



URBAN FOREST
INNOVATION LAB
CUENCA

February 28, 2020

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Identifying and testing
innovative solutions for
sustainable urban development

Why focusing on cities?

1 **Population**
72% of EU live in cities



2 **Territory**
2% of land occupied



3 **Polution**
80% of GGEs



Change of paradigm...

Integration of migrants

Digital switchover

Housing

Circular economy



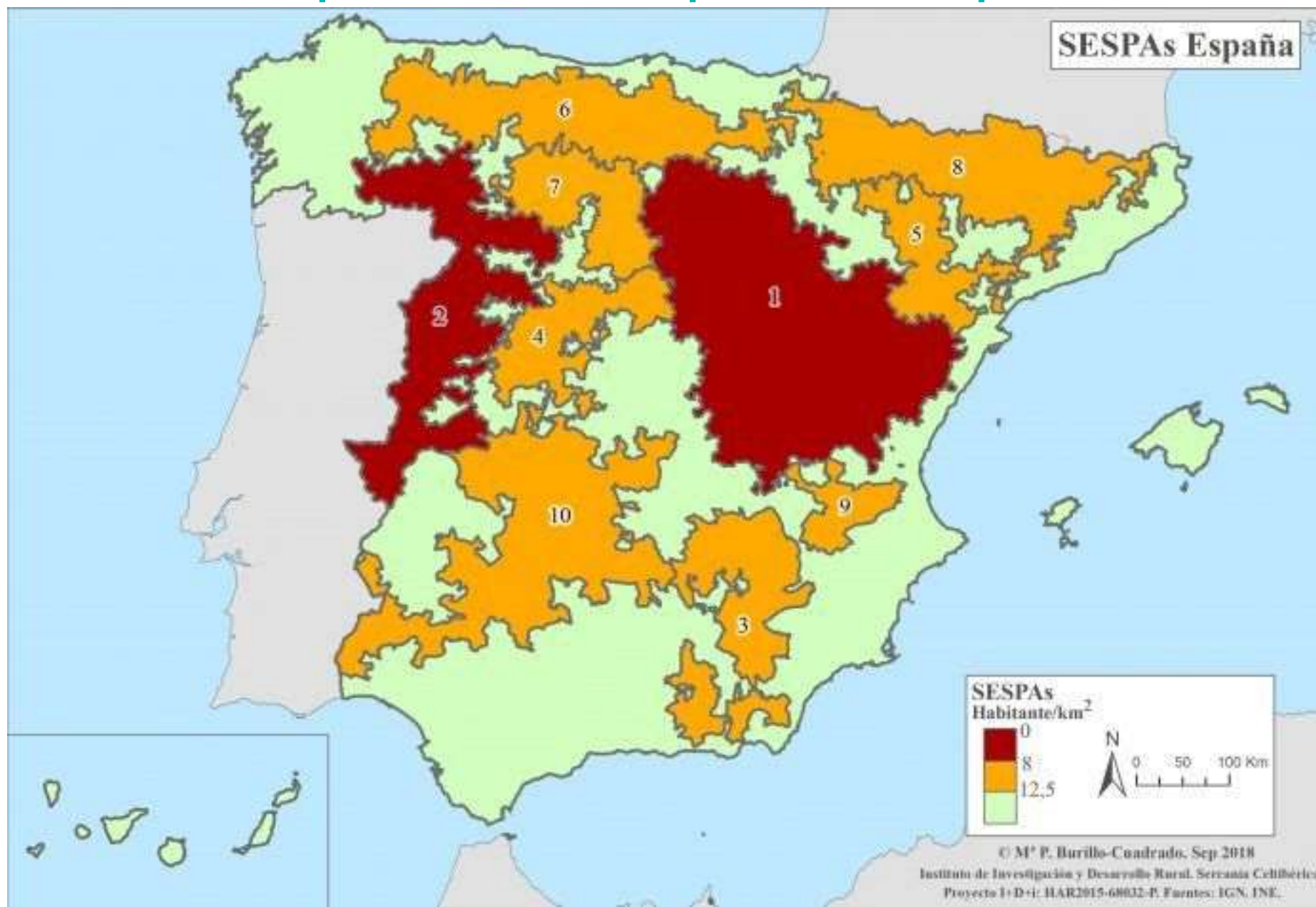
Cultural heritage

Demographic change

Job&Skills in local economy

Where did the project start?

