

Title of the initiative
5TOI Quintuple Helix Approach to Targeted Open Innovation in Energy, Water, Agriculture in the South Mediterranean Neighborhood
Idea origin (country) The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Spain
Idea origin (institution) The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA
Brief description
<p>The 5TOI_4EWAS project adopts an innovative approach to addressing the interconnections between Food, Energy, and Water (FEW) through a NEXUS perspective, leveraging the Quintuple Helix Approach (QHA) to involve diverse stakeholders across Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). This initiative aims to foster regional development and enhance innovative ecosystems by integrating smart specialization strategies and addressing societal challenges. Key objectives include strengthening the FEW NEXUS approach by creating a balanced, innovative-driven ecosystem and aligning with regional initiatives and existing bilateral agreements. The project emphasizes broad stakeholder involvement to refine priority-setting mechanisms and ensure effective collaboration. Additionally, it seeks to increase research capacity, promote the mobility of young researchers, and establish stable conditions for open innovation through international cooperation.</p> <p>The proposal also plans to build synergies among ongoing efforts via structures like the NEXUS Think Tank (NTT) and Network of Advisors Board (NAB), while facilitating the development of a Joint Action Plan (JAP) as a science diplomacy tool. This will help address obstacles, foster cooperation, and enhance research and innovation policy dialogue between the EU and MPCs. Furthermore, the project aims to enhance access to scientific excellence through capacity-building activities, joint research, and entrepreneurial collaborations, supported by large research infrastructures.</p>
Idea focus The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research management ○ Research methodology ○ Research implementation ○ Communication of research ○ Cooperation in research
Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?
The 5TOI_4EWAS project is inspiring for its innovative approach to the Food-Energy-Water NEXUS, fostering regional development in Mediterranean Partner Countries through inclusivity, collaboration, and alignment with existing initiatives. By combining capacity building, international cooperation, and science diplomacy, it empowers researchers and stakeholders to address global challenges sustainably.
Relevance of the initiative in its specific context (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)

The proposal generated significant changes by fostering deeper cooperation, increasing awareness of research opportunities, and addressing challenges in international collaboration. It provided a platform for sharing knowledge, organizing events, and ensuring that both regional and EU actors can engage in mutually beneficial research partnerships. Locally, it empowered research communities in partner countries, while nationally, it enhanced the capacity of both EU and international institutions. On an international level, the initiative supported broader scientific cooperation and alignment with EU priorities, promoting sustainable development and long-term partnerships across regions.

Target Group of the practice

- Administrative staff
- Academic staff
- University leaders
- Overall community
- Life-long learners
- Policy-makers

Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

5TOI_4EWAS initiative made a significant impact by enhancing research cooperation between the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). It improved access to EU funding, fostered stronger partnerships, and addressed barriers like limited infrastructure and intellectual property challenges.

Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

Several elements of the 5TOI_4EWAS initiative can be adapted and transferred to other contexts and fields. Its approach to multi-stakeholder collaboration, knowledge transfer, and capacity building can address complex challenges in fields like climate change and public health. Strategies to overcome cooperation barriers and create frameworks for international collaboration are transferable to various domains, while its model for integrating regional partners into EU-funded programs can foster global research cooperation. These elements offer a flexible framework for driving innovation and cross-border collaboration in diverse contexts.

Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

The establishment of strong, lasting partnerships between the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs) creates a solid foundation for ongoing collaboration. By involving diverse stakeholders, including researchers, industry, and policymakers, the initiative fosters broad ownership and support, which helps sustain its efforts over time.

Contact and references

Link: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/692523>
<https://www.uab.cat/>