Fitting the needs of national and regional variation and specificities: Spain

Ministry of Science and Innovation
R&I is a shared competence between State and Regions

**Strategic level**

This convergence is governed in the Science Law, and there are mechanisms put in place to ensure coordination: the **National Strategy**, the **regional programs** (which form the S3) and the **Council of STI Policy (policy level)**. The EU dimension is fully included in the EECTI design.

**Relevant stakeholders in STI policy**

The ministry of Science and Innovation, the Ministries in charge of the Green and Digital Transitions and Agricultures among others are also a part of this coordination together with the 17 regions.

**Funding**

AEI, ISCIII and CDTI are the most important funding agencies at national level.
There is a need for an ambitious, the NRRP shows a well designed package of measures to confront the global crisis and turn Spanish economy into a knowledge-based system fuelled by innovation.

The Science, Technology and Innovation National Strategy 2021-2027 (EECTI) has been designed taking into account the new multiannual financial framework and the EU RDI program initiatives as well as the new recovery instrument and the national priorities.

The EECTI aims at contributing to the National Energy and Climate Plan of Spain; the RDI Strategy on AI and other key national and regional policies where RDI is a key pillar such as RIS3.
Regional competitiveness levels span a wide range.

**Variable competitiveness**

Spain is a moderate innovator according to the Innovation Index 2019. But some are modest innovators. Compared to 2018, performance in 2019 has improved.

**Variability among S3 strategies: cultural, economic and R&I realities**
National and Regional strategic and planning initiatives in R&I:

- Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan for the Spanish Economy 2020-2023
- The Science Crash Plan 2020-2021
- EECTI 2021-2027
- MFF European Programming 2021-2027
- Regional and State Smart Specialization Strategies 2021-2027
- PEICTI 2021-2023
Spain, MCIN has worked on the creation of the 5 Mirror Groups:

- Under the MCIN, they coordinate the codesign work since May 2019
- Collaboration with Mission Boards and Assemblies.
- Composed of the main agents: RFO, RPO, Ministries, relevant stakeholders
- Looking for the impact for Spanish society: Subgroups with high capillarity
- Great institutional support: COP25, events with citizens of the Commission
- Great visibility of the national interests in the Mission Boards´ proposals
- They have a fundamental role in the success of the HE Missions in Spain.
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<th>Mission</th>
<th>Mirror Groups</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptation To Climate Change Including Societal Transformation</td>
<td>Representative: María Lydia Gonzalez, CDTI</td>
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<td>Alternate: Margarita Ruiz Ramos UPM</td>
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<td>Cancer</td>
<td>Representative: Gonzalo Arévalo, ISCIII</td>
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<td>Alternate: Juan Carlos García Borrón, Univ. Murcia</td>
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<td>Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal And Inland Waters</td>
<td>Representative: Marta March, MCIU-SEUIDI</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:marta.march@ciencia.gob.es">marta.march@ciencia.gob.es</a></td>
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<td>Alternate: Miguel Angel Gilarranz, Univ. Autónoma Madrid</td>
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<td>Climate-Neutral And Smart Cities</td>
<td>Representative: Yolanda Benito Moreno, CIEMAT</td>
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<td>Alternate: Jesus Arauzo Univ. Zaragoza</td>
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<td>Soil Health And Food.</td>
<td>Representative: Rocío Lansac, INIA</td>
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<td>Alternate: Juan Luis Ramos CSIC</td>
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Mirror Groups = National hub?

The objective of these national groups is to integrate their vision and needs in specific areas of missions and strategic planning.

Define and communicate priorities to help designing Missions, on the basis of national the research and innovation capacities and stakeholders.

The current challenge is to identify national and regional programs, research and innovation projects which become part of the Missions portfolios.

They have the capacity to analyse key planning documents of the Missions.

The local dimension might be relevant for some Missions, but these entities have not the capacity (in their majority) to lead the R&I dimension of Missions.
Main challenges for Implementing Missions nationally

• The Missions need to establish a structures and governance capable to:

• Integrating current support structures at national and regional level

• Coordinating with funding agencies at national and regional level (local entities?).

• Connecting and promoting synergies between actions and different funding programmes (not only R&I) at EU, national and regional levels we shall reach the purpose of the HE Missions.

• They must be complementary to Partnerships' governing structures.

• Will these governing structures analyse opt out strategies of non-successful lines of action?

• The missions portfolio must gather regional and national projects and RFOs need to contribute in this task, but how?
Main challenges for Implementing Missions nationally

*Missions must be grounded in the reality of national and regional set ups:*

**Identifiers.** It is essential that Missions’ governance propose identifiers to be included in the national and regional calls, projects and actions.

**Indicators.** Missions' indicators should be gathering national and regional investments

**Coherence with WP design.** National hubs should contribute to the Mission’s WP part.

**Visibility.** The structures put in place should favour that missions are identified in key EU regulations and documents, improving the visibility in key sectoral ministries (for example, finance ministry as management authority of ERDF funds to align missions and S3s)

**Synergies.** It is essential that the governance includes other EU program sources as Mission although they are rooted in R&I, Horizon Europe will only fund R&I actions.

**Representativity.** R&I policy and funding national and regional stakeholders should be present through nominated representatives in the relevant governing bodies.