

Víctor Falguera

Policy, Public Affairs & Strategy | Government Relations | Strategic Partnerships
Bioeconomy | Digital & Industrial Transition

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Cross-sector executive combining public administration, private-sector, and academia to design and scale policy instruments, innovation programmes and strategic partnerships. General Manager of BioHubCat and CIDAFcat. Two *cum-laude* PhDs; 15+ years across Europe and Latin America; author of 40+ JCR-indexed publications (*h-index* 23).

- Government relations: former Mayor and Councilor; technical lead advising the Government of Catalonia on the 'bio-industrial areas' policy instrument.
- Strategy-to-delivery: built and formalised a bioeconomy-led 35-entity collaboration network; direct technical support to 10 pilot municipalities developing bio-industrial areas; specialized in regional *shared agendas* development.
- International positioning: UN GA 80th Session, Second Committee / ECOSOC; EU policy dialogue (Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking Working Group on Primary Producers; European Committee of the Regions Territorial Impact Assessment expert group).
- Entrepreneurship: founding partner and sole administrator of 3 companies (AKIS International, E-STRATOS Geosystems, Inaptek Automation).

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Public Affairs & Government Relations
- Policy design and multi-level governance
- Institutional relations and stakeholder engagement
- Strategic partnerships and ecosystem building
- R&I programmes
- Programme design and execution
- Cluster / hub management and service portfolio
- Cross-sector value chains and circular bioeconomy
- International cooperation (Europe and Latin America)
- Science-to-policy delivery

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

General Manager - Catalonia Bioeconomy Hub (BioHubCat)

Catalonia (EU) | 2023-present

- Direct hub strategy, service portfolio and partnerships to operationalise the Catalan Bioeconomy Strategy 2030 for companies and territories.
- Built and formalised a 35-entity collaboration network (companies, administrations, research centres, clusters).
- Technical lead supporting the Government of Catalonia's inter-departmental work on 'bio-industrial areas'; assisted 10 pilot municipalities.
- Represented the ecosystem at the United Nations 80th GA 2nd Committee and ECOSOC joint session (New York, 14 Oct 2025); member of the Circular Bio-based Europe JU Working Group on Primary Producers.
- Territorial Impact Award in Biocircularity (BioCircular Summit, Madrid, 2025).

General Manager - Catalonia Agri-Food & Forestry Digital Innovation Hub (CIDAFcat)

Catalonia (EU) | 2023-present

- Coordinate DIH services and partnerships to accelerate digital adoption in agri-food and forestry (SMEs, industry, and primary sector).
- Built service pathways linking users with technology providers, research groups and innovation funding opportunities.

Founding Partner, RDi Manager, and Sole Administrator - AKIS International

Europe and Latin America | 2013-2023

- Strategic advisory and RDi management for public and private clients; designed multi-actor platforms and value-chain programmes. Specialised in *shared agendas* (reference practice in OECD's Mission-Oriented Innovation Policies toolkit).
- EU and international projects (Horizon/H2020, EIP-AGRI, ESF, AECID, Fontagro) across Europe and Latin America.

Founding Partner and Sole Administrator - E-STRATOS Geosystems and Inaptek Automation

Spain (EU) | 2017-2023

- Data analytics and geospatial support for territorial and agri-food systems; automation and smart building solutions.

Mayor; previously Councilor for Education - Council of Albatàrrec

Albatàrrec (Catalonia, Spain, EU) | 2011-2018

- Elected leadership in local government: municipal governance, public service delivery.
- Associated role as President of the board of the local power distribution and commercialization companies (DEA/CEA).

Early career: Researcher (IRTA, 2013; University of Lleida, 2009-2012) and R&D Technician (Industries GMB SA, 2008-2009).

