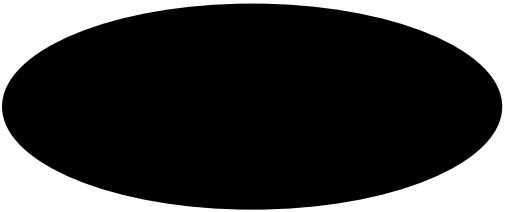


THE MINISTRY CREATES THE DISTINCTION "CITIES OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION"

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Published yesterday in [Official State Gazette](#) a [initiative we talked about a while ago](#), the **City of Science Award and the Innovation**. Some time ago, when the [State Fund for Employment and Local Sustainability 2010](#), we wrote about the role that the [General Directorate of Technology Transfer and Business Development](#) and the final decision of a jury.

The most important thing, however, is the assignment of a series of **benefits** to obtaining the prize:

- a) *Authorization for the use of the distinction in the communication and promotion of the city, both nationally and internationally.*
- b) *Promotion and promotion of collaborative projects between the municipalities that are integrated into the Network of Science and Innovation Cities.*
- c) *Integration of the Network as a reference entity within the MICINN-MITYC Working Group on scientific tourism.*
- d) *International promotion of Science and Innovation Cities in international events related to R+D+i and knowledge-based development.*
- e) *Preferential consideration of these cities for the location of scientific and technological facilities owned or owned by the state, as well as to locate nodes of the MICINN network of Information Points on R+D+i, (PIDI network).*
- f) *Prioritization of these cities as preferential places to organize the meetings of the department with the Autonomous Communities and other agents of the R&D system, as well as for holding congresses and seminars of their Public Research Organizations.*

In order to obtain the distinction, city councils must demonstrate their commitment to promote **innovation projects**, understood as:

- a) *Those aimed at promoting economic activity, entrepreneurship and innovation, such as business parks, science and technology parks, knowledge centers and business incubators, as well as their provision of infrastructures for deployment and access to new generation telecommunications networks.*
- b) *Those for the creation, equipment and development of innovation and technological development infrastructures.*
- c) *Those aimed at improving access to networks and infrastructures of information technology and fixed and mobile telecommunications, and their use.*
- d) *Those aimed at improving the green economy, understood as a pattern of growth that respects environmental sustainability, rational use of natural resources, energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy both in municipal assets, especially buildings, as in the public services provided by the city council, with special attention to innovative collective transport and new forms of mobility.*
- e) *Those aimed at promoting innovation in the health and care economy (day centers, care centers and the elderly), as an improvement in the quality of life of the citizens of the municipality.*
- f) *Those aimed at modernizing the municipal administration by establishing document management processes, digitization and access to high-speed, fixed and mobile communication networks.*
- g) *Centers for culture and scientific-technological dissemination (science or technology museums, energy museums, scientific-technical dissemination/interpretation centers...).*
- h) *Residences for researchers and training centers.*

Regarding the **benefits**, they seem meager. They navigate between the increase in visibility as exemplary town halls in the commitment to innovation and the priority when it comes to hosting

some activities of the innovation system. The most promising seems to be the provision of preferential consideration when locating scientific or technological facilities, but it is a problematic issue. The criteria for locating infrastructures or facilities of any kind depend much more on criteria of political opportunity, balance of interests or, simply, who is capable of proposing additional resources.

As for the **projects**, the regulations seem to be weighed down by the fact that they were born linked to the State Fund for Employment and Local Sustainability. In fact, for the 2010 edition, it will be the projects financed by this fund that will count, which is why the list of types of projects includes the types that were tried to support with the fund. This explains why the list is somewhat confusing, with projects of different signs.

Like any award, it is expected to have an incentive effect: give relevance to the municipalities that are most committed to the transformation of the productive fabric and science and technology. The incentive still seems scarce, but surely it can serve to have at least a clearer image of which projects from the state fund have been more worthwhile in terms of technological investment and which municipalities have had the capacity to mobilize them. Beyond that is a deeper debate on the territorial development model and how it is linked to economic transformation.

There are no comments yet.