

INNOVATION PLAN FOR THE PORT OF TARRAGONA (2025–2030)

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Background

We are living in a time of important transformations on a global scale – digitalisation, sustainability and artificial intelligence – that have a full impact on port management.

In this context, the Port of Tarragona has the opportunity to position itself as an innovative port and benchmark in the Mediterranean, taking advantage of its link with key sectors such as agri-food and chemicals, as well as its commitment as a promoter of the Blue Economy.

This plan is now being proposed to align with the Strategic Framework of Puertos del Estado, with Ports 4.0 and with the UNE 178110:2024 Standard for Smart Ports, which offer a clear guide to transform the port model, as well as to mark a line of action for the Port in terms of innovation, clearly shared with its community.

It also responds to the desire to address the need for cultural transformation of the organisation and activate the potential of the local ecosystem, through the SOM-INN PORT initiative.

This document reflects the analysis and strategic and operational design of the Port of Tarragona's innovation for the period 2025-2030.



Objectives of the Plan

- To promote innovation as a lever for competitiveness, sustainability, differentiation and growth of the Port of Tarragona.
- To consolidate a living ecosystem under the SOM-INN PORT brand.
- Integrate the guidelines of Puertos del Estado into the Innovation Plan.
- Define the key strategic axes and vehicles to promote innovation projects aligned with the objectives of the Port.

Recipients

This document is conceived as a strategic, management and innovation coordination document for the future of the Port of Tarragona, and should be of special interest to:

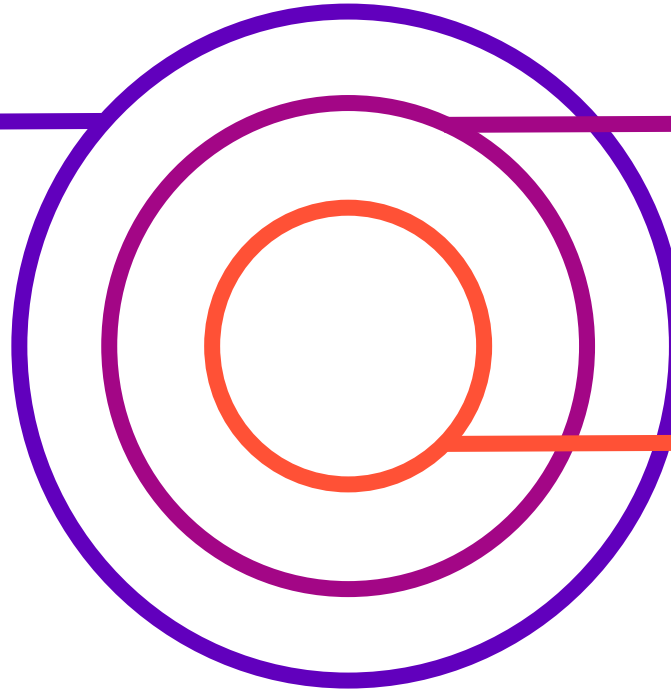
- The Port Authority of Tarragona (APT). Companies and organisations in the port community.
- The knowledge, technology and entrepreneurship agents of the Port of Tarragona ecosystem.
- The citizens of Tarragona, as the ultimate beneficiary of innovation.



The Innovation Plan is based on a three-level diagnosis:

External analysis

High-impact future trends have been analysed, prioritising those that will transform the business model and operations in the coming years. This exercise has provided contrasted market information that has served as the basis for defining the strategic axes of the Innovation Plan.



