



<http://www.eurada.org>

European Association of Development Agencies

Regional Development Agencies in
Spain

Regional Development Agencies in Spain

INTRODUCTION

Institutional context

The territorial organisation of Spain has a very particular structure. This structure is essential in order to understand the prevailing reality in the country. Therefore, Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and their capacities remain important.

Spain has three different main levels, established by its Constitution: the national (NUTS 1), the regional (NUTS 2), and the local (NUTS 3) level. For our purposes, the regional level is the most interesting one. Each one of the autonomous regions (seventeen, plus two autonomous cities) that conform to it has its own government (Parliament), competencies and capacities, some of them of great importance, such as healthcare and education. They are integrated by provinces and have an average population of over a million people (only a few cannot reach this number).

In this context, RDAs fulfil a relevant role as intermediaries between the regional government and civil society since the 80s (when most of them were founded). Nevertheless, not every region of Spain has its own RDA.

This relevancy that the RDAs have is also influenced by the fact that the same regional governments are those who create and provide them with the necessary powers and competencies to carry out their functions.

Furthermore, it is possible to find local agencies that work closely with the NUTS 3 administrations¹.

Legal status and competences

The autonomy the regional governments have in economic promotion makes each RDA different and unique in its structure. Nevertheless, practically all of them have the same legal status: they are considered public entities bound by private law².

¹ **Barcelona Activa**: local agency that works with the city hall of Barcelona.

² Uruña Gutiérrez, B. (1996). El papel de las Agencias de Desarrollo Regional en el ámbito de la Unión Europea y España. Propuestas para Castilla y León. *Revista de asuntos europeos*, 13, pp.101-112.

Regarding the competencies the RDAs own, as mentioned, there exists a wide variety among them, depending on the decisions each autonomous region takes on the matter. However, it is possible to establish a pattern, as the goals they are given usually coincide:

- Representation: the range of actions a local authority can exercise on behalf of their regional government.
- Service provision: such as facilities, infrastructure or training considered fundamental for enterprise productivity and the well-being of the population.
- Investment and development: management and encouragement of sustainable economic growth as well as social and environmental welfare for citizens and workers' benefit. A key factor in this process is the attraction and retention of investment.³

Therefore, RDAs in Spain have a very specific role: public advanced services providers, connecting offer and demand. Information, training, internationalization, innovation, technological development, and financial counselling⁴ are their main tools.

As to the financial aspects of RDAs, their budgets varies from one to the other; not so their source of income, however, since they are all primarily funded by their regional government. However, this is not the only source of the capital they receive. All of them receive a sizeable chunk of revenue from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in order to promote, and thus improve, the programmes they handle.

National coordination

While there is not a public national organisation to determine the rules the agencies should stick to, a relevant actor for coordination and organisation is the Asociación Española de Agencias de Desarrollo Regional, also called Foro ADR⁵; an entity created in 2007 with the aim of connecting existing RDAs in Spain, giving them the possibility of exchanging information and expertise in order to achieve their goals in more efficient ways, to identifying problems and finding solutions to them.

The Spanish central government has the capacity to take decisions in development, infrastructures or innovation matters. In the frame of these policies, there is communication and support from the national structures and the RDAs. i.e.: ICEX for internationalisation, Invest in Spain for investment attraction or CDTI for innovation.

³Clark, G., Huxley, J. and Mountford, D. (2012). La economía local: la función de las agencias de desarrollo. *Serie Políticas Públicas Y Transformación Productiva*, 2, p.17.

⁴Martínez Argüelles, S., Rubiera Morollón, F. and Vicente Cuervo, M. (2001). Nuevas tendencias de política regional: Una revisión de las experiencias españolas y europeas en la promoción de los servicios avanzados a empresas. *Anales de economía y administración de empresas*, 9, pp.45-65.

⁵Its current President is Javier Carrión, from **SODERCAN** and the General Secretariat is Rafael Escamilla, from **IVACE**.

ACTIVITIES

Technology development

Most of the RDAs develop innovation programmes⁶ with the purpose of helping enterprises improve their industrial capacities and therefore their possibilities and competitiveness.

The main mechanisms to support industrial development are grants; aid programs to reduce the companies' expenses charges, supporting by between 30% and 50%. Usually, these grants are subject to a collaboration between the companies and a technological or scientific centre, such as universities or technology centres.

