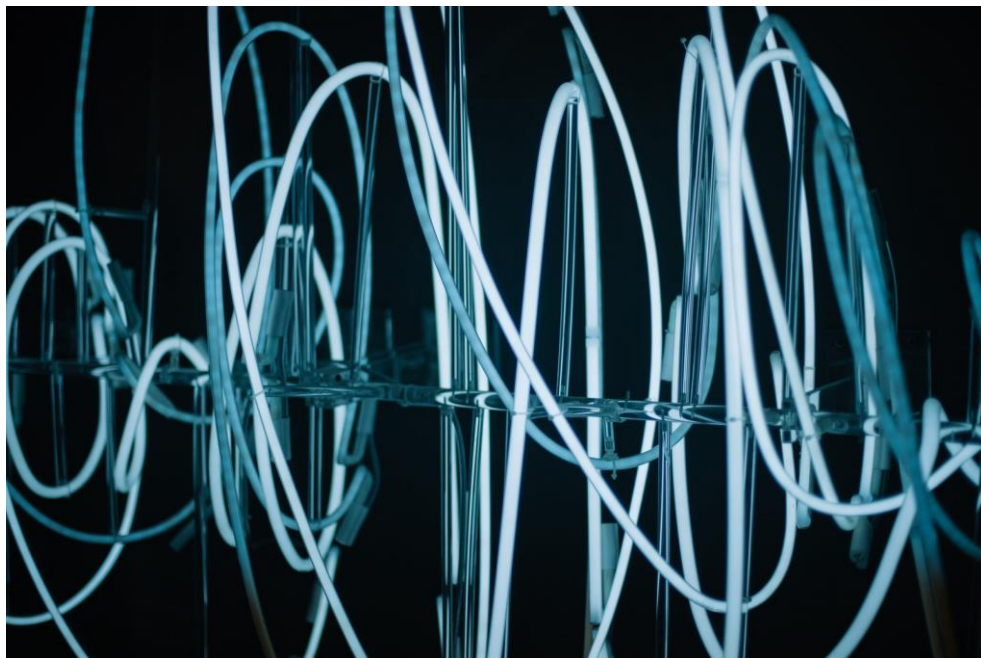


P-IRIS

Policies to improve rural areas' innovation systems by professionalising networking activities and use of innovation tools

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROVINCE OF BURGOS (SPAIN)



P5. Society for the development of the province of Burgos (SODEBUR)

September 2019

| INDEX | | Pg. |
|--------------|--|------------|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| | <i>1.1. P-IRIS project</i> | |
| | <i>1.1.1. Findings in the province of Burgos</i> | |
| 2. | GENERAL INFORMATION | 7 |
| 3. | POLICY CONTEXT | 7 |
| | PRIORITY ACTIONS | 11 |
| 4. | <i>4.1. Creation of an Innovation Technicians' network to support companies in rural areas</i> | |
| | <i>4.2. Promoting public-private collaboration for the development of a business training strategy</i> | |
| | <i>4.3. Improving the process of knowledge transfer between universities/technological centers and companies</i> | |
| 5. | WORK PLAN | 20 |
| 6. | MONITORING AND IMPACT | 21 |
| 7. | SIGNATURE | 23 |

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. P-IRIS project

Policies to improve rural areas' innovation systems by professionalising networking activities and use of innovation tools

The starting point of P-IRIS project was the fact that young well educated people are leaving rural areas because of the lack of jobs answering their professional aspirations. There is therefore a need to boost innovation in the territories in order to develop knowledge based or creative businesses, offering attractive jobs for this creative young people.

Being aware of this situation, P-IRIS partners representing six European countries (NO, FI, SI, HR, IT, ES) have identified that triple helix (3H) or quadruple helix (4H) cooperation is important to boost innovation in rural areas.



Overall objective and sub objectives

The overall objective of P-IRIS is to improve policies related to 3H/4H cooperation in rural innovation systems.

Improved cooperation is needed in order to develop innovative and competitive businesses offering attractive work places for well educated and creative young people.

In addition, other *sub objectives* are considered as follows:

- Increase the number of SMEs in innovative triple helix (or quadruple helix) networks.
- Increase the number of innovation projects including R&D as part of the process.
- Improve the skills of public authorities, incl. their economic development agencies, as managers and mentors on how to operate and improve the performance of triple helix networks and the use of related innovation tools.

It is also an ambition to improve the skills of public authorities & support systems as managers and mentors of 3H or 4H networks, and the use of related innovation tools.

A 3 step interregional learning process is being applied:

- 1) Mapping challenges & opportunities of managing 3H or 4H cooperation in rural innovation systems.
- 2) Exchange experience in thematic seminars and demonstrate potential good practice in study visits.
- 3) Prepare regional action plans; and monitoring, follow-up during 2 years.

