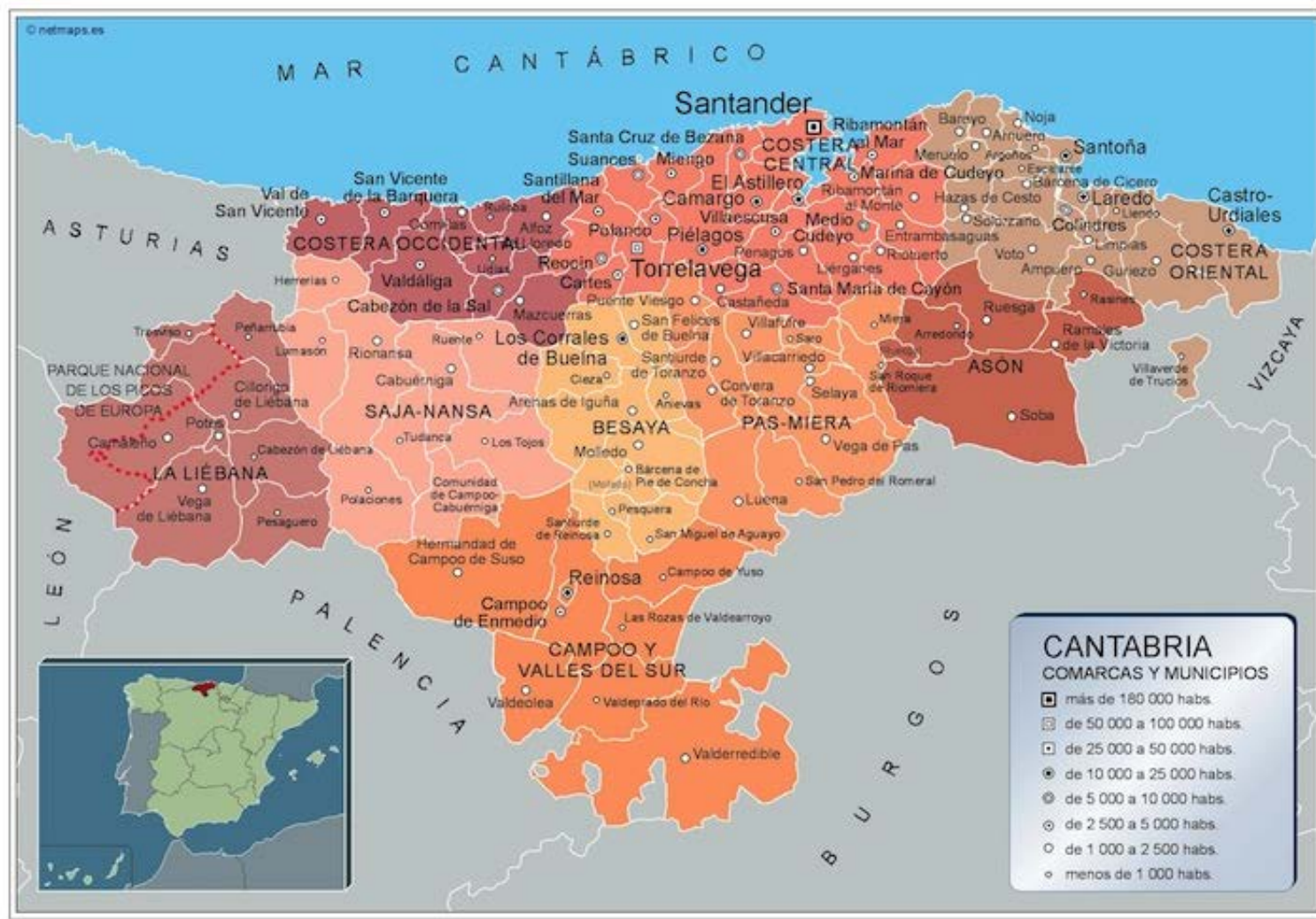




# European Projects Office – Regional Government of Cantabria

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MAR CANTÁBRICO

ASTURIAS

LEÓN

PALENCIA

BURGOS

VIZCAYA



San Vicente del Mar

San Vicente de la Barquera

Santillana del Mar

Santander

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COSTERA ORIENTAL

PARQUE NACIONAL DE LOS PICOS DE EUROPA

LA LIÉBANA

SAJA-NANSA

BESAYA

PAS-MIERA

ASON

COSTERA OCCIDENTAL

Tonelavega

COSTERA AL MAR

Castro-Urdiales

Cabezón de la Sal

Los Corrales de Buelna

Camargo

El Astillero

Marina de Gudeyo

Santaña

Reocín

Cartes

Polanco

El Valle de los Carriños

Marina de Cudeyo

Laredo

Valdáliga

Mazcuerras

Reinosa

San Vicente de Cañas

Medio Cudeyo

Castro-Urdiales

Trasmoz

Puerto Viego

San Felices de Buelna

Castañeda

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Potres

Arenas de Iguña

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Cabezón de Liébana

Tudanca

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Vega de Liébana

Los Tojos

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Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Pesaguero

Comunidad de Campoo-Cabuérniga

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

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Polaciones

Hermidad de Campoo de Suso

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Camaleño

Campoo de Enmedio

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Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Vega de Liébana

Las Rozas de Valdearroyo

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Cabezón de Liébana

Valdeolea

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Vega de Liébana

Valdegrado del Río

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Vega de Liébana

Valderredible

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

Castro-Urdiales

Vega de Liébana

Valdeolea

Sanjurjo de Toranzo

Villafuere

Entrambisaguas

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# The region

- **Name:** Autonomous Region of Cantabria
- **Population size:** 582,206 (2016)
- **GDP** (€ per person per year): 21,553 Euros (2016)
  - In 2017, the GDP figure was 12,539 million euros
  - Cantabria covers an area of 531,817 hectares (1.1% of all Spanish territory)
  - The second autonomous community with the smallest population (only ahead of La Rioja)
  - Cantabria has an over aged population (as of 2016, roughly 20.500 inhabitants were aged between 80 and 84 years)

# Some facts and figures

- Cantabria, is a complex and diverse region despite its small demographic size.
- The territory has a clear presence of rural areas with a high socio-demographic and territorial imbalance.
- For decades the regional productive fabric had focused on traditional activities (agriculture and livestock) and to a lesser extent on an obsolete industrial supplier of manufacturing.
- During the period of economic growth (in the early 2000's), labor-intensive and low-skilled activities were favored (in sectors such as construction and real estate), to which tourism and complementary activities were added, as well as a large sector of auxiliary business activities.
- Nevertheless, the recent economic crisis blew up this structure and ended up dynamiting an already impoverished industrial sector, with the consequent loss of employment, deindustrialization and emigration of the scarce existing skilled labor.

# Some facts and figures

- In a context of economic renewal and in order to avoid the repetition of old patterns and meet the European objective of achieving by 2020 that 20% of European GDP comes from the industrial sector, the Government of Cantabria is making important efforts to follow the guidelines marked in the so-called RIS3 strategy.
- The Regional Government is aware that there is a key moment in which it is necessary an economic transformation oriented towards technological investment, innovation and industrial transition.
- In terms of regional innovation specialization, Cantabria follows the guidelines set by the Spanish Science and Technology and Innovation Strategy. For the period 2014-2020 several sectoral focus areas have been defined, considering the socioeconomic context.

# Challenges, opportunities and regional innovation

## **Main socio-economic and environmental challenges**

- In economic terms, the activities with greater weight within the regional economy are, in order of importance, trade, manufacturing, public administration and construction.
- Industrial activities have a significant relative weight in the economy of Cantabria, contributing 20% of the regional GDP and surpassing the relative weight that the industry has in the state GDP (15.5%).
- Especially noteworthy is the contribution to the GDP of the metallurgy and metal products manufacturing sector.

## **How these can be or have been addressed through innovation?**

- Innovation and technological development have become the backbone of the region's economic development.
- In recent years a large number of technology-based companies have been created. Different stakeholders have been involved in this initiative such the University of Cantabria through the CDTUC and the Regional Government promoting the creation of the Science and Technology Park PCTCAN);

# Regional Innovation Strategy and a collective vision

## **Is there a collective vision of what the region want in the next 10, 20 or more years?**

- The policies to promote a transformation of the productive model of the region began to be considered at the end of the 90's.
- Several strategies have been implemented by Cantabria to achieve the high intelligent specialization of the sectors mentioned above and also meet the objectives of increased competitiveness proposed by the Government of Spain and the European Union.
- The strategies have revolved around the following premises:
  - Promotion of R&D+I
  - Creation of specialization clusters
  - Generation of innovation networks based on the articulation of priority actors (both public and private).
  - Boosting the entrepreneurship of technology-based companies

## **How can this be developed connecting government, business, research and civil society stakeholders?**

- The region has made efforts over the past decade to promote research and design innovation networks.
- The University of Cantabria and other research centers and organizations specialized in provide support on entrepreneurship and innovation (such SODERCAN or CISE) have played an important role.

# Regional Innovation Strategy and a collective vision

**How your region can tap into the views and expectations of the relevant regional stakeholders (i.e. government, business, research and civil society) in order to either evolve the existing vision or to develop one from scratch**

- Over the years the work of the different stakeholders involved (Government, SODERCAN, University of Cantabria, among others) in the support of entrepreneurship, the promotion of innovation and the creation of clusters has been fundamental.
- The recent economic crisis forced to increase efforts in terms of innovation, productivity and external positioning. Promoted by the Government, the companies of the region developed their ability to organize and cooperate in sectoral business groups or specialization clusters.



# Regional Innovation Strategy and an action plan

How your current/future collective vision is/could be transformed into an action plan with clear roles and responsibilities for different stakeholders?

*Looking for creating a sustainable Europe “living well within the limits of our planet” ...*

- ... Innovation and technological development have become the backbone of the region's economic development.
- Science, Technology and Innovation is a fundamental tool in our region to implement the new 2030 Agenda
- It allows to improve efficiency in both economic and environmental senses and to develop new and more sustainable ways to satisfy human needs, and empowering people to drive their own future.
- To do that, our STI policies have been defined and aligned to achieve the following objectives:
  - **Switch the focus**, reorienting mindsets and behaviors, refocusing from technology transfer to building innovation capacity;
  - **Strengthen partnerships**, enhancing engagement with developing countries in existing EU instruments, engaging all stakeholders (especially the private sector), developing tailor-made international STI initiatives;
  - **“Walk the talk”**, addressing causes of implementation gaps, ensuring domestic integration of the SDGs in/with STI, improving policy coherence, building up opportunities to benefit from the “data revolution”, and setting up monitoring, evaluation and assessments of STI4SD



# Thank you !

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