



© Euroregion Pyrenees-Mediterranee

Business incubator “Barcelona Activa”, Creamed project (Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion)

Regional authorities, which have key competences in the area of economic development (regarding innovation, training, research and entrepreneurship) in the majority of Member States, are encouraged to take ownership of this new framework and use it to draw up development strategies that allow them to mobilise and increase the economic potential of their territories.

**Regional innovation and smart specialisation strategies (SRI-SIs)** identify regions’ assets in terms of research, technological development and innovation, determine the areas that are to be prioritised in terms of investment in the coming years and establish cross-cutting priorities that will foster synergies within the regional economy. These strategies should act as road maps for the regional authorities for the 2014-2020 period in the area of innovation.

However, cross-border economic development is not systematically targeted as a territorial asset and a potential competitive advantage at the level of the global economy by all border regions. In the case of France, such targeting is uneven:

- **The regions of Nord-Pas de Calais, Lorraine, Alsace, Franche-Comté, Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Languedoc-Roussillon and Aquitaine** all make reference to the need to pursue cross-border technological partnerships, notably as regards digital and creative industries in Nord-Pas de Calais, smart tooling and eco-efficient processes in Lorraine, new technologies and chemicals in Alsace, etc., but there is little focus on this aspect in Languedoc-Roussillon and Aquitaine. Convergence at inter-regional and European level is generally targeted by those same regions.

However, the identification of cross-border potentialities is based solely on an analysis of the economic fabric of the region, without any regard for the innovation ecosystem of the neighbouring country, which is a player in its own right in any cross-border technological partnership.