

## Best practices presented during the first interregional site visit

### CANARY ISLANDS

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- *Good practice #1: Servicio de conservación y mejora del monte para la protección de la población rural*

This best practice is a public employment-training programme that provides unemployed people with the necessary training to work on maintenance and conservation of the forests of La Palma Island and exploit other employment possibilities in the forestry sector. The fifteen participants involved in the programme receive a salary during the training period and a final certificate at the end of the training. This target group is composed by people aged 30-58 years old with no education background or with only primary school. The aim is to facilitate access to work through apprenticeship and professional experience in an occupation, while responding to the need of the island to avoid hydrological risks and the uncontrolled action of fire and protecting the environment and local population.

- *Best practice #2: Proyecto BREZO*

BREZO project involves 15 unemployed people with disabilities who receive a training course to obtain the Certificate of Professionalism for Installation and Maintenance of Gardens and Green Areas. The training programme started on 19/12/2016 and will last until the end of this year (19/12/2017). It lasts 564 hours, including a working period in companies of the sector to reinforce the knowledge acquired during the theoretical learning. Moreover, the training is complemented by two other modules, one on garden centres and the other on prevention and management of the health of the agroecosystem. The training aims to promote environmental sensitization of participants, as well as workshops in groups to prepare them to enter the labour market. Follow-up and employment support is foreseen, depending on the needs of both participants and companies.

- *Best practice #3: Aqua. Socorrismo en instalaciones acuáticas*

The project aims to train 15 unemployed young people of the municipality of Santa María de Guía enrolled in the Youth Guarantee Program, in acquiring knowledge to ensure the safety of users of swimming pools in the municipality. This way, potentially dangerous situations can be prevented and effective intervention can be made in case of an accident or emergency situation. The programme started in 2016 and will last until 2018.

- *Best practice #4: Arucas y la seguridad de sus espacios acuáticos*

The project aims to train 15 unemployed young people of the municipality of Arucas enrolled in the Youth Guarantee Program. The training aims to teach beneficiaries prevention of aquatic emergencies for beach and bathing areas users of the municipality and of the island in general. As for the other project, participants receive training in conjunction with a working period in the municipality. The programme started in 2016 and it will last until 2018.

- *Best practice #5: AsesorAmbiental, Tenerife Chamber of Commerce*

AsesorAmbiental is an environmental advice programme launched by the Chamber Of Commerce of Tenerife that offers a complete circuit of services that go from the gestation of the idea to the materialization and consolidation of it. It provides a wide range of services: recommendations to determine the market or the viability of the activity; a Sustainable Environmental Business Ideas Bank; support on specific formalities and obligations of the activity; advice on a series of good practices to be implemented; certifications, training, qualifications, subsidies and aid; and the possibility of joining the ‘Red de empresas + sostenibles de Tenerife’, whose registration allows companies to make use of the ‘Tenerife + Sostenible’ brand as well as to benefit from its diffusion in the associated advertising campaigns.

- *Best practice #6: Mancomunidad del Sureste*

The Mancomunidad del Sureste (Intermunicipal Community of the Southeast of Gran Canaria) is an associated local body with legal personality, found by the Municipalities of Agüimes, Ingenio and Santa Lucía de Tirajana in 1990, and today it is an example of solidarity and mutual support. Until the 20th century, these three towns that make up the Mancomunidad were the less developed area of the island. However, today they have demonstrated that a history of poverty can be changed and progress can be made towards a society with more opportunities, well-being and progress, through the joint management of resources. The creation of the Mancomunidad was motivated by the need to respond to the severe water shortage suffered by the region, since then the management of water resources has been one of the fundamental pillars of its sustainable development, which promote the use of renewable energy.

The Mancomunidad has developed an ambitious Sustainable Development Plan, which prioritizes the use and promotion of renewable energies, including its incorporation into passenger cars, water and energy saving, and good waste management.

Today, after the installation of a desalination plant that currently has a production capacity of 33,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, the demand of practically the entire population of the

region can be satisfied with desalinated water; in addition, a sewage treatment plant of 12,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day was set up, and this has satisfactorily resolved the demand for water for agricultural consumption. All this has been done keeping in mind the protection of the environment which goes from favouring the natural cycles, minimizing the use of reagents and setting up a specific service of control and monitoring of spills to avoid abusive extractions and exhaustion of resources, generating alternative production methods.

- *Best practice #7: Contratación tecnólogos*

The Research and Innovation Agency is dependent upon the Regional Ministry for Industry, Commerce and Knowledge, and it is a body responsible for carrying out the policies and programmes in the fields of research, technological development and business innovation.

The Agency provides financial support to enterprises for the incorporation of innovative personnel. Beneficiaries of this initiative are SMEs (physical persons excluded) and clusters located in Canary Islands. If selected by the Agency, SMEs receive funds to hire technologists and involve them into research and innovation activities within the concerned companies.

To receive this type of financial support, enterprises have to offer a long-term employment contract to technologists and, if they are selected, the Agency pays the salary of the new personnel during their first three years of work.

Under the last call 188 enterprises submitted a proposal for recruiting technologists and 40 of them were selected. Most of the enterprises that applied to the last call for proposal belonged to the blue economy strategic sector.

85% of the total cost of this initiative is financed by the European Social Fund, while the remaining part (15%) by regional allocations.