

4.3. A3BT Entrepreneur Programme

In the agrifood sphere, the creation of knowledge-based companies is one of the most powerful tools for transfer as it facilitates the marketing of innovative products and services arising from research activity.

Call for a Business Ideas and Business Projects Competition for the Agrifood Sector.

Following the call, and in collaboration with the Red Andalucía Emprende (a public foundation dependent on the Regional Ministry of Employment and the Regional Ministry of Economics, Innovation and Science) and the (OTRIs, TTOs) of the five universities, a program was designed to provide participants practical training through workshops aimed at developing the managerial skills necessary to head a successful business and deal with real life situations in an effective manner. The programme includes personal tutorials to guide participants in the decision-making process to start up a business, analyse the viability of the project, provide contacts and the necessary information to ensure that their venture will be successful. The programme also includes lectures, visits to companies, and other activities.

Aimed at fomenting entrepreneurship, the programme grants aid to permit candidates to dedicate themselves full time during a maximum period of one year to the creation of knowledge- and technology-based enterprises or the consolidation of enterprises that have already been set up.

The RedEmprendia participates in the programme by providing consultancy services to entrepreneurs and supporting their business initiatives thanks to funding by Santander Bank under an agreement between the Ministry of Education and the RedEmprendia.

The objectives are to:

- Foment entrepreneurial spirit among the university community, and particularly among the research groups of the universities.
- Transfer the agrifood research results of Andalusian universities to the socio-economic sphere of the region through the creation of enterprises based on this knowledge.

The main features of the Business Ideas and Business Projects Competition for the Agrifood Sector are described below.

Applications can be submitted in 2 phases:

- Phase I. Business Ideas: A brief description of the business idea (two pages).
- Phase II. Business Projects: A detailed description of the business plan (20 to 30 pages) with the commitment to start up a company within the following 6 months.

Phase I: Business Ideas

1 st Prize	€3,000
2 nd Prize	€2,000
3 Honourable Mentions	€1,000

Phase II: Business Projects*

1 st Prize	€3,000 + €12,000
2 nd Prize	€2,000 + €12,000
3 rd Prize	€1,000 + €12,000

* Acceptance of the prize requires the creation of a TBE in order to be awarded the €12,000.