

Spain

Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy

Executive summary



Introduction



On 11 February 2021, the Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, presented the Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy, a long-term vision for transforming the production base of the Spanish economy.

Promoted by the High Commissioner for Spain Entrepreneurial Nation, who reports directly to the Spain's PM, seeks to make Spain a more innovative country, one that generates more and better jobs, and leaves no one behind, making innovative entrepreneurship the icebreaker of a new economic model.

This executive summary outlines the main keys to the Strategy, including the articulation of a new economic model, its goals and the list of the 50 measures comprising the Strategy.

The Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy can be found in Spanish at the following [link](#) and in the QR code below:



Executive summary



In a globalized world where innovation is the primary driver of economic development, **Spain cannot allow itself to be left behind**. Innovative countries have stronger economies and they are structurally more resistant to crises, which safeguards their standard of living and quality of life, and, above all, their welfare state systems.

Crises have a direct impact on people's welfare. Spain was particularly hard hit by the global financial crisis of 2008 due to our production model and the configuration of our job market. The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the need to invest in innovation to become more resilient.

The Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy is a cornerstone for our country's economic and social transformation. The need to find innovative and dynamic solutions to new challenges is enabling part of the innovation ecosystem to put up a staunch resistance to the economic blow of the pandemic, maintaining a nearly intact operating capacity, and the ability to offer market solutions in times of upheaval. If the new Strategy deploys its full potential in the coming decade, this kind of strength, capacity to adapt, and resilience can spread to the rest of our production sector to lessen the impact of future crises.



Productivity as a guarantee of resilience in the face of crises

This Strategy calls for a change in Spain's production base, focusing on productivity as a guarantee of greater resistance to crisis situations, and to strengthen the growth of our economy and the well-being of our people.

The Strategy identifies three policy levers to improve the production base. Firstly, better education, which has a long-term effect. Secondly, the medium-term impact of research, development and innovation (R&D&i) on the economy. And lastly, innovative entrepreneurship: for approximately two decades, economies have had this lever, which can have a quick impact on raising productivity.

Innovative entrepreneurship represents a small sector of the economy, which is capable of generating huge returns in productivity. It also has great potential to create jobs and economic growth. According to the OECD, between 4% and 6% of high-growth firms generate between half and three-quarters of net jobs in advanced nations.

Regarding innovative entrepreneurship, we made the decision to design a national mission that would facilitate the best possible framework for this sector. Thus, it is at the heart of a plan that seeks to generate virtuous cycles with the main driving sectors of our economy, which represent Spain's current major strengths. A national mission that ensures that this new model is inclusive, leaving no one behind and focusing all of its efforts on bridging our country's major social gaps, which are hindering Spain's potential and the fulfilment of our people's life projects.

A national mission

The Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy has been designed as a national mission proposing a long-term vision for Spain's transformation. National missions—a concept developed by the Italian-American economist Mariana Mazzucato—are a tool at governments' disposal to align efforts and resources for a purpose that is clearly in the population's interest. The State needs to reassume its role in doing what no one else can do: fund high-risk research and be the source of the most disruptive types of innovation.

In her 2018 report *Mission-Oriented Research and Innovation in the European Union*, Mazzucato affirms States' responsibility to spearhead innovation and, in particular, innovation in long-term strategic areas.

