



## IV Hipatia Award to Nuria Oliver, international expert in artificial intelligence

- The 4th Hipatia European Science Prize highlights her research work on new AI methods and systems to drive positive social impact.
- During the award ceremony held earlier this week at the Barcelona City Council and chaired by mayor Jaume Collboni, Nuria Oliver gave the lecture *Towards a Socially Sustainable Artificial Intelligence*.

**Alicante, 07 of March, 2024.** – The international expert in Artificial Intelligence (AI) **Nuria Oliver**, scientific director and co-founder of the [ELLIS Alicante Foundation](#), was yesterday proclaimed the winner of the **4th Barcelona Hipatia European Science Prize**, promoted by the **Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the European Academy (AE-BKH)**. The prize, worth 30,000 euros, is awarded for her research into the development of new AI methods and systems with a positive social impact. This is the first time that this prize has been awarded to a Spanish researcher.

The award highlights over 25 years of exceptional international impact, which has resulted in more than 40 registered patents. In recent years, Nuria Oliver has focused on the ideation and co-creation of the [European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems \(ELLIS\)](#), of which she is vice-president. This network, which already has 41 units in 16 countries in Europe and Israel, is the largest pan-European initiative of scientific excellence in Artificial Intelligence focused on basic research leading to technological innovation with positive social and economic impact.

Within the ELLIS network, the ELLIS Alicante Unit, of which Dr. Oliver is the director, was created in 2020 with the backing and support of the Generalitat Valenciana as a private non-profit foundation dedicated to scientific research on responsible AI for Social Good. ELLIS Alicante advocates for the development of Artificial Intelligence that is always people-centered, responsible, transparent, and focusing on relevant issues, such as algorithmic fairness and transparency, privacy, inclusivity in human-IA interaction and the study of the social impact of AI. The aim is to ensure the positive impact of AI on society.

The laureate is passionate about the dissemination of science and technology, with hundreds of appearances in the media, and is particularly committed to attracting young talent - especially women - to the engineering and computer science fields.

The fourth deputy mayor of Barcelona City Council and head of the Department of Science and Universities, **Jordi Valls**, stressed "the importance of consolidating the European Hipatia Prize with the start of this second three-year period, and doing so by awarding the prize to **Dr. Nuria Oliver**, a world leader in the use of artificial intelligence in different fields that share a common goal: to use the potential of artificial intelligence to improve people's quality of life".



### About the Hipatia Prize

The Hipatia Award was launched in 2018 as one of the actions of the first Barcelona Science Plan. Its aim is to give visibility to the search for excellence in Europe and to promote the city of Barcelona as the European capital of science and knowledge.

This call, corresponding to the year 2023, has awarded a researcher in the field of Science and Technology, starting a new three-year cycle that will continue over the next 2 years, awarding successively a person from the field of Health and Life Sciences (2024) and the field of Humanities and Social Sciences (2025). In the first edition (2018; Science and Technology), the Hipatia Prize was awarded to mathematician László Lovász; in the second edition (2019-2020; Life and Health Sciences), to virologist Ilaria Capua; and in the third edition (2021; Humanities and Social Sciences), the prize was awarded to philosopher of science Nancy Cartwright.

### About the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

The Academia Europaea is an international non-governmental association with more than 5,000 members, including more than 80 Nobel Laureates, which promotes research and education in all areas of knowledge. Academia Europaea operates through a network of regional knowledge centers, of which the Barcelona Knowledge Hub (BKH) covers the Mediterranean and Southern European regions. The BKH was launched in 2013 and is currently located at the headquarters of the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation. Its activity runs along five strategic lines: the promotion of interdisciplinary scientific dialogue, citizen participation, the exploration of synergies between science and art, the visibility of the Catalan research ecosystem in the international context, and the recognition of academic excellence, where the Hipatia European Science Prize is framed.

### About ELLIS Alicante | [www.ellisalicante.org/ia](http://www.ellisalicante.org/ia)

**ELLIS Alicante is a non-for-profit private research foundation** focused on **ethical and responsible Artificial Intelligence (IA)** for social good. Hence, it is also known as the **Institute of Humanity-centric AI**. ELLIS Alicante aims to be an international reference in **AI research by and for people**, by focusing on three areas of fundamental research in the intersection between humans and AI: 1) **AI that understands us**; 2) **AI that interacts with us**; 3) **AI that we trust**.

ELLIS Alicante is part of the European network of excellence in Artificial Intelligence ELLIS (European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems - [www.ellis.eu](http://www.ellis.eu)), being the only ELLIS unit dedicated exclusively to this area. ELLIS Alicante is the only ELLIS unit created from scratch, with the spirit of a scientific startup.

ELLIS Alicante was launched thanks to the vision, commitment, and generous financial support of the Generalitat Valenciana. It is also funded by other public and private institutions, including the Banc Sabadell Foundation, Balearia Foundation, Intel Corporation and Nippon Gases. The Foundation's work has won major awards including



e l l i s

UNIT  
ALICANTE

the 500k XPRIZE Pandemic Response Challenge by Cognizant (2021) and the Social Innovation Award (2022).

**Follow us:**

LinkedIn | <https://es.linkedin.com/company/ellisalicante>

Twitter | [@ELLISALicante](https://twitter.com/ELLISALicante)

Instagram | [@ellisalicante](https://www.instagram.com/ellisalicante)

YouTube | [@ELLISALicante](https://www.youtube.com/@ELLISALicante)

#ai #machinelearning #AIforgood #AIELLIS #InteligenciaArtificialELLIS #ELLISALicante  
#ELLISforEurope #JoinELLISforEurope #ELLISPhD

**Contact:**

Rebeca de Miguel, Head of Operations, ELLIS Alicante

[comms@ellisalicante.org](mailto:comms@ellisalicante.org)

Tel. +34 865 615 045 | +34 651 773 254

ELLIS Alicante is partially funded by:



press release