1. *Iberus*, ICE of the Ebro Valley

*Iberus* is the project through which the state universities of the Autonomous Communities of Aragón, Navarra and La Rioja, as well as from the province of Lleida in Catalonia, established as a strategic alliance, aspire to become the Campus of International Excellence (ICE) of the Ebro Valley. This project is organised around three fundamental areas to be executed in the ICE initiative within the 2010-2014 period. The intention is also to form part of a large strategic project of the four universities with a time horizon of 2025, built in line both with the 2015 University Strategy, the objective of which is the modernisation, specialisation, and internationalisation of the Spanish university system, and the 2020 Bologna Process, which defines the new decade for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), and the creation of the European Research Area (ERA), cornerstones of the European Modernisation Agenda for Universities.

The alliance of these four universities is natural, due to their geographical proximity, the existence of several common elements, the existence of a history of close collaboration and the existence of a common link, the river Ebro, which provides shared cultural, social and economic elements. Specialisation offers an opportunity for the four universities to improve their positioning as knowledge centres in strategic areas by carrying out projects linked to socioeconomic activity of the Ebro Valley.

Therefore, the alliance, through cooperation, wishes to contribute to the sustainability of the state university model by making the objectives of the European Agenda their own.

1.1. **Mission and vision**

*Iberus*, the ICE of the Ebro Valley, is the project through which the four universities hope to achieve a standard of quality and visibility that is comparable to the best European universities by:

- bringing together the skills of all the members that make up its strategic alliance,
- defining those knowledge areas where they can and wish to be strong,
- placing people and their full development at the centre of the aspirations of organisations,
- acting as an engine for socioeconomic development.

*Iberus* has been created with an international vision, but is firmly rooted in its society and committed to its development. It has been constructed as a focal point for culture, a promoter of thinking and an engine for economic progress and is organised as a permanent area for change and exchange where science, culture and technology are encouraged.