



Communication

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Banco de España presents its Applied Technology Laboratory and Experimentation Department (DELTA) in Barcelona**

Today in Barcelona the Governor of the Banco de España, José Luis Escrivá, presented the Bank's new Applied Technology Laboratory and Experimentation Department (DELTA), accompanied by Salvador Illa, President of the Catalan regional government, and Jaume Collboni, Mayor of Barcelona. At the same event, the Banco de España and the regional government signed a General Action Protocol for cooperation in the development of joint projects to improve financial education in the Catalan educational system. In addition, it was announced that the regional government has acquired part of the building that houses the Bank's branch office in Barcelona.

In his address the Governor indicated that DELTA "is a space designed with a clear purpose: to experiment, learn and transform, placing emerging technologies – and especially artificial intelligence – at the service of our mission as a central bank and as a public institution committed to society." For the Banco de España, he added, innovation "is a tool to enhance our capacity for economic analysis, improve our internal processes, strengthen financial supervision and provide higher quality information to citizens, firms and public officers."

DELTA is a key component of the initiative to boost artificial intelligence and new technologies, within the Technology objective of the Banco de España's Strategic Plan 2030. With the creation of this department, headquartered in Barcelona and already staffed with 14 people, the Banco de España is moving towards a more dynamic organisation that is aligned with current technological challenges, consolidating technology as a strategic engine of innovation and institutional transformation. By the end of 2026 the Department is expected to have a staff of over 30.

### **Sale of part of the building housing the Banco de España's Barcelona branch office to the Catalan regional government**

At the same event it was announced that an agreement had been reached to sell part of the building that houses the Banco de España's branch office in Barcelona to the Catalan regional government. The building, located in Plaza de Catalunya and dating back to 1955, has a total surface area of almost 27,000 m<sup>2</sup>, much of which has remained unused in recent decades.

As part of the approach established for the branch network under the Banco de España's new Strategic Plan, the Barcelona branch office holds a pre-eminent position among the Bank's institutional headquarters, hosting key projects such as DELTA in the field of technology. However, with several floors previously occupied by other public bodies now vacant, various projects were being considered to put this space to better use.

In this setting, the interest expressed by the regional government has led – following a period of assessment by the technical teams of the two institutions – to an agreement to arrange a sale, over the coming months, of the building's second to eighth floors. This decision was approved by the Banco de España's Governing Council at its meeting on 3 March. The agreement reached is an example of collaboration between the two institutions that will enable a more efficient use of public resources.

### **Signing of an agreement for the development of financial education**

During this morning's event the Banco de España and the Catalan regional government also signed a General Action Protocol through which both parties commit to developing joint projects aimed at bolstering the financial literacy of students and teachers in the Catalan educational system.

The Banco de España will provide educational materials, digital resources and teaching guidelines, and the Catalan regional government's Departments of Education and Vocational Training and of Economy and Finance will determine the most appropriate way of incorporating these materials into the Catalan educational environment in line with its curriculum. A teacher-training programme will also be put in place and the use of these materials in educational projects will be promoted.

The agreement is aimed at primary, secondary, upper-secondary and vocational training students in Catalonia, but it may also be extended to the broader educational community through teacher training and, in the medium and long term, to the wider Catalan public.

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For further information: Tel. +34 91 338 5044 / 6097 / 5318 / 8839 / 6175 / 4397 / 5936 | [www.bde.es/](http://www.bde.es/) Email: [comunicacion@bde.es](mailto:comunicacion@bde.es)

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