SELECTED EU AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

- STRONGBIONET (Horizon Europe, 2026-2029) - Strengthening and connecting bioeconomy networks; EU and outside-EU scale stakeholder engagement to provide coherence and enhance collaboration.
- PRIMED (Horizon Europe, 2024-2026) - Redesigning the primary sector for bioeconomy development; policy analysis and development of long-term strategic agreements and governance through the *shared agendas* methodology in 5 regions.
- agROBOfood (H2020, 2019-2023) - network of Digital Innovation Hubs in robotics for the European agri-food sector.
- Platform to increase productivity and competitiveness of Andean fruit chains (2 FONTAGRO projects, 2014-2017 & 2017-2021). Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
- Improvement of the resilience of family farms through irrigation and solar dehydrators to empower women in the rural areas of Colombia (2 projects of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation - AECID, 2017-2019 & 2018-2020).
- EIP-AGRI Operational Groups (2018-2021) - nutrient recovery and circular bioeconomy initiatives.

EDUCATION AND AWARDS

Education

PhD, Engineering and Advanced Technologies - University of Barcelona (2013)

PhD, Agricultural and Food Science and Technology - University of Lleida (2012)

MRes Agricultural Production Systems (2009) | M.D.

Agricultural Engineer (2008) | B.D. Agricultural Technical

Engineer (2006)

Awards (selection)

- BioHubCat: Territorial Impact Award in Biocircularity (BioCircular Summit, Madrid, 2025).
- 2x National Prize, Excellence in Academic Performance - Spanish Ministry for Education (2005-2006; 2007-2008).
- University of Lleida: Extraordinary Awards (PhD 2012; M.D. 2009; B.D. 2007).
- AKIS International: 1st Technological Innovation Award - Sant Miquel Fair (Lleida, 2018) for *watmanPRO*.

OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

- 40+ peer-reviewed JCR-indexed publications (*h-index* 23); book editor (CRC Press, 2014).
- Associate, part-time teacher in Production & Innovation Management (University of Lleida, 2015-present).
- Lleida Province Representative - Official Association of Agricultural Engineers of Catalonia (2018-present).
- Biolab Ponent (Lleida rural area) - open innovation structure for systemic transition towards a sustainable circular bioeconomy; referenced by European Network for Rural Development and Joint Research Center analysis reports.
- Member of the WG on Circular Bioeconomy - AKIS Coordination Org. - Spanish Ministry for Agriculture (2026).
- 5G Rural (Spain, 2019) – the first-ever pilot of 5G application in a rural environment, with a multi-partner consortium.
- Expert of the INNOVACT Platform on agri-food value chains and territorial development strategies for LATAM cross-border regions (2018-2020).
- Member Focus Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems - Spanish Ministry for Agriculture (2019-2020).
- Project evaluator for Program Ideas - Exploratory Research Projects (PCE), National Council for Scientific Research, Romania (2011, 2015, 2016, 2019).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Falguera V, Ibarz A (Eds.). Juice Processing: Quality, Safety and Value-Added Opportunities. CRC Press. 2014.
- Garrido R, Cabeza LF, Falguera V. An overview of bioplastic research on its relation to national policies. *Sustainability*, 13(14), 7848. 2021.
- Garrido R, Cabeza LF, Falguera V, Pérez-Navarro O. Potential use of cow manure for poly(lactic acid) production. *Sustainability*, 14(24), 16753. 2022.
- Falguera V, Aliguer N, Falguera M. An integrated approach to current trends in food consumption: Moving toward functional and organic products? *Food Control*, 26, 274-281. 2012.
- Falguera V, Quintero JP, Jiménez A, Muñoz JA, Ibarz A. Edible films and coatings: Structures, active functions and trends in their use. *Trends in Food Science & Technology*, 22, 292-303. 2011.
- Falguera V, Esplugas S, Vicente M, Ibarz A. Modeling of absorbed radiation profiles in a system composed by a plane photoreactor and a single lamp. *Food Research International*, 44, 3111-3114. 2011.
- Falguera V, Gatiús F, Ibarz A, Barbosa-Cánovas GV. Kinetic and multivariate analysis of polyphenol oxidase inactivation by high pressure and temperature processing in apple juices made from six different varieties. *Food and Bioprocess Technology*, 6, 2342-2352. 2013.

LANGUAGES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Catalan: native; Spanish: native; English: full professional proficiency.
- KNX Certified Partner (smart home and building automation).