

INNOVANETWORKS (Creation of a Network for Interregional Cooperation on R&D&I)

1.1. EUROINNOVA PROGRAMME

The Region of Navarra in Spain is developing its second Regional Programme of Innovative Actions, **EUROINNOVA NAVARRA Programme**, under the framework of the Innovative Actions of the European Regional Development Fund 2000-2006.



The **Overall Goal** of the Programme is to contribute to the objectives of the Agenda of Lisbon/Gothenburg (3% of the GDP on R&D investment by 2010) and the creation of the “European Research Area” (ERA).

The Programme’s **Strategy** is based on the **Integration** of the Regional Innovation System and its stakeholders (Science – Technology – Business) on 3 levels: Sectoral, Regional and European.

On this effort EUROINNOVA NAVARRA is focusing on **4 sectors** which are crucial for the future of the region:

- ❑ **Biotechnology (including agri-food and health).**
- ❑ **Renewable Energies.**
- ❑ **Nanotechnology.**
- ❑ **Information and communication Technologies (ICT) as a crosscutting sector.**

Actions of the Programme are the following:

- **Action 1. POLES OF EXCELLENCE:** Developing and implementing the methodology for the elaboration of “R&D Integrated Projects” in specific sectors.
- **Action 2. INNOVATIC:** Promoting and developing the ICT sector as an accelerator of technological change and regional economic growth.
- **Action 3. INNOVANETWORKS:** Advancing towards the integration of the regional innovation system into the European Research Area.

- **Action 4. NETWORKING:** Sharing the knowledge and experience acquired in Innovative Actions in different European regions to design a common future strategy.

EUROINNOVA NAVARRA will be implemented in the 2006-2008 period, and is endowed with a Total Budget of 4,892,000 €.

Further information on the Project is available at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/innovation/pdf/programme/2006_navarra.pdf.

1.2 INNOVANETWORKS ACTION

The **INNOVANETWORKS** Action of the Regional Programme is aimed at the **promotion of the R&D&I cooperation of Navarra Region with other European regions.**

Main efforts on the Action will be devoted to promote networking both at the S-T-B system level and between regional innovation policymakers, for the implementation of common interregional innovation strategies. This Action specifically seeks an interregional cooperation aimed at the:

- Implementation of **Interregional Foresight exercises on 3 priority sectors: Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Renewable Energies.**
- Development of an **Interregional Call for Proposals** to support networking, mobility and R&D&I projects among involved regions.
- Integration of Navarra region's stakeholders into **European networks of excellence** and the celebration of **Cooperation Agreements** between Navarra's regional networks and other regions' networks, as a consequence of the previous 2 actions.
- Development and dissemination of a **Methodology Guide** on Interregional Cooperation Frameworks, resulting from the Actions' experiences and learnt lessons.

The Government of Navarra, as responsible for the Regional Policy of Innovation and the EUROINNOVA NAVARRA Programme, is actively promoting the **contact with other European regions' governments** and innovation agencies in order to create the **cooperative environment** needed to implement the INNOVANETWORKS Action.

Regions from France (Île de France), Italy (Lombardy and Tuscany), Germany (Stuttgart and Schleswig-Holstein), Sweden (Stockholm) and Finland (Northern Finland) have already been contacted. Specifically, the Action is seeking collaboration with European regions fulfilling 2 conditions:

- Regions with technological networks of excellence on at least one of the 3 priority sectors of EUROINNOVA Programme.
- Regions with competencies for supporting some network promotion activities on behalf of their S-T-B agents, and competencies to commit funds in an interregional call for proposals.

Proposed activities will be sequential in order to enhance networking chances on involved regions. Each activity will further strengthen the knowledge base and relationships among stakeholders.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

As a first step towards the promotion of networking, Foresight is proposed as a methodology enabling the **exchange of technological competence maps** on the focused sector among the involved regions. The goal of such an exercise will be the **opening up of the innovation system on the agreed sectors** among involved regions.

Even more, it is aimed to use Foresight as a tool for a committed shared vision of the role of regions in the ERA development.

Aims of the Foresight will be the following:

- Knowledge and Competence Map exchange on agreed sectors.
- Definition of a future scenario/vision on cooperation and networking on the agreed sector.
- Road mapping: Identification of joint initiatives, actions and projects aimed towards the agreed future vision. The expected actions could be, among others: (by the way of a common call for proposals)
 - Promotion of interregional exchange of human resources among S-T-B agents (mobility).