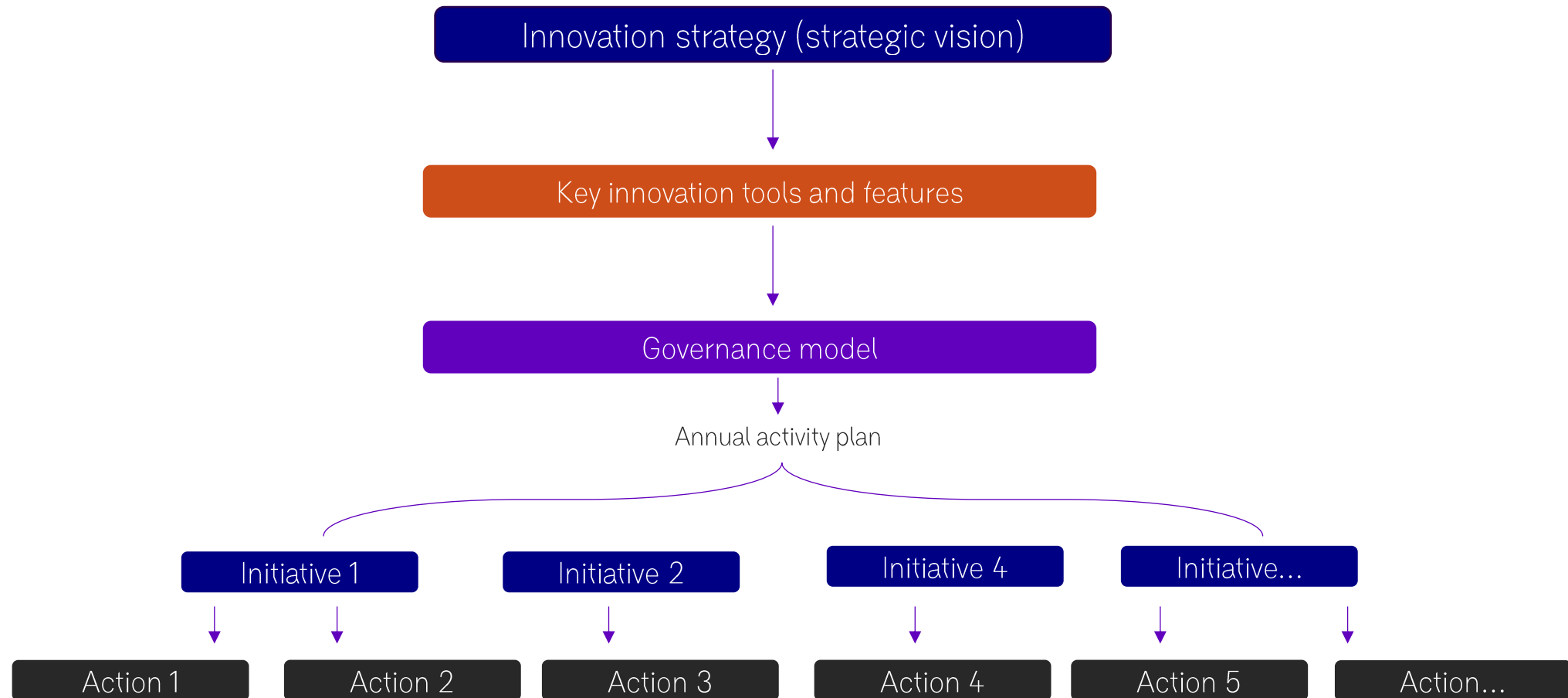
Sectoral analysis

How other national and international ports manage innovation has been analysed and the innovation needs of the local port ecosystem have been contrasted.

Internal analysis

The degree of maturity of the innovation function of the APT has been evaluated, identifying its strengths and opportunities for improvement.

How to develop an Innovation Plan



Strategic Vision 2030

"To be a benchmark port in the Mediterranean in innovation applied to the digitalisation and sustainability of port logistics operations, promoting the growth of an active, connected and talented blue economy ecosystem."

What innovation objectives are we looking to achieve?

Structuring innovation is not an end. We understand innovation as a means of change that allows the Port to improve through four main objectives:

1. Promote a change in corporate culture

See and be able to measure an increase in collaboration, updating, proactivity... with a transversal character.

2. Streamline transformation processes

At all stages of the transformation, from the detection of the need to the implementation of the

3. Improve digitalization and sustainability

Especially in operations, keeping the APT at a benchmark level in digitalisation and sustainability.

4. Offer a service to the territory

To generate synergies with the business and institutional fabric of the territory, generating value for the country as a whole.

The strategic axes define the direction of innovation projects

The vision and objectives to be achieved through the implementation of the plan are developed on the basis of three strategic innovation axes, which respond to the most significant trends in port activity.

ADVANCED DIGITALIZATION

- Implementation of IoT, AI, Big Data, Blockchain and prediction systems.
- Integration of tools for predictive management, environmental monitoring and logistics traceability.
- Automation of operational and administrative processes.



SUSTAINABILITY

- Infrastructures for the electrification of docks (OPS), self-consumption and renewable energies.
- Innovation for efficiency: sensors, emission control and energy optimisation.
- Circular economy, neutrality and nature-based solutions.
- Green mobility, accessibility, shared uses of space and citizen information.



EFFICIENCY AND SAFETY OF OPERATIONS

- Improved logistics competitiveness, minimising time, costs and congestion.
- Smart and synchronomodal ports, optimization of spaces and cargo flows.
- Technologies to improve intermodal coordination and last-mile transport.



