



THE MUNICIPALITY OF OREA (GUADALAJARA, SPAIN)

About us

Orea is a municipality located in the Region of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, in the province of Guadalajara. It is an inland town, 200 inhabitants, 1,498 meters above sea level (the highest town in Castilla la Mancha). It is also the furthest town from the provincial capital (Guadalajara), at 192km. It is the 67th town per inhabitants in the province of Guadalajara and the sixth in the Region of Molina de Aragón (INE 2020).

Orea is one of the 38 small municipalities within the Alto Tajo Natural Park, which gives the place a very high natural value in terms of fauna and flora. Wood (Scots pine), game (deer, roe deer, fallow deer, wild boar), collection of *boletus edulis*, *lactarius deliciosus* and other edible mushrooms. There is also a great variety of wild products with multiple properties. Lavender, dog rose, sloe, mistletoe, and many more are our main natural resources. Currently, the sectors of agriculture, livestock, hospitality, construction and store and bakery services are part of the business fabric of the municipality of Orea and in general of the entire Alto Tajo Natural Park.

Orea's main challenges are depopulation, masculinization and aging of the workforce and the lack of sustainable industrial development.

What are we looking for ?

Recently, the City Council of Orea has considered and agreed to the internationalization of the municipality as part of its development strategy, connecting Orea to other regions and related European countries and opening up to participate in projects, networks and as many other international initiatives as possible that can contribute to our goals.

Among other actions and with the aim of stimulating population groups and target sectors, we have decided to form a consortium of European partners that share our objectives. The aim will be to jointly develop an international proposal and submit it in the new EU program for education, youth and sports 2021-2027.

To this purpose, we are interested in contacting partners with similar characteristics and objectives to our municipality who want to take part in a project aimed at the social rejuvenation and business revitalization of their municipalities, counties and regions. The proposal is just emerging and will be adapted to the needs of the partners, but we do have some general ideas that are summarized in the table below.



PROJECT PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP

General objective:

Contribute to increasing our municipalities capacity to attract young population and to promote their associative and business fabric.

Specific objectives:

1. Encourage the presence and establishment of young people in the municipalities involved, allowing them to discover the potential of development and professional life in said municipalities.
2. Promote the development of the associative and business fabric in the municipalities involved.
3. Promote the employability and socio-educational development of the populations of the participating municipalities.
4. Promote lifelong learning and the recognition of knowledge, competencies and skills acquired through any educational path (formal, non-formal, informal or work-based), both among young people and among the adult population.

Target groups: young people (18-35 years old), university students and entrepreneurial nuclei of the municipalities, adult population with training needs. The project will prioritise the female participation.

Type of participating organizations:

Municipalities, research centers, universities, youth organizations, voluntary organizations, NGOs, etc.

Type of activities that we consider in the framework of this project:

1. Mobility of interdisciplinary groups (eg. economics, chemistry, agriculture, tourism, environment and computing) of students in the last years of their studies and recent graduates or VET students to the municipalities of the consortium for their participation in courses, workshops, debates, simulations etc. on topics of special interest and relevance for the development of municipalities. These would be courses designed and taught mainly by the local population, together with invited experts from the participating universities.
2. Both theoretical and practical training for the recipients (eg. cultivation techniques, business training, local development policies etc.)
3. Creation of a training itinerary (university / FP) that includes practical stages and workshops in the participating municipalities. Definition of the internship modules (topics, contents, duration, responsible personnel, etc.).
4. Carrying out development plans in different sectors, carried out by the local population linked to each of them, together with students and academic staff through a participatory process.
5. Organization of debates, workshops, excursions, etc.

