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## BACKGROUND

**Cink Venturing** is a Spanish organisation with over 15 years of experience fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and inclusive territorial development through programmes that combine strategic design with practical delivery. We work to support entrepreneurs, educators, public bodies and ecosystem actors in developing initiatives that respond to local challenges while contributing to broader social and economic transformation.

We design and implement **lifelong learning and capacity-building** actions that empower individuals and organisations to participate actively in the digital, green and social transitions. Our projects integrate non-formal and informal learning methodologies and promote **skills development across all life stages**, including the youth, women, underrepresented groups and aspiring social entrepreneurs.

Our activities span the full entrepreneurial and learning cycle, from early ideation and capacity-building to business consolidation and access to finance, offering integrated support through hybrid training, mentoring, open innovation and cross-sectoral cooperation. We place particular emphasis on promoting digital empowerment and embedding sustainability across our interventions.

Our key areas of expertise include:

- Business incubation and acceleration, with a focus on social impact, sustainability, and digital transition
- Personalised mentoring and coaching tailored to different learning and development needs
- Management of entrepreneurial hubs and innovation spaces, fostering collaboration and peer learning
- E-learning and blended training methodologies for accessible, inclusive upskilling
- Open innovation challenges that connect learners, entrepreneurs and institutions around real-world challenges
- Investor engagement and access to finance for early-stage and impact-driven ventures
- Competitions, hackathons and community events that enhance transversal skills and creativity
- Strategic communication, dissemination and knowledge sharing at both local and European levels

Our multidisciplinary team of **60+ professionals** brings together expertise in entrepreneurship, ecosystem building and communication and outreach. We have supported more **than 5,000 entrepreneurial projects**, delivered over **30,000 hours of training** and mentoring, and contributed to 400+ development initiatives at local, national and European levels.

We currently manage four business incubators and two innovation hubs, supporting **over 800 companies** annually. Through our subsidiary, Cink Coworking, we also operate more than ten coworking centres across Spain, hosting a **community of 1,000+ start-ups and SMEs**. Our extended network includes **over 1,000** mentors, investors and stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

As active members of EBN (European Business and Innovation Centre Network), we participate in Special Interest Groups focused on **Social Economy, Sustainability, and Digital and Cultural Industries**. This strengthens our ability to work across borders, share practices, and support the transfer and adaptation of innovative models throughout Europe.

## KEY EXPERIENCE

### Digital Education and Inclusive Innovation

- **NoCode4BUSINESS** (*Erasmus+ KA210, 2022–2023*). An Erasmus+ "Best Practice" project that introduced no-code/low-code tools to promote digital empowerment among entrepreneurs lacking technical skills. As project coordinators, we developed a practical handbook and a comparative study across Spain, Italy and Romania, making digital innovation accessible and replicable through inclusive training, workshops and mentoring.
- **NOCODE4CULTURE** (*2025*). A digital incubation and mentoring programme for artistic and cultural projects developed using no-code tools. Funded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the project promoted access to technology, social inclusion and economic sustainability in the creative sector. It included a Bootcamp, masterclasses, a Hackathon and networking sessions.

### Entrepreneurship for Social and Green Transitions

- **Entrepreneurship in Equality** (*2023–ongoing*). An acceleration programme focused on supporting women-led and socially oriented entrepreneurial projects. Through personalised mentoring, training and networking, the initiative promotes equal opportunities, economic empowerment and community-driven innovation.
- **NGO of the Future** (*2023*). In partnership with the Spanish NGO Platform for Social Action, this initiative supported social organisations in developing innovative services through intrapreneurship. Cink designed and delivered an incubator programme to help NGOs integrate green and digital approaches in their models.
- **Support to Green Entrepreneurs** (*Fundación Biodiversidad, 2019–2022*). Design and delivery of mentoring and training to support new green and blue economy ventures focused on biodiversity, climate action and energy poverty mitigation.

### Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship

- **Start Up Alcobendas** (*2021–ongoing*). An entrepreneurship pathway for young people in education, combining ideation workshops, capacity-building sessions, challenge-based learning and networking between students and the private sector. The initiative promotes entrepreneurial mindset and cross-sector collaboration from an early stage.
- **Las Rozas Next** (*2021–2024*). A local innovation programme engaging youth in open innovation dynamics. Activities include matchmaking between students and companies, competitions to solve real challenges, and forums for exchange between academia and business.

### Creativity, Culture and Education

- **IDEAL – Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship and Academic Learning** (*2025–2027*). A Horizon Europe project developed with four HEIs aiming to strengthen entrepreneurship support mechanisms in the creative industries. Cink contributes to incubation and mentoring pathway for emerging ventures.
- **AI-Secret – AI for Creativity and the Triple Transition** (*2025–2028*). A cross-sector initiative funded under the Digital Europe Programme to foster digital and creative skills through an online joint master's degree and AI training modules.

## KEY PERSONS

**Ander Altuna – Head of European Projects.** Innovation leader with over 20 years of experience in collaborative projects at the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship and territorial development. He has worked on the design and coordination of multi-stakeholder initiatives across Europe, supporting public-private cooperation and knowledge exchange between education, research and enterprise. His work integrates digital approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration to address social and territorial challenges. He holds a Master's in Business Innovation, a degree in Telecommunications Engineering, and advanced training in Entrepreneurship and High-tech Spin-offs.

**Laura Sanz – Senior Expert, Entrepreneurship & Innovation.** Entrepreneurship professional with over 15 years of experience leading business support programmes with a strong social and territorial focus. She manages incubation initiatives for early-stage entrepreneurs, particularly in the social and cultural sectors, helping them develop viable, impact-oriented ventures anchored in local ecosystems. Her work combines practical training, mentoring and inclusive support mechanisms tailored to different learner profiles. She holds a degree in Business Administration and a postgraduate qualification in Equal Opportunities.

**Cristina Núñez Riva - European Project Manager.** Project manager with experience coordinating initiatives in the fields of social cohesion, civic engagement and inclusive entrepreneurship. She has collaborated with public and third-sector organisations in the development of localised responses to community needs, often involving mentoring, training and awareness-raising components. Her work supports partnerships that promote access, participation and long-term engagement. She holds a degree in International Relations and a Master's in International Solidarity Action.

**Patricia Pérez Maroto – Communication Manager.** Communications specialist with experience in institutional outreach, stakeholder engagement and visual storytelling across European cooperation projects. She has led communication and dissemination actions in Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and H2020 initiatives, with a focus on clarity, accessibility and public engagement. She holds a degree in Advertising and Public Relations and a Master's in Digital Marketing.