



UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

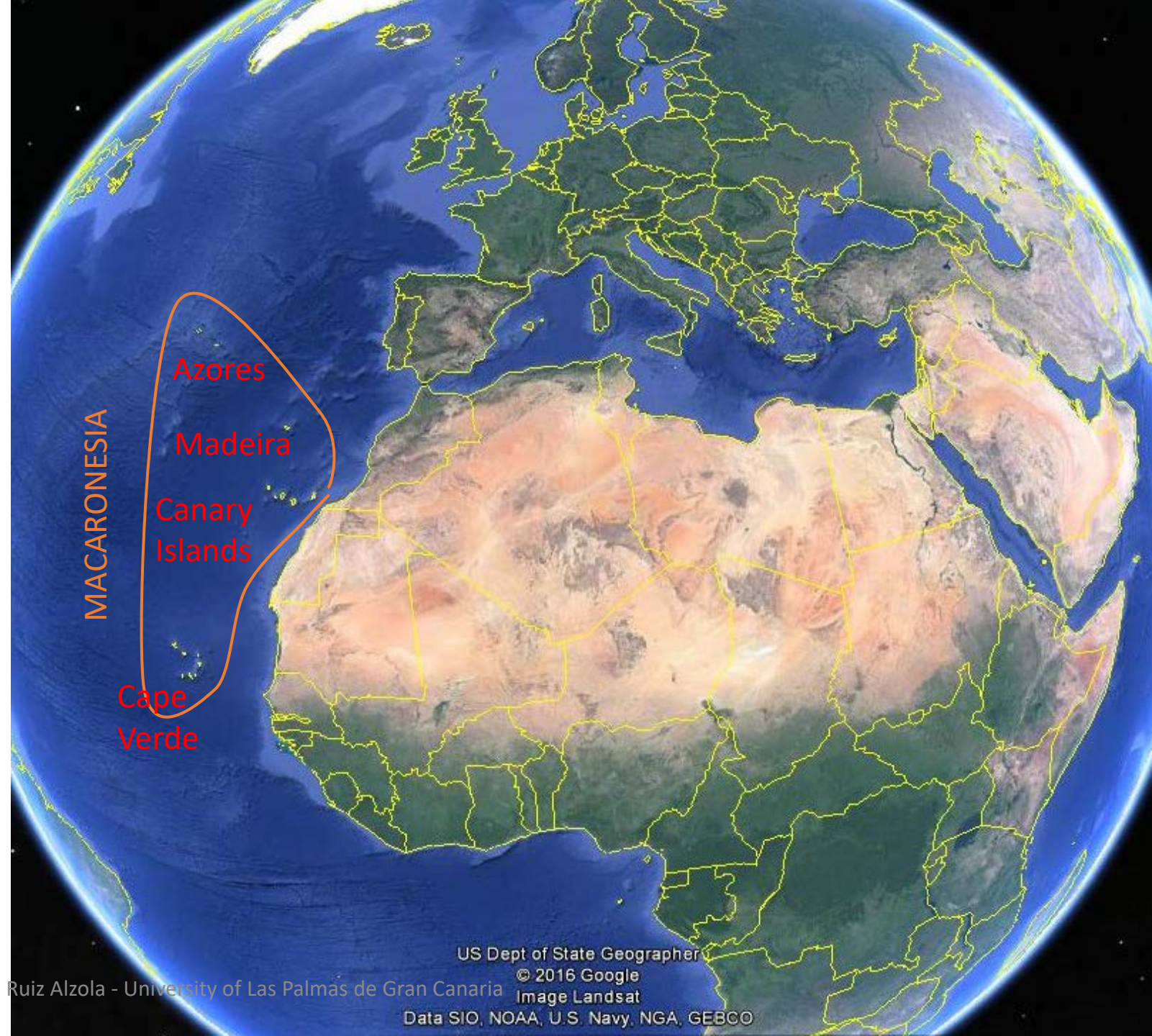
Public Engagement for Research, Practice and Policy in the Regional Strategy of the Canary Islands

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Canary Islands: an Overview

- An EU Outermost Region
 - Part of Macaronesia, with Azores and Madeira (Port) and Cape Verde
- 7 Islands and 4 Islets
- Surface: 7.500 km² (1.5% Spain)
 - Complex volcanic orography
 - Approx. 40% protected areas
- Population:
 - 2015: 2.100.000 (4.5% Spain)
 - 2011: 2.127.000 (4,5% Spain) – 27% growth since 1999
 - 1999: 1.670.000 (4,2% Spain)
 - Density (2015): 280 hab/km² (x3 Spain)



