

Promoting innovation in Rural Areas

The RDP as a tool to support
innovative businesses

THE BASQUE RDP

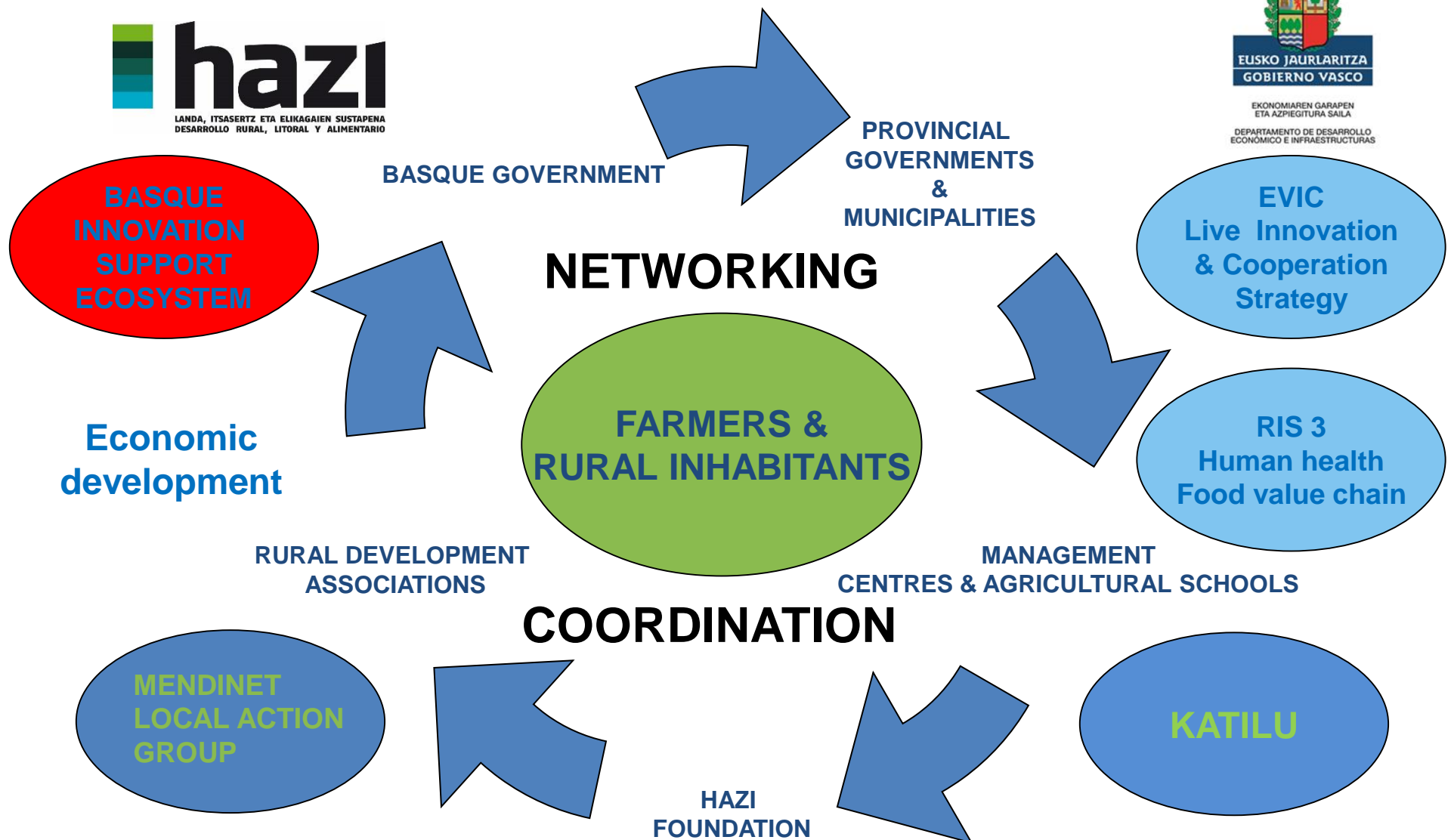
Lisbon, 12th October 2017

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**



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

Workshops &
Seminars (peer to
peer learning)

