

## 7. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS (1-2 pages for each separate action : 7.1, 7.2, 7.3., etc.)

### Title of the Action:

**POLES OF EXCELLENCE. Developing and implementing the methodology for the elaboration of “R&D Integrated Projects” in specific sectors.**

**Theme:** (i)  (ii)  (iii)  (choose the predominant theme)

**Description of the Action** (for example: studies, pilot projects, strategic planning, participation in networks, technical assistance, etc.):

Approach and objectives:

“Integrated Projects” are a proposal laid down in the Second Technological Plan of Navarre. These projects, or sets of sub-projects with a common objective, seek to build not only a frame for collaborations and transfer of knowledge between the administration, enterprises, technological institutes and universities, but a cross-sectoral exchange and sharing of solutions, experiences and efforts between the different sub-projects and their participants as well.

1. Designing, developing and validating the methodology for “Integrated Projects” as an instrument to boost “Regional Intelligence” through the collaboration of private and public agents.
2. Testing the Innovative methodology, in the emergent sectors of Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Renewable Energies in the region of *Comunidad Foral de Navarra*, to subsequently transfer the experience externally and internally to other sectors and contribute towards the design of the future regional policy on technology with a clear European approach.
3. Reviewing the methodology through experience and redefining it for future application purposes in other sectors and regions.

### Innovation:

The identification of the sectors proposed as test areas of the methodology has been caused by the following circumstances.

*Biotechnology.* The European Commission is decided to restore Europe’s leading position in the field of research of life sciences and Biotechnology by means of actions oriented to building a European Research Area and to improving industrial competitiveness. The purpose in Navarre is to develop a business fabric focusing on R&D&I in the field of Biotechnology, as well as creating bio-enterprises in the agro-food, health and environment sector. The name of the initiative is “**BioNavarra 2007**”, included within the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technological Plan of Navarre.

*Nanotechnology.* A substantial knowledge base has been developed in Europe in the last decade on the field of nanosciences. However these efforts are being compromised by two circumstances: the EU is currently investing less than competitors and lacks suitable infrastructure at world level (Poles of Excellence). In this context the European Commission is proposing actions to maintain and strengthen the position of EU R&D in the field of Nanotechnology. Navarre features an additionally positive factor, namely the existence of several research institutes in this field: the Higher School of Industrial Engineering and the Higher School of Telecommunications (UPNA), the Industrial Association of Navarre and the L’Urederra Foundation, all of which are already participating in projects financed by the 6th Framework Programme.

*Renewable Energies.* The Community strategy towards a sustainable development has a deep interest in developing actions oriented to improving energy efficiency and the promotion of Renewable Energies, as laid down in the “Intelligent Energy for Europe2003-2006” Programme. As for Renewable Energies, Navarre has become a pioneering region, being awarded the “Best Regional Renewable Energy Partnership” European Award in 2003. Besides newly created enterprises in the sector, the industrial fabric in the sector employs over 2000 people. Combining private initiatives and public support has proved crucial, as well as the deployment in the region of the National Institute for Renewable Energies. Now the region has attained a good positioning, it is essential to make the most of the Institute to development new projects”.

### Participants:

*Public bodies:* Government of Navarre (DG for Industry and Commerce (leader), DG for European Affairs and Planning and DG for the Information Society, Innovation Agency of Navarre, CEIN.

*Private bodies:* CRAN, CIMA, CNTA – Ebro Lab, Institute of Agro-Biotechnology and Natural Resources, CENER-CIEMAT, CEMITEC, AIN, Risk-Capital Bodies.

Universities: Public University of Navarre and University of Navarre.

Enterprises in the sectors of Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Renewable Energies.

The composition may vary according to the specific sector covered by the Actions.

**Scheduled activities:**

1. *Methodological development of Poles of Excellence:*

- Analysing and Diagnosing the environment. Study of the sector at regional level (SWOT analysis of the sector), national situation, European and international trends, elaboration of a diagnosis of the situation.
- Identifying enterprises and agents in the sector (Universities, research and technological institutes) in the region open to participation in R&D projects.
- Organising and conducting sectorial worktables.
- Defining prospective and Technological Surveillance tools to use in each project and implementation.
- Identifying "Integrated Projects": definition of the project, the methodology and planning, participating agents, applicable technologies, sources of financing and implementation periods.

2. *Testing:*

- Supporting the implementation of integrated projects. Starting the selected projects, planning the actions and orienting the agents.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the projects. Defining the monitoring indicators and objectives and securing compliance with these criteria.

3. *Reviewing the methodology, acquisition of Know how.*

- Feedback of the methodological proposal used in the implementation of the "Integrated Projects" (experience developed, monitoring and evaluation) to define a final methodology to subsequently transfer it to other economic sectors.
- Identifying "Best Practices" among the integrated projects developed.
- Transferring the know-how and exchanging experiences with other European regions (this is directly linked to Action 7.3 INNOVANETWORKS).

**Geographical coverage:**

- Objective 1 areas:
- Objective 2 areas: 50%.
- Areas outside Obj. 1 and 2: 50%.

**Groups targeted**

- Enterprises in the sector of Biotechnology (agro-food, health, environment), Nanotechnology and Renewable Energies
- Universities, Research and Technological Institutes
- Administration

**Indicative project selection criteria:**

- Degree of innovation of the project
- "Cross-sectoralism" of the Partnership
- Benefits expected from the project from a regional and European viewpoint, transferability of results

**Results expected** (specify the choice of indicator depending on the type of action):

1. Methodological development of Poles of Excellence

- Completion of 3 sectorial surveys
- Analysis of 45 enterprises and research institutes and bodies from the 3 sectors having a potential for R&D.
- Organisation of 9 sectorial worktables (3 per sector), 45 participating enterprises and 27 meetings.
- Starting of a Technological Surveillance for the three sectors.
- Analysing 15 proposals for "Integrated Projects" (5 per sector)

2. Testing

- Supporting the development of the 3 "Integrated Projects" (one per sector).
- Average investment of Integrated Projects EUR 660,000.00, publicly subsidized to a maximum 50%.
- Creation of 25 jobs.

3. Reviewing the methodology

- Elaborating the methodological proposal for "Integrated Projects". Publishing a Guide.
- Developing a "Best Practices" database.