US Dept of State Geographer

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Image Landsat

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

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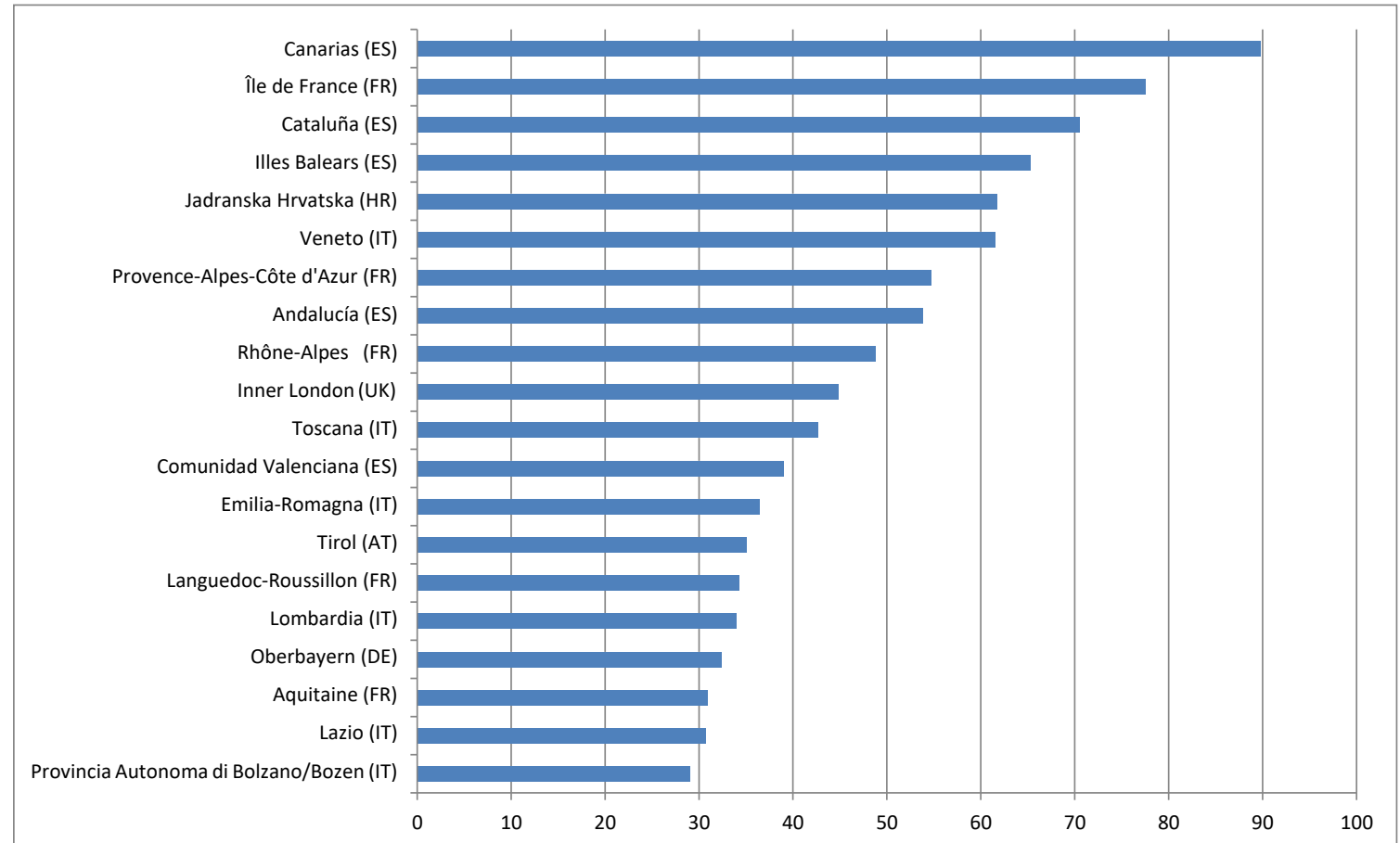


Canary Islands: A Tourism Economy

Top 20 EU tourist regions by NUTS 2 regions, 2013 - EUROSTAT
(million nights spent by residents and non-residents in tourist accommodation establishments)

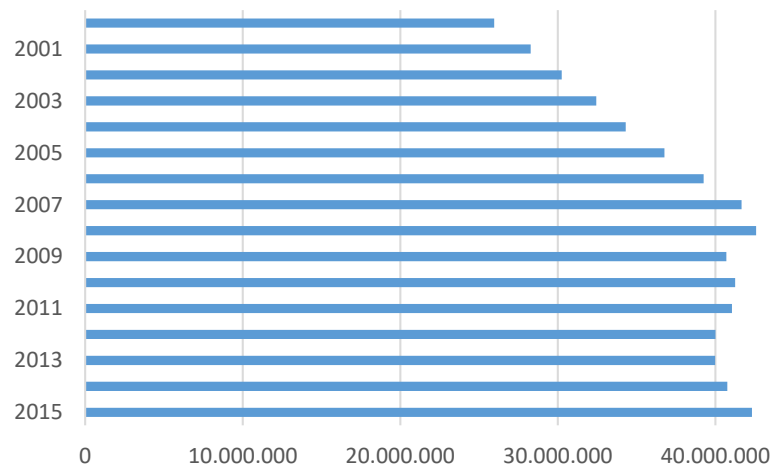
IMPACTUR 2014

- 31,4% GDP
(13.032 M€)
- 35,9% Employment
(273.982 jobs)
- 8,3% Public Expend.
(879M€)
- 30,4% Taxes
(1.827M€)