It started with a problem... Spanish Lapland

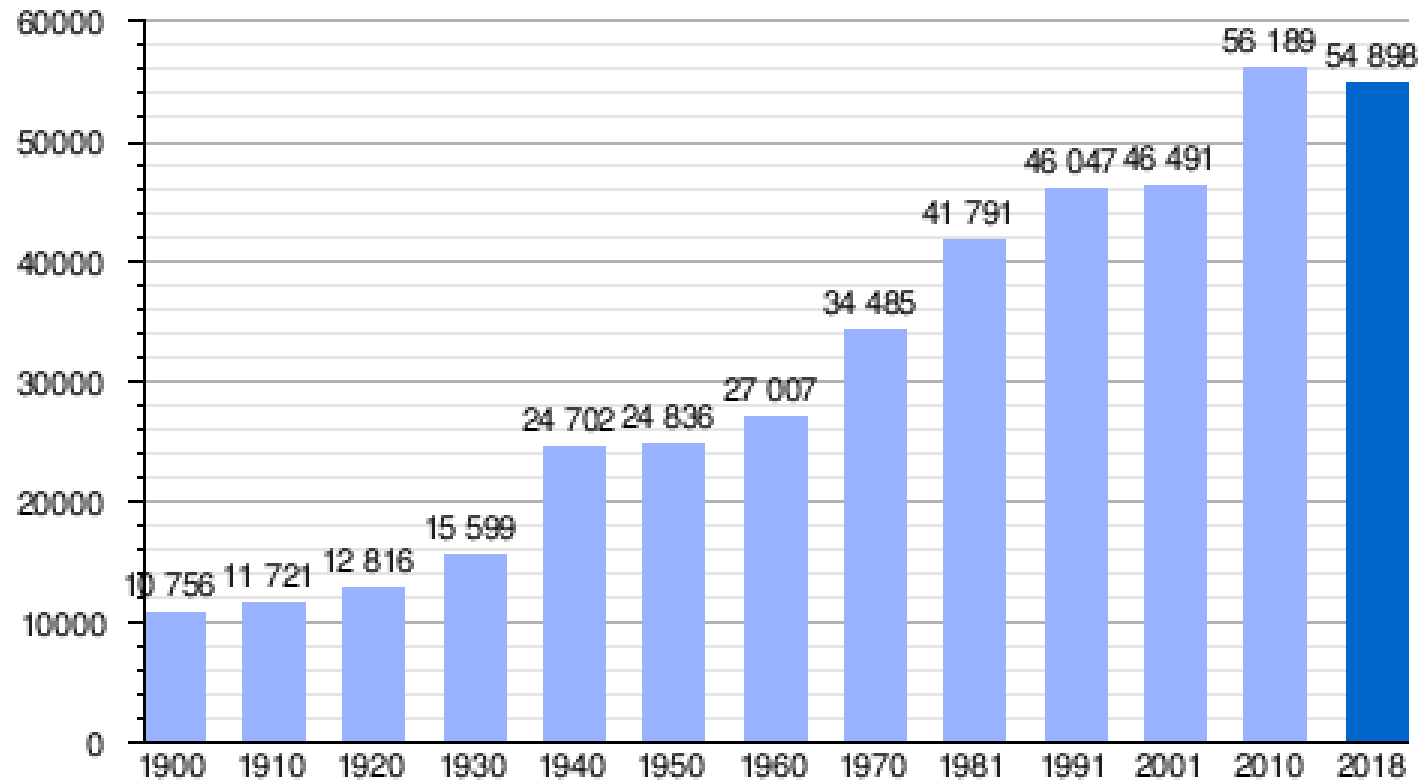


The Empty Spain... rural?



