Importance of livestock farming for the development of rural territories in the Basque Country. Strategies and action plan

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Animal Task Force 8th seminar
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University Foundation - Rue d’Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels
Basque Country

- 7234 km²
- 2 188 985 inhabitants
- Population density: 303 inhab/km²
- 3 provinces, 251 municipalities
- 80% mountains
- Mixed rural-urban, no clear boundaries
- 2 official languages: Basque and Spanish
Importance of livestock farming. Ecosystem

**Services**
- Management authorities
- Public organizations
- Research centers
- Rural Development Agencies

**Territory**
- 85% of the territory managed by the agricultural sector
- 9% of the population

**Food industry**
- Competitive positive growth
- 2.300 establishments corresponding to 1.500 companies.
- 85% less than 20 employees.
- From quality to innovation
- Employment 15.560

**Producers**
- 15.487 farms employing 20,000 (75% farms with livestock)
- 25% professionals
- Only 4.3% under 40 years
Livestock production
(172.651,6 €)

Dairy
Beef
Eggs
Sheep/goat
Pig meat
Others

Some general characteristics:
• Quality oriented
• Local and regional certification of products
• Short supply chain and local approach
• Urban-rural linkages
• Good perception and acceptance of the consumers
Importance of livestock farming. Social

- Cultural heritage
- Quality local products
- Tourism
- Rural landscape maintenance
- Rural population maintenance
- Local economy improvement
Food value chain

10.6% of the GDP and 96500 direct jobs. A strategic sector for the Basque Country's economy defined as a territory of opportunities and entrepreneurial discovery within the RIS3 plan.
“Greater economic weight of the Food Value Chain in the Basque Economy. We aim for Food and Gastronomy to reach 12% of the GDP”.

Objectives

1. Strengthen the sector, **increase production and consumption of local products** with distinctive quality, safety and sustainability attributes.

2. Connect producers and clients

3. Facilitate a **qualitative leap in the Basque Gastronomy sector**
   Innovation and quality. Project it internationally **under the Basque Country brand**.
Objectives

4. Improvement in the competitiveness with innovation, new knowledge and cooperation.

5. Consolidating the worldwide position of the Basque Country by making it a benchmark territory in gastronomy and food and an attractive territory for tourism.

6. Improving the staff skills.

7. Increasing the social well-being and quality of life of the Basque population through healthy food that is unique and safe.

8. Generating sustainable employment in the food chain with special attention to the primary sector.
## Working areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT FOR SMEs TO GENERATE BUSINESS</th>
<th>INTERNATIONALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETS</th>
<th>TECHNOLOGIES AND KNOWLEDGE FOR VALUE-ADDED BUSINESSES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Financial instruments adapted and focused on the priorities of the plan.</td>
<td>1. Promoting the Food-Gastronomy-Tourism triangle.</td>
<td>1. Companies that are connected with people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Management training and support for non-technological innovation in SMEs.</td>
<td>2. Supporting Basque product exportation projects.</td>
<td>2. New more sustainable food production and processing systems and automated and efficient processes.</td>
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<td>4. Boosting the Basque Gastronomy and Food ecosystem based on the Basque Country brand.</td>
<td>4. Omni channel.</td>
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## Working areas

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<tr>
<th>PEOPLE, CULTURE, AND TRAINING QUALITY JOBS</th>
<th>STRATEGIC AND TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS</th>
<th>CONTEXT FOR COMPETITIVENESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Healthy Gastronomy and Food in training programmes.</td>
<td>1. Attracting investment to the sector.</td>
<td>1. Inter institutional and public-private cooperation.</td>
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<td>2. Programmes for developing, attracting, and retaining talent and promoting incorporation of technologists in companies.</td>
<td>2. Generating collaborative tracking projects in the RIS3 priorities.</td>
<td>2. Supporting alliances, clusters and acquisitions to gain critical mass.</td>
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<td>3. More innovative companies.</td>
<td>3. Boosting strategic technological investments in companies with pulling power in the sector.</td>
<td>3. Supporting the RVCTI sector agents in company transfer and cooperation.</td>
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<td>4. Promoting Gastronomic Culture.</td>
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<td>4. Promoting initiatives in poorer areas of the rural and coastal world.</td>
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Strategies and Programs to Drive

- Entrepreneurship strategy
  - GAZTENEK program
  - GEROA program
  - FOOD INVEST IN program
  - EMPRENDIMIENTO AVANZADO program

- Innovation strategy
  - EVIC. Live Strategy for Innovation and Cooperation

- Smart digitization strategy