

## **Spain: the Comunidad Valenciana**

### **REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR**

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### **1. A Brief Description of Regional Characteristics** (in terms of population, the specialisation in economic sectors etc)

The Comunidad Valenciana, is an autonomous region in Spain with full responsibility on higher education matters and a broad autonomy for scientific and technological matters.

The Comunidad Valenciana is a region with 4 million of inhabitants in the east of Spain along the Mediterranean coast. Four cities are over the 250,000 inhabitants, reaching the city of Valencia 1 million.

From an economic point of view is representative of the Spanish situation and most economic indicators are in the Spanish average. It has a very balanced economic structure among the different sectors. Agriculture sector (a traditional outstanding sector in the region) is still relevant. The industrial activity, especially in the manufacturing sector is very well developed. Service sector, including tourism, is nowadays the most active sector.

### **2. Characteristics of the HEIs in the Region** (the number of HEIs; a basic profile of each institution to be involved in the project in terms of student numbers, balance between teaching and research functions, territorial focus etc)

There are 5 public universities and 2 private (one of them starting its activities this year)

The 5 public universities are institutions with a strong research orientation. Two are in the city of Valencia: the Technical University of Valencia with a technological orientation and the University of Valencia covering the rest of the fields. University of Valencia is an old institution founded in 1499. The University of Alicante, the University Jaume I of Castellon and the University Miguel Hernandez of Elche, placed in the other cities of the region, are comprehensive institutions. All of them have a tradition of relations with the socio-economic environment.

The two private universities (University Cardenal Herrera and Catholic University of Valencia) are more teaching oriented institutions. The last one started this year.

### **3. A Brief History of HEIs' Engagement in the Regional Development;**

The region has a strong commitment on the relationships between higher education and regional development. The recent creation (1<sup>st</sup> of September) of a new regional Ministry on Enterprise, Universities and Science shows the interest of this region in the links between higher education, science and regional

development. This Ministry, that would lead the project through its Agency of Assessment and Prospective, is in charge of industrial, scientific and higher education affairs in the region.

The region and its universities have a relevant activity in regional development: IMPIVA (a regional public corporation for developing regional enterprises), the Technological Park of Valencia (set up by the regional government) and the Technological Parks of the Technical University of Valencia (Ciudad Politécnica de la Innovación), University of Valencia (Parque Científico Burjassot – Paterna) and University of Alicante (Parque Científico del Mediterráneo – Medpark) are a sample of these activities. In addition, a research institute (INGENIO, Institute for the Knowledge Management), depending on the National Research Council in Valencia is dedicated to analyze and assess the relevance of the links between universities, research centres and the economic environment. This Institute would be scientific adviser of the project.

#### **4. The Scope and Level of Involvement of Regional Stakeholders in the Project**

The project would be carried out by the new Agency for Assessment and Prospective, depending (as an autonomous body) on the Ministry on Enterprise, Universities and Science. This Agency has been created as a permanent observatory of all kind of scientific, technological and university programs in the region in order to stimulate and improve the influence of our universities in the economic and social development of the region and will have an important role throughout the project cycle.

This new Agency will be operative at the beginning of the year 2005. In the mean time the Valencian Commission for Quality Assessment, depending of the same Ministry will be in charge.

Professor Jose-Gines Mora, current coordinator of the Commission for Quality Assessment, and proposed Director of the New Agency (that will absorb at the end of the year the Commission), will be the coordinator of this project.

INGENIO, a research institute for Management of Knowledge, depending on the CSIC (National Research Council and the Technical University of Valencia) will provide technical support to the project.

#### **5. Resources for Further Information on the Region** (i.e. web-site, published report etc)

[www.gva.es](http://www.gva.es); [www.uv.es](http://www.uv.es); [www.upv.es](http://www.upv.es); [www.ua.es](http://www.ua.es); [www.uji.es](http://www.uji.es); [www.umh.es](http://www.umh.es);  
[www.ingenio.upv.es](http://www.ingenio.upv.es); [www.uch.ceu.es](http://www.uch.ceu.es); [www.ucv.es](http://www.ucv.es);