



Una manera de Racer Europa



Porcinnova high-tech INCUBATOR (Aragón)
INCYDE Foundation.

Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

GOOD PRACTICE FOR CO-FINANCED CAMPAIGNS, PRESENTED BY THE INCYDE FOUNDATION PORCINNOVA HIGH-TECH INCUBATOR (ARAGON)

The Fundación Instituto Cameral para la Creación y Desarrollo de la Empresa (translated as the Chamber Institute for the Creation and Development of Companies Foundation, the INCYDE Foundation) participates within the 2014–2020 Spanish European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Program, as an organisation with a financial path, in the execution of the High Technology Incubators Project to promote the innovation and transfer of technology to small, medium, and micro-enterprises and entrepreneurs. The High Technology Incubators Project contemplates the initial establishment of infrastructures distributed throughout the national territory. The sectors upon which the High Technology Incubators will be based must be coordinated with the regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) of each region. The High Technology incubators were conceived as a project focused and centred on the transfer of technology from the institutions responsible for R&D+i, both in Spain and internationally, to the market. To this end, the availability of a network of partners that will provide the required services is essential so that incubated business initiatives (whether newly created or not) receive R&D+i they can apply to their business models.

Thus, the INCYDE Foundation presents the following as a good practice proposal: **The high-tech PORCINNOVA Incubator** aimed at companies in the porcine sector, one of the fastest-growing sectors worldwide. **A unique project in Spain with a national and international perspective.**

This document brings together all the necessary elements to promote innovation, competitiveness, and technology transfer, and their contribution to new business projects. Porcinnova was born to add to and expand the ecosystem of entrepreneurship and innovation. The incubator always works in close cooperation with large companies in the porcine sector to generate new entrepreneurial opportunities and ensure that its incubation and acceleration mechanisms are highly effective. The start-ups—technology providers—emphasise that it allows them to access a very large potential market quickly and that many of them had previously been unaware of.

Porcinnova, an initiative led by the Fundación Parque Científico Tecnológico Aula Dei (translated as Aula Dei Scientific and Tech Park Foundation), since April 14th 2022 named as Fundación de Innovación y Transferencia Agroalimentaria de Aragón (translated as Aragon Agro industrial Innovation and Tech Transfer Foundation) and the Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragon (translated as Aragon Agro industrial Research and Technology Centre) has received an investment of €1,103,496.63 (with ERDF aid accounting for 50%: €551,973.31).



Now that two years have passed since its official inauguration, we consider the **Porcinnova** High Technology Incubator to represent a good practice example for the reasons highlighted below.

1. THE CAMPAIGN WAS SUITABLY COMMUNICATED AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES, POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES, AND GENERAL PUBLIC

All the materials included disclosure of the PORCINNOVA program financing with funds from the ERDF 2014–2020 Operational Program.



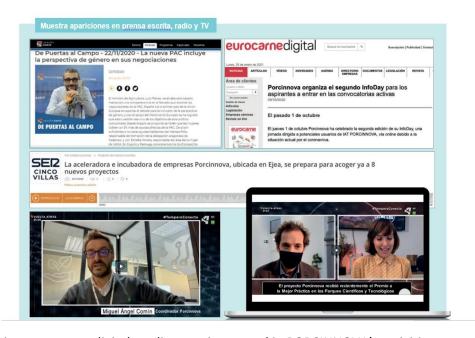
ERDF financing was mentioned in all the press releases by PORCINNOVA, as well as publications in specialised magazines in the sector and on our social networks:

Sample of PORCINNOVA publications



PORCINNOVA appeared both on television (on the program *El Tempero* on Aragón TV) and the radio (*De Puertas al Campo* and various news programs on Aragón Radio and *Cinco Villas* on Cadena SER), as well as in the written press (El Heraldo del Campo):

Sample of appearances in the written press and on the radio and TV



In addition, numerous digital media were interested in PORCINNOVA's activities:



Participation in benchmark events in the sector such as the Smart Agrifood Summit in Malaga in 2019, 2020, and 2022, FIGAN Zaragoza International Livestock Fair in 2021, or in more general events, with their participation in BNEW, held for the first time in 2020 in Barcelona, also being a good example of diffusion of the project.