Other tools for this purpose are:

- Innovation vouchers⁷: are small lines of credit provided by governments to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to purchase services from public knowledge providers with a view to introducing innovations (new products, processes or services) in their business operations
- Intellectual Property Rights: the RDAs help the enterprises protecting their ideas and products, assisting them during patent registration processes. The Oficina Española de Patentes y Marcas (OEPM) is the national organ in charge of regulating and register the companies' intellectual property. The Industrial Property regional Information centres form part of the OEPM.

An important organisation for innovation is Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (CDTI). A national entity that promotes innovation and technological development for enterprises and supports them in their projects. In this context, many RDAs⁸ become an important window at a regional level for companies to take advantage of this chance. With the name of Red PIDI and managed by CDTI they offer information and counselling to those companies that register in the net.

Internationalisation

Internationalisation activities are mostly focused on opening new markets, increasing export ratings, and establishing internationalisation plans for those companies which are better prepared to take that critical step. In order to achieve this, the agencies organise and prepare many activities centred on training and networking. Nevertheless, in some cases this function is not held by an RDA, but by another specialised public organ⁹.

⁶ For example, in Galicia: **IGAPE** or **GAIN**.

⁷ An interesting project at a European level is INNOvoucher, in order to set a "transnational collaboration base in innovation vouchers".

⁸ i.e. **IDEPA** in Asturias, **ICE** in Castilla y León or **IVACE** en C. Valenciana.

⁹ i.e. **Extenda** in the region of Andalucía or **Aragón Exterior** in the region of Aragón.

Among the aforementioned activities we can find examples such as:

- Export technician training: exportation, as a professional activity, requires exterior commerce techniques to offer an added value and foster sales.
- International missions: visits to interesting areas for new investments in order to improve the enterprises' knowledge. In such a way, future establishment will be easier.
- Fairs or events: a commercial showcase, a contact space between the companies and potential clients in a limited space and time.
- Meetings between the RDAs: discussions with the aim of updating the present of the RDAs and the enterprises they represent. As well as looking for networks in order to generate regional level impact actions.
- Import/export managers: workers who will ensure the products can be traded and pass customs.
- Business promoters: marketers who will provide the companies with an international network of contacts with the goal of the business expansion and development.

There are other organisations that help with the internationalisation process: at a national level, it is possible to find ICEX, whose mission is furthering economic internationalisation, the improvement of competitiveness as well as the attractiveness and promotion of foreign investments in Spain. A relevant role at a local level is fulfilled by the Chambers of Commerce; a national network with more than 80 delegations or "territorial chambers" across the country that offer services and support in start-up creation, innovation, exterior commerce, training and employment, arbitration, and institutional relations.

From a European point of view, there is a relevant and useful tool: Enterprise Europe Network, which contributes to expanding business opportunities and searching for partners. Most of the RDAs in Spain participate in the EEN as members.

Financial instruments

RDAs own several mechanisms with the objective of giving a boost to those projects that companies are developing. These mechanisms are mainly based on loans or credit, as well as incentives to enterprises which compromise by implementing certain measures the regional governments want to expand.

The final purpose given to financial aid varies widely between companies according to the necessities they have. They are often directed to improve their productivity or competitiveness, mainly through investment in tangible assets.

The main instruments are revolving funds, which are funds used by governments through RDAs to support medium and small companies in developing their projects, as they would look like high-risk operations for traditional financial entities. The particularity about these funds is their return, which means that the investment made by the public sector will be reimbursed. Especially three of them:

- Direct participation in the companies: the RDAs will create a fund in order to intervene in the capital of the companies through the purchase of shares or holdings.
- Provision of low-interest credit.
- Endorsements or guarantees for companies in the event of requesting loans from private financial institutions. RDAs usually establish “sociedades de garantía recíproca” or mutual guarantee societies: non-profit financial institutions regulated by the Spanish Central Bank, whose goal is encouraging credit access for SMEs and improving their financing conditions by attributing endorsements, as mentioned.

Also, many RDAs provide microcredit, given to entrepreneurs to foster start-up creation and consolidation. Microcredit are characteristically small amounts of money (under €25000) with lower requirements in order to obtain them.

