

A different way to finance and promote Responsible Research and Innovation, RRI

The RRI Health Awards are a new approach to research funding designed to integrate RRI principles into the research funding and performing process, thus “opening up” research funding. Each Award is a grant of 10,000 Euros for RRI actions that have been carried out in the previous year in the field of health and biomedicine. The call was developed using a co-creation process involving multiple stakeholders.

ISCIII (Instituto de Salud Carlos III), is a Spanish national funding body that developed the ‘[RRI Health Awards](#)’ to recognise, encourage, promote and disseminate best practice examples of RRI activities undertaken by its accredited Health Research Institutes during 2019.

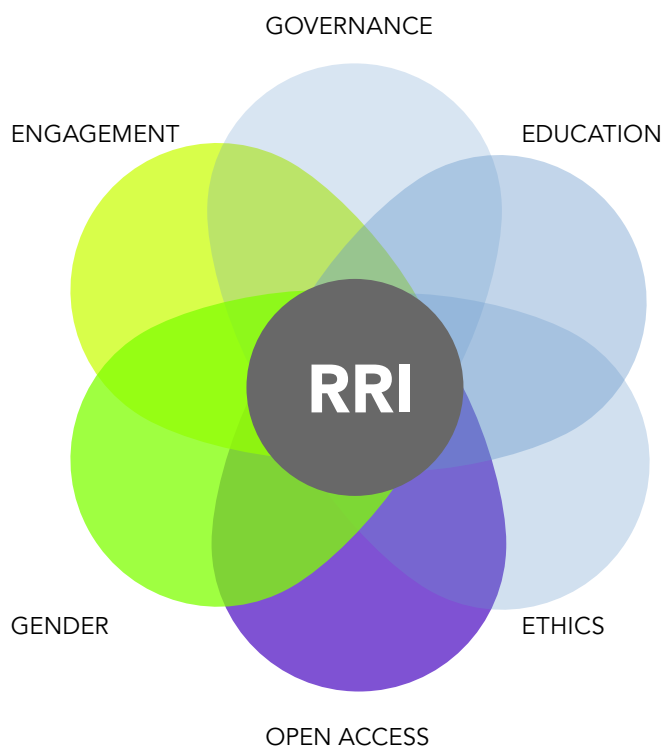
The call was open to all 31 Health Research Institutes across the Spanish territory, encompassing over 162 institutions and more than 24,000 researchers. The Health Research Institutes are entities dedicated to basic and applied research that involve hospitals within the National Health System, universities, public research organisations and public or private research centres. Each have a multidisciplinary composition and involve many different stakeholders.

In total, 26 applications from 18 different Health Institutes were received, three of which were awarded €10,000 each, following a two-stage evaluation process.

RRI HEALTH AWARDS AS A NEW APPROACH TO RESEARCH FUNDING

RRI Health Awards were developed by ISCIII using a co-creation process following the quadruple helix model involving stakeholders from research, policy, industry and society in workshops. Discussions focused on different approaches to ‘open up’ funding within research funding organisations and how to direct funds to better support RRI and Open Science approaches within health and biomedicine. The idea of the RRI Health Awards was conceptualised and further developed into a specific call. It

was important that the principles of RRI and Open Science were fully incorporated into the development process, not just the objectives of the funding call, and this extended into all documentation that was created through the use of clear language, accessible to all.



HOW TO GUIDE: RRI HEALTH AWARDS



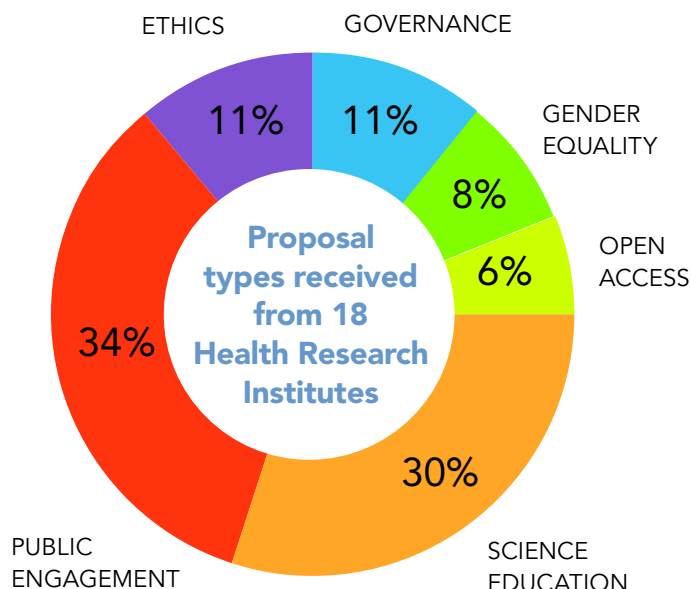
RRI HEALTH AWARDS AS A TOOL TO PROMOTE RRI IN HEALTH AND BIOMEDICINE

By recognising and promoting RRI projects and activities undertaken by the Health Research Institutes, the RRI Health Awards aim to further embed RRI in these institutes as well as encourage a broader uptake of RRI practices in health research in other research institutions. The Awards also support ISCIII's annual accreditation process that was updated in 2019 to include RRI principles and seeks to ensure high standards in areas including ethics, gender equality, open access and transparency ([Technical Accreditation Guide](#))².

The Awards are also opportunity to increase visibility about health research and how it is funded, both within the scientific community (among researchers/funding agencies) as well as amongst wider society. For example, by showing citizens what is being done in health research and how public money is being spent.

