



Joint Secretariat Interreg Europe
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Letter of endorsement: Interreg Europe BID-REX: "From Biodiversity Data to Decisions: enhancing natural value through improved regional development policies", Action Plan in Catalonia.

Dear,

Catalonia is a country with a very rich natural heritage as a result of a highly diverse territory, with more than 500 km of Mediterranean coast, with the Pyrenees and its peaks of more than 3,000 meters high, passing through many medium mountain areas, inland plains and with the third largest river delta in the Mediterranean, the Ebre delta.

This natural heritage is reflected into an extensive protected territory (Natura 2000 occupies 31% of the land territory). Catalonia is also a densely populated area with remarkable economic development which translates into an important pressure on natural systems. For this reason, being able to participate in the Interreg Europe BID-REX project "From Biodiversity Data to Decisions: enhancing natural value through improved regional development policies" is very important for us, in order to improve the use of biodiversity information in the decision-making processes and, ultimately, to improve public policies.

The work carried out by our technicians since the start of the project (April 2016) together with the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia CTFC (lead partner) and the Local Stakeholders Group created at the beginning of the project, as well as the experiences learned in the interregionals workshops, has allowed us, after months of intense work, to specify in the Action Plan the 9 actions that we want to carry forward in the following years, in order to achieve the goals set. In the case of Catalonia, as you can observe in the Action Plan, these actions can be synthesized in two interconnected goals: the creation of the Observatory of the Natural Heritage of Catalonia, which should allow us to improve the quality and availability of natural heritage information present in our country and, as a result, the improvement of the use of European funds (especially ERDF but without forgetting the rest) in nature conservation projects in Catalonia.

So, since last March (the date on which we delivered the Action Plan -revised and validated later by you) and from the administration that I am directing, we are putting all the efforts to complete the actions included in the document . It will not be easy, but do not doubt that we are putting all our interest to achieve it successfully.

I do not want to finish this letter without thanking you for the opportunity that Interreg Europe has offered us to take part in this project, and to know and exchange experiences with various european regions that have similar problems and challenges. It has been, and it is still a very enriching experience.

Yours faithfully,

Ferran Miralles i Sabadell
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Fm004-19

Signed electronically