Key Industries

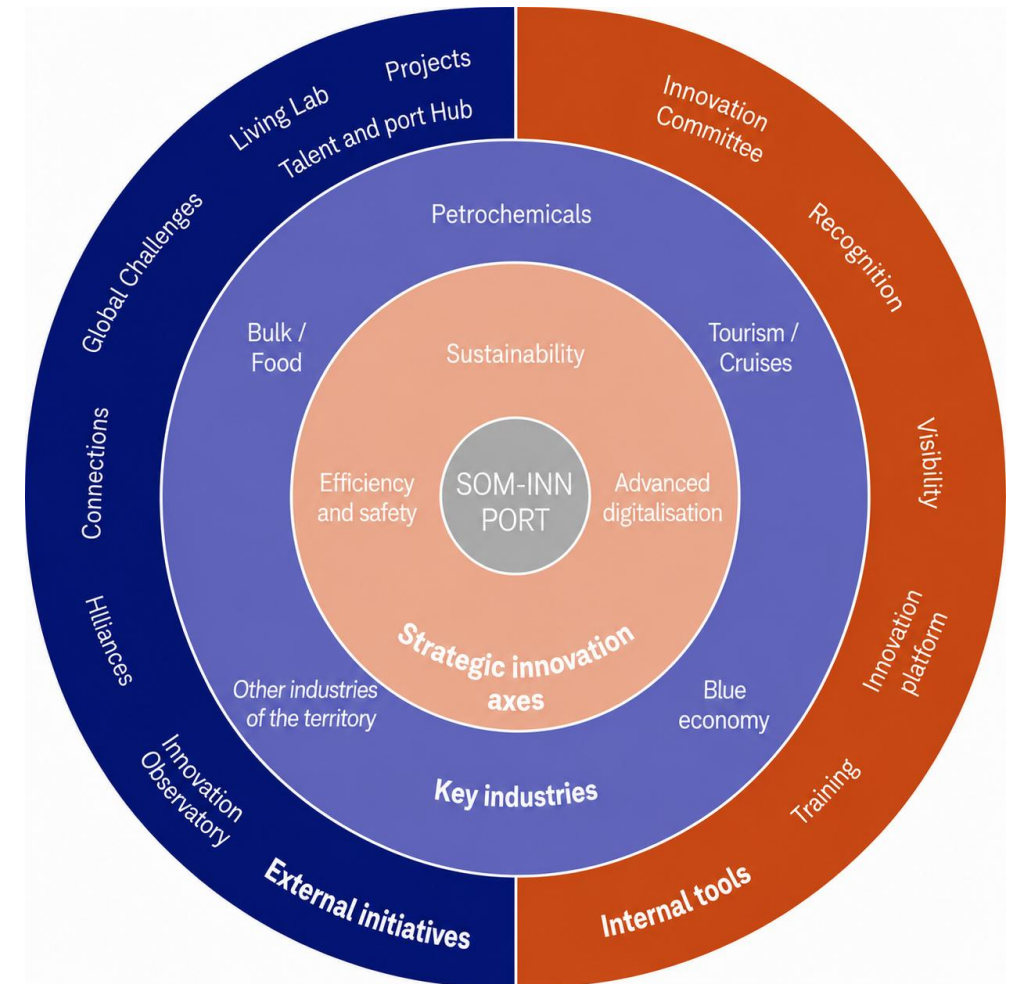
Innovation in Tarragona's port ecosystem must be supported by the following industries, in which the city has a current position or clear future potential (without being restrictive compared to other industries aligned with Vision 2030).

	Industry				
		Petrochemical	Bulk/ Food	Blue economy	Tourism / Cruises
Relevant sub-sectors		- Green and circular chemistry (bioplastics, chemical recycling). - New fuels (H₂, methanol, green ammonia). - High-value chemical additives and specialties.	- Cereals and feed (Mediterranean agri-food hub). - Processed agri-food products. - Fertilizers and agricultural products.	- Renewable energies. - Marine biotechnology and biodiversity. - Improved water quality. - Maritime and coastal tourism. - Recovery and recycling of plastics. - Sustainable fishing.	- Passenger growth and new terminals. - Tourism on the Costa Dorada. - Decentralization of Barcelona.
	Areas Impact	- Decarbonisation of the sector. - New fuels.	- Logistics of the agri-food product. - Specific conditions of carriage for the sector.	Underwater prospecting and robotics.	Environmental impact of tourism activity.