The Smart Agrifood Summit in Malaga



2. THE CAMPAIGN INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

As for innovative elements, PORCINNOVA created a community of companies working in the porcine sector. The 24 startups selected and participating in the PORCINNOVA program seeded the PORCINNOVA community, an initiative launched by PORCINNOVA in January 2021 with three objectives:

- Create a framework of permanent collaboration between the offering technology startups that passed the PORCINNOVA programand PORCINNOVA's industrial partner companies demanding these innovative technologies.
- Give visibility to these startups among the entire sector: corporates and porcine sector entities that group them, technology centres and researchers linked to the agroindustrial sector, as well as public administrations and institutions working in agri-food innovation.
- As a result of these visibility and dissemination associated with PORCINNOVA, recognise the technology value propositions for the sector.



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European Regional Development Fund
Una manera de hacer Europa (A way to build Europe)

3. ADEQUACY OF THE RESULTS OBTAINED RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHED OBJECTIVES

This project met the established objectives because, in relation to consolidation of the incubated companies, although their specific cases were very different in terms of technological domains, maturity degree, or size in terms of number of employees or turnover, the results confirmed the relevance of technological innovation in the future of the porcine sector.

- Confirmed survival rate: 91.67%. This data means that 22 out of the 24 startups that started the program are still active.
- Continuity of activity in the porcine sector: 86.36%. This implies that, out of the 22 active projects, 19 continue their activities in the porcine sector.

These data indicate, on the one hand, that the PORCINNOVA entrepreneur technologies are promising and have attracted the attention of the sector and are continuing their market transfer phases according to their high percentage of survival. On the other hand, the data confirm their interest in continuing in the porcine sector because of the enormous market potential it offers them and the importance of this sector at a national level, in which Spain is one of the leading producers of pork worldwide. Regarding their international success, some are already enjoying commercial activity at an international level, but not yet with the new lines of business they are developing for the sector with PORCINNOVA's support. The rest are concentrating their efforts on reaching the Spanish pork market—one of the world leaders.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO RESOLUTION OF A PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS DETECTED IN THE TERRITORIAL SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

PORCINNOVA is the door to the market, a real immersion in the sector that can anticipate industrial demands and consumer and business trends through new technological developments.

A realistic project designed to generate innovative solutions based on technology and applied in an industry such as the constantly growing porcine industry. Strong support from the main companies is the differential factor allowing the joint work between incubated or accelerated projects and companies to become a reality.

PORCINNOVA has generated an open collaborative environment between technology-providing startups and technology-demanding industrial partners that favours the emergence of innovative technological proposals. This allows these startups to deepen their knowledge of the sector's challenges and combine their experience and technological knowledge, with PORCINNOVA's institutional partners having identified them as good public-private practices to imitate in support of innovation in the sector.

The Aula Dei Scientific and Technological Park Foundation, now called the Aragon Agrifood Innovation and Transfer Foundation, is a promoter of the project together with the Aragon Agrifood Research and Technology Centre, CITA. On 22 September 2020, it received the Best Practice Award from among the Spanish Science and Technology Parks in 2020 for the PORCINNOVA project, the incubator for high-tech companies in the porcine sector located in Ejea de los Caballeros (Zaragoza).

APTE highlighted the success of the initiative and especially "the excellent assessment outcome and unanimous acceptance by the sector and its main companies and associations at the national level", which all collaborate with the project through the PORCINNOVA Advisory Council.

5. HIGH DEGREE OF POPULATION COVERAGE

The level of participation of the leading companies in the sector in PORCINNOVA, both at a regional and national levels, is very significant (between 40 and 50% of the sector), but there is still room to achieve greater involvement of the sector through other companies or reference business groups in the sector at a national level.

From its headquarters in Ejea de los Caballeros, PORCINNOVA reaches a geographical area of influence that includes Aragon as well as Catalonia—because of its proximity, sectoral similarities, and presence of the same integrated business groups.

