

Una manera de hacer Europa



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Line for Economic Activity Creation of the Subsidy Programme for Industrial Development, the Improvement of Competitiveness, Digital Transformation and the Creation of Employment 2017-2020, in the province of Córdoba

Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia (IDEA)

Programa Operativo de Andalucía

Año 2020

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

The Good Practices Guidelines of the Agency for Innovation and Development of Andalusia IDEA are presented herein, consisting of the aid granted as part of the line for Economic Activity Creation of the Subsidy Programme for Industrial Development, the Improvement of Competitiveness, Digital Transformation and the Creation of Employment 2017-2020, in the province of Cordoba

This line of Economic Activity Creation contemplates aid to entrepreneurial projects (companies in the process of being founded or founded and listed in the registry, whose registered offices are in Andalusia and operational for no more than two years), small companies (new business projects promoted by small companies and operational for no more than five years) and medium-sized companies (projects that involve the creation of a new business establishment). Within this line, the aids for the province of Cordoba, and as part of them, the companies **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía** and **Biopharma Research** are chosen as **exponents of the foregoing.**

The company **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía SL** has built a plant for the production of hydrocarbons from plastics from industrial, agricultural and urban waste, intended for underground dumping, in the Cordoba town of Espiel. It is a trendsetter in Spain and one of the first in the world to use continuous pyrolysis technology. For its part, **Biopharma Research SA** has set up an agricultural research centre to advance organic farming. The facilities, located in the Cordoba town of La Carlota, have laboratories for the chemical analysis of plant extracts, microorganisms, and high-efficiency fertilisers. Similarly, they have facilities for the agronomic study of solutions to phytosanitary or nutritional problems in crops.

The eligible cost of this line of incentives in Cordoba is **3,607,371.54 euros**, of which **1,656,442.51 euros** correspond to financing from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The line of Economic Activity Creation incentives in the province of Cordoba compromised the **creation of 242 employments and the upkeep of a further 2.586.**

It is considered good practice since it meets the criteria defined for this purpose.

1. The role of the ERDF has been properly publicised amongst beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public¹

The companies have installed the mandatory identification plates both in a place accessible to the public and in the machinery acquired in the framework of the projects subsidised by the ERDF.



Likewise, the companies receiving backing have also resonated this on their webpages (for those who have them):



Furthermore, the investment made, and the financial support of ERDF funds has been reflected in the media through the dissemination in news outlets regarding aid in general or specific aid to these and other companies, as well as through the dissemination in local media (print edition, digital edition and profiles on social networks) in the province of Cordoba.



¹ The data that appears in the press releases, publications on social networks and web pages, and in the audiovisual elements may have suffered some variation due to the evolution of the projects between their approval and their certification.

In the same way, this information has been disclosed through the official Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn profiles of the IDEA Agency and the Andalusian Regional Government to which the IDEA Agency is attached (currently the Ministry of Economic Transformation, Industry, Knowledge and Universities) and on the websites of both organizations.

It is worthwhile mentioning, aside from the foregoing, the undertaking of an audio-visual micro-space offering a description of each one of the projects and in which it is recorded that EFDR's support has been involved in these, as can be seen from the following screenshots:



These videos are published on the Youtube profile of the IDEA Agency, at the following links:

- **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía:** https://youtu.be/Z7puJMU_0Ig
- **Biopharma Research:** <https://youtu.be/zn7eptagioo>

2. The activity incorporates innovative elements

This line of incentives has among its aims the increase of economic activity, generated by more and more competitive companies, the promotion of productive innovation in the areas of smart specialisation or business development through the industrialisation of Andalusia, moving towards industry 4.0.

In the case of **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía**, the ERDF incentives have been allocated to a new facility for the production of liquid hydrocarbons (diesel) and gaseous (LPG) using CSR (Recovered Solid Fuels) as raw material, made up of plastics from waste industrial, agricultural and urban, using pyrolysis technology (chemical decomposition of organic matter and all kinds of materials, except metals and glasses, caused by heating at high temperatures in the absence of oxygen (and any halogen)). Pyrolysis technology is an innovative process to valorise waste that cannot be used in any other way and that entails better energy use of the process, products with high added value, a process low in emissions to the atmosphere and with low waste production. The innovation lies in the production process in this plant, a trailblazer in Spain and one of the first in the world to use pyrolysis with residual plastics. It is the only one in Andalusia that works continuously.



For its part, the **Biopharma Research** project has led to the creation of an R&D department for its parent company. Biopharma bases its activity on research, development, innovation and generation of new knowledge in biotechnology, biochemistry, physiology and nutrition for application in the agricultural, food and biopharmaceutical sectors, as well as for the provision of analytical services to third parties and the marketing of the technologies and knowledge developed and registered by Biopharma. Investment in capital goods exceeds 70% of total investment figures, with the incorporation of state-of-the-art elements and equipment in the sector, even nationwide.