...but also urban

Population in the city of Cuenca (1900 – 2018)



A problem becomes a challenge if it is reformulated into a demanding task

Leverage on an asset



Challenge



City of Cuenca owns more than 50.000 hectares



Underexploited forest



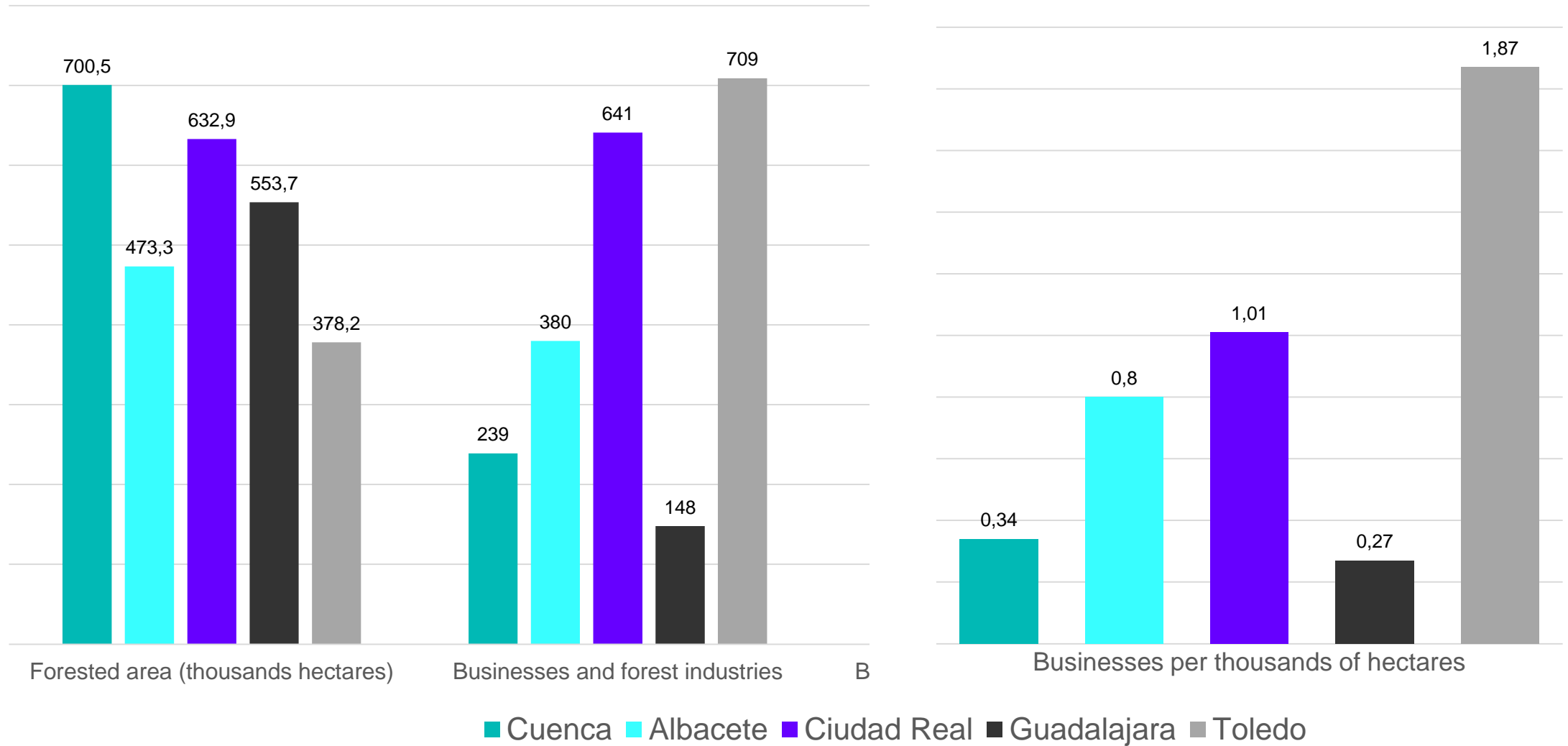
Unemployment and depopulation



Lack of university and training offer

Seize the social, economic and environmental benefits that forest and bioeconomy can provide to Cuenca.

Then?



Opportunities

- A training space to promote entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives around the forest.
- From prevention to sustainable use of the forest.
- The forest of the city of Cuenca as an engine of the economy: forest bioeconomy



Why Bioeconomy?

