

THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL (EIC): More chances for Innovation made in Europe?

**Institució dels Centres de Recerca de Catalunya
(CERCA)**

Barcelona, April 2016



Over
40
Research
centers

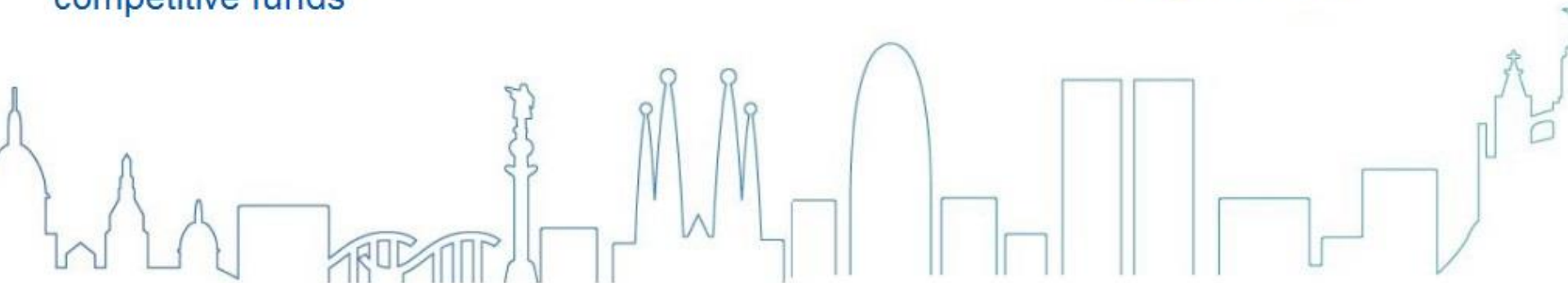
More than
6,000
Researchers

117
European Research
Council Grants

70%
External &
competitive funds

400M€
Annual budget

> 300M€
from the 7th Framework
Programme EU

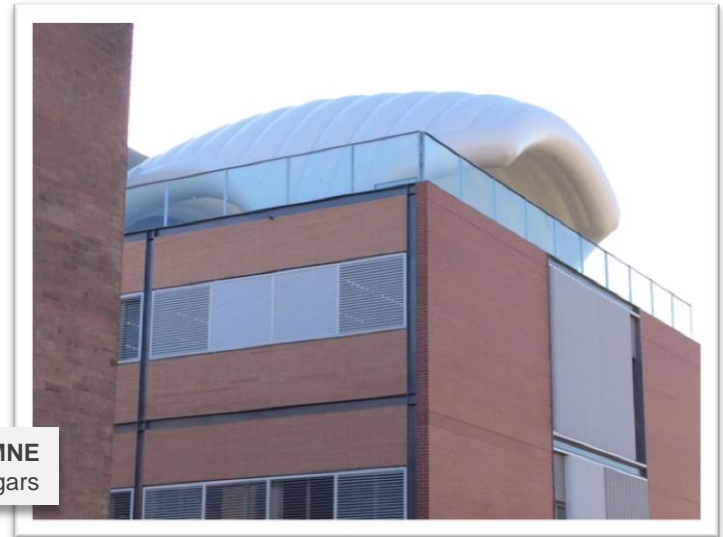


The challenge

Some European researchers, institutions and companies have proven a background in creating disruptive research results...

... However Unicorns, as startups that have been able to break the “early-stage barrier” and are a candidate to become large global companies and real job creators,...

... are quite rare in the EU



CIMNE
Buildair's portable hangars

The challenge II

The current EU instruments for funding innovation are scarce, uncoordinated and strongly oriented to SMEs. Hardly available for researchers and R&D institutions.

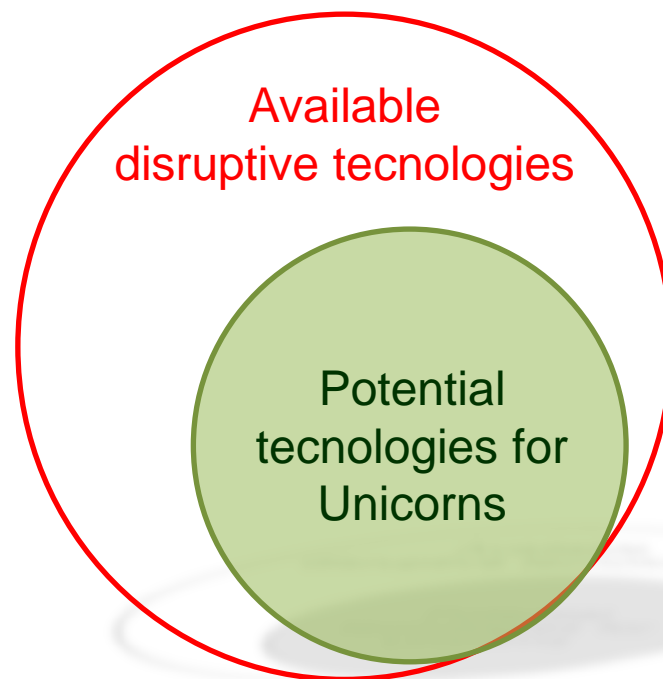
There is not a real tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship at individual level, but it improves with the time.

