

RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS. YOU HAVE TO MOVE ON IN THE RELATIONSHIP!

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Currently, the main argument to politically defend the investment in science and technology and/or criticizing budget cuts in this area is very direct and easy to understand: ***investment in research will make our companies more competitive, it will help us get out of the crisis more quickly in which we are and will facilitate the necessary transformation of our obsolete production system.***

But in my opinion this ***very utilitarian argument*** is a poisoned dart that is turning against the cause it defends. Not because there is not a close relationship between research and economic and social development, which there is and is very powerful (just look at the close correlation between investment in R&D and the degree of development of countries, [aquí](#)), but because it does not even take place in the short term, nor limited to specific territorial borders and not even in the direction in which we might expect beforehand. That is why it is really very easy to lower it on the priority scale and leave it for better times. Because let's not forget that public managers are assessed by the immediate control of the public deficit; increase income or decrease expenses and investment in research does not help either in the first direction, nor in the second.

On the other hand, if the justification for investment in R&D is fundamentally economic, ***it is not illogical for public authorities to insist on***