

# Being a professional scientist in innovation studies: some perspectives

Joaquín M. Azagra-Caro | Valencia, 7 April 2014



INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



# Summary

- a) Managing the research process
- b) Managing research results
- c) Managing divulgation and transfer of results
- Conclusion



## a) Managing the research process





# Choosing types of activities to participate in

- Jobs and stays in research centres
- Projects
- Contracts
- Conferences, etc.



# Adequating jobs and stays in research centres

- But is it really an own choice?
- Variety or specialisation?
- Public or private sector?
- University or government lab?
- Academic-oriented or policy/social-oriented institutions?
- National or international?
- Monodisciplinary or multidisciplinary?
- What to contribute and what not to contribute



# Participating in projects

- Taking resource to different institutional sources
- Sell ongoing research or plan new one?
- How to contribute to the proposal: design, writing, budget
- Being the main contributor when someone else is going to appear as principal investigator?



# Participating in contracts

- Working with tighter deadlines
- Adapting to more concrete needs (or help making demands be concrete)
- Adapting the language
- Experience before management?



# Contributing to conferences

- Choosing according to the circle of attendants
- Presenting research results is just a part, although it may contribute to being cited
- Creating networks, agreeing stays or participations in projects and contracts, fundamental
- Beware of fun





## b) Managing research results





# Accommodating division of labour

- Supplement or complement competences
- Monodisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective
- Academic or non-academic collaborators
- National or international collaborators
- Junior or senior collaborators
- Who does what
- Who writes what



# Combining several types of original research works

- Journals indexed in Web of Science
- Other modalities of scientific publication
- Reports for customers



# Choosing the type of journals indexed in Web of Science

- Scientific field
- General/specific approach
- Impact factor
- Quartile
- Reputation among colleagues
- Self-citation rate
- Personal taste
- National/international orientation
- Does good writing mean simple writing/writing like anyone else?
- And what about jargon?