Maximizes the use of organic matter while generating economic activity in a sustainable way



Forest Bioeconomy

Make use of forest resources in an eco-efficient and sustainable way, while providing a set of collateral benefits.

Prevents depopulation and encourages regional cohesion

Reduces fire risk

Improves the water cycle

Climate change adaptation

Generates jobs and businesses

Enhances the landscape

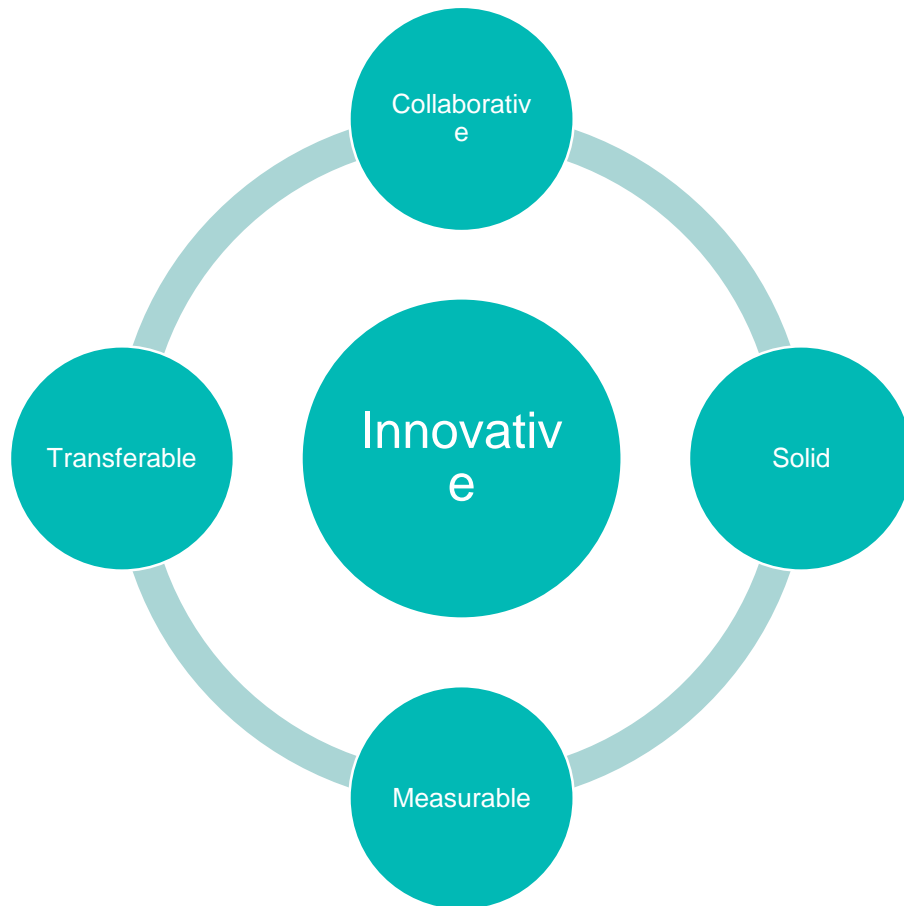
Increases biodiversity

Captures CO₂



Working on an innovative solution

An Innovative Urban Action




OUR GOAL: Try new solutions in response to urban challenges; see how they work in a controlled environment and how they would respond to the complexity of real life.

And we obtain

4,9 Million Euros



Jobs and skills

74  European cities have participated

1st Call for Proposals

18 

378 Applicants

2nd Call for Proposals

16 

206 Applicants

3rd Call for Proposals

22 

184 Applicants

CUENCA

4th Call for Proposals

20 

177 Applicants



URBAN FOREST
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What is UFIL?



