





**Interreg** Europe



# **Basque Country**

New Cluster Policy 2015-2020

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# Territorial Context and Background

#### Location

- •Northern Spain, French border (cross-border relations with Aquitaine region).
- •Three Territories of Provinces: Alava (Vitoria), Bizkaia (Bilbao) and Gipuzkoa (San Sebastian).

### Key economic, social and geographic characteristics

2,177,000 Inhabitants

7.000 Sq. Km

**R&D expenditure:** 2.09% of GDP (GERD; EU average 2.04%)

Highest Per Capita GDP in Spain

#### **Labour force with Tertiary Education:**

- •4th ranked region in OECD (51% in 2012)
- Source: OECD. Regions at a Glance (2013) and Eurostat





# Territorial Context and Background (cont.)

#### **Main industries**

- •Industry accounts for 22,8% of Basque GDP (25,6 % in 2007)
- •Automotive, Aerospace, Machine tools and Capital Goods, Metal Works, Railway Rolling Stock, Energy equipment and technology.

## Relevant Science, Technology and Innovation Assets

- •2 Largest Private Technology Corporations of Spain:
  - TECNALIA
  - IK4 Research Alliance
  - University of the Basque Country, University of Deusto, University of Mondragon

Basque Science and Technology Network





# Territorial Context and Background (cont.)

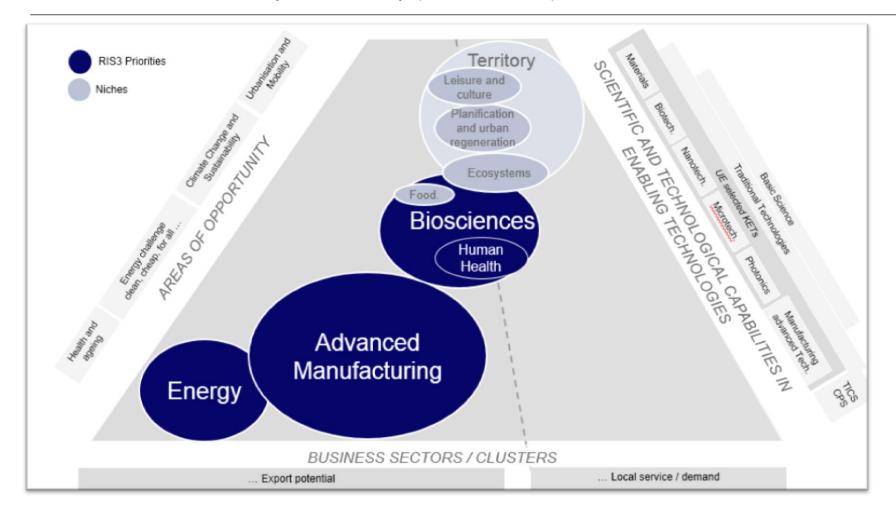
| BASQUE COUNTRY                                   | 2005   | 2010   | 2014   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| GDP at current prices (millions €)               | 58,563 | 67,596 | 66,931 |
| Per capita GDP at current prices (base 2010) (€) | 27,757 | 31,128 | 30,868 |
| Per capita GDP (PPC) (EU 28=100)                 | 125    | 126    | 119    |
| Productivity per employed person (EU 28=100)     | 125.1  | 127.9  | 130.0  |
| Inflation (consumer price variation, %)          | 3.7    | 2.8    | -0.7   |
| Employment rate (16 to 64 year-olds, %)          | 65.4   | 65.1   | 64.1   |
| Exports (millions €)                             | 14,297 | 17,876 | 22,513 |
| Imports (millions €)                             | 14,537 | 15,431 | 17,136 |
| Export tendency (Exports/ GDP) (%)               | 24.4   | 26.4   | 33.6   |







# New Scenario – Basque Country (2013-2020)







# New Challenges and a New Focus

#### Mission:

To Improve the **Competitiveness** of its Members through **Cooperation**, with a focus on **SMEs**.

## **Objectives of the Revision & Updating**

- Stronger Clusters, SME Driven
- Interrelated Value Chains in Wider Domains Wider Opportunities for Collaboration
- Aligning Clusters (Policy) with RIS3 Priorities
- Coordinating with other (Competitiveness) Policies.







# New Cluster Policy. Minimum Requirements for Cluster Organisations

# Alignment with the Cluster Concept

# Fulfilment of Minimum Criteria (pass / no pass)

#### **Strategic Plan Approved**

- Mission is to improve the competitiveness of its members through cooperation.
- It gathers large companies, SMEs,
   Science, Technology & Innovation
   agents (including universities &
   vocational training schools)...
- Active in the strategic areas of, at least, internationalization,
   Technological Innovation & Business innovation & Talent development...
- Aligned with RIS3
- Legally constituted non-profit organisation.

- Critical Mass of members
- Scope:
  - ✓ Presence of members of different links in the value chain
  - ✓ Minimum BC and members in all TTHH: geographical area covered
- Minimum Size
  - ✓ Turnover / GDP > 1%
  - ✓ SMEs > 60%
  - ✓ Employment s / total
  - ✓ Export s / total
- Presence of Leading companies,
   SMEs & STI System
- Positive assessment of the Relevance of the Cluster &d its alignment with the Basque Government strategies.

- The Strategic Plan should identify common Challenges whose responses arise from cooperation
- • •
- ... In the strategic areas of internationalization, technological innovation, business innovation, as well as talent development ...
- ... An ambitious plan that has an adequate **level of participation** in its elaboration
- ... And reflects the positioning of the cluster regarding the country's priorities







# Clusters & Cluster Organisations Grid

Based on Clusters' Dynamism & Cluster Organisations' Maturity

#### **CLUSTER ORGANISATIONS:**

- Limited Capacities
- Consolidated
- Advanced

#### **CLUSTERS**:

- Still Developing
- National Champions
- World Class Clusters
- Several Cluster Groupings
  - 4 Cluster & Cluster Organisations Profiles
  - 2 Levels of Intervention (Cross-cutting/Transversal, Specific)

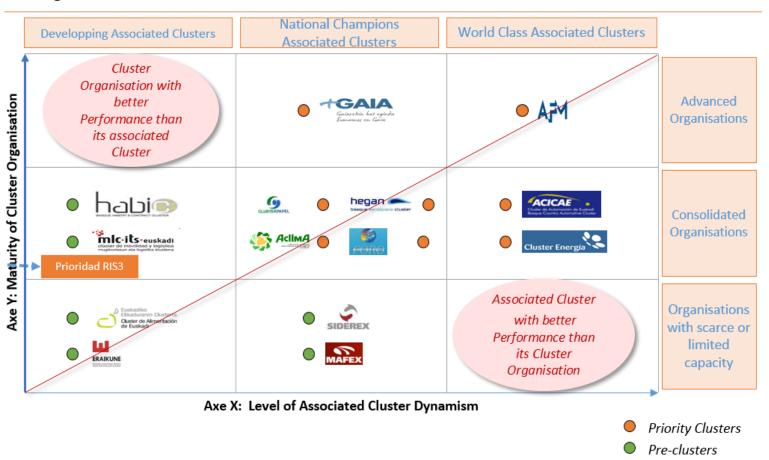






# Clusters & Organisations Grid and profiles

After analysis & Pass / no Pass criteria, Clusters were classified according to their *Dynamism* & *Maturity* of their organisations



Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive & Energy Clusters are the most Competitive





# Why are we Out of the Grid? What can we do?

- Common cause : narrow Scope or small Size
- Proposed Solution >>> Grow individually or Convergence with others
  - Larger Size & Critical Mass
  - Complete Value Chains and Domains
  - Widening the Scope & Domain
- Real evolution Case by Case (moviments so far)
  - ESKUIN Industrial Supply Cluster: Integration into AFM Advanced Manuf. Cluster
  - UNIPORT Bilbao Port Cluster: Federation with MLC-ITS Mobility & Logistics Cluster
  - LANGUNE Languages Cluster Incorporated into EIKEN Audiovisual Cluster evolving and Growing into *Digital Contents Cluster*.
  - AFV Castings Cluster Convergence with FUNDIGEX Casting Exporters Association.