As part of the application process, applicants were asked to produce a video explaining their project in a clear way for a non-academic audience using a storytelling approach. Although this was viewed as a challenge by some, it was a useful exercise that forced researchers to consider their projects from different perspectives. The videos could therefore be used as a key dissemination tool and promoted

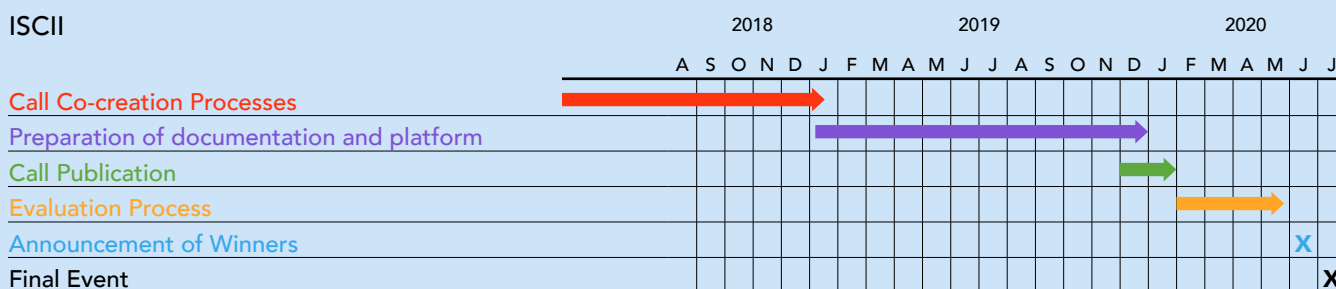
via social media to wider audiences. Numerous other dissemination actions were carried out at each stage of the project too (e.g. utilising press releases, social media, banners, images, videos and other specially designed materials for the awards) in order to raise awareness.



PRACTICAL STEPS

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| 1. Determine the main objectives of the Awards. | 4. Set up a clear and efficient proposal submission system (using appropriate IT tools). | 6. Design the evaluation process for the Awards. | 9. Undertake communication and dissemination activities to promote the winners for further impact. |
| 2. Identify the target group of the Awards, based upon expected impact. | 5. Undertake tailored communication actions to promote the Call to target groups. | 7. Convene a jury to evaluate the proposals against set criteria and decide the winners. | 10. Evaluate the Awards process for the planning of future funding schemes. |
| 3. Design the Call and prepare supporting documents. | | 8. Award the grants at an award ceremony. | |

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THE FIVE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE RRI HEALTH AWARDS

1 OBJECTIVES

To recognise, to encourage and to promote and disseminate best practice examples of RRI actions conducted by Health Research Institutes.

RECOGNISE



ENCOURAGE



PROMOTE



2 TARGET

Health Research Institutes certified by ISCIII are defined by:

- Clusters performing I+D+I in Biomedicine, Science and Technology on Health in basic and applied research.
- Multidisciplinary composition: Hospitals NHS + Universities + public/private research organisations.

3 CALL

- The [call](#)³ invited proposals in each of the following categories, corresponding to the six RRI principles:

1. Ethics
2. Gender equality
3. Governance
4. Open access
5. Public engagement
6. Science education

- Call documents consisted of: a Guide for Applicants on the application process; FAQs; and a Project Report template.

- The call was open to all accredited Health Research Institutes and their staff, and proposals could be submitted by unspecified groups carrying out RRI actions e.g. a whole institute, different research areas/groups, interdepartmental multidisciplinary groups, a research group involving citizen participation etc.

- The applicant for each proposal had to be the legal representative of the relevant institute. Each institute could submit a maximum of three proposals.

- The awards were regulated by EU Financial Regulation (art. 206 and art. 207), which contains specific provisions for prizes, as well as H2020 rules of participation (art. 50).

- A valid submission consisted of a completed online form; a project report and relevant annexes; and a video about the activity carried out in the project.

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4 EVALUATION

All submitted proposals were fully evaluated. The online evaluation process consisted of two phases:

- First phase: A peer review evaluation in which proposals were assessed against the evaluation criteria, resulting in a written consensus evaluation report on each project. Sixteen RRI experts selected from the National Contact Points network and other funding agencies were invited to act as evaluators. Submitted proposals were sorted by RRI category and assessed by one junior and one senior evaluator with expertise in that category, who were compensated for their participation. The peer review was done online using an institutional platform to allow a flexible process while safeguarding data.
- Second phase: A jury, consisting of the senior peer reviewers, evaluated all of the proposals together against the call criteria to select the winners during two online meetings.



5 AWARDS

During the co-creation process, it was decided that three Awards would be given to spread the impact of the RRI Health Awards. The same amount of € 10,000 was awarded to each of the winners, an amount designed not to be excessive or act as a project 'grant' but to provide support for continued work in the area. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Award ceremony was held online.

The three winning projects of the RRI Health Awards were:

- "What really matters" by Maimonides Biomedical Research Institute of Cordoba, Imibic, for innovative science education work for young people, involving multiple stakeholders.
- "Promoting Responsible Conduct in Research: Development of Scientific Integrity Policies" by the Fundación Jiménez Díaz Institute for Medical Research, IIS-FJD, for its efforts to consolidate ethical principles within an institutional framework.
- "Co-creation and citizen participation in the design of the PENSA Study of Prevention of Cognitive Impairment in People with Subjective Memory Complaints" by Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute, IMIM, for citizen engagement in the design of a clinical trial.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS
1 Objectives and methodology	5
2 Scientific integrity/ethics	5
3 Impact	10
4 Efficiency and effectiveness of the activity and its design: Achieved results and alignment with objectives	5
Total maximum points	25

More information

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How to guides website:
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