

Annual report

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

INDEX

From the President	4	
What Is SRUK/CERU?, What Are Our Aims?	6	
Our Structure	7	
Our Members	9	
Science Policy	10	
Language Policy Committee	12	
RAICEX	13	
CONNECTS-UK	16	
International Collaborations	18	
12 th International Symposium	20	
Communications Department	22	
Science Communication Symposium	23	
Web	24	
Press Team	25	
Design Committee	26	
En Fase Experimental	27	
Outreach Department	28	
Investigación En Foco	30	
Cancer Committee	32	
Evolution Committee	33	
Environmental Committee	33	
Neurosciences Committee	34	
Professional Development Grants	35	
Evaluation Committee	35	
Emerging Talent 2024	36	
Mentoring Programme	37	
Diversity Equality & Welfare	38	
Wom=N Equity & Research	38	
		London Constituency 39
		Scotland Constituency 40
		Oxford Constituency 41
		Midlands Constituency 42
		North-East Constituency 43
		Cambridge Constituency 44
		Yorkshire Constituency 44
		North-West Constituency 44
		South-West Constituency 44
		Economic Report 45
		Strategic Plan 2025-2026 46
		Main Supporters 47
		Other Supporters and Collaborators 49



FROM THE PRESIDENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends of SRUK/CERU,

The 2024-25 year has been full of growth, fresh ideas, and the successful completion of long-standing projects — **all thanks to the passion and dedication of our outstanding teams of volunteers.** Their commitment, creativity, and energy have made all the difference, and I couldn't be more grateful.

Looking back, I have to admit that **the full list of initiatives we have delivered is both overwhelming and breathtaking.** I encourage you to explore the pages that follow to discover the impressive range of activities we have undertaken and, more importantly, to meet the incredibly active and supportive team behind them—without whom none of this would have been possible. For now, here are a few highlights:

- We have ensured **long-term sustainability of SRUK/CERU through the hiring of professional support** to the Executive Committee in administration and communications and the consolidation of internal processes, with **robust financial management** and improved organisational practices.
- We have raised awareness of the challenges faced by Spanish researchers in the UK by increasing our engagement with Spanish, British, and European institutions and publishing **evidence and recommendations reports on research mobility and collaborations**, including the submission of written evidence to the British Parliament.
- We have delivered webinars on the Spanish research system and provided **individual advice to our members** on university accreditation, degree recognition, and public recruitment processes. We have published a guide tailored to researchers based in the UK on the national accreditation system for university staff in Spain.
- We have **supported research mobility of 30+ students from Spanish universities** through our mobility programmes, and signed new agreements with academic institutions in Spain.
- We have **increased our membership**, especially within the humanities and social sciences, thanks to the establishment of new strategic partnerships with other organisations.
- We have delivered **40+ events across the UK**, expanding to regions without active constituencies. Highlights include the **Science Communication Symposium in Manchester**, our **12th International Symposium in York**, our participation in the **Festival of Spanish Queer Literature in London**, and the **first-ever Ramón y Cajal exhibition in the UK**, presented in four cities so far.

- We have supported the career development of our members through our **Professional Development Grants** and the consolidation of our **four thematic committees** as active spaces for building subject-specific networks. We have consolidated our **science communication initiatives**, including our podcast *En fase experimental* (with 400+ listens per episode only on Spotify) and the **multilingual edition of *Science me a Story***, with 30+ participants in five languages — including Basque, Galician, and Catalan/Valencian for the first time.
- We have **defended the interests of Spanish researchers abroad through our leadership role in RAICEX**, meeting key stakeholders and providing constructive feedback to institutions. We have also set a pioneering scheme to allow Spanish researchers abroad to use their knowledge to advise public policies.
- We have also led through RAICEX a **study on linguistic attitudes of the community of Spanish researchers abroad**, and contributed to the **White Book on Gender and Research Policies**.
- We have **led and coordinated the strategy and delivery of the CONNECTS-UK project**, a €644K partnership to strengthen European research communities in the UK.



Javier Pardo Díaz

My most sincere thanks goes to the SRUK/CERU Executive Committee and, specifically, to our Vice President, Carlos Soler Montes, for his support, professionalism, and trust, and his achievement in bringing SRUK/CERU closer to the humanities. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to our sponsors and collaborators for their continued support and trust. On behalf of SRUK/CERU, I extend my thanks to Fundación Ramón Areces, Fundación Banco Santander, the Spanish Embassy in London and its Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, the Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología, and the European Commission. Finally, thank you to our members who are the heart and soul of SRUK/CERU.

Being part of SRUK/CERU has been one of the most beautiful, meaningful and rewarding experiences I've had since moving to the UK.

Since 2019, I have been lucky to get to know this community that supports, inspires, and empowers. It really does give back more than you can imagine. Thank you all for an unforgettable year. It has been an honour, a joy, and genuinely great fun. I look forward to seeing you again soon—and to celebrating all the future achievements of this outstanding community.

Un fuerte abrazo,

Javier Pardo Díaz
2024-2025 SRUK/CERU President

For more information, please contact
president@sruk.org.uk

WHAT IS SRUK/CERU? WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU) is a non-profit, independent organisation. We do not have any political affiliation, but we do participate in relevant policy conversations when they impact our community.

SRUK/CERU was created in July 2011 and was formally established in June 2012 when it was registered in the Companies House of England and Wales. The Society was founded with four main aims:

1. SOCIAL NETWORK

To create a welcoming network for Spanish researchers and students in the United Kingdom, helping newcomers settle in, offering guidance on moving between Spain and the UK (in both directions), and encouraging members to share their professional and life experiences.

2. SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS

To broaden public understanding of Research and Innovation (R&I) by closing the gap between researchers and society through seminars, round-tables, conferences, and our annual symposium—events where everyone feels welcome, regardless of background or expertise.

3. SCIENCE REPRESENTATIVES

To represent Spanish researchers in the UK to British and Spanish institutions, the public, and the media. We aim to act as trusted scientific advisers to both public and private organisations. We believe that our knowledge and experience are relevant and worth sharing.

4. SCIENCE MEDIATORS

To foster collaboration between public and private research and innovation institutions in the UK and Spain, confident that the cross-border partnerships we forge today will bring lasting benefits to both nations.

¿QUÉ ES CERU Y CUÁLES SON NUESTROS OBJETIVOS?

La sociedad de Científicos Españoles en el Reino Unido (CERU) es una organización independiente sin ánimo de lucro y sin afiliación política. Se creó en 2011 y se constituyó de manera oficial en junio de 2012. La sociedad persigue cuatro objetivos principales:

1. Crear una red social de investigadores que trabajan en el Reino Unido.
2. Acercar la ciencia y la investigación al público general.
3. Ser los portavoces de los investigadores españoles en Reino Unido ante las instituciones británicas y españolas, medios de comunicación y redes sociales.
4. Facilitar colaboraciones entre organizaciones relacionadas con la I+D+i del Reino Unido y de España, tanto públicas como privadas.

OUR STRUCTURE

SRUK/CERU operates through **ten regional constituencies across the UK**, giving members a direct, local point of contact. The Society is governed by an elected Executive Committee (EC) that represents the entire membership. EC members are chosen at the Annual General Assembly and at each Constituency's Annual Local Assembly. In Spain, a network of Ambassadors serves as our principal link to the country, safeguarding and promoting the interests of SRUK/CERU members there. This year, we advanced our professionalisation efforts by bringing an administrative assistant on board.

SRUK/CERU is composed of five departments—International Collaborations; Science Policy; Outreach & Public Engagement; Communications & Online; and Diversity, Equality & Welfare. Volunteers bring these departments to life by forming dedicated committees and working groups; at present, SRUK/CERU counts 12 committees. In addition, every regional constituency has its own Local Working Group that designs and delivers local activities and events. This simple and effective structure helps us achieve the specific goals of the Society.

As in previous years, we have continued to grow, reach new milestones, and strengthen our position as a key player in both Spain and the UK. We warmly invite any member eager to contribute to join our dedicated team of volunteers.

SRUK/CERU is largely run by volunteers. During 2024/2025, around 330 members actively served in our departments, working groups, and committees, contributing the drive and commitment required to keep the Society thriving.



NUESTRA ESTRUCTURA

La Sociedad funciona gracias a más de 330 personas voluntarias, cuyo esfuerzo impulsa el crecimiento y la consolidación de CERU. Cada año, la Asamblea General Anual elige al Comité Ejecutivo (CE), compuesto por la Junta Directiva y las jefaturas de departamento. CERU se articula, además, en nueve Delegaciones Regionales, cuya Directiva Local —elegida en cada región— también forma parte del CE, lo que garantiza una comunicación fluida entre la membresía y el órgano de gobierno. El CE representa a los socios, define los objetivos de la Sociedad y traza su plan estratégico. Nuestros voluntarios participan activamente en los grupos de trabajo de las delegaciones, los departamentos y los distintos comités, haciendo posible cada iniciativa y reforzando día a día la misión de CERU.

For more information, contact info@sruk.org.uk

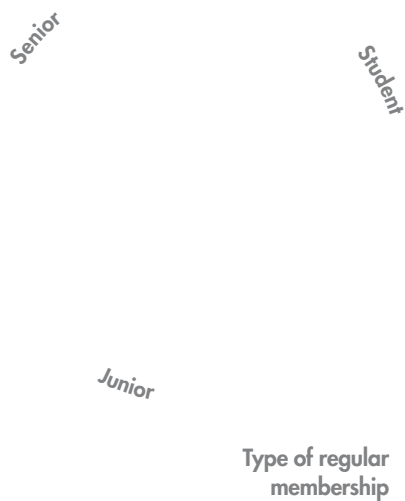
OUR STRUCTURE

OUR MEMBERS



SRUK/CERU is consolidated as a network that reaches over 700 persons through its channels of communication. A fraction of this community encompasses our regular members, who are grouped in nine established constituencies across the UK and one in the process of being developed. We also have a number of Friend members in Spain and other countries and Associate members in the UK.

SRUK/CERU accommodates all research disciplines and career stages. Most of our academic members are in the “career consolidation stage”, between being a PhD student and an independent group leader. We also count with members working in industry and in the public sector.



Type of membership	Description	%
Regular	Spanish researchers working in the UK	35.9
Associate	Non-researchers or non-Spanish working in the UK	0.012
Friend	Working outside the UK	59.6
Honorary members		0.009
Former Presidents		0.015
Founding Members		0.033

NUESTRAS SOCIAS Y NUESTROS SOCIOS

CERU es una red que, en el curso 2024-2025, ha conectado a más de 700 personas. Una fracción de esta comunidad está constituida por nuestros miembros regulares, que se agrupan en nueve delegaciones oficiales y una en fase de constitución. CERU cuenta con tres tipos de miembros: socios regulares (investigadores españoles que trabajan en Reino Unido), socios asociados (no investigadores o no españoles que trabajan en Reino Unido) y amigos (fuera de Reino Unido), dando la bienvenida a todo el mundo interesado en formar parte de CERU.

For more information, contact membership@sruk.org.uk

SCIENCE POLICY

In the Science Policy Department, we identify and work with key stakeholders both in Spain and in the UK – including researchers, officials, parliamentarians, other associations, and the media – and seek to inform decisions with our reports and evidence submissions.

The Science Policy Department

Igor Arrieta (Head of Science Policy)
Sara Alvira de Celis
Irene Echeverría Altuna
Javier Escudero Rodríguez
Eva Junqué
Javier Pardo Díaz
Carmen Sánchez Cañizares
Carlos Soler Montes



Our members hand SRUK/CERU's annual report to the Minister Elma Saiz (March 2025)



Spanish Second Deputy Prime Minister meets SRUK/CERU members (October 2024)

All our activities, reports and statements can be found in our website:

<https://sruk.org.uk/teams/science-policy-department-backstage/>

This year, SRUK/CERU's Science Policy Department has maintained and expanded its involvement in **science policy and diplomacy in the UK**, contributing to the growing dialogue on the **scientific relations between the United Kingdom, Spain and the European Union**. Through sustained institutional engagement, timely and evidence-based policy contributions, and active engagement with institutions, decision-makers, the media, and the academic community, the department has worked to **represent the interests of Spanish researchers in the UK**, support international collaboration, and promote constructive **discussions around science, mobility and research policy**.

Strengthening institutional relations and stakeholder engagement

Throughout the year, we have deepened our engagement with **key stakeholders in both the UK and Spain**, consolidating a strong network of interlocutors. During visits to the Spanish Embassy in London, members of SRUK/CERU were invited to meet with **Elma Saiz, Spain's Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration**, to convey the concerns of our community on issues such as mobility and the rights of Spanish citizens abroad. Participants included our Director, Igor Arrieta, former President Carmen Sánchez Cañizares and former Director of the Oxford Constituency Montserrat Vallet Buisán.

On another occasion, SRUK/CERU members met with **Yolanda Díaz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Economy**, to highlight the situation of Spanish researchers in the UK and the challenges they face. Our President, Javier Pardo Díaz, and Montserrat Vallet Buisán were present at this meeting, during which a copy of our Brexit report was handed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

We also held a working meeting with **Izaskun Lacunza, Director General of FECYT**, which helped reinforce our collaboration with Spanish science diplomacy structures abroad.

Additionally, we continued our engagement with British stakeholders, including a bilateral meeting with the **Nicholas Harrap, the Science Attaché of the British Embassy in Madrid**. As part of our strategic policy work, we distributed the latest edition of our Brexit report to Members of the UK Parliament, Spanish MEPs, and officials of the EU Delegation in London. These actions have contributed to establish SRUK/CERU as a reliable and informed stakeholder on academic mobility, research cooperation and the evolving science policy landscape after Brexit.

Written policy contributions

The department has played an active role in shaping the political conversation on science and mobility policy through the production of rigorous and audience-targeted content. The highlight of the year was the **publication of a new English language edition of The Impact of Brexit on Academic and Student Mobility**, led by our Director, Igor Arrieta, and published by Editorial Universitaria Ramón Areces. The report includes

updated data and analysis drawn from our latest community survey and provides highlights the **proactive role of SRUK/CERU** in mitigating the challenges of Brexit.

Building on this work, we submitted **written evidence to two parliamentary inquiries**: one to the European Affairs Committee of the **House of Lords**, and another to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the **House of Commons**. These submissions formed part of the evidence base considered in the context of the May 2025 UK–EU Summit, where we also shared our latest proposals for advancing scientific cooperation post-Brexit.