Thanks to all knowledge generated during the first two years and a half of the project (“interregional learning’s process”) this Action Plan provides details on **how the lessons learnt from P-IRIS project** (30 good practices identified, 6 regional mapping reports, 6 interregional study visits and workshops and 5 local stakeholders meetings in every territory and continuous exchanges with partners all over the five semesters of phase 1) **will be exploited in order to improve the policy instrument tackled within the province of Burgos**. It mainly specifies the nature of the actions to be implemented, timeframe, players involved, costs and results.

The elaboration of this Action Plan is the result of intensive internal work of the Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR) in close collaboration with the stakeholders group which has contributed with valuable insights during this preparation time.

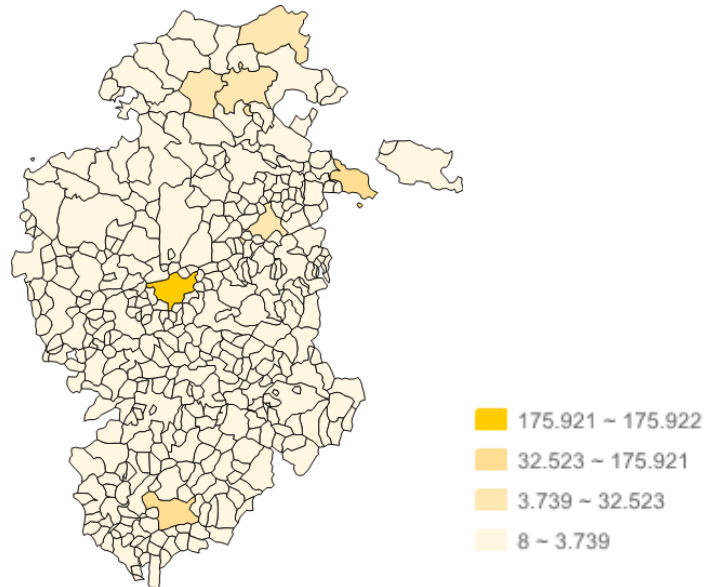
1.1.1. Findings in the province of Burgos

The province of Burgos is located in the north of Spain being one of the nine provinces of Castilla y León region. The capital city Burgos agglomerates about half of the province’s population and this is the heart of the economic and social activity of the territory.



POPULATION

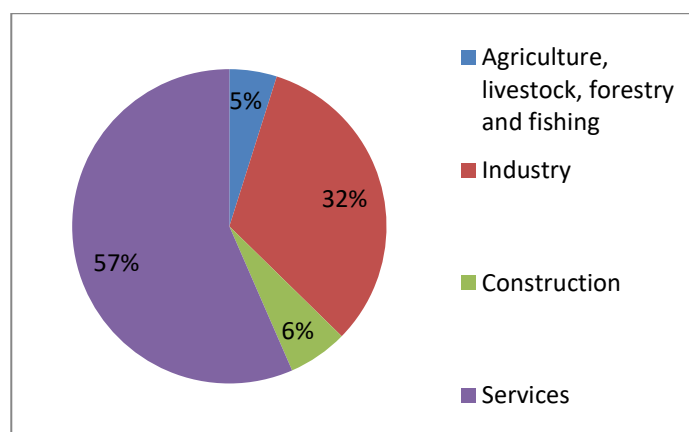
Being aware of the fact that Rural SMEs is lead to entrepreneurs and companies placed in rural areas, it must be highlighted that the province of Burgos has *368 municipalities with a population lower than 20.000 inhabitants (and more than 1.200 living areas)*. In fact, and only considering the rural population, this is about **113.149 inhabitants** (2018); approximately the third part of the whole province’s population.



ECONOMY

According to the first estimation of Spanish Regional Accounts for 2016, the province of Burgos recorded a volume **GDP growth rate of 4.4%** (one of the highest one in Spain), with **27.205 € per inhabitant** (around 3.000 € more that the national average).

Studying in detail the data on sector contribution to the **gross added value (GVA)** of the province of Burgos (2016), the agricultural sector represented 4.88% (much higher than national average, 2.6%). The weight of the manufacturing industry was 26.97% plus 5.48% of the energy sector, which reflects the importance of this sector in the provincial economy (especially in the capital city). The construction sector presented a quantity of 6.14% with a big increase from the previous two years. The services sector represents 56.54% of the GVA.