Investment promotion

Work in this area focuses on regional promotion as a suitable investment destination, informing the potential investors of appropriate practices and helping them to design the plan. This aspect is developed by all RDAs in the country. There are many steps that can be taken towards this goal:

1. Promotion: attendance at national and international events, fairs, and congresses in order to advertise the region and its companies.
2. Investor location: finding investors willing to create new companies in the RDAs’ promoted territories, helping them in the process: ing administrative permissions and, managing the plan, etc.
3. Aftercare: RDAs are able to provide those investors with certain conditions making it easier for them to remain and make a profit out of this connection.

Technological infrastructure

Many pieces of infrastructure are supported by RDAs with the intention of providing the companies a suitable space created with a specific purpose:

- Technological parks: space occupied by industries and societies either public or private focused on scientific and technologic researching¹⁰. The RDAs are usually involved either in their functioning or as a shareholder.
- Technology institutes or competence centres: non-profit private organisations that have the necessary means to investigate, innovate and apply new methods

¹⁰ APTE is the national association of scientific-technologic parks in Spain, establishing a network between them to create a common future and make them key elements in the Spanish innovation system.

that can make corporations progress towards better or more efficient business models. They work very closely with enterprises in product research and quality analysis. Their financing is managed by the RDAs.

There are some examples of organisations that try to coordinate those infrastructures and improve technological development: the above-mentioned APTE, or FEDIT, the technological centres federation. At a regional level there are important cases: REDIT (Red de Institutos Tecnológicos de la Comunidad Valenciana) or IK4 Research Alliance and Tecnalia in the Basque Country.

Start-up creation

Closely related to the innovation factor mentioned above, this is one of the key functions RDAs have regarding the industrial structure within the region. The more companies there are, the more the economy will grow. The most commonly used instruments are, for example: training courses, financial help, promotion, favourable conditions for new companies, public calls for grants, agreements with private financial entities to facilitate loans and credit, and so on¹¹.

These activities are focused on those SMEs that would otherwise not possess the necessary mechanisms to carry these actions out.

Another way the RDAs have to stimulate the creation of start-ups is through incubators¹²; business spaces with the purpose of hosting new initiatives. An important role in this sense is the one carried out by the CEEIs: European business and innovation Centres, coordinated by ANCES (Spanish National Association) and the EBN innovation network at a European level.

Cohesion fund management: ERDF

It is very important to mention in a more detailed way the role of European Regional Development Funds¹³, as these cohesion funds represent up to a third of the entire Union's budget. RDAs rely on an important instrument in this sense: Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3): "National and regional authorities across Europe shall design smart specialisation strategies in entrepreneurial discovery process, so that the European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) can be used more efficiently and synergies between different EU, national and regional policies, as well as public and private investments can be increased"¹⁴.

¹¹ Especially relevant in this matter is the work carried out by **Instituto Aragonés de Fomento**.

¹² Also, businesses accelerators at a higher level.

¹³ Common Provision Regulation: REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013

¹⁴ European Commission factsheet: National/Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

The RIS3 constitutes a condition to have access to ERD Funds. In this sense the RDAs become an intermediate organisation to manage the operative program, while the Public Treasury Ministry fulfills the managing authority role. Each Autonomous Community has an individual operative program.

The role of Regional Development Agencies is essential to the implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies. These agencies act over a sizeable territory to gain economies of scale, at the same time with a competitive perspective using local strengths. In addition, Regional Development Agencies establish structured stable cooperation frameworks for private business, institutional, trade union, and academic members. The agencies regroup all the relevant actors implicated in regional development and leverage support to implement smart specialisation in accordance with all the strengths of one local territory. Thus, they are effective at the implementation of multi-level governance, at several stages of innovation, and with all kinds of partners, from large enterprises to clusters and university research and development departments. Regional Development Agencies are the link between all these stakeholders, necessary to combine efforts in a same direction.

The global grant is a particularly interesting aspect which, despite its good results, is being implemented in only two regions through their respective RDAs: Andalucía, with Agencia Idea; and the Región of Murcia, with Instituto de Fomento. Every region must establish an operative program in order to obtain and make use of the ERD Funds. The application of these funds must be controlled by an organisation or managing authority¹⁵. In order to make the projects' assignment and evaluation processes faster, more flexible, and closer to the implementation phase, it gives the RDAs the possibility of controlling and implementing European Funds, transferring them the managing authority's competences.

¹⁵ Subdirección General Adjunta de Gestión de la Unidad Administradora del Fondo Social Europeo (UAFSE), dentro de la DG de Economía Social, del Trabajo Autónomo y de la Responsabilidad Social de las Empresas.

SPANISH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

ACCIÓ – Agencia para la Competitividad de la Empresa (Catalunya).

ACCIÓ is the agency set up by the Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya) for business competitiveness. Created in 2008 as the result of a merger between two agencies: CIDEM and COPCA, which were born in 1985. It promotes innovation, internationalization, FDI attraction, cluster policies, and the funding of Catalan companies and start-ups. Each year it provides services to more than 23,000 clients.

Two of their main activities are innovation and internationalisation, as well as integral plans to back all phases and areas which help to develop and ensure the competitiveness of corporations. ACCIÓ's purpose is to make businesses grow in the market by enhancing their competitiveness and relationships at an international level. It stimulates the attraction of foreign investment which generates influence and further significance for the region.

Headquartered in Barcelona, it has 7 local branches and 40 trade & investment offices covering 110 markets. From these offices, ACCIÓ is able to identify and engage business opportunities that arise worldwide, but for which regional closeness and expertise is necessary.

ACISI – Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información (Canary Islands).

This agency from the Canary Islands is the entity in control of the competences connected to public policies and public programs in investigation, innovation, and introduction of digital technologies. It follows the strategies set by the Coordinating Commission of Science, Technology, and Innovation, from the regional Government Administration.

The agency presents tasks in the subsequent areas: innovation, research, information society, development of the human innovative capacity, development of scientific and technological infrastructures, and supporting the Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Canary Islands Government.

ADER – Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de La Rioja (La Rioja).

The Agency for the Economic Development of La Rioja (ADER) is a public organisation derived from the Government of La Rioja, whose aim is to increase business growth by offering services and financing to small and medium enterprises. ADER constitutes the main body in the promotion and economic expansion of La Rioja, attending to businesses throughout their various advancement steps to progress on their way to a stable, prosperous and sustainable region. ADER contributes to the planning of public policies for economic growth with the regional Government of La Rioja.

In order to carry out its activities, certain goals are set. They are essentially based on a few core issues such as the improvement of the industrial network and the enterprise competitiveness, internationalisation, and the creation of quality employment. To do so, it relies on several tools, for example financing and counselling, mainly in areas such as ICT, industry 4.0, European funds, and infrastructure.

*FUNDECYT – PCTEx – Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología -
Fundación Parque Científico y Tecnológico de Extremadura (Extremadura).*

The Foundation FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura (Fundecyt-PCTEx) is a body governed by public law based in Extremadura (Spain) with the aim of contributing to the social and economic exploitation of science and technology in the region, supporting and promoting scientific and technological development and a better use of research and innovation outcomes.

As a Development and Innovation Agency, Fundecyt-PCTEx provides technical assistance to the Regional Government of Extremadura for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3), as well as other Strategies and Plans. Moreover, it develops its activities fostering the innovation process in the region, by means of supporting the Regional Government in the implementation of the Office for Innovation (O4i), establishing bridges between all the actors of the regional Science, Technology, and Innovation system with the aim of invigorating and boosting relations between them, identifying and transferring technological demands from manufacturing sectors to research centres or groups and promoting the creation of new technology-based enterprises. Also, we support University, Research and Technological Centres to develop strategies aligned with the Europe 2020 strategy and participation in European projects, thanks to the Research Results Transfer Office managed by FUNDECYT-PCTEX.

Additionally, as Science and Technology Park, FUNDECYT-PCTEX houses more than 100 companies related to science, technology, and innovation with more than 1200 workers, providing the space and services needed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, science, and technology and to stimulate co-operation between firms, universities, and public administrations, leading to the socio-economic and regional development of Extremadura.

IAF – Instituto Aragonés de Fomento (Aragón).

The Instituto Aragonés de Fomento is the development agency of the regional Government of Aragón. Created with the aim of promoting and improving territorial development and economic productivity as well as the creation and maintenance of new employment.

The main activities the IAF carries out are within the fields of innovation and business

competitiveness, entrepreneurship support and business counselling and advisory. To do so, the functions the agency has are: investment project promotion, especially on the less developed areas of Aragón; industrial infrastructures promotion, with a special focus on SMEs; participation in regional planning studies; and exterior promotion and investment.