UFIL Partners



City of Cuenca



University of Castilla La Mancha



Khora Urban Thinkers



Regional Government of
Castilla-La Mancha



Istituto Europeo di Design



Business Owner's Association of
Cuenca



Forest Stewardship Council



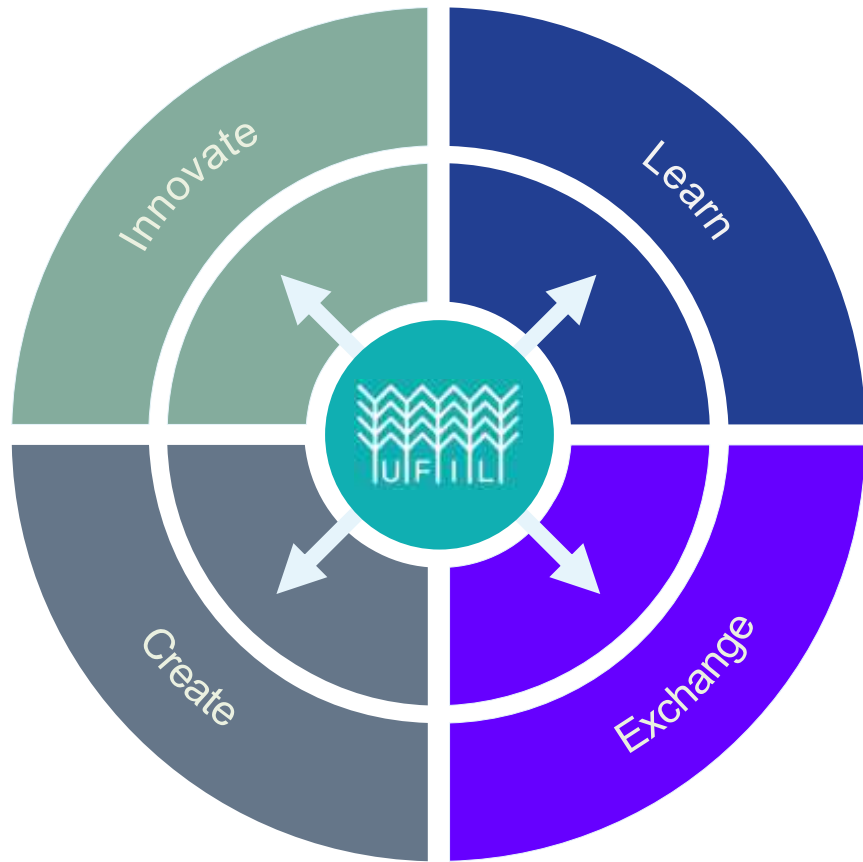
City of Cuenca – Wood Factory



Universidad Politécnica
de Madrid



UFIL pursues...



6 Goals:

1. Innovative ecosystem of the forest bioeconomy
2. Worker's abilities and skills
3. Retain business and talent in Cuenca
4. Efficient use of forest resources
5. Urban-rural nexus
6. Vertical integration in forest management

