

Promoting innovation in Rural Areas

The RDP as a tool to support
innovative businesses

THE BASQUE RDP

Lisbon, 12th October 2017

THE BASQUE COUNTRY



- **Surface:** 7.234 km² (4.918,69 rural)
- **Population:** 2.171.886 inhabitants (177.508 in rural areas)
- **Population density:** 301 inhab./km² (7-12 in some rural municipalities)
- **3 administrative areas** (Araba/Álava, Bizkaia & Gipuzkoa)
- **Unemployment rate:** 11%
- **Activity rate :** 56,5%
- **Economic sectors:** primary (0,83%); industry & energy (23,95%); building (6,16%) & services (69,06%)

- **85% municipalities are mountainous (disadvantaged zones)**
- **Urban / rural links**
- **Identity / culture / traditions linked to rural areas**
- **Entrepreneurial & innovative territory**
- **+ 20 years experience in rural development – STRONG INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT
– BOTTOM-UP APPROACH - LEADER**



LANDA, ITSASERTZ ETA ELIKAGAIEN SUSTAPENA
DESARROLLO RURAL, LITORAL Y ALIMENTARIO



EKONOMIAREN GARAPEN
ETA AZPIEGITURA SAILA
DEPARTAMENTO DE DESARROLLO
ECONÓMICO E INFRAESTRUCTURAS

BASQUE GOVERNMENT

PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENTS
&
MUNICIPALITIES

NETWORKING



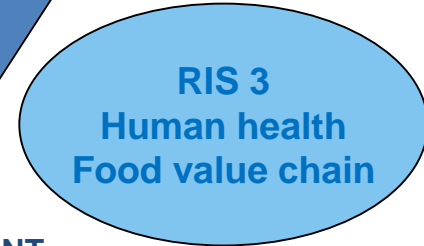
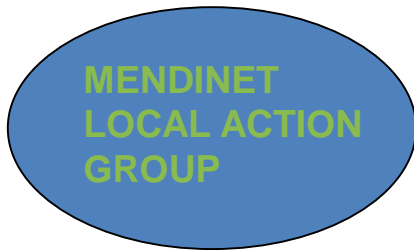
COORDINATION

HAZI
FOUNDATION

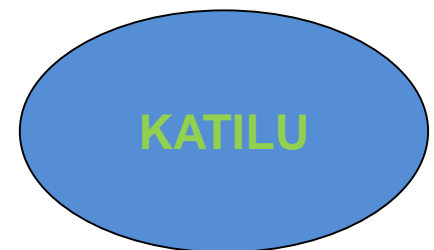


Economic
development

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATIONS



MANAGEMENT
CENTRES & AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS



2016
9 Operational Groups
M16 RDP

From the idea to action

Bottom Up: RDP Co-operation measure

Top Down: Priorities of the Institutions

1. Foster & Facilitate innovation & co-operation projects

INNOVATION BROKER

2. Build up a culture of innovation & co-operation, in collaboration with the actors in the value chain



Where ideas mature

3. Knowledge management on innovation & co-operation

Workshops & Seminars (peer to peer learning)

Training to facilitate innovation & co-operation

Antenna of opportunities

Conection with other networks & regions:
-Agrispin. Thematic network.
-At Spanish & European level

Integral & Innovative Support

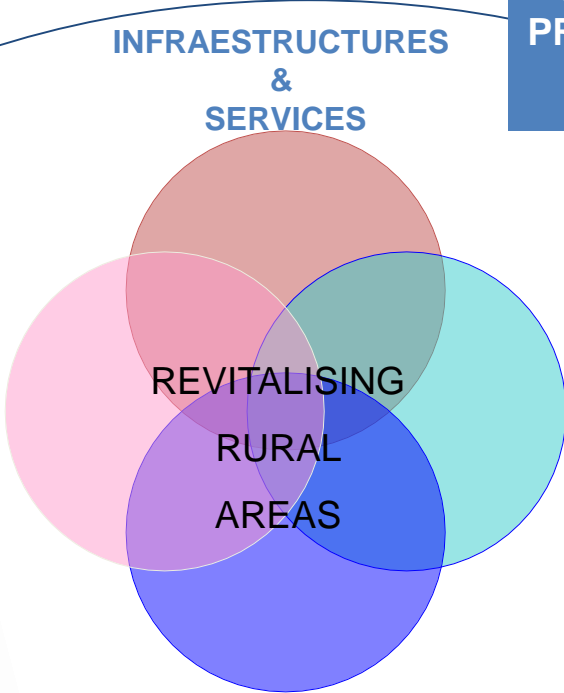
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2015-2020
291.955.741 €