There is a need for innovation incentives at institutional level, to create a bottom-up dynamics.

Source of technology “made in Europe”

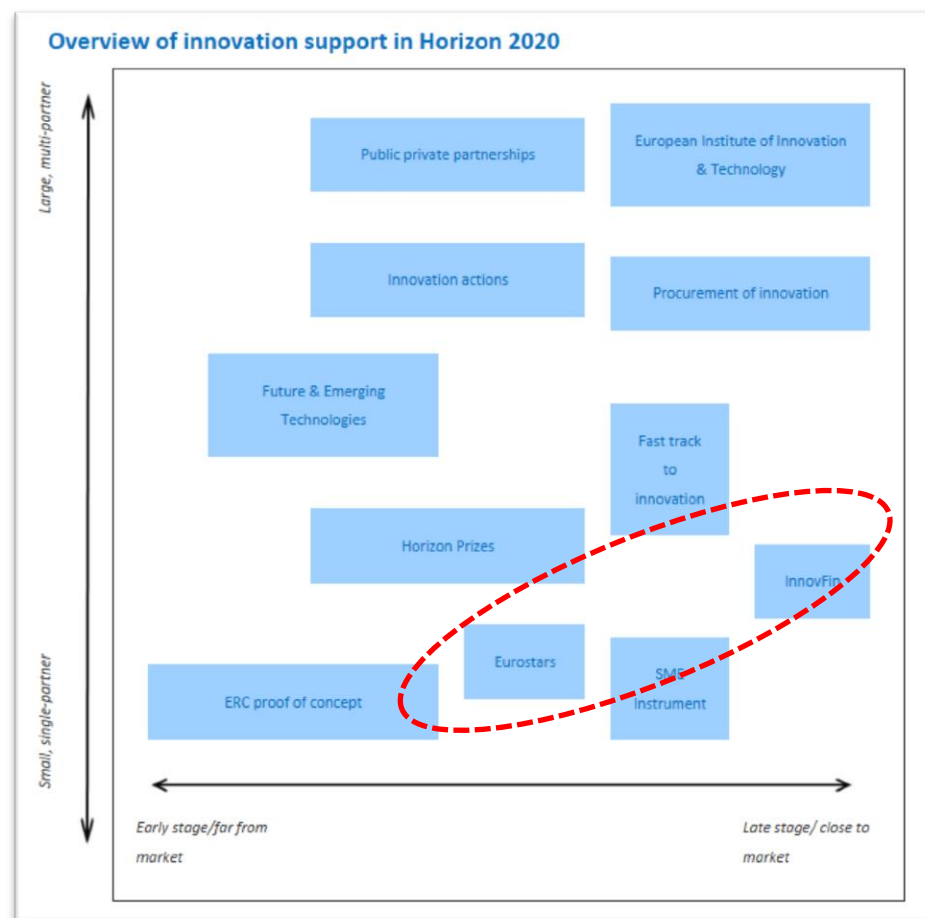
Not all disruptive research has the potential to create technological Unicorns...

... It needs to be ethics respectful, to ambition a massive potential of customers, to have at minimum European scope, to use skilled professional management, to be institutionally supported and funded...



Instruments for innovation

EIC instruments should give support within the red dotted line zone, following ERC grants and growing in partners when they get close to market.



Instruments for innovation II (recommended)

- Patent funds.
- Management of IP portfolio.
- Fight Intellectual Property (IP) infringement.
- IP legal and strategic advice.
- Prove of Concept (PoC).
- Support to Knowledge and Technology (KTT) management (Human Resources in KTT and external consultancy expenditures).
- Promotion of entrepreneurs.
- Equity funds (only seed capital).

Who should be funded?

Researchers



or

R&D Institutions



Strong KTT processes driving to Unicorns must be incubated in excellent R&D institutions, allowing them to develop a EU funded innovation strategy oriented to success stories. Therefore EIC funded institutions will hire professional innovators to implement actions.

What could a European Innovation Council do?

- Organise H2020 Calls for Innovation strategies implementation in R&D Institutions (*between 1 – 2 Millions Euros per year grants*).
- Define a set of criteria to evaluate proposals based on massive potential customers, ethical issues, creativity, disruptive research, technology portfolio and European scope.
- Fund different costs associated to innovation (patents, PoC, experts in KTT, seed capital in equity, legal advice, consultancy, ...).
- Fund surveillance of IP to fight infringement.



www.cerca.cat

info@cerca.cat

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