

LAW 17/2018, of 4 December, on Research and Innovation in Aragon.

In the name of the King and as President of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, I hereby promulgate this Law, approved by the Aragon Parliament and order its publication in the "Official Gazette of Aragon", and in the "Official State Gazette", all in accordance with the provisions of Article 45 of the Statute of Autonomy of Aragon.

PREAMBLE

I

Article 44.2 of the Spanish Constitution, which sets out the guiding principles of social and economic policy, entrusts public authorities with the task of promoting science and scientific and technical research for the common good. Article 148.1, 17. of the Spanish Constitution, as regards the distribution of powers between the State and the Autonomous Communities, stipulates that Autonomous Communities are entitled to exercise such powers for the promotion of research. Article 149.1, 15, of the Constitution confers exclusive powers to the State for "the promotion and general coordination of scientific and technical research". In accordance with the aforementioned constitutional framework, article 71.41. of the Statute of Autonomy confers the Autonomous Community of Aragon exclusive competence over legislative powers, regulatory powers, executive functions and the establishment of its own policies, with respect to the provisions of articles 140 and 149.1 of the Spanish Constitution regarding "scientific and technological research, development and innovation, including, at all times, the planning, programming and coordination of the research activity of Universities and other public and private centres, the transfer of knowledge and the promotion and development of technologies for the information society." Furthermore, article 28 of the Statute of Autonomy of Aragon stipulates the guiding principle for the actions of the Aragonese authorities as being the promotion of high-quality scientific, technological and technical research, development and innovation. Moreover, Article 181.1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union stipulates that both the Union and its Member States will coordinate their technological research and development activities so as to ensure that national policies and the Union's policy are reciprocally consistent.

II

To date, Aragon had its own legislation, Law 9/2003, of 12 March, on the Promotion and Coordination of Research, Development and Knowledge Transfer in Aragon, a law that was approved when Law 13/1986 on the Promotion and General Coordination of Scientific and Technical Research came into force, through which the state legislator complied with the constitutional mandate, although the law was subsequently rescinded by Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation. Law 9/2003, of March 12, was a pioneering regulation as regards content and objectives in autonomous laws. This law, among other factors, deserves to be acknowledged for its enormous contribution to the organisation and strengthening of the existing R&D and Innovation system in Aragon, and for the opportunity to benefit from the experience of its enforcement by carrying out an objective analysis of its merits and shortfalls. It is clear, however, that substantial changes have taken place, both in Aragon and on a supra-regional level, concerning the framework in which the aforementioned law was enacted, which, to a large extent, warrants a review and update of the law, including its guiding principles and mechanisms of execution. It is widely accepted that countries which have

prioritised investment and knowledge management as part of their socio-economic development policy achieve higher growth rates and lower rates of unemployment and inequality, and that, in a global economy, the availability of highly qualified human capital is a key factor in such processes. With this in view, it is essential to provide stable public funding for R&D and Innovation and to stimulate private funding so as to provide the drive for the scientific and technological progress that our society needs. The European Research Area project, designed coincidentally at the same time as Aragonese Law 9/2003, of 12 March, created a new conceptual and strategic framework which sought to greatly improve the performance of European research and to steer it towards economic growth and job creation, establishing a broad, unified area in which researchers, knowledge and technologies could quickly and freely move and interact with shared agendas and high-quality infrastructures in excellent professional networks. This area brings together national and regional programmes, universities, the health centre network, businesses and researchers with a view to achieving, through coordinated action, optimal research in Europe and to jointly tackling its major challenges. In short, it is an area for researchers that promotes their mobility, training and access to appealing scientific careers. These European strategies and the conceptual changes they bring with them are included in the new law, adopting the European Union's guidelines which have proven to be successful in other countries. Lastly, positioning Aragon as one of the regions committed to the new knowledge economy requires making effective progress in multiple directions including: developing a robust, well-structured system linking the sectors of science, technology and business; promoting a competitive and innovative business climate, particularly for SMEs; making decisive progress in terms of international R&D and Innovation; creating an environment that fosters investment in knowledge and innovation; and promoting a culture that encourages society to embrace science and technology starting in early learning. In other words, it is a great project for change and for social commitment, one which must create the conditions for what is becoming an increasingly essential and urgent public-private partnership.