Figures and results

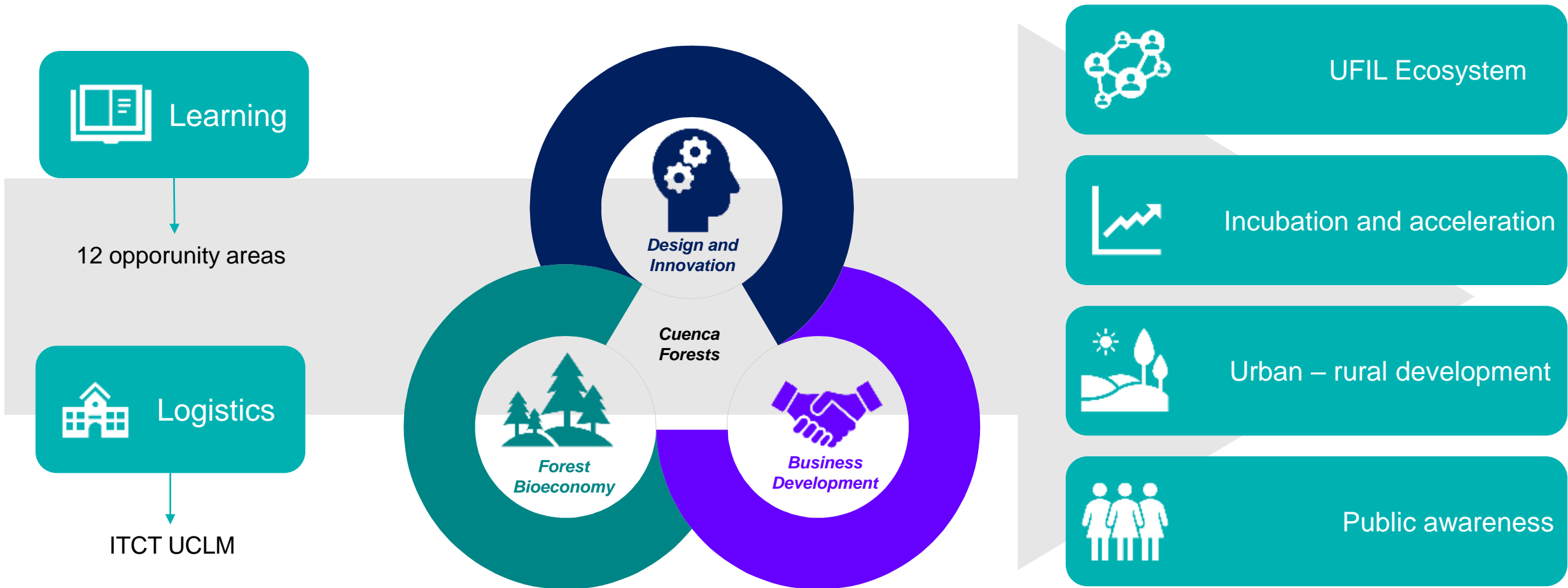
FIGURES

- ✓ +100 participants in 3 years
- ✓ 45 projects generated
- ✓ 27 entrepreneurship initiatives underway in Cuenca
- ✓ 10 initiatives from participants outside Cuenca will start in the city

RESULTS

- ✓ We will create a forest bioeconomy **business environment**
- ✓ Enhance **collaboration** between government bodies
- ✓ Increase and retain **capital and investments**
- ✓ An engaging **bioeconomy model for the future**

How UFIL is organized?



