EUROINGENIO: An approach for stimulating participation in Framework Programs

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CDTI: The Spanish Innovation Agency

**RTDI funding**
- Evaluation and funding (around 1 B€/year)
- Reports regarding tax exemption

**RTDI internationalization**
- Technological Cooperation: Eureka, Iberoeka, Eurostars, European Framework Programme...
- Support to technological transfer: External network

**Support to the creation and consolidation of new technology based companies**
- NEOTEC
- INNVIERTE (Venture capital)

**Aeronautics, Space and Industrial Returns Programmes**
- Aerospace RTDI
- Technological supplies: CERN/ESRF, Hispasat, Eumetsat, Spainsat.
The Challenge. Plan Euroingenio: Spanish Government commitment for FP7 and international R&D

- Objective: economic return on Spanish from FP7 equivalent to our economic weight in the EU-25.
- Target economic return: From 6.5% (FP6) to 7% in 2008 and 8% in 2010
- Project Coordination Objective: 6% in 2008; 7% in 2010
How:

• Including **all stakeholders** in the plan: businesses, universities, research groups, innovation agencies, etc.

• Supporting the **creation of offices of** international projects.

• **Imposing structural measures** to provide a way of participating differently (professionalizing the management of international projects) with a long-term international approach

• **Introducing the concept of funding results for the first time** prior to a presentation of an ambitious plan for participation in FP7
The challenge

We needed more funded proposals
• More participations, especially from newcomers
• Larger projects
• Higher coordination rate

Weaknesses detected
• Lack of Project Offices with qualified professionals in international issues, especially in FP.
• Difficulty in reaching critical mass (SMEs)
• The lack of coordination in this issue between State and Regions was a barrier to reaching all potential participants effectively
Would these people be excellent managers of European projects?
What the Project Offices should do

Professional management of projects:
• Giving advice
• Preparation of proposals and Project Management
• Scientific / Technology Coordination
• Providing turnkey managing services
• Planning
• Financial and Administrative Management
• Reporting and high-level relationships with partners and the EC
• Legal Issues: consortium agreements and IPR
• Impact Analysis
Aspects of the Strategy

• Awareness raising
• Building capacities and skills
• Looking for newcomers and giving support to the proposers
• Creating structures
Awareness raising

Annual Conference on Framework Program
National and Regional Infodays, Seminars, etc.
Building capacities and skills: Training of specialists in international R&D Projects

• **Specialization Courses:** Courses aimed at managers of Project Offices from RTOs, universities, businesses, public administration, associations, etc.

• **Short-term stays in Brussels** (six weeks at SOST-CDTI Office): Aimed at experienced personnel of organizations with special interest in H2020
Giving support to the proposers

• **Short-term measures:** Grants to cover proposal preparation expenses. Up to 40 k€/proposal.

• **Mid-term measures:** *Programa de Bonos Tecnológicos* (PBT): Incentive Programme for a network comprised of agents (consultancy firms, universities, RTOs, etc.) experienced in FP projects.
  
  – **Objective:** Find newcomers or new project coordinators in FP (aimed at businesses, especially SME)
  
  – **Incentive:** Performance bonuses depending on the grant obtained by the newcomer.
Creating structures (long-term measures)

• **International Innovation Units Programme (UII)**

  Creation and operation of International Project Offices in Technological Platforms (TP) and Businesses Associations (BA).
  
  – Initial payment for the Office’s creation
  
  – Operational costs covered by an incentive: Performance bonuses depending on the grant obtained by the participant (members of the TP or BA)

• **Involving Regional Administrations (Comunidades Autónomas, CC AA):**

  – Collaboration Agreements CC AA-CDTI in terms of cooperation on everything related to International R&D

  – *Fondo Euroingenio* (Euroingenio Competitive Fund) to stimulate the increase of regional participation in FP7 compared to FP6. In the period 2007-2009 30 M€ were allocated within Spanish Regions to create and run complementary instruments and structures to stimulate the participation of regional stakeholders in FP7 and in other international R&D programs
An example: Approved Project Offices MINECO-CDTI H2020 (2014-2016)
Results

- Coordination rate: From 6% FP6 to 10.7% FP7
- Almost 300 newcomers or new project coordinators among businesses
- Spanish business participation increased more than 30% among all the European business participants (from 6.7% FP6 to 9.0% FP7)

936 M€ (6,0%)  
(6.5% UE-25)  
235 M€/year

3,397 M€ (7,4%)  
(8,3% UE-27)  
485 M€/year
Conclusions

• An initial strong political commitment is needed at National and Regional level

• Four types of measures were taken (Awareness raising, Training; Direct support to proposers and Structure Creation)

• The results are positive in terms of participation increase and regional involvement.

• Almost all the measures taken can be co-funded with ESIF, so they have to be reflected in the National and/or Regional Operative Programs
and why?

- Funding
- Prestige
- Growth and job creation
- Globalization
- Future collaborations