

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Education, Jobs & Skills

Tourism & Culture

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

### General Socio-economic Profile

The Autonomous Region of Valencia is located at the Mediterranean shore of Spain, and home to the provinces of Alicante, Castellón and Valencia.

Valencia stands out for its international trade, exports, innovation, and industrial development. The Valencian Community enjoys a privileged geographic location in the centre of the Mediterranean corridor, a key link in the global logistics networks.

The region also has an important industrial fabric and is one of the country's main tourist destinations. It has highly consolidated global clusters such as ceramics, agri-food, automobile and textile, among others, as well as strategic industries with great potentials including ICT, biotechnology, aeronautics and health-care. Valencia is a key player in international innovation cooperation.

# Autonomous Region of Valencia



5,057,353



23,255 km<sup>2</sup>



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### Good Practices

Under the framework of the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy, Valencia has deployed several participation platforms called "Innovation Policy Labs". Each lab has clearly defined missions that gather stakeholders of the quadruple innovation helix (enterprises and business associations, regional administration, universities and technology centres, as well as social agents). They meet to align the missions with strategy priorities and agree on pilot projects that the regional government may undertake.

To ensure stakeholder participation, it is crucial to select and set up seed groups for the labs. In a second phase, the labs are open to companies, producers and consumer representatives, paying particular attention to their needs. Objectives of the strategy are then reviewed by taking into consideration of stakeholders' needs.

The Smart Grids Lab is a good example of this collaboration. Aware of the important fight against climate change, this lab aims to encourage innovation and development of smart grids, adapt to future energy models, enable sustainable energy management, and ensure power supply at competitive prices. Current trends focus on energy diversification and self-sufficiency. This opens up new and interesting prospects for an energy-scarce region to optimise network distribution.

### Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- The Region of Valencia would like to exchange experiences and knowledge in the application of ICT for the digital transformation of economy.
- Agriculture and Agri-industry research that aim to improve sustainability and resource efficiency, so as to benefit more people and reduce poverty.
- Development of a regional model of smart specialisation and promotion of innovation ecosystems. ICT application for cities through intelligent mobility practices and optimal use of energy distribution network (smart grids)
- Development of models for knowledge transfer from academia to the economy, namely university-business consortia, science parks, university entrepreneurship...
- Exchange of experiences in the implementation, development and governance of a Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)