

Baseline regional profile

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Regional Profile

Introduction

Aragon has 1,300,000 inhabitants, 2.9% of the Spanish population and 0.3% of the European population. It has three provinces: Huesca (220,107 inhabitants), Saragossa (932,502 inhabitants) and Teruel (144,046 inhabitants).

The surface area is 47,719 Km², 9.4% of the surface area of Spain and 1.11% of the surface area of Europe.

The University of Saragossa has a high influence in the regional innovation system, jointly with the six centres of the Higher Council for Scientific Research working in Aragon.

Repository

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Policy documents

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Organisations

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Economy

Aragon is strengthening its position as an engine for the economy with growth above the Spanish average in recent years and with the highest GDP growth in 2007, 4.5%. The main components of this GDP are industrial production (24%), services (59%) and construction (12%).

Aragon is one of the Spanish regions with the highest purchasing power, with a per-capita income of €25,361 in 2007, 8.4% higher than the Spanish average and 2.6% above the EU27 average.

Aragon has consistently attracted and generated jobs in recent years. From 2006 to 2008 the region

increased the number of people registered in the Social Security by 4.5%.

Aragon has a solid production base which means better macro-economic results than the national average. The strategic location of the region has attracted a large number of investments in recent years which, combined with the development of Aragon's companies abroad, has strengthened the production structure of the region.

Saragossa has a population of 700,000, and is the largest city in Aragon. It is the traditional commercial and communications hub of north east Spain. The city is one of the main economic, commercial and university cities of the country.

Honest, hard-working and disciplined, creative and original. The people of Aragon are open and welcoming - and have a strong sense of responsibility which, combined with low rates of worker turnover, is highly prized by foreign companies.

Salaries of qualified workers are very competitive when compared with other European countries and regions in its vicinity. The flexibility of the labour market and economic aids for employment stability foster the contracting of workers. And it has one of the lowest rates of industrial conflict in Spain.

Research, Development & Innovation

107 professional training institutes, two universities and several business schools mean it is easy to find qualified workers. The MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) works in collaboration with the University of Saragossa to provide training programmes through there.

The [University of Saragossa](#) makes a decisive contribution to specialist training with 32,000 students and 5,500 graduates every year.

In Aragon €565m are invested in innovation and €221m in RTD; the business world and the public sector of the region are therefore making an above-average contribution to Spanish research.

More than 250 research groups and 6 centres of the Higher Council for Scientific Research work in Aragon, which means more than 3,000 researchers in a range of work areas.

Science and Technology Parks.

In Aragon there are three locations devoted to research and the establishment of specialist companies in the region.

Aula Dei Technology Park.

The Aula Dei technology park is specialized in **green biotechnology**, and food and agriculture, and environmental research. It is surrounded by research institutes: the CSIC Experimental Station, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Saragossa, the Food and Agriculture Technology and Research Centre, the Seed Centre and Agricultural/Environmental Laboratory, and the Pyrenean Ecology Institute.

More than 500 professional researchers work in this setting. Collaborations can be established with these institutes, and it is also possible for specialist companies to set up here.

Walqa.

Huesca, in the north of Aragon, has a unique business park, the Walqa Technology Park, specialized in **knowledge economy technologies**. More than 500 workers are employed in this technological and research transfer environment. It is located at the foot of the Pyrenees, which provides that little extra attraction.

Aragon Motor Technology Park .

Motorland Aragon, in Alcañiz, is a complex devoted to the automobile industry with a technology park for car-industry companies and high-speed circuits for technical testing. It is located close to a **F1 circuit** designed by Hermann Tilke and several other high-speed circuits to make an unbeatable location for companies interested in developing new automotive products requiring in-situ

testing.

Governance

In Aragón, regional innovation policy is designed and delivered by the regional government, the Diputación General de Aragón.

There are several departments involved in the design and implementation of regional policies dedicated to RTD and innovation:

- Department of Science, Technology and University
- Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism
- Department of Economy, Finance and Employment (FEDER programmes administration)
- Foundation ARAID

This structure, specially the existence of a Department of Science, Technology and University, is very adequate to facilitate the linkage Science-Industry, in general very necessary in Spain. Moreover, in this department is also included the governance related to ICT issues.

