

## ERDF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OF CASTILE-LEON 2014-2020

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The Operational Programmes are planning tools that establish how and where invest the two funds of the European Cohesion Policy or Structural funds:

- ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)
- ESF (European Social Fund).

### **Main objectives**

The 2014-2020 ERDF Operational Programme for Castilla y León aims to:

1. Promote innovation, contributing to a change in the production model of Castilla y León.
2. Promote the development of ICT in line with the Digital Agenda for Europe and the new knowledge economy as a basis for a sustainable economic recovery.
3. Promote the sustainability of enterprises, especially those with a high innovative component, and the creation of new business.
4. Increase the use of renewable energy resources, reduce energy consumption, and improve energy efficiency.
5. Contribute to environmental protection, improving water management, recovery and enhancement of cultural and heritage resources in the region.

The projects that receive grants of the ERDF Operational Programmes have to be placed in one of the **5 thematic aims** or **priority axes** of action established for this initiative. **The three first of them are linked to specific aims of the RIS3 of Castile-Leon.**

The total budget to the **operational programme ERDF** for Castile-Leon is **€628,8m.**

<b>PRIORITY AXES</b>	<b>FINANCING</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Axis 1: To improve research, technological development and innovation	€ 183.895.194	29,24 %
Axis 2: To improve the use and quality of the ICT and the access to it	€ 49.374.272	7,85 %

Axis 3. To improve the competitiveness of the small and medium enterprises	€ 177.878.430	28,3 %
Axis 4. To encourage a low economy in carbon in all the sectors.	€ 59.292.578	9,43 %
Axis 6. To protect the environment and promote the efficiency of the resources.	€ 154.365.964	24,55 %
Axis of TECHNICAL SUPPORT	€ 4.000.000	0,64%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 628.806.438</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Each priority axe (TO) is divided in investment priorities (PI), and these ones in Specific Objectives (OE). Inside the OE, it can be found the activities to achieve the expected results which are measured through productivity and results indicators.

### **Priorities for funding**

The operational programme concentrates almost 60 % of the available budget on research and innovation and SMEs ("thematic objectives" 1 and 3). Environmental protection (thematic objective 6) is also a priority for Castilla y León.

The preparation and implementation of the Operative Programme took and takes into account three horizontal principles:

- Sustainable development
- Equal Opportunities and No Discrimination
- Equality between women and men

### **Expected outcomes**

The **results** obtained are quantitatively measured through **productivity and result indicators**, in 2018 (milestone) and in 2023 (last milestone).

- Research and innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions: 744
- % of population (national, regional) network coverage with broadband speed higher or equal to 30 Mbps: 100 %
- Number of enterprises supported: 790

- Wastewater treatment: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment: 136.662

We present the whole TO1 (for ICE and for other entities belonging Castilla y León Government) to better understand the general Framework.

### **TO1 To improve research, technological development and innovation**

PI.1.1. Improvement of the R&i infrastructures and the capability to develop excellence on R&i and promotion of competence centers, especially those of European interest.

*OE.1.1.2. Strengthening R&D&i institutions and creation, consolidation and improvement of the technology and scientist infrastructures.*

Programme	Management Entity	Budget
1-Technological Centers Research Programme	ICE	14,0 M€
2-INFRARED Programme (scientist equipment acquisition)	DG Universities & Research	12,0 M€
3-Scientific equipment for Technological Centers related to New Materials and Mineral Resources	DG Industry	6,5 M€
4-Stair for the excellence	DG Universities & Research	16,0 M€
5-R&i Infrastructure for ITACYL	ITA	0,7 M€

1-Grants to Technological Centers for the development of Research projects of Regional Interest (basic research).

2-Acquisition of scientific equipment for sharing between public Universities in order to improve the effectiveness of public expending.

3-Acquisition of scientific equipment for Technological Centers related to New Materials and Mineral Resources.

4-Funding of Strategic planning and programmes of Excellence Research Structures in University Institutes in order to help them to achieve national recognize. Funding of researchers' contracts.

5-Acquisition and actualization of Research and Innovation equipment of the different centers, laboratories and pilot scale installations of ITACYL (Agro-Technological Institute of Castilla y León).

PI.1.2. Promotion of Companies' investments on R&i, development of links and synergies between companies, technological centers and Universities, especially relating to the investment on new products and services development, technology transfer, social innovation, ecologic innovation, public service applications, demand promotion, associations and open innovation through smart specialization and support to technological and applied research, pilot lines, quick product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capacities

and primary production, specially, in KETs and polyvalent technologies dissemination.

*OE.1.2.1. Impulse and promotion of R&I activities by enterprises and support the creation and consolidation of innovative enterprises*

6-R&D Projects (individual, collaborative, strategic, ...) - Line 4	ICE	75,4 M€
7-R&D Guarantee Fund	ICE	19,6 M€
8-Innovative Public Procurement	ICE	10,1 M€

6-Grants for companies to develop R&D projects for the improvement or creation of new processes or products. Knowledge entities (technological centers and Universities) under subcontracting (extra percentage of grant if it is the case). Intensity of grants according to the R&D EU Framework.

- Individual. One SME. 20.000 € < Budget < 175.000 €
- Collaboration. At least two independent SMEs. Global Budget < 500.000 €.
- Strategic R&D plans. SMEs and Big Companies. Development of R&D planning (3 years) of big regional interest and impact. Budget > 2 M€

7-Financial Instrument to cover the guarantees needed to achieve loans for the development of R&D projects.

8-Fostering of R&I through public procurement.

*OE.1.2.2. Technology transfer and dissemination and cooperation between companies, Universities and Technological Centers.*

9- Innovation Voucher-Line 5	ICE	14,0 M€
10- R&D Collaboration projects between companies and knowledge entities (Technological Centers and Universities as beneficiaries)		
11- University-Enterprise Knowledge transfer	DG Universities & Research	14,0 M€

9-Grants for companies (beneficiaries) or groups of companies or clusters to subcontract knowledge entities to develop turnkey projects.

10-Grants for Technological Centers to develop R&D projects in collaboration with companies (applied research) in order to foster the research and knowledge transfer.

11- University-Enterprise Knowledge transfer Programme is structured in 4 axes:

- Innovative University. Integration and optimization of knowledge transfer activities in the University daily performing.
- Enterprise-University Projects (International projects, consortia linked to KET identified in S3, collaborative projects Universities-Enterprises, degree works or master linked to the necessities of companies).
- Entrepreneurial University: spin-off creation or Technology Based Companies from the University knowledge. Workshop for entrepreneurships.

- Innovative ecosystem: working groups creation on knowledge transfer, University-enterprise forum, Science dissemination and communication.

*Another method to foster collaboration between Knowledge entities and Companies is an Extra percentage of grant (over the total budget) in R&D projects (Line 4) developed by companies subcontracting knowledge entities.*

*OE.1.2.3. Promoting and generation of outstanding knowledge and oriented knowledge to the societal challenges, development of emerging technologies.*

12-Aids to foster the development of Research Projects	DG Universities & Research	32,0 M€
13-Support to the development of R&D&I and technology transfer of regional interest	ITA	1,4 M€

## 12-Research projects developed by Universities

### 13-Agricultural R&D&i and transfer projects

There are another ICE aids, under other Thematic Objectives of the Operational Programme of Castilla y León directly linked to innovation:

OT2. To improve the use and quality of the ICT and the access to it

PI.2.2 Development of ICT services and products, e-commerce and a bigger demand for ICT.

OE.2.2.1 Development of the Economy' Digitization including e-commerce for the growth, competitiveness and internationalization of the Spanish Enterprise.

14- Fostering ICT use for SMEs-Line 6	ICE	14,0 M€
15- Fostering the development of the ICT Industry-Line 7		

14-Grants for the implementation of commercial ICT in SMEs (Industry 4.0, e-commerce, etc.)

15-Grants to SMEs to develop R&D ICT projects.

OT3. To improve the competitiveness of the small and medium enterprises

PI.3.4. Support SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets and on innovation processes.

OE.3.4.1 Fostering SMEs growth and consolidation, particularly improving their financing, technology and access to advanced support services

16- Innovation and internationalization services-Line 3	ICE	11,0 M€
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16-Grants for SMEs to apply for patents, tax reduction by R&D developed, innovation advise relating to Industry 4.0, etc.

Other ICE instruments to help companies:

ICAMCYL ICE support (0.7 M€; this aid run with autonomus fund, not under the Operational Programme): Grant to ICAMCYL for the development of 2 R&D Projects:

- Tailings (residues of mining) valorization
- Discovering advanced materials by computational methods for the Industry in Castilla y León

Centr@tec 2017-2019 Programme (5.0 M€ autonomous fund). The objective of Centr@tec Programme is the Entrepreneurial R&D&i capitalization and support and it is developed in collaboration with the Castilla y León' Technological Centers. It consists on grants to the Technological Centers to develop actions in 5 axes:

- To advice and help SMEs to incorporate processes' innovation and products/services' design.
- To foster the use of ICT by SMEs.
- To incorporate SMEs to the Industry 4.0.
- To foster international knowledge transfer and R&D&i internationalization.
- Technical feasibility assessment of new products/processes.

REDEi: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Network. This public-private collaboration network for knowledge exchange is formed by companies, Universities, Technological centers, Clusters and Associations.

ERAMIN2: ERANET (350.000 € for 2018 Call): International R&D projects on Raw Materials (exploration, extraction, processing, eco-design, recycling, etc.).

Fellowship Programme 2018-2019 (3 M€): Grants for companies subcontracting young technical staff for innovation and internationalization tasks. 650 €/month

Mining Lands Programme + European Fund for the Adaptation to the Globalization: economic impulse to coal mining municipalities, through the development of infrastructure projects and restoration projects of degraded zones.

- Training for unemployed people formerly mining workers to prepare them for new jobs.
- Entrepreneurial Dinamisation. Looking for entrepreneurial alternatives for formerly mining lands.

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK (EEN): 1.6 M€ 2014-2020. European Commission initiative financed by COSME. 60 Countries Network Helping ambitious SMEs **innovate and grow internationally**. Improvement of the competitiveness through collaboration: innovation, R&D International Programmes, SMEs cooperation, European Commission Communication.

ICE Support (2018-2020; 1.5 M€ autonomous fund) to the Innovative and Technological Entrepreneurship Programme: Helping entrepreneurs in collaboration with public Universities of Castilla y León. 3xes:

- Ideas: feasibility estudies, market analysis, etc.

- Projects: legal, intellectual property rights, financing issues, etc.
- Growth: investors, etc.

Castilla y León Financing Institute SODICAL (1.0 M€ 2018-2019): Investment Society with participative loans for innovative entrepreneurs with a minimum feasible product.

Raw Materials Working Group (2014→):

- Promoting networking and collaboration between: Companies, Administration, Universities
- Informing Companies about projects calls, opportunities, partners search for projects, etc.
- Integrating Castilla y León entities into an international network with other mining regions in Europe.
- Hearing point of Companies doubts, complaints and desires to transmit to the EU mining policy

NOTE: in most of the aid' lines an extra percentage of grant is applied if the project is sited in a mining municipality.