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A key priority in this year's plan is adding value to Spain's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of the year.



The Elcano Royal Institute's Plan of Action for 2023 is centred on the 10 core themes identified by the Institute in 2022 for its research agenda: global governance and development; international peace and security; democracy; climate and the energy transition; the economy and technology; the future of Europe; Latin America; China's rise, the US and the new world order; neighbourhood challenges and opportunities; and Spain's image and influence. These 10 themes are complemented by five cross-cutting and interrelated themes –cities, culture, gender, migration and health–, which are present across the Institute's work.

Our research and activities planned for 2023 include a number of initiatives related to Spain's presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of the year. Two specific areas of interest, on which the Institute has already carried out a significant amount of work, are the importance and future of the relationship between the EU and Latin America and the concept of open strategic autonomy.

In 2023 we will continue our participation in competitive European projects in pursuit of scientific excellence. These projects cut across multiple research themes and include: RAN-Policy Support and EUTEX (prevention of violent radicalisation + deradicalisation), IBERIFIER (disinformation) and RECONNECT China (EU–China relations), alongside others related to climate governance, the geopolitics of energy and the challenges facing official development assistance.

To strengthen and build on our capacity for analysis and impact among the academic community, think tanks and society as a whole, the Institute has renewed and expanded its Scientific Council and will also harness its wealth of intellectual capital through a newly created Advisory Council. The Institute continues to enjoy the indispensable support and commitment of our Board of Trustees. For this year, it has welcomed a number of new corporate trustees and is seeking to broaden its partnerships, with new categories of relationships to the Institute (protector and collaborator partners). These form part of our goal of fostering a Spanish-language global intelligence community.

The following pages showcase flagship projects for each research theme. These projects will be complemented by outputs of multi-annual lines of work and analyses of trends in response to the changing international outlook throughout the year.



## Globalisation, development and governance



- 1.1. A new release of the Elcano Global Presence Index, which observes and analyses the process of globalisation and its transformation. The 2023 release will include a specific analysis of the geographic distribution of the global power of the US.
- 1.2. The Institute will continue to play an active role in the meetings of the T20, the network of think tanks from G20 countries, contributing to reflections on the mechanisms of global governance.
- 1.3. A specific line of work entitled 'The European dimension of Spanish cooperation; the Spanish dimension of European cooperation'. This research, which is supported by funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will explore the challenges facing Spanish cooperation in light of the redefinition of the EU's objectives in this area.

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



# Challenges to peace and international security



- 2.1. A study of how the war in the Ukraine has impacted Spain's thinking regarding its armed forces and its defence industry.
- 2.2. Analysis of the governance of NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) and the corresponding challenges for European security.
- 2.3. Continuation of a line of work on cybersecurity. Since 2016 it has focused on public—private cooperation, and is complemented by our involvement in the National Cybersecurity Forum.
- 2.4. A report titled 'The determinants of violent radicalisation and terrorist disengagement in Spain', with research based on individual interviews with jihadist terrorists serving sentences in Spanish prisons (the issue will be addressed from the perspective of second-generation terrorists, women and converts). The report will feed into current reflections on Spain's new counterterrorism strategy.
- 2.5. Coordination of the RAN-Policy Support functional unit for research and innovation, which supports the European Commission and Member States in developing the European agenda on preventing and countering violent extremism.
- 2.6. Participation in the European EUTEX project on the demobilisation and reintegration of terrorists and extremist and radicalised offenders.



#### **Democracy and citizenship**



- 3.1. Involvement in the Iberian Media Research and Fact Checking (IBERIFIER) project focused on disinformation in Spain and Portugal, funded by the European Commission through the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO). This work will allow us to contribute to reflections regarding Spain's future national disinformation plan.
- 3.2. A Barometer of the Elcano Royal Institute (BRIE) on Spanish public opinion on international affairs, alongside flash surveys on specific topics in response to international events throughout the year.





### Climate and the energy transition



- 4.1. A report on the governance and geopolitics of climate from a Spanish perspective, funded by the European Climate Foundation. Among other initiatives, the study includes a dedicated survey of Spanish attitudes towards climate change and its economic and social consequences.
- 4.2. A line of work titled 'Spain and the European energy crisis', analysing the consequences of the war in Ukraine for the Spanish energy mix and the security of energy supplies.





### Technology and economic transformations



- 5.1. A report on progress and lessons learned in the implementation of Next Generation EU funds in Spain through a case study of a representative project under Spain's Strategic Project for Economic Recovery and Transformation (PERTE) scheme.
- 5.2. Continuation of work on the new framework for digital diplomacy proposed by the EU, particularly mechanisms and policies to promote the digital component of the Global Gateway and regional strategies (especially Latin America) in the area of chips.
- 5.3. A report on the economic dimensions of the war in Ukraine, analysing the objectives, effectiveness and impact of sanctions (both for the EU and Russia), in addition to the political and economic challenges presented by the future economic reconstruction of Ukraine.



#### The future of Europe



- 6.1. A retrospective study of Spain's contribution to the EU, commissioned by the Secretary of State for the EU of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, feeding into reflections on the objectives of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2023.
- 6.2. A report on the EU's open strategic autonomy, produced in partnership with experts from leading European think tanks and feeding into the Spanish Government's contribution to the debate on the future of the EU during its presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2023.
- 6.3. A report on the future of European economic governance, with a particular emphasis on the new fiscal rules and the economic governance of the euro.



#### Latin America: a global actor



- 7.1. A report 'why Latin America matters?' looking at the region's rising geopolitical and economic relevance in the context of the growing Sino–US rivalry and the war in Ukraine.
- 7.2. A report on the contribution and creation of value from Spanish foreign direct investment in Latin America. The report will be based on open-source data and will focus on three issues: macroeconomic volatility, regulatory changes and their social impact.
- 7.3. A report on the cultural relationship between Spain and Mexico in partnership with the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI).





## China's rise, the US and the new world order



- 8.1. The launch of a new line of research on the rivalry between China and the US and its consequences for Europe and Spain, addressing the political, economic (industrial, technology and energy), and defence and security dimensions. The work will be funded by the European Research Council as part of the three-year research project 'Sino–American Competition and European Strategic Autonomy', recently awarded to Luis Simón, Director of the Elcano Brussels office.
- 8.2. Involvement in the Horizon Europe RECONNECT China project, contributing to the section on connectivity between Europe and China through the EU's Global Gateway project launched in 2021.
- 8.3. As a founding member of the network of the European Think-tank Network on China (ETNC), the Institute will contribute to the new report Mapping Europe—China Relations, with a chapter on Spain.
- 8.4. Undertaking projects on security and defence in Asia, with funding from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Korea Foundation.

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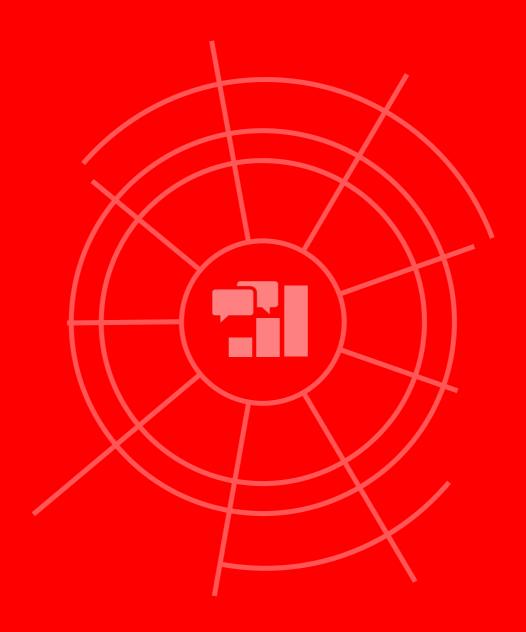


# Neighbourhood challenges and opportunities



- 9.1. Elcano report on Spain–Maghreb relations (with a particular focus on Morocco and Algeria).
- 9.2. Publication titled 'North Africa: the limits of resilience' in partnership with the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan and the Middle East Institute in Washington, DC.
- 9.3. A study on frozen conflicts in the post-soviet space, with a particular focus on the Caucasus.

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#### Spain's influence and image



- 10.1. A report on bilateral Spanish-US relations under the Biden Administration, exploring the continuities and changes over the last few years in the political, economic and security dimensions.
- 10.2. A Barometer of the Elcano Royal Institute (BRIE) in the eight most important Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela) to analyse attitudes and perceptions towards Spain among the public in Latin America.
- 10.3. Study on Spanish language and culture in Southeast Asia, continuing the work on Japan and Korea, in partnership with the Instituto Cervantes.





The Elcano Royal Institute participates in publicly and privately funded international research consortiums to boost the impact of its research, multiply its networks for cooperation and extend the transfer of research outputs to other countries.



RAN-Policy Support (2020-2024)



**IBERIFIER** (2021-2024)



**EUTEX** (2022-2023)



Reconnect China

#### International projects

- 1.1. RAN-Policy Support (2020–2024) Supports the European Commission and Member States in developing the European agenda on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. The Institute coordinates the functional unit for research and innovation and contributes to the production of specialist publications and the organisation of activities. The initiative is funded by the EU and Member States.
- 1.2. Aid Narratives: Political Debate and Multilateralism (2021–2023) Indepth analysis of the aid–influence link in the multilateral space, fostering dialogue between representatives of political parties across the spectrum and different government bodies regarding the motivations and goals of Spanish aid. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 1.3. Iberian Media Research and Fact Checking (IBERIFIER) (2021–2024) Investigation of online media and monitoring of disinformation threats in Spain and Portugal. Funded by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (CEF-HaDEA).
- 1.4. Developing a European Framework for the Disengagement and Reintegration of Extremist offenders and Radicalised Individuals in Prison, Including Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Their Families (EUTEX) (2022–2023) Gathering and reviewing best practices; designing courses and training modules; developing a tool for risk assessment; and implementation and evaluation of training programmes.

Funded by the EU Internal Security Fund – Police.

- 1.5. Upgrading Independent Knowledge on Contemporary China in Europe (RECONNECT CHINA) (2022–2026) Analyses the areas in which cooperation between the EU and China is desirable, possible or impossible, identifying areas in which the EU should upgrade its independent knowledge: science and technology, economics and trade, national governments and foreign policy. Funded by the European Commission (Horizon Europe).
- 1.6. Project on climate governance and geopolitics from a Spanish perspective, funded by the European Climate Foundation. Among other initiatives, the study includes a dedicated survey of Spanish attitudes towards climate change and its economic and social consequences.



#### **Working Groups (2023)**

- 1.1. The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union directed by Ignacio Molina
- 1.2. Latin America directed by Carlos Malamud
- 1.3. Climate and Energy directed by Lara Lázaro & Gonzalo Escribano
- 1.4. International Economics Miguel Otero & Federico Steinberg
- 1.5. Spanish-US Bilateral Relations directed by Carlota García-Encina
- 1.6. The China–US–EU Strategic Triangle directed by Mario Esteban
- 1.7. Technology Transformations directed by Raquel Jorge
- 1.8. Cybersecurity directed by Félix Arteaga & Javier Alonso Lecuit
- 1.9. Global Health
- 1.10. The Ecosystem of Spain's Presence and Influence in Brussels directed by Luis Simón
- 1.11. Spain and the Maghreb directed by Haizam Amirah Fernández
- 1.12. Disinformation and Hybrid Threats directed by Ángel Badillo & Mira Milosevich
- 1.13. Gender Equality and International Relations, directed by María Solanas

