12 Opportunity areas for the forest of Cuenca



Cultural ecosystem services: tourism, education and conservation



Wood engineering: building and public works



Carbon storage and timber resources



Biomass and forest biofuel



Forest management and development technologies



Wood chemical derivatives: cellulose, lignin and other bioproducts



Forests for water: hydrological management



Resin production



Agroforestry products



Mycology



Design from forest products



Hunting and extensive livestock use

UFIL Headquarters



Institute of Technology, Construction and
Telecommunication

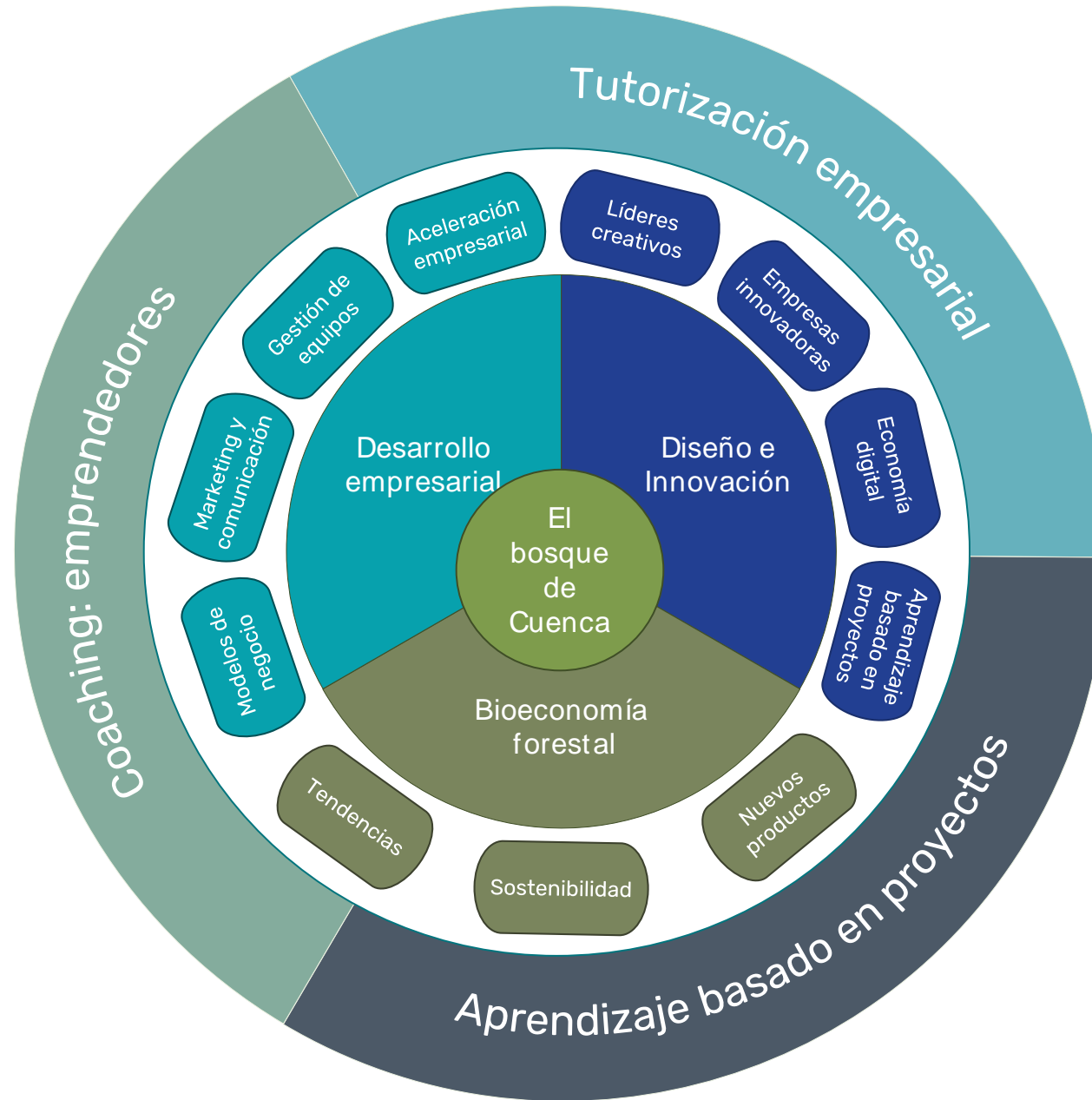
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University of Castilla-La Mancha



A space for teamwork and
innovation. A forestry Fab
Lab.