The virtuous cycle of innovation in the Port

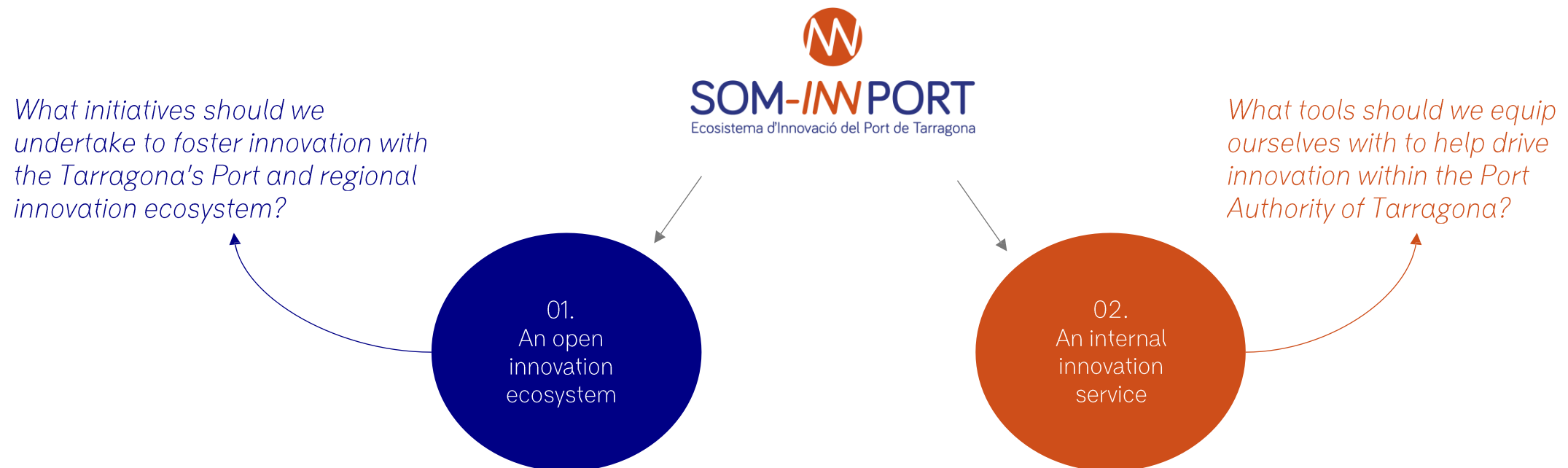
The Port of Tarragona defines an Innovation Plan with the following characteristics:

- Institutionalized under the SOM-INN PORT brand.
- Three strategic axes and four key industries.
- Eight external initiatives to promote innovation through the port and territorial ecosystem.
- Five key internal tools to provide service to the Port Authority of Tarragona.



We consolidate SOM-INN PORT to drive innovation

Under this strategic vision, SOM-INN PORT is consolidated as the mechanism that institutionalises innovation at the Port of Tarragona, both externally (the port and regional innovation ecosystem) and internally (the internal innovation service for the Port Authority of Tarragona).