III

The new Aragonese Law on Research and Innovation is a response to at least four different needs: to review and update legislation governing this area, to align it with state legislation, to adopt current European guidelines and, finally, to undertake the commitments undertaken through the new Aragon Science Pact one of which is the approval of this very law. Firstly, and as regards updating Law 9/2003 of 12 March, there are in essence two grounds to justify this new regulation: the emergence of major changes in the general objectives pursued under previous legislation, and the need to secure political consensus to facilitate adaptation to a new framework of priorities, management strategies and investment in resources. Although the advisory bodies established by Law 9/2003, of 12 March —The Interdepartmental Commission on Science and Technology, the Coordinating Commission on Research and the Advisory Council on Research and Development—, fulfilled the functions entrusted to them in the law, the dynamics of their operations have led to excessive bureaucracy in terms of coordination and general advisory functions for the government department responsible for research and innovation. The last of these (CONAID) deserves a special mention, since it has almost exclusively focused its activity and functions on evaluating tenders for state funding for research and innovation in the broadest sense, but has not adequately fulfilled its original functions as a scientific advisory body, a situation that this law seeks to reverse by involving CONAID in the changes proposed by the law as regards objectives and actions to promote and foster R&D and Innovation. On the other hand, the transcendence and social impact of the research activity conducted in the Aragonese health system also requires special consideration. In general, the

national and autonomous community health systems have unique functions and competencies in the research sector, with specific regulations such as state Law 14/2007, of 3 July, on Biomedical Research, or, in the case of Aragon, Law 6/2002, of 15 April, on Health in Aragon, which includes in its section IX the creation and regulation of the Aragon Health Sciences Institute as a public entity of the Government of Aragon reporting to the Department of Health, and has significant implications in the field of health research, particularly in terms of the management of its employees, their mobility and careers, as well as in all activities related to bioethical safety and guarantees. Moreover, the increasing importance and volume of activity in this economic and research sector in Aragon must be taken into account. The biomedical field currently consumes roughly 20% of public R&D and Innovation resources and involves one quarter of all research groups in Aragon, although strictly speaking only 70% of its activity falls within the network of centres of the Aragon Health Service. The framework for the development of technological innovation, which is currently a core issue in the field of scientific and technological policies, was barely addressed by Law 9/2003, of 12 March. However, given changes that have taken place in recent years, it would appear to be the right time to tackle this issue with greater clarity, in all aspects concerning the structuring of public-private synergies in R&D and Innovation, the promotion, removal of obstacles or incentives for business innovation, the effective coordination with state strategies currently in force and, finally, the focus on steering the flow of knowledge towards innovation, as an essential component and an overriding tenet that inspires the actions of public organisations, universities and companies. In short, it is a question of breaking with the bipolar model of innovation, in which policy on science is not properly coordinated with policy on technology and business innovation, by creating a fully-supported, congruent and coordinated ecosystem in order to better integrate the different areas of action in what are known as “key enabling technologies”. Secondly, Law 14/2011, of 1 June, established a framework for coordinating the Spanish Strategy of Science, Technology and Innovation. Its aims are as follows: to establish a stable funding structure for R&D and Innovation and a more independent, efficient and transparent management model; to incorporate both the funding agents (Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology, CDTI) and the research agents (Spanish National Research Council, CSIC); to define a career path model in the research sector; and, finally, to steer knowledge towards innovation and the knowledge economy, which were not properly addressed in the previous Law 13/1986, of 14 April. In other words, the state law sought to refocus or emphasise three basic aspects: the governance and financial stability of R&D and Innovation, the promotion of careers in research and the steering of knowledge towards innovation, aspects which this new regional regulation also seeks to further. Moreover, in compliance with the legal authorisation granted to the Spanish Government by the twelfth additional provision of Law 14/2011, Royal Decree 1067/2015 of 27 November, amended by Royal Decree 1/2017 of 13 January, the State Research Agency was created as a legal entity of public law and which is the instrument for the modernisation of the public management of state R&D policies in Spain, being in charge of the funding, evaluation, awarding and monitoring of scientific and technical research initiatives designed to bring about the exchange and utilisation of knowledge that the General State Administration promotes as a part of its own initiatives or, by extension, with other Spanish administrations or entities, other countries or international organisations. Thirdly, with regard to the European area, which is the necessary framework for the research and innovation policy of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, the European Research Area project, designed coincidentally at the same time as the Aragonese Law 9/2003 —meaning that it was not able to influence its content— served as a framework for successive programmes, such as Horizon 2020 and the Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3), which have focused on today’s big social and sustainability challenges, on excellence in R&D (core and

