

Una manera de hacer Europa



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

PLAnd COVID-19, an online platform to fight the pandemic from within Andalusia

Andalusian Knowledge Agency

**Programa Operativo
de Andalucía**

Año 2020

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

PLAnd COVID-19, an online platform to fight the pandemic from within Andalusia

Because of the health emergency situation caused by the expansion of COVID-19, declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, the Regional Government of Andalusia launches PLAnd COVID-19. This is an Andalusian platform for the reception, identification, analysis, and transfer of skills and innovation solutions for the fight against COVID-19 of Andalusian companies and R&D&I agents of the Andalusian Knowledge System.

During April 2020, the Andalusian Knowledge Agency launched a website called PLAnd COVID-19 (<https://covid19.aac.es/>). This digital platform aims to collect, identify, and analyse possible innovative technologies, skills, and solutions that respond to the urgent needs arisen from the SARS-COV-2 pandemic in the region. PLAnd COVID-19, which has received more than 460 initiatives since its launch, has the financial support of the ERDF.



The cost of this initiative is EUR 9,438, and it has received 80% European co-funding through the ERDF. With this action of knowledge transfer and cooperation between companies and research centres, the intention is to increase the percentage of companies with technological innovations that cooperate with universities and public or private research centres towards the target of 27.9% in 2023, as compared to the 21.05% from 2016.

It is considered a Project's Good Practice since it complies with the following criteria:

1. The ERDF's role has been suitably disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries, and the general public:

The Directorate General of European Funds of the Regional Government of Andalusia has disseminated an extensive report in its "Huella" digital magazine no. 13, May-June 2020, where the ERDF's participation in the action is widely highlighted:

<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiaconocimientoempresauniversidad/fondoseuropeosenandalucia/huella1420/post-type-2.php?idC=6&idN=349&idR=76>

This report has also been disseminated through the Directorate General of European Funds YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmNcrbT68aY&list=PLjFwCQ07s_WYbc2GBTnL7y1MjG0UMfxkD&index=6&t=0s

For its part, social networks have also been an important means of dissemination of this action. On Facebook, the European Funds account in Andalusia has shared the project, achieving almost 1,500 views.



Several public and private institutions and entities also shared the news of the launch of this "PLAnd COVID-19" website on their social media accounts (Twitter). Among them, the Association of Scientific and Technological Parks of Spain (APTE, for its acronym in Spanish), Rabanales 21, Invest In Cadiz, Cadifornia, Maritime-Marine Cluster of Andalusia, University of Cadiz, CTAndalucía, Extenda. Here are images of some of them:



University of the Regional Government of Andalusia and the Andalusian Knowledge Agency reached 3,200 views in April 2020, and more than 300 projects were registered on the platform. In May, the platform already had more than 400 initiatives.

The specialised digital press has also echoed the creation of this website, such as the website of the Research and Results Transfer Office of the University of Granada (OTRI, for its acronym in Spanish):

<http://otri.ugr.es:8081/noticias/pland-covid19-plataforma-para-identificar-tecnologias-y-soluciones-de-innovacion-aplicables-la-lucha-contra-el-covid-19/>



Finally, this project has been broadcast on Onda Cero radio on November 17, 2020, with an interview to the Secretary General of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency to explain the action and the implementation of the platform thanks to ERDF co-funding and to value the 483 innovative skills and solutions registered and the 91 agreements formalised: http://www.fondoseuropeosandalucia.es/radio/PLAN_COVID.MP3

2. The action incorporates innovative elements:

The implementation of this initiative aims to have a platform that collects, identifies, and analyses possible technologies and innovative solutions to respond to the health needs caused by the pandemic. The ultimate goal is to help prevent the progression of the disease and its negative effects on the Andalusian population.