- Promotion of networking among Excellent Technology Centers from involved regions and integration of participant regions' stakeholders on European's networks of excellence.
- Promotion of interregional R&D&I projects among involved regions.

For instance, **proposed methodology**, to be fully agreed on a further stage, might be the following:

Pre-foresight: A critical technology list for the 3 sectors will be provided by a Foresight expert organization that will support the whole process. A Competence Map or Matrix of relevance of these technologies on each of the involved regions will follow, to be compiled by the expert organization with the support of involved regions, focusing both on:

- the impact of the technologies on the regional system (structure, performance, attractiveness) and,
- on the position of the Research and Innovation System regarding the development of the technologies (capabilities in terms of resources, competencies, infrastructures and needs of integration).

Foresight: It will take place through presential interregional panels, where through dynamic methodologies the integration of regional Matrixes of relevance will be sought after, in order to identify grounds for interregional cooperation in R&D and knowledge and technology transfer. A design of guidelines for action plans (roadmap) will follow, taking into consideration S&T objectives, scientific and industrial capabilities and players and resources from each region.

Post-foresight: Reports based upon results of exercises will be delivered to regional policymakers. In Navarra's case, a Dissemination workshop will present the resulting roadmap to all relevant stakeholders. Other regions involved will be requested to ensure at their own cost and means, dissemination at their regional level. If agreed a transregional event could take place. If so the expenses will have Navarra Government's financial support. In this context a **Methodological Guide** on Interregional Cooperation Frameworks will be developed in the frame of the INNOVANETWORKS Action.

1.4 WORK PLAN

Once excellent regions on the priority sectors confirm their interest in participating in INNOVANETWORKS, **3 different interregional foresight exercises** will be implemented, one for each of the priority sectors. The number of involved regions on each of the exercises might differ depending on the identified regions' areas of excellence.

Navarra Government will provide the services of a **Foresight Expert organization** that will facilitate the foresight process: they will be responsible of conducting any pre-foresight analyses from all regions, the proper foresight exercise and the elaboration of the resulting Reports. Same Expert organization will also be entitled to design and elaborate the **Methodology Guide on Interregional Cooperation Frameworks** comprising all efforts promoted by the INNOVANETWORKS Action.

Involved European regions on each of the 3 panels might also propose other Foresight experts on each of the sectors, who if agreed by all regions, might conduct the exercise with Navarra Government's financial support.

The **Pre-foresight** phase will entail **Technological Missions** conducted by Navarra regions' key stakeholders on each sector, to the involved regions, in order to get to know their networks and resources of excellence. All travel and accommodation expenses resulting from these missions by Navarra's stakeholders will be afforded by INNOVANETWORKS.

Foresight exercise will take place through **presential panels** facilitated by the Foresight Experts. Regional policy makers and key stakeholders from all regions involved on the agreed priority sectors will meet for several days. Each region will have to afford the

travel expenses of their participants, and INNOVANETWORKS will **afford accommodation and subsistence costs** to all participants.

Post-foresight will result as a consequence of previous works, and will be aimed towards: Dissemination of results, Methodological Guide and Interregional Call for Proposals.

1.5 INTERREGIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS

As a consequence, consultation and negotiations will take place, at the Regional and Interregional policymaking level, aimed at the agreement on the regulations needed for the launching of an interregional Call for Proposals (similar to an ERA-NET initiative).

The aim of the Call will be to facilitate the on going of the **road map** agreed on the Foresight exercise, given support to all necessary measures conducive to the knowledge sharing and strengthening of relationships among S-T-B agents on the agreed sectors and regions. It looks for the provision of a **flexible and innovative framework** for collaboration, as a prior step for the implementation of R&D&I joint strategic projects.

For instance, the Call might support both such interregional R&D&I projects, and furthermore, other initiatives and activities that might benefit future cooperation schemes, like reciprocal Technological Missions, implementation of common viability studies or assessments on new technologies, exchange of professionals among Universities or Technological Centers, joint participation and assistance to seminars or fairs,... Results' impact will be focused rather in the intangible network of resulting relationships and cooperation activities than in the number of R&D&I projects effectively supported.