cutting-edge research) and on the global development of the innovation pole through new enabling technologies. These EU guidelines, which have produced such good results in other countries, and the conceptual modifications they have brought about, needed to be included in this law, thus placing greater importance, not only on innovation, which was barely addressed in the 2003 law, but also on integrating and clearly defining the network of agents and structures within the R&D and Innovation system as well as its governance. Likewise, it is also important to underline that in the design of the current EU research policy, in recent decades it had become evident that research in social and humanities disciplines had been given a low priority, and its negative effects on the integrity of the underlying concepts that justify an integrated development of sciences, including experimental ones. Despite the broad consensus on the role that scientific and technological research should play in the material development of our societies, clearly social and human sciences also contribute directly to progress and to solving the major challenges we face today. The concept of sustainable socio-economic development is very much related to new approaches to "social empowerment" and to the cultural dimension of the digital shift in access to opportunities in technology and innovation. Scientific contribution in areas such as bioethics, linguistic challenges relating to communication technologies, the cultural approach to handling migration, inclusion processes and cultural and religious motivations affecting territorial cohesion and the new forms of radicalism, form the very basis of this history of Europe, which can be helped with its current difficulties and contradictions, without forgetting its key role in the social dissemination of our vast cultural heritage. The special importance of these areas must consequently be considered in any R&D and Innovation system and warrants their inclusion in any future plans arising from this law. Fourthly, another instrument that guides the principles underpinning this law is the Aragon Science Pact, which promotes a broad forum of consensus among the agents of the R&D and Innovation system in Aragon in order to lay the groundwork for a new management model for science and knowledge policy in the next few years in the Autonomous Community of Aragon. The Science Pact, signed by all the political and social agents of Aragon on 21 December 2016, outlines the vital process of steering R&D and Innovation towards constructing the new knowledge society and economy in Aragon, as a collective commitment. The pact seek to reach consensus on improvements in the design of the science, technology and innovation system and in the conditions of its human resources, to achieve financial stability for R&D and Innovation and to improve its governance and international standing. However, it also has the following objectives: to consolidate the economic growth of Aragon harnessing its current competitive advantages; to create optimal conditions to convert the territory into a platform conducive to systematic innovation in all its stages and spaces; to round out and strengthen Aragon's current technology-based infrastructures and to explore possibilities to create new centres of industrial and business innovation in conjunction with other Autonomous Communities, as well as to support policies for the internationalisation of companies.

IV

This law addresses, among other topics, the funding of the Aragonese System of Research, Development, Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System), the continuity of the Aragonese Agency for Research and Development (the ARAID Foundation) and its position as an agent in the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System, and finally, the regulation of the Electronic Register of Research and Innovation of the Autonomous Community of Aragon. In this design of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System, the funding and procurement of resources requires special consideration because, as mentioned earlier, it is crucial to ensure the stability of public funding of R&D and Innovation. In the first place, the aim

