

# FUNDECYT-PCTEX

*PROFILE AND EXPERTISE*

2024



**FUNDECYT-PCTEX**  
*un espacio para innovar*

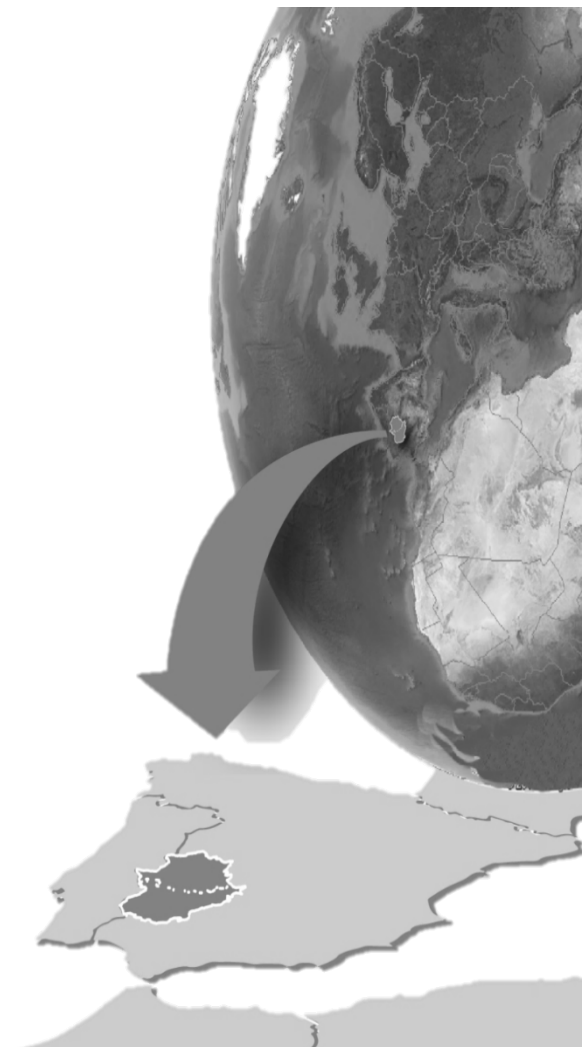
## Regional framework

Extremadura is a European region located in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. It is formed by the provinces of Cáceres and Badajoz, and represents the 7.0% of the Iberian territory with 41,634 Km<sup>2</sup> and the 2.35% of the Spanish population with 1,096,421 inhabitants.