It manages several programmes which are worth mentioning: “Emprender en Aragón”, for entrepreneurship; and EMPRESA and PILOT, which are business discussion panels. It is also especially important due to its industrial participation structure. An aspect that is worth mentioning is the use of public companies to foster regional economic development, and to counter the depopulation of the region, such as “Plan Teruel”. It is a leading entity as regards employment creation, as well as support for entrepreneurs through measures such as “social entrepreneurship”.

ICE – Instituto para la competitividad empresarial (Castilla y León).

The Institute for Business Competitiveness is a regional Agency responsible for economic growth activities. It is managed by the Regional Government of Castilla y León. ICE’s objective is to boost the competitiveness of Castilla y León’s productive scheme and to invigorate and subsidise its business innovation strategy.

The key activities of ICE are: encouraging public and private projects for business and employment creation; handling investment initiatives; implementing and planning economic assistance measures; international promotion with the aim of attracting foreign investment; provision of services that assist regional advancement; distribution of financial aid and counsel linked to research, development, and innovation; creation of economic and financial policies and reports.

Castilla y León is one of the largest regions in Europe and the largest in Spain, which is why ICE relies on an important instrument to make sure its activities are properly carried out: it has different delegations in each one of the provinces that constitute the region, making it easier for enterprises to access the information and help that the Agency can provide.

IDEA – Agencia de Innovación y Desarrollo de Andalucía (Andalucía).

The Innovation and Development Agency of Andalucía (IDEA Agency) is the Andalusian Government’s agency for regional development and is concentrated on promoting the innovation within the Andalusian citizenship. The objective of the agency is to cooperate with the region’s economic and social development make services available to Andalusian companies, to the start-ups and to the Government of Andalucía. Was created in 1987 after absorbing other entities’ functions.

The agency intends to improve collaboration, entrepreneurship and innovation in the hi-tech business structure and competitiveness in the productive system of the region.

IDEA constitutes a very relevant part within the industrial strategy of Andalucía. It was one of the first RDAs in Europe to establish a series of financial instruments with the ERD Funds. An example of this is the program JEREMIE.

It is also important regarding the investment attraction and the implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies.

IDEPA – Instituto de Desarrollo Económico del Principado de Asturias (Principado de Asturias).

IDEPA was created by the regional Government of Asturias with the aim of improving the economic development and employment generation by helping companies increase their capacities. IDEPA seeks the region's development by economic means, especially, by enhancing the industrial structure and the business network. IDEPA offers a wide variety of services focusing particularly on innovation and coordination of technological infrastructures.

IDEPA focuses in five main areas regarding its activities: start-ups creation, by enhancing the entrepreneurial spirit and giving facilities with this purpose; business development, from projects financing to businesses restructuring support, as well as investment attraction; innovation, support to R & D programs to improve businesses competitiveness; internationalisation, in collaboration with ASTUREX (Exterior Promotion agency of Asturias), they offer financing and supporting programs, as well as counselling; knowledge, which means information about market indicators or Asturian business structure in order to know how to invest in a more profitable and wise way.

IDI – Institut d'Innovació Empresarial de les Illes Balears (Islas Baleares).

The IDI is a regional development agency and its goals are to encourage economic and enterprises development in the Islas Baleares, under the values of competitiveness, sustainable development and regional consistency and making available the material and resources for starting and developing for start-ups, small and medium enterprises. It is an organisation dependent of the regional government of Islas Baleares.

The IDI handles a wide variety of actions. Several of these are: planned services for start-ups, designing, internationalisation and industrial infrastructures; managing iComerç, a plan to improve technology development and connection in the commercial businesses of the islands, and meant to revive urban zones; actions to enhance industrial small and medium enterprises competitiveness, like seminars, conferences, fairs, preparation, etc.; Centre Bit: established as a networking space, in order to offer start-ups affordable installations with the appropriate means to develop their activities. Also, with the aim of creating new companies with the already mentioned incubators or financial support.

IGAPE – Instituto Galego de Promoción Económica (Galicia).

The IGAPE is the regional development agency created by the regional Government “Xunta de Galicia” and oversees the promotion of the economic development of Galicia. Its function is to promote all those activities that support the development of the productive system in Galicia, enabling the establishment, strengthening and expansion business processes.