is to provide the system with stable funding from the budget of the Autonomous Community of Aragon for each financial year, as envisaged in Law 9/2003 of 12 March, although such funding failed to actually materialise. Therefore, a specific annex will be included annually in each budget law in which all the funding for R&D and Innovation allocated by the Autonomous Community will be listed in order to fully detail investment in this sphere, including departmental initiatives and programmes which, without being specifically recorded in the functional classification of the Budget of the Autonomous Community of Aragon under "scientific, technical and applied research" (known as function 54), must be considered as investment in R&D and Innovation. Along with this provision for public funding, mention should also be made of new forms of funding, mainly from the private sector. These are brought together under the umbrella of patronage, contributing to the common good and centred on people's well-being. This acknowledges the role of initiatives by citizens, businesses and NGOs in tackling society's major challenges, in the interests of the common good and the development of the knowledge-based economy. Furthermore, for society as a whole, it seems necessary to promote and make the activities undertaken in research centres and structures more transparent, so as to make them more attractive for the philanthropic funding of private initiatives. New products and programmes need to be designed to increase the pool of potential donors, while at the same time the needs, objectives and expectations of the latter need to be properly understood so as to encourage their participation. Whilst it is important to recuperate the traditional collaboration between the Government of the Autonomous Community of Aragon and the financial entities that operate in the Community, in relation to R&D and Innovation initiatives, projects and services, it is imperative to devise new mechanisms that encourage cooperation in research and innovation with the entities that offer financial services, whether they be related to credit —banks and finance companies— or to risk management in innovation initiatives, which is the case for insurance companies. Likewise, in the funding of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System, this law also seeks to highlight the concept of patrons and to raise their public profile, as well as to introduce the possibility of new partnerships using well-known techniques and practices, such as social venture capital, impact investing, crowdfunding and investing in social initiatives, among others. Although Aragon does not currently have a specific structure in place for funding scientific and technological initiatives, projects or companies, it does have a number of entities and structures that it calls upon to participate in this new approach, such as risk capital companies and mutual guarantee companies. It is important to acknowledge the importance of a document known as the Frascati Manual, which provides, among other things, definitions of R&D and its components, as well as a set of internationally accepted criteria and guidelines for identifying specific R&D activities and projects and for measuring the financial resources allocated to implementing such activities and projects, as well as their sources of funding. As pointed out in the manual itself, these criteria and guidelines can also be used to analyse R&D data during the development, implementation and assessment of national policies. With respect to the ARAID Foundation, the law includes it as one of the agents of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System. ARAID is a private foundation created by public initiative and authorised by Decree 223/2005 of 25 October 2005 of the Government of Aragon. This foundation, which forms part of the Aragonese public sector, seeks to stimulate research, scientific and technological development and innovation as drivers for regional growth. Its activities are geared towards recruiting, training and providing excellent researchers in the areas of research and knowledge outlined in the Autonomous Plan for R&D and Innovation. The foundation has been conducting its activity within its founding objectives and given its track record and its potential as a generator of resources, primarily human resources, its consolidation in the system is of irrefutable value. In application of the principle of rationalisation of

administrative structures, instead of opting to create a new research agency, modelled on comparative law, this law recognises the value of the Foundation, positioning it as a key instrument for implementing public policy on research and innovation. Moreover, the Foundation has tools for the management, growth and stabilisation of human resources for research which are more versatile than those normally used by the Public Administration. It has also succeeded in continually increasing the critical mass of researchers of excellence pursuing the same strategic lines as set out by the Government of Aragon. However, progress is still pending in other areas; this is where the contribution of ARAID may be very important, in areas such as developing the scientific careers of excellent researchers and the internationalisation of our research, which have thus far seen little progress. Finally, since some provisions envisaged in Law 9/2003 of 12 March were still pending further development, such as those pertaining to the operation of the Research Register of the Autonomous Community of Aragon and the organisation for the evaluation and accreditation of research activity in the autonomous community, efforts have been made to move forward with their regulation and implementation more appropriately. Regarding the latter body, the evaluation of research activity is today an essential part of guaranteeing the quality of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System as well as ensuring the accountability of its members. To this end, and although Law 9/2003, of 12 March, failed to envisage the creation and regulation of an autonomous body specifically responsible for the evaluation and accreditation of research activity, in actual fact our Autonomous Community already has a legal entity under public law, the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA), which Law 5/2005, of 14 June, on the Organisation of the University System of Aragon, established as an instrument to improve the quality of the Aragon University System. By virtue of this law, ACPUA was legally entrusted a number of specific functions in the area of research activity evaluation and accreditation, which it has been performing through its pertinent programmes and action protocols. Moreover, in 2016 the Agency officially obtained European recognition by becoming a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and being officially registered with the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) in Brussels. Therefore in order to provide our R&D and Innovation System with its own approach for the evaluation, accreditation and certification of its agents, this new function of ACPUA is fully included, thus conferring it this new role in the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System.