Additionally, we provided updated academic mobility data to the Labour Affairs Office of the Spanish Embassy in London.

Presence in scientific, institutional and diplomatic events

SRUK/CERU's representation at **high-level academic, institutional and diplomatic events** has further increased this year, reflecting the growing visibility of our science policy work. **Our Director, Igor Arrieta, was invited to speak at a seminar hosted by the King's College London School of Diplomacy**, where he presented SRUK/CERU's latest Brexit data and reflections on UK–EU science relations. He also participated as a speaker at the II SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium in Manchester, contributing to a roundtable on public engagement and science policy.

In addition, our Director, Igor Arrieta, attended the 3rd Annual Meeting of the European Scientific Diasporas at the Portuguese Embassy in London. He also represented SRUK/CERU at several EU-related events, including the **EU Citizens Common Ground Conference** and the **EU Citizens Gathering** held in London in November 2024, where SRUK/CERU hosted an information stand and engaged with a wide range of stakeholders.

We were also honoured to be invited to official diplomatic celebrations such as **Spain's National Day at the Spanish Consulate in Manchester** (October 2024) and **Catalonia's National Day** (September 2024) at Lincoln's Inn in London. In September, our Director, Igor Arrieta, participated in a diplomatic reception organised by the EU Delegation to mark the **visit of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committees to the UK**. These invitations reflect the department's increasing presence in science diplomacy spaces and its reputation as a serious actor in international policy conversations.

THE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON STUDENT AND ACADEMIC MOBILITY

The role of the Spanish scientific diaspora in addressing Brexit challenges



Cover of our latest Brexit report (January 2025)

Media outreach and public communication

Public visibility has been a central element of our work this year. We launched a **series of press releases on the UK's evolving migration policy**, with a focus on issues affecting scientists such as the new visa system and the **2025 Immigration White Paper**.

In terms of media engagement, our Director, Igor Arrieta gave several **interviews to media both in the UK and in Spain**. He was interviewed by **EFE** on the state of UK–EU science relations post-Brexit, and appeared on TV programme **Noticias Cuatro** to discuss mobility challenges for researchers. He was also a regular guest on **Euskadi Irratia**, the leading radio station in the Basque Country, where he explained legislative changes in the UK related to migration and research.

All of these outputs were amplified through coordinated digital campaigns on X and Instagram, ensuring that our community and stakeholders remained informed and engaged.

Together, these actions have helped reinforce SRUK/CERU's role as an influential voice in science policy, connecting the Spanish scientific diaspora in the UK with decision-making spaces across Europe.

Supporting connections with Spain and facilitating return pathways

In line with our mission to strengthen the links between the Spanish and British research systems, the Science Policy Department has continued to **support researchers considering a return to Spain or exploring cross-border academic opportunities**. This year, we launched a new webinar series entitled **"Insights into the academic pathways in the UK and Spain"**, aimed at showcasing research opportunities

SCIENCE POLICY

and mobility programmes across both countries. The first edition, held in December 2024, focused on research careers at the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Ramón y Cajal call**. The second edition, in May 2025, addressed the **ANECA accreditation process** and the R3 certificate.

As the simplified ANECA accreditation process for UK-based faculty is due to end in late 2025, we launched **targeted campaigns** to help our members navigate the current procedure while it remains in force. These efforts included clear explanations of bureaucratic requirements and **step-by-step guidance** on how to apply from the UK. In addition, we provided **personalised advice** to many members who reached out to us with specific questions related to accreditation, research evaluation or return opportunities.



Our Director, Igor Arrieta, at the 2024 EU Citizens Gathering, together with Spanish diplomats and representatives of civil society (November 2024)

LANGUAGE POLICY COMMITTEE

During 2024/2025, the **Language Policy Committee** strengthened its role as a strategic body within SRUK/CERU, advancing the organisation's commitment to **multilingualism across communications, events, and member interactions**. Building on previous work, the committee expanded its activities, established new collaborations, and contributed to broader debates on linguistic diversity in scientific environments. Throughout the year, the committee continued developing **proposals to normalise the use of Spanish and Spain's co-official languages in scientific contexts**, alongside English.

The committee deepened engagement with institutions working on research assessment and linguistic diversity. Dialogue with the **Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)** and the **European Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (DARIAH-EU)** intensified, with the committee contributing policy input on integrating multilingualism into responsible research assessment and research cultures.

A major milestone was the committee's involvement in the **Spanish in Society Conference**, that was held at the University of Bristol on 5-6 June 2025. SRUK/CERU programmed a **keynote lecture by Galician sociolinguist Daniel Amarelo** and presented on-going work on inclusive language practices.

The committee also supported the development of an **institutional agreement between SRUK/CERU and ELEUK** (UK Association of Spanish Language Teaching at Higher Education) to promote joint initiatives in research, outreach, and the use of Spanish as a scientific language. It was presented at the **ELEUK Annual Meeting at The Open University** and followed by ELEUK participation in SRUK/CERU's 12th International Symposium in York.

The Committee is also leading the RAICEX project **"Voices of Science: Linguistic Attitudes Toward Spanish in Global Research Communities,"** aimed at analysing researchers' perceptions of Spanish in international scientific communication.

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE POLÍTICA CIENTÍFICA

Desde el Departamento de Política Científica de CERU, interactuamos con distintos actores en España y Reino Unido para defender los intereses de los investigadores en ambos países, la mejora de sus sistemas de I+D+i y la movilidad y las colaboraciones internacionales. A través de encuestas y otras iniciativas, monitorizamos y canalizamos las preocupaciones causadas por el Brexit en la comunidad de investigadores españoles en Reino Unido.

Our joint mission is to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge between Spanish researchers abroad and the agents of the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation, serving as an advisory body, a channel of information, a catalyst of international relations and multi-directional research. RAICEX has achieved an important institutional recognition in Spain and we aim to continue transmitting the concerns of our communities to the R&D agents in Spain.

This year **SRUK/CERU continues to lead two commissions in RAICEX**: the **Commission of Science Policy and Diplomacy** and the **Commission of Institutional Relations**. Through these commissions, we are actively engaged in contributing to the management of the network, developing policy recommendations, proposals, and critical analyses that shape the strategy of the Spanish System of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Science Policy and Diplomacy

- **Participation in the 9th Meeting on Spanish Scientific, Technological and Innovation Diplomacy and the Network of Associations of Spanish Scientists Abroad**, held in Madrid (December 2024). In this event, our Director of Science Policy, Igor Arrieta, participated in a roundtable on scientific advice alongside representatives from CSIC (Spanish National Research Council), ONAC (National Office for Scientific Advice), FECYT (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology), and AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation).
- As part of these meetings, our President, Javier Pardo Díaz, and Director of Science Policy, Igor Arrieta, organised and led a **working group on scientific advice** with broad participation from institutions, civil society actors, and diplomats, including more than a dozen Science and Culture Attachés from Spain's network of embassies. The discussions that arose in these forums led to a **visit to La Moncloa** (the official residence and workplace of the Prime Minister of Spain) in January 2025, with the aim of channelling **collaboration between ONAC and RAICEX** in the field of scientific advice.
- On the other hand, during the December sessions, we also held **bilateral meetings with key institutional stakeholders**, including the Presidency of CSIC, CRUE (Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities), ANECA (National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation), and the General Secretariat for Research of the Government of Spain.
- **Launch of the RAICEX Scientific Advice Programme (PRAC)**. The more than 4,500 members of RAICEX, spread across 36 countries, are experts in a wide range of scientific disciplines and possess deep knowledge of local specificities—such as legislation or innovative initiatives. This global and comparative expertise can therefore be harnessed to inform and enrich public policy with international perspectives. In this context, the Commission launched this programme with the aim of training our members in the field

RAICEX

Officially established in July 2018, the Network of Associations of Spanish Scientists and Researchers Abroad (Red de Asociaciones de Científicos e Investigadores Españoles en el Exterior, RAICEX) currently represents 22 associations, which together account for more than 4,500 Spanish researchers and scientists abroad.

Representation of SRUK/CERU in the RAICEX Board of Directors 2024 and 2025

Igor Arrieta, Co-Head of Science Policy and Diplomacy
Irene Echeverría Altuna, Co-Head of Institutional Relations
Javier Pardo Díaz, Co-Head of Science Policy and Diplomacy



SRUK/CERU members meet the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Diana Morant (Madrid, December 2024).



Our Director of Science Policy, Igor Arrieta, participated at the roundtable on scientific advice (Madrid, December 2024).

of scientific advice, developing policy briefs and creating a structured expert network capable of swiftly responding to requests for scientific advice from media outlets and other entities. We offered a six-hour training session for our members in collaboration with ONAC, FECYT, and Oficina C.

- Moreover, SRUK/CERU has led the **drafting of several science policy reports**, such as the RAICEX proposals submitted to the public consultation on the Royal Decree for the assessment of knowledge transfer activities ("sexenio de transferencia") of Spanish university staff, and to the public consultation on the statute of ANECA.
- In addition, SRUK/CERU submitted four proposals to the **4th Plenary Session of the General Council of Spanish Citizenship Abroad** (IV Pleno del Consejo General de la Ciudadanía Española en el Exterior), all of which were successfully approved.
- SRUK/CERU led the organisation of a RAICEX **webinar on the Spanish research evaluation system**, featuring Pilar Paneque, Director of ANECA, and Susana Quicios, Director of the Evaluation of Academic Staff at ANECA. The session offered a comprehensive overview of recent changes to the evaluation criteria and procedures, with a particular focus on how they affect researchers abroad.

Institutional Relations

- SRUK/CERU has supported several key initiatives of RAICEX through its role in the Commission of Institutional Relations. Firstly, it has contributed to the development of a **roadmap for the medium-term professionalisation of RAICEX**.
- Secondly, SRUK/CERU has facilitated the establishment of **new collaborations** between RAICEX and important stakeholders, including EQA (Agencia Española de Evaluación y Certificación), UNIR (Universidad Internacional de La Rioja), SENC (Sociedad Española de Neurociencia), and, notably, GAIN (Axencia Galega de Innovación), through which €650 will be granted yearly to RAICEX and to each of its member associations. Beyond the longstanding support from its foundational partners—Fundación Ramón Areces, FECYT and AECID—this represents the largest lump sum RAICEX has received in its history.
- In addition, SRUK/CERU has led the creation of a document outlining the **seven objectives** RAICEX aims to achieve in the coming years. This document has been discussed and approved



Our President, Javier Pardo Díaz, and Director of Science Policy, Igor Arrieta visit La Moncloa (January 2025).

within the network's governing bodies and will serve as **RAICEX's strategic roadmap**.

- Finally, SRUK/CERU is spearheading the organisation of an event celebrating RAICEX, titled **"Somos RAICEX," scheduled for 17-18 December 2025**. This event will offer a comprehensive overview of RAICEX's history, spotlighting its milestones over the past seven years; it will provide an opportunity to assess and reflect on the network's accomplishments to date; and it will define clear objectives to steer its future progress. The event aims both to showcase and strengthen the network's achievements and to provide the tools—such as engagement with key stakeholders—needed to drive its continued progress.

Ciencia en Español

SRUK/CERU's Language Policy Committee is leading the **RAICEX project "Voices of Science: Linguistic Attitudes Toward Spanish in Global Research Communities"**, aimed at analysing researchers' perceptions of Spanish in international scientific communication. The project explores the **use of languages other than English in research and scientific publishing**, with a particular focus on how Spanish-speaking researchers working abroad use Spanish in their professional activities. The dominance of English in academia can create significant challenges for non-native speakers, introducing biases in academic publishing and contributing to disparities in visibility and career opportunities. It may also foster an epistemic monoculture that overlooks diverse perspectives and restricts access to scientific knowledge for non-English-speaking audiences.

Overall, the project **aims to better understand RAICEX members' preferences, challenges, and perceptions in relation to the use of Spanish and English in academic and professional settings**. Its findings will contribute to clarify how language shapes scientific participation and may inform future policies that promote equitable, multilingual research cultures.

Research and Gender

The RAICEX Commission on Research and Gender presented the **White Paper on Gender Policies in Science and Academia** on February 2025 at the Ramón Areces Foundation. This publication gathers and contrasts gender-related policies in the scientific field that affect researchers in 14 countries.

The number of women scientists and the implementation of new gender policies in academic settings have increased globally. However, **structural barriers such as the so-called "glass ceilings" continue to hinder women's access to senior academic positions**, alongside implicit biases in recruitment and hiring processes. In many cases, proposed policies risk remaining symbolic declarations without leading to real and effective change. The publication is available **both in print and digital format** on the RAICEX and Ramón Areces Foundation websites. The **main objectives** of the White Paper are:

- To analyse the situation of women researchers in different countries, considering their socio-cultural and economic contexts.
- To compile the actions undertaken in these countries.
- To assess their effectiveness, in order to identify initiatives that genuinely foster more inclusive environments.

To achieve this, the situation of women in science and academia has been **compared across 14 countries**: Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Mexico, Australia and Japan.

Maria Jose Martinez Bravo, lecturer at University College London and Chair of the Women in Science committee at SRUK/CERU, was responsible for analysing and writing the United Kingdom chapter. To extend the visibility of the results obtained in the White Paper, Maria Jose Martinez presented the most interesting results of the book during the **12th SRUK/CERU International Symposium that took place in York in July 2025**.



Survey "Voices of Science: Linguistic Attitudes Toward Spanish in Global Research Communities"



Eva Ortega Paño, Francisco Vilaplana, Carmen Sánchez Cañizares and Maria Jose Martinez at the roundtable discussion following the presentation of the White Paper on Gender Policies (York, July 2025)

RAICEX

CERU forma parte de la Red de Asociaciones de Investigadores y Científicos Españoles en el Exterior desde su fundación en 2018. Este curso 2024-2025, CERU ha liderado la Comisión de Política y Diplomacia Científica y ha co-liderado la Comisión de Relaciones Institucionales. Además de ello, CERU ha liderado el proyecto «Actitudes lingüísticas de la comunidad de investigadores y científicos españoles en el exterior» a través de la Comisión de Ciencia en Español y ha participado en el Libro Blanco de Políticas de Género en Ciencia y Academia en su capítulo sobre Reino Unido.