3. Adaptation of the results to the stated aims

The creation of new companies, such as those that have been supported in the line of Economic Activity Creation in the province of Córdoba, establishes a direct link between this creation of companies and the increase in economic activity and the creation of more employment.

In the case of **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía**, there is now a benchmark transformer plant in Andalusia representing a trendsetter in all of Spain. In the national territory there are small plants that produce biodiesel, but their production is lower and do not represent a competition for ECOAN (Ecocombustibles de Andalucía), since their sales channel is aimed entirely at large oil companies, which must comply with the established quota of incorporating a minimum percentage of biofuels. In a first phase, all output is intended for provincial, regional and national distributors. However, it has also opened a direct sales channel to companies, institutions and public organizations.



In turn, the project carried out by **Biopharma Research** has created a reference agricultural research centre for organic farming. In addition to serving Econatur, its parent company, it also provides analytical services to third parties. This research centre develops and tests new products to improve quality and food safety. Above all, it focuses on the use of new inputs for organic farming and the manufacture of products without residues.



4. Contribution to the resolution of a regional problem or weakness.

In the region, unemployment is compounded by the difficulty of access to business financing, a major obstacle faced by Andalusian companies, especially SMEs and which, on occasions, can slow down the development of investment plans, so that the Economic Activity Creation line and, specifically, these projects are another instrument to contribute to reducing barriers to business development.

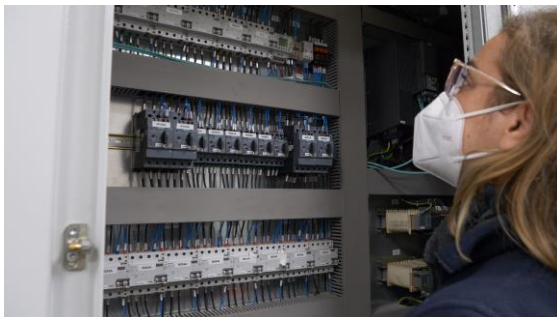
The adaptation of the Economic Activity Creation line of this incentive program in the province of Cordoba is embodied in the fact that ERDF financing has promoted an investment of more than **3.6 million euros**. **This line compromised the creation of 242 employments and the maintenance of another 2,586**. In the specific case of the two projects of the **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía and Biopharma Research companies**, their eligible investment was 3.5 million euros and their commitment to create employment amounts to 16.



5. High degree of coverage of the target population

The line for Economic Activity Creation of the Subsidy Programme for Industrial Development, Competitiveness Improvement, Digital Transformation and Employment Creation 2017-2020 covers all SMEs in the industrial sector and services to industry in the province of Cordoba.

In the case of **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía**, a clean alternative is offered to one of the main problems of any modern society: the elimination of plastics from industrial, agricultural and urban waste, which also becomes an alternative energy source. And it has become a regional reference center that, in addition, has had staff from the area. This project has generated the creation of 12 employments, of which 6 are highly qualified engineers.



The actions carried out by **Biopharma Research** are based on the chemical analysis of plant extracts, microorganisms, high-efficiency fertilisers... Similarly, for the agronomic study of solutions to phytosanitary or nutritional problems in crops. The research carried out at the centre also has applications in the natural cosmetics and pharmaceutical markets, meaning its actions have a wide-ranging impact on the population.



6. The horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability have been taken into account.

This line of incentives in Cordoba aims, in general, to foster and encourage the employability of women, the entrepreneurial culture and enhance the social economy and contribute to the development of a sustainable industrial activity that respects the environment.

In the case of the two projects cited as an example, the support received is aimed at environmental sustainability. Thus, the project developed by **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía** has a major bearing on the circular economy. Its technology to produce biofuels uses waste that cannot be used in any other way and that represents a harnessed use of energy from the process, products with high added value, a process with low emissions to the atmosphere and with low waste production.



In the case of **Biopharma Research**, the R&D work that it carries out is aimed at organic farming. It is dedicated to research and testing of new products that advance quality and food safety and the transfer of knowledge to new markets, such as natural cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.



7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments

The aims of the Economic Activity Creation line are aligned with those of the Europe 2020 Strategy of the European Union on smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, which

contribute to the generation of high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. This Strategy is reflected in different policies and strategies designed by the Government of Andalusia.

For example, in the case of the **Ecocombustibles de Andalucía** company, its project is included in the 2020 Andalusia Innovation Strategy (RIS3 - Andalusia) as it proposes to foster research, sustainable technological developments, advances and technological improvements in the use of waste from all type, eliminating an environmental problem in the process, as well as with design innovations that encourage reuse and recycling operations. Likewise, his project is classified as an innovative project, since its continuous technology has a clear innovative character with respect to the technologies currently used in Andalusia and other areas of the world.

Likewise, the **Biopharma Research** project is an innovative project, and it is also included in the Andalusian Innovation Strategy 2020 (RIS3-Andalusia) in terms of advances in quality, traceability and food safety. This project leads to a highly significant advance in the area of food safety research, mainly in everything concerning the use of new inputs for organic farming and with regard to the manufacture of products without residues.

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