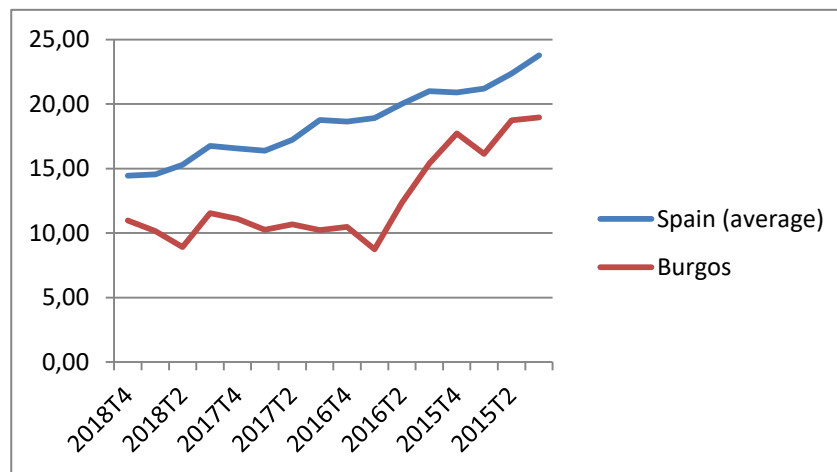


GVA (2016). Province of Burgos

Considering this reality, the economic activity in the rural areas of the province is mainly based on **services and industry sectors** (grouping together close to the 90% of workers). On these grounds, service sector has the highest percentage of active workers/companies operating in all the different parts of the territory.

The percentage of self-employees operating in rural areas is about 38%.

Regarding **unemployment**, the latest data from the Labour Force Survey (EPA) for the last quarter 2018 (10.96%) indicates a decrease in the number of unemployed people in the province in comparison with the Spanish average (14.45%).



Rate of unemployment (%). Comparison Burgos vs. national average

EDUCATION

Considering educational issues, the province of Burgos has one of the highest rates of education population (higher studies) from all Spain; 29.26% versus 24.31%.

All this information and the regional mapping report carried out within the P-IRIS project revealed the **main points where initial focus during the Phase 1 “Interregional learning” should be addressed:**

- Risk of migration of young and educated people from rural areas (because of the lack of attractive jobs to be offered to these professionals).
- Overlapping among institutions providing support services for local companies, suggests the need of specialization and covering the currently gaps.
- Lack of cooperation and joint initiatives between rural SMEs.
- Need of improving the knowledge transfer process from Academia to rural businesses.
- Difficulties to access for financing at regional and national level (only relevant projects).

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project: Policies to improve rural areas' innovation systems by professionalising activities and use of innovation tools (P-IRIS)

Partner organisation: Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR)

Country: SPAIN

NUTS2 region: Castilla y León

Contact person:

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3. POLICY CONTEXT

The Action Plan aims to impact: • STRUCTURAL FUNDS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

ERDF Regional Operation Programme Castilla – León (2014-2020).

Priority axis 1. Promoting research, technological development and innovation.

Investment priority 1.1. "Improvement of research and innovation (R&i) infrastructures and the capacity to develop excellence in R&i".

Investment priority 1.2. Promoting the business investment in innovation tools and development of links (and transfer of innovation) between business and universities or technological centres.

The Action Plan for the province of Burgos focuses on the initial policy instrument addressed. The targeted policy document is the **ERDF Regional Operational Programme Castilla y León (2014-2020)**, concretely *Priority axis 1. “Promoting research, technological development and innovation” (111.447.597 € ERDF – 33.27%)*, and dealing with the Investment priorities 1.1 and 1.2.



The Managing Authority of this programme is the **Regional Government of Castilla y León – Junta de Castilla y León**.

Specific Objectives (OE) affected for this Action Plan:

OE.1.2.1. Promotion of R&i activities led by companies and support to the establishment and consolidation of innovative SMEs.

OE.1.2.2. Transfer and dissemination of technology and cooperation between companies and universities or other research centres.

In addition, there are several indicators included in the Operational Programme which can be also affected for this Action Plan.

- **PERFORMANCE INDICATOR.**
 - *R001E - Innovative companies working with universities or technological centres (public or private).*
Foreseen value: 35% (2023).
- **PROCESS INDICATORS.**
 - *CO07 – Productive investment; private investment combined with public funds for companies (different from subventions).*
Foreseen value: 40.375.000 €.
 - *CO26 – Research and innovation; number of companies working with research centres.*
Foreseen value: 557.
 - *CO27 – Research and innovation; private investment combined with public support in innovative or R&D projects.*
Foreseen value: 324.250.793 €.

On paper and with the aim to reach the previous specific objectives included in this investment priority, the following activities will be funded for the Operational Programme - ERDF (among others):

- University – Business Knowledge Transfer Plan.

This Strategy has been presented as Good Practice of the project (and the Universities of the province included on it are also participating in the local Stakeholders group’s meeting during phase 1).

- Innovation vouchers: development of turnkey projects by research teams which were demanded for individual companies or clusters.

- Financial instruments to improve the access to funds for companies with the aim their promotion and consolidation.
- Innovative public purchase.