Combining key RDP measures & creating synergies

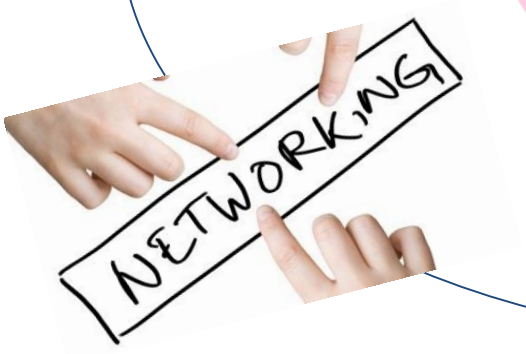
Support innovation & create businesses

TRAINING

INVESTMENTS

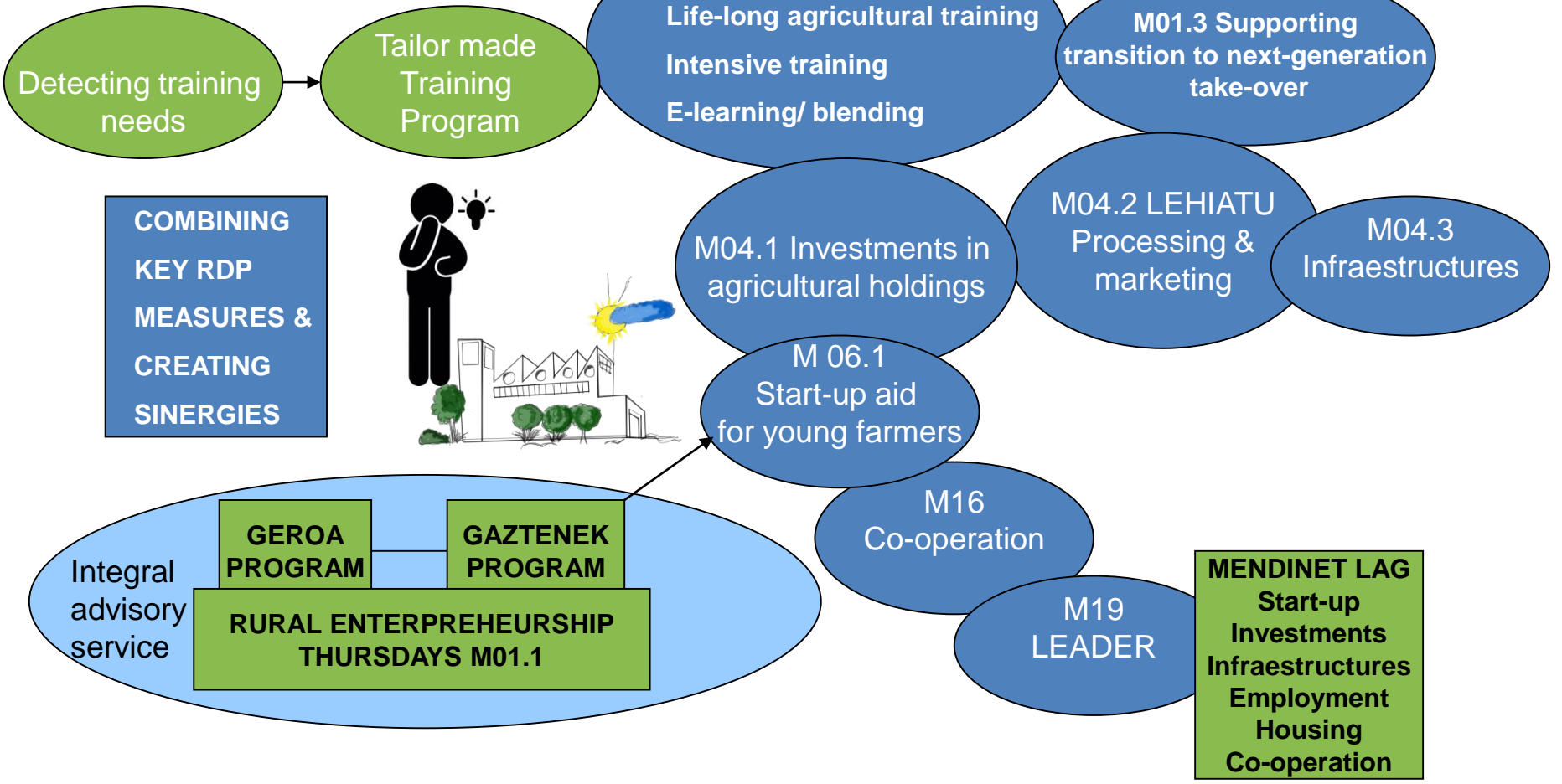


HOUSING EMPLOYMENT

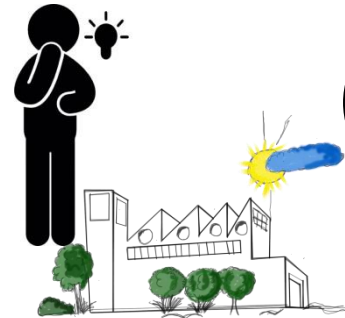


CO-OPERATION

Grants are a tool



**COMBINING
KEY RDP
MEASURES &
CREATING
SINERGIES**



Integral advisory service

GEROA PROGRAM	GAZTENEK PROGRAM
RURAL ENTERPREHEURSHIP THURSDAYS M01.1	

MENDINET LAG

- Start-up Investments
- Infraestructures
- Employment
- Housing
- Co-operation

OUR ECOSYSTEM IS CONNECTED TO OTHERS

AgriSPIN :H2020 thematic network

Objective: to analyse the innovation processes in agriculture with a special focus to the role innovation brokers play in those processes

15 partners in 13 countries: NL, DK, DE, BE, IRL, IT, FI, FR, RO, GR, SE, LT, ES

Other European networks:

- **EUROMONTANA.** The Basque Country holds its Presidency. 70 members in 20 countries.
- **ERIAFF**
- **ERRIN**
- **AREPO**
- **USSE**
- **ELARD**
- ...



KEY IDEAS

- An **ecosystem** to promote innovation in rural areas is a key element to attract new ideas & innovative businesses.
- A strong **institutional support** & commitment is needed.
- **Networking, coordination** & **bottom-up** approach are key factors.
- **Innovation brokers** play a fundamental role.
- The **RDP is an excellent tool to combine measures** and create synergies.
- All these elements **reduce the administrative burden** an entrepreneur encounters when looking for funding.
- An **integral support** is needed: from the idea to action.
- Go local but learn & practice together at european level. **Cooperation** is crucial.
- **Rural/urban** links should be enhanced.
- **Research** should get closer to the needs of rural areas. Knowledge-transfer.
- Future: towards a real **territorial development...**



Jone Fernández Landa

www.hazi.eus

Mail: jfernandez@hazi.eus

