



INSPIRATIONAL  
CASE

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# PAIRING REPORT:

## RÍO GRANDE-ALBACETE

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INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION  
European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean



A European Union  
Programme

# RÍO GRANDE-ALBACETE

THE TRANSFER OF THE ALBACETE'S BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTER MODEL ALLOWED RIO GRANDE TO CREATE ITS BUSINESS INCUBATION AND ACCELERATION CENTER WHICH OBTAINED THE FIRST EBN CERTIFICATION PROVIDED BY THE EU TO AN INNOVATION CENTER IN ARGENTINA.

## THE PAIRING AT A GLANCE

Río Grande is a city in Argentina on the north coast of the eastern part of the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego.

Albacete is a city and municipality in the Spanish autonomous community of Castilla-La Mancha, and capital of the homonymous province.

### Keywords

- #Promotion of business and entrepreneurship
- #Public-private cooperation
- #Energy

### Thematic areas of cooperation

- Renewable energy
- Entrepreneurship
- Tourism industry

### Objectives

1

Creation in Río Grande of a Business Incubator with integrated acceleration model

2

Exchange of experiences for the support of ICT Start-ups

3

Green energy development

4

Tourist development

## Activities

The two **study visits** held in 2018 allowed the cities of Albacete and Rio Grande to identify the topics for the cooperation. In order to boost the creation of new businesses and to foster new lines of activity in Rio Grande, the Albacete's model of Business Innovation Centre was visited. The cities agreed that transferring this model to Rio Grande would be very helpful to support entrepreneurship in the city.

Complementing the study visits, **two internships were carried out**. During these internships, Albacete's experts transferred to Rio Grande the business

## Stakeholders involved

**Albacete (EU):** Albacete City Council, European Business Network, Space for Labor and Technological Development-, Association of Video Game Developers, Association of Companies in the ICT sector of Albacete, Albacete Technology Park.



technological models which have allowed generating quality jobs in the city; and supported the Rio Grande's team working in the creation of a Business Innovation Center (BIC) in their city, using the existing EBN (European BIC-Business) methodology to promote this Center to be approved as BIC with the European standard.

**Rio Grande (LAC):** Municipality of Rio Grande, Argentine Chamber of Software, Institute of Innovation and Development of the University of Tierra del Fuego.



## MAIN INTERVENTION-PILOT PROJECT

### **EBN certification of the first Business Innovation Center in Argentina.**

The city of Albacete transferred the European Business Innovation Centre (BIC) model to Rio Grande, whose main objective is the promotion of new innovative companies at local and regional level.

**Due to this cooperation, the city of Rio Grande created the Business Incubation and Acceleration Center (CIAN) with the purpose of improving the competitiveness of the city's business network and enhancing the capabilities of the territory.**

At the same time, due to Albacete's vast experience with solar energy, the companies of the city have been involved in the cooperation city-to-city and have **exchanged know-how in relation with the new environmentally friendly energy matrix in Rio Grande.**

## MAIN IMPACTS AT LOCAL LEVEL

A radical level of innovation has been reached in this project, since the cooperation with the Spanish city of Albacete has concreted in the Argentinian city of Rio Grande a new Business Innovation Center model that did not exist in the city, and that received the certification of the European Commission to become a member of the European Business and Innovation Centers Network (EBN), an international scientific and technical association, which brings together more than 250 European Business and Innovation Centers (CEEI) distributed all over Europe. **This is the first EU certified Business Center in Argentina and the second in South America.**

The transfer of the Albacete's BIC model will serve as a platform for start-ups in Rio Grande that will diversify its economic matrix by creating

an **entrepreneurial and global environment supporting entrepreneurship in the ICT sector.** This new environment is already promoting the internationalization of its start-ups.



## LESSONS LEARNED AND ADDED-VALUE OF IUC

The IUC Program has provided real solutions to problems that occurred in our territory that have generated an unthinkable level of transformation.

Within the package of projects developed, those that depended on a smaller volume of financing were those that were implemented, but far from constituting a deficit, it also allowed us to learn that the structural transformations that our cities need are more in need of ideas and cases.

Though sometimes the results of the international cooperation are intangible, they have an enormous value in such a complex world. Promoting collaborations between places so far apart from each other is essential for our society.

- Albacete

Achieving an EU-approved Innovation Center would have been unthinkable and unattainable had it not been for the bridge that the IUC Program has built.

An internationalization action has been anchored even beyond the political change recently occurred in the city of Rio Grande.

A governance logic has been strengthened in which local governments can no longer act alone, but must involve academic, private and social actors. This represents a great commitment to innovation.

- Rio Grande

## CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Related **SDGs**:

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Urban Agenda for the EU: Energy transition

## INTEREST IN FUTURE THEMATIC NETWORKS

Interest shown by **Río Grande** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

Interest shown by **Albacete** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

<b>NETWORK 1</b>	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport	<b>NETWORK 1</b>	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport
<b>NETWORK 2</b>	Smart Cities & Digital Transition	<b>NETWORK 2</b>	Smart Cities & Digital Transition
<b>NETWORK 3</b>	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity	<b>NETWORK 3</b>	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity
<b>NETWORK 4</b>	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption	<b>NETWORK 4</b>	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption
<b>NETWORK 5</b>	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions	<b>NETWORK 5</b>	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions
<b>NETWORK 6</b>	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality	<b>NETWORK 6</b>	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality
<b>NETWORK 7</b>	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills.	<b>NETWORK 7</b>	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills

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