

HOW TO EXPLAIN THE EXPECTED IMPACT OF RESEARCH

CALL FOR BEATRIU DE PINÓS POSTDOCTORAL GRANTS 2025

This guide is aimed at applicants for a Beatriu de Pinós grant. It offers advice and guidelines for convincingly drafting the impact sections in the document attached to the application.

The expected impact of research projects

The expected impact is a new dimension that has begun to take on relevance in the calls for research projects and grants for researchers. Impact evaluation is an essential tool for measuring the effectiveness of research activities and judging the importance of the changes produced by them.

In this section of the application, researchers should carry out an **exercise to anticipate the usefulness of the** proposed research project for people, society, the planet or the economy. It should be an honest reflection: a specific identification of the expected impacts will be better valued than a generalist exposition. If the proposal work plan answered the questions *what* and *how* will be investigated, the impact section should answer *why* or *for what purpose* we do our research, and *who* will benefit.

A distinction must be made between:

- **Research outputs:** what is generated during the implementation of the project, such as data, publications, software, new processes, innovative solutions, prototypes, etc.
- **Research outcomes:** the expected medium-term effects, which usually occur during or shortly after the end of the project as a result of the dissemination and exploitation of the results, or the adoption and use of the solutions. They can be expressed as milestones that are expected to be achieved: reports, patents, agreements, collaborations, recommendations, protocols, events aimed at stakeholders, additional funding obtained, use of results or data by direct beneficiaries, etc.
- **Expected impacts:** the broader effects, derived from scientific results, which generally start showing after the end of the project. They can be benefits for the economy, society, technology, the planet, culture, politics, education, health, well-being or heritage, among others. The impacts must be tangible and identifiable. Within the framework of this call, the expected scientific impact will also be assessed.

The **impact pathway** describes the logical steps to achieve the expected impacts over time. It begins with the expected results of the project, through its dissemination, exploitation and communication to key actors who can adopt them and use them, and ends with the impacts that are expected to be achieved beyond the completion of the project. Progress in this pathway is assessed using qualitative and quantitative indicators.

In the document attached to the BP application, you can describe the expected impact pathway of your project throughout the different sections of evaluation criterion D:

- d.1) Impact on the development of the candidate's research career.
- d.2) Scientific impact.

d.3) Measures to maximise impact: dissemination, exploitation and communication.

d.4) Impact on society, economy and the planet.

Tips for writing a compelling Expected Impact section

- Describe the unique contribution that your research results will make. Be specific, referring to the changes you hope to generate with your project and not to the overall impact of R+I in this field.
- In **the section on impact on the research career**, explain how the proposal will benefit your professional development and how the proposed training plan will improve your skills and career prospects. Describe credible professional pretensions towards stabilization; you can consider options in both academic and private settings. Highlight the logical fit of the proposal in your scientific career and towards your future aspirations.
- In **the scientific impact section**, describe the relevance of the new knowledge generated and justify how the proposal would trigger transformative and relevant changes in the broader research and innovation ecosystem. Highlight expected interactions with other areas of knowledge.
- In **the economic and societal impact section**, identify the key actors for the adoption of the expected results, stakeholders outside the academic field and the final beneficiaries. Estimate the likelihood of generalization and use of the results (impact reach), for example, in terms of the size of the target group that should benefit in the future.
- The impact can come from scientific findings (new knowledge) or from research processes, that is, that research practice acts as a catalyst for change.
- Highlight the value or importance of the expected benefits in a specific and measurable way. Explain your starting point and justify the assumptions used in this reasoning (referring to any relevant studies or statistics).

Measures to maximise impact

The aim of this section is to define the dissemination, communication and exploitation tools that will promote the expected impacts of the project. These activities should be aimed at key groups or individuals who can adopt or implement research results and products, so that, in the long term, they foster a positive change or transformation.

- **Dissemination:** describe the planned actions to disseminate the results within your field of knowledge (specialist audience). Specify why the audience you're targeting is key to the adoption of new knowledge. Given that open science is important to maximising the dissemination of results within the field, detail how open access to publications, data and methods will be guaranteed, showing how the proposal promotes transparency and reproducibility.
- **Communication:** detail the objectives of the communication and outreach activities aimed at the different target groups, plan them throughout the life of the project and indicate the main messages, tools and channels. Justify why each measure chosen is

the most appropriate to reach the target audience and to achieve the expected change or impact.

- **Exploitation, if planned:** Describe your strategy for intellectual property management (patents, design rights, trade agreements, etc.). Identify a plausible avenue that allows the commercialization or use of the innovations generated.

External Support Resources:

- [Guide to Impact Self-Assessment](#)
- [Research impact glossary \(SEARCH\)](#)
- [Impact Planning Canvas](#)
- [Impact section on the website of the Department of Research and Universities](#)