



ORGANISATION	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Instituto para la Competitividad Empresarial de Castilla y León – ICE</u></p>
Main Facts and Figures	<p>The Institute for Business Competitiveness is the regional agency responsible for economic growth activities. It is managed by the ministry of Economics and Finance of the Regional Government of Castilla y León.</p> <p>ICE's objective is to boost the competitiveness of Castilla y León's productive scheme and to invigorate and subsidise its business innovation strategy. The key activities of ICE are: encouraging public and private projects for business and employment creation; handling investment initiatives; implementing and planning economic assistance measures; international promotion with the aim of attracting foreign investment; provision of services that assist regional advancement; distribution of financial aid and counsel linked to research, development, and innovation; creation of economic and financial policies and reports.</p> <p>It's formed up by more than 200 employees and it has different delegations in each one of the provinces that constitute the region, making it easier for enterprises to access the information and support that the ICE can provide since Castilla y León is one of the largest regions in Europe and the largest in Spain.</p> <p>In more detail, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Department activities, mainly focused on the regional private sector, include sectoral policy related actions, clusters promotion, management and development of support services for entrepreneurs and companies, management of financial support programs, R&D and Innovation and technology transfer, and promotion of the R&D internationalization of regional entities. ICE has financed more than 32,000 projects for companies so far, pulling more than 3.200 M€ of investment in the private sector of the region. Some of the activities and programmes carried out by this department are focused on rural areas, in order to help companies and entrepreneurs to overcome their specific associated weaknesses.</p> <p>Main Facts and Figures of Castilla y León Castilla y León is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an extensive territory -94,227 km²; one of the largest in



	<p>Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extensive rural areas -96,11% • characterized by marked demographic decline -Population over 65 years old is 598.328 in the region • low population density -26 inh/km2 • industrial sectors: agri-food; automotive and aeronautics; pharmaceutical, energy, ICTs, endogenous resources (mining and forest) • other important activities (mainly in rural areas): agriculture; turism - natural and cultural heritage; energy and environment; sustainable building
<p>Previous experience in European projects</p>	<p>ICE has been directly involved in innovation international actions financed by FP5, FP6, FP7 and H2020 programmes. Currently ICE is involved in 17 on-going international projects, including 6 projects from H2020, 10 INTERREG and 1 COSME.</p> <p>These projects are focused on regional strategic sectors and all of them have the final objective of improving their competitiveness thanks to the cooperation with other regions.</p> <p>Some examples: projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIHNAMIC- “Digital Innovation Hubs: Dynamic Facilitation & Thrust from Regional Innovation Agencies”. To verify new innovative facilitation services addressed at SMEs from Castilla y León, through the dynamic facilitation and thrust of the Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) in the region and other DIHs across Europe, and its dissemination at the European level throughout innovation agencies. To boost the digitalization of companies. To design, manage and deploy a cascade funding for supporting SMEs in their digitalization process. • CRECEER –“Creation of business cooperation networks in rural cross-border areas in the agri-food (gourmet) and tourism sectors”. To Improve the competitiveness and consolidation of SMEs of specif sectors, located in of the regions of Castilla y León and the North and Central regions of Portugal, by incorporating ICTs. Improving the competitiveness, through innovation and the incorporation of new technologies to agri-food (gourmet) and tourism. Focused on rural areas. • IOTEC-“Development of Technological Capabilities for the Industrial Application of the Internet of Things”- POCTEP Project- To promote smart growth through interregional cooperation for the promotion of Innovation in the field of the Internet of Things (IoT). To boost new ICT products and services and to improve the production processes of industrial SMEs in rural populations, making them more competitive in local, national and international markets



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESSPO- “Efficient support services portfolios for SMEs” - Interreg Europe Project-to contribute to the creation of effective and efficient SME support service portfolios, which are capable to impact the regional economies via increasing SME’s competitiveness, especially focusing on their growth on national and international markets as well as on their improved engagement in innovation processes. To design and deliver mechanisms to improve SME policy instruments in 8 different territories on national, regional, sub-regional and local level and raise competitiveness of SMEs on international markets • Soul-FI - "Startups Optimizing Urban Life with Future -FP7-2013-ICT-FI. To enhance the development of Future Internet to help make cities smarter, more sustainable and more cohesive by using Fiware technology. <p>ICE worked on the design, management and deployment of the cascade funding launched in the projet.</p> <p>To know the potential of the incorporation of ICT technologies in the improvement of an area, as a consequence of its transformation into a smart area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYBER-“Regional policies for competitive cybersecurity SMEs” • DIGITEC-“Smart growth through the specialisation of cross-border business fabric in advanced digital technologies and blockchain” • DISRUPTIVE-“Dynamisation of DIH within the PocTepregion to boost disruptive and state-of-the-art ICTs through cooperation in the cross-border region” • SUSFOOD2-“Sustainable food production and consumption” • STRING-“STRategies for Regional INnovative Food Clusters”
<p>Interests for future projects proposals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitization, for improving the competitiveness of companies and the life of citizens, improving products production and services, developing the ICT regional sector, creating new business opportunities and boosting the economy. Smart Territories, Industry 4.0, Smart administration, Smart Agriculture. • DIH-Digital Innovation Hubs as an important tool to achive the desired digitalitazion level. ICE is currently coordinating the DIH DIGIS3 – Smart, Sustainable and coheSive Digitalization
<p>Project ideas</p>	<p>Collaboration with others DIHs, creating cooperation corridors with both, mirror and complementary regions, in order to exchange best practices and define joint services and activities.</p>



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