# New Clusters Programme Call 2016

#### **Introducing Objective Criteria**

- Cluster Organisation & Cluster Maturity and Performance
  - N. of Members (distinguiendo las socias de cuota y las PYMEs
  - Fees
  - Economic contribution of Member companies participating in Actions
  - Exports % Rate over Turnover of Member companies
  - Nº of Employs of Member companies
- Cluster Organisation Action Plan:
  - Strategic Alignment
  - Engagement and Financial Sustainability
  - Level and Quality of Companies Participation
  - Bell of Cooperation Priority
- Direct Beneficiaries & Cooperation Beneficiaries
- Our task vision. From Pyramidal Funnel >> Bridging the Cooperation Gap

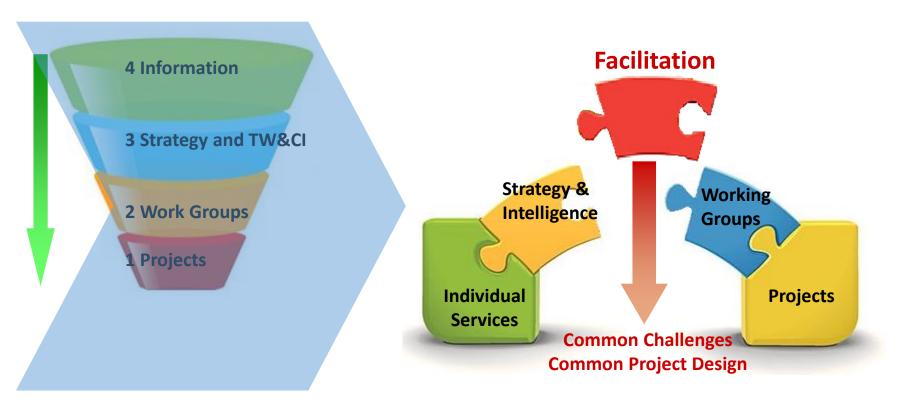






# New Clusters Programme Call 2016

#### **Our Task Vision from FUNNEL to BRIDGE**







# New Clusters Programme Call 2016

- Expected Outcomes, New Directions
- Less but Stronger Clusters
- Further Engagement of Member Companies
- New Members & SMEs, Wider Impact
- Strong Involvement of Clusters in the Deployment of RIS3 (Steering Groups)
- ¿New Movements into Diversification, Wider and Cross-cluster Domains (Additive Manufacturing...)?







# Need to Review. Cluster Strategy and Action Plan

- Strategic Reflection. Common Challenges, Priorities. Review every 4 years.
- Annual Action Plan. Analyse cluster situation, actions
- plan with goals and indicators, Schedule, resources and funding proposal.
- Ex-ante assessment Criteria
  - ✓ Coherence with the Cluster Strategic Plan
  - ✓ Fitting in the Basque Government priorities
  - ✓ Adequate funding and resources
  - ✓ Level and quality of companies' commitment & participation
  - ✓ Typology of Action (Bell)
- Public Funding 30-50% cost of actions. Represents on average 20 % of the cluster association budget (between 10% to 50% according to size, dynamism and maturity).









# Enhancing the Clusters' Double Role

# **Business Competitiveness Instrument**

Fostering business competitiveness in the related sectors through cooperation. *Clusters Major Value Contribution is made in SMEs* 



A differentiated Value Proposal for each Stakeholder Group



#### **Public Policy Instrument**

Fostering Regional Development and Economic Transformation

#### VALUE PROPOSAL PER TARGET MEMBERS OF A CLUSTER ORGANISATION

# Large Companies

- Competitive Value Chain: suppliers development
- Positive image towards

#### Institutions

• RSC (Supporting local industrial and economic tissue)

#### Medium Companies

- Competitive Value Chain: suppliers development
- Positive image towards Institutions
- Direct dialogue with Leading

- Companies
- Wider Access to R+D Funds
- Representation vs Administration
- Rooting into the local tissue.

# Small Companies

- Direct dialogue with Leading Companies
- Funding for R&D
- Funding for Internationalisation
- Access to other Stakeholder Groups

- Visibility in the Media, Events
- Added Value Information through Observatories: trends, business opportunities and public bids.
- Representation in face of the Administration

- STI Agents
- Direct dialogue with Large and Medium Leading Companies
- Connecting with real R&D Demand
- Centralised contact point for SMEs
- Identifying and Fostering cooperative R&D proposals

#### Basque Government

- Dialogue and Feedback to align & Better Design Policies, Plans and Programmes
- Increased Reach of those Support
- **Programmes**
- Support for FDi Attraction Strategies and Projects and Regional Branding Initiatives

- Facilitating Agents of Business Cooperation for Competitiveness
- Partners of the Government in the Deployment of Competitiveness Policy

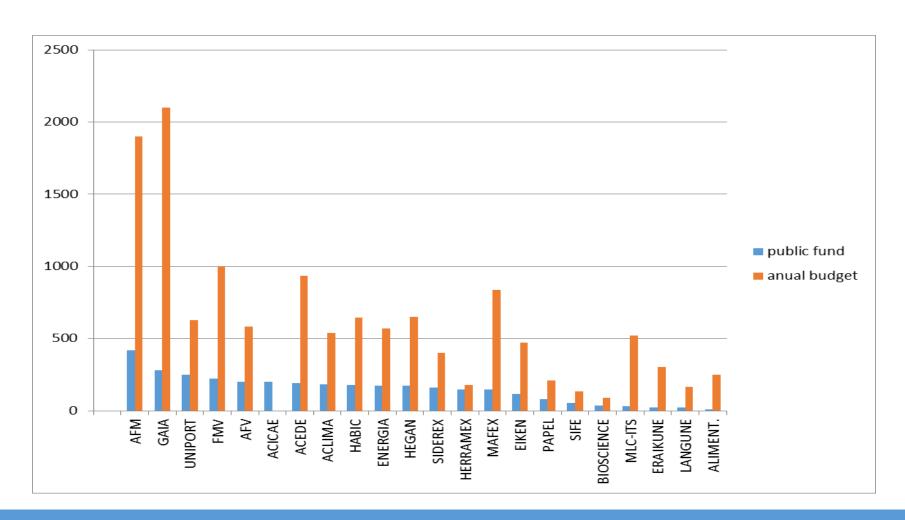
Source: Strategic Plan of Energy Cluster







# Clusters Policy in the Basque Country. Funding







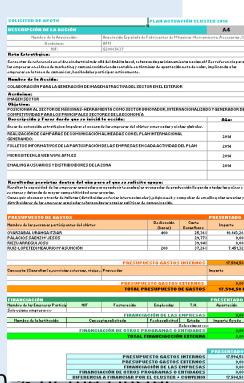
# **Clusters Policy in the Basque Country. Funding**

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## Key Aspects & Challenges for the new Cluster Policy

- 1. Revision and Updating of Eligibility Criteria
- (impact on the Economy, value chain, territory coverage, size & representativeness, strategy & global ambition).
- 1. Position of Clusters (*Dynamism & Performance*) & Organisations (*Maturity*)
- Objective Parameters considered in awarding Funding
- 3. Size. Clusters Associated organizations & Off the Map (Growth & Convergence).
- 4. Strengthening the Mission; facilitating Cooperation & focusing on SMEs.
- 5. Redefinition of domains and Inter-cluster dynamics (RIS3).
- 6. Annual Action Plan & Strategic Plan per Domain (Cluster-cluster Coop.).
- 7. Technology Watch & Competitive Intelligence as a key factor in innovation.







# Key Challenges for the new Cluster Policy

- 1. Redefinition of Domains and Inter-cluster dynamics (RIS3).
- 2. Fostering Internationalisation of Cluster Organizations (& of Associated Companies)
- 3. Improving Cluster Management Capacities; Best Practices Exchange & Training.
- 4. Better Data & Indicators to Monitor & Evaluate, compare and learn.
- 5. Better Coordination with other policies & programmes.
- 6. Balanced & Sustainable Funding. Fees & Pay per use Services vs Public funding





# Eskerrik Asko Muchas Gracias Thank You Very Much