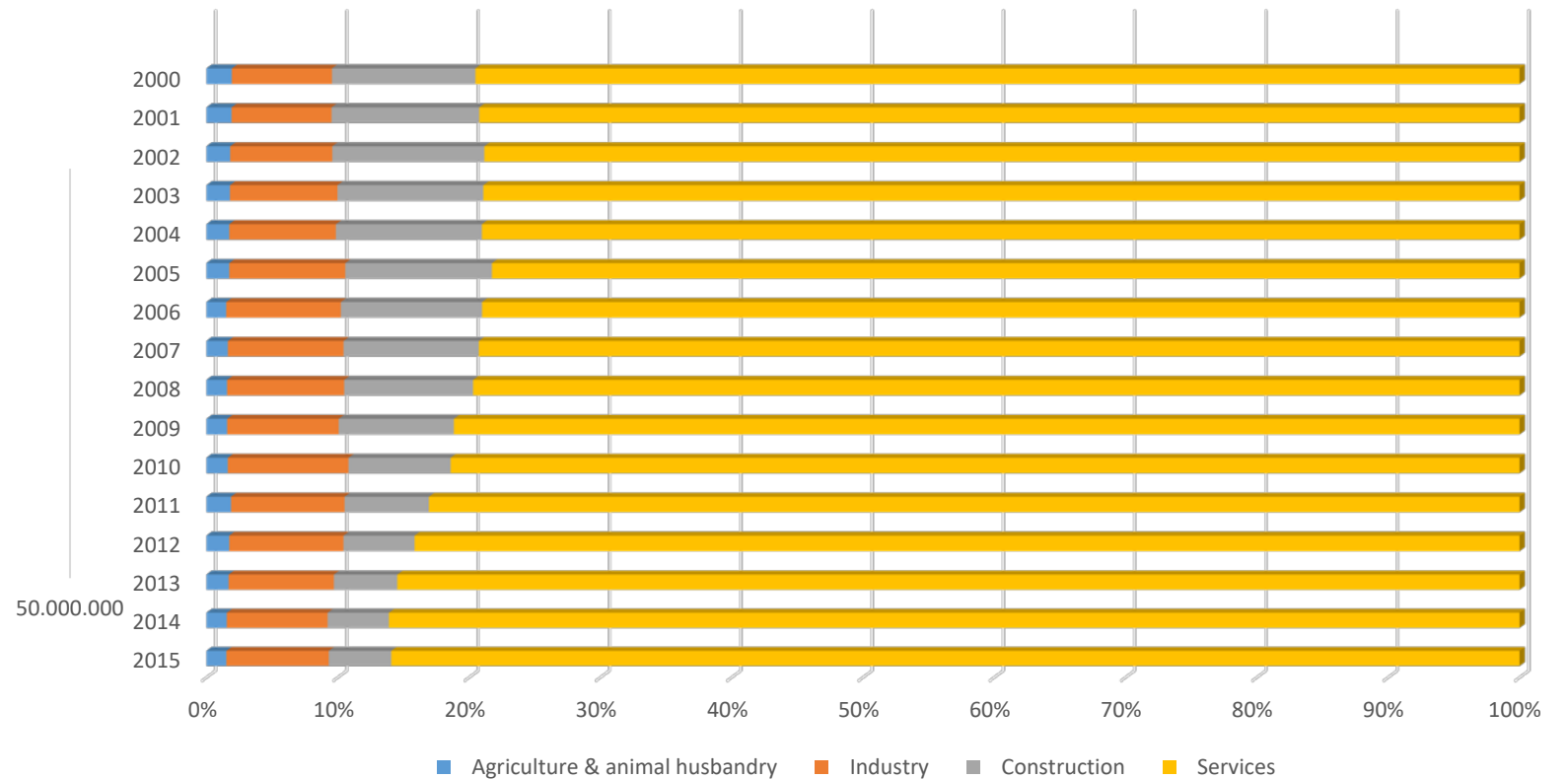
Macroeconomic evolution

GDP at market prices



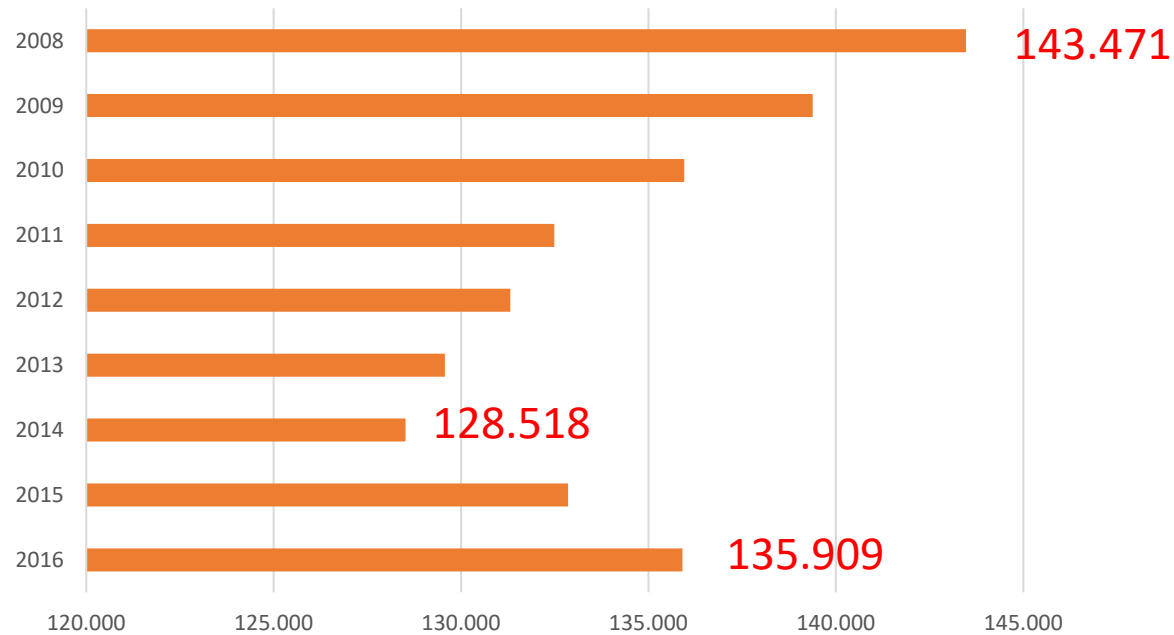
Worst years: 2012-2013

Gross Added Value composition