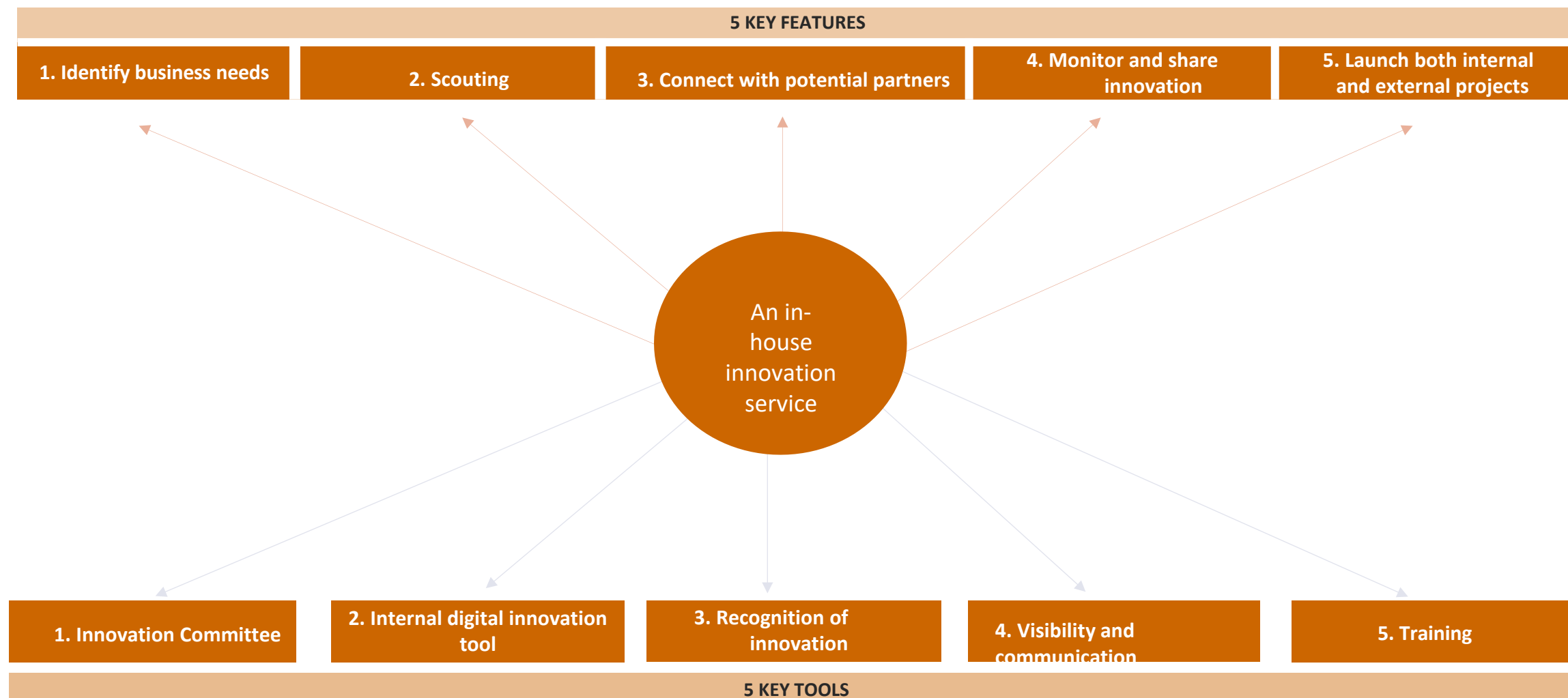


Plan to strengthen the open innovation ecosystem

The APT defines an annual plan of activities that each year will bring together the eight types of external initiatives identified in our analysis of trends in the sector, under four pillars: knowledge, training, project generation and technology.

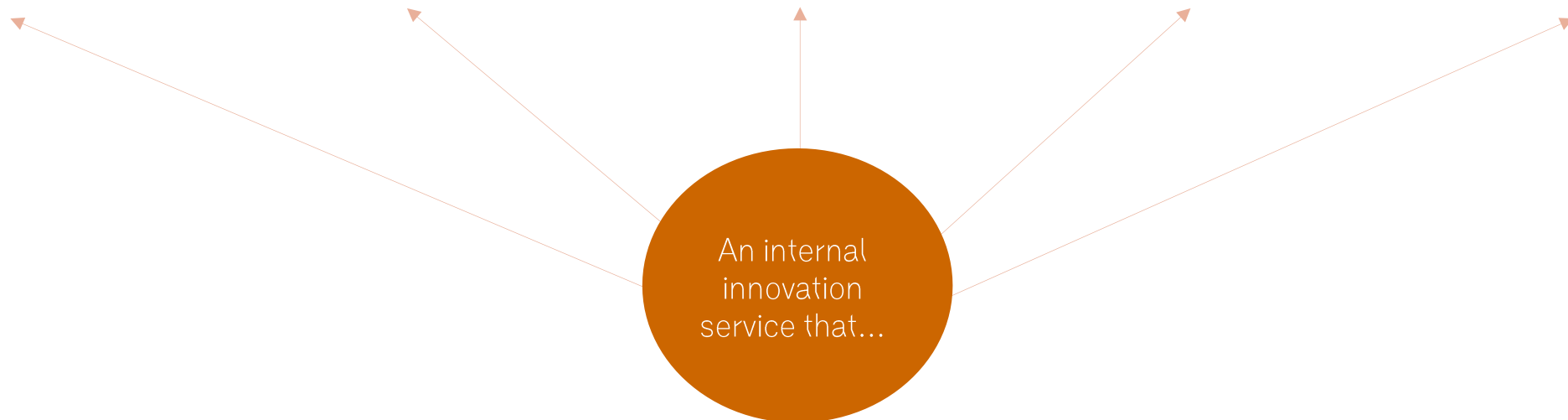
PILLARS OF THE ANNUAL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES			
KNOWLEDGE	TRAINING	PROJECTS	TECHNOLOGY
Internal and external innovation observatory	Port and Talent Initiative	Promotion and participation in Ports 4.0 projects	Living Lab Activation
Inspiring events promoted by the alliance network	Certified training sessions in port innovation and innovation methodologies (Micro-credentials)	Participation in calls from international organizations	Testing innovative technological solutions
Annual Innovation Conference (Consolidation of Knowledge Management)		Solution Scouting	Meeting between technology providers and ports
Creativity and ideation sessions		Hackathons	
Needs detection sessions		Global Challenge Mediterranean with other ports	
		Sessions for the generation of collaborative projects	