MAPA, 2020 Livestock surveys. Pig farming. Number of animals.

MAPA. En	cuestas ganac					
	TOTAL ANIMALES	%TOTAL ANIMALES	TOTAL CERDOS DE CEBO (PESO VIVO)	% TOTAL CERDOS DE CEBO (PESO VIVO)	TOTAL CERDAS REPRODUCTORAS	% TOTAL CERDAS REPRODUCTORAS
ARAGÓN	8.699.185	27,73%	3.134.108	25,14%	589.350	23,07%
CATALUÑA	7.840.519	24.99%	2.860.681	22,95%	590.957	23,14%
		52,72%		48,09%		43,21%
ESPAÑA	31.371.656	100,00%	12.465.982	100,00%	2.554.379	100,00%

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE HORIZONTAL EQUALITY, OPPORTUNITY, AND NON-DISCRIMINATION CRITERIA, AS WELL AS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA

The essential nature of the agri-food sector, which was highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, is very relevant, with the porcine sector once again playing a leading role. Both in its national face, contributing to the supply of the domestic market, and in its international side, contributing very positively to the trade balance with a 55.8% increase in exports in the January–August 2020 period (Interporc).

This essential character is reinforced by the relationship between the agro-industrial and environmental sectors and the constant efforts to minimise the environmental impact of porcine livestock production and contribute to a circular countryside economy. This sector is also highly involved in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The prioritisation, through specific calls to develop **manure management and recovery** systems for its agronomic use as organic fertilisers, water recovery, or biofuel generation, deserves special mention as a clear example of the circular economy, as well as its **minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions**.

Another aspect that is of great significance when analysing the importance of the porcine sector is its territorial impact on rural areas. The porcine sector contributes very significantly to the generation of wealth and employment in rural areas, which are often very depopulated in Spain, resulting in great population imbalances in the planning and management of these territories.

It is worth mentioning that access to the incubator was completely egalitarian and met all the criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The bases of the PORCINNOVA public application calls published on its website defined, in detail, the procedures and selection criteria used for the application proposals received. The publication of this accessible and clear information, in addition to the transparency of the process, meant that equal opportunities and non-discrimination were made clear for every proposal received. A notable aspect in the relatively traditional agricultural sector was that 37.50% of the selected proposals, 9 out of 24 of them, were led by women, and there was high or medium participation of women in the promotional teams of 54.17%—13 out of 24—of the project proposals.

7. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PUBLIC INTERVENTION POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS

The PORCINNOVA project was promoted by the Aragon Agri-Food Innovation and Transfer Foundation; before that, up until 14 March 2022, it was promoted by the Aula Dei Science and Technology Park Foundation and Aragon Agri-Food Research and Technology Centre with the support of the Government of Aragon through the Department of Science, Universities, and Society of Knowledge (to which the two promoting entities are attached) and the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Environment.

PORCINNOVA is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the INCYDE Foundation (Chamber Institute Foundation for the Creation and Development of Companies) within the ERDF 2014–2020 Spanish Multi-Regional Operational Program: 'Una manera de hacer Europa' (A way to build Europe).

PORCINNOVA aligns with Aragon's Smart Specialisation Strategy, RIS3, which establishes key regional priorities, focusing economic development efforts and investments on the region's

strengths to take advantage of its economic opportunities and emerging trends and drive knowledge-based growth. PORCINNOVA directly impacts the strategic priority of Well-Being and Quality of Life, which refers to the development of new products, processes, and technologies, as well as improvement of the value chain of agri-food products in Aragon.

Similarly, the promoting entities of PORCINNOVA and the sector itself are aligned and clearly impact several of the United Nations 2030 SDGs, for example, number 2: Zero Hunger, 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and 13: Climate Action. PORCINNOVA also shares objectives with the new European strategy represented by the European Green Deal to help transform the climate and environmental challenges into opportunities for the porcine sector. In particular, with everything related to the 'From Farm to Fork' initiative, whose objective is to guarantee healthy, affordable, and sustainable food for European citizens.





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