



# HIGHER

## Interreg Europe

# RIS3CAT - Communities

Catalonia

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European Union | European Regional Development Fund

## Policy Instrument

Body Responsible: ACCIÓ  
(Catalonia's government agency  
for innovation and  
competitiveness)

Geographical Coverage:  
Regional coverage for Catalonia

A photograph of a person running on a paved road that curves along a grassy hillside. The sky is blue with some clouds, and the scene is lit with soft, golden light, suggesting early morning or late afternoon. The road has white dashed lines and a white guardrail on the right side.

**General Objective:**  
Increasing competitiveness  
and economic transformation  
in a given sector through  
changes and improvements  
in the collaboration and  
relationships between  
companies and stakeholders  
around the R&I system

## **Specific Objective:**

1. To facilitate collaboration and active groups of companies and different stakeholders within the R&I framework.
2. To boost economic transformation in different sectors.
3. To promote mid to long-term planning regarding R&I projects for the smart specialization of the region.
4. To improve job-creation and new economic opportunities.

Public Call for Proposals for accreditation and launching an Action Plan for each Community inside an specific sector.

**Policy Instrument Managers:**  
Catalonian Government through  
different agencies and ministries  
(ACCIÓ and VEH) and stakeholders  
from the R&I system.

## **Main Beneficiaries and stakeholders:**

- Companies
- Business associations
- Cluster organisations
- Universities
- Research and technology centres
- Foundations and different institutions linked to R&D&I
- Users Associations

**In the medium term:** R&I budgets in companies; VC and private equity; financial institutions; etc.

## Four Main Questions:

1. How can it be made **appealing to all the stakeholders in the R+D+I** system and economic sectors?
2. How should **Regular Users vs. newcomers** be treated in using such an instrument?
3. How can the **ERDF liabilities vs. Flexible Management** be balanced ?
4. Which are the most **suitable ways for feedback and involvement** regarding the instrument/policy?

Awareness and “ease of use” are critical to broaden its appeal.

1. **Public information and dissemination** of the instrument with clear emphasis on how to access it.
2. Public calls of proposals with **clear rules and a “transversal design”** suitable for most circumstances
3. **Grassroot work and word-of-mouth** from stakeholders with incidence within the economic sectors and R&I system.
4. Targeted work with the economic sectors best suited for being **“first users” and potential “influencers”**/examples.

**Regular Users may have an edge when participating in the instrument.**

**Not feeding the R&I system but transforming economic sectors in the Catalan economy**

- Clear guidelines and helpdesk for participation
- Biasing the composition of the communities and making some profiles compulsory.
- Rigorous SWOT analysis and maximum objectivation in the instrument's design.
- Transparency in the evaluation process and the criteria applied.

### **Administrative process can be cumbersome and not necessarily best suited for a flexible management**

- Capacitation of coordinators in the communities is mandatory
- Streamlining validation and justification until it is “almost transparent” in the projects.
- Paying attention to the necessities and flow of each sector, but not only at ERDF level.

### **Feedback eases improvement of the instrument and co-responsability.**

- Participation in the design phase through different mechanisms.
- Establishing close contact with communities and coordinators regarding implementation.
- Using different evaluation methods to assess satisfaction and involvement and channelling feedback.

# Thanks for your attention



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Development Fund

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