“We were born for cooperation, like feet, like hands, like eyelids, like the rows of upper and lower teeth. So, to work in opposition to one another, is against nature”

Marco Aurelio
• Economy based mostly on agriculture and services
• Economic structure with a majority of SMEs
• Low R&I investment rates:
  - Portugal 1.36%, Spain 1.24%
  - Extremadura 0.76%
  - Centro 1.32%
  - Alentejo 0.49%
• Low investment by private companies in R&I

EUROREGION ALENTEJO - CENTRO - EXTREMADURA

92.532 km²
3.388.563 people
37 hab/km².

CICYTEX – Who we are?

Who we are?
Background in cross-border cooperation

It was a framework for collaboration between institutions in the field of Research, Technological Development and Innovation that facilitated and accelerated these regions towards meeting the Europe2020 objectives.

22 partners, 10 Spain and 12 Portugal. 2008-2014 (I and II Phase). 3M + 5,5M

MITTIC promoted economic growth and employment by increasing competitiveness in economic, strategic and traditional sectors in the regions of Extremadura (Spain), Centro and Alentejo (Portugal) by using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

12 Partners (7 from Spain and 5 from Portugal). 2013-2015. 1,6M

2014-2020 framework. Specialisation

Extremadura, un espacio verde para la innovación en la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente y en la calidad de vida
EUROACE RIS3 working group (GTRIS3) whose objective is to achieve a joint specialisation pattern, so that these regions highlight the similarities between their RIS3 and identify the priority cooperation areas. This will allow create new research groups in each of these areas, in addition to identify the interested companies and knowing their demands and interests in order to involve the productive companies in the process.

- Agrifood
- Forestry
- Tourism
- Environment
- Health
- Clean Energy
- ICT

R&I cross-border main programmes available

- Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union. It is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme.

- Eurostars - EUREKA

- The Spain-Portugal Cross-Border Cooperation Program (POCTEP) promotes the development of border areas between Spain and Portugal, strengthening economic relations and cooperation networks between the areas defined in the Program.

- SUDOE program try to consolidate South-West Europe as a space for territorial cooperation in the fields of competitiveness and innovation, environment, sustainable development and spatial planning, which will contribute to ensuring the harmonious and balanced integration of its regions, within the objectives of economic and social cohesion.
General objective

To strengthen the business sectors, creating synergies between companies and R&I Centers, which allows actions for the transfer and early validation of products and services through open innovation processes, and to foster the process of entrepreneurial discovery in the key areas of the EUROACE.

Specific objectives

- Validate new products, processes or services through open innovation processes
- Increase the skills and technological knowledge of the strategic business sectors of the EUROACE
- Strengthen the structures and instruments for technology-based entrepreneurship and the transfer of knowledge to business sectors
Activities

ENTREPRENEURIAL DISCOVERY PROCESS. Fostering the structures and instruments for technology-based entrepreneurship and the transfer of knowledge to companies in the key areas of SMART specialisation in the EUROACE.

OPEN INNOVATION. Creating a favorable environment for collaboration between knowledge generation Entities and Companies in the development of R & I.

CO-CREATION. Promoting cooperation within the open innovation process, involving companies, knowledge generation Entities and facilitating technologies necessary to share knowledge and promote co-creation.

About methodologies. “Sustaining Innovation: Collaboration Models for a Complex World”: MacGregor, Steven P.; Carleton, Tamara

- Sharing what you learned (Increased impact)
- Take advantage of the tools created by others (reduce costs and risks)
- Involve and train end users
- Use technology to maximize impacts
- Go beyond the main business area (open ecosystem)
- Create spaces to share ideas, talent and experiences.
Entrepreneurial Discovery Process usual approach

How we try to generate innovation. Entrepreneurial Discovery Process Approach at Regional level and Project level

- Methodology, State of the Art and Reflections on Entrepreneurial Discovery Process Approach at EUROACE level. R&I regional policies and instruments availables. FUNDECYT-PCTEX.

- Structures and instruments for technology-based entrepreneurship (Scientific parks and business incubators)

- Collaboration between partners and companies through Collaboration Agreements (50 expected)

- Companies are consulted for the design of objectives and the validation of results. Focus Groups (not civil society). INNOACE Partners - Companies

- Actions of dissemination, demonstration or training on demand.
Process Improvement

- Map of agri-food by-products of the EUROACE (Agrifood)
- Non-destructive technologies in the field of fruit and vegetables (Agrifood)
- Smart agronomic management based on remote earth observation systems (Agrifood)
- Diagnosis and proposals for the massive implementation of BIM (Building Information Modeling) (ICT)
- Integral fertilisation system and efficient management of fertilisation in irrigated fruit plantations (Agrifood)
- Non-invasive methods in archeology and precision agriculture for the revaluation of heritage (Cultural Heritage & Tourism & Agrifood)

Product Validation

- Improving food safety in traditional dairy products (Agrifood - Food safety)
- Preparation of bioactive cosmetic products based on extracts (Agrifood - Healthy products)
- Application of High Hydrostatic Pressures in meat products (Agrifood-Food safety)
- Revaluation of traditional food products (Agrifood-Healthy products)
- Design and obtain healthy products from fruits (Agrifood-Healthy products)
- Recovery of waste from agriculture (Agrifood-Circular economy)
Some reflections about Smart Specialisation and Cross Border Cooperation

- Concept and benefits of RIS3. Beyond “ex ante” condition to allocate funds, it is understood by researchers, general public or final users?

- What about in less-developed regions? Increase or decrease priorities, prioritising? Combine funds? Dynamic process?

- How to translate efficiently into the ground level (Projects and programmes)? Day to day faster than strategies process?

- New financial instruments for Cross-Border Cooperation needed (Operational Groups)

- How to measure the qualitative impact of RIS3 and R & I? Suitable indicators and monitoring. Governance bodies at cross-border level?

Thank you very much for your attention

CONTACT

Francisco Hinojal Juan
Project Manager
Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura (CICYTEX)

Email: francisco.hinojalj@juntaex.es

http://cicytex.juntaex.es