanities and social sciences enabling R&D to be boosted; promoting knowledge and technology transfer; and, creating incentives for practical profitability, utilising to these ends (i) the proximity that, unlike the situation in other areas, exists between the basic and applied dimensions of the disciplines in Area 1 and (ii) the fact that these disciplines are net producers of content and values.
- **Objective G5:** bolstering collaboration between institutes which, in general, has not existed in the past, or at least has been neither systematic nor commonplace. The creation of relationships and synergies between them may be based on
- **Objective G6:** creating a culture of cooperation between research personnel, technical support personnel and administrative personnel, mutual dialogue and comprehension, overcoming the distance that frequently arises in the CSIC between the different employee categories.
- **Objective G7:** searching for mechanisms to access post-graduate and specialist teaching, which is the only way of reproducing the R&D system, attracting the best candidates for research and rejuvenating the Area.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **Objective E1:** Bolstering and consolidating, as far as is possible, the Lines receiving good evaluations, and committing ourselves to the results of the external evaluation process.
- **Objective E2.** Bolstering emerging lines that are considered to have high potential in the context of the Area.

- **Objective E3.:** Acting in relation to institutes according to their situation and evaluation, prioritising actions to decentralise the allocation of resources
- **Objective E4:** Redefining centres obtaining a poor evaluation, and establishing assessment mechanisms in the proposed redesign.
- **Objective E5:** Identifying and bolstering research lines that, while belonging to the humanities or social sciences, are not represented in the CSIC.
- **Objective E6.** Promoting quality in the process of training research fellows, throughout the area, with the creation of curriculum indicators similar to those used in the Area's Institutes.
- **Objective E7:** Establishing common minimum standards in relation to recruitment processes.

5. RESEARCH STRATEGY AND ENVISAGED ACTIONS

Research lines with no presence in the Area that should be developed

The research lines that ought to be implemented over the next few years in order to achieve the Area's general objectives and develop it in a way that makes the Spanish R&D system more robust, on the basis of research priorities that are not sufficiently covered in other institutions, have been identified.

Non-existent lines:

- **Line X1:** *Asian studies*, particularly of the Far East, including historical, social and geopolitical research.
- **Line X2:** *Cognitive sciences*, including a range from cognitive studies and decision-making, through to computational linguistics.
- **Line X3.** *Visual culture*
- **Line X4:** *International studies, development and globalisation.*

Existing lines that need to be strengthened

The following lines, although active in the CSIC, are poorly structured. Their activities take place at various centres, often in an unconnected way, supported by individual researchers and groups.

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- **Line X5:** American studies.
- **Line X6:** gender studies
- **Line X7:** Socio-cultural studies in the Mediterranean region.
- **Line X8:** Migration and multiculturalism.

Institutes that need to undergo internal restructuring

The Area's institutes that, as a result of the external evaluation, should be restructured, are.

- Instituto de Estudios Gallegos Padre Sarmiento (Padre Sarmiento Institute of Galician Studies, IEGPS)
- Instituto Milá y Fontanals (Milá y Fontanals Institute, IMF)
- Escuela de Estudios Hispanoamericanos (School of Latin American Studies, EEHA)
- Escuela de Estudios Árabes (School of Arab Studies)
- Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados (Institute for Advanced Social Studies, IESA)
- Instituto de Estudios del Próximo Oriente Antiguo (Institute of Studies of the Ancient Near East, IEIOP)

The assignment of resources to these Centres will depend, in all cases, on the approval of a new scientific project whose feasibility underwrites the investment in terms of human and economic resources.

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