Training to facilitate
innovation & co-
operation

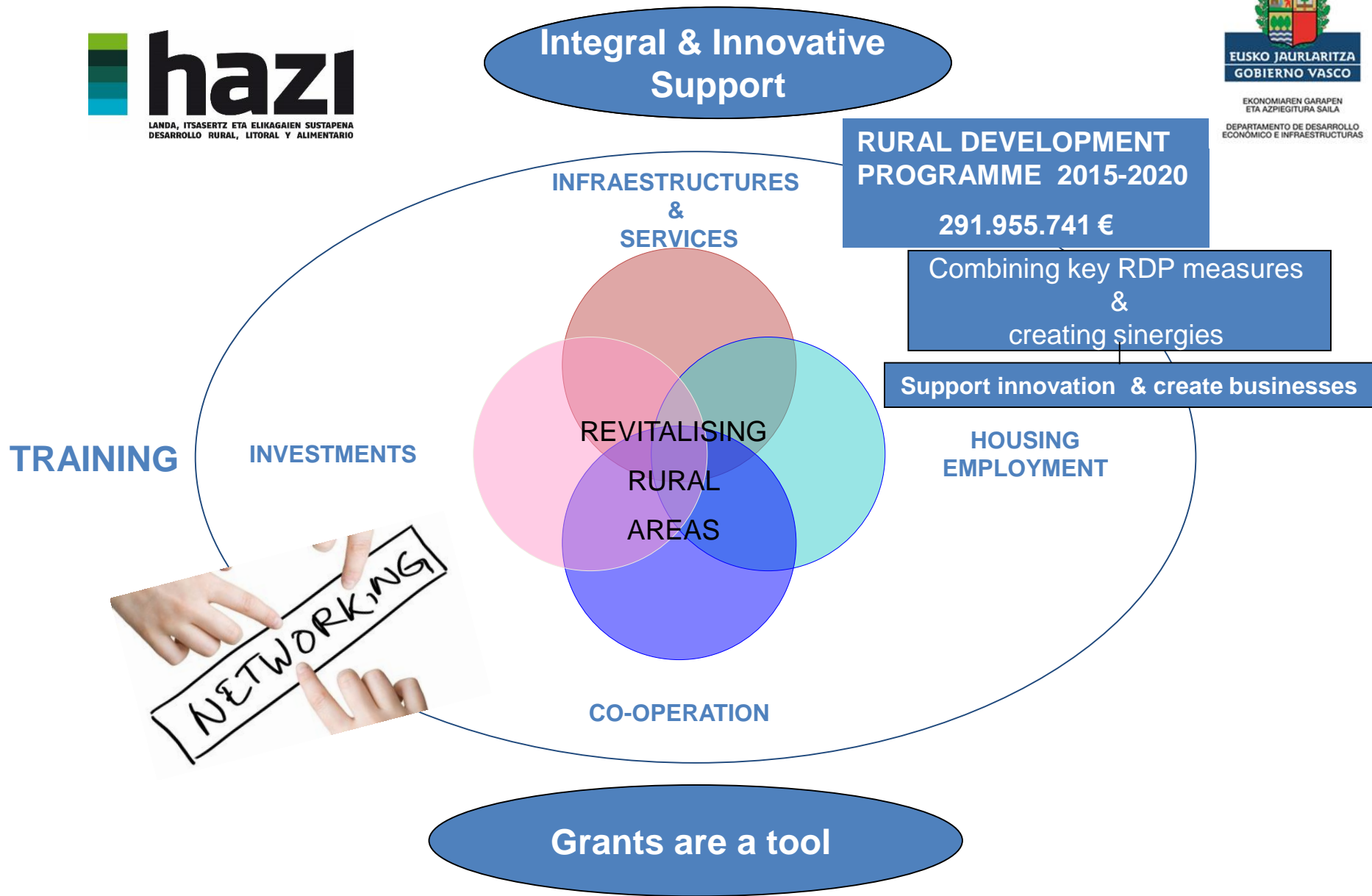


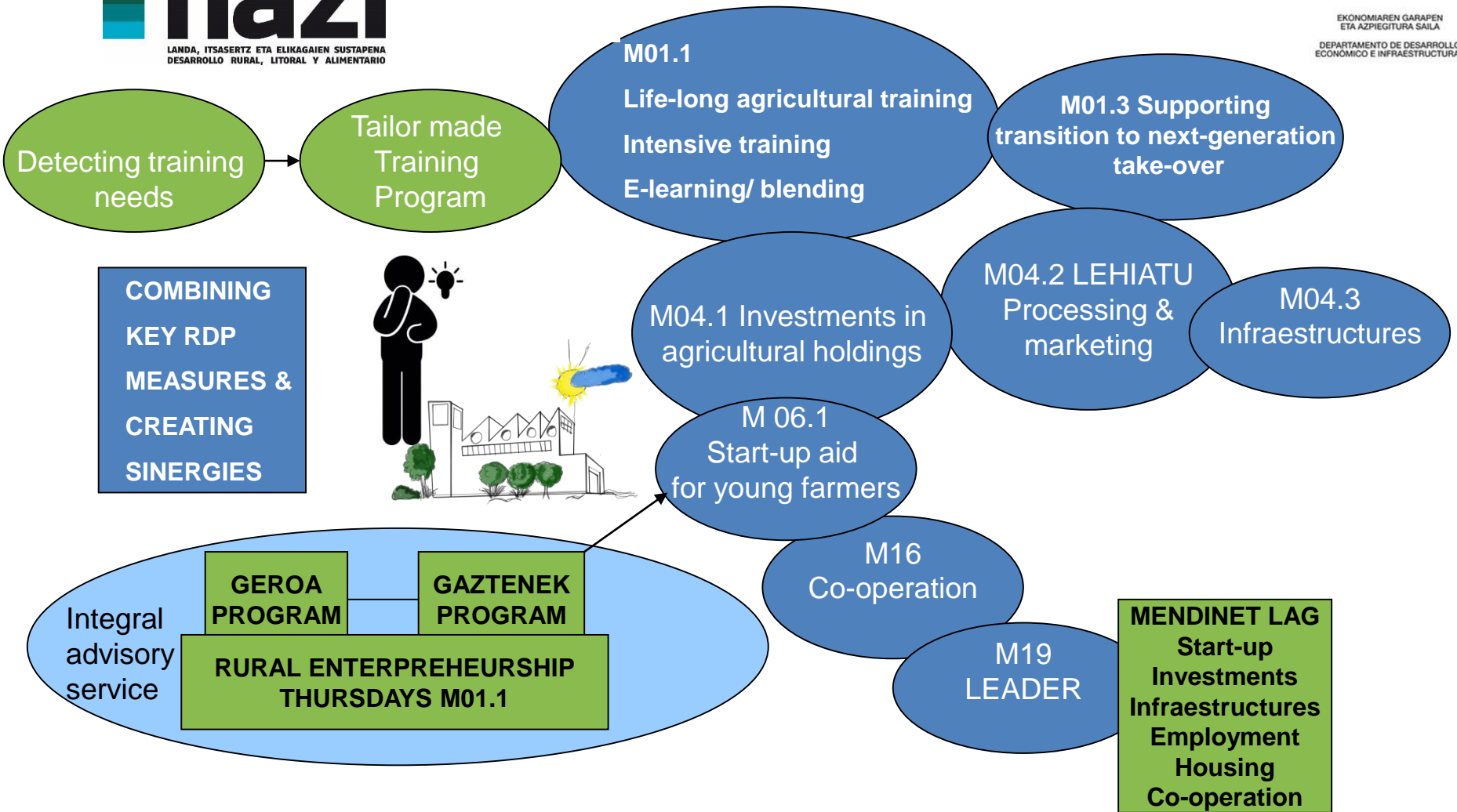
Where ideas mature

3. Knowledge management on
innovation & co-operation

Antenna of
opportunities

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





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**...



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