



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



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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