

## Call for Expressions of Interest

### EU regions with an interest to pair with Arequipa, a region in the South of Peru

We are pleased to invite EU Regions to express their interest to collaborate in pairing actions with the Arequipa region, the third most competitive region of Peru. The region has approximately 1,16 million of inhabitants, with a GDP of around 5,715 million Euros [data of 2014, conversion date of 2018]. The Governor of the State of Arequipa formally represents the region in the IUC-LAC Project.

The main innovation challenges of Arequipa include:

- To strengthen the competitive advantage and potential of the region, thus supporting technological and non-technological innovation, reinforcing existing R&D initiatives, and stimulating private investment based on State-wide initiatives
- To build social cohesion with employment and productivity, thus improving citizens' quality of life
- To strengthen the region's main R&D areas in line with the results of its Regional Innovation Agenda so as to foster development in the mining, agroindustry and textiles sectors. The region's main R&D areas are ICT, biotechnology, environmental technology and material science, which are also the region's main enabling technologies [for further details on the Region Innovation Agenda please visit: <http://agendainnovacionarequipa.com/> (Spanish only)]

To tackle these challenges the region seeks to build on existing competitive and comparative advantages, which include:

- As mentioned, productive sectors which drive economic growth and with substantial critical mass:

- ✓ Mining
- ✓ Agroindustry
- ✓ Textiles of South American camelids
- Emerging sectors with promising potential for growth and existing critical mass:
  - ✓ Hydric resource
  - ✓ Health
  - ✓ Renewable energy
  - ✓ Tourism
  - ✓ Metalworking
- Presence of public and private institutions, trade associations of water users, and producers of crops, all of whom promote agricultural and textile development in South American camelids
- Supply of transversal careers in Biotechnology, Materials Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Systems Engineering, Computer Science, Electronics Engineering, Metalworking and Mechatronics Engineering. Arequipa prides in having significant critical mass in these areas
- Significant number of alpaca and other camelids estates, producers of alpaca (small and medium producers) and alpaca-fiber processing companies (Mitchell, Inca Tops)

In this regard, having already developed a RIS3 strategy, its implementation will leverage the region's capacity to address the above-mentioned challenges and at the same time it can open up new markets and insert the region in global value chains, thus increasing its competitiveness.

Based on the aforementioned challenges and strengths, Arequipa region seeks to cooperate with EU regions in the development of one or more of the 7 programme types that our Regional Innovation Agenda proposes as strategic for our region:

1. Development of qualified critical mass to strengthen smart specialization
2. Implementation of laboratories with adequate equipment and infrastructure
3. Technology transfer projects related to our main R&D areas
4. Articulation projects between actors of the quadruple helix
5. Competitiveness and quality systems projects
6. Climate change and sustainability projects
7. Health and social welfare projects

Yours sincerely,

Yamila Osorio Delgado

Governor of Arequipa