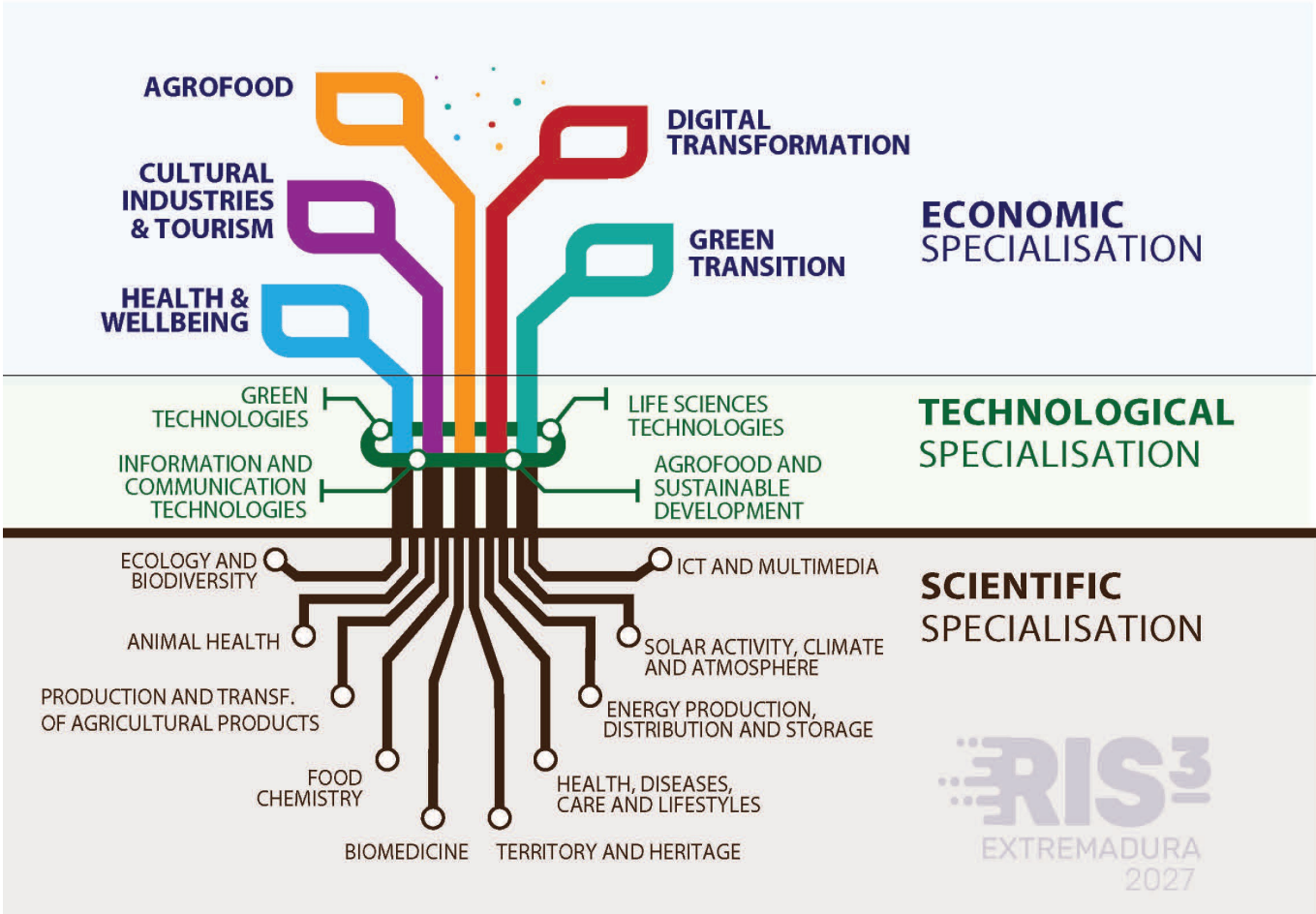
The region is characterized by its **large territory**, a low population density (26 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), a rich natural and cultural heritage (**30% of the territory is under some kind of special protection**) and an economy strongly linked to the tertiary sector, with a lower weight of the industrial sector, mainly related to the agrofood industry.

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Through the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3), Extremadura aims to transform the region into a **space for innovation in environmental sustainability and quality** of life. This transformation is expected to be achieved by the promotion of 5 areas such as agriculture and food processing, clean energy, tourism, healthcare, and information and communication technologies. The Strategy is planned for moving towards a green transition and digital transformation



RIS3 Extremadura 2027 specialization pattern



## FUNDECYT-PCTEX as strategic partner

The Foundation FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura (Fundecyt-PCTex) is a body governed by public law based in Extremadura (Spain) with the aim of contributing to the social and economic exploitation of science and technology in the region, supporting and promoting scientific and technological development and a better use of research and innovation outcomes.

As the Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura, we offer the spaces and the necessary services to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, science and technology in the region. FUNDECYT-PCTEX hosts more than 70 innovative companies in its facilities and, in addition to the assistance provided to tenants, we support regional entrepreneurs and SMEs for the development and consolidation of business ideas.

The Foundation is in charge of the coordination and integral management of the **Office for Innovation (O4i)** in the framework of the activities developed by the Regional Ministry of Employment, Enterprise and Innovation for promoting the innovation at regional level.

One of the main activities carried out by the O4i, managed by FUNDECYT-PCTEX is the support and advice services for regional and rural enterprises, in order to facilitate appropriate resources and tools to develop their technological and innovation needs by accompanying them in all innovation process to guarantee their development.

FUNDECYT-PCTEX is currently also in charge of the **Business and Innovation European Center (BIC)** in the region, which is aimed to encourage the creation of innovative new businesses, foster new business lines in existing companies, offer assistance in business development for the consolidation of existing companies, support entrepreneurs in the process of project's implementation and cooperate with other institutions that support business creation



Under the characteristics of Extremadura, as a region with low population density, huge natural areas, small companies and a big weight of primary sector in the Economy, has encouraged the foundation to try a new model of Business and Innovation Centre, based on **BICs network distributed management**, versus a decentralized model, with the hope that it will be a good practice in entrepreneurship and innovation promotion in rural areas, having branches to cover all the territory.

### **BIC networks**

The role of BIC networks is to act as a SME Incubator that offers all these services can be considered an Entrepreneurs Support Centre or an Innovation Support Centre, it even can be eligible for UE Technology Funding (Axis 1, point 2); but BIC hallmark (Business and Innovation Centre) is obtained through belonging to the national ANCES network (National Association of European Centre of Innovation Companies), which is in turn member of the EBN (European BIC Network).