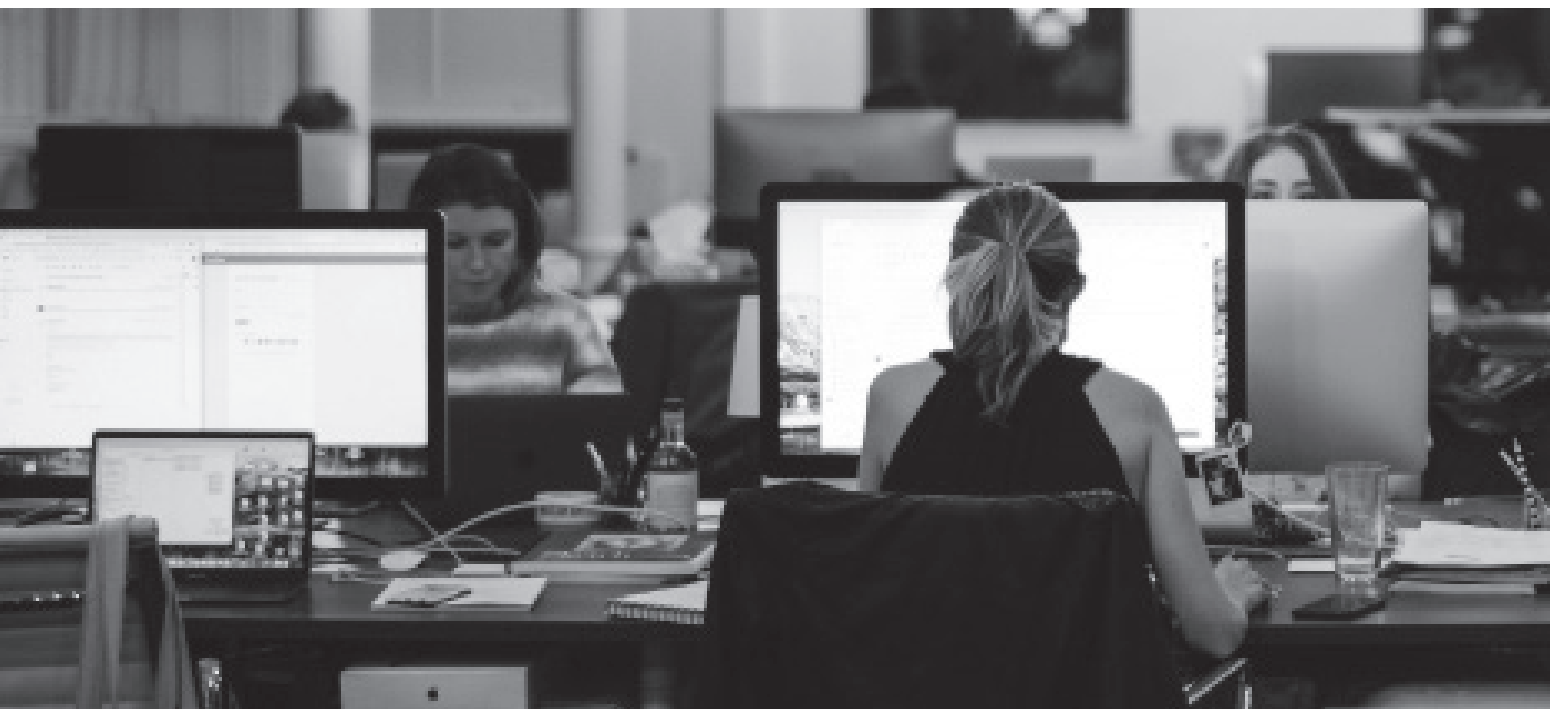
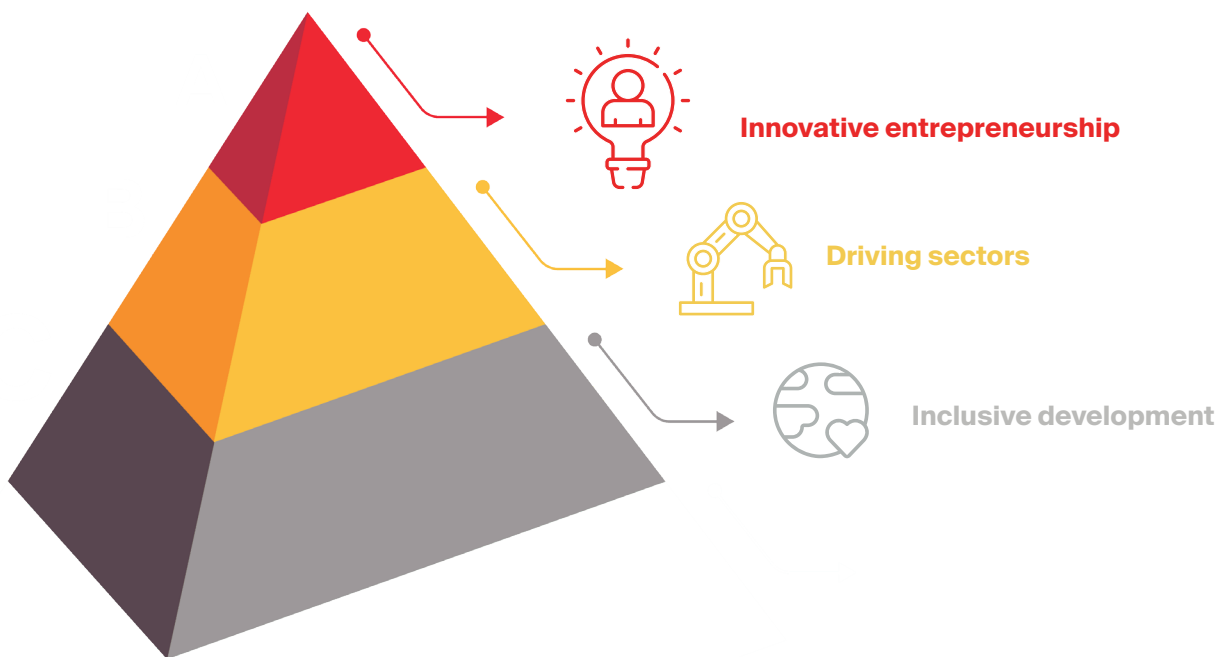
With this framework, the Spanish Government, through the High Commissioner for Spain Entrepreneurial Nation, has designed our first national mission: Spain Entrepreneurial Nation, a mission with the clear goal of generating a new economic model based on innovative entrepreneurship, on the sectors driving Spain's production, and on inclusive development.



The Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy

The purpose of the Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy is to realize a vision: making Spain become, by 2030, an Entrepreneurial Nation, with innovative entrepreneurship spearheading a new model for our country. A nation that will not only have promoted that part of its economy, but in which innovative entrepreneurship will have generated virtuous cycles with the country's leading sectors, so that they may—boosted by innovation—increase their productivity and create quality jobs for as many people as possible. An Entrepreneurial Nation that will have been built on policies seeking inclusive development to leave no one behind. Ultimately, the Strategy lays the foundations for a change in our country's production base.

This is how we represent the model:



1. At the top of the pyramid is **innovative entrepreneurship**, a small sector of Spain's economy which, in turn, is extraordinarily productive and efficient. The idea is for it to be as strong as possible so that its characteristics may spread to other productive sectors, generating virtuous cycles with the major sectors driving Spanish industry.

To favour growth at the top of the pyramid, this Strategy sets forth the necessary measures for these four goals:



1. Firstly, the **investment goal**. This Strategy seeks to accelerate the maturity of investment in Spain. It is necessary to step up our investment capacity in line with the growth of our companies, so that they may make Spain their base throughout their entire growth period.



2. Secondly, the **talent goal**. Spain must develop, attract, and retain talent. This is the true international competition of the twenty-first century. To be able to make Spain an Entrepreneurial Nation, we need to make our country a haven for talent.



3. Thirdly, the **scalability goal**. The small size of Spanish companies has an impact on their very survival, and on the strength of our country's economy. In the sector of innovative entrepreneurship, many companies conceive success as the sale of the company at an early stage. Although this is absolutely legitimate, if we want to make Spain an Entrepreneurial Nation it is necessary for these companies to have the ambition to scale up. Therefore, the measures involved in this goal aim to achieve an increasing number of companies in Spain that—instead of selling—scale up thanks to a favourable environment. Companies that grow bigger. And that thanks to their growth, become national champions employing thousands of people in the future.



4. And fourthly, the **entrepreneurial public sector goal**. The Strategy aims to make the public administration a more dynamic administration, one that generates favourable regulatory frameworks and backs projects that even the boldest capital venture fund would be incapable of backing. In short, making the public administration the visible hand pushing the lever of innovation, of industrialization, and of inclusion.



2. Innovative entrepreneurship must create virtuous cycles with the **sectors that drive our country**—represented in the middle section of the pyramid. These production sectors, which feature leading companies of the Spanish economy, must harness that innovation to increase their productivity, to become more competitive, and, therefore, to increase their capacity to generate more and better jobs.

This Strategy seeks to leverage the main production sectors of the Spanish economy, those that are best positioned to compete at the global level and in which the impact of innovation can generate greater returns for the economy and society as a whole.

These sectors have the necessary capacity to enable our country to respond to global challenges, generating development opportunities for new markets, companies and individuals.



INDUSTRY



ENERGY AND
ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION



TOURISM AND CULTURE



BANKING AND FINANCE



MOBILITY



DIGITALIZATION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



HEALTH



AGRIFOOD



CONSTRUCTION
AND MATERIALS



BIOTECHNOLOGY

3. The base of the pyramid represents **policies on inclusion**, to close the gaps that are generated by transitions of this nature and which will not close naturally on their own. The aim of these policies is to promote sustainable development and ensure the cross-cutting reduction of the following gaps:



GENDER GAP



SOCIOECONOMIC GAP



TERRITORIAL GAP



GENERATIONAL GAP

Measures of the Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy

The Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy proposes a package of **50 measures** that will be implemented by the different ministries. These measures will lay the foundations necessary to ensure that innovation and productivity are mainstreamed into the different sectors driving our economy and that the achievement of this goal is in no way prejudicial to the vast majority of jobs or salaries, but generates more and better jobs. In short, that no one is left behind.