Training



Attendees profile: 35



21



14

Age

<25	10
25-35	15
35-45	7
45-55	3

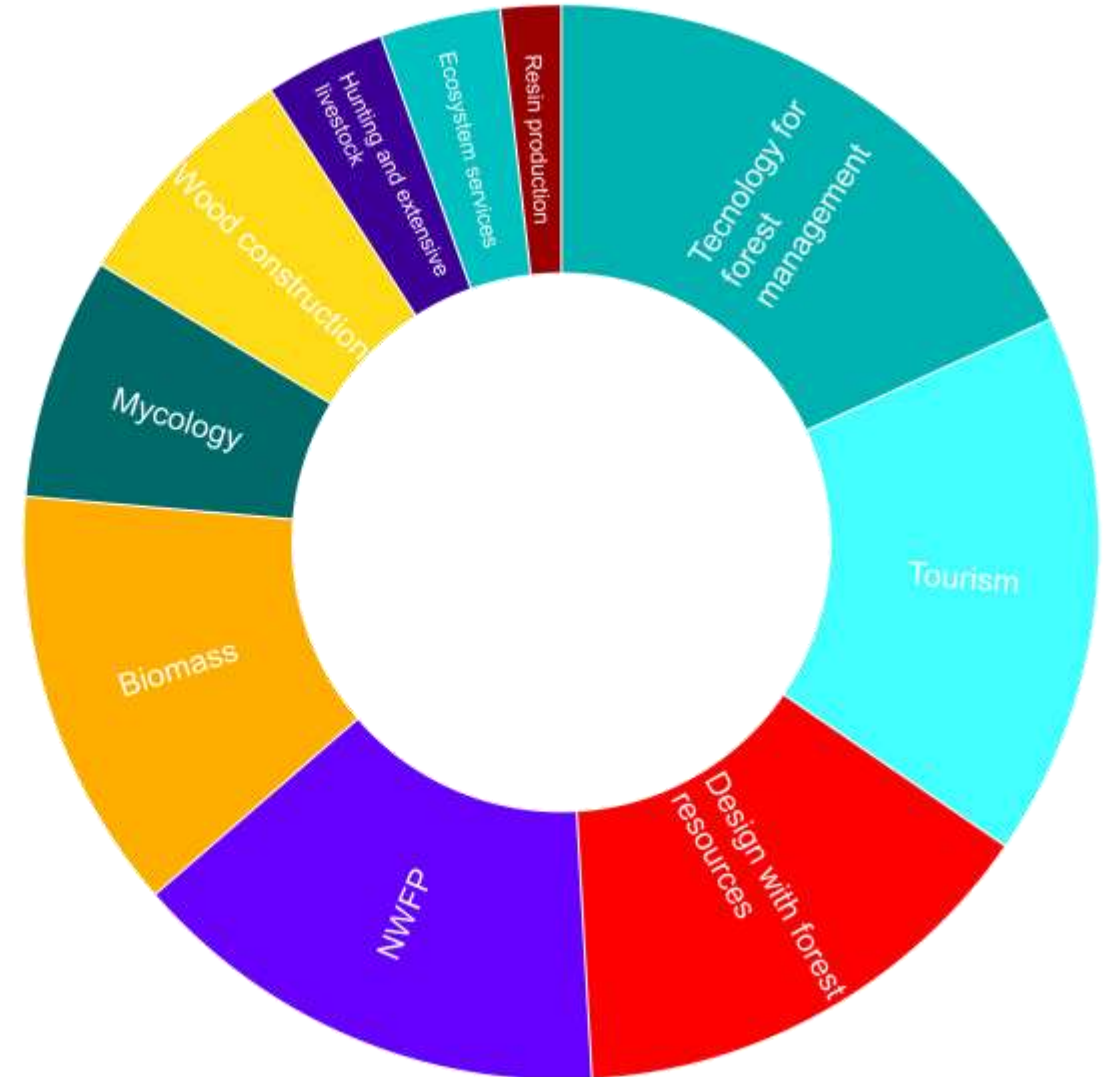
Education

Forestry	12	34%
Business Administration	7	20%
Biology and Environm. Sc.	6	17%
Design	5	14%
Architecture	1	3%
Basic	1	3%
Industrial	1	3%
Journalism	1	3%
Psychology	1	3%

Start date: 2 de marzo

Ideas emerged by participants during the selection process

Main topics	Number of proposals
Technology for forest management	10
Tourism and environmental education	9
Non-Wood forest products	8
Design with forest resources	8
Biomass fuels	7
Wood construction	4
Mycology	4
Ecosystem services: CO ₂ storage and water resources	2
Hunting and extensive livestock production	2
Resin production	1
Bio-based chemicals: cellulose and lignin	-
TOTAL	55



Poleno: the solution to land destruction



- High technology drone as a tool against desertification, where the main objective is the regeneration of degraded areas by mobilizing pollen from stable ecosystems to less resilient and developed ones.

Conversion of dryland farming to Terfezias harvesting



- Land conversion of non-sustainable dryland crops to plantations of genus *Helianthemum* associated with desert truffles, in order to reduce fertilizers and water needs and enabling soil's recovery.

Conditioned aversion in hunting management



- Non-lethal predation control by the use conditioned food aversion, favouring the recovery of hunting species and extensive livestock.

We want you

Urban Forest Innovation Lab es el programa para el emprendimiento en bioeconomía forestal de Cuenca.

UFIL combina aprendizaje basado en proyectos, tutorización, incubación y aceleración de ideas innovadoras en torno a la bioeconomía forestal.



CREAR

Quiero participar en el programa de emprendimiento recibiendo formación y tutorización para desarrollar un proyecto



DESAFIAR

Soy una empresa con un reto alrededor de la bioeconomía forestal y quiero explorar soluciones innovadoras



CONECTAR

Quiero colaborar con otras empresas y agentes relacionados con el bosque y participar en el ecosistema forestal de la

uia.cuenca.es

Thanks a lot!
Join UFIL!



@UFIL_Cuenca



UFIL Cuenca



*This Project is co-founded by the European
Regional Development Fund through the
Urban Innovative Actions initiative*