The goals of IGAPE are basically: Encourage the establishment of new companies and the entrepreneurship spirit; boost the competitiveness in Galicia via innovation and high-tech development; attract investment to Galicia; facilitate internationalisation for businesses with no resources or structures enough to carry out this process; backing collaboration and cooperative projects between Galician enterprises;

To facilitate the access to its services for the Galician region, IGAPE manages delegations in several cities. Additionally, the Network of Platforms for Business Promotion outside Galicia (‘Rede PEXGA’) eases internationalisation and attraction of external investment by its presence in different markets.

INFO – Instituto de Fomento de la Región de Murcia (Región de Murcia).

The Instituto de Fomento (INFO) is the Regional development Agency of the Region of Murcia. The main objective of INFO is to promote regional economic growth and competitiveness in the Region of Murcia by promoting the economy, increasing investment, removing obstacles and establishing an environment that favours competitiveness. INFO focuses on the following lines of action:

- Research & Innovation - For promoting technological development ensuring that each company can access the technology that best suits its needs.
- Internationalisation - For boosting international corporate expansion through the Foreign Trade Promotion Plan.
- Investment - For promoting investment, development and growth projects by providing companies from inside and outside the region with information and consultancy services.
- Entrepreneurship - Support for entrepreneurs, creation, consolidation and transfer of companies.
- Access to finance - For helping businesses to access lines of finance for investments in assets, quality, technology, internationalisation and industrial equipment.

IVACE – Instituto Valenciano de Competitividad Empresarial (Comunidad Valenciana).

The Valencian Institute of Business Competitiveness (IVACE) is the development agency created as a result of the restructuring of the former Institute of the Small and Medium Enterprises of the Generalitat Valenciana (IMPIVA for its name in Spanish), absorbing, as

well, the competencies from other entities such as AVEN or SEPIVA.

Its purpose is overseeing the industrial policy of the regional Government and assisting companies in internationalisation, attraction of investment or innovation matters, as well as helping technological infrastructures, and the industrial safety of products and facilities, or energetic efficiency and renewable sources.

IVACE represents a model for its support to the technology institutes network within the Valencian Community.

SODENA – Desarrollo de Navarra (Navarra).

Sodena is the financial instrument of the Government of Navarra for business development in the region. It operates as a limited liability company and was founded in 1984. A particularity about SODENA is its status, as it was constituted as a public company (it works as a private enterprise, but the ownership corresponds to the Public Administration).

SODENA constitutes a very important agent regarding the economic development of the region. Its main task is taking an active role in the different phases of business projects that contribute to the balanced and sustainable development of Navarra.

Sodena's mission is to attract and develop value-added business projects helping the regional development and the creation of quality employment by coordinating the design and implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) that promotes regional economic transformation and development; by capturing, identifying and promoting the generation and development of business projects for Navarra, both regionally and externally through the use of financial tools, mainly venture capital, and facilitating foreign direct investment in the region, offering both advice and support and finally, by boosting business competitiveness providing value, fostering collaboration and business growth.

SODERCAN – Sociedad para el Desarrollo Regional de Cantabria (Cantabria).

SODERCAN is an RDA from Cantabria with a public company status. Its main goal is to strengthen the Cantabrian industry through several activities as R & D projects supporting; businesses internationalisation; start-ups creation and entrepreneurialism promotion; or financing aids and subsidies.

Its main mission is to actively contribute to the Cantabrian industrial strengthen, through the support to all those initiatives designed and planned to improve it. The way to do so is by the facilitation of all the processes regarding to creation, consolidation and entrepreneurial growth, as well as innovation projects or activities in order to boost the competitiveness of the enterprises in the region.

A good example of these activities is the programme Emprecan Plus, designed to support the creation of the companies from the very beginning, the definition of the idea, until the consolidation phase, when the company is already created.

SPRI – Sociedad para la Transformación Competitiva (País Vasco).

The Basque Country has always had a special relevance within Spain regarding the industrialisation, as it is one of the top regions in the country. SPRI is the regional development agency of the Basque Government, and it is dependent of the economic development Department.

With SPRI, the regional Government has a useful mechanism to promote and support the Basque companies with their development and competitiveness. SPRI has a wide variety of plans and programmes addressed to companies and aid them in eight strategic areas: 4.0 Industry, internationalisation, entrepreneurship, technology, cybersecurity, investment attraction, Information society and innovation.