These measures are aimed at achieving the four goals proposed by the Strategy: to accelerate the maturity of **investment** in Spain; to attract, develop and retain **talent**; to promote **scalability** and to establish and coordinate an **entrepreneurial public sector**.

Priority measures

- 1 Establish Spain's brand as an Entrepreneurial Nation
- 2 Create the National Entrepreneurship Office (ONE)
- 3 Pass the Promotion of the Start-ups Ecosystem Act
- 4 Establish the National Network of Entrepreneurship Centres (RENACE)
- 5 Implement the Scaleup Spain initiative supporting scalability
- 6 Launch an international programme to attract female talent
- 7 Create a visa programme
- 8 Implement the flagship programme
- 9 Promote public expenditure as a driver of innovation

Investment measures

- 10 National Plan for Social Entrepreneurship
- 11 Streamlining the process for foreign investors to obtain a Tax ID number in Spain
- 12 Initiatives to encourage companies to establish their headquarters in Spain
- 13 Stock options
- 14 Private seed-stage investment
- 15 Women in investment
- 16 Pension funds
- 17 Debt investment
- 18 Investment in family offices
- 19 Alternative markets
- 20 Promotion of knowledge transfer
- 21 Enisa and CDTI resources
- 22 Promotion of open innovation
- 23 Private R&D&i

Entrepreneurial public sector measures

- 24 Sandbox: public testing environments
- 25 Smart regulation
- 26 Open public data
- 27 User experience design for citizens and companies
- 28 Entrepreneurial civil service
- 29 Special scheme for self-employed workers
- 30 Visa for digital nomads
- 31 Innovative SMEs in public tenders
- 32 Social and environmental impact as a valuation criterion for public initiative
- 33 Gender parity at events
- 34 Gender equality criterion in public hiring

Scalability measures

- 35 Strategy based on international partnerships
- 36 Knowledge Transfer Offices (KTOs)
- 37 Flexibility for teaching and research staff
- 38 Recognition of researcher merit
- 39 Technology centres and science and technology parks
- 40 National defence as a driver of innovative entrepreneurship
- 41 Innovative urban economic development
- 42 Territorial development of innovative entrepreneurship

Talent-related measures

- 43 Education and entrepreneurship
- 44 University and entrepreneurship
- 45 Innovative vocational training
- 46 Lifelong learning
- 47 Monitoring the gender gap in innovative entrepreneurship through Spain's National Statistics Institute
- 48 Women in STEAM careers
- 49 Sponsorship and mentoring for women
- 50 Senior talent

The financial report of the Entrepreneurial Nation allocates more than 1.56 billion euros for 2021 and more than 4.2 billion euros for the period 2021 to 2023.



Entrepreneurial Nation stakeholders

The Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy calls for the mobilization of different actors at the national, regional, provincial and local levels in both the public and private spheres, as well as the committed participation of all public administrations and the involvement of different administrative levels throughout the national territory.

The actors will be the ministries and the bodies under their aegis. However, the ambition of this Strategy has been stepped up to seek the participation of the highest number of stakeholders. Consequently, it is open to Spain's Autonomous Communities (self-governing regions); provincial, town, and island councils and local entities; primary and secondary schools; academia, training centres, universities, and business schools; R&D&I centres, knowledge transfer offices, science and technology parks and business centres; entrepreneurs and business owners; the business community; financiers and investors; business accelerators and incubators and venture builders; facilitators, foundations, federations, and associations; as well as to the general public and civil society.

The Entrepreneurial Nation with the greatest social impact in history

For Spain to become the next Entrepreneurial Nation, each and every one of us must play our part. This national mission calls for the involvement of the entire country. The Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy is the framework that will enable us to engage our entire society in furthering our country's transformation.

We have reached a defining moment in the history of our country. The mission behind this Strategy is an invitation for us to unite in this endeavour. Spain Entrepreneurial Nation is the opportunity to move forwards towards a country that leaves no one behind.

The Strategy set forth on the following pages defines the road map to making Spain the Entrepreneurial Nation with the greatest social impact in history.