SOM-INN PORT, also an internal service with 5 functions and 5 key tools



SOM-INN PORT, also an in-house service with 5 functions

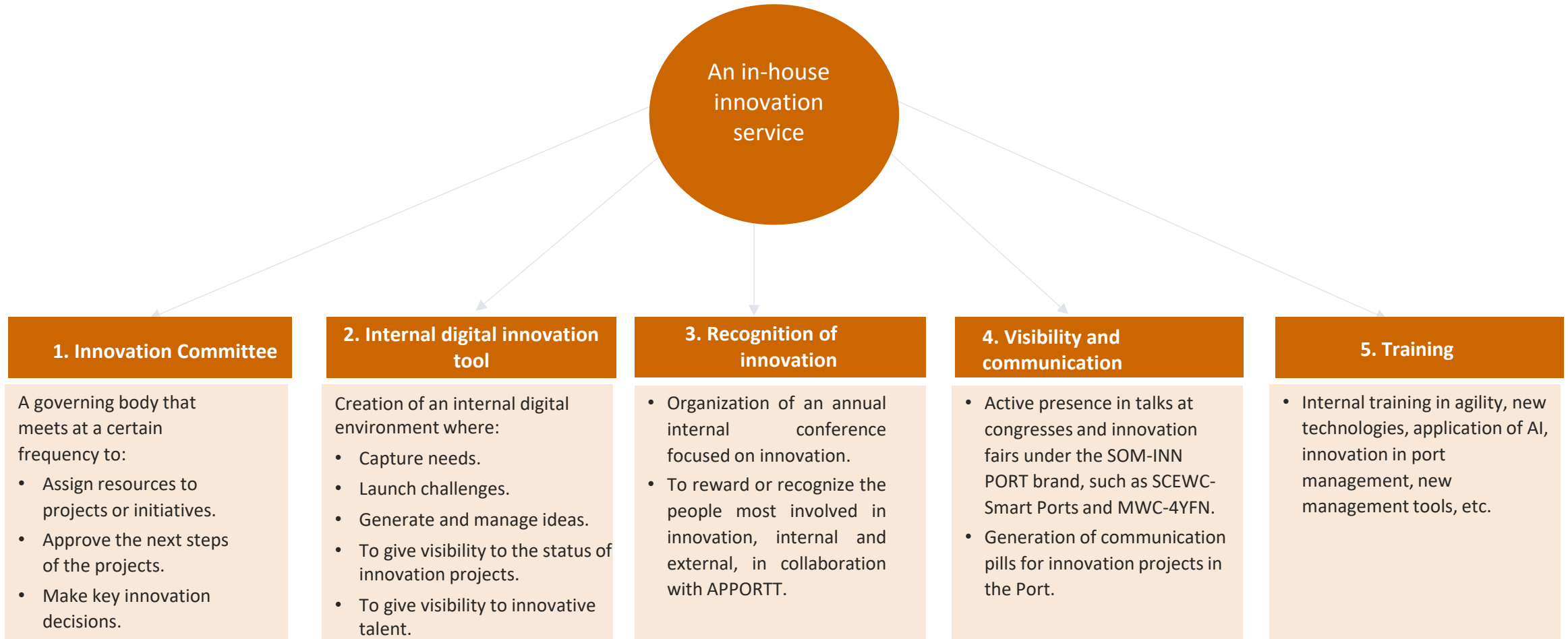
Established internal process of capturing needs from different departments.	Established internal process of scouting solutions against needs detected internally.	- Identification of potential partners with which to accelerate innovation projects. - Creation of a database of innovation partners. - Formalization of alliances. - Presentation of innovative organizations.	- Identification of internal cases of innovation (internal observatory). - Share cases on web portals, networks and internal platforms.	- Formalized process of managing and filtering ideas. - Prototyping and piloting improvements. - Support in the implementation of projects in the APT.
1. Identify business needs	2. Scouting	3. Connect with potential partners	4. Monitor and share innovation	5. Launch both internal and external projects



What functions should SOM-INN PORT have to help promote innovation in the Port Authority of Tarragona?