# Choosing other modalities of scientific publication

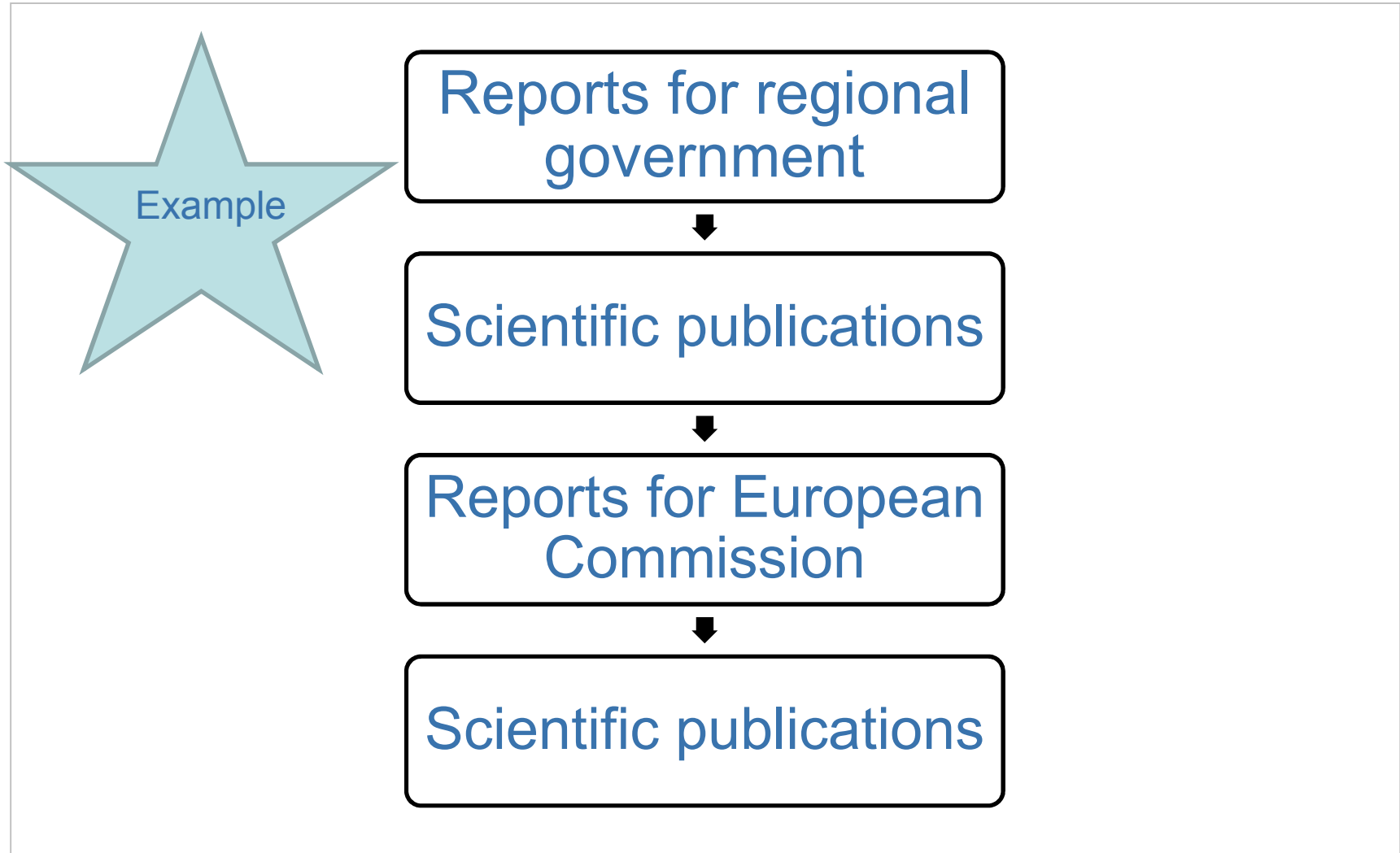
- Books, book chapter, non-ISI journal papers, working documents, etc.
- Prestige of publishing companies
- National or international orientation
- Immediacy and online publication
- Heterodoxy: avoiding concentration of power, support to different proposals...
- “Being almost in”
- Don’t do it because of lack of confidence



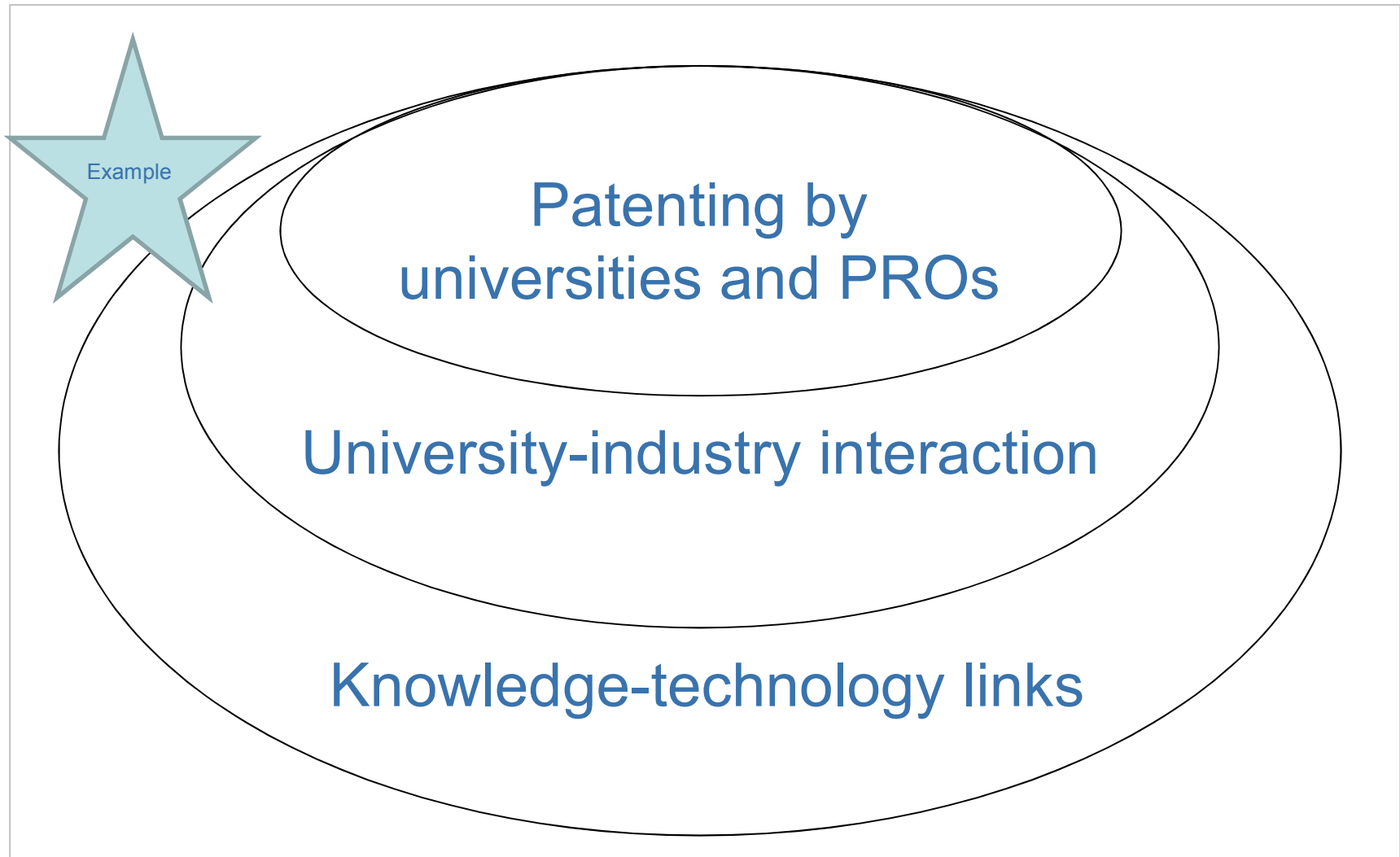
# Writing reports for customers

- European Commission
- National or regional public bodies
- Foundations, etc.
- Facing censorship?

# Searching for synergies among different types of original research works

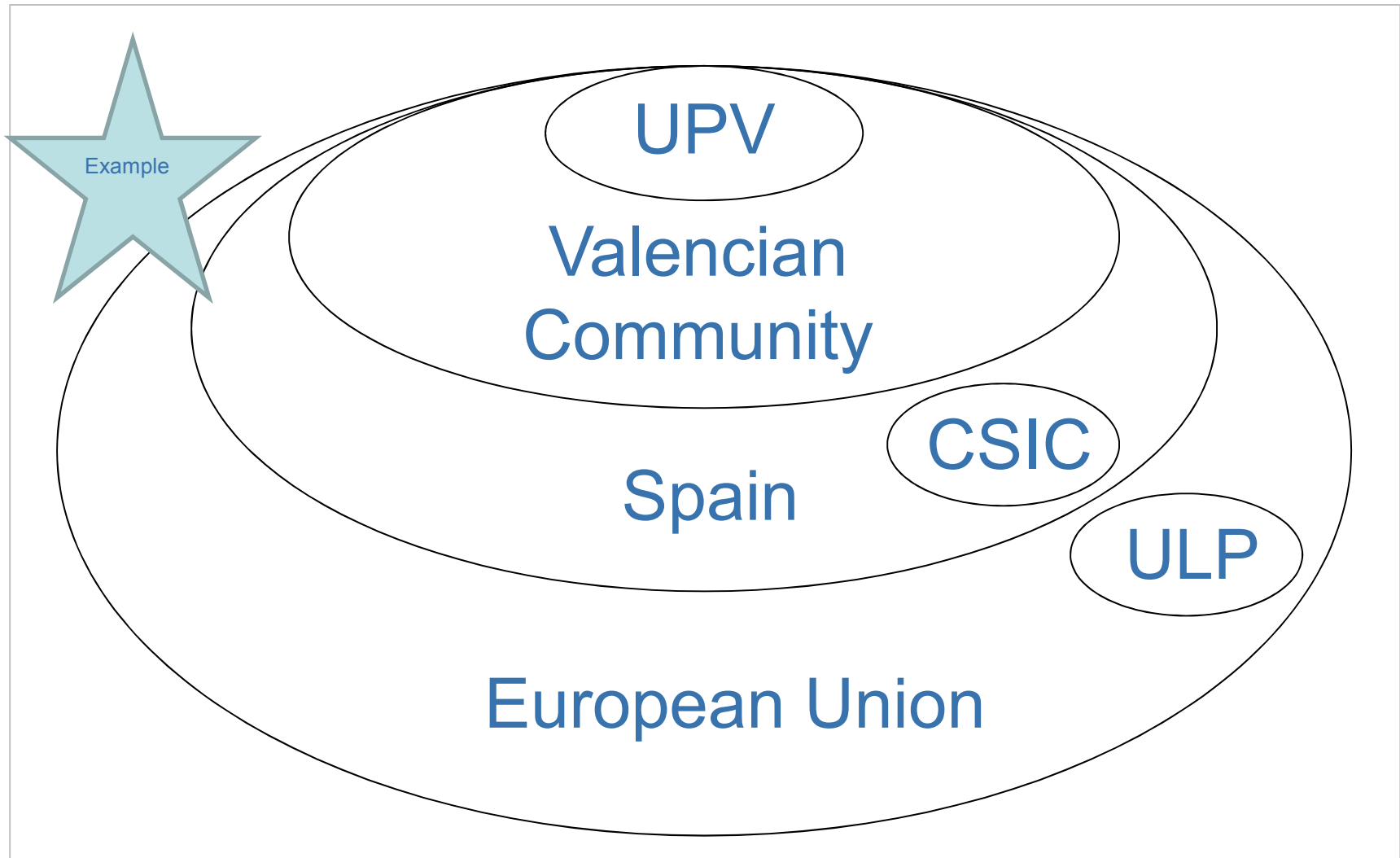


# Widening the thematic scope with coherence





# Widening the research context with coherence



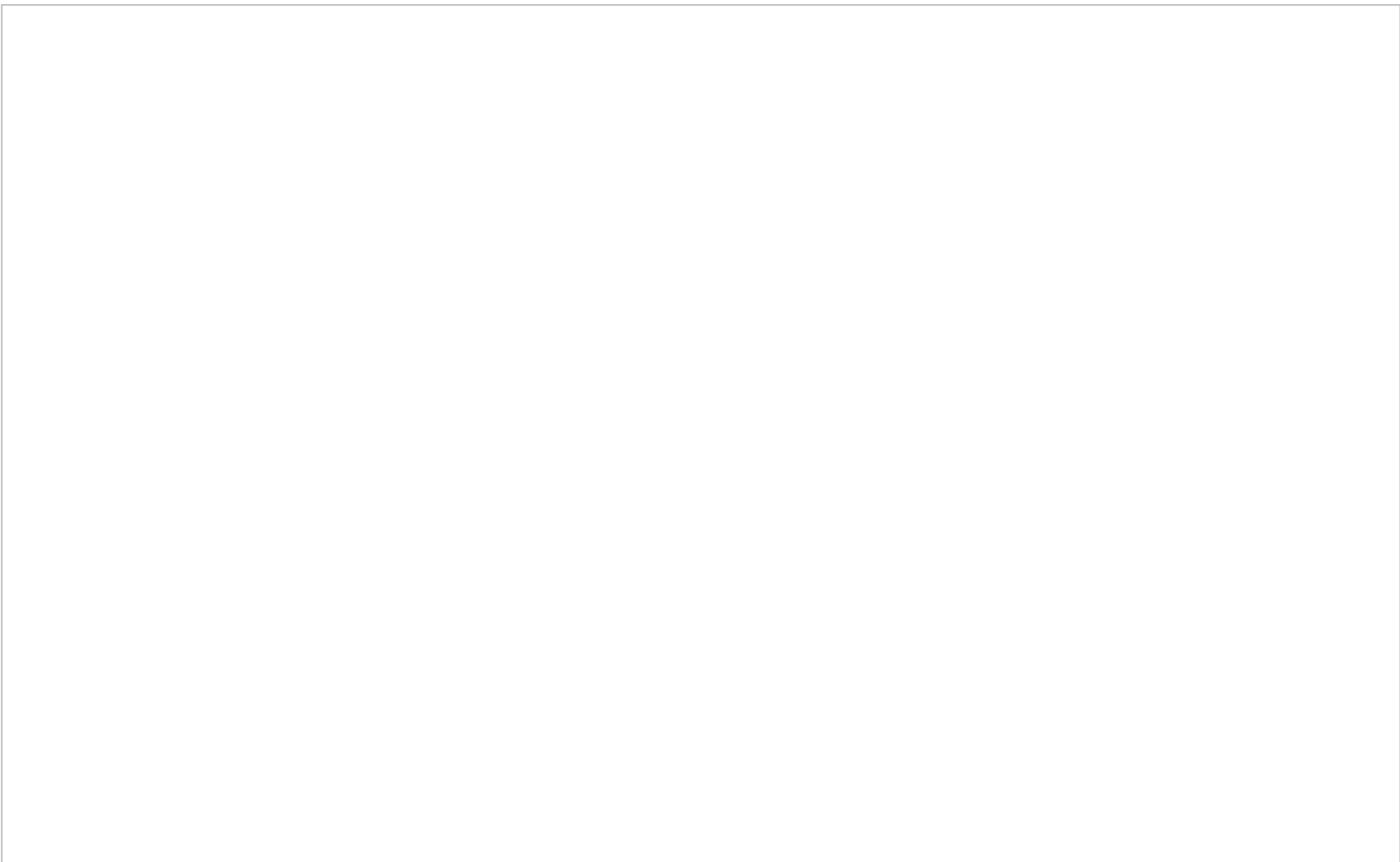


# Being concerned about getting cited

- Aligning satisfaction and promotion
- Finding a market niche
- Inserting in international networks
- Choosing the right publication
- Do/return favours?
- ...and being homogenously cited: H-index
- Classical determinants: number of authors, number of pages, number of references
- If you are scarcely cited, is it worth what you do?



# c) Managing divulgation and transfer of results





## c) Managing divulgation and transfer of results

- Foundation of business firms
- Teaching in topics related to own research
- Articles in newspapers and journals of scientific divulgation
- Institutional web page, blogs, virtual social networks
- Appearance in mass media
- Exhibitions
- Documentaries, etc.
- But does all this really enjoy a good reputation?  
Publishing or making science



# Conclusion





# Conclusion

- Plus all the tasks we could be wondering about...
- Do not take all this so seriously as to lose a big deal of spontaneity
- Become the PhD supervisors of the future
- To search an equilibrium between motivations, incentives and the attempt to change things
- Give priority to values in the frontiers between academic and personal

# Style as a tool

The influence of writing on science and policy deserves more attention than it gets. The history of ideas is filled with wide turns caused by “mere” lucidity and elegance of expression. Galileo’s *Dialogo* succeeded not because it was a Copernican tract (there were others) or because it contained much new evidence (it did not) but because it was a masterpiece of Italian prose. Poincare’s French and Einstein’s German were no trivial elements in their influence. And of course the hypnotic influence that Keynes has exercised over modern economics is attributable in part to his graceful fluency in English.<sup>3</sup>

- McCloskey, D., 1986. Economical Writing. *Economic Inquiry* 24(2): 187-222

[www.ingenio.upv.es](http://www.ingenio.upv.es)

INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT