



Entity: Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of the Valencia Region (VRCCC)
Address: Pz Alfonso el Magnánimo, 12, 46003-Valencia (Spain)
Department: European Public Affairs and Projects
Coordinator: Ana Benito
Phone: 00 34 963534072
e-mail: abenito@camarascv.org

www.camarascv.org

The Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of the Valencia Region is a legal entity regulated by law and formed by the Chambers of Commerce of Alcoy, Alicante, Castellón, Orihuela and Valencia and was decreed by the Council of the Generalitat Valenciana (Decree nº 81/1996, 26 April) a “consultative and collaborative organism for the Generalitat Valenciana and other autonomous institutions for the representation, management and co-ordination of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Services and Shipping of the Valencia Region”

The five Chambers which make up the Council, the General Management of Commerce and Consumption and the Regional Ministry for Trade and Industry are all represented in its governing and managing organisms.

The Council, in accordance with the objectives of the Chambers of Commerce, has been involved in initiatives to promote the Valencian economy. Among its activities are: to foster and co-ordinate the Community’s Chambers of Commerce through the development of numerous activities in the fields of information, training, foreign trade, co-operation, environment, transport, arts and crafts and industry. Many of these activities are carried out through programmes and agreements together with the Regional Administration.

The Chambers, being ancient institutions deeply rooted in the Valencian sectors, participate directly in the issues and problems related to the business sector. With long experience and a thorough knowledge of matters involving the Valencia economy, the mission of the Council of Chambers consists in co-ordinating the activities of the different Chambers, carrying out the policies of the Generalitat Valenciana regarding enterprises and acting as a revitalising agent for the economy and the businesses.

The Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of the Valencia Region is representing over 350.000 enterprises and 10% of the Spanish GDP.

The economic activity of the Valencia Region is structured in a similar way to that of other European countries. Services, with 63% of the total production, and especially tourism, commerce and transport, are the most significant sectors.

The output of the Valencia industry represents 10.6% of Spain’s total production, with the manufacture of consumer goods being the most important activity. However, the past few years have seen a rise in technological activities (chemistry, capital goods) and an increasing



presence of foreign multinational companies. Agriculture, an important source of income until a few decades ago, now only represents 3,2%.

The economy of the Valencia Region is open to the foreign market. It is also the second Spanish region in exports and the area with the highest positive commercial balance.

Thanks to its strategic geographical situation, in the centre of the Mediterranean Arc, and to the modernisation of the network of infrastructures (roads, railways and ports), the Valencia region has become one of the main European business centre.

In line with these objectives, the different services are organised as described below:

- **INFORMATION AND ADVICE**

In order to transmit relevant information to the Valencia companies for the adequate development of their business and to provide advice concerning the updating and innovation of businesses, part of the activities of the VRCCC are aimed to provide access to information through various forms of technology and training programmes.



- **INTERNATIONALISATION**

Activities in the fields of information, training, counselling, commercialisation assistance and market research are developed by the VRCCC to help the internationalisation of the Valencian SMEs.

Promotional Activities

- Programmes for the initiation of foreign commerce (PIPE)
- Global Subsidising Programme
- Other Internationalization programmes as, WIN_MARKET, BRANDEZ, R-FUERZA, ILI
- Programmes for the Promotion of the Chambers of Commerce of the Valencia Region abroad
- Commercial programmes
- Assistance at trade fairs
- Seminars and Meetings
- Foreign promotion network

Training actions

- Internationalisation seminars
- Grants
- International trade courses
- Language courses

Information programmes

- Exterior commerce and On-line bulletins
- Setting up and updating of data bases
- Publishing of books, export catalogues, monographs, guides, pamphlets, etc.
- Community information instruments: euro-office BC-NET, VANS and B.R.E.
- Exports prizes



SEIMED Services for the internationalisation and innovation in the EU (more info pag 5)

- **CECREM -Centro de Creación y Consolidación de Empresas**

(BUSINESS Centre to foster ENTERPRENEURSHIP and business consolidation)

A large part of the resources of the VRCCC are addressed towards the creation of businesses as one of the main ways to revitalise the job market. CECREM (Advice Service to support Entrepreneurship) is a service to encourage the creation of businesses which was designed jointly with the Generalitat Valenciana. It provides information, assistance with administrative procedures and advice to entrepreneurs and it is formed by 3 steps:

1. Business Creation/Business Plan
2. Economical-financial audit
3. Business consolidation



- **TRAINING**

The VRCCC collaborates with regional and local administration and with public and private institutions of vocational training in order to develop and offer workshops and training to prepare students according to the market job demand.

Moreover, the CCCV issued professional certificates.



- **ENVIRONMENT**

Maintaining the quality of the environment, and minimising the harmful impact of the different economic activities are new values within the socio-economic sphere of the Valencian enterprises. The VRCCC is aware that it is important to provide access for enterprises to adequate information and training regarding these issues, so that awareness and interest may foster the development of programmes, techniques and systems which guarantee quality and protect the environment.

- Editing and publishing of the “Reútil” magazine
- Publishing of Environmental Guides
- Development of industrial quality programmes
- Participation with a stand in the trade ECOFIRA Fair



- **Since 2007 the VRCCC has a competence function delegated by the Valencia Regional Ministry of Environment which are:**

- Transfer Prior Notification of hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste addressed to elimination, except those related to household waste.
- Plans of prevention of hazardous waste.
- Plans of prevention of packaging and packaging waste.
- Monitoring reports Plans packaging.
- Annual declarations packaging.
- Annual reports of non-hazardous waste presented.
- Itinerant Sheets collection to be used by small producers and control sheets collecting waste oils (document A waste oil).

- **RESEARCH AND STUDIES**

Over the past fifteen years, the VRCCC has done extensive research in the sector of commercial distribution, especially through the development of the “Plan de Acción Territorial Aplicado a la Distribución Comercial” (*“Territorial Plan of Action Applied to Commercial Distribution”*). Through these activities the VRCCC collaborates with and provides the Generalitat Valenciana advising on questions which affect commerce, industry and shipping, and introduces positive, new research dynamics which combine efforts and interests of the public administrations with other economic agents such as the Chambers, the associations of professionals and businesses, etc.

www.pateco.org



- **NEW TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATION**

To make companies aware of the information society, new technology and Innovation, the VRCCC with the collaboration of the Generalitat Valenciana designs and develops programmes (Innocámaras) and services (Punto de Innovación Cameral www.puntodeinnovacioncameral.org) for companies in order to foster and promote the importance to include innovation culture in the Valencia companies, especially SMEs.



- **MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES**

Two of the functions to be carried out by the VRCCC, as recognised by the Generalitat Valenciana, are the management of public assistance programmes for enterprises and the management of public services. To this end, the VRCCC and their Chambers which make it up provide access for companies to public programmes.



- **EUROPEAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS and PROJECTS**

[Managing Authority/intermediate body of the Operational Programme ERDF of the Valencia Region 2007-2013](#)

During 2007-2013, the VRCCC has participated together with the Generalitat Valenciana, as a Managing Authority and beneficiary of the **Operational Programme ERDF of the Valencia Region** through a collaboration agreement, in line with the historical commitment of the VRCCC, to foster entrepreneurship and promoting competitiveness, implementing measures acting in line 02/09/05 "INNOVATIVE ACTIONS of the COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS" Axis 2: DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS INNOVATION within the Priority Theme 09: "Other actions to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs" focused on the objectives of growth and employment.

Experiences of the Council of Chambers of Commerce of the Valencia Region in European Projects:

The VRCCC is deeply involved in European cooperation and participates in many European Programmes in the field of innovation, internationalisation and access to finance, among others, and also is member of the Enterprise European Network (EEN).



Previous European projects:

- Project **INNOCOMMERCE** (Innovation in Commerce), **Interreg IIIC**
- Project **CIUMED** (Medium size cities in the South East europe), **Interreg SUDOE**
- Project **ATI** (Attractiveness of the territory), **Interreg**
- Project **TOCEMA** (Management of Urban Centers), **Interreg**
- Project **INLEARNET** (Professional training), **Programme Leonardo da Vinci**,
- Project **CAESAR** (Dissemination of Corporate Social Responsibility), **DG Enterprise and Industry**
- Project **SME4E** (Energy efficiency in the SMEs), Programme **Intelligent Energy Europe**

Projects on going:

- Project **SEIMED** (www.seimed.eu) (Enterprise and Innovation Service in the Spanish Mediterranean), large international network of services and support to SMEs on European issues, **Programme CIP**, DG Enterprise and Industry. Through this network, the CCCV offers online services to the Valencia SMEs with the objective of make them growing and becoming more competitive in Europe and in other international markets.
- Project **Eco-Funding, MED Programme** (www.med-ecofunding.eu), ECOFUNDING aims to create a new structure to help the investment and access to energy and eco-innovation funds in the MED area in a key moment for the European strategic development due to a major credit and investment crisis and an excessive energy



dependence of the Southern Europe economies. **Lead Partner.**

- **FIREMED, MED Programme.** (www.firemed-project.eu), Financial instruments to support SMEs innovation in the field of renewable energy, **Partner.**



- **OPTIMIZEDMED, MED Programme.** (www.optimizedmed.eu). Optimizing and profiting best practices in the Med area on foreign trade, intermodal transport and maritime safety, improving the supply chain by using innovative ITC Tools, **Partner.**



Delegation of the Chambers in Brussels

From 2002 to 2010, the VRCCC managed its own office in Brussels; currently it is represented by the Chamber of Commerce of Spain.

The objectives of this office are: To get closer to the European information (Regulation, programmes...), to promote Enterprises and activities of the Valencia Region, to participate in EU cooperation projects, to create a network for further initiatives and projects, lobbying to defend the interest of the Valencian Chambers of Commerce.

Moreover, the VRCCC participates in **Eurochambres** (www.eurochambres.eu), the European Association of the Chambers of Commerce, representing around 2.000 chambers through Europe.



Challenges of the VRCCC:

- European strategy for playing an active role in the field through partnership promotion with other regional and local CCIs.
- To promote regional cooperation projects with EU CCIs, mainly with those based on the Mediterranean Area.
- To be for a bottom up process on the project definition trying to promote the experiences exchanges between different partners and the implementation of pilot demonstrative projects.
- To reinforce the dialogue with many different institutions in Brussels (European Commission, European Parliament, Business Organizations, Regional Delegations, etc).
- To strength the competitiveness of the different economical sectors (industrial, Commerce and services, tourism, transport, etc).