

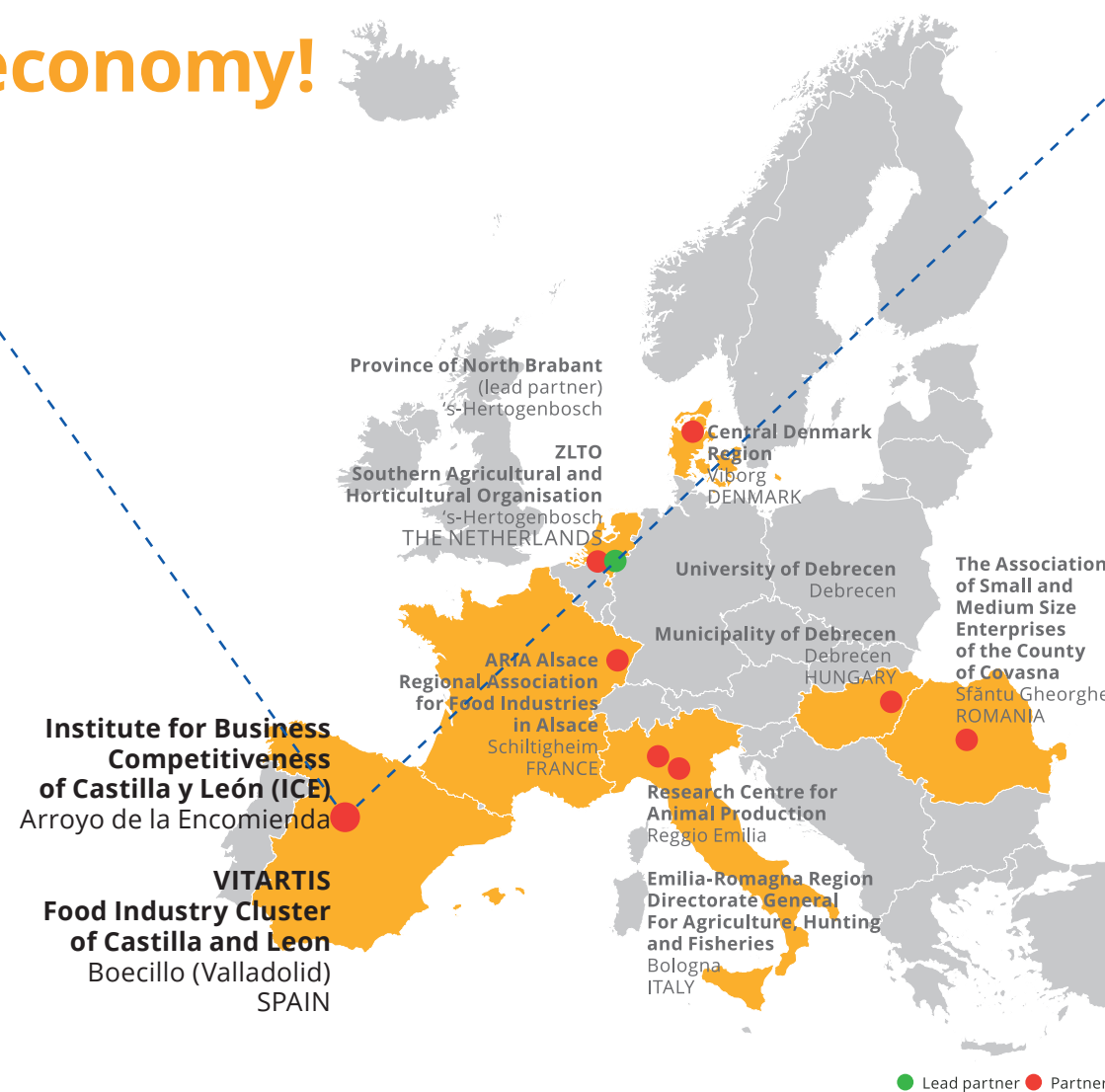


## Castilla y León (Spain)

### Towards a new bioeconomy!

#### KEY FIGURES AGRIFOOD REGION

- Castilla y León is one of the largest region in Europe with a territory of 94,225 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population of Castilla y León represents over 5% of country population with 2.415.900 people
- The AgroFoodsector is the main economical sector representing more than 13% of the regional GPD
- AgroFood industry is the main branch of the industrial sector in the Region. It represents 27,5% of the industrial turnover and 29,4% of the industrial employment
- Approximately 3,100 companies (mainly micro-SMEs) operate in this industry in the Region, employing more than 35,000 people Its weight in regional GDP (2014) is 7,2%, with turnover of 9.37 billion euros
- Castilla y León; ranks number three in the country, representing 11% of the national agrofood GDP
- High quality of the raw materials produced, and the high specialization of industries are some of the main strengths of the sector



#### THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- The **Castilla y León Entrepreneurship and Innovation Network** is a new way to stimulate and promote a more competitive regional economic model through smart specialization, relating all key actors of innovation: administrations, universities business-technology centres and citizens.
- **9 Universities** with recognized research groups in areas of agricultural research, veterinary, food technology or process engineering, to name a few.
- **A large list of food and agricultural technology** centres with specific areas (CARTIF, INBIOTEC), the Agrarian Technological Institute of Castilla y León (ITACyL), the Agrarian and Agrofood Technology Centre (Itagra) and the Technology Centre for Cereals (CETECE) and Castilla y León Wood & Forest Service Center(CESEFOR)
- **Associations and clusters**, VITARTIS is the Food IndustryCluster of Castilla y León or URCACYL, AGROPAL, COPESE or ACOR, for naming a few ones of our agrarian and agricultural cooperatives.
- Agrofood companies: the agrofood industry is made up by more than 3.100 companies, belonging to a wide range of sub-sectors:
  - Wine
  - Dairy industries
  - Animal feed products
  - Bakery products
  - Meat: pork cured products but also fresh beef
  - Sugar
  - Confectionery
  - Coffee
- **Public administration**

### Targeted policy instrument

The objectives of ERDF Operational Programme of Castilla y León relevant for STRING are:

- promoting innovation and contributing to a change in the production model of Castilla y León;
- promoting the sustainability of enterprises, especially those with a high innovative competence, and the creation of new businesses.

The OP consists of 6 priorities; the 1st priority is Fostering of R&D and innovation. The objectives of the region are in line with those of STRING: Strengthening R&D and innovation institutions and improving the R&D infrastructures; promoting R&D&I activities by enterprises and supporting the creation and consolidation of innovative SMEs; transferring new technology and fostering cooperation between innovation chain entities.

The expected outcomes on the OP level imply increasing number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions and increasing number of enterprises supported from the OP. The target values include SMEs from all sectors including food industry, which is the strength of the region. The overall OP budget is 62 million Euro of which 183,7 million euro is allocated for the first priority (29,7%). Supported from the OP. The target values include SMEs from all sectors including food industry, which is the strength of the region. The overall OP budget is 628. The above characteristics reflect that the region is especially sensitive to SMEs development and the promotion of innovation among them. However, in the OP there should be more attention paid for the preparation and the inclusion of food sector SMEs joining the innovative communities of the food industry!

### Engines for Change!

STRING topic	Relevancy	Thematic elements	Stakeholder lessons
<b>1. Food industry innovation ecosystem</b> frames (open labs, technopoles etc.)	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castilla y León Entrepreneurship and Innovation Network</li> <li>• R&amp;D Policies for the sector during the past 20 years</li> <li>• Clusters, associations</li> <li>• RTD Infrastructures</li> <li>• ADErural: specific programme to promote the economic activity and the setting up of new companies un rural areas</li> </ul>	<b>Strenghts</b> Regional networks and partnering <b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMEs awareness for cooperation</li> </ul>
<b>2. Cross-sectoral cooperation</b> able to favour cross fertilisation especially with High Tech and Health Sectors	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Network for Business Innovation involving ICE, 9 Universities and 10 Clusters. (www.redinnocyl.es): tools for technological and business offers and demands, with personalized assessment by ICE</li> <li>• Partnerings food cluster with Health (BIOTECYL) and Independent Living clusters (SIVI)</li> <li>• Fostering the participation of actors in national and international R&amp;D and innovation projects</li> </ul>	<b>Strenghts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional networks</li> <li>• Partnerings food cluster with Health (BIOTECYL) and Independent Living clusters (SIVI)</li> </ul> <b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMEs awareness for cooperation</li> <li>• Participation of SMEs in European/international R&amp;D projects</li> <li>• Alignment of Universities with the agrofood sector</li> <li>• Low deployment level of the sustainability concept in the sector</li> </ul>
<b>3. Improve role of agriculture and food innovation</b> in regional development by harmonising policy instruments	Medium	ADErural: specific programme to promote the economic activity and the setting up of new companies un rural areas	<b>Strenghts</b> ADErural <b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolution from SMEs to Mid-Caps</li> <li>• Change from traditional food to added value food</li> <li>• Evolution of some RTD infrastructures not in line with sector needs</li> </ul>
<b>4. Promote added value</b> by linking innovation and production to real consumer needs by improving the commercialisation of R+D outputs and stimulate a demand driven instead of supply driven production	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative products and services (Gourmet,etc.)</li> <li>• Internationalization policy of regional products</li> <li>• Tierra de Sabor (Land of Flavour - regional Brand/Seal). Total traceability. More than 4,000 food products produced by over 800 companies in Castilla y León.</li> <li>• www.tierradesabor.es/</li> </ul>	<b>Strenghts</b> Existing Innovative products, services and trends <b>Weaknesses</b> Difficulties SMEs to commercialize their products
<b>5. Integration of SMEs</b> in clusters and intercluster cooperation between the participating food regions	High	Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Self Employment Strategy of Castilla y León	<b>Strenghts</b> Regional nteworks and partnering <b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SMEs awareness for cooperation</li> <li>• Participation of SMEs in European/international R&amp;D projects</li> </ul>



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