

## **European Researchers' Night to Be Held Throughout Catalonia for the First Time**

*Over the course of two days, seven Catalan cities will host a variety of family-friendly activities designed to raise awareness about science*

*Barcelona, 26 September 2018.* On 28 and 29 September, Catalonia will host various events associated with **European Researchers' Night**, an annual initiative designed to raise public awareness about science. For the first time ever, activities associated with this initiative will take place in all four Catalan provinces: Barcelona, Tarragona, Girona and Lleida. Events affiliated with European Researchers' Night are being organised by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)—a centre supported by the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation—as well as the University of Barcelona (UB), the University of Girona (UdG), the University of Lleida (UdL), the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Rovira i Virgili University (URV), the Catalan delegation of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), the Catalan Association of Scientific Communication (ACCC) and other organisations.

European Researchers' Night is an interactive public event designed to teach ordinary people about the importance of science and innovation, showcase current research in various disciplines, and raise awareness about what researchers really do for society. The **European Commission** has organised this event on the last Friday of September every year since 2005. This year's European Researchers' Night will take place simultaneously in nearly **300 cities in 30 countries** and will focus on the theme of research as universal heritage.

The activities being organised in Catalonia have been recognised by the European Commission as **events associated with European Researchers' Night**—a guarantee that these activities will be of high quality. These activities will therefore be included on the official map of the public outreach events taking place all over Europe under the umbrella of this continent-wide initiative.

For **two days**, the public will learn, play and be amazed by science while taking part in all sorts of fun activities: hands-on sessions with researchers, educational workshops, lectures on popular-science topics, simulations, concerts, tours of heritage sites and visits to laboratories. Most activities will be held in seven cities: **Barcelona, Cerdanyola del Vallès (Bellaterra), Girona, Lleida, Reus, Roses** and **Tarragona**.

## European Researchers' Night in Barcelona

This week's events kicked off with an [opening session](#) at Vil·la Urània Civic Centre in Barcelona's Sarrià–Sant Gervasi district on **Tuesday, 25 September**. The first activity, at 6:30 pm, was a dialogue between researchers Sílvia Valenzuela (CSIC) and Josep M. Fullola (UB) entitled “Research in Heritage: Searching for the Past to Understand the Present and Plan for the Future”. Then, at 8.00 pm, Crisal Rodríguez, head of the cultural production company Con.Ciencia, offered a performance inspired by neuroscience and biomimetics.

The main programme will kick off on **Friday, 28 September with a morning of “research in the schools”**. Researchers will visit various primary and secondary schools to teach children about the human microbiome, epigenetics, environmental pollutants, artificial intelligence and many other current research topics.

Other activities will be held at **six locations around Barcelona**: the Sagrada Família–Josep M. Ainaud de Lasarte Library, the UPF Poblenou Campus, the Centre for Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB), CosmoCaixa, imaginCafé and the Vil·la Urània Civic Centre.

## Young Research Night

Many of the activities in Barcelona will be held at **CosmoCaixa** as part of the museum's [Young Research Night](#), a special night-time event that will showcase some of the most spectacular aspects of scientific research. From 7:00 pm to midnight, the general public will enjoy **six open workshops** where they can **create collaborative music with a Reactable**, convert their emotions into music, **pilot a drone with their mind**, observe the cosmos, delve into nanoscience and attend **micro-talks** that provide a glimpse of the cutting-edge research taking place in Catalonia.

As part of European Researchers' Night, ISGlobal will participate in six talks at Catalan schools. These talks will cover topics such as the role of statistics in research, emerging diseases, integrity and ethics in research, and air pollution and the various pollutants that affect air quality. ISGlobal will also offer micro-talks on the Institute's current research and take part in an activity called “Personal MSCA: Participate in a Game of Telephone with a Photograph”, organised in collaboration with the University of Bristol. Finally, ISGlobal will offer a talk on the oceans and health as part of the Morning of Research in the town of Roses.

Further details about the European Researchers' Night events in Catalonia are available at the following links:

- [Barcelona](#)
- [Lleida](#)
- [Girona](#)
- [Tarragona](#)

## About ISGlobal

The Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) is the result of an innovative alliance between the "la Caixa" Foundation and academic and government institutions. The Institute was set up to contribute to the work undertaken by the international community to address global health challenges. ISGlobal has consolidated a hub of excellence in research and medical care that has its roots in work first started in the world of health care by the Hospital Clínic and the Mar Health Park and in the academic sphere by the University of Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra University. The pivotal mechanism of its work model is the transfer of knowledge generated by scientific research to practice, a task undertaken by the Institute's Education, Policy and Global Development departments. ISGlobal is a member of CERCA, the Catalan Government's network of research centres.

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