To this end, it is essential to have innovative ideas, technologies, and products and services in both the Andalusian business sector and the R&D&I agents that make up the Andalusian Knowledge System, so that they can jointly respond to the urgent health need that the Andalusian Public Health System has to face. For this reason, the Regional Government of Andalusia calls on research and business staff to share their research lines and products on this platform, as well as their skills and experience, so that they can make themselves available to the Health System as soon as possible. "PLAnd COVID-19" is available from April 6, 2020 through the website: <https://covid19.aac.es/>

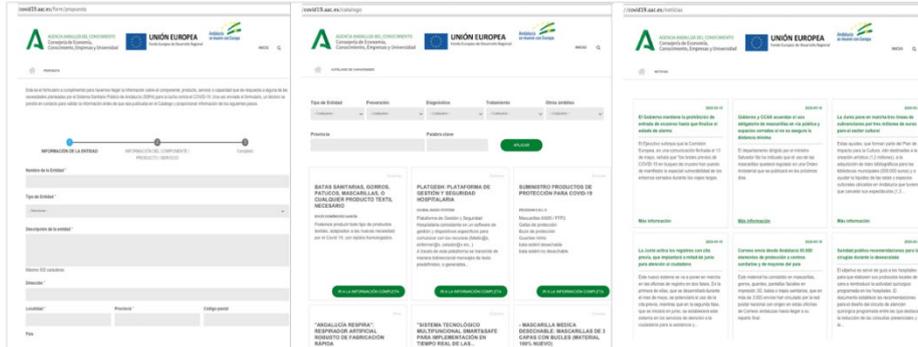
3. Adaptation of the obtained results to the established objectives:

The platform has collected a total of 461 innovative skills/solutions, among which we can find initiatives for the development and production of sanitary material and equipment such as surgical masks, FFP2 and FFP3 protection masks, PCR kits for COVID-19 diagnosis, quick diagnostic kits, safety goggles, hydroalcoholic solution, and respirators, among others.

The operation of the platform is very simple and is based on three sections: forms, catalogue, and information of interest.

The first section offers a form to be completed to provide information about the product, service or skill that responds to any of the needs posed by the Andalusian Public Health Service for the fight against COVID-19. Once the form is submitted, a technician from the Andalusian Knowledge Agency validates the initiative and provides information on the following steps.

Skills data recorded in the PLAnd COVID-19



Once the initiative has been validated, it is sent to the Progress and Health Foundation, an agency under the Regional Ministry of Health and Families that has competences in health R& D&I and analyses each offer to determine the need it covers. If any initiative of interest is detected for Andalusia, it is 'under study' until the Foundation contacts the entity and values the possibility of monetizing it. Once studied and valued, the initiative or solution is made public to the users of the platform in the second section of the platform, "online catalogue", which currently has 433 published solutions.

Of the 461 innovative solutions collected, 81 are in the process of being negotiated and 57 have finally become agreements between the companies of the platform and the Andalusian Health Service.

Finally, in the third section of the platform, "Information of interest", news and other documents of interest related to COVID-19 are published to be broadcast among the entities of the platform and among citizens in general. Up to date, 255 documents have been published.

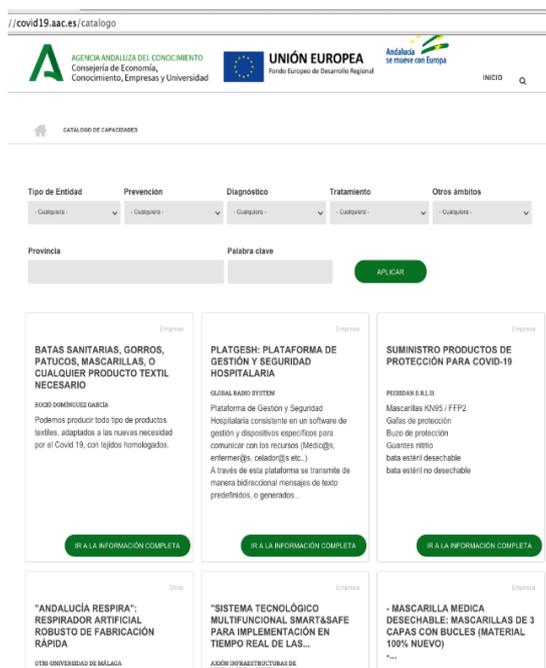
4. Resolution contribution of a regional problem or weakness:

The main problem intended to be addressed is to find solutions that the administration needs immediately in the health field and in the emergency context in which the society is now as a result of the situation caused by the coronavirus. On the other hand, in a general manner, this platform is also intended to help re-analyse the little presence of Andalusian R&D&I relative to the GDP compared to Spain and Europe.

To do this, among the solutions that the platform tries to provide are those that involve the development and production of sanitary material and equipment such as surgical and protective masks; kits for sampling in means of transport; containers of biological samples; protective coveralls; COVID-19 PCR diagnostic kits; quick diagnostic kits; safety goggles; disposable and waterproof gloves and robes; hydroalcoholic solution; and mechanical ventilation devices, among others.

It also includes other important solutions such as the production of respirators; physical equipment that facilitates the logistics and distribution of elements; and new sanitary materials to be clinically validated by healthcare professionals, and subsequently approved by the responsible entities. It also comprises the development of platforms and services for the crisis management such as technological platforms that

facilitate the management and/or distribution of materials and improvement of health logistics as a whole; systems for early identification of health needs and improvement of information and communication systems; video consultation platforms for patients in medical-patient follow-up; provision of equipment to enable telework in radiology; as well as high resolution screens for teleradiology or other specialties.



5. High target population coverage:

This initiative is mainly aimed at the agents of the Andalusian Knowledge Service and Andalusian companies, so that they can develop innovative solutions that cover health needs either individually or jointly. However, this initiative benefits the total Andalusian population, as the development of these solutions will slow down the pandemic and better serve the citizens in terms of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease.



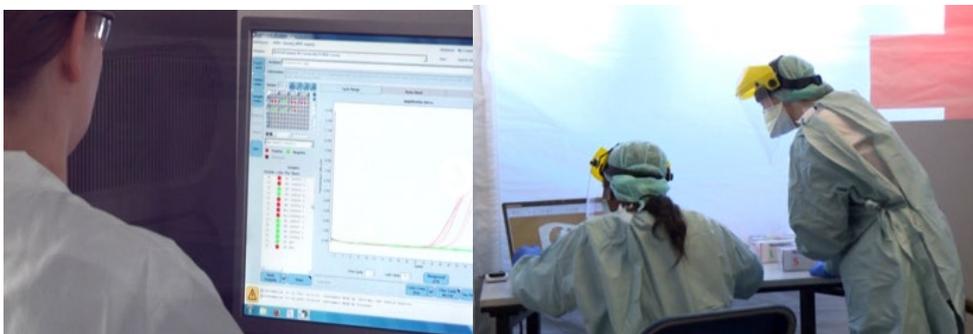
6. The horizontal criteria for equal opportunities and non-discrimination, environmental sustainability and/or social responsibility have been taken into account:

The disease caused by COVID-19 has affected, with different incidence rates, the male and female population, that is the target audience of the platform. In addition, sex differences, to the detriment of women in the research career and business world, both involved in providing solutions to the pandemic, have increased during confinement due to the family care gap. It should be added to this picture that a large majority of health workers infected with the disease have been women due to the feminisation of the sector, as well as other fundamental professions during the pandemic such as education, cleaning, or socio-health and care staff of risk groups such as those in nursing homes. For all the above, it is necessary for the platform to cover the full spectrum of solutions including this sex approach.

First, a balanced composition was pursued by the different teams involved in the management of the platform. Thus, the technical team of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency consists of 7 women and 3 men, and that of the Progress and Health Foundation, by 3 women and 3 men. The use of non-sexist language on the platform has also been ensured, as well as in the documents derived.

This platform also contributes to environmental sustainability in the sense that it provides environmentally friendly solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic that threatens cities and communities, endangering public health and the economic and social fabric.

Finally, social responsibility has been taken into account in the development of this platform by bringing together both the capacities of Andalusian companies, centres and research groups that approach a social concern such as, at the moment, COVID-19 disease, as well as news and information of interest related to the virus.

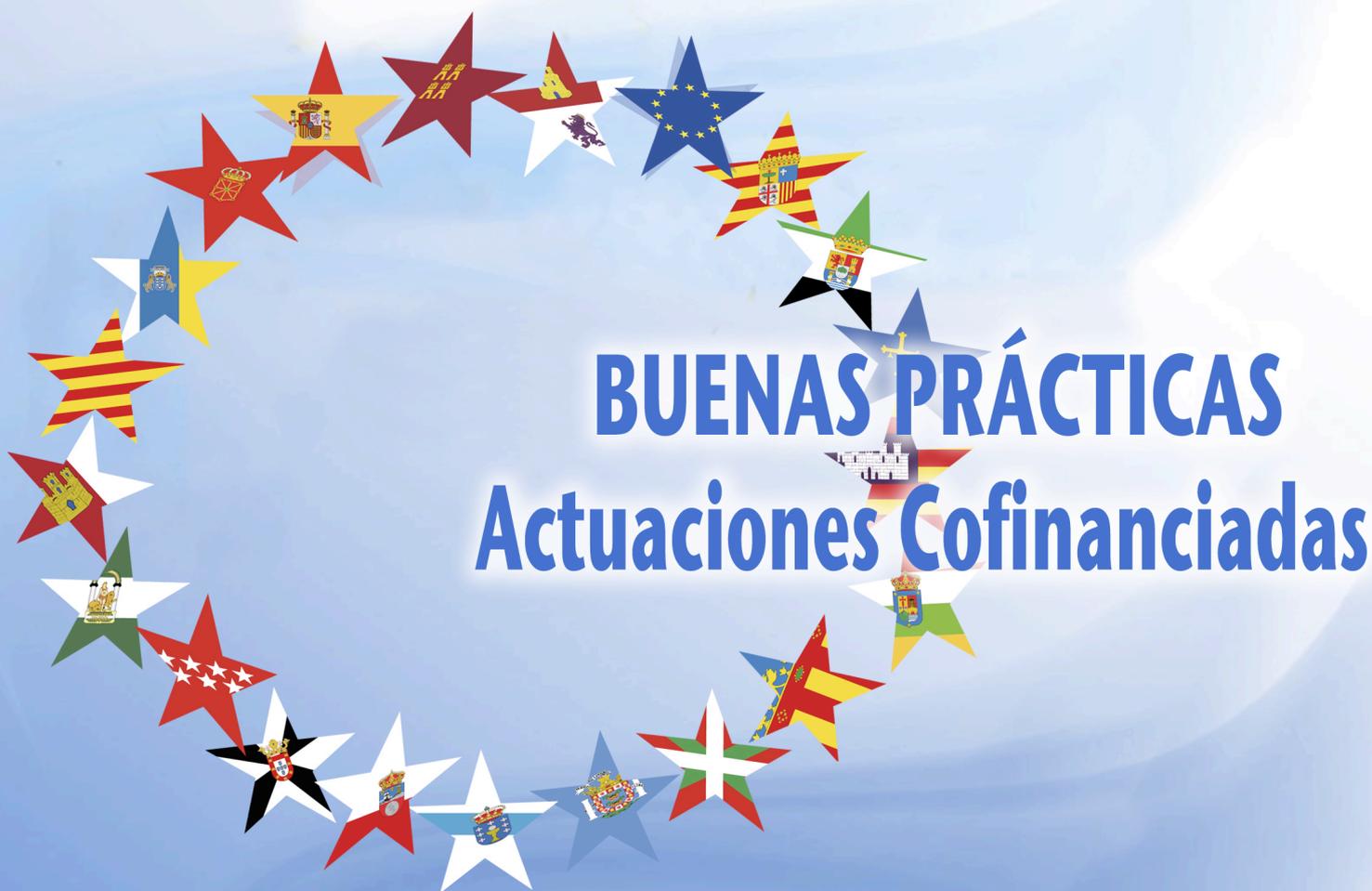


7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments:

This action is in line with the IV Andalusian Health Plan that, among its commitments, includes the generation and development of the health assets of our community, places the Andalusian Public Health System at the service of citizens with the leadership of its professionals, and manages knowledge and technology with sustainability criteria.

In addition, the action falls within the development of the policy framed in the Europe 2020 Strategy, within the priority of smart growth: an economy based on knowledge and innovation since it is intended to connect knowledge-generating institutions (universities, centres, and research groups) with the productive fabric so that there is a transfer of research results to Andalusian companies, thus increasing their competitiveness through innovation, and wealth and social welfare generation.

Una manera de hacer Europa



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional