

BORDER	France / Spain
TERRITORY	Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion; Aquitaine-Euskadi Euroregion
DATE	2013 and 2014
OBJECTIVE	Formulation of Euroregional strategies with a dimension linked to cross-border economic development

## WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

The strategic role of the regions in the area of economic development was strengthened during the 2007-2013 European programme period, with the formulation of regional innovation strategies. This trend will continue in the 2014-2020 period as Smart Specialisation Strategies – S3 – will take over.

The Euroregions are becoming an important level for the formulation of cross-border strategies for economic development.

## WHAT DO THE STRATEGIES CONSIST OF?

In 2014, the **Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euroregion**, which is made up of the Midi-Pyrénées and Languedoc-Roussillon Regions and the Autonomous Communities of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, **put in place a Euroregional Innovation Strategy for three priority sectors** (water, e-health and agri-food) and a cross-cutting area (tourism).

The objective of this strategy is to encourage Euroregional collaboration in the cooperation between public-sector and economic players in the four member regions. The strategy will also contribute to the integrated territorial development of the Euroregion. In the same way as the regional S3S, this strategy aims to focus public resources on a small number of sectors in which the Euroregion has a global comparative advantage. In concrete terms, it will support initiatives that make more sense and have a greater impact at the Euroregional level.

The basis for this strategy is an assessment that has highlighted complementarities in the regional innovation strategies of the four regions that make up the Euroregion. Comparative analyses of the three priority sectors, which notably brought out the four regions' common aspirations and challenges, made it possible to identify sub-topics of common interest (cross-border areas of specialisation). Lastly, for each area of specialisation the Euroregion's assets, the dominant players in the four member regions and existing projects were analysed.

### THE EUROREGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGY SETS OUT TWO STRATEGIC WORK GUIDELINES:

- to reconcile top-down and bottom-up approaches in order to take better account of the aspirations of players on the ground
- to create the conditions necessary for the emergence of a Euroregional ecosystem of innovation