

5. NATIONAL R&D PLAN 2004-2007

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Link to the FECYT 'Practical Guide for Foreign Researchers in Spain 2006':
<http://www.eracareers.es/fecyt/guia/guiahtml5.jsp>

5.2 R&D IN CANTABRIA

The R&D Regional Plan (PRIDI) seeks to fulfil a relevant function in the context of a society of knowledge, whose postulates are aligned with the aim stated by the European Union in the Lisbon Summit: to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge economy in the world. To this end, the UE has established the objective of assigning 3 per cent of its PIB to R&D activities by the year 2010.

Within the framework of this strategy, in April of 2005 the European Commission presented the VII R&D Framework Program and the first Competitiveness and Innovation Program. The objective of this second initiative is to deliberately support business innovation.

On its part, the Spanish Government has promoted the INGENIO 2010 Program, which seeks to close the 'scientific-technological gap' in relation with the rest of the UE countries. In order to accomplish this goal, it plans to increase investment in R&D by a minimum of 25 per cent by year, through subsidies and soft loans.

The Government of Cantabria has also prioritized this policy, by presenting it as one of the twelve strategic axes of the so-called '*2004-2007 Plan de Gobernanza*'. Thus, the axis 'Technological, Business and Industrial Design of Cantabria' expressly intends to foster the System of Regional Innovation through vehicles such as the R&D Regional Plan.

Further information:
www.gobcantabria.es