There will be just a joint Call for Proposals promoted by all regions involved in the 3 priority sectors. Nonetheless, funds allocation will be agreed among regions involved on each of the 3 Poles of Excellence agreed: Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Renewable Energies. All regions will have the necessary competencies and powers following national and European regulations in order to become committed in such a Call, and will have to make the agreed economic contribution.

1.6 CALENDAR

Implementation of the INNOVANETWORKS Actions will take place all along 2007 and 2008. A tentative Gantt diagram is attached.

// INAVARRA

INNOVANETWORKS ACTION

Activity	2007												2008									
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
General																						
1. Identification of Excellent European regions on Bio, Nano and Renewable Energies																						
2. Dissemination of INNOVANETWORKS Proposal among selected European Regions																						
3. Agreement of Foresight Expert organization/s to conduct Foresight exercises																						
4. Agreement with European Regions on participation on Regional Foresight Exercise and Interregional Call for Proposals																						
Interregional Foresight																						
1. Pre-foresight: Technological Missions by Navarre's Policy makers and Technological Stakeholders on 3 priority sectors to selected regions.																						
2. Agreement on number of regions to participate on each of 3 foresight exercises: Bio, Nano and Renewable Energies																						
3. Foresight: celebration of 3 interregional Foresight Panels on Bio, Nano and Renewable Energies for integration of regional maps and roadmapping																						
4. Post-foresight: Dissemination of Interregional Foresight Reports and Methodology Guide																						
Interregional Call for Proposals																						
1. Negotiation among regions on scope, applicable rules, eligibility criteria and funds allocation for the Interregional Call for Proposals																						
2. Elaboration, publication and dissemination of Call for Proposals																						
3. Evaluation and approval of initiatives, actions and projects under Call																						
European Conference on Bio-Fuels																						
1. Dissemination of Programme's contents among involved regions																						
2. Celebration of European Conference in Pamplona, Navarra																						

In the framework of this Action a European Conference on Bio-Fuels will also take place in Pamplona, Navarra's capital city, on January 2008.

www.biofuel2g.com

1.7 BUDGET

INNOVANETWORKS Actions is supported by a Total Budget of 770.000 €.

1.8 TIME AND ACTIONS REQUESTED FOR EACH REGIONAL PARTNER

- **In the pre-foresight exercise:** the first step is to coordinate the contact with the relevant stake-holders from the Science-Technology-Business system in the three sectors (nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, and renewable energies) or unless in one of these areas of the region interested. Therefore, a delegation of the Region of Navarra will visit these identified stake-holders in order to establish the first contact and the calendar and methodology of the following tasks. All these actions could be completed in one day, or one and a half day. During this meeting, to be held in your country, the presence of several policy makers could be valuable. The expenses of this travel with the agents of Navarra will be charged to Euroinnova budget.
- **In the foresight and post-foresight exercises** the implication needed is for each of the technologies selected (minimum one - nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, and renewable energies- maximum the three of them) . This implication requires the participation of regional stake holders and policy makers in each panel of experts meetings. The total number of experts could be 4 or 5 per each technology selected. Two or three meetings will be held in 2008, of maximum 2 days per meeting. in places to be agreed (perhaps Brussels). All the expenses of these meetings, except staff cost (man days) and travel expenses will be charged to Euroinnova budget. Each region will assume the cost of his people time and travel expenses. We are in negotiation with the project officer about the possibility of supporting partially the travel expenses.

In case, the Region is thinking about a regional expert on foresight and wants him/her to participate in the panels, we can afford the cost of this expert (total cost), as external advise/consultancy.

The deliverable of Innovanetwork action is "the design" of a call for proposal (post-foresight), not to do this call; and the methodology of trans-regional cooperation. This methodology will be developed for our experts (OPTI and regional consultants).

1.9 MORE INFORMATION

Any enquiry regarding the INNOVANETWORKS Action and the EUROINNOVA NAVARRA Programme may be headed to the Contact Persons stated below.

Contact Persons:

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Links:

EUROINNOVA NAVARRA web site:

<http://www.euroinnova-navarra.eu>

RETECNA - Network of Technological centers of Navarra web site:

www.retecna.net

ANAIN - Navarra Agency for Innovation and Technology web site:

www.plantecnologico.com/es/anain/

Government of Navarra official site:

www.navarra.es