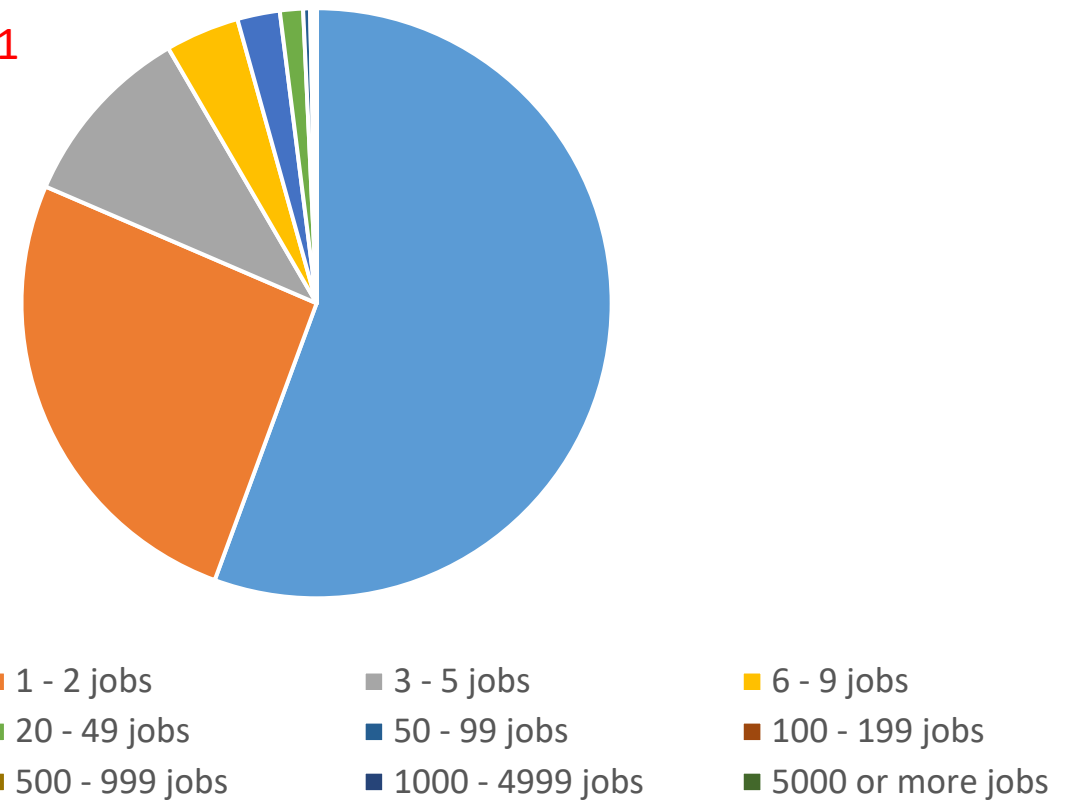
Enterprises: mostly tiny

Number of Companies



Worst years: 2013-2014

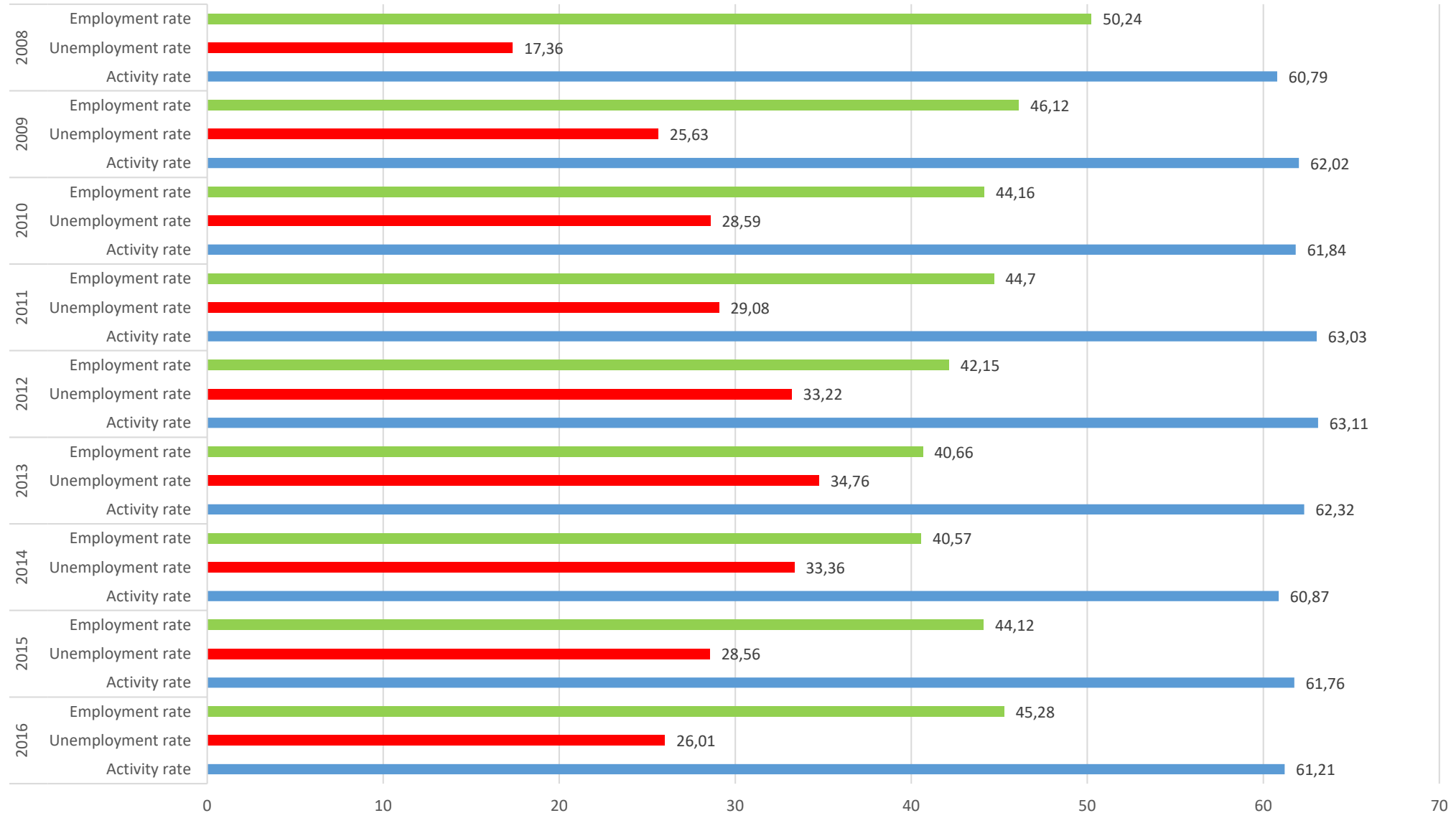
Jobs in enterprises (2015)



