



## Public Administration School of Catalonia

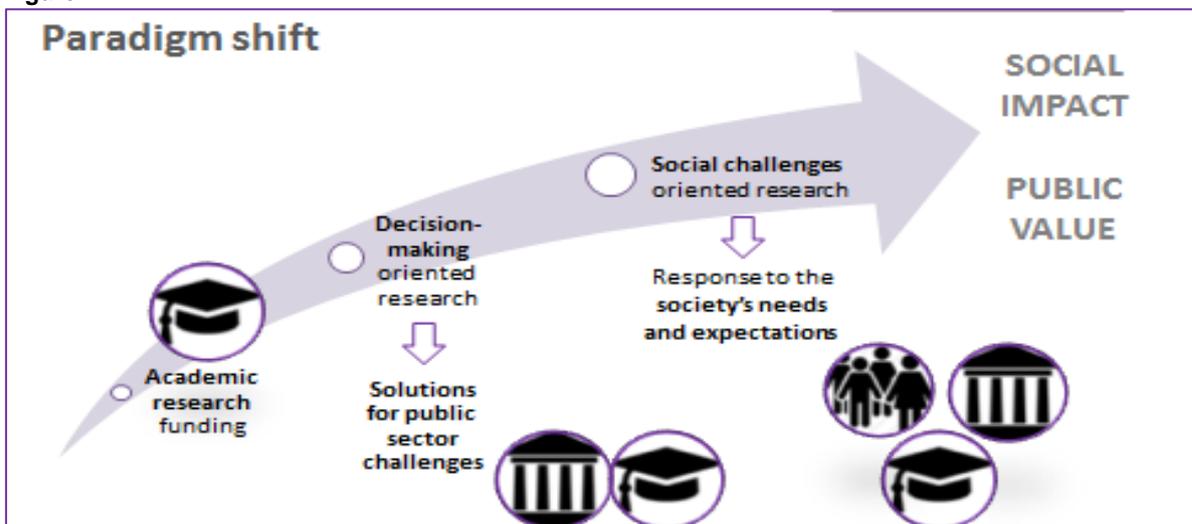
The Public Administration School of Catalonia (EAPC) is an independent administrative body founded in 1912 and currently linked to the Ministry for Digital Policy and Public Administration of the Government of Catalonia.

Our mission is to improve and innovate the Catalan public administrations through training and research on public management and public policies. We are a strategic agent in the training aimed at all Catalan administrations, with a significant focus on senior management training and post-graduate studies, a driving force in guaranteeing the continuous improvement and innovation of the public services. Likewise, we encourage research and dissemination of knowledge in the field of public administration and public policies in order to recognise and share innovative actions and good practices, to generate valuable content for the community and to become a global reference.

In 2017 we launched the [EAPC research driver programme](#), with the aim of promoting research on administration and public policies that would be useful to policymakers for decision making in response to social challenges. The research we promote is clearly mission-oriented, in accordance with the approach set forth by the new framework programme of the European Commission, [Horizon Europe](#). On the one hand, the EAPC research driver programme looks for the commitment of decision makers, the *challenge owners*, to face their challenges by means of science-based and evidence-informed policymaking. On the other hand, it aims to attract the scientific community to do research that provides the necessary evidence to inform these policies aimed at solving social challenges. Finally, it also involves the other relevant stakeholders through a participative process that applies the responsible research and innovation (RRI) methodology promoted by the European Commission in the programme [Science with and for Society](#) within the H2020 research framework.

The EAPC research driver programme represents an important paradigm shift in relation to former traditional programmes to promote research, as figure 1 shows:

Figure 1





Furthermore, this programme is innovative both in strategy and in methodology:

- Regarding the strategy, it suggests that it is the policymakers who must attract the academic researchers towards relevant research in terms of social challenges.
- Regarding the methodology, it is clearly situated in the parameters of open science. This is why it adopts the principles inspiring the responsible research and innovation (RRI) approach.

In order to test the application of our new approach, in 2018 we launched a pilot project on migration policies. Together with the Secretariat for Equality, Migration and Citizenship (SIMC) of the Catalan Government, we identified both a societal challenge that needed science-based policy decisions and more than 100 relevant stakeholders including scientists, decision makers, civil society and the education community. Then, we carried out three participative workshops with many of these stakeholders in order to establish research priorities related to the challenge. Finally, with the conclusions of this participative work, we initiated a procurement process for a research project to be developed throughout 2019 with RRI methodology.

In sum, we are leading an experimental process with the aim of producing science more democratic in terms of participation, more legitimate in terms of resolving social needs and more effective in terms of results.

### **Collaboration priorities**

We are willing to participate, as a governmental partner, in EU projects engaged with participatory mission-oriented research and RRI. We can particularly contribute to these projects by connecting decision makers and other social stakeholders to scientists and by training senior officials in order to promote science-based policy making for any kind of public policies.

More generally, we are interested in projects which foster international cooperation, policy & governance, talent attraction, professional development, mobility & exchanges, encouraging occupation, transferable skills training and professional development support.

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