In addition, this Investment priority is related to the **Strategy for Intelligent Specialization in Research and Innovation (RIS3) of Castilla y León** through the following specific objectives:

- Support to the innovative process of companies.
- Promote the creation of innovative companies based on patents, ideas, projects based on sectors/activities linked to the territory.
- Identify technological/innovative needs to favour the transfer of knowledge.
- Improve the training about innovation in the sector which could lead the change considering a new productive model.
- Integrated approach for innovation and internationalisation activities.
- Increase the participation of entities established in the territory in European programmes of R&D&i.

RIS3 has also identified the key sectors with the greatest potential for development and competitiveness of Castilla y León region like *agri-food (bio-economy), transport (automotive), health and well-being or endogenous resources (cultural and natural heritage).*

Although Castilla y León is a rural region eminently, this consideration affecting economic activities is not too much specifically considered in the main regional policies as ERDF Operational Programme or Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) for the period 2014 – 2020 in Castilla y León.

On the other hand, there is a regional **Strategy for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Self-employees (2016 – 2020)** which has also been considered. This Strategy is complemented linked to the goals of the ERDF Regional Operational Programme Castilla y León (2014-2020) and it was drafted in this framework.



Because of this, for the Provincial Government of Burgos and the Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR), the most powerful policy tool to promote these goals is the **Strategic Plan for the province of Burgos 2015-2020** which was elaborated starting from a diagnosis about the territorial reality and after a participatory process involving the main stakeholders at regional level (social, public, private...).

On these grounds, there is one of the five strategic axes that make up the Strategic Plan in the province, affected by this Action Plan:

- **Economic Environment** (aims at improving the competitiveness and sustainability of economic activities in rural areas).
 - *Programme 3 “Economic revitalization of rural areas”.*

This working line includes all activities lead to the economic revitalization of rural areas based on tools and instruments to improve the competitiveness of companies through support, advice and innovation services.

The alignment of the P-IRIS Action Plan also with the **Strategic Plan for the province of Burgos 2015-2020** is crucial to capitalize available resources and potentiate the impact of the actions of both policies (at regional and provincial level). Therefore, the actions chosen for the P-IRIS Action Plan in this territory will contribute to the goals established for these working lines of the Strategic Plan, and are influenced by the general progress made since the beginning of the project.

Lessons learnt thanks to the “interregional learning process” during the phase 1 of the project will be integrated into the revision of regional policies at different levels:

- Improvements in the governance and management of the policy by the adoption of better measures for designing and integrating actions.
- Better understanding and alignment of rural approach within the regional RIS3.
- To intensify coordination between all stakeholders providing training and involved in the territorial innovation ecosystem.
One of the strengths and weaknesses of the innovation ecosystem in the province of Burgos is that there are abounds activities lead to train companies about innovation but often lack of coordination among them. The design of well oriented and agreed strategies would benefit the companies and the training environment of the region.
- Enhancing knowledge transfer from Academia to rural companies.
- Mentoring and accompaniment services for companies interesting in innovative issues.

Thus, the Action Plan for the province of Burgos, inspired by the insights and good practices examples from P-IRIS project partners) includes the following **actions** (which will be explained in detail in the following section):

1. Creation of an Innovation Technicians’ network to support companies in rural areas.
2. Promoting public-private collaboration for the development of a business training strategy.
3. Improving the process of knowledge transfer between universities/technological centers and companies.

4. PRORITY ACTIONS

ACTION 1 CREATION OF AN INNOVATION TECHNICIANS' NETWORK TO SUPPORT COMPANIES IN RURAL AREAS

RELEVANCE TO THE PROJECT

Companies established in rural areas are not so much innovative as they could. Innovation can be understood in many ways, especially if we are dealing with companies placed in rural areas. It can involve new and improved products, processes or services, or their adaptation to new geographical or environmental contexts. Barriers to successful innovation include lack of time and technical specialized human resources, certain administrative procedures, poor linkage between the scientific community and the industry and between research and practical application (see also Action 3).

Interregional learning process

This problem has been regularly repeated during all the meetings of local stakeholders group in the province of Burgos as a topic which should be looked for a solution thanks to P-IRIS project (phase 1) with the final aim to be included in this Action Plan.

On these grounds and after having studied all **innovation networks included in P-IRIS territorial mappings**, the province of Burgos has received inputs from the following ones, with special interest in those which have own personal to manage the daily activities of the network.

- *Central Ostrobothnia Entrepreneurs. P4. Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia. Finland.*

The network has full-time employed staff to look after the management of the network. The network's management receives no public funding; it is fully funded by membership fees.

- *Borovnica. P3. Local Development Agency PINS. Croatia*

The network has staff taking care of management on permanent basis (volunteering).

