

The Gaspar Casal Foundation ([www.fgcasal.org](http://www.fgcasal.org)) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improvements in healthcare with a focus in health economics, public health, and healthcare technologies evaluation. Based in Madrid, Spain, the Gaspar Casal Foundation (FGC) has 15 years of experience in projects related to the improvement of healthcare and quality of life in Spain and beyond. We aim to respond to the changing demands and needs of the public health of our society with innovative solutions that contribute to the improvement of the healthcare system, while maintaining our core values of transparency, independence, and academic rigor.

### **Who We Are**

At FGC, we address the specific needs of the healthcare system and its agents from a humanistic perspective. We use our uniquely innovative vision to tackle challenges in healthcare, taking advantage of an established network of public and private entities with whom we work in partnership. FGC functions as a matrix organization; our activity is comprised of projects developed in league with our collaborators. Our multi-disciplinary team consists of more than 130 professionals from numerous fields, notably those of medicine, psychology, sociology, economics, law and telecommunications. The singularity of FGC's approach is based in this rich network of partners and collaborators, our skill at management, and an unwavering commitment to our goals.

### **What We Do**

Our projects can be divided into three categories: programs related to the education and training of healthcare professionals, projects related to scientific dissemination of information and technologies related to healthcare, and applied research projects. As one might imagine, the nature of our involvement varies according to the type of project in question.

**Education and Training Projects:** We have years of experience in the coordination and execution of education and training programs, designing content and recruiting teaching staff and lecturers as well as providing logistical and technical support. In the past, such projects have included seminars and workshops. Our flagship program is a year-long Masters program in Healthcare Administration and Management, now in its 22nd year. ([www.e-mads.org](http://www.e-mads.org))

**Research Projects:** FGC participates in both qualitative and quantitative research projects in the field of healthcare. We perform analysis on data and micro-data gathered from diverse sources (among others, national health surveys) and, when necessary, use quantitative techniques to identify significant variables for the project in question and assist with bibliographical searches and analyses of other relevant information. FGC specializes in translating the findings of such projects to a more general audience, using mass media communication to publicize results and implications. Our flagship project in this arena is Epimed ([www.epimed.es](http://www.epimed.es)), which aims to identify variation in prescription medicine use across hospitals.

**Scientific Dissemination Projects:** Our activity in this arena primarily involves conferences, meetings, debates, and public presentations of publications. FGC excels in an organizational capacity, planning events designed to foster communication both between healthcare professionals themselves and between the public and the healthcare community. Such projects are strongly tied to health advocacy. In recent years, we have explored ways to incorporate advances in information and communications technologies; most notably, we pioneered 21NETS ([www.proyectonets.org](http://www.proyectonets.org)) the first social communications network for the healthcare sector, and are exploring its expansion into a medical services platform available for smartphones.

### **What We're Looking For**

The Gaspar Casal Foundation is currently seeking partners/collaborator in Spain and across the European, including participation in joint proposals for the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. Because we are a small organization, we aim to participate primarily in a support capacity in projects related to the improvement and/or understanding of public health problems and healthcare systems function in the European Union and beyond. Both our experience and our relationships with a wide variety of professionals and entities make us uniquely qualified to collaborate in this capacity.