Employment evolution

Evolution of employment

Worst years: 2012-2013-2014



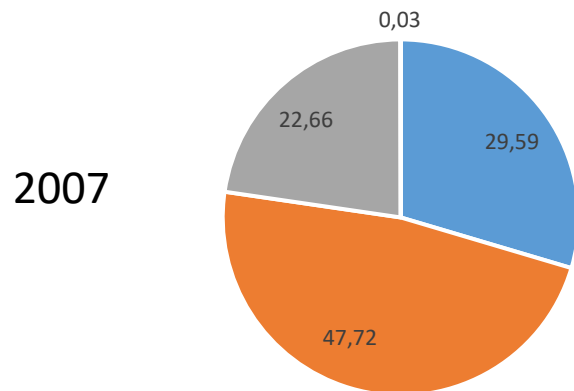
Employment & occupation rates, wrt TOTAL population – Unemployment rate wrt ACTIVE population

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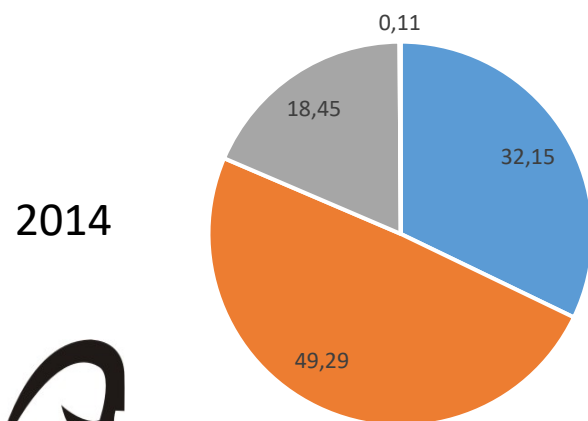


Evolution of the R&D indicators

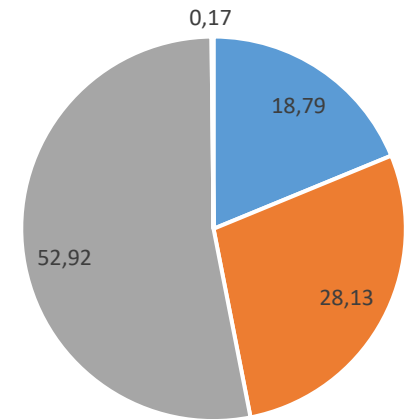
Public Administration Higher Education
Enterprises Non for Profit Organizations



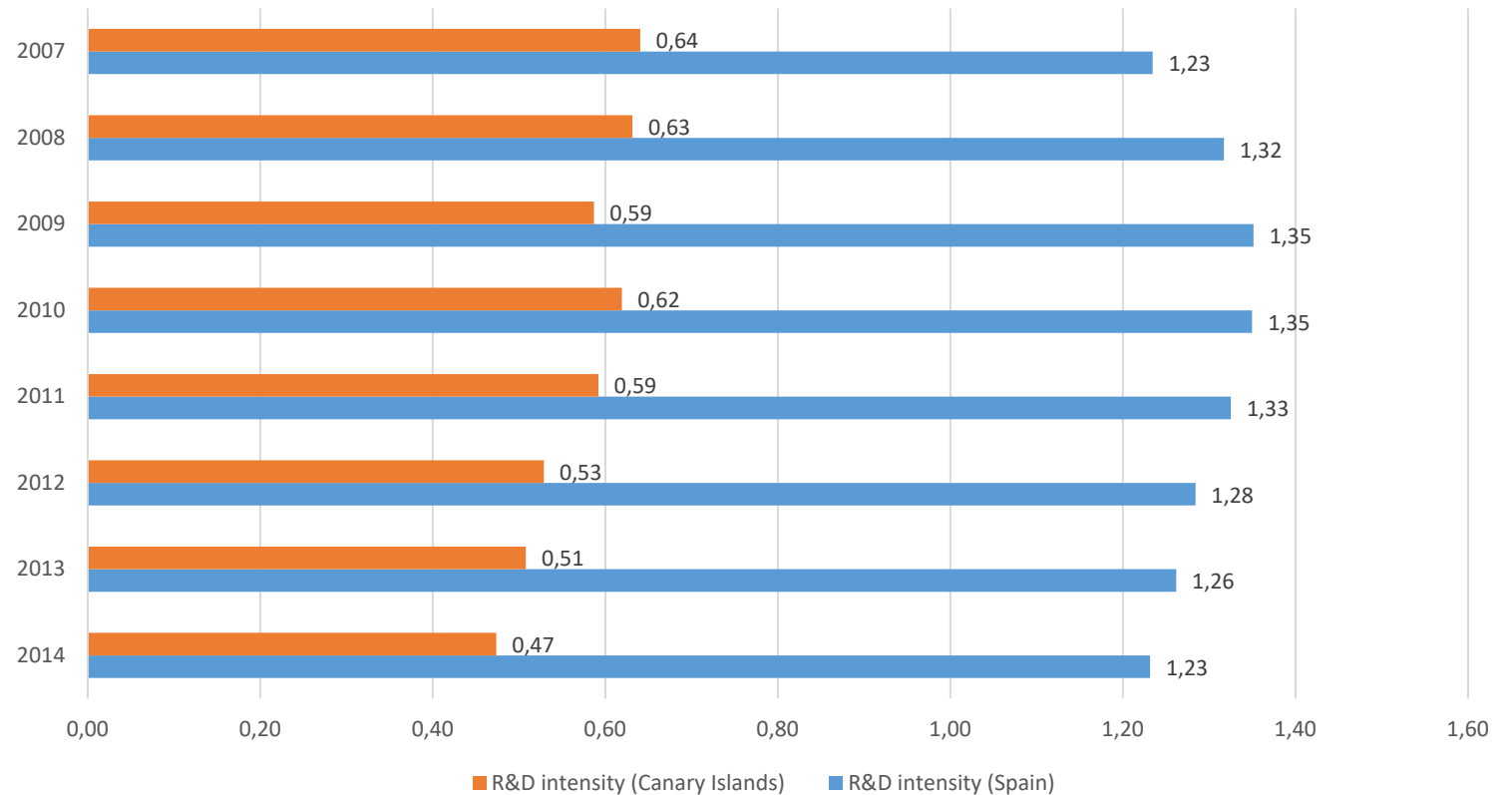
R&D performers - Canary Islands



R&D performers (Spain, 2014)