For more information, contact president@sruk.org.uk

CONNECTS-UK



Co-funded by
the European Union

An SRUK/CERU-led partnership between EU research diasporas in the UK to enhance EU-UK research collaborations

SRUK/CERU working group in CONNECTS-UK

Javier Pardo Díaz, Chair of the CONNECTS-UK Coordination Board
Sara Alvira de Celis, Co-Chair of the CONNECTS-UK Coordination Board
Rocío Gaudioso, Member of the CONNECTS-UK Coordination Board
Igor Arrieta
Marta Domínguez Prieto
Cristina Gallego
Mari Carmen García de Soria
Rosa Sánchez Lucas
Carlos Soler Montes



SRUK/CERU President Javier Pardo Díaz presenting at the Third Meeting of the EU Scientific Diaspora Meeting at the Embassy of Portugal

More information on Twitter:
@CONNECTS_UK_

SRUK/CERU is leading the project **CONNECTS-UK (CONNEcting European Communities Through Science in the UK)**. This project worth 640,000 euros is **co-funded by the European Union** and delivered in partnership with other scientific diasporas of EU countries (namely, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, and Slovenia) and Native Scientists which aims to **strengthen the scientific and research relationships between the EU and the UK**. Additional stakeholders such as the Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FECYT), the Fundación Banco Santander, and different embassies of EU countries in the UK are supportive of this project. This project focuses on the relevance of international research as a key element of creating and improving diplomatic relations between the UK and the European countries, much damaged after the exit of the UK from the EU. CONNECTS-UK has four main objectives:

- Establishing a **professional network** of EU researchers in the UK
- Furthering **research** on EU-UK research collaborations and international mobility and on the characterisation of the community of EU researchers in the UK
- Providing **policy advice** to European and UK stakeholders
- Developing **science outreach programmes** while highlighting the role of EU researchers in the UK R&D system.

After its official launch in April 2024, CONNECTS-UK has continued running a series of events throughout the UK connecting researchers, policymakers, diplomats, and the public. Its **Open Fora** blended panels, roundtables, outreach competitions, and public engagement activities to explore pressing global challenges, including: Democratic Backsliding (October, Edinburgh), supported by SRUK/CERU Scotland Constituency, Artificial Intelligence (November, Cardiff), Healthcare Challenges and Solutions (April, Bristol), led by SRUK/CERU Neuroscience Committee, global economics (June, London), and Climate Crisis to Action (July, York), led by SRUK/CERU Environment Committee.



connectsuk

In parallel, **science policy and advocacy initiatives** strengthened EU researchers' policy connections and defended their interests in front of European and British institutions. The SRUK/ CERU Science Policy Department led the development of **joint CONNECTS-UK positioning statements on the EU-UK summit and on the EU-UK Youth Mobility Scheme Agreement**. The **Ambassadors for Science** programme enabled immersive exchanges between researchers and policymakers, fostering mutual learning and collaboration. The **Third Meeting of the European Scientific Diaspora in the UK** hosted in December at the Embassy of Portugal served to bring together EU researchers and diplomats and present the results of the first year of the project. Finally, **network engagement and professional development activities** offered EU researchers opportunities to connect and share experiences:

- **The 2nd European Researchers in the UK** meeting in Cambridge in September
- **Webinar on "The Research Career in Spain"** in October, coorganised with the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) and Axencia Galega de Innovación.
- **Tandem Scheme** to pair new arrivals with established researchers to provide mentorship and guidance.
- **EU diaspora meetings**, to increase capacity building within diaspora organisations and support the establishment of new ones.

During the next six months, CONNECTS-UK will focus its activity on finishing its research activities and disseminating their results, before finishing the project in early 2026.



CONNECTS-UK Co-Chair Sara Alvira de Celis presenting at 3rd CONNECTS-UK Open Forum in Bristol



5th CONNECTS-UK Open Forum in York



EU Diaspora meeting at the Embassy of Spain

CONNECTS-UK

CONNECTS-UK es un proyecto cofinanciado por la Unión Europea liderado por CERU y en colaboración con otras asociaciones de investigadores europeos en Reino Unido. CONNECTS-UK tiene como objetivo principal reforzar las colaboraciones en investigación entre la Unión Europea y Reino Unido mediante la organización de eventos, el establecimiento de contactos con instituciones europeas y británicas y la realización de trabajos de investigación.

For more information, contact eu.policy@sr.uk.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

At SRUK/CERU, we are committed to strengthening connections between private and public institutions in Spain and the UK, contributing to the success of both national Research & Innovation systems. Our role is to act as a dynamic bridge, facilitating collaboration, mobility, and knowledge exchange across borders.

The International Collaborations Committee

Cristina Barrero Sicilia, Head of the Department
Ana Viñuela, Deputy Head,
and On the Move Lead

We actively engage with **academic and non-academic organisations** in both countries to identify opportunities for interaction and formalise **strategic agreements**. In addition, we collaborate with other societies of Spanish researchers worldwide, expanding our global network and reinforcing international cooperation. Our work focuses on four core areas: **international agreements, mobility programmes, networking initiatives, and professional development opportunities**.

Key areas of activity:

- **International agreements.** We promote and formalise partnerships that enhance the visibility of Spanish and British research groups. Through **strategic collaborations and institutional agreements**, we create favourable conditions for joint projects and long-term cooperation.
- **International mobility.** We foster **bi-directional mobility** for researchers at all career stages. Our initiatives support students, early-career researchers, and senior academics, strengthening institutional links and enabling sustainable collaboration frameworks.
- **Networking and Information.** We organise **networking events and informative sessions** designed to connect researchers and provide practical guidance. A significant part of our recent efforts has focused on understanding and adapting to the evolving landscape of **post-Brexit research mobility**, ensuring our programmes remain responsive and effective.

2024/2025 Highlights

- **SRUK/CERU Winter and Summer Internships:** Our 2–6 month internship programme has supported **35 students from three Spanish universities**. Due to its growing success, additional universities have expressed interest in joining the initiative. We are currently exploring mechanisms such as **Erasmus+ pathways** and expanding host thematic groups to broaden participation.
- **Navigating Post-Brexit Challenges:** Internships and placements have become more complex due to evolving **UK immigration regulations**. We receive numerous enquiries regarding visa requirements and institutional criteria. While regulations differ across universities and interpretations of UK Home Office guidance vary, we remain committed to providing updated information and support to facilitate mobility wherever possible.
- **Networking with stakeholders:** We presented CERU's international activities at the British Council event "Fostering UK/Spanish Universities Collaborations," part of the Transfiere 2025 (14th Edition), Europe's premier forum for science, technology, and innovation. This event provided valuable



Signing of the collaboration agreement with ELEUK at the Fostering UK/Societies event.

opportunities to engage with international departments from Spanish and UK universities, strengthening our collaboration network.

- **New Research Agreement:** We signed a **research agreement with the University of Castilla-La Mancha**, expanding our internship programme to include **social sciences and linguistic disciplines**.

Future initiatives

- **On the Move Fellowships:** Developed in partnership with **CRUE (Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities)**, this bi-directional mobility programme for research staff is currently being redesigned due to financial constraints. We are consulting participating institutions to relaunch the programme in a more sustainable and impactful format.
- **New Institutional Collaborations:** We are in discussions with institutions such as **UNED** and **Universidad Internacional de Cataluña**, reinforcing our commitment to expanding strategic partnerships.
- **Supporting SRUK/CERU Internship Students:** We are extending opportunities for internship students to participate in **SRUK/CERU Symposiums and Connect-UK activities**, enabling them to present their research, gain visibility, and establish future collaborations.



Red for Research Day, with SRUK/CERU internship students from Spain participating in the initiative.



SRUK/CERU International Symposium, where internship students presented their research projects.

DEPARTAMENTO DE RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES

El Departamento de Colaboraciones Internacionales de CERU tiene como objetivo fortalecer las conexiones entre instituciones públicas y privadas en España y Reino Unido. A través de acuerdos estratégicos fomentamos la colaboración científica, la movilidad bidireccional y el intercambio de conocimiento.

Durante 2024/2025 hemos ampliado nuestro programa de prácticas, firmado nuevos convenios institucionales y participado en eventos clave como Transfiere. Asimismo, seguimos trabajando para adaptar nuestros programas al contexto post-Brexit y reforzar oportunidades para estudiantes e investigadores en distintas etapas de su carrera.

For more information, contact international@sruk.org.uk

12TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



Organising Committee

Sara Franco Ortega (Chair)
Alejandro Martínez Jiménez
Ana Aragón González
Clara Albiñana
Carmen Sánchez Cañizares
Elisa Lopez Capel
Francisco Romera
Rosa Sánchez Lucas
Virginia Martín Torrejón
Yaiza Gutiérrez Vázquez

Website

Sandra Álvarez Carretero

Design

Cristina Gallego Páramo
Berta Gallego Páramo
Loreto Gestoso
Lara Montolio Núñez



Sara Franco Ortega (Symposium Chair) and Carlos Soler Montes (SRUK/CERU President) during the symposium

We celebrated our 12th International Symposium during the 4th to the 6th of July in York. The event was chaired by **Sara Franco Ortega** and was attended by approximately 60 participants, including by **José María Robles Fraga**, the Minister Counselor for Cultural & Scientific Affairs from the Embassy of Spain in London and **Eva Ortega Paíno**, the Secretary General for Research at the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities of Spain. The Symposium was sponsored by Ramón Areces Foundation; the Axencia Galega de Innovación, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), Spanish Embassy in London, Consulate of Spain in Manchester, Instituto Cervantes de Manchester, and the University of York. This year's theme was "Facing Challenges" and focused on some of the most pressing research topics worldwide and some personal obstacles researchers face in their daily lives.

Elena Lopez Gunn, founder and director of the climate-adaptation startup ICATALIST in Spain, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Elcano Royal Institute confirmed how "Europe has experienced human and economic losses due to extreme heat, catastrophic flooding, and disruptions to critical infrastructure", but the necessity to "engage stakeholders and citizens" to "identify and implement catalysing interventions to transition proactively to a climate-resilient society". On Saturday, **Patricia González Rodríguez**, Principal Investigator at the Institute of Biomedicine of Seville (Spain), explained her research on how disorders in mitochondria, the cell's powerhouses, can trigger Parkinson's disease-like symptoms. She remarked how "early diagnosis of Parkinson's disease is essential". The third keynote speaker, **Javier Andreu-Pérez**, Associate Professor at the University of Essex, explained what General Artificial Intelligence machines can do, "predicting the most likely next word" and how they "do not reason like humans do" as "human reason based on premises, axioms and concepts".

The event had two round tables, with the first chaired by **Fernando Gomollón Bel**, co-founder of AGATA and expert in science communication, and the three keynote speakers. It was discussed how to "combat scientific misinformation", false or inaccurate scientific information that is spread without intent to deceive, requires multifactorial solutions: regulating artificial intelligence, removing restrictions and adopting a proactive communication strategy.

The second round table themed "Recognise to rise: breaking barriers and building visibility for women in research" was chaired by **Carmen Sánchez Cañizares**, Royal Society University Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and included **María José Martínez Bravo**, Lecturer at University College London, **Eva Ortega Paíno**, and **Francisco Vilaplana** Professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. After an overview of the White Paper on Gender Policies in Science and Academia obtained by Network of associations of Spanish researchers and scientists abroad (RAICEX), the three panel members agreed that "women do not have enough role models, they need to be present to be awarded,



Participants of the 12th SRUK/CERU International Symposium theme “Facing Challenges”

they need to work together”, “education and proactive policies will change the research culture”.

Finally, **Isabel Torres**, co-founder and CEO of Mothers in Science, showcased how parenthood impact career progression in research, “besides facing obstacles for being women, mothers encounter additional barriers to career”.

The Symposium also included short talks and posters from SRUK/CERU members to give visibility to their multidisciplinary research. It was also a platform to showcase the “The art and legacy of Santiago Ramón y Cajal” travelling exhibition prepared by the Neuroscience Committee of SRUK/CERU. The Symposium’s attendees also enjoyed a concert by Pablo Zapico at the National Centre for Early Music. The 12th International Symposium offered a platform to address some of the most urgent research challenges, and to debate about intrinsic challenges in research that have to be tackled collectively.

The sponsors of this year’s symposium were:



FUNDACIÓN
RAMÓN ARECES



XUNTA
DE GALICIA



UNIVERSITY
of York



Mánchester

XII SIMPOSIO INTERNACIONAL

Nuestro XII Simposio Internacional, titulado “Afrontando desafíos”, se celebró entre el 4 al 6 de Julio en York y fue organizado por la Dra. Sara Franco Ortega. En él abordamos algunos de los temas de investigación más actuales: cambio climático, temas de salud humana e inteligencia artificial. También se debatieron y se propusieron soluciones a algunos obstáculos en la vida de un investigador, como es combatir la desinformación científica, problemas de desigualdad de género, o desigualdades y retos de la paternidad y maternidad en academia.

For more information, contact symposium@sruk.org.uk

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

In 2024–2025, the SRUK/CERU Communications Department has focused on maintaining the organisation's online presence and supporting the visibility of its activities and initiatives.

The Communication and Online Department

María Florez Martín
Roser López Cruz

Co-director
Co-director

Department and Committee Managers

Sandra Álvarez-Carretero

Online Manager

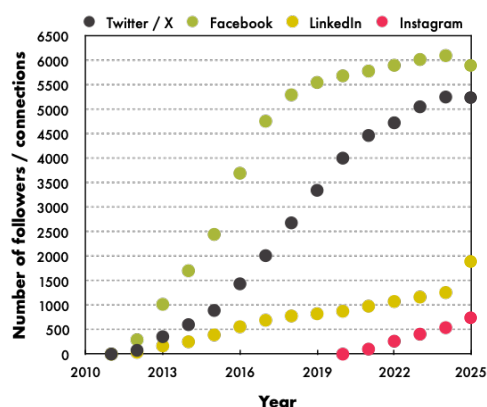
In 2024–2025, the SRUK/CERU Communications Department has focused on maintaining the organisation's online presence and supporting the visibility of its activities and initiatives. This year, the Online and Press teams were merged into a single unit. The new structure was co-led by María Florez Martín and Roser López Cruz, with the support of several volunteers from other committees and constituencies. In May, Hugo Coria joined the team as part of CERU's professionalisation strategy, helping to ensure continuity and consistency in ongoing tasks. The department aimed to cover all communication channels in a balanced way. Access to Twitter was more widespread among volunteers, which facilitated more regular updates there. Current follower numbers at the time of reporting were:

- **Twitter (X):** 5091
- **Facebook:** 5800
- **LinkedIn:** 1808
- **Instagram:** 679

Efforts were made to set up a more agile and flexible coordination system between the central department and the various committees and constituencies. Although this structure was not fully developed, it opened space for reflection on how to improve internal workflows.

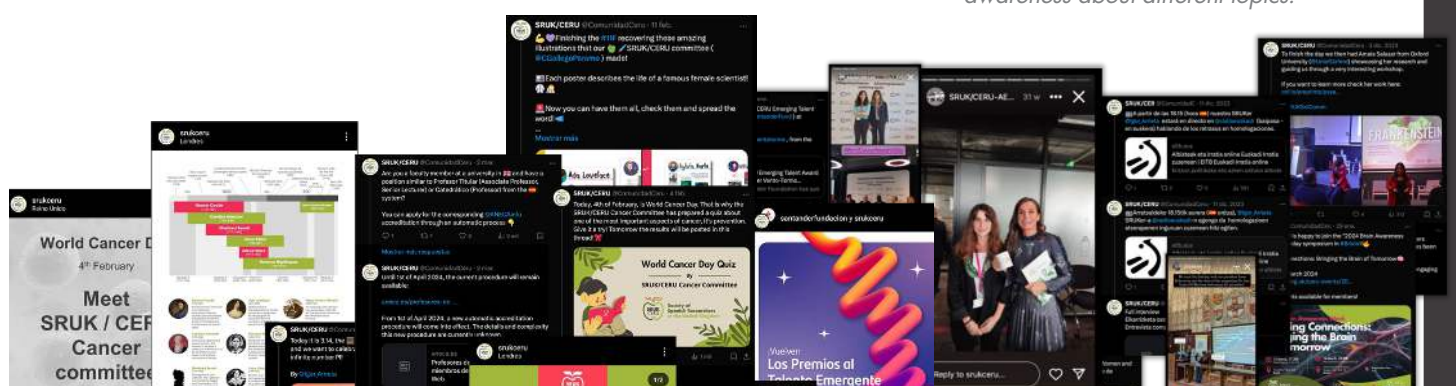
One example of good coordination was the Symposium communication campaign. The team in charge of the event sent materials regularly and clearly, which allowed the Communications Department to focus solely on publication. This experience highlighted the value of forward planning and well-defined roles.

Overall, activity levels remained modest and mostly reactive. The challenges of limited volunteer time and availability impacted our ability to build more structured or proactive strategies. It's clear that improving the visibility of CERU's work will require a larger and more consistent team, as well as clearer internal processes.



Increase in the number of followers/connections in the SRUK/CERU social media channels (except for YouTube) until June 2025.

Collections of tweets and Instagram posts and stories of different SRUK/CERU events, and in collaboration with the Outreach and other departments/committees to raise awareness about different topics.



After the great success of the I SRUK/CERU Scientific Communication Symposium in December 2023 in Manchester, the co-chairs Asier R. Muguruza and Marta Domínguez-Prieto joined efforts with Fernando Gomollón-Bel to put together the second edition of the Symposium.

This II SRUK/CERU Scientific Communication Symposium took place on October 26th and 27th at the Instituto Cervantes Manchester, in Manchester, supported by several organizations and institutions including the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECyT), the Embassy of Spain in London through its office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, the General Consulate of Spain in Manchester, and the San Millán de la Cogolla Foundation, among others.

In this edition, SRUK/CERU aimed to raise awareness on the role of science journalism in science communication and risk communication through a two-day event in English (Saturday the 26th) and in Spanish (Sunday the 27th) and facilitated the attendance of its members by providing small travel grants.

The symposium's first day explored science journalism and communication. **Lucía Torres** (Mongabay, AEC2) stressed the value of translating complex science into accessible language. **Andrea Arnal** (CREAF, Esfera Climática) and **Magda Bandera** (La Marea, Climática) discussed communication's role in climate awareness, while **Patricia Ruiz** (Maldita Technology) addressed its use against misinformation. The second day focused on risk communication, held in Spanish to highlight Spanish-speaking experts. **Marta del Amo** (ONAC) presented the new Science Advice Office, followed by **Mari Carmen Climent** (Sense about Science) on improving public understanding, and **Igor Arrieta** (director of SRUK/CERU's Science policy department) on Brexit's impact on research. The event concluded with roundtables featuring **Pedro Eusebio Cuesta** and **Rafael Carrascosa**, and a workshop led by **Fernando Gomollón-Bel** (Agata Communications).

Stay put for the third edition!

II SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION SYMPOSIUM



Organisers of the II SRUK/CERU Scientific Communication Symposium. Carlos Soler (SRUK/CERU Vice-president), Pedro Eusebio Cuesta (Director of Instituto Cervantes Manchester), Laura García Alfaya (Consul General of Spain in Manchester), Marta Domínguez Prieto, Asier R. Muguruza and Fernando Gomollón-Bel.



Some attendees of the II SRUK/CERU Scientific Communication Symposium at the Instituto Cervantes Manchester.

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE COMUNICACIÓN Y ONLINE

El Departamento de Comunicación se encarga de visibilizar el trabajo de toda nuestra comunidad a través de nuestra web, YouTube y nuestras redes sociales. Esta labor es clave para establecer vínculos entre los miembros de nuestra comunidad, dando difusión a todas las iniciativas de la asociación. Este año hemos seguido creciendo nuestra comunidad online a través de nuestras campañas en redes y nuestra nueva web, facilitando la difusión de toda la labor de CERU. Nuestro canal de YouTube sigue aumentando en vídeos y visitas y nuestros canales de X e Instagram se han usado para promocionar eventos de una manera más cercana.

For more information, contact online@sruk.org.uk

WEB

The SRUK/CERU Website Management Team helps our Society keep all our websites up and running, free of bugs and server issues! They are constantly working on new ideas to keep our digital presence interactive, as well as developing new functionalities to improve the way our users and members navigate our sites.

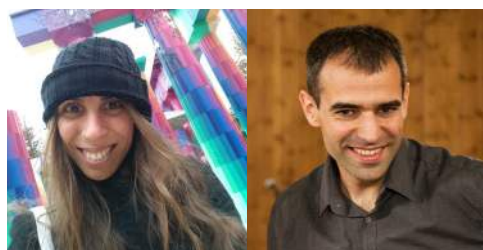
The Website management and development team

Sandra Álvarez-Carretero,
SRUK/CERU Web Manager
Ángel Plaza, WordPress,
long-term SRUK/CERU collaborator

Main website: sruk.org.uk

Members Zone (only SRUK/CERU Members): members.sruk.org.uk

Symposium's website:
symposium.sruk.org.uk



*Sandra Álvarez-Carretero,
SRUK/CERU Web
Manager*

*Ángel Plaza,
WordPress,
long-term SRUK/
CERU collaborator*

We hope you have been enjoying the **upgrades** and **new features** that we have been implementing this year on our websites!

Firstly, we have expanded our **in-built registration forms** so that **payments** can now be processed within our websites -- no need to register through third-party services that charge you additional fees anymore!

Secondly, we have **updated our HOME page** on our **main website!** We have added new buttons that can help you easily access the SRUK/CERU Members Zone, redirect you to our contacts list, or find out which memberships our Society has to offer. In addition, we have included one button for each of the initiatives our great volunteers are leading so that you can quickly access their content. To this end, we hope that these new changes help you better navigate our website!

Lastly, **Sandra Álvarez-Carretero** has decided to stop her volunteering tasks as our Web Manager after **four years** of constant dedication and support. In her words, "This decision has not been easy, SRUK/CERU Members know how much I enjoy this volunteering job! Nevertheless, the time I must spend to successfully manage all SRUK/CERU Websites has been exponentially increasing since 2021 and, unfortunately, it has become incompatible with my also ever-growing research responsibilities and commitments. It is with a heavy heart that I must step down, but I know that the website management will be in very good hands and continue the legacy we have established during the past few years!"

Do not forget to visit us and explore everything that SRUK/CERU has to offer!

PÁGINA WEB

¡Esperamos que hayáis disfrutado las nuevas funcionalidades en nuestras webs! Por ejemplo, tras centralizar los pagos de registro a eventos, ¡ya no tienes que pagar tasas adicionales porque ya no necesitamos servicios de terceros! También hemos añadido nuevos botones en nuestra página de inicio para facilitar el modo en el que navegas nuestra página web principal y descubres las iniciativas que CERU puede ofrecerte.

Por último, tras cuatro años al timón, Sandra Álvarez-Carretero ha tenido que dejar su voluntariado como Web Manager por falta de tiempo e incompatibilidad con su trabajo de investigación. ¡Muchas gracias por tu dedicación y paciencia todos estos años!

For more information, contact web.manager@sruk.org.uk

MEDIA TEAM PRESS & BLOG

The Media Team, formed by the Press and Blog section, has been integrated into the Communications Department during this period. The focus has been on ensuring that core updates were communicated to the community and to the public through official channels.

In total, the team produced:

- 12 announcements
- 3 press releases
- 2 blog posts

Press releases were published to accompany specific events and initiatives, and a limited number of blog posts were created to share insights and experiences from events.

The Blog CERU, although less active this year, continues to serve as a platform for outreach and community voices.

As with other areas, the main challenge was the limited time available from volunteers, which made it difficult to maintain a more frequent publishing rhythm.

This year's experience points to the need for more structural support and sustained input if the Media Team is to grow and maintain regular output. Despite the low volume of activity, essential communications were covered, and lessons have been learned for future improvement.

The SRUK/CERU Media Team is the group of volunteers in charge of writing and supervising the press releases of the society and managing our blog. Being part of the Communication and Online Department, this team acts as a direct link between the society and the press to help raise awareness about the society's activity and achievements.

EL EQUIPO DE PRENSA

El Equipo de prensa se dedica a la redacción y supervisión de las notas para informar tanto a medios nacionales en Reino Unido como internacionales de los avances y eventos que la asociación está consiguiendo. A su vez, gracias a la contribución de otros miembros CERU edita el blog "1, 2, 3... ¡Explora!", donde se pueden encontrar entradas tanto de los últimos avances en investigación de nuestros miembros como iniciativas propuestas por diferentes departamentos y/o comités de CERU.

For more information, contact press@sruk.org.uk

DESIGN COMMITTEE

The Design Committee started in February 2021, as part of the Communications Department. Our principal aim is to enhance the visual image of SRUK/CERU, aligning it to the values of our Society, and improving our audience's perception through better communication.

The Design Team

Cristina Gallego Páramo, Chair
Berta Gallego Páramo
Loreto Gestoso Suárez
Lara Montolio Nuñez

We are an enthusiastic team driven by a shared passion for science, alongside a strong interest in art and design. We collaborate with other SRUK/CERU teams and members, supporting their events and initiatives through the creation of clear, engaging visual materials.

We worked closely with the **Annual Symposium Committee** to design a **bespoke illustration** that captured the event's theme, **"Facing Challenges"** (see pages 20–21), which was used across their communications. We also contributed with visual design work for other key events, including the **II Communication Symposium** held in Manchester (25–27 October 2024). In addition, we supported the **EnFoco** initiative by **designing calendars** that brought their photography into people's everyday lives. The Committee was also in charge of the **formatting, layout, and cover design of the Annual Report**.



Plans 2025/2026

- Working in our image as a Society, SRUK/CERU public perception, improving brand design guidelines, templates, and graphic elements. Capacitate members to use templates following design rules. Actualisation and standardisation.
- Continue giving support to initiatives creating graphic design material, including the Annual Symposium.

COMITÉ DE DISEÑO

Como parte del Departamento de Comunicación, el Comité de Diseño trabaja para mejorar la percepción pública de SRUK/CERU a través de una imagen coherente y cuidada en todas nuestras comunicaciones. Mediante el diseño gráfico, no solo buscamos crear materiales visualmente atractivos, sino también eficaces y alineados con los valores y la identidad de la Sociedad. Hemos colaborado en el diseño de las principales iniciativas, como el Simposio Anual y el II Simposio de Comunicación. Asimismo, apoyamos la iniciativa En Foco mediante el diseño de calendarios y nos hemos encargado del diseño y la maquetación de la Memoria Anual.

For more information, contact design@sruk.org.uk

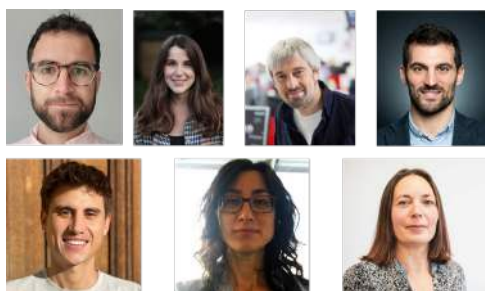
EN FASE EXPERIMENTAL

Academic research is rarely a straight path—it twists from the making of it to the understanding of it. At **En Fase Experimental**, we aim to pave that road for better communication of science. This season, we could not have asked for a better companion than **Guillermo Roa Zubia**, a master at making science simpler and more understandable, without sacrificing accuracy for simplicity.!

We value rigour, both in research and in how it is communicated. That's why we encourage our guests to give us a broad overview of their field, but also share the groundbreaking, meticulous research they are doing. With **Aida Andres** we learnt in depth about how human adaptation is encoded in our very own DNA. With **Emilio Martínez Pañeda** we discovered how there is a crack in everything, and that is how he sees the light, from boulders to wind turbines. **Elisa López Capel** revealed to us that we do not walk on just ground, we are walking on a sponge, we are walking on true sunshine against climate change.

Our guest **Jesús Sanjurjo Ramos** showed us that even paths that seem less winding—where we think we know more, like contemporary history—there are untapped sources, treasures to be discovered, and agents of history that are rather double agents.

Doing research is not simple either, and less so for Spanish researchers in the UK. That's why we invite guests to share their experiences, good and bad, on the sinuous road of academia. In helping on this road, we spoke with **Irene Echeverría Altuna** and **Javier Pardo Díaz**, the former and current presidents of SRUK/CERU, respectively, who underlined the challenges faced by Spanish researchers—and how our Society is an invaluable tool.



2024-2025 interviewees in our podcast (from left to right, from top to bottom): Dr Javier Pardo Diaz, Dr Irene Echeverria Altuna, Guillermo Roa Zubia, Dr Emilio Martinez Pañeda, Dr Jesus Sanjurjo Ramos, Dr Aida Andres, Dr Elisa Lopez-Capel.



Our podcast is your gateway to the latest scientific frontiers, presented in a captivating and inclusive manner that resonates with audiences of all backgrounds. Whether you're captivated by the mysteries of space or intrigued by the intricacies of the latest biomedical research, our team of dedicated hosts and researchers ensures that every episode is a journey of discovery.

En Fase experimental Team

Laura Martínez Maestro, Chair and Co-host
 Álex Arrese-Igor Royuela, Co-host
 M^a Carmen García, Co-host
 María Camacho Encina, Co-host

EN FASE EXPERIMENTAL

En En Fase Experimental trabajamos para mejorar la comunicación de la ciencia, invitando a expertos que combinan rigor y claridad. Aida Andrés explicó cómo la adaptación humana está escrita en nuestro ADN. Emilio Martínez Pañeda habló sobre su investigación en fracturas en materiales, y Elisa López Capel sobre suelos como aliados contra el cambio climático. Jesús Sanjurjo Ramos mostró nuevas perspectivas en Historia Contemporánea. También conversamos con Irene Echeverría Altuna y Javier Pardo Díaz, expresidenta y presidente de SRUK/CERU, respectivamente, sobre los retos de los investigadores españoles en el Reino Unido y el papel clave de nuestra Sociedad.

For more information, contact radio@sruk.org.uk

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

This has been the third academic year for the Outreach and Public Engagement Department of SRUK/CERU, continuing to grow with flagship initiatives such as "Science-me a Story" and "Investigación En Foco", as well as our thematic committees in Cancer, Neurosciences, Evolution, and Environment. One of the main goals of this department is to make science accessible and engaging for everyone – by translating complex concepts into clear messages, inspiring the next generation of scientists, and strengthening the connections between the UK and Spain through a variety of activities that promote scientific culture and curiosity.

The Department of Outreach and Public Engagement

Beatriz Monterde Martínez

Director since July 2024

Alba Fernández Sanlés

Director until October 2023

Berta Gallego

Cristina Delgado

Isabel Murillo

Inés Gutiérrez

Committees

Radio committee

Cancer committee

Neurosciences committee

Evolution committee

Environment committee

The SRUK/CERU Department of Outreach and Public Engagement works to **bridge the gap between researchers and the general public** by promoting scientific literacy, sparking curiosity about research and science, and creating opportunities for meaningful interactions between scientists and diverse audiences. We collaborate closely with SRUK/CERU constituencies, departments and thematic committees to support and foster initiatives that bring science closer to society.

The **three main aims** of the SRUK/CERU Department of Outreach and Public Engagement this year were:

- i) to define a clear strategy and set of objectives to maximise the impact of outreach and public engagement activities;
- ii) to support scientific communication and outreach activities in Spain co-official languages (Catalan/Valencian, Basque or Galician) for the first time; and
- iii) to build upon established initiatives such as Science-me a Story and Investigación En Foco, while also supporting the thematic committees on Cancer, Neurosciences, Evolution, and Environment, as well as the En Fase Experimental committee.

During the third academic year, the department identified to develop a dedicated outreach and dissemination strategy to increase the visibility of the "Science-me a story" contest. To achieve this, we reached out the Language Departments of several UK Universities, as well as blogs and writers' newsletters, including ELE-UK, ASELE, London Basque Society, Instituto Cervantes (London, Manchester), Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the UK, Associació d'Escriptors en Llengua Catalana, Hispanistas, or L'Associació d'Editors en Llengua Catalana, among others.



DEPARTAMENTO DE DIVULGACIÓN Y PARTICIPACIÓN CIUDADANA

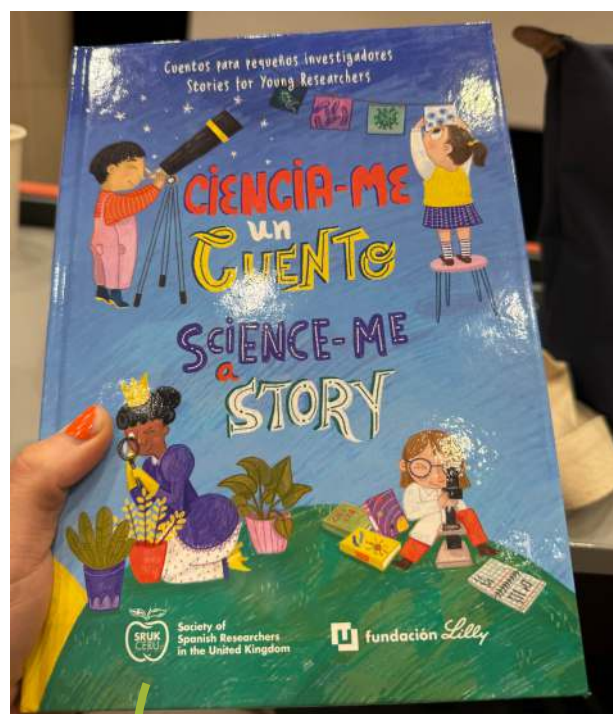
Este departamento impulsa la divulgación científica y apoya a los comités de Cáncer, Neurociencia y Evolución. Sus proyectos principales son el concurso fotográfico EnFoco y el literario "Ciencia-me un cuento". En su sexta edición, este último se abrió a lenguas cooficiales (catalán/valenciano, euskera y gallego) y se distribuyó su edición bilingüe (español/inglés) en escuelas del Reino Unido. Además, las fotos finalistas de EnFoco se expusieron en distintas ciudades británicas y se crearon calendarios con ellas, repartidos entre participantes, jurado y patrocinadores.

For more information, contact outreach@sruk.org.uk

The Department now has a core working group who could absorb the “Science-me a Story” and “Investigación En Foco” initiatives and objectives in absence of Chairs for these committees. The Department has also established collaborations with new organisations, and continued collaborating with SRUK/CERU partner Native Scientists, a NGO that brings research to children using their first language.

Some of the key achievements of the SRUK/CERU Department of Outreach and Public Engagement this year include:

- Opening the **“Science-me a story”** contest to **co-official Spanish languages** (Catalan/Valencian, Basque and Galician) for the first time.
- Distributing eight physical copies of the “Science-me a story” book to schools in London where Spanish is taught as a second language, including Parkwood Primary School International Spanish School, Mossbourne Riverside Academy, Orchard Primary School, St Charles Catholic Primary School, Daubeney Primary School, Mossbourne Parkside Academy, St. Monica’s RC Primary School, and Princess May Primary School.
- Distributing 150 SRUK/CERU **calendars** featuring the finalist photographs for **4th “Investigación En Foco” photography competition** to SRUK/CERU volunteers and stakeholders.
- Showcasing a **thematic exhibition** of the 12 finalists photographs from the latest “Investigación En Foco” at major events, such as the 11th SRUK/CERU International Symposium (Newcastle) and the 11 SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium (Manchester).
- Hosting events that highlight the role of women and girls in research, including a presentation by one of our volunteers and author of “Hola Señora E.coli!” as part of the 11F (International Day of Women and Girls in Science) celebrations in Instituto Cervantes (London).
- The **Cancer Committee** strengthened its collaboration with **CRIS Cancer UK** through regular meetings, the promotion of scientific programmes connecting Spain and the UK (CRIS Out-Back Fellowships), and the sponsorship of an international event scheduled for October 2025.
- The **Evolution Committee** organised a successful **workshop** on Bayesian phylogenetics.



Isabel Murillo celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science at Instituto Cervantes. London, February 2025.



A “Science-me a story” book on its way to a public school in London.
“Science-me a story” book can be downloaded scanning the QR code.

INVESTIGACIÓN EN FOCO



EnFoco Exhibition

The Investigación En Foco finalist photographs—selected for their aesthetic value and scientific relevance—formed part of a traveling exhibition that brought research closer to the public. Before the winners were officially announced, the 12 finalist images were displayed at key SRUK/CERU events, including the 11th International Symposium in Newcastle and the II Science Communication Symposium in Manchester. This initiative aimed to highlight the beauty and significance of research through visual storytelling, offering an accessible and engaging way for diverse audiences to connect with science beyond the academic community.

More info:

sruk.org.uk/initiatives/public-engagement/enfoco/



Following the success of previous editions, the **4th edition** of Investigación En Foco was held in 2024. This **scientific photography** contest continues to spark curiosity and communicate science beyond traditional academic environments.

Twelve finalist photographs—selected from among nineteen submissions—were showcased in a **traveling exhibition** that toured several cities in the UK. With support from SRUK/CERU constituencies, the exhibition was featured at key events such as the 11th SRUK/CERU International Symposium in Newcastle (June 2024) and the II Science Communication Symposium in Manchester (October 2024), engaging audiences and making scientific research visually accessible.

To further disseminate the impact of this initiative, the finalist images were also featured in the **2025 SRUK/CERU calendar**. These calendars were distributed among SRUK/CERU volunteers, jury members, finalists, and stakeholders, reinforcing the society's commitment to outreach and public engagement through the intersection of science and art.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for the next edition of this unique photographic competition.

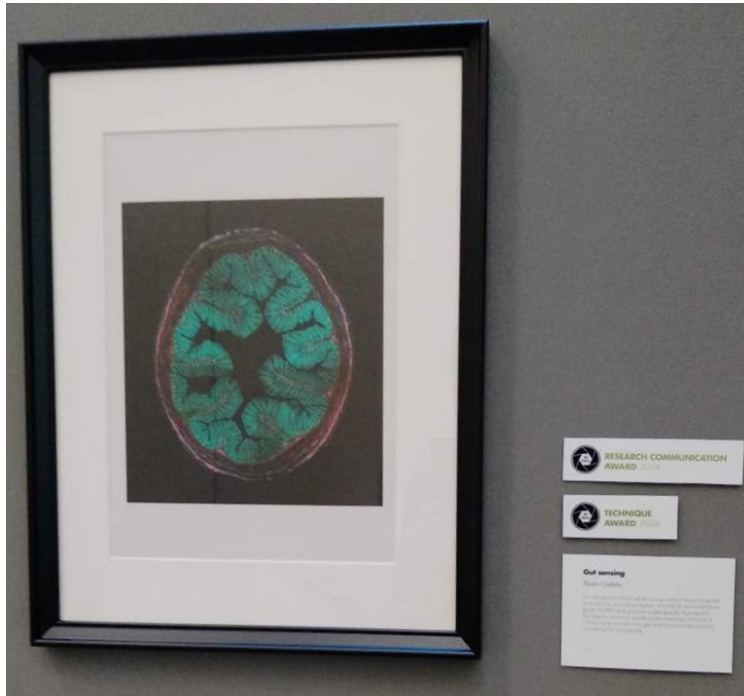


Cover of the 2025 SRUK/CERU calendar designed by Berta Gallego.

IV CONCURSO DE FOTOGRAFÍA DE CERU "INVESTIGACIÓN EN FOCO"

La cuarta edición del concurso fotográfico "Investigación En Foco" recibió 19 fotografías enviadas por miembros y amigos de CERU. Tras su evaluación por un panel de expertos y una votación popular, las **imágenes finalistas** fueron protagonistas de varias actividades de divulgación: **se exhibieron** en eventos clave como el Simposio Internacional (junio 2024, Newcastle) y el Simposio de Comunicación (octubre 2024, Manchester), **reforzando el vínculo entre ciencia y sociedad**. Además, se diseñaron y repartieron **calendarios** con las fotografías finalistas entre voluntarios, jurado y patrocinadores, ampliando el alcance del proyecto más allá del concurso en sí.

For more information, contact enfoco@sruk.org.uk



Álvaro Castaño, 'Gut sensing', Winner of Technique and quality of the photograph award, Winner of Research Communication award, during the exhibition in Newcastle.

1. Álvaro Castaño, 'Gut sensing', **Winner of Technique and quality of the photograph award, Winner of Research Communication award.** 2. Marta Dominguez Prieto, 'Unexpected beauty', **Winner of Originality and artistic character of the image award.** 3. Andrés Garcia-Sampedro, 'The microcosm of inflammatory tumours', **Winner of the Popular vote award, elected by SRUK/CERU members and Friends.** 4. Álvaro Murillo, 'Making connections'. 5. Luis Moliner Cachazo, 'The Lilac-breasted roller'. 6. Elisa Lopez-Capel, 'Size does not matter'. 7. Loreto Gestoso Suarez, 'We come in peace'. 8. Rocío Rodríguez Almaraz, 'Ephemeral Portrait of a Glacier'. 9. Claudia López Rodríguez, 'Battleground of Microcosms: Fungi vs. Yeast - A Dynamic Encounter'. 10. Álvaro Santos, 'Butterfly Spectrum'. 11. Pilar Acedo, 'How did you get up there?'. 12. Javier Ortiz de Guinea, 'Up in the sky'.



QR code with
EnFoco rules



CANCER COMMITTEE

The SRUK/CERU Cancer Committee aims to foster discussions and promote collaboration among cancer researchers in the UK and Spain, thereby bringing together world-renowned cancer institutions from these countries.

Members of the Cancer Committee

Pilar Acedo Núñez, Chair
 Ana Cristina Carvajal
 Ignacio Rodríguez
 Beatriz Salvador
 Daniel Parra
 Maria Rosado
 Carolina San Pedro
 Sandra Fernandez
 Marcos Quintela
 Lucia Gandullo

The SRUK/CERU Cancer Committee has organised a Cancer Research Networking Day, **"Battling cancer with emerging technologies"**. This event was an incredible opportunity for attendees to learn about pioneering computational algorithms, genetic regulation and cutting-edge technologies applied in cancer research. The event was in collaboration and hosted at the Innovation and Translation Hub (I-Hub), London. After the incredible talks, the attendees gathered with some nibbles and casual drinks, creating an excellent opportunity to chat and network with fellow researchers and friends.



"Battling cancer with emerging technologies", a Cancer Research Networking Day, organised by the SRUK/CERU Cancer Committee in collaboration and hosted at the Innovation and Translation Hub (I-Hub), London.

COMITÉ DE CÁNCER

El comité de cáncer fue fundado en 2019 con los objetivos de promover la excelencia científica, facilitar el intercambio de conocimiento y abordar los desafíos relacionados con la investigación y tratamiento contra el cáncer tanto para los investigadores en el área, como para el público general. Este año, el comité de cáncer de CERU organizó un evento nombrado "Luchando contra el cáncer con nuevas tecnologías" enfocado en técnicas computacionales, regulación genética y los nuevos avances tecnológicos en investigación contra el cáncer.

For more information, contact cancer@sruk.org.uk



"The Bayesian Phylogenetics Workshop", organised by the SRUK/CERU Evolution Committee in collaboration with the Systematics Association

After two intense days of theory and hands-on training, attendees left with new computational skills that they can now apply to analyse their own dataset and answer their biological questions. We had a wonderful time teaching and organising this event which, based on the attendee's feedback, we can say it was a success! Now, time to prepare for our next event!



"From Climate Crisis to Action: Adapting to a Changing World", an open Forum co-organised by the SRUK/CERU Environmental Committee in collaboration with the project Connecting European Communities Through Science in the UK (CONNECTS-UK).

EVOLUTION COMMITTEE

The SRUK/CERU Evolution Committee has organised its first event: **the Bayesian Phylogenetics Workshop!** Co-organised with the Systematics Association, this event was a unique opportunity for students and researchers to gain practical skills in Bayesian Phylogenetics from experts in the field. We had to select 23 candidates out of the 41 applications we received due to room requirements and logistics – we were surprised by how many people showed interest in attending our workshop!

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The SRUK/CERU Environmental Committee organised its first event! In collaboration with the project Connecting European Communities Through Science in the UK (CONNECTS-UK), the committee co-organised an open Forum titled: **"From Climate Crisis to Action: Adapting to a Changing World".** This event brought together more than 60 people to discuss the causes and consequences of climate change, how to reduce its effects on ecosystems and communities, the new developments in renewable energy solutions, and the importance of tackling issues of environmental justice.

COMITÉ DE EVOLUCIÓN

El comité de Evolución de CERU organizó su primer taller de Filogenia Bayesiana en colaboración con la Asociación de Sistemática. El evento se enfocó en enseñar a los participantes a analizar sus propios datos usando herramientas computacionales avanzadas.

COMITÉ DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

El comité de Medio Ambiente de CERU organizó su primer evento en colaboración con CONNECTS-UK, un open foro titulado "De la crisis climática a la acción: adaptarse a un mundo cambiante."

NEUROSCIENCES COMMITTEE

The Neuroscience Committee was established in September 2023, after the SRUK/CERU International Symposium, where the committee members met. The aims of the committee are to establish a network of researchers and professionals, showcase the research of Spanish neuroscientists and bring neuroscience closer to the general public.



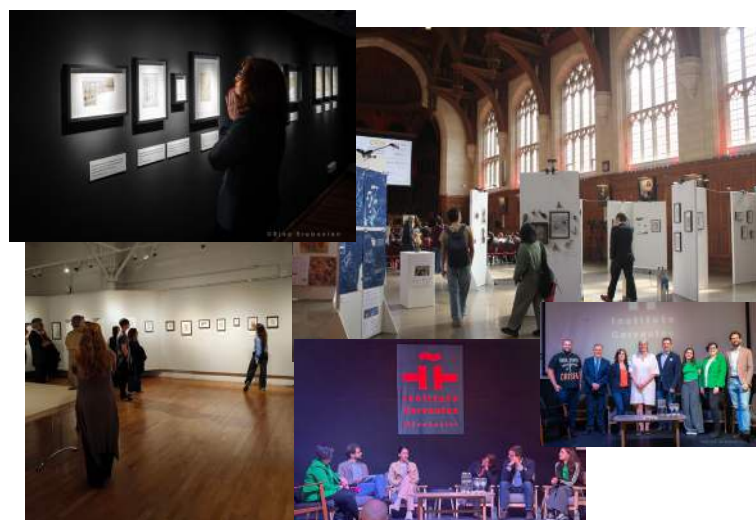
The Neuroscience Committee has organised a travelling exhibition in the United Kingdom between March and September 2025 to commemorate the “Year of Research Ramón y Cajal” (“Año de Investigación Ramón y Cajal”).

The main aim of the exhibition was to **bring the figure of Santiago Ramón y Cajal and his legacy closer to the public in the UK.**

The exhibition provided a fascinating insight into the life and work of the “father of modern neuroscience”, showcasing his transformative contributions to the field through a selection of 20 drawings and four microscope slides. The exhibition uses the figure of Cajal as the character driving the exposition. Through the tweets of his twitter account (@TheOriginalCajal), Cajal explain his life, work and legacy using 140 characters.

The exhibition has been showcased in five different UK cities (London, Manchester, Bristol, York and Edinburgh) and in each location there has been a satellite event to highlight different aspects of Santiago Ramón y Cajal's figure. These events featured the **participation of Cajal's experts** such as Fernando de Castro, Cristina Nombela, Alberto Jimenez Schumacher or Javier de Felipe; as well as distinguished researchers including Oscar Marín from King's College London, Thomas Bak from University of Edinburgh or Rosario Moratalla, current director of Instituto Cajal in Madrid. An artist, Annie Campbell, also shared her story and how Cajal's drawings influenced her work.

Finally, the exhibition has had a significant impact not only in the general audience, but also in the British, as many visitors were previously unfamiliar with the figure of Santiago Ramón y Cajal. Those who were aware of his work gained new insights and perspectives and beyond its scientific dimension, the exhibition also incorporated a strong artistic component, which attracted a diverse range of visitors, enhancing its overall impact and engagement.



COMITÉ DE NEUROCIENCIAS

El Comité de Neurociencia organizó una exposición itinerante por el Reino Unido (marzo-septiembre de 2025) para celebrar el “Año de Investigación Ramón y Cajal”. La muestra recorrió Londres, Manchester, Bristol, York y Edimburgo con el fin de acercar el legado del “padre de la neurociencia moderna” al público británico. Mediante una cuenta ficticia de Twitter (@TheOriginalCajal), 20 dibujos y preparaciones microscópicas, se fusionó ciencia y arte. Cada ciudad acogió eventos satélite con destacados expertos y científicos internacionales. La exhibición atrajo a un público diverso, revelando la figura de Cajal a nuevos visitantes y ofreciendo una perspectiva inédita a quienes ya lo conocían.

For more information, contact neuroscience@sruk.org.uk

SRUK/CERU is committed to fostering the growth of Spanish researchers in the UK. In 2025, we introduced the **SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants programme**, designed to support our regular members as they progress in their careers. These grants provide financial assistance for a variety of professional activities, such as attending international conferences, enrolling in specialised training, or organising academic events. The initiative seeks to promote knowledge exchange, skills improvement, and networking opportunities. By funding these activities, we enable members to present their work internationally, expand their expertise, and build cross-border collaborations. Grants are available for both in-person and online events, ensuring that financial limitations do not obstruct the professional advancement of our members.

Applications are assessed on merit and the expected impact on the applicant's career. The SRUK/CERU Evaluations Committee, composed of volunteer postdoctoral researchers and senior academics, conducts a peer-review process to select the strongest proposals. This ensures that awards are granted to initiatives with genuine potential to enhance recipients' development and, in turn, strengthen Spanish research in the UK.

The Professional Development Grants programme demonstrates SRUK/CERU's dedication to supporting talent and promoting research excellence. By investing in our members' careers, we not only contribute to individual success but also reinforce the Spanish research community as a whole. Looking ahead, these grants are expected to play a central role in training future generations, encouraging international collaboration, and increasing the visibility of Spanish science worldwide.

The SRUK/CERU **Evaluation Committee** also **advises** the Board of Trustees on scientific matters and reviews applications for other initiatives, including SRUK/CERU Travel Grants, abstracts for the Annual Symposium, and other projects such as the British Spanish Society scholarships.

Members of the 2024/2025 SRUK/CERU Evaluation Committee

Olivia Afonso
Igor Arrieta
Anna Aubareda
Jose Cabezas
Marta Dominguez
Irene Echeverria
David Egea
Javier Escudero

Sara Franco
Victoria Garcia
Laura Leston
Carlos Outeiral
Javier Pardo
Carlos Soler
Larissa Zarate

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Professional Development Grants 2024/2025 awardees



- Lorea Armendariz Martinez
- Nerea Blanes Ruiz
- Sara Bolivar
- Ana Juan de Albuquerque
- Belen Gimeno Molina
- Ines Jimenez
- Carla Salomo Coll
- Montserrat Vallet Buisan
- Maria Vivero-Lopez

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

COMITÉ DE EVALUACIÓN

El Comité de Evaluación de CERU está formado por investigadores en diversas etapas de la carrera investigadora que ayudan en la gestión de bolsas de viaje y programas de movilidad de CERU, o las becas de la British Spanish Society. Su participación en el proceso de revisión aporta valiosas habilidades para el desarrollo profesional. El comité está abierto todo el año a cualquiera de nuestros socios que quiera colaborar activamente en las distintas convocatorias.

The Evaluation Committee is renewed periodically. Please contact roving@sruk.org.uk for more information if you would like to join the committee.

EMERGING TALENT 2025

Sponsored by  **Santander Fundación**

Prof. Francisco Jesus Lizana Moral wins the 2025 SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award

Recognising and fostering Spanish talent in the UK

The SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award, now in its tenth year, continues to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of early-career Spanish researchers in the UK. This prestigious award, sponsored by Fundación Banco Santander, serves as a testament to the exceptional quality and impact of Spanish scientific talent in British institutions.

2025 SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award Evaluation Panel

We would like to thank the following members of the Scientific Advisory Board for their selfless contribution to evaluate the applications to the Emerging Talent Award:

Carmen Galán, University of Bristol (Chair)
Sonia Antoranz, University of Oxford (Chair)
Alfonso Bueno-Orovio, University of Oxford
Jose Carrillo de la Plata, University of Oxford
Javier Escudero Rodriguez, University of Edinburgh
Carmen Galan, University of Bristol
Susana Garcia, Heriot-Watt University
Nerea Irigoyen, University of Cambridge
Sergio Lozano Perez, University of Oxford
Estrella Luna Diez, University of Birmingham
Xavier Moya, University of Cambridge
Marc Vendrell, University of Edinburgh

2025 SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award Finalists

Maria Joaquina Delas Vives, University College London
Mateo I. Sanchez Lopez, University of Cambridge
Sara Mederos, University College London
Oriol Gavalda Diaz, Imperial College London

In 2025, we were honoured to present the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award to **Prof. Francisco Jesus Lizana Moral from the University of Oxford**. Prof. Lizana Moral is a **leading researcher in the energy transition of the built environment** – one of the most pressing challenges in the context of climate change. He leads the “Zero-Carbon Space Heating and Cooling” programme at the ZERO Institute, and his research focuses on the decarbonisation of heating and cooling in buildings, a sector responsible for approximately 50% of Europe’s final energy demand.

The selection process, overseen by a distinguished Scientific Committee chaired by Prof. Sonia Antoranz Contera from the University of Oxford, evaluated **14 highly competitive nominations**. Prof. Lizana Moral’s selection underscores the exceptional caliber of Spanish researchers making waves in the UK scientific community. Prof. Lizana Moral’s interdisciplinary work integrates material science, systems engineering, indoor environmental analysis, and climate policy modelling, all with a strong applied perspective. He has developed and characterised advanced thermal energy storage materials, designed smart solutions for energy flexibility in buildings, and analysed pollutant exposure indoor environments, with significant implications for both energy efficiency and public health.

This award not only celebrates individual achievement, but also strengthens Spain-UK scientific collaboration, expands science outreach and supports training and mobility. It also showcases the **vital role Spanish researchers play in advancing scientific knowledge and innovation** in British institutions. As we look to the future, SRUK/CERU, with the continued support of Fundación Banco Santander, remains committed to highlighting and nurturing emerging Spanish talent in the UK, fostering a new generation of scientific leaders who will shape the future of research and innovation.



Prof. Francisco Jesus Lizana Moral

PREMIO TALENTO EMERGENTE 2025

El Premio Talento Emergente de CERU, en su décima edición, continúa reconociendo las contribuciones sobresalientes de investigadores españoles en Reino Unido en etapas tempranas de su carrera. Este prestigioso galardón, patrocinado por la Fundación Banco Santander, es un testimonio de la calidad e impacto excepcionales del talento científico español en instituciones británicas.

En 2025, tuvimos el honor de otorgar el Premio al Talento Emergente CERU al Prof. Francisco Jesús Lizana Moral de la Universidad de Oxford. Su labor pionera en la descarbonización de la climatización de los edificios ha impulsado avances cruciales con repercusiones de gran alcance en la eficiencia energética, la sostenibilidad y la salud pública.

MENTORING PROGRAMME

SRUK/CERU is committed to the professional development of its members. Apart from offering technical courses, SRUK/CERU is proud of its Mentoring Programme and is now running its **7th edition**.

This programme takes place throughout the academic year and offers support to mentees who might find their first steps as researchers in the UK challenging. Thus, they are paired with more experienced mentors who are already developing their professional path. Reciprocally, mentors find it rewarding to support researchers at earlier stages while developing their leadership skills.

The programme relies on the mentees' initiative to ask for guidance and follows up periodically to check that occasional meetings are taking place and pairs can see progress and find the relationship satisfactory. By the end of the academic year, paired mentees and mentors are offered to extend their relationship one additional year.

At the moment, **five pairs have been established considering career stage and areas of interest**. This edition has gathered volunteers from Biomedical Sciences, ranging from Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Pharmacy to Environmental and Marine Sciences. Among the demands of our mentees, we observed a high interest in support with Computational Biology and also in how the academic path works in the UK and what steps to take in order to return to Spain. Our panel of mentors has been able to meet all these demands, including SRUK/CERU friends back in Spain after developing their career in the UK to offer their valuable insight on the path to develop a research career back in Spain. We expect very good feedback, as it has been the case in previous editions.



EL PROGRAMA DE MENTORAZGO

El Programa de Mentorazgo de CERU, desde su creación en agosto de 2016, continúa apoyando a sus miembros en su desarrollo profesional. En su 7ª edición cuenta con 5 parejas. Se animó a las parejas a reunirse en persona y conocer a otros participantes del programa de mentorazgo asistiendo al Simposio Internacional de CERU.

For more information, contact: mentoring@sruk.org.uk

EQUALITY DIVERSITY & WELFARE

The Department of Equality, Diversity and Welfare at SRUK/CERU seeks to actively promote the rights and representation of researchers from underrepresented backgrounds, fostering fairer and richer research environments.

Iago Mora Arcas, Director



Poster
announcing our
joint event with
PARSUK.

We have partnered with a range of institutions to deliver two major events. The first of them was a **research dissemination conference at the Cervantes Institute in London**, which brought together Spanish researchers working on queer topics in the UK and beyond. This initiative, part of the programme of the 4th edition of the **Festival of Queer Literature in Spanish** in London, showcased cutting-edge research on fields such as history, literary studies, gender studies and film studies.

Addressing one of the key topics shaping today's research landscape, we collaborated with the **Portuguese Association of Researchers in the UK (PARSUK)** to organise a webinar on **economic inequality and academia**. In this session, leading Spanish and Portuguese researchers explored a range of topics, including intergenerational mobility, the role of basic education in sustaining segregation, the impact of caregiving responsibilities, and gender imbalance in paper co-authorship.



Iago Mora Arcas (right) introducing the speakers of our panel at the Cervantes Institute London, as part of the Festival of Queer Literature in Spanish.



parsuk
portuguese association
of researchers and
students in the UK



WOM=N EQUITY & RESEARCH

The WOM=N Equity and Research Committee continued its commitment to gender equity in science throughout 2025, focusing on two main projects: **"Where are the Women? - UK Map Project"** and **"Awakening Vocations in STEM"**.

Cynthia Cabañas,
Co-Chair from May 2024
Marta Peña, Co-Chair from May 2024
María José Martínez Bravo
Nuria Ferrándiz

Marta Pina
Marisé Gálvez
Iria Sala
Soranyel González

COMITÉ DE IGUALDAD, DIVERSIDAD Y BIENESTAR

El Departamento de Igualdad, Diversidad y Bienestar de CERU busca promover la visibilidad y derechos de investigadores con realidades infrarrepresentadas. Para ello, ha organizado un panel divulgativo en el Instituto Cervantes como parte del Festival de Literatura Queer Española en Londres. Asimismo, ha colaborado con la Asociación de Investigadores Portugueses en Reino Unido (PARSUK) para llevar a cabo un webinar de expertas sobre desigualdad económica y academia.

For more information, contact women@sruk.org.uk

LONDON CONSTITUENCY

Events 2024/2025

From **July 2024 to June 2025**, the London Constituency delivered an **engaging and diverse programme** that fostered **scientific exchange, networking, and community building**.

- **July 2024 – London PRIDE.** We marched to celebrate **diversity and inclusion**, representing Spanish researchers in the UK.
- **October 2024 – Welcome Party + Show and Tell.** A lively start to the academic year, with cross-disciplinary lightning talks and **new-member networking**.
- **November 2024.** We hosted *Alternative Careers to Academia I: At the Edge of the Academic Path*, sharing career insights beyond academia. The month also featured the *4th Festival of Queer Literature in Spanish and a Cancer Research Networking Day – Battling Cancer with Emerging Technologies*.
- **December 2024.** We recognised excellence at the *Emerging Talent Award Ceremony* and closed the calendar year with a Webinar: *Return Programs and Opportunities at CSIC*, focused on **career development**.
- **February 2025 – Women in Research Walking Tour.** An inspiring guided route across London highlighting women scientists, blending **science, history, and activism** (organised by Loreto, Berta, and Lola).
- **April 2025 – Neurodiversity and Academia:** Embracing Differences. An online event during Neurodiversity Celebration Week, with testimonies and a panel on challenges and opportunities for neurodivergent academics.
- **Spring 2025 – Social Excursion.** A relaxed outing organised by Loreto and Larisa to strengthen **community ties** beyond academic settings.
- **June 2025 – Intensos Anónimos.** Launch of a **low-maintenance reading club** at Hyde Park during **London Climate Action Week**—reading together and discussing Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* in an open, **inclusive** atmosphere.

First constituency to be founded in 2011, when SRUK/CERU was created. It covers the southeast of England, from Hampshire to Kent and up to Bedfordshire. We develop institutional, outreach and career-developing activities, with a main interest in networking through social events and informal talks.

The London Regional Board

María Jerez Jerez, Director
Sandra Fernández, Secretary

The London Working Group

Alba Fernández Sanlés, **Berta Gallego Páramo**,
Larissa Zárate García, **Luis Moliner Cachazo**,
Pilar Acedo, **Loreto Gestoso**, **Virginia Martin Torrejon**



Monthly meeting of the London Constituency working group at Melia (London)

DELEGACIÓN DE LONDRES

En 2024/2025 participamos en el **London PRIDE** en julio. En octubre celebramos la Welcome Party + Show and Tell. En noviembre organizamos Alternative Careers to Academia I, el 4º Festival de Literatura Queer en Español y el Networking Day sobre **cáncer y tecnologías emergentes**. En diciembre tuvo lugar la entrega del Emerging Talent Awardy un webinar sobre programas de retorno en el CSIC. En febrero realizamos la Women in Research Walking Tour. En abril celebramos el evento online sobre **neurodiversidad y academia**. También organizamos una excursión social en primavera y en junio la primera sesión de Intensos Anónimos.

For more information, contact london@sruk.org.uk

SCOTLAND CONSTITUENCY

Since it was founded in March 2015, the SRUK/CERU Scottish constituency has organised 67 events and has members from different major cities in Scotland: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Stirling.

The Scotland Regional Board

Maria Delgado Ortet, Director from July
Marcos Valenzuela Ortega, Director until July
Cristina Ponce Lilly, Vice-Director
Alex Arrese-Igor Royuela, Secretary



Welcome event in Dundee (September 2024)



Celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science ("Women in STEM"-themed Pub Quiz)

Events 2024/2025

The term started with a **welcome event in Dundee**, where we visited key spots related to the scientific history of this Scottish city. Not only did we learn more about its scientific heritage, but we also enjoyed a sunny day and welcomed new members. In 2024, to close the series of events for the year, we held a seminar about Nobel Prizes, in a second edition of our **"Merry Nobel" event, in Edinburgh**.

Additional events were organised during 2025, combining **networking and science**. Alongside our regular social events, we hosted themed Pub Quizzes: in February, we celebrated the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** with the sixth edition of a "Women in STEM"-themed Pub Quiz. Members also shared their work in very engaging talks at this annual edition of SRUK/CERU's seminars, including presentations from Rocío Martínez Aguilar and Juan Francisco Rodríguez Herrera. Finally, we travelled to **St Andrews** for a member-guided tour exploring the scientific history of the city and its centuries-old university.

Plans 2025/2026

We are excited to continue hosting events and collaborating with other SRUK/CERU constituencies as well as with local organisations. The Scottish seminars will resume in the new term, along with our regular networking events. We are also working closely with the Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival to be part of this impactful initiative. Moreover, we hope to collaborate with the Consejo de Residentes Españoles en el Norte (CRE en el Norte) on a future public engagement project.



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

DELEGACIÓN DE ESCOCIA

La delegación escocesa de CERU se constituyó en marzo de 2015, actualmente tiene más de 40 miembros y es la delegación más grande por extensión.

Durante 2024/2025 se organizaron en Escocia actividades que combinaron ciencia y networking. La bienvenida tuvo lugar en Dundee con una visita histórica, y en diciembre se celebró en Edimburgo el seminario "Merry Nobel" sobre los premios Nobel. En 2025 destacaron el Pub Quiz temático de Women in STEM, charlas de miembros, y una visita guiada a St Andrews. Para 2025/2026 se planean nuevos seminarios, eventos científicos, de networking y colaboraciones culturales.

For more information, contact scotland@sruk.org.uk

OXFORD CONSTITUENCY

Events 2024/2025

The Oxford Constituency had another dynamic year, combining long-standing traditions with exciting new activities to strengthen our local network of Spanish researchers.

We began in July with our classic **Punt of Research**, punting along the Thames while sharing science in a relaxed and scenic setting. In October, we welcomed new members at our **Welcome Event**.

In November, we hosted the third edition of our already traditional **"Nobel Prizes for Dummies"**. This now-iconic event brought together a curious audience for an engaging and accessible discussion of the year's Nobel Prizes, with talks by Montse Vallet, Carlos Outeiral, and Sofía Medina. It continues to be one of our most anticipated events of the year. In December, we held the **Annual Assembly, followed by a festive dinner**.

To celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, we organised the **Walk of Women in Science** in February, honouring women scientists past and present. The tour was expertly prepared and guided by Montse Vallet and David Egea.

In March, we explored the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, including a behind-the-scenes **visit to the Diamond Light Source synchrotron**. The visit, organised by Victoria García, offered attendees the chance to meet Spanish researchers and discover world-class facilities first-hand.

In April, we returned to the **Oxford University Museum of Natural History for a special behind-the-scenes tour** led by Ricardo Pérez de la Fuente. We also continued our seasonal talks, which provide an informal and supportive space to share science, career advice, and community spirit.



Visit to Harwell Campus, March 2025
(Diamond Light Source)

The city of Oxford is home to two universities, as well as several biotechnology and engineering companies. Our members represent both academic institutions and industry, as well as a wide range of disciplines. This combination results in a multidisciplinary, engaged, and social group of researchers.

The Oxford Regional Board

Victoria Garcia Giner, Director
Jose Cabezas Caballero, Vice-Director
Montse Valley Buisan, Secretary & Online manager

The Oxford Working Group

David Egea Arrebola, **Cristina Delgado Montes**,
Carmen Sanchez Cañizares



Ricardo Pérez de la Fuente's tour of the Natural History Museum of Oxford, April 2025

DELEGACIÓN DE OXFORD

En 2024/2025 comenzamos con el tradicional Punt of Research en julio. En otoño celebramos el Welcome Event y la Asamblea Anual. En noviembre tuvo lugar la ya consolidada tercera edición de "Premios Nobel (para Principiantes)", con charlas de Montse Vallet, Carlos Outeiral y Sofía Medina. En febrero recorrimos Oxford con el paseo Women in Science, organizado por Montse Vallet y David Egea. En marzo visitamos el Harwell Campus y el sincrotrón Diamond Light Source, en una actividad organizada por Victoria García. En abril volvimos al Museo de Historia Natural con una visita guiada por el Dr. Ricardo Pérez de la Fuente. También mantuvimos nuestras tradicionales charlas estacionales.

For more information, contact oxford@sruk.org.uk

MIDLANDS CONSTITUENCY

Founded in 2015, the Midlands constituency covers a large area of the UK. Traditionally, most of our members were based in Birmingham, but since 2020 we have increased our presence in other Midland cities such as Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham, and Loughborough.

The Midlands Regional Board

Marta Domínguez Prieto, Director and Online manager

Ignacio Rodríguez Pastrana, Vice-Director

Rosa Sánchez Lucas, Secretary

The Midlands Working Group

Igor Arrieta Torres, **David Jiménez Grande**,

Laura Bravo Merodio, **María Vivero López**

Pablo del Pozo Lorenzale



Some memories from Midlands events across the year

The 2024/2025 year has been productive for the **SRUK/CERU Midlands Constituency**. Despite the challenges related with the decreasing number of volunteers we have managed to keep the Constituency quite active.

We started the year in October with our exciting **Welcome Event** in Birmingham, leading to several social gatherings, such as the visit to the **Cosmic Titans exhibition** in Nottingham or our traditional Christmas Lunch. These were also combined with scientific events such as the very first **Midlands Scientific Meeting** or our webinar on “witches or expert botanists” to celebrate the **11F** (International Day of Women and Girls in Science), together with outreach activities such as our ongoing collaboration with **Nuestra Escuela Leicester**, where some of our working group members showed the wonders of science to children of different ages.

In addition to this broad range of events, Midlands members have been active in the organization of other activities: the II SRUK/CERU Scientific Communication Symposium in Manchester, the Ramón y Cajal travelling exhibition, the Annual Symposium or the CONNECTS-UK events in Coventry and York.

We are already working on our 2025/2026 activities, looking forward to sharing with all of you another year of science and friends!



Some memories from Midlands events across the year

DELEGACIÓN DE MIDLANDS

Durante el curso 2024/2025, el grupo de trabajo de la Delegación de Midlands de CERU ha estado muy activo, organizando no sólo eventos en las diferentes ciudades que la integran sino colaborando muy activamente en otros proyectos como el II Simposio de Comunicación Científica en Manchester, el Simposio Anual o algunos de los eventos de CONNECTS-UK.

Entre los eventos más destacables, la primera Midlands Scientific Meeting en Birmingham, la visita a la exposición Cosmic Titans en Nottingham, o nuestra ya habitual colaboración con Nuestra Escuela Leicester organizando actividades de divulgación científica para niños.

For more information, contact midlands@sruk.org.uk

Events 2024/2025

The North East Constituency has had an exciting and engaging year, marked by a diverse range of scientific, social, and outreach activities. We kicked off with a Welcome Event and the En Foco photography exhibition on 26 September, led by Elisa and Magda, bringing together new and returning members. We ended 2024 with festive Christmas drinks at The Lost Wanderer on 9 December.

In January, Maria and Magda hosted a professional development workshop on **“The Power of LinkedIn”** at the Centre for Life. February saw over 70 attendees join the **Global Women’s Breakfast**, organised by Cristina, featuring a talk by Dr Kate Harris and interactive activities focused on breaking down barriers in science.

April brought a unique collaboration with Heaton Wine Club for **“The Science of Fermentation”** workshop and a wine and cheese evening led by Magda, with talks by Sergio and Ariadna. In May, Noelia and colleagues from Durham and Newcastle University language departments delivered a thought-provoking **workshop on resilience and reaching communities through underrepresented languages**.

Monthly gatherings at Bar Loco offered a welcoming space for Spanish researchers visiting the region. Our members also contributed to wider SRUK/CERU initiatives: Cristina and Magda represented us at the II Scientific Communication Symposium in Manchester, while Elisa presented her research at the Environment launch event in February and the UK-Connect Climate event in June. Elisa also served on the organising committee for the Annual Symposium in York.

We thank our outgoing president Sergio Serrano Blanco and secretary Maria Camacho Encina for their dedication, and Magda Pascual Borràs, who returns to Barcelona—we’ll miss them dearly.

Elisa is currently serving as interim president. We look forward to electing a new president and secretary, recruiting new members, and continuing our activities in 2025/2026!

NORTH-EAST CONSTITUENCY

The newest SRUK/CERU constituency was founded in Newcastle in December 2021. Since then, the working group has organised several events and is actively working to expand the membership in the area.

Members of the organising committee

Sergio Serrano Blanco
Maria Camacho Encina
Elisa Lopez-Capel
Magda Pascual Borràs
Ariadna Vidal Herrera
Cristina Navarro Reguero
Noelia Cacheiro Quintas



Members of the organising committee in the welcome event

DELEGACIÓN DE NORTH-EAST

La Delegación del Noreste de SRUK/CERU ha tenido un año dinámico, con eventos científicos, sociales y de divulgación. Destacaron el evento de bienvenida con la exposición En Foco, el desayuno global de mujeres en ciencia, talleres sobre LinkedIn, fermentación y lenguas subrepresentadas, y reuniones mensuales en Bar Loco. Miembros participaron en simposios y presentaciones nacionales. Agradecemos a Sergio Serrano Blanco y María Camacho Encina por su labor como presidente y secretaria, y despedimos a Magda Pascual Borràs. Elisa es presidenta interina. En 2025/2026 esperamos elegir nuevos cargos, organizar más actividades y atraer nuevos miembros para seguir fortaleciendo nuestra comunidad.

For more information, contact ceru.northeast@sruk.org.uk

These constituencies found no candidates to renew the regional board, and are in a state of stand-by.

CAMBRIDGE CONSTITUENCY

Cambridge has one of the best Universities in the world, which makes it a perfect scenario for scientific discussion and engagement of the public to the research of all kind. The SRUK/CERU Cambridge constituency has traditionally held outreach talks every two months in a pub under the name of “Pint of knowledge” and their traditional summer barbecue – a great opportunity to gather with other members.

YORKSHIRE CONSTITUENCY

The Yorkshire Constituency was formed by a group of researchers at different stages of their careers, with a high number of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Our members come from a wide range of fields including life sciences, computer sciences, humanities and social sciences. Their research work is based at different universities in the area, such as the Universities of Bradford, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Hull and Huddersfield.

NORTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

The North West constituency was officially established in January 2015. Most of its members live in Manchester and Liverpool, but there are also members in other cities of North West England (Preston, Burscough, Lancaster) and North Wales (Bangor). The working group is made up of members of the constituency, who voluntarily propose and organise scientific, outreach and social events in the North West area of the UK.

SOUTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

The South West Constituency is shaped by several scientific nuclei throughout the South West area, including Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Southampton and Exeter. Bristol has the higher number of members due to its population size; however, other places as Cardiff and Bath have a significant representation. The South West is a spatially large and open constituency, and its stronger point is the diversity that shapes it, allowing it for networking with many institutions in the area.

If you would be interested in joining the Constituency and leading the local working group, please email us at president@sruk.org.uk

ECONOMIC REPORT

This economic report summarises our accountancy in 2024, from January until December. Our main supporters were Fundación Banco Santander (36%), Fundación Ramón Areces (23%), and the Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in London (19%). We had our own source of income from membership fees (10%) and event ticketing (2%). Some of the activities organised by our themed SRUK/CERU Committees were also supported by Fundación Lilly, FEUGA, Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla, Fundación Científica de la Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer, Instituto Cervantes, and SpainU.

At SRUK/CERU, we continue operating with an efficient economic policy, trying to make the most out of our yearly income. Most of our budget was used to fund our activities and initiatives (26%), the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award 2023 (26%), the X SRUK/CERU International Symposium in London (16%), and the maintenance of our websites (SRUK/CERU main website, SRUK/CERU Members Zone, and SRUK/CERU Symposia) and online services (9%). We also supported our members through our SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants (6%).

SRUK/CERU is a private company limited-by guarantee operating as a non-profit society. Over the last years, our Society has experienced a huge growth in the number of events and initiatives. Although part of our income comes from SRUK/ CERU membership fees, our activities would not be possible without the additional economic support from our generous sponsors and collaborators.

INCOME 2024			
1	Fundación Santander	26,876.08 GBP	35.74 %
2	Fundación Ramon Areces	17,604.51 GBP	23.41 %
3	Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in London	14,000.00 GBP	18.62 %
4	SRUK/CERU Membership Fees	7,515.76 GBP	9.99 %
5	Fundación Lilly	3,295.47 GBP	4.38 %
6	FEUGA	1,946.66 GBP	2.59 %
7	SRUK/CERU Events ticketing	1,815.21 GBP	2.41 %
8	Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla	1,211.72 GBP	1.61 %
9	Fundación Científica de la Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer	542.49 GBP	0.72 %
10	SpainU	200.00 GBP	0.27 %
11	Instituto Cervantes	200.00 GBP	0.27 %
Total income to fund 2024 SRUK/ CERU activities and initiatives		75,207.90 GBP	100 %
	VAT reclaimed on purchases during 2024*	850.69 GBP	
	VAT due on taxable received income during 2024*	-6,173.29 GBP	
	SRUK/CERU Merchandising	130.27 GBP	
	Income from SRUK/CERU On The Move 2024 (fees)	911.55 GBP	
	Refunds	-140.00 GBP	
TOTAL INCOME IN 2024		70,787.12 GBP	

* VAT due on taxable received income and VAT reclaimed on purchases made using income during 2024

CONNECTS-UK INCOME 2024			
1	European Commission	244,281.48 GBP	93.52 %
2	Fundacion Santander	12,850.17 GBP	4.92 %
3	Embassy of the Netherlands in London	2,911.90 GBP	1.11 %
4	Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (Not accounted for in our income since expenses were covered directly by FECYT)	1,083.07 GBP	0.41 %
TOTAL INCOME IN 2024		261,126.42 GBP	

EXPENSES 2024			
1	SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award 2024	14,000.00 GBP	26.20 %
2	SRUK/CERU Initiatives and Activities	13,795.23 GBP	25.81 %
3	SRUK/CERU International Symposium 2024	8,656.04 GBP	16.20 %
4	Web Maintenance and Online Services	4,740.46 GBP	8.87 %
5	Executive Committee Representation Expenses	4,056.45 GBP	7.59 %
6	Accountancy and bank fees	3,727.26 GBP	6.97 %
7	SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants 2024	3,199.59 GBP	5.99 %
8	Administrative Costs	1,268.61 GBP	2.37 %
TOTAL EXPENSES for 2024 Activities and Initiatives		53,443.64 GBP	100 %
	SRUK/CERU International Symposia 2023	29.04 GBP	
	SRUK/CERU International Symposia 2025	1,170.00 GBP	
	SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants 2023	243.37 GBP	
TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2024		54,886.05 GBP	

These calculations include VAT

CONNECTS-UK EXPENSES 2024			
1	Support contractors	131,229.90 GBP	78.30%
2	Venues and catering	15,434.58 GBP	9.21%
3	Travel	8,331.21 GBP	4.97%
4	Audit report	6,660.24 GBP	3.97%
5	Equipment and Supplies	1,893.93 GBP	1.13%
6	Subscriptions and consumables	1,272.29 GBP	0.74%
7	Other expenses	2,787.40 GBP	1.66%
TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2024		167,609.54 GBP	

For more information, contact treasurer@sruk.org.uk

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025-2026

This year SRUK/CERU has shown its leadership in the context of science policy and science diplomacy within RAICEX and CONNECTS-UK. We have also increased the number of our members thanks to the work done in the constituencies. Next year, SRUK/CERU will continue its current initiatives, including a new edition of the Science-me a story contest, and launch new ones. This upcoming 2025-2026, SRUK/CERU's efforts will also focus on creating sustainable working methodologies for its volunteers, pursuing the professionalisation of the Society.

SRUK/CERU is achieving its objectives and finding its place in a changing environment

OBJECTIVE 1: Scientific and social network

Ongoing and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Grow the number of members by offering professional development and networking, especially to those outside academia and researchers from humanities and social sciences	Keep on reducing manual work for our volunteers by enhancing the usability of our website as a tool to apply internally to our calls
Creation of new bottom-up thematic committees on Evolution and Environment	Open channels to promote key information for non-members via UK institutions
Keep improving the usability of our website as a tool to promote interactions among our members, announce research opportunities, and improve our communications	Establish the constituency of Northern Ireland and build a system for supporting constituencies in the face of disruptive events
Support inactive constituencies through the organisation of SRUK/CERU flagship events	Focus on engagement with our community in order to recover pre-covid volunteer numbers
Appoint support staff to professionalise the society	Identify new funding opportunities

OBJECTIVE 3: Science representatives

Ongoing and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Continue defending research mobility and research collaborations between the EU and the UK through our leadership of CONNECTS-UK	Consolidate a plan for further contacts with British scientific institutions on wider science policy issues
Continue advocating for improvements in the Spanish research system through our leadership within RAICEX	Strengthen collaborations with Spanish councils and the Consejo de Residentes en el Exterior as the representatives of Spanish citizens in the UK
Produce documentation on the continuously changing conditions for Spanish researchers in the UK	Continue our advocacy work with Spanish political parties, parliamentary groups and Government representatives
Reinforce our relationship with the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Madrid	Develop a strategy to help members use their research for policy recommendations

OBJECTIVE 2: Science outreach

Ongoing and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Increase the impact of outreach activities such as the Science-me a story initiative	Expand collaborations with British outreach institutions and our presence in British Media
Continue offering online and in person events with UK-wide reach	Identify new outreach activities for engaging with a more diverse audience, especially younger generations
Recognise and foster Spanish talent in the UK with our key awards (Emerging Talent Award and Merit Award)	Repurpose the awards offered to the Society to better support our members
Develop science outreach activities in all the co-official languages of Spain	Contribute to the development of members' outreach skills by building on the expertise that SRUK/CERU has created over the years to foster sustainability of our outreach initiatives

OBJECTIVE 4: Science mediators between UK and Spain

Ongoing and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Strengthen our collaborations with Spanish institutions to offer places and mentoring opportunities to Spanish early career researchers	Establish SRUK/CERU as a key partner of UK research institutions when looking for collaborations in Spain
Deepen the collaboration with Spanish societies and institutions (e.g., ASEICA, CrisCancer, FeBiotec, Instituto Cervantes, COSCE)	Increase the number of sponsors and partners, particularly UK and Spanish R&D companies to support new collaborations
Keep consolidating the SRUK/CERU On-the-move mobility fellowships	Facilitate the interdisciplinary collaborations between the UK and Spain
Increase visibility to our members and their work in Spain	Academia-industry exchange scheme

MAIN SUPPORTERS



**FUNDACIÓN
RAMÓN ARECES**

The Ramón Areces Foundation is our principal and unconditional supporter. Thanks to them, we are able to promote a whole range of activities and benefits year after year.

From its creation in 1976, the Ramón Areces Foundation aims to support scientific development through the promotion of research activities, knowledge exchange, and the contribution to the generation of human capital. This institution also supports training opportunities for young researchers and promotes the exchange of ideas in Science, Education, and Culture. This Foundation has strongly supported SRUK/CERU since our very beginning.

This year, they have continued to generously sponsor our annual programme of activities (with scientific seminars, outreach activities and professional development workshops across the country), and our Annual International Symposium. This year, the Foundation has increased its commitment to support scientific events focused on areas with strong potential for collaborations between Spain and the UK. SRUK/CERU is also very thankful to the Foundation for its continuous support to RAICEX, the network of societies of Spanish Researchers abroad.



Fundación Banco Santander, the sponsor of the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award.

Fundación Banco Santander is committed to supporting cultural, humanistic and social projects and scientific initiatives. Their support to Science focuses on the promotion of three aims: the development of projects in the most innovative research fields; the organisation of science outreach activities; and the commitment to foster the career development of young talents through the concession

of grants and funding. SRUK/CERU is delighted to have received the support of Fundación Banco Santander for nine consecutive years. In 2024, SRUK/CERU and the Banco Santander Foundation launched the ninth edition of the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award. With this award, we aim at recognising the work of a young Spanish researcher who has developed their career in the UK.



Collaboration with the Office for Culture and Scientific Affairs (OCSA).

The Spanish Embassy in the UK was the first Embassy to formally perform Science Diplomacy actions by including this competence in its Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA). This Office aims to promote stronger links between Spanish and British scientific institutions. SRUK/CERU counts with the collaboration of OCSA from its very inception. This year, SRUK/CERU has received abundant support from OCSA. Their support has allowed

us to develop activities and strategies which have made our Society a reference and an example among other associations of foreign researchers in the UK. This institutional collaboration has also been crucial to reach both Spanish and British institutions and to promote the activities of SRUK/CERU. In the context of Brexit, the collaboration of the Spanish Embassy has been paramount to keep SRUK/CERU members informed of new developments, including changes in immigration and visa regulations.

MAIN SUPPORTERS



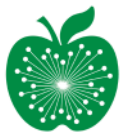
Created in 2001, the **Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)** is a public foundation dependent on the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. The mission of FECYT is to enhance the link between science and society, and to promote open and inclusive science as well as scientific culture and education. In this context, FE-

CYT collaborates with the different Societies of Spanish Researchers abroad, including SRUK/CERU. As part of this collaboration, FECYT has participated in the organisation of SRUK/CERU outreach activities and events since 2012, including the SRUK/CERU Annual Symposium, in which FECYT has been participating for the last nine years.

Partnerships

Universities	Networks	Charities and Foundations	Societies	Research Institutes
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid - UAM	Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas - CRUE	Fundación Damián Rodríguez Olivares - DRO Foundation	Asociación Española de Investigación sobre el Cáncer - ASEICA	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - CSIC
Universidad de Zaragoza - Unizar	Red de Universidades Valencianas por el fomento de la I+D - RUVID	International Mentoring Foundation for the Advancement of Higher Education - IMFAHE	Real Sociedad Española de Física - RSEF	Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Aragón - IIS Aragón
Universidad Francisco de Vitoria - UFV	Fundación Pública Andaluza para la Investigación Biosanitaria Andalucía Oriental - FIBAO	Fundación CRISCáncer	Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular - SEBBM	Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas de Málaga - IBIMA
Universidad de La Laguna - ULL			Sociedad Española de Ingeniería Biomédica - SEIB	Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas - CNIO
Universidad de Castilla - La Mancha - UCLM			Federación Española de Biotecnólogos - FEBiotec	

SRUK/CERU is a member of:



RAICEX Red de Asociaciones de Investigadores y Científicos Españoles en el Exterior

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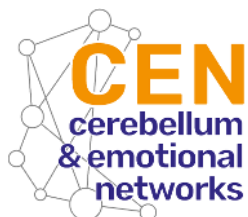


OTHER SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS



AXENCIA
GALEGA DE
INNOVACIÓN

OTHER SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS





**Society of
Spanish Researchers
in the United Kingdom**

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