

## Euro-Region Galicia-North Portugal

The Working Community Galicia-North Portugal has put forward what it believes to be a new, promising reality: the formation of a trans-frontier, inter-regional Euro-Region.

The European and peninsular geography was naturally created, but people have the ability to build a centrality made of opportunities, development strategies and projects that stand for a common culture, resources, solidarity and tolerance.

The Euro-Region Galicia- North Portugal is located in the north-western Iberian Peninsula and is today an area of strong social, economic and cultural relationships, full of opportunities and growth potential.

The territory of both regions has a total area of 51,000 sq. Km. and a population of over 6 million, equal to a population density of 123 inhabitants per sq. km..

In economic terms, the North of Portugal is a particularly industrialised region, whereas Galicia is more dependent upon agriculture, and both of them are currently investing strongly in the growth of the tertiary sector.

In respect of the companies of the Euro-Region, they are mainly focused on the retail, hotel and restaurant sectors, while manufacturing has the largest number of employees and sales. Together, Galicia and North Portugal have approximately 70,000 companies employing over one million people and a turnover of about 70 thousand million euros.

On the other hand, the capability for internationalization of both economies is reflected in their relationship with the world economy, mainly in what concerns the trade in goods. Thus, data for trade with the European Union for the year 2004 shows that the North of Portugal and Galicia imported 7,110 million euros while they exported 8,634 million euros, which demonstrates how both regional economies are very open to trade.



In summary, this brief description of the Euro-Region Galicia-North Portugal reveals a strong complementarity between these two areas, which at the same time are together highly competitive in the context of the growing globalisation of the world economy.