Additionally, the existence of an entity (Foundation ARAID) dedicated to promotion of recruitment of researchers both by the business companies and by the Technological Institutes and Universities, is very differential in relation to other Spanish regions.

Policy

The more relevant policies designed and implemented in Aragón related with RTD and innovation are:

Priority policy trends oriented to RTD (€221m in the Regional Plan):

Research organisations

- Policy measures concerning excellence, relevance and management of research in Universities
- Research Infrastructures

Science-Industry linkages

- Support infrastructure (transfer offices, training of support staff)
- Knowledge Transfer (contract research, licences, IPR...from research base)
- R&D cooperation (joint projects, PPP with research institutes)

Direct state aid measures in support of (business) research

- Direct support of business R&D (grants and loans)

S&T education

- Stimulation of PhDs

Research personnel

- Recruitment of researchers
- Mobility of researchers

Skills development and recruitment

- Recruitment of skilled personnel in enterprises

Priority policy trends oriented to Enterprises & Innovation (€556m in the Regional Plan):

Support to sector innovation programmes

- Support to sector innovation in manufacturing
- Support to innovation in services

Support to entrepreneurial innovation

- Support to innovation management and advisory services
- Support to organisational innovation incl. e-business, new forms of work, etc

It must be underlined the remarkable effort to boost the implementation of ICT technologies in the regional Administration bodies, taking in account that (according to different studies carried out in the past years) Aragon is positioned under the Spanish average in this issue.

Support measure

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Support Measure

Title of measure

Technological Check

Full title

Cheque Tecnológico

Duration

From: 2009

To: 2012

Policy objectives

- 2.2.3. R&D cooperation
- 2.3.1. Direct support of business R&D (grants and loans)
- 2.2.1. TT Support infrastructure
- 2.2.2. Knowledge Transfer

Presentation of the measure

This is the main measure designed in the frame of the "Technological Transfer to SMEs Programme" of the Foundation ARAID. This programme aims at promoting the incorporation of researchers and scientists into the Aragon RTD System (RTD institutes, universities and companies).

The objective is to help companies to contract institutes / university research groups of Aragon, in the frame of RTD projects involving the incorporation of new knowledge and / or technologies to innovate in a product, production process or service.

The Technological Voucher consists in a up to €8,000 payment by every contract between business

companies and Aragon technological institutes or universities in the following areas:

- Advanced technologies for industrial processes;
- Process design and product improvement;
- New materials;
- Sustainable and environment protection technologies;
- Biotechnology and technologies applied to food, health and comfort;
- Advanced Technologies for logistics, transport and distribution;
- Product technology validation;
- Design of consumer oriented products and services;
- Certification of RTD and innovation systems;
- Advanced communication technologies.

Organizations targeted: mainly SMEs.

Keywords

- Knowledge transfer

Budget, source and type of funding

Currency: **EUR**

Source of funding	2009	2010	2011
National public funds			
Regional public funds	1,200,000	1,200,000	650,000
EU Structural funds			
Private funds			
Other			
Form of funding provided			

- Grants

Policy learning

Extent to which the measure can be considered as a success and worthy of policy learning

It is too early to judge the success of the measure (e.g results of first call for proposals still not known).

Evidence of outcomes based on evaluation and other evidence

The main positive factor is the simplicity of access to the voucher, provided that the company has an adequate RTD project which justifies the need of contracting researcher/s.

Do's and Don'ts

To allocate an adequate value or amount for the voucher, according to the real RTD costs of technological institutes / universities in the corresponding region (€8,000 may be enough in some regions but not sufficient in others).

This measure is recommended as an example of regional good practice to policy-makers from other regions:

Yes

Organisation(s) responsible

- [Aragon Agency for research and development, ARAID](#)

Support measure

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Support Measure

Title of measure

Recruitment of Researchers

Full title

Contratación de Investigadores

Duration

From: 2006

To: 2009

Policy objectives

- 2.1.1. Universities

Presentation of the measure

The objective of the measure is to increase the level of excellence and relevance of the research carried out in Aragon by technological institutes and universities. Likewise, to improve the technological offer to business companies, increasing the science-industry linkage and the knowledge transfer.

An average of eight full-time positions have been offered every year, and it is generally expected that the successful candidates will become permanent staff of ARAID, and will work along with teams from university or other research centres in the premises of these cooperating institutions. ARAID researchers are expected to make a substantial contribution to their own areas of research and be active members of the science-technology system. Permanent contracts will be offered to the candidates, conditioned to periodical quality evaluations.

Salaries will be in line with those paid at university, adjusted to the experience and potential of the candidates, and will therefore be negotiated individually. Start-up research packages may also be arranged in certain cases.

For foreign nationals, Foundation ARAID will assist with visa and work permit procedures. The contract will be effective only when the selected candidates are able to work legally.

The selection of applicants will take into consideration the objectives of the Aragon Government's Research and Innovation Plan, which give priority to certain areas (see below). However, applications from outstanding researchers in any area of knowledge may also be considered.

The candidates are expected to have a minimum of six years of post-doctoral experience, with at least two years spent in a centre different from that where the position is advertised and will not be part of the staff of the centre to which applies.

The applications will be assessed by an independent evaluation commission, whose responsibility will be to

rank the different candidates for a given position according to their merits and potential. Based on this assessment, and on interviews conducted with the best candidates, Foundation ARAID will make the corresponding offers, after the official approval.

Organisations targeted: technological institutes and university research groups of Aragon.

Keywords

- Universities

Budget, source and type of funding

Currency: **EUR**

Source of funding	2006	2007	2008	2009
National public funds				
Regional public funds	425,000	450,000	475,000	500,000
EU Structural funds				
Private funds				
Other				
Form of funding provided				

- Grants

Policy learning

Extent to which the measure can be considered as a success and worthy of policy learning

There has been a positive response by beneficiaries to the measure (e.g. over-subscribed in terms of requested versus available budget) but it is too early to judge results or impact

Evidence of outcomes based on evaluation and other evidence

The main positive factor is the repetition of the calls year by year, rising more than 40 researchers recruited, with a very positive impact for the research level of the region. For the moment, the main negative factor is the lack of the corresponding assessment (at least with published results) in order to know if the impact is as high as it may be expected.

Do's and Don'ts

The main important thing to do is to establish adequate selection procedures, in order to choose those candidates / research qualifications with a higher potential to be applied in the region, avoiding candidatures interesting only from a point of view of technological institutes or universities curricula.

This measure is recommended as an example of regional good practice to policy-makers from other regions:

Yes

Organisation(s) responsible

- [Aragon Agency for research and development, ARAID](#)

Support measure

- [ESPAÑA](#)
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Support Measure

Title of measure

Cross-border cooperation projects between Aragon and other European regions (mainly Aquitania and Midi-Pyrenees).

Full title

Proyectos de Cooperación transfronteriza entre Aragón y otras regiones europeas (Aquitania y Midi-Pyrenées)

Duration

From: 1994

To: 2013

Policy objectives

- 2.3.1. Direct support of business R&D (grants and loans)
- 2.2.1. TT Support infrastructure
- 2.2.2. Knowledge Transfer

Presentation of the measure

The co-operation between these regions began in 1994 through the Initiative INTERREG. Subsequently, in year 2001, the Government of Aragon came to two separate Cross-Border Cooperation Agreements with the Regional Councils of Midi-Pyrenees and Aquitaine, that provided them with a framework of co-operation to promote projects of common interest. Based on these cross-border Cooperation agreements, the Government of Aragon has been publishing calls and giving grants since 2002.

The objective of this measure is to finance cross-border cooperation projects between Aragon and the French regions Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrenees, focusing on RTD and innovation projects. The financed activities are:

- a) Studies on land use to promote the permeability of the border;
- b) Information society and technological development: applied research and transfer of new technologies, exchange of researchers;
- c) Environment and sustainable development: transfer of results and knowledge in agricultural development, food and environment, and economic activities related to the environment;
- d) Education and culture: educational exchange; teacher training, professional and technical training, institutions and entities cooperation, cooperation in culture or sports, bilingualism;
- e) Trade, Industry and Tourism: industrial cooperation and business development, development of new products, export cooperation, cooperation in health and social integration and development of the tourism economy through coordinated actions to promote quality tourism.

The beneficiaries are any person or entity located in Aragon. Yet, the cross-border RTD projects applications are usually submitted by universities and business.

Keywords

- International co-operation

Budget, source and type of funding

Currency: **EUR**

Source of funding	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
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National public funds

Regional public funds 581,000 564,000 574,000 597,000 618,000 637,000 657,000

EU Structural funds 1,745,000 1,692,000 1,722,000 1,790,000 1,850,000 1,910,000 1,970,000

Private funds

Other

Form of funding provided

- Grants

Policy learning

Extent to which the measure can be considered as a success and worthy of policy learning

There has been a positive response by beneficiaries to the measure (e.g. over-subscribed in terms of requested versus available budget) but it is too early to judge results or impact

Evidence of outcomes based on evaluation and other evidence

The main positive factor is that the measure is coherent with a real co-operation status between Aragon and the other regions (Aquitaine and Midi-Pyrenees) and that guarantees an important volume of RTD and innovation projects applications to these calls.

Do's and Don'ts

It is necessary to extend this kind of inter-regional co-operation programmes to other European regions (not limited to a cross-boundary character), better in the framework of INTERREG European programmes, and with specific financial support of regional administrations.

This measure is recommended as an example of regional good practice to policy-makers from other regions:

Yes

Organisation(s) responsible

- [Aragon General Delegation](#)

Support measure

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Support Measure

Title of measure

Programme for Innovation Support for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of Aragon

Full title

Apoyo a la Innovación de las Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas (Innoempresa)

Duration

From: 2007

To: 2013

Policy objectives

- 4.1.1. Support to sectoral innovation in manufacturing
- 4.1.2. Support to innovation in services
- 4.2.1. Support to innovation management and advisory services
- 4.2.2. Support to organisational innovation incl e-business

Presentation of the measure

This programme is designed and launched by the National Ministry of Industry, in agreement with the Autonomous Communities. It provides promoting measures and support actions for small and medium-sized Spanish companies as part of a policy to strengthen the Spanish business; It seeks to enhance the innovative capability of enterprises as a mean to increase their competitiveness and to contribute to sustainable growth and, consequently, to promote employment and wealth creation.

The activities supported by this measures are the following ones:

1. Organisational innovation and advanced management. It finances costs related to projects involving the adoption of new models of innovative business, innovation potential audits, the development and implementation of general business strategic plans, and product design;
2. Technological innovation and quality. The measure finances the definition of technology improvement plans which are externally advised by technology centres, implementation of RTD projects, certification of RTD and innovation activities, and implementation and certification of environmental / quality management systems;
3. Collaborative innovation projects: within this area the measure finances innovation projects jointly submitted and implemented by groups of companies whose business make part of a similar value chain of a product, and share logistics management. It also finances the identification of technological needs, development of common technical and organisational solutions and shared use of advanced services for SMEs groups.

The Programme for Innovation Support for Small and Medium Enterprises subsidizes up to 40% of innovation related investments made by Aragon SMEs that have one or more employees belonging to the industry, construction, tourism, trade and services sectors. The programme also provide subsidies to intermediate bodies engaged in activities to support SMEs in these sectors.

Aragon has launched this measure, co-financed with the Ministry of Industry of Spain , since the beginning of the national plan (2007). It was very positive the fact that in 2009, when the crisis put in danger a lot of support measures due to decrease of public incomes, Aragon increased its share in the total measure budget, from 25% to 75%.

Keywords

- Innovation culture

Budget, source and type of funding

Currency: **EUR**

Source of funding	2007	2008	2009	2010
National public funds	1,837,907	1,863,213	1,622,122	2,000,000
Regional public funds	612,636	621,071	1,905,531	1,400,000
EU Structural funds				
Private funds				
Other				

Form of funding provided

- Grants

Policy learning

Extent to which the measure can be considered as a success and worthy of policy learning

There is evidence of an impact of the measure based on verifiable indicators or an evaluation (e.g. sales generated from new products, jobs created, etc.)

Evidence of outcomes based on evaluation and other evidence

The main success factor of this type of measure is the fact that it is very close to real innovation needs of SMEs, since it is directly driven to improve their competitiveness and productivity. A high number of companies in Aragón are involved in innovative actions aimed at improving management, organisational aspects, etc. The only negative factor is the limited total financial support available which is not enough to cover the very high number of potential beneficiaries.

Do's and Don'ts

This is a measure designed and launched by the National Ministry of Industry, in agreement with the Autonomous Communities. Therefore the most important thing to do is to be well coordinated with the National Ministry of Industry, and to contribute with adequate financial resources to implement the measure at regional level.

This measure is recommended as an example of regional good practice to policy-makers from other regions:

Yes

Organisation(s) responsible

- [Aragon General Delegation](#)

Support measure

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Support Measure

Title of measure

Aid for Competitive Development of Industrial Activity in Aragón

Full title

Ayudas para el Desarrollo Competitivo de la Actividad Industrial en ARAGON (ADIA)

Duration

From: 2010

To: 2012

Presentation of the measure

The economical, and industrial crisis has special impact in Aragon, due to the existence of an important industrial sector based in construction industries and focused on national market. So it is necessary to diversify and internationalise the regional industry through sustainable and innovative development processes.

The main objective of this measure is the promotion of industrial activity in Aragon, by means of financing industrial investments and R&D projects that help the Aragonese enterprise to:

- Increase the number and qualification of the employees;
- Promote a positive impact in the regional productive sector, and specifically in SMEs economy;
- Increase the technological innovation degree of companies, in order to become more competitive and to be able to increase the exportation levels in a sustainable way;
- Develop social responsibility of companies, promote job for underprivileged collectives and handicapped people, and implement equality policies and measures.

The activities supported are: industrial investments, R&D projects, for any industrial company sited in Aragon. Moreover, for SMEs, there are specific supported activities for protection of the industrial property and external consulting services for innovation. The measure is launched initially for 2010, but there is a political commitment to maintain the grants at least two more years.

Budget, source and type of funding

Currency: **EUR**

Source of funding	2010
National public funds	
Regional public funds	14,200,000
EU Structural funds	
Private funds	
Other	
Form of funding provided	
• Grants	

Policy learning

Extent to which the measure can be considered as a success and worthy of policy learning

It is too early to judge the success of the measure (e.g results of first call for proposals still not known).

Evidence of outcomes based on evaluation and other evidence

It is a measure implemented in 2010 and it is too early to assess the main positive or negative factors, but it is noteworthy that its implementation has been very opportune in a moment of industrial crises, since there is a high need of increasing competitiveness in the whole industrial sector of Aragón.

Do's and Don'ts

In a moment of crises, consequently with a high number of companies involved in economical problems, a regional administration may be tempted to support a lot of companies with subventions, which logically cannot be high. It is more efficient to support a selected number of good projects with higher subventions. It may be better to provide subsidised loans instead of grants, in order to give an adequate volume of money and to permit good projects to survive.

This measure is recommended as an example of regional good practice to policy-makers from other regions:

Yes

Organisation(s) responsible

- [Aragon General Delegation](#)

Support measure

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Support Measure

Title of measure

Innovation in the ICT business

Full title

Innovación en el sector de las TIC

Duration

From: 2009

To: 2011

Policy objectives

- 5.2.3. Impact assessments (on R&I issues)
- 4.1.1. Support to sectoral innovation in manufacturing
- 4.1.2. Support to innovation in services
- 4.2.2. Support to organisational innovation incl e-business

Presentation of the measure

The 2nd Aragón Autonomic Director Plan for the Development of the Information Society (2009-2011) has as priorities to promote the innovative application of ICT in educational practice; to improve the management and quality of health care through the incorporation of ICT; and to develop initiatives for ICT application in order to improve quality of life of people suffering dependency.

Consequently, the Aragon General Deputation has launched a measure aiming at increasing the productivity in the production and use of ICT technologies, and at providing financial support to companies, both developers and users.

The main objectives of the measure are:

- 1) To provide financial support for the implementation of processes to improve software quality and productivity, in order to achieve greater adaptability to changes and a reduction in the response time to market needs, and to increase productivity and competitiveness of Aragon ICT companies;
- 2) To provide financial support for the acquisition and implementation of e-commerce tools.

The activities supported by this measure are:

- 1) Implementation of quality and productivity improvement processes in ICT companies, through ICT audit procedures and/or certification procedures;
- 2) Acquisition and implementation of e-commerce software tools that include on-line sales functionalities; adaptation of existing systems to provide these functionalities.

The organisations targeted as beneficiaries are SMEs and self-employed professionals (ICT developers or users).

Keywords

- Information and communication technologies

Budget, source and type of funding

Currency: **EUR**

Source of funding	2009	2010	2011
National public funds			
Regional public funds	240,000	240,000	250,000
EU Structural funds			
Private funds			
Other			
Form of funding provided			

- Grants

Policy learning

Extent to which the measure can be considered as a success and worthy of policy learning

There has been a positive response by beneficiaries to the measure (e.g. over-subscribed in terms of requested versus available budget) but it is too early to judge results or impact

Evidence of outcomes based on evaluation and other evidence

After one year of implementation of the measure, the results that have been obtained in educational field are very positive; two platforms have been launched for intensifying the use of e-tools in classrooms. Other platform is working for increasing the use of e-tools for health care, both in hospitals and at home.

The main positive factor is that the measure covers a real need with a very high demand by SMEs and self-employed professionals. The main negative factor is the low subvention budget available, that reduces the impact of the measure. In fact only 40% of applications approved have been financed.

Do's and Don'ts

The main thing to do is to establish an adequate budget that permits a high impact of the measure, taking in account the foreseeable high demand of applications from many SMEs and self-employed professionals. If it is not possible to have a sufficient budget, it is better to launch a non massive and very selective measure in terms of beneficiaries and targets, for supporting just a few high quality projects.

This measure is recommended as an example of regional good practice to policy-makers from other regions:

Yes

Organisation(s) responsible

- [Aragon General Delegation](#)

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Policy Document

2nd Aragon Autonomic Director Plan for the Development of the Information Society (2009-2011)

II Plan Director para el desarrollo de la Sociedad de la Información en la Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón (2009-2011)

Organisation responsible

[Aragon General Delegation](#)

Content

A general problem in Spain is the low penetration of ICT in the civil society, both at domestic level and in some public services. This is also the case of Aragon, with an added problem: it is a community of low population density (but this also an opportunity). Thus, the Aragon General Deputation has giving a great emphasis on achieving a specific plan to increase the penetration of ICT; it is strucutred in the following core areas: infrastructures; digital community; digital services & contents; ICT for the SMEs; ICT business sector; and electronic administration.

They are defined three main objectives/operative programmes: ICT in educational practice; quality of health through of ICT; and to improve quality of life of people suffering dependency. One of the main results of the Plan related with these strategic areas, conveniently verified in the year 2009, is the development of innovative projects such DIGITAL BLACKBOARD or E-DUCATIVA (e-learning) platform, that have achieved effective incorporation of ICT in classrooms. Aragon has ranked as one of the Spanish regions advanced in the implementation of new education technologies.

Year of publication

2009

Link to website

Link: <http://portal.aragon.es/portal/page/portal/SOCIEDADINFORMACI...>

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Policy Document

2nd Aragon Autonomic Plan for Research, Development and Transfer of Knowledge (PAID II, 2005 - 2008)

PAID II: Plan Autonómico de Investigación, Desarrollo y Transferencia de Conocimientos de Aragón (2005 – 2008)

Organisation responsible

[Aragon General Delegation](#)

Content

The main objectives of the [2nd Aragon Autonomic Plan for Research, Development and Transfer of Knowledge \(PAID II, 2005 - 2008\)](#), are to obtain a significant advance on innovation and technological development, with **sufficient impact on the productive capacity of the different sectors of Aragon economy**; to improve the **quality of life, both in terms of social welfare and health and access to culture**; and to **apply technology to protection and conservation of the natural environment**; to diversify technological and industrial activities by the whole Aragon territory , **avoiding concentration in the big city of Saragossa**. In this sense, the most significant results obtained in this PAID II are the following:

- Motorland Aragon: a public corporation that launched its activities in the city of Alcaniz (province of Teruel) as the "Motor City of Aragon". It is both an industrial/technological park for automotive sector companies, and the developer of an international F1 circuit.
- Walqa Technology Park (city of Huesca), to develop ICT advanced research labs.
- Hydrogen Foundation, to promote the use of hydrogen as an energy vector.

Year of publication

2008

Link to website

Link: <http://portal.aragon.es/portal/page/portal/INVESTIGACION/Inf...>

Policy document

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Policy Document

Aragon Energy Plan 2005-2012

Plan de Energía de Aragón 2005-2012

Organisation responsible

Aragon General Delegation

Content

The priority objective of the 2005-2012 Energy Plan for Aragon is to carry on increasing the generation of electricity from wind energy and, to a lesser degree, from biomass, hydraulic and solar energy. The Energy plan is organised around four fundamental strategies: the increase of the electricity generation park; the development of energy infrastructures; the promotion of renewable energies; saving and efficient use of energy.

By the 2005, the Board of Ministers of Spain approved a specific action for the period 2005-2007 for developing the "Spanish Strategy for Energy Saving and Efficiency". In addition, it also approved the 2005-2010 Renewable Energy Plan, which aims to encourage and incorporate the use of less contaminating sources, promoting the use of renewable energy resources. It was in this framework that by the 2006, collaboration agreements were signed between the Government of Aragon and the Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE).

The renewable energies not yet introduced in Aragon, as biomass gasification, obtaining and using hydrogen and thermoelectric solar energy, are included in the Plan.

Year of publication

2005

Link to website

Link: http://portal.aragon.es/portal/page/portal/ENERGIA/PLAN_ENER...

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Organisation

Foundation for the Development of New Hydrogen Technologies in Aragón

Fundación para el desarrollo de las nuevas tecnologías del hidrógeno en Aragón

Link: <http://www.hidrogenoaragon.org/>

Walqa Technology Park, Ctra. N-330a, km. 566
HUESCA,
22197

Mission

The Foundation for the Development of New Hydrogen Technologies in Aragon was founded in 2004 with the support of the Aragon Government and the main actors of this activity in Aragon. In 2010, the foundation (cluster) is sponsored by a total of 62 entities (companies and research centres).

The mission of the Foundation is to carry out the organisation, management and execution of a wide range of actions with the purpose of generating, storing and transporting hydrogen for its use in fuel cells, either in transport applications or for the generation of distributed energy. In this way it aims at promoting research, technological development, cogeneration and industrial adaptation, and at contributing to industrial modernisation and improved competitiveness.

Activities

The Foundation for the Development of New Hydrogen Technologies in Aragón works as an autonomic Hydrogen Cluster in co-ordination with the European Technological Platform for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells - HFP. It aims at becoming an autonomous entity with capacity to support the financial and technological needs of the RTD projects and other activities related to the deployment of hydrogen and fuel cells in Aragón, in close collaboration with other sectors as automotive, etc. It has also elaborated a Hydrogen Master Plan to be applied in Aragón that will permit to make decisions on an institutional, business and academic level, in order to facilitate such deployment.

A priority activity of the Foundation is to carry out RTD projects in the fields of:

- Hydrogen generation: This RTD line is focused on renewable energy, mainly wind and photovoltaic, hydrogen generation systems based in electrolysis, and product development;
- Storage systems and distribution: This RTD line focuses on the development of complete hydrogen storage systems, storage systems based on metal hybrids, and hydrogen management;
- Fuel cells integration: This RTD line is focused on the development of systems based on fuel cells for portable and stationary applications, with polymeric fuel cells and solid oxide fuel cells.

Other important activities of the Foundations are:

- Engineering and consultancy: Strategic consultancy, provision of services of Technical & Project Office, consultancy in regulations, codes and standards, surveillance and transfer of technology, and hydrogen promotion;
- Education and training: organisation of a Master in Hydrogen / Fuel Cells Technologies; Distance learning course on hydrogen and fuel cells.

Organisation

- [ESPAÑA](#)
[NORESTE](#)
 - Region Aragón
 - NUTS Code ES24
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Organisation

Aragon Agency for research and development, ARAID

Fundación "Agencia aragonesa para la investigación y el desarrollo, ARAID"

Link:

<http://www.araid.es/index.php/mod.pags/mem.detalle/idpag.6/chk.507efabdf7c6ed372b8f45703522bed1>

Paseo María Agustín, nº 36, Edificio Pignatelli, Puerta 30, 2ª planta
ZARAGOZA,
50004

Mission

The Foundation "Aragon Agency for research and development, ARAID" is a nonprofit institution established in 2005, initiated by the Department of Science, Technology and University of the Government of Aragón, in order to boost RTD & innovation as a key factor of regional development and service to Aragon society.

The key activity of the Foundation ARAID is to incorporate researchers and scientists, being open to any field of research and knowledge and to any researcher that provides evidence of quality work and experience at national or international level. This activity represents a clear advance in the Aragón Government purpose of transforming the region into an attractive and stable community for research and knowledge generation, and providing researchers with viable systems of professional development throughout their career.

Activities

Foundation ARAID has some general activities focused on arising interest among citizens in Aragon and in the society as a whole in matters related to research and innovation, by disseminating research results and innovation efforts in the region. The goal is that regional R&D will endeavour to make innovation and creativity one of the defining characteristics of Aragon. These activities are the following:

- Scientific and academic collaborations with other public and private / national and international entities to exchange experiences and good practices for enhancing research and innovation. For this purpose, platforms for an interdisciplinary and multi-sector analysis and debate have been established on RTD & innovation, with the participation of scientific, technological and business agents of Aragon, and various public administrations, conducting brokerage activities to facilitate the synergy between them.
- Development of studies and actions aimed at detecting RTD needs and their incorporation into the regional programmes, and monitoring and evaluation of these scientific and technological programmes as a priority;

However, the Foundation ARAID has a specific activity focused on the recruitment of researchers and scientist to be incorporated to the Aragon's RTD System. The succesful candidates will become permanent staff of ARAID, and will work along with teams from university or other research centres in the premises of these co-operating institutions. ARAID researchers are expected to make a substantial contribution to their own areas of research and be active members of the science-technology system. This activity is carried out through annual calls for tenders.

Organisation

- [ESPAÑA NORESTE](#)
 - Region Aragón
 - NUTS Code ES24
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Organisation

Aragon General Delegation

Diputación General de Aragon. Consejería de Ciencia, Tecnología y Universidad. Consejería de Industria, Comercio y Turismo.

Link: <http://portal.aragon.es/portal/page/portal/INVESTIGACION>

Edificio Pignatelli; Paseo María Agustín, 36
ZARAGOZA,
50001

Mission

The Department of Science, Technology and University of Aragon actively contribute to strengthening the sustainable development of Aragon, through:

- Knowledge and High Education, developing the University System of Aragon: University of Zaragoza (public), University of San Jorge (private), etc.;
- Research, through the Aragon Autonomic Plan for Research, Development and Transfer of Knowledge (PAID);
- Information society, through the Aragon Director Plan for Information Society;
- Telecommunications, through the Aragon Director Plan for Telecommunications Infrastructures.

Activities

- University: all the actuaciones in this field are oriented to develop the University System of Aragon in order to make it more efficient from a Knowledge-based society point of view, and for a high integration with the global RTD System of Aragon.

- Research: The specific actuation lines contemplated in the 1st and 2nd Aragon Autonomic Plan for Research, Development and Transfer of Knowledge (PAID I and II) are:

1. Promotion of science and technology transfer in all fields;
2. Articulation of a rational and sustainable scientific and technological development, with sufficient impact on the productive capacity of the different sectors of Aragon economy;
3. Improvement of quality of life, both in terms of social welfare and of health and access to culture;
4. Application of technology to the defense and conservation of the natural environment;
5. Energy saving and minimizing of all types of wastes;
6. Conservation, protection and promotion of cultural patrimony of Aragon;
7. Developing alternative and creative leisure and tourist potential of Aragon;
8. Consolidation of a structure research excellence through the creation and promotion of stable research infrastructure;
9. Training, integration and mobility of researchers.

- Information society: 2nd Aragon Director Plan for Information Society. In relation to RTD, it aims to encourage the incorporation of ICT in the RTD system and companies of Aragon as a differentiator and catalyst factor for competitiveness and productivity.

- Telecommunications: 1st Aragon Director Plan for Telecommunications Infrastructures. It aims to obtain a comprehensive implementation of Telecommunications Infrastructures in order to facilitate the development and deployment of networks and ICT services throughout the Aragon community

The main support measures carried out in this framework in 2009 were the following: Aragon Grants for Researchers Training; Working Community of the Pyrenees (research networks; RTD projects with a special support line for mobility); Promoting the Mobility of Researchers, Research Groups, Incorporation of Technical Staff (to support research); Aragon Research Award; Research Projects (with a specific support line for Research Projects in Environment and Sustainability).