R&D intensity



The big challenge

- How can we speak about R&D strategies in such conditions?
- A common wrong way: We need R&D to get out of the crisis
 - Bad answer, because
 - When you get ill a healthy diet is not the solution. You need medical treatment
 - A healthy diet is to help you to be in good shape, and then not to get too ill
 - And then it frustrates legitimate expectations
- We need an R&D and innovation strategy because
 - we have to build today the economy of tomorrow,
 - so that we give better options to our youth (stop the brain drain!)...
...and to ourselves: how'll our retirement be paid?



The role of public engagement

- Most politicians will verbally support R&D&i strategies
 - But very few will be willing to pay the cost of opportunity they entail
- If you're an R&D policymaker you'd rather know about the rules:
 - R&D strategies are long term – politics is mostly short term
 - Governments are under harsh pressure to keep public services running
 - Health, education, unemployment and retirement subsidies, essential infrastructures, civil servant wages,... come all before R&D (no matter what you're told)
 - On hard financial times focus on organization rather than budget
 - Of paramount importance: you need social support. Outreach activities are needed to let the People know and demand R&D&i, and public engagement is required to involve the main stakeholders

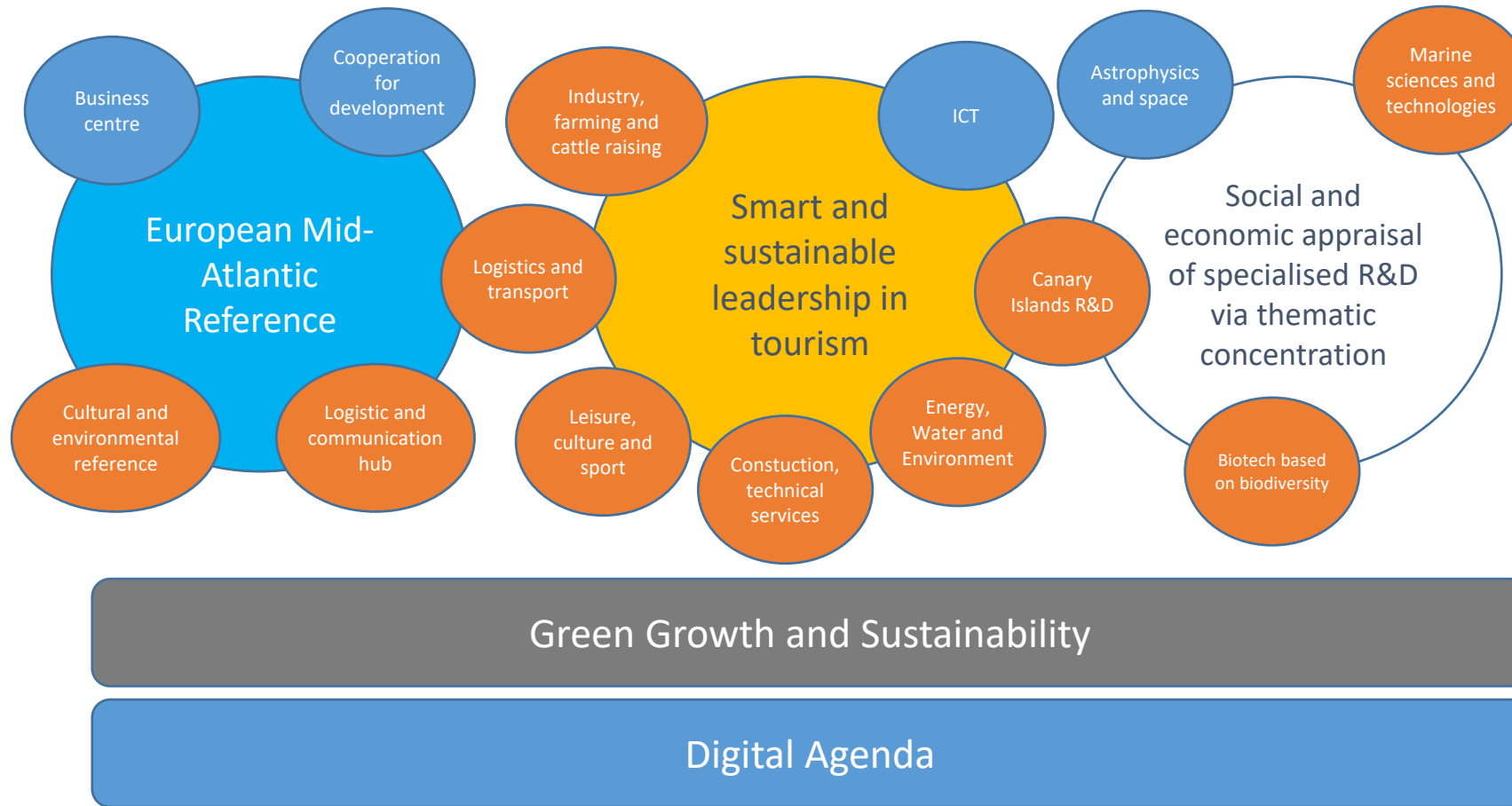


Smart Specialization Strategies (RIS3)

- A good idea: make common sense work through discussion
 1. Make a thorough analysis of your situation and realistic possibilities
 2. Start by setting a participative governance structure
 3. Reach a realistic yet ambitious shared vision for the mean-term.
In 2012/13 the question was: How do we see ourselves in 2020 if we make it right?
 4. Focus on a limited set of priorities based on your differential potentials
NOT EASY: every stakeholder wants to be there regardless any other consideration
Key: leverage every available capacity for well defined targets of regional interest
 5. Discover the most appropriate policy instruments for the stakeholders
 6. Quality assurance: monitor, assess and correct



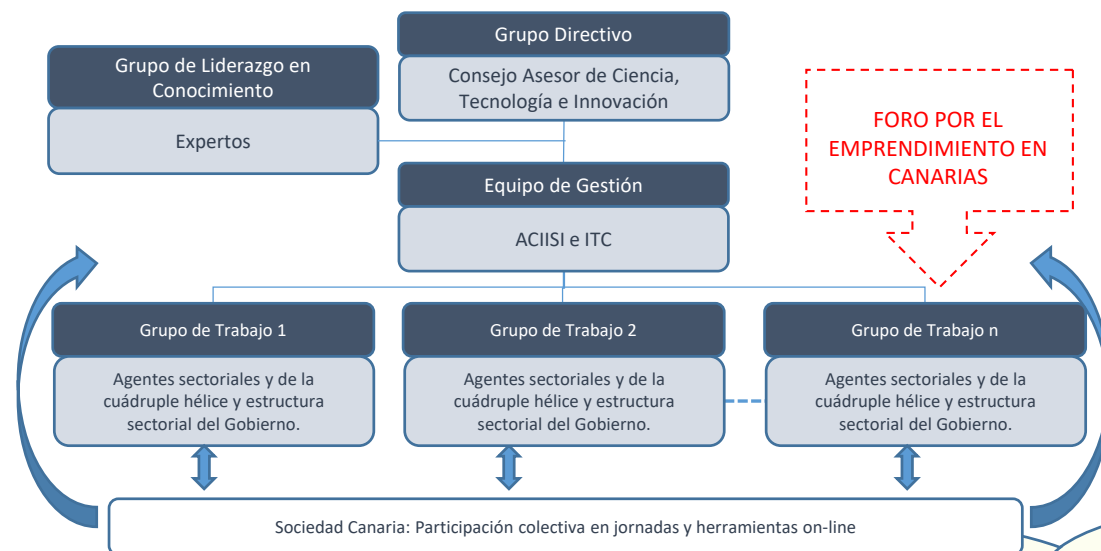
Our small set of RIS3 priorities: 3+2=5



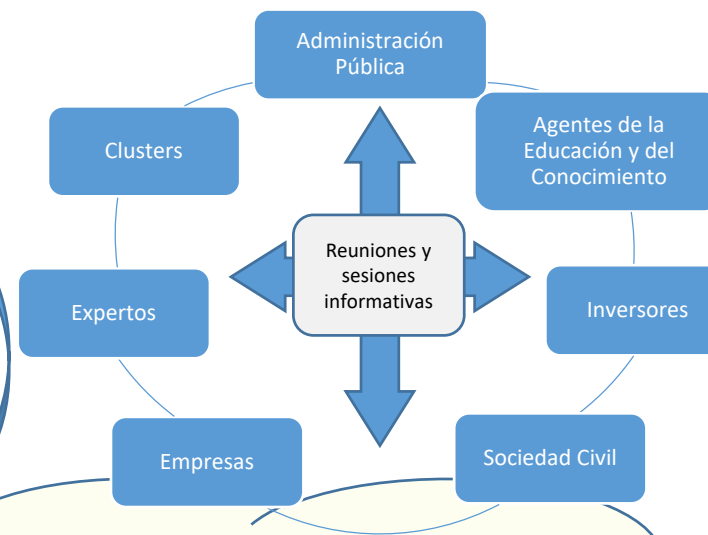
Our RIS3 governance structure

RIS3 approved by the regional Government
and
**ratified at the regional Parliament
with no contrary vote**

Gobernanza Formal



Gobernanza Informal



Participantes



Proof of concept built on key facts (1)

- Leverage assets and turn weaknesses into strengths
 - Outermost regions are far away, and consist of fragmented territories
 - But they have identified as outposts of the EU in the World
 - Canary Islands: tricontinental Atlantic hub with logistic advantages for cooperation with West Africa (eg. Red Cross) and Latin America
 - They have unique natural environments
 - Canary Islands: sea, biodiversity, weather, accessible height & clear skies,...
 - Tourism is an asset for the Canary Islands
 - Millions of visitors provide opportunity for diffusion & demonstrative living labs
 - According to the Treaties EU Law can be modulated to help them out
 - Canary Islands: Specific Fiscal & Economic Regime, with general low taxation and extra-low taxation in certain areas and sectors (4% corporate tax, **Zona Especial Canaria**)



Proof of concept built on key facts (2)

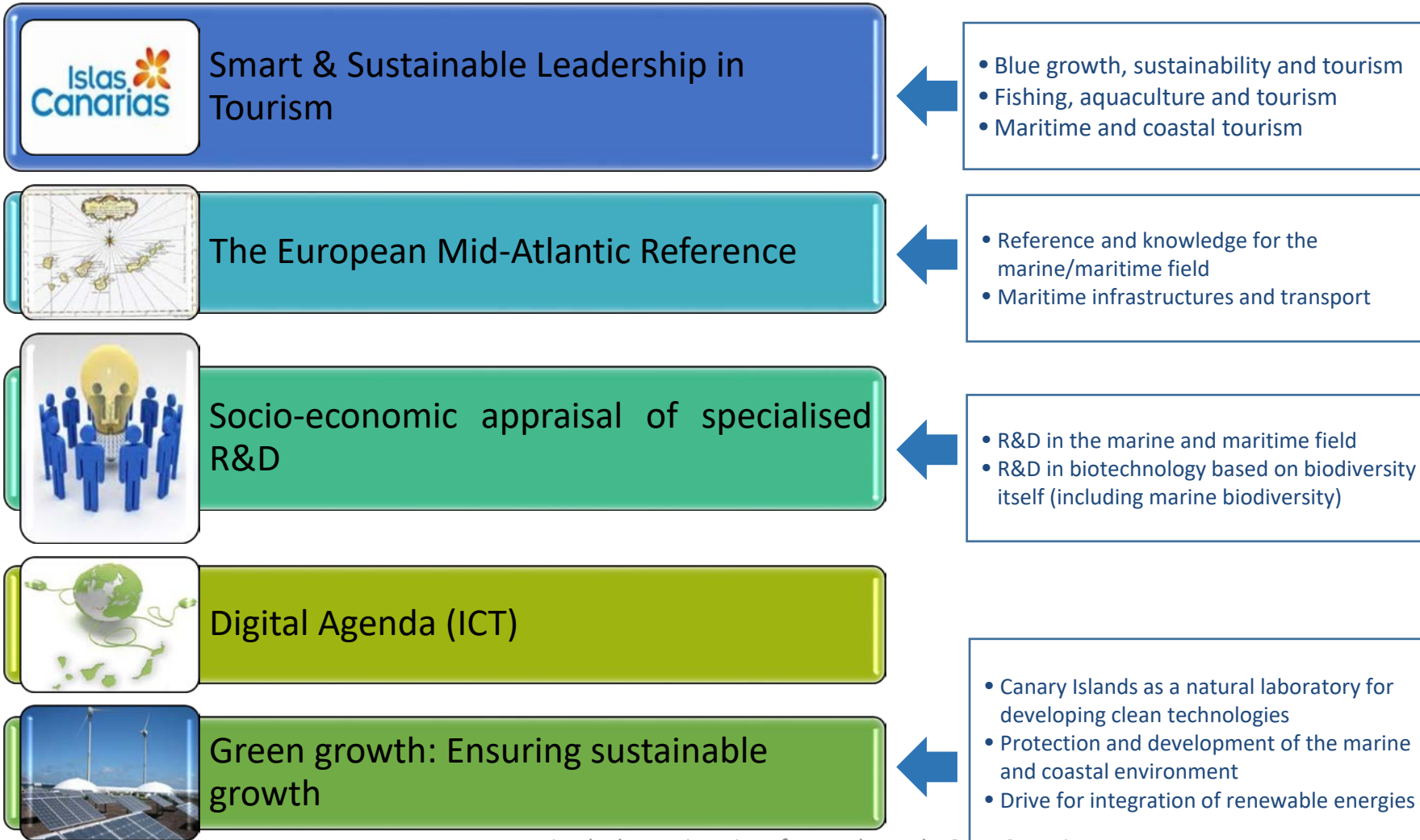
- Cooperation for development, an opportunity for everyone
 - Developing regions require adapted technology
 - As well as multidisciplinary cooperative work and material support
 - The EU can do that from the Canary Islands for Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Appropriate products & services can be adapted and deployed by the European industry from the Canary Islands, funded by international organizations for cooperation
 - The Canary Islands must specialize in such field. We already have expertise:
 - The University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC), with its University Centre for International Cooperation for Development
 - The Canary Islands Institute of Technology (ITC): adaptation of sustainable technologies
 - Casa África: diplomatic institution for the relations Spain-Africa
 - Red Cross Center for Cooperation with Africa



- Health services & education
 - A great success: Medical School at the University of Zambeze (Mozambique), developed in cooperation by the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (**Prof. Luis López & colleagues**)
 - It's a joint program: African students and Canarian professors come together both in Mozambique and in Gran Canaria
 - New INTERREG project to adapt technology for cooperation for medical services and education in developing countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde)
 - Wide consortium, including industry and international institutions (eg Harvard Medical School)
- Sustainable blue economy
 - Acuiculture for a growing population – R&D at ULPGC
- Sustainable tourism economy
 - Already sharing the experience of the Canary Islands in Africa
- Sustainable energy & water supply
 - ITC & ULPGC



Leveraging natural assets: blue economy

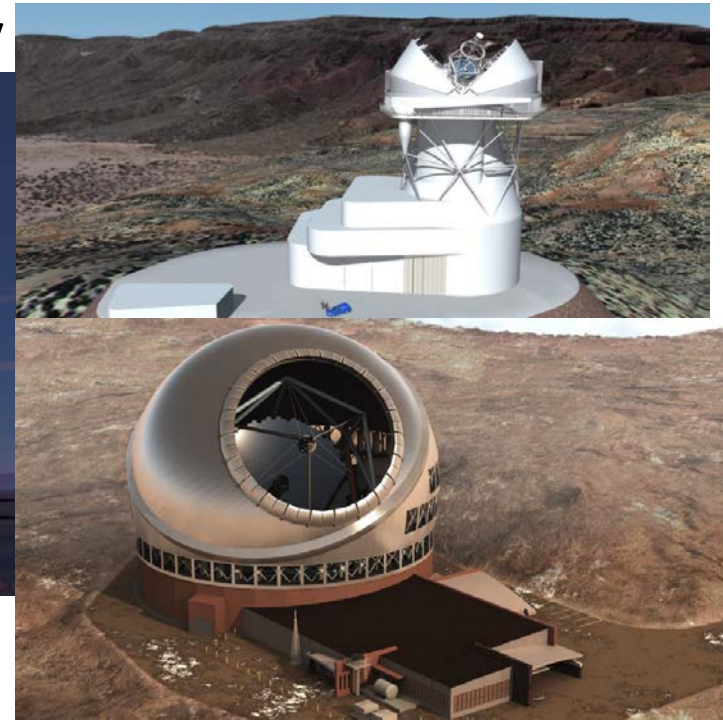


Leveraging natural assets: astronomy

- Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)



- Two World-class international observatories: Roque Muchachos & Teide
- Some of the most powerful telescopes already installed or planned
- Technology transfer to astrophysics, space & medical industries: a great opportunity for the regional knowledge-based economy





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Thank You!

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