- *Consorzio dei due parchi. P6. POLIEDRA – Politecnico di Milano. Italy*

Network of local wood members all over the supply-chain with own staff for management.

- *Network of craftsmen / local food producers of the Heart of Slovenia. Innovation networks presented by P2.*

Craftsmen network has one of the employees at Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia as responsible for permanent management and activities' coordination.

- *Laerdal Green. P1. Sogn og Fjordane County Municipality. Norway*

It has seven people employed in administration and operation issues, including the manager.

Anyway, the main learning comes from the **good practice SIMPLER (presented by P6)**. This is the access point for two Italian regions to Enterprise Europe Network. It has permanent and specialized staff to give SMEs information, consultancy, advice on market opportunities... The success of this good practice in the support to SMEs gave us the idea of establishing a network of training technicians to exclusively support rural companies to innovate.

It is considered that if companies in rural areas have trained staff specialised and only focused to support them during the innovation process, results will improve.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

The main goal of this action is creating a network of Rural Innovation Technicians operating all over the province of Burgos to encourage and support companies to be innovative.

Thus, it aims at promoting the development of new markets in the rural areas to potentially generate new job and entrepreneurship's opportunities considering the potential of endogenous resources in the territory (bio-economy specially).

This action is based on the cooperation and coordination of all organisations involved to identify the needs of R&i, promoting programs of practical training, taking advantage of the research and teaching potential of the entities involved and obtaining the best return on resources.

1.1. Dissemination activities to present the service.

Organisation of communication events with the support of local stakeholders (municipalities, Local Action Groups) to disseminate the service, its functions and presenting the innovation technician responsible of every area to the private companies and potential users.

1.2. Service of individual support/advice regarding innovation.

- Organising interviews and meetings in the area of influence of every rural technician to detect needs to be accompanied and covered thanks to innovation, both entrepreneurs or established companies.
- Identifying innovation needs related to the use of endogenous resources to improve the economic competitiveness in the territory.
- Accompaniment in the approach and search of technical and economic solutions to the innovation projects detected or considered in every area.
- Networking with other regional or national stakeholders for the monitoring, financing and follow up of potential innovative actions.

The figure of the Rural Innovation Technician will be also a link to organise and disseminate other complementary activities in the territory; training courses, workshops, events... (link with Actions 2 and 3).

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- Regional Government of Castilla y León – ICE.
- University of Burgos (General Foundation).
- Provincial Government of Burgos – Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR).
- Municipalities.
- Local Action Groups.

TIMEFRAME

July 2019 – June 2021 (semesters 6, 7, 8 and 9).
Detailed information (point 5. Work plan).

INDICATIVE COSTS AND FUNDING RESOURCES

648.000 € (years 2019, 2020). This amount includes salaries, training, dissemination and technology and technical infrastructure.

This budget has been allocated and comes from the Regional Government of Castilla y León – Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. These funds will be managed by the University of Burgos' General Foundation.

RESULTS – IMPACT IN THE POLICY INSTRUMENT

Increasing the number of innovation projects developed by companies placed in rural areas (thanks to the guidance and support of the Rural Innovation Technicians in the province of Burgos) will be the main goal of this action.

Regarding the **influence in the Policy Instrument**, this action is directly related to the main goal of the *investment priority 1.1. "Improvement of research and innovation (R&i) infrastructures and the capacity to develop excellence in R&i"*.

Thus, the development of this action will help to reach the performance – process indicators of the *OE.1.2.1. Promotion of R&i activities led by companies and support to the establishment and consolidation of innovative SMEs*.

Apart from the influence in the ERDF Regional Operational Programme (2014-2020), this action also emerges from the outputs of the **RIS3 Strategy in Castilla y León** for this programming period.

As a more accurate **self-defined indicator** for this aim, we consider the development of new innovation projects (not finalized but at least started) coming from companies established in rural areas (up to n. 10) during the established timeframe.

It will be also considered as indicator, the **number of personal advices received for rural companies**.

ACTION 2 **PROMOTING PUBLIC - PRIVATE COLLABORATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BUSINESS TRAINING STRATEGY**

RELEVANCE TO THE PROJECT

Private companies established in the province of Burgos are suffering from an excess of training offer (related to innovation issues) concentrated in very short periods of time along the year.

It is due to there are several entities operating in the territory managing European funds (mainly ERDF) which have to organize seminars/info days/training courses in a concrete period of time to spend and report these funds. This calendar doesn't allow companies to take advantage of all this knowledge because of the overlapping of topics and seminars organized for different entities.

Interregional learning process

This topic has been repeated during all the meetings of local stakeholders group in the province of Burgos as a measure to be included in the action plan as a way to improve this situation. In addition and related to the learning process (phase 1), P-IRIS has provided different inputs inspiring the definition of this activity.

On these grounds and considering the **toolbox about strategic leadership of innovative networks** developed by Western Norway Research Institute and Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (starting point of P-IRIS activities), it is crucial provide conducted and specific training not only for managers but also for employees working in companies (increasing the quality of human capital). In addition, all **innovation networks** studied along the project (phase 1) which have **included in all territorial Mappings'** developed have been specially focused on the training offer available for every study case.

Regarding the innovation networks studied, the province of Burgos has received inputs from the following experiences:

- *Biovalley. Innovation network presented by P4. Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia. Finland*
Whenever a member of the network attends to a seminar or training, the information is shared either in these smaller groups or to the entire network, depending on the need.
- *Network of craftsmen of the Heart of Slovenia. Innovation network presented by P2.*

One of its bottlenecks is the lack of adequate specific training programmes for handicraft. It makes us thinking that there is enough transversal training but not sectorial.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

This action is based in the identification of all entities and players involved in the territorial innovation ecosystem, to facilitate coordination, monitoring and impact measurement, always with the intention to provide better support and framework conditions for companies dealing with innovation in the rural areas of the province.

Thus, the overall objective is coordinating the different training initiatives which are being offered to private companies in the territory (in terms of business innovation) which are mainly developed thanks to ERDF – European Regional Development Funds managed for different managing authorities (Regional Government, Chamber of Commerce, Research Bodies...).

In addition and considering the lessons learnt from the interregional learning process, the following points must be considered:

- **Importance of detecting specific training needs** (*collaboration with Local Action Groups and the Network of Innovation Technicians – Action 1 will be necessary*).
- Sharing the conclusions from workshops/training programmes among different companies and their staff (it's not necessary attend to all training activities if results could be shared among interested parties).
- Paying special attention to the sectorial networks and their specific training needs (agri-food, tourism, craftsmen...).

The following **activities** to implement the actions are envisaged:

2.1. Identification of all entities offering training for rural companies.

Most part of linked entities are already taking part in P-IRIS local stakeholders group; anyway, new incorporations will be studied.

2.2. Periodic management meetings among all relevant stakeholders involved in training activities to plan an annual calendar.

The main goal is facilitating the dialogue between the different stakeholders in order to define and detailed the workshops and training programs foreseen to be developed during a concrete period of time.

2.3. Development of annual Business Training Strategies.

Agreed annual training calendars for the years 2020 and 2021.

2.4. Implementation of the activities included on the Strategies.

The final result will be the development of organised and targeted workshops to increase the knowledge and improve the training of private companies operating in rural areas.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- Regional Government of Castilla y León – ICE.
- Provincial Government of Burgos – Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR).
- Technological Centres operating in the territory (ITCL and CTME).
- Local Action Groups.
- Chamber of Commerce of Burgos.
- Federation of Burgos' Business Associations.
- University of Burgos / University Isabel I.

TIMEFRAME

July 2019 – June 2021 (semesters 6, 7, 8 and 9).
Detailed information (point 5. Work plan).

INDICATIVE COSTS AND FUNDING RESOURCES

No more extra funds needed; only organising in time the training offer to be implemented in the territory.
Funds to organise and developed training courses will be allocated for the Managing Authority (Regional Government of Castilla y León) and coming from those related to the affected Policy Instrument *ERDF Regional Operation Programme Castilla – León (2014-2020)*.

RESULTS – IMPACT IN THE POLICY INSTRUMENT

Considering the concrete expected results of this action, we can mention to agree an *Annual calendar of innovation training activities for companies established in rural areas (years 2020 and 2021)*.

Additionally, this action aims to **improve the governance and the capacity of the Policy Instrument to invest funds for training activities, being more efficient, competitive and useful for potential users.**

ACTION 3

IMPROVING THE PROCESS OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES / TECHNOLOGICAL CENTERS - COMPANIES

RELEVANCE TO THE PROJECT

Technology transfer between universities/technological centers and rural companies is a relevant issue to improve competitiveness. In fact, research bodies-business relations should play an increasingly more important role in technology transfer, the marketing of knowledge, and consequently, regional economic growth.

Our main challenge, mainly thinking in private companies placed in rural areas is the poor linkage between the scientific community and the industry and between research and practical application. In addition, it's has been also detected that companies don't exactly know where to go when they have a concrete need; facilitating this contact with Academia should be a priority.

Interregional learning process

On the other hand and in the framework of P-IRIS study visits (Croatia, 12-13 December 2017), the **Technology Transfer System at University of Rijeka (Croatia)** and the methodology followed for them was presented as a successful example of link between Academia and Industry in that territory.

In addition, several examples of sectorial **innovative networks** (regional Mappings developed in P-IRIS phase 1) working in close collaboration with Academia have been studied:

- *Biovalley. P4. Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia. Finland*

There are several universities from the territory working in close cooperation with the natural resources sector (also being members of the network).

- *Borovnica. P3. Local Development Agency PINS. Croatia*

University of Zagreb is an external supporter of this innovative network of strawberry producers.

- *Consorzio Tutela IGT Valle Camonica. P6. POLIEDRA – Politecnico di Milano. Italy*

Punctual collaborations of the network's members (aiming at recovery, protect and valorise the wine sector in the territory) with some regional Universities.

- *Stryn Business Garden and Fosshaugane Campus. P1. Sogn og Fjordane County Municipality. Norway*

Formal agreements between a provincial University and some members of the network (Stryn Business Garden). Fosshaugane Campus is also an example of punctual relations/collaborations between the University and the member of the network.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

Being aware of the special needs of rural businesses and the currently situation regarding knowledge transfer, this action proposes new activities to improve the regional knowledge transfer between universities and the rural business sector.

Considering all information compiled during the phase 1 of P-IRIS project regarding the interregional learning process, the follow **activities** are envisaged:

3.1. Study of R&D&i needs in rural companies.

This process will be developed with the support of the technical staff (network of Rural Innovation Technicians) described in the action 4.1. This activity will be specially focused on endogenous sectors as agriculture, livestock, bio-economy, or agri-food.

In addition, Universities will predictably continue launching the annual call “Challenge University – Enterprise” (included in TCUE Strategy – co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), within the ERDF Operational Programme of Castilla y León 2014-2020) to detect the needs of private companies regarding research/innovation.

3.2. Bring the university science-technology offer aligned with the real needs of the region’s production sector.

This stage will include several activities to reach the overall aim:

- Rural Innovation Technicians (Action 1) will centralize the knowledge of the entire services/research offer provided by Universities and Technological Centers in the province of Burgos. They will link the need of the company with the possible solution.
- Celebration of bilateral dissemination meetings – events (Academia – private companies) to share and comment the results obtaining in the previous activity (3.1).
- Establishment of workshops/focus groups with representatives of private companies (by sector) and staff of TTOs (Technology Transfer Offices).

It will be also studied the contact with the Regional Government of Castilla y León (ICE – Institute for the Business Competitiveness) to check the possibility to continue with the line of subventions to finance projects of knowledge transfer between research bodies and SMES (no competition regimen) in the entire territory of Castilla y León.

The objective of this call (last edition was launched in March 2019) is to grant subsidies to facilitate the financing of knowledge transfer projects between Research bodies and companies established in the territory (annually).

Features: 100.000 € maximum per project – transfer service (with a minimum of 5.000 €). 50% financing percentage on admitted expenditure.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- Regional Government of Castilla y León – ICE.
- Provincial Government of Burgos – Society for the Development of the Province of Burgos (SODEBUR).
- Technological Centres operating in the territory (ITCL and CTME).
- University of Burgos / University Isabel I - TTOs.
- Chamber of Commerce of Burgos.
- Federation of Burgos’ Business Associations.

TIMEFRAME

July 2019 – June 2021 (semesters 6, 7, 8 and 9).
Detailed information (point 5. Work plan).

INDICATIVE COSTS AND FUNDING RESOURCES

Funds to develop part of this action (specifically activity 3.1) are included in the amount detailed in the previous action number 2 and allocated by the Regional Government of Castilla y León (Agriculture and Livestock Ministry).

Activities included in the point 3.2 will be developed without any other extra cost for Academia (Universities and Technological Centers - TTOs).

It will be also considered taking advantage of the budget of the Regional Government of Castilla y León (ICE) for financing projects of knowledge transfer between Academia and rural companies (if the subventions line continues in 2020 and 2021). Approximately 2.000.000 € per year.

RESULTS – IMPACT IN THE POLICY INSTRUMENT

This action's desired goal would be increasing the number of innovation joint projects between Academia (Research bodies) and rural companies. Anyway, the foreseen result is more linked to encourage collaboration between Academia and rural SMEs. At least, it would be a good result improving the knowledge transfer and bringing closer the real innovative needs of companies with the R&D processes in Universities and Technological Centers.

On these grounds, it's foreseen as **self-defined indicator** a number of 5 transfer projects between Research bodies and private companies placed in rural areas.

The action will influence the affected **Policy Instrument** in relation to the priority investment 1.2. Concretely, this action will help to reach the process indicator CO26 – *Number of companies cooperating with research centres*.

In addition and considering that TCUE Strategy is co-financed within the ERDF Operational Programme of Castilla y León 2014-2020, **this action will improve the capacity of the Policy Instrument to invest funds for activities of knowledge transfer among Academia and companies.**

Apart from influencing the Regional ERDF Operational Programme (2014-2020), this action is linked to the Programme 4 – Collaboration included in the **RIS3 of Castilla y León** for this programming period; *promoting and favouring collaboration between companies and research organisations to encourage that knowledge becomes a value to generate benefits, and ultimately supports the creation and maintenance of quality jobs, both in companies and research bodies.*

5. WORK PLAN

| ACTION 1 | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| CREATION OF AN INNOVATION TECHNICIANS' NETWORK TO SUPPORT COMPANIES IN RURAL AREAS | | | | |
| PHASE 2 | | | | |
| 2019 | 2020 | | 2021 | |
| Semester 6 | Semester 7 | Semester 8 | Semester 9 | |
| 1.1. Dissemination events to present the service | | | | |
| 1.2. Service of individual support/advice regarding innovation | | | | |
| ACTION 2 | | | | |
| PROMOTING PUBLIC - PRIVATE COLLABORATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BUSINESS TRAINING STRATEGY | | | | |
| PHASE 2 | | | | |
| 2019 | 2020 | | 2021 | |
| Semester 6 | Semester 7 | Semester 8 | Semester 9 | |
| 2.1. Identification of entities offering training for rural companies | | | | |
| 2.2. Periodic stakeholders meetings for coordination | | | | |
| 2.3. Development of annual training strategies (2020 and 2021) | | | | |
| 2.4. Implementation of the training initiatives included in the strategies | | | | |
| ACTION 3 | | | | |
| IMPROVING THE PROCESS OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES / TECHNOLOGICAL CENTERS – COMPANIES | | | | |
| PHASE 2 | | | | |
| 2019 | 2020 | | 2021 | |
| Semester 6 | Semester 7 | Semester 8 | Semester 9 | |
| 3.1. Study of R&D&I needs (rural companies) | | | | |
| 3.2. Companies' needs-Academia's offer alignment | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION | | | | |
| MONITORING AND IMPACT | | | | |

6. MONITORING AND IMPACT

Phase 2 – monitoring the implementation of the action plan

In order to assess the results of interregional cooperation (phase 1), phase 2 will be dedicated to monitoring the implementation of the action plans.

Thus, SODEBUR will monitor the implementation of the measures defined in this Action Plan to see the progress and determine the impact of the collaboration. The entity will check how the actions established are actually implemented and what results are reached.

During two years (July 2019 – June 2021), partners will continue the mutual learning process during the implementation phase of the action plan.

SODEBUR will stay active during the monitoring phase at two levels;

2. LOCAL LEVEL

- 6 monthly check of the state-of-the art of all actions. Review of indicators.
- Monitoring the progress made in every action by maintaining contact with the stakeholders involved in the implementation.
- A final monitoring report will be compiled by the end of Phase 2 (June 2021) including all actions' development, results and indicators achieved and impact on policy.

3. INTERREGIONAL LEVEL

- Participating in the organisation of one project meeting at the end of each year to exchange with all partners on the way the implementation is progressing.
 - March 2020, Milan (Italy).
 - October 2020, Bergen (Norway).
- Participating in the organisation of a final public dissemination event gathering executives and policymakers from the regions and from other relevant institutions (March, 2021).

On these grounds, it is necessary to define a scoreboard for follow-up and monitoring, to supervise the execution of the different actions considering, especially, **performance indicators**; to measure specific results and monitoring the success of the actions.



| <u>ACTION 1</u> | |
|--|--|
| CREATION OF AN INNOVATION TECHNICIANS' NETWORK TO SUPPORT COMPANIES IN RURAL AREAS | |
| PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | MEASUREMENT. <i>Source: Regional Government – University of Burgos</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of private companies receiving support/advice from the technical staff. • Number of innovative started projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal platform (record). • Internal platform (record). |
| <u>ACTION 2</u> | |
| PROMOTING PUBLIC - PRIVATE COLLABORATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BUSINESS TRAINING STRATEGY | |
| PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | MEASUREMENT. <i>P5 SODEBUR – Regional Government – Research Centers</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of annual training strategies developed. • Number of events included in the annual training strategies. • Number of participants in the events included in the annual strategies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document. • Programmes/pictures of events. • Lists of attendees. |
| <u>ACTION 3</u> | |
| IMPROVING THE PROCESS OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES / TECHNOLOGICAL CENTRES – COMPANIES | |
| PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | MEASUREMENT. <i>Source: Research bodies</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of innovative joint projects started between Academia and rural companies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal records. |

7. SIGNATURE

DATE: 18/09/2019

NAME AND POSITION: Mr. César Rico Ruiz. Provincial Government of Burgos. President

SIGNATURE and STAMP:

NAME AND POSITION: Mr. Lorenzo Rodríguez Pérez. President Board of Directors – Society for the development of the province of Burgos (SODEBUR)

SIGNATURE and STAMP: