

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST RELATED TO THE LOCATION OF BUSINESS R&D CENTERS IN GALICIA

Within the framework of the process of drawing up the **Galician Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3 Galicia) for the period 2021-2027** and the **Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan**. The Galician Innovation Agency initiates a process by which it invites companies to express their interest in locating their R&D centers in Galicia.

The globalization of markets and the paradigm shift linked to the emergence of information technologies, among other factors, has favored the internationalization of economic activity, but has also led many companies to continually adjust their structures and strategies. **Research and development activities** (hereinafter R&D) are no exception to this **continuous process of modular reorganization, open innovation and geographic dispersion**.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the global economic outlook for the next few years. European regions must address the economic and social challenges they face, even more decisively after the crisis, through **support for regional initiatives that promote a favorable investment environment**, in which companies can prosper.

Aware of this, the European Commission has launched the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, a new one-off emergency instrument of limited duration and used exclusively for response and recovery measures, which complements the Multiannual Financing Framework 2021-2027. This instrument will focus its action on areas such as **competitiveness** and productivity, research and **innovation capacities, employment and investment**, among others.

In this framework, the Xunta de Galicia is immersed in the **process of drawing up the Smart Specialization Strategy of Galicia (RIS3 Galicia) for the period 2021-2027** in which support for attracting investment in R&D is foreseen aimed at sectors with greater potential to generate added value, technologically more advanced, where highly qualified and experienced human capital is needed.

This announcement of the presentation of expressions of interest is carried out with a **double objective**:

- **To get to know potential companies interested** in establishing their R&D centers in Galicia, as well as their proposals for the development of these centers
- **Provide the Administration with information on the needs of the ecosystem in order to define adequate support instruments for these companies**, should it be decided to specify a specific program for this purpose.

The invitation to submit expressions of interest **will remain open until May 31, 2021**. Proposals will be confidential and will be addressed to the Galician Innovation Agency through the email

innovaciongain@xunta.gal, completing the Memory template -See Documentation- and indicating in the subject of the message "Expression of interest - R&D Center "[*company name*]".

The Galician Innovation Agency will study the proposals that are presented, being able to summon interested entities to interviews in order to request clarification of their content.

Participation in this procedure will not grant any right or preference regarding the calls for aid that may take place after this process of consultation with the market.

Expressions of interest will be subject to the following **requirements**:

- Companies that submit proposals must be validly incorporated, not subject to a court order to recover aid that has been considered illegal and incompatible in the context of a decision of the European Commission, or have difficulties in the sense of the guidelines of the European Commission on aid for the rescue and restructuring of companies in crisis.
- The R&D center must have facilities located in Galicia that must be perfectly delimited, identified and physically differentiated from those of the rest of the entities of its business group.
- The R&D centre will involve the creation of a new establishment .
- The R&D center must host in its premises in Galicia at least 30 employed workers (full-time or equivalent) dedicated to the development of R&D activities.
- The R&D activities carried out by the R&D center must be framed within the fields of specialization defined as priorities in the Smart Specialization Strategy of Galicia (RIS3 Galicia).
- The R&D center must commit to research and technological development in areas such as energy efficiency, improving the sustainability of its process or product, the decarbonization of its activity, the incorporation of aspects of circular economy, the best use of resources or digitization of the value chain, among others.
- The minimum budget for the proposals will be € 10,000,000
- The validity and operation of the R&D center in Galicia must be at least five years.

Documentation: Memory template (.xlsx)