Some examples of the programmes they manage could be: Invest in the Basque Country,

RDA Name	REGION	POPULATION (2018)	GDP (2018)	YEAR OF CREATION	EMPLOYEES	BUDGET
ACCIÓ	Catalonia	7,543,825	242,313	2008	286	83,800,000
ACIISI	Canary Islands	2,127,685	46,029			
ADER	La Rioja	315,675	8,391			
FUNDECYT	Extremadura	1,072,863	19,397	2013	50	4,666,653
IAF	Aragón	1,308,728	37,691	2000	40	10,000,000
ICE	Castilla y León	2,409,164	58,817	1995	236	205,800,000
IDEA	Andalucía	8,384,408	160,812	1987		
IDEPA	Asturias	1,028,244	23,650			
IDI	Balearic Islands	1,128,908	31,491	1997	51	7,227,000
IGAPE	Galicia	2,701,743	62,878			
INFO	Region of Murcia	1,478,509	31,491	1984		33,336,100
IVACE	Valencian Community	4,963,703	112,128	1984	170	120,000,000
SODENA	Navarra	647,554	20,555	1984	25	3,311,197
SODERCAN	Cantabria	580,229	13,838	1985	46	29,644,209
SPRI	Basque Country	2,199,088	74,041	1981	60	60,000,000

to attract foreign investors; or the Basque Industry 4.0, in order to innovate, improve the used technology or find the adequate infrastructures to develop the activities the companies carry out.

CONTACT DATA

ACCIÓ



ACCIÓ – Agencia para la Competitividad de la Empresa

+34 93 476 72 00

<https://www.accio.gencat.cat/ca/inici/>

info.accio@gencat.cat



ACIISI – Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información

+34 928 45 83 35 | 922 922 861

<http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/aciisi/>

dg.aciisi@gobiernodecanarias.org



ADER – Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de La Rioja

+34 941 291 500

<http://www.ader.es/inicio/> z



FUNDECYT – PCTEx – Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Tecnología - Fundación Parque Científico y Tecnológico de Extremadura

+34 924 014 600

<http://www.fundecyt.es/index.php?pagina=&seccion=&idioma=en>

info@fundecyt-pctex.es



IAF – Instituto Aragonés de Fomento

+34 976 702 100

<https://www.iaf.es/>

Contact form in the website: <https://www.iaf.es/contactar/>



ICE – Instituto para la competitividad empresarial

+34 983 327 850

www.empresas.jcyl.es

ice@jcyl.es



IDEA – Agencia de Innovación y Desarrollo de Andalucía (Andalucía).

+34 955 062 627

www.agenciaidea.es

informacion@juntadeandalucia.es



IDEPA – Instituto de Desarrollo Económico del Principado de Asturias (Principado de Asturias).

+34 985 98 00 20

<https://www.idepa.es>

idepa@idepa.es



IDI – Institut d'Innovació Empresarial de les Illes Balears (Islas Baleares).

+34 971 177 601 + ext. 62984

<http://www.idi.es/>

Contact form in the website: <http://www.idi.es/index.php/idi/contacta>



IGAPE – Instituto Galego de Promoción Económica (Galicia).

+34 900 81 51 51 | +34 981 541 147

<http://www.igape.es>

Contact form in the website: <http://www.igape.es/es/atendemolo-a>



INFO – Instituto de Fomento de la Región de Murcia

+34 900 700 706 | +34 968 36 28 00

<http://www.institutofomentomurcia.es/>

informacion@info.carm.es



IVACE – Instituto Valenciano de Competitividad Empresarial

+34 961 209 600

<http://www.ivace.es/index.php?lang=es>

info.ivace@gva.es



SODENA – Desarrollo de Navarra

+34 848 421942

<https://sodena.com/index.php/en/>

info@sodena.com



SODERCAN – Sociedad para el Desarrollo Regional de Cantabria

+34 942 29 00 03

<https://www.sodercan.es>

Contact form in the website: <https://www.sodercan.es/contacto/>



**FORO
ADR**

Agencias de Desarrollo
Regional Españolas

Foro ADR – Agencias de desarrollo regional españolas

<https://www.foroadr.es/>

Contact form in the website: <https://www.foroadr.es/contacto2>



EURADA – European Association of Development Agencies

+32 22 87 08 32

<http://www.eurada.org>

info@eurada.org

EURADA
Rue Montoyer, 24
Bruxelles BELGIUM

+32 22 87 08 32
www.eurada.org

 European Association of Development Agencies

 @Eurada_RDAs

 EURADA – European Association of Development Agencies