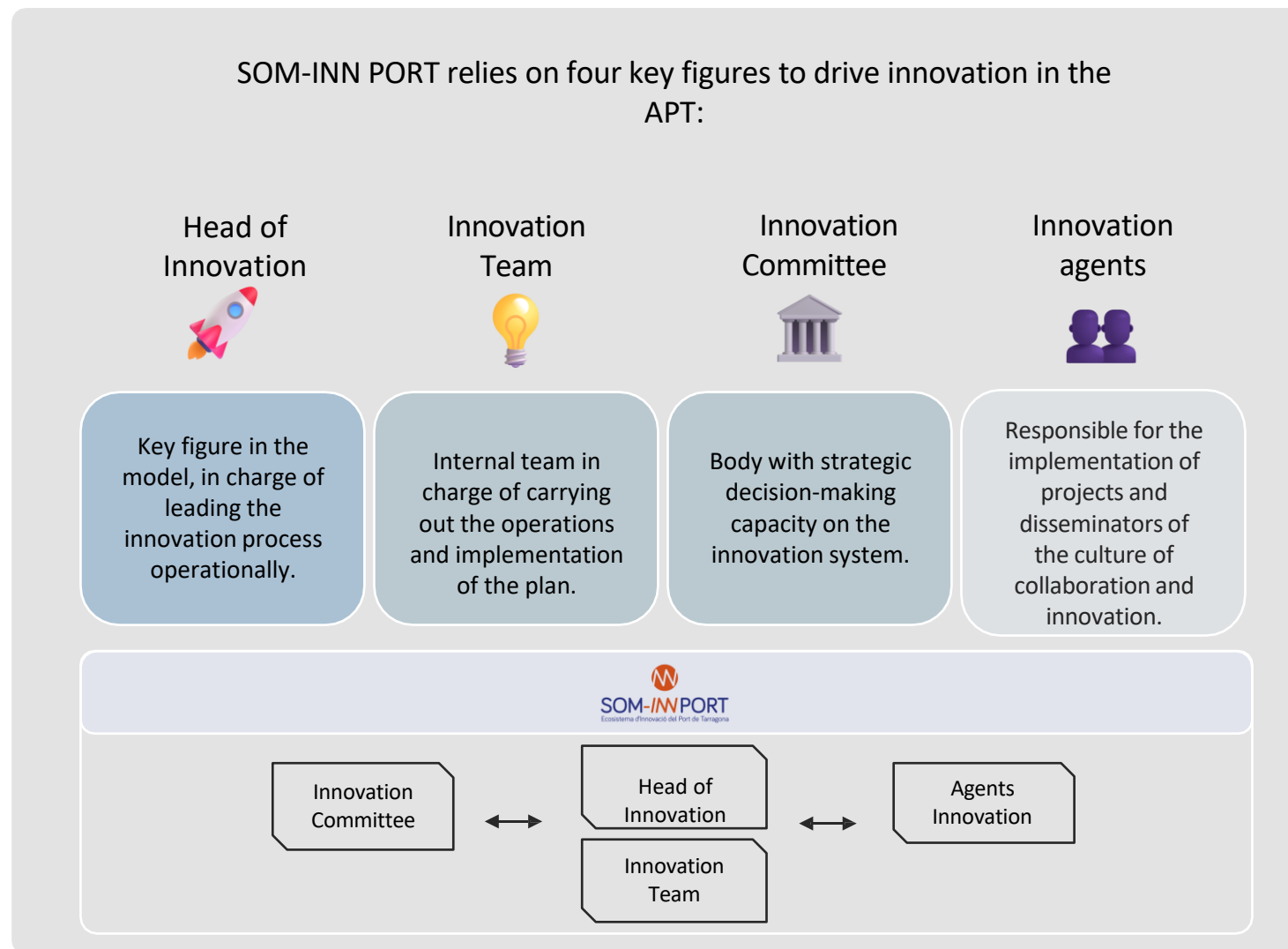
SOM-INN PORT, also an internal service with 5 key tools

What tools will we provide to SOM-INN PORT to promote innovation in the Port Authority of Tarragona?



Organization and roles

To ensure effective and strategic management of innovation, the Tarragona Port Authority model establishes a clear organisational structure, with defined actors who promote, coordinate and supervise the entire innovation process.



Action plan focused on 5 areas of work

The action plan focuses on five areas of work over the next five years to achieve Vision 2030 and innovation goals.