The European network holds a long tradition and influence in Europe, so it is a key agent in SME support European politics. They are also considered priority partners for European projects. Additionally, throughout the BIC Extremadura there is an existing cooperation with other entities operating in EXTREMADURA, and from this continuous interaction a great variety of actions emerge, such us:

- Promoting company and innovation spirit in rural areas.
- Detecting innovative projects.
- Diagnosing real SMEs necessities regarding innovation.
- Acting as a mediator between supply and demand of services to SMEs
- Promote and execute local development projects.
- Offering SMEs experience regarding European projects.



More than **20 years** of experience managing projects on science, technology, business, public lab and innovation.

**52 projects** in the last three years: Two-thirds of them, with an international scope



## Entrepreneur Services

As a Scientific and Technological Park, FUNDECYT-PCTEX has business incubators in Cáceres and Badajoz, in which there are 75 technology-based companies with R&D&i activities. The Foundation facilitates support to the SMEs, for:

- 🔄 entrepreneurship and business creation: initial business idea validation, economic and technical viability study, business plan development,
- 🔄 value chain and business model analysis,
- 🔄 business development: support and advice in business growth and new production/market lines, incubation and participation in European projects,
- 🔄 business acceleration
- 🔄 search for financial support and technological partners
- 🔄 R&D&i: innovation, research and technological transfer (access to technology offer/demand, IPR), subcontracting R&D&i activities, R&D consultancy services,
- 🔄 business cooperation,
- 🔄 innovation training, workshops, seminars,
- 🔄 staff search and selection

Regarding entrepreneurship and SMEs we offer support and advice for business idea validation, business development and innovation, the participation of SMEs in European projects, and the search of partners and funding. Moreover, we foster regional R&D&i activities by connecting and coordinating the exchange of knowledge between entrepreneurs, scientists, and social and institutional agents and providing consultancy services to regional bodies (access to technology, IPR, subcontracting R&D&i activities, etc.).

FUNDECYT-PCTEX also fosters social innovation by participating in projects related to silver economy, the promotion of social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, among others.

We have been promoting and fostering the employability of the young people, facilitating for more than 13 years the development of their professional competencies, abilities and skills through the implementation of work placements abroad in the framework of transnational mobility projects, especially under the former European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme, now Erasmus+ Programme. Also, FUNDECYT-PCTEX organises training programmes towards entrepreneurs/entrepreneurship as a part of its regular activity, and through specific actions or projects, focusing on the development of the innovation potential of the region's SMEs and the skills of workers in order to increase their competitiveness.







## Network of Technological Incubators of Extremadura

During 2023 and 2024 FUNDECYT-PCTEX is working in the deployment of a network of six incubators, specialized by sector and distributed throughout Extremadura, with a common work methodology and tools for the attraction, development and interconnection of technology-based entrepreneurial ideas, and differential aspects in each specialized node of the network to offer specialized services and connection with the local ecosystem.

Specifically, one of them is the INCUBATOR SPECIALIZING IN VIRTUAL REALITY AND AUGMENTED REALITY SOLUTIONS. This incubator will be focused on solving fundamental challenges related to "Deep Technology" for SMEs, taking into account the atomization of the Extremadura business fabric and its digitalization challenges, the proposed activity is aimed at facilitating the incorporation of disruptive technologies to small and medium enterprises, improving their usability and validating their functionality with communities of users in real environment, thus supporting those companies with potential for development and use of VR and / or AR technologies,

In this new facilities, it is included a Project Acceleration Program, which aims to provide methodological tools, infrastructure and professional support for the development of the entrepreneurial profile of companies related to VR/AR. The program offers comprehensive support in the early stages of project start-up, basing the process on the Lean Startup methodology with the aim of shortening time and minimizing costs in the development of the project. in which processes of co-design of solutions with the **creative and cultural industries** will be promoted.

## **Equipment**

The VR/AR laboratory will help educational entities and companies to reinvent their teaching-learning and training processes through the implementation of specialized virtual scenarios such as plant simulations, industrial processes and laboratories within the framework of state-of-the-art educational technologies.

The space must have unique equipment for the development of activities, the following equipment is proposed:

- HTC VIVE
- Gear VR
- Virtual and augmented reality glasses Oculus
- Virtual reality gloves
- Indoor positioning system.
- Haptic devices.
- 3D projection system.

