



01.1 The Information Society Framework

The term Information Society (IS), first adopted by the EU, emphasises the social and economic impact that computer applications and the development of information infrastructures will have on society.

The area of the Information Society Framework (IS) addresses the issues that have a repercussion on all sectors of society, for example, Research and Development policies in the area of the IS, the presence of Catalonia on the Network and the regulating framework. R+D, understood as the source of change towards a new technological and social future, must necessarily be an indicator, in order that we may know what future possibilities Catalonia has of becoming independent in the field of technology and of creating good entrepreneurs. Once a policy and an approach towards R+D in ICT has been consolidated and a sectoral policy has been applied, it will be necessary to be able to compare the result with the degree of Catalonia's participation in the digital society of the future, with respect to culture, electronic business, access to digital information and communicative exchange.

The proposed indicators for monitoring the position in Catalonia in this area and its future development are:

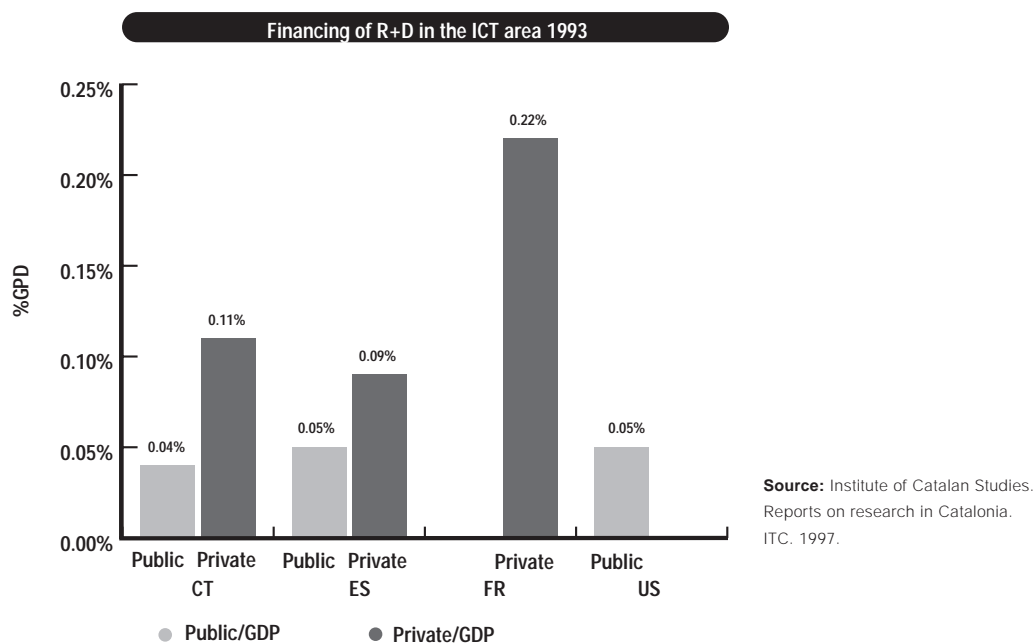
01.1.1 R+D activity in the ICT sector

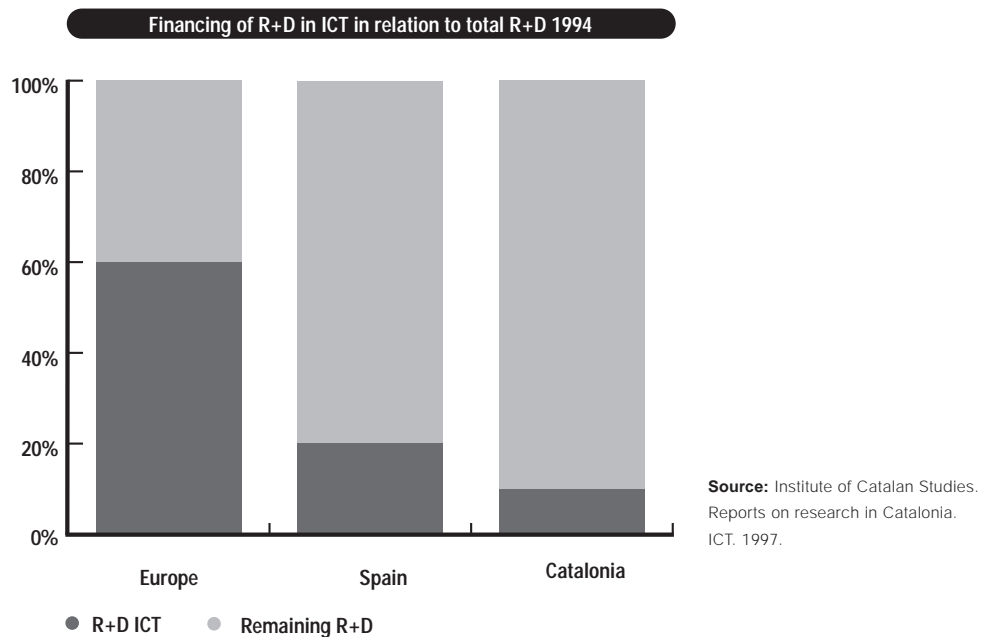
01.1.2 Presence of Catalonia on the Network.

01.1.1 R+D activity in the ICT sector

The parameters that are probably more significant when measuring R+D activity are the capital development funds that a country assigns to R+D and the impact of the progress of a country on literature and industry. Therefore, the two indicators that we have proposed for continuous evaluation are investment in R+D concerned with the Information Society sector (a broader concept than Information Technologies), and the number of scientific articles by Catalan researchers and their impact on research at an international level.

The following graphs show the volume of financing assigned to ICT in different countries, and the proportion of financing in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in relation to the total.





In 1993, the total public and private expenditure on R+D accounted for **1% of the GDP in Catalonia** and **0.9% in Spain**. In France the equivalent figure was **2.4%**, in Italy **1.3%** and in Sweden **3.5%**. (Sources: COTEC, OECD).

Over a period of four years, the **1997/2000 Research Plan** for Catalonia will invest a total of 221,455 million pesetas (ESP), to be contributed as follows: Generalitat (Autonomous Government of Catalonia): 78,615 million; Universities: 92,040 million; Spanish Government: 50,800 million. (Source: Commissioner's Office for Universities and Research).

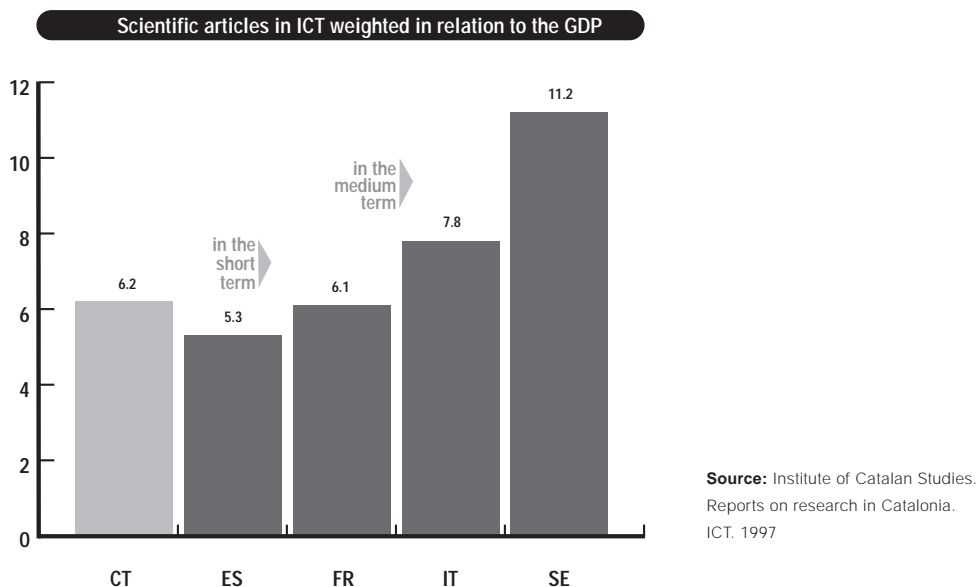
Scientific standard in the ICT area

The quality of a country in terms of science or research may be measured with reference to various parameters. Two highly significant parameters are the number of publications that have appeared and the number of patents registered.

Scientific articles in ICT weighted in relation to the GDP

This graph shows the number of scientific articles from the ICT area published between 1992 and 1998 in journals with a high international impact.

In order to apply some kind of weighting factor to the articles published, so as to compensate for the size of each country, the data are divided by the GDP of each country in billions of pesetas (ESP).



01.1.2 Presence of Catalonia on the Network

Catalonia is the Spanish Community that navigates most on the Internet; 23.7% of navigators in Spain are from Catalonia, but only 5.7% use Catalan. (Source: AIMC)

Of the approximately 3,000 Spanish stores present on the Internet that can be found in the database of the Web site www.dondecomprar.com, only 5.8% (174 stores) have Catalan as an alternative language.