VIEW 2030

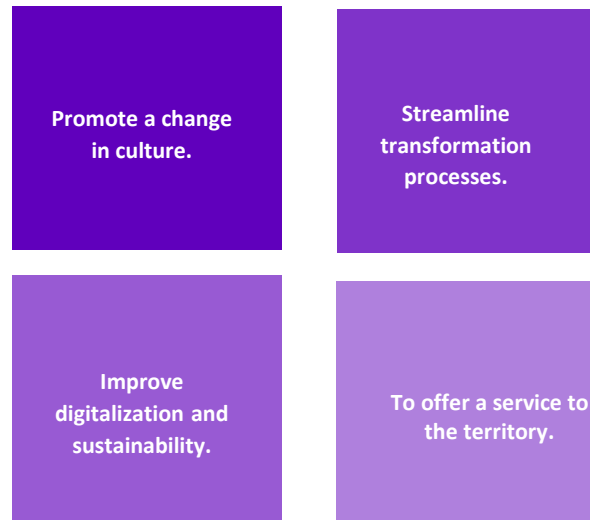
What do we want?

Port of Tarragona 2030 Vision

"To be a benchmark port in the Mediterranean in innovation applied to the digitalisation and sustainability of port logistics operations, promoting the growth of an active, connected and talented blue economy ecosystem."

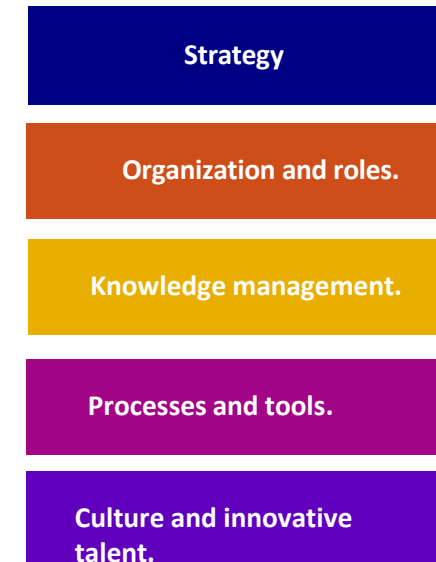
What do we need to achieve to get there?

Objectives of the Innovation Plan



How do we activate the roadmap?

We focus on a management model with five areas:



Action Plan: A 19-Action Path to Vision 2030

Areas of work	Actions	PLANNING (H1 2026)	ACTIVATION (2026-2027)	CONSOLIDATION (2028-2030)
Strategy	1.1 Communication of the Port's innovation strategy - Innovation Plan 2025-2030			
	1.2 Incorporate "Alignment with Vision 2030" in the selection criteria for innovative projects			
	1.3 Actively participate in regional, national and international alliance networks			
	1.4 Promote innovative projects for Ports 4.0 and aligned with Vision 2030			
Organization and functions	2.1 Creation and activation of the Innovation Committee			
	2.2 Structuring of the Innovation Service (SOM-INN PORT)			
	2.3 Consolidation of the Innovation and Blue Economy team			
	2.4 Structuring and activation of the Technical Innovation Office (SOM-INN PORT)			
Knowledge management	3.1 Activate the needs and challenges capture system			
	3.2 Train APT teams in innovation methodologies and tools			
	3.3 Recurrent management of the Innovation and Technology Watch Observatory			
	3.4 Develop and manage a database of startups and solutions in the port ecosystem			
Processes and tools	4.1 Technological evolution and maintenance of the SOM-INN PORT website and platform			
	4.2 Implementation and maintenance of the technological platform for internal innovation management			
	4.3. Biannual Hatakthon of SOM-INN PORT			
	4.4. Networking sessions between SOM-INN PORT members			
Culture and innovative talent	5.1 Creation and activation of the "Port and Talent" initiative			
	5.2 Organize a plan of activities of the SOM-INN PORT ecosystem			
	5.3 Define the program for the recognition and visibility of internal and external innovation			

NAMING OF THE 2025-2030 INNOVATION PLAN OF THE PORT OF TARRAGONA:

"PLA INNOVARE 2030"
**Towards a more connected,
sustainable, efficient and safe port**



Port Tarragona **sdli**

INNOVARE Concept

Why Innovare?

- It explicitly places the **Port's innovation and progress** at the centre, communicating that it is moving towards a more digital, sustainable and efficient model.
- It evokes **continuity and constant improvement**, aligned with the progressive transformation of processes, services and infrastructures.
- It connects with the idea of a **port that adapts and uses innovation as an engine to move forward**.
- It maintains the classic and historical roots of **Tarraco**, while projecting a vision of the future.

The Port not only innovates, but evolves with rigour, vision and ambition, reinforcing our role as a port of reference in the Mediterranean.



www.sdli.es

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