EURADA
European Association of Development Agencies

Event: European RDAs Seminary: *The cases of Spanish and Portuguese Regional Development Agencies*

Date & place: on 17 December 2019, EURADA Headquarters, Brussels
Regional Development Agencies in Spain
The Spanish institutional context is determined by:

- Multiple administrative levels (NUTS I, II, III).
- Importance of the regional level in the competences and capacities of RDAs.
- RDAs have a relevant role as intermediaries between the regional level and the civil society.
### Legal status and competences

**Legal status**: Practically all of them have the same legal status: they are considered public entities bind by private law.

**Representative role**: The range of actions a development agency can exercise on behalf of their regional government.

**Services provision**: Such as facilities, infrastructures or training, considered fundamental for enterprises’ productivity and the general well-being.

**Investment and development**: Sustainable economic growth, social and environmental welfare for citizens and workers’ benefit. Investment attraction and retention.
Asociación Española de Agencias de Desarrollo Regional, **Foro ADR**; created in 2007 to connect the existent RDAs in Spain, giving them the possibility of exchanging information and expertise to identify problems and find solutions for them.
Regional Development Agencies in Spain

RDAs in Spain: activities

Technology development

Most of the RDAs develop innovation programmes with the purpose of helping the enterprises improve their industrial capacities and therefore their possibilities and competitiveness.

Internationalisation

Their internationalisation activities are mostly focused on opening new markets, increasing export ratings and establishing internationalisation plans for those companies which are better prepared to take that critical step.
Financial instruments
These mechanisms are mainly based on loans or credits as well as incentives to the enterprises which compromise to implement certain measures the regional governments want to expand.

Investment promotion
The work on this area focuses on the region promotion as a suitable investment destination, informing the potential investors and helping them designing the plan. This aspect is developed by all the RDAs in the country.
Start-ups creation
One of the key functions RDAs have regarding the industrial structure within the region. These activities are focused on those small and medium enterprises that otherwise would not possess the necessary mechanisms to carry these actions out.

Technological infrastructures
Many infrastructures are supported by RDAs with the intention of providing the companies a suitable space to develop their activities.
Cohesion funds management: ERDF

The cohesion funds represent up to a third part of the entire Union’s budget. The RDAs count with an important instrument in this sense: Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3).

Become an intermediate organism to manage the operative program, while the Public Treasury Ministry fulfils the managing authority role.
Regional Development Agencies in Spain

RDAs in Spain: data

Institut d’Innovació Empresarial de les Illes Balears
Regional Development Agencies in Portugal
The Portuguese institutional context is determined by:

- Administrative centralisation.
- NUTS division just for technical purposes.
- RDAs are dependent on the Regional Coordination and Development Commissions. Management authorities.
Legal status and competences: there is not a specific format, but several possibilities contained in the law which regulates and establishes them: Decree-Law no. 88/1999, article 3. It is established, on the other hand, that RDAs are private entities ruled by public law.

Legal status

Even though the Law determines several possibilities, most of them were created either as anonymous societies or non-profit associations.

Jobs and enterprises creation

Activities designed to foster the business creation, the foreign investment or the technological innovation.

Technical and managerial assistance

To small and medium-sized enterprises in the region. Also, orientation and management of information systems of economic and social content of territorial scope.

Autonomy

To choose autonomously their areas of activity or their internal organisation. The regional agencies dispose a great level of independence.
The national coordination is dependent from the central Government, with the only delegation leaning on the Regional Coordination and Development Commissions (RCDCs). Which work under the national guidelines.
Foreign Direct Investment

The Portuguese RDAs actively seek potential investments for the regions they work in. One of the main ways of doing it is the Foreign Direct Investment, or FDI. Through an FDI, an investor based in a foreign country gets to buy shares or participations in companies in another country.

- Improvement of local business environment.
- Information, incentives and support to adapt and expand premises.
- Identification of potential local suppliers and collaborators.
- Provision of customised training programmes for foreign investors.
- Cluster building initiatives.
Regional Development Agencies in Portugal

**Information and Communication Technologies**

The main roles the Portuguese RDAs have regarding the ITC is the support to territories and companies to make them develop their activities in line with the European Digital Agenda.

- Implementation of shared ICT services centres with a territorial base.
- To boost the knowledge and transfer of trained local agents for technical resources within ITC domain.
- Develop and promote signatory infrastructures, in certain regional and national networks, related to public bodies, and Data processing Centre.
Services for companies management

Providing the services the companies need in order to develop their activities and projects. In this sense, the RDAs can offer:

- Infrastructures.
- Qualified management promotion.
- Regional Strategic Value Chains development.
Regional Development Agencies in Portugal

RDAs in Portugal:
data
Thank you for your attention

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