V

This law, which seeks to resolve each of the issues raised in the previous resolutions, consists of 49 articles, divided into five chapters, six additional provisions, two transitional provisions, one repealing provision, five final provisions and an annex. Chapter I, under the heading of general provisions, includes the purpose and objectives of this law, as well as the guiding principles of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System, and sets out a series of definitions which, for the purposes of its provisions, clearly reflect the situation to be regulated. Chapter II covers the agents and structures of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System. It is subdivided into three sections which regulate the research bodies and centres. Respectively, these sections are the network of health centres and hospitals within the Aragonese Health Service, the workforce serving the Public R&D and Innovation System, and the System's infrastructures and equipment. A noteworthy addition to the section on R&D and Innovation Infrastructures and Equipment is the inclusion of the Singular Scientific and Technical Infrastructures (ICTS), which, although they report to and are officially authorised by the General State Administration, are important for Aragon because of their strategic nature and regional implementation. Chapter III regulates the

governance of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System, covering three areas which are organised into different sections. The first of these, namely defining the bodies of the Administration of the Autonomous Community of Aragon that are considered to be part of the System, regulating their roles and their structure with respect to the collegiate bodies, without prejudice to any subsequent regulatory development required by the law itself. Among the public bodies and structures that have a role to play in the system is, of course, the department of the Government of Aragon responsible for R&D and Innovation. The Advisory Council on Research and Development is maintained as a technical and scientific support body. Likewise, another notable development is the creation of the Aragon Council of Science, Technology and Innovation, a new collegiate body with participation from society, which will mainly comprise representatives, including those from the corporate world as well as from the different spheres of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation system. This body will also welcome the participation of the departments of the regional administration that undertake activities in the field of R&D and Innovation. Furthermore, the law includes the participation, in both collegiate bodies, of the Women and Science Advisory Committee, a body created by Decree 9/2009 of 27 January, which carries out the primary function of advising the competent R&D and Innovation department on gender and equality issues in the field of research, innovation and technology. This new structure has prompted the dissolution of the Interdepartmental Commission on Science and Technology as well as the Research Coordination Commission, as envisaged in Law 9/2003 of 12 March. The second area in Chapter III concerns strategic planning. The planning takes place based on the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Plans, which are the successors of the former Regional Research, Development and Knowledge Transfer Plans of Aragon. Together with the Research, Development and Innovation Strategies, these plans are the main vehicle for carrying out strategic planning and must be aligned with the programmes established in the aforementioned plans. The third and final of the areas concerns the funding system. The law seeks to provide the system with stable and steady public funding that will enable growth in investment so as to position the Autonomous Community of Aragon in the heart of European R&D and Innovation. The Government of Aragon must therefore increase its investments annually to the same extent as those of the European Union. It also includes mechanisms to promote private investment in R&D and Innovation, such as patronage and crowdfunding. As explained in section IV of this preamble, one of the measures stipulated in the law is the creation of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation Fund, which will consist of the total sum allocated to R&D and Innovation as established in the pertinent budget laws in the Autonomous Community of Aragon for each financial year. This will be covered in a specific annex to the aforementioned laws so that investment in this area can be clearly and fully reflected. Chapter IV covers the regulation of the Electronic Register of Research and Innovation of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, as an instrument of indisputable value for the management of R&D and Innovation resources, one which will provide an updated inventory of all of them. This will allow agents within the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System to register, using their corresponding accreditation, as well as listing the infrastructures and equipment in the System itself. Chapter V addresses all issues related to fostering and promoting research and innovation activity, underscoring the need to internationalise Aragonese research and innovation as well as the importance of circulating the results of R&D and Innovation, particularly through open access. Moving on from the contents of the law, the first additional provision acknowledges not only the importance of the ARAID Foundation, but also its future potential. The agency, owing to its autonomy and by properly fulfilling all the functions set out in its bylaws, is able to promote the recruitment, growth and stabilisation of human resources in research and innovation in the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System and to create new working and management

mechanisms. The remaining additional provisions deal with a number of different matters. On the one hand, they cover the need to implement the gender lens in the area regulated by this law, as stipulated in state legislation on gender equality. On the other hand, it sets out the rules applicable to the use and transfer of inventions created by researchers at Aragonese public research centres; it stipulates the obligation of the Government of Aragon to annually increase the amount allocated to the Aragonese R&D and Innovation Fund in the budget laws of the Autonomous Community; it envisages the possibility to hire research and technical support staff on a temporary basis to undertake specific scientific and technical research projects in accordance with the employment contract model specified in Article 15. 1.a) of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law, and establishes a special remuneration system for research staff, complying with the exceptional characteristics recognised by the entity's governing body, contracted as employees by the institutional public sector entities of the Autonomous Community of Aragon that are agents in the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System. The transitional rules stipulated in the law refer to the temporary validity of the Advisory Council on Research and Development in its composition and duties specified in Decree 316/2003 of 2 December 2003 of the Government of Aragon, until the pertinent regulations are approved to cover its new composition and duties. The repealing provision includes the explicit repeal of Law 9/2003, of 12 March, as well as most of the regulations that were passed to implement it. The first final provision, which modifies Article 85 of Law 5/2005, of 14 June, on the Regulation of the Aragon University System, is particularly noteworthy in that it entrusts ACPUA with the new function of evaluating, accrediting and certifying the agents of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System as included in this law. The remaining provisions define both the maximum timeframe in which part of the regulations of the law must be approved, and the gender component of the regulatory text, as well as its enactment date, which will be the day following its publication in the "Official Gazette of Aragon". To conclude the content of the law, an annex has been included which sets out, by way of example, various agents in the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System that existed at the time the law was passed, grouping them according to the classification specified in Section 1 of Chapter II of the law, without prejudice to those that may be created or incorporated at a later date.

VI

In accordance with the provisions of Article 129 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, the principles of good regulation set out therein have been observed in the preparation of this law. Particular attention has been paid to the principles of necessity and effectiveness, proportionality, legal certainty, as well as the principles of transparency and efficiency. The Aragonese Law on Research and Innovation seeks to establish, in Aragon, a stable, transparent and simplified regulatory and financial framework in which the administrative bodies with powers in this area, on the one hand, and the agents and public and private entities of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System, on the other, can interact, act and make decisions in a predictable and secure environment. Therefore, as discussed throughout this preamble, the current Aragonese law, Law 9/2003, of 12 March, must be amended both to bring it into line with state legislation and to regulate the structure of the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System, which is integrated into the state system. It must be amended in order to reassign duties among the administrative bodies with powers in this area, as well as to create new bodies and dissolve those that have become obsolete or whose functions have been rendered unclear in the light of the current situation. Consequently, in view of the magnitude of the legislative reform which is to be initiated, which will repeal, under the principle of legal certainty, existing Autonomous Community legislation, the promulgation of a

regulation with legal standing is deemed to be the proper instrument for such purposes. This will prevent any possible legal confusion which would result from the coexistence of Law 9/2003 with a subsequent amendment, in conjunction with the regulatory rules for the enforcement of both laws, together with the regulatory rules for the enforcement of basic state legislation. Consequently, a single law, without prejudice to its subsequent development, will significantly facilitate its application and awareness and understanding by those affected by it. The principles of necessity and effectiveness, as well as the principle of legal certainty, will therefore be guaranteed. As regards the latter, authorisation for the drafting of the law by means of legal regulations is granted to the Government of Aragon in the second final provision. In relation to the principle of efficiency, the regulation requires registration in an administrative register, which will be obligatory for a number of purposes and compulsory for R&D and Innovation entities and structures in the Aragonese public sector. While there is an administrative workload for those affected by the regulation, the register is vital and necessary, as it is the most cost-effective way of ensuring that the administration has an updated inventory of the agents, facilities and infrastructure within the Aragonese R&D and Innovation System. On the other hand, access by the system's agents, mainly researchers and research groups and the business sector, to the Register's data will lead to an improvement in the creation and, most of all, in the transfer of results to the productive sectors. Finally, throughout the procedure for drafting this law, the principle of transparency has been taken into account pursuant to the provisions of Law 19/2013, of 9 December, on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Governance, and Law 8/2015, of 25 March, on Transparency of Public Activity and Citizen Participation of Aragon.