

SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DE PRESUPUESTOS Y GASTOS SECRETARIA GENERAL DE FONDOS EUROPEOS DIRECCION GENERAL DE FONDOS EUROPEOS





Una manera de lacer Europa

# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

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Programa Operativo de País Vasco

Año 2021

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

### <u>ZiTeK</u> PROGRAMME, a support service for entrepreneurs (new businesses and incubators) by the Department of Economic Promotion of Bizkaia Provincial Council.



The goal of the ZiTeK Programme is to support entrepreneurship, the promotion of entrepreneurial culture, support for entrepreneurs, the creation of new innovative and

technology-based companies and assistance during the first stages of the business project and the company's lifetime.

The ZiTeK programme is promoted by Bizkaia Provincial Council, in collaboration with the Basque Public University UPV/EHU and the provincial public company BEAZ SAU and consists of two lines of action.



The first is focused on the promotion of entrepreneurial culture in the university community: students, degree holders, teachers, research and administrative staff of the UPV/EHU. To do this, a number of events are carried out annually such as seminars on entrepreneurship, participation in employment fairs, business idea competitions, professional guidance sessions, networking session to expand contacts among companies, etc.

The second, aimed at supporting innovative and technology-based companies that enable the exploitation of the results of research generated by the university. It is a business incubator that creates a favourable environment for the development of different projects that emerge from the Bizkaia campus.

The ZiTeK programme has meant a subsidisable cost of 247,022.79 euros, having received 193,899.50 euros in grants from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

119 companies have been created via the ZiTeK programme and at this moment 26 business projects are in development.

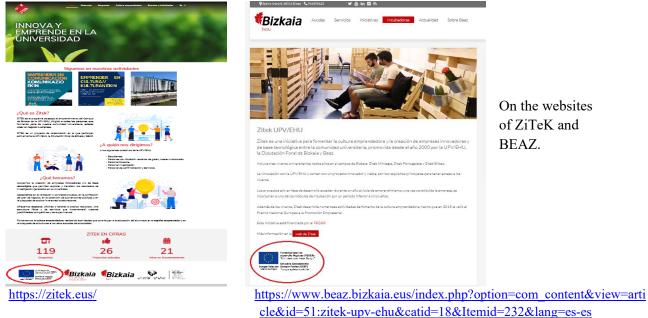
The action is considered a Good Practice because it meets the criteria established.

#### Criterion 1.- The role of the ERDF in the action has been appropriately disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.

The aid from the European Fund in the ZiTeK programme has seen widespread dissemination among the beneficiaries and the general public. For this purpose, in addition to the obligatory communication measures, in order to reinforce its visibility, other actions and dissemination tools have been used.

Permanent signs have been placed in the three locations of the incubator: Bilbao, Leioa and Portugalete.





On the websites of ZiTeK and

In the incubator access application form, in the agenda, in the informative triptych.

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Via publicity in specialised media, such as the fortnightly newspaper Estrategia Empresarial, which regularly includes information in relation to projects co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund in its section on Europe.

In the monthly newsletters published by Bizkaia Provincial Council itself on its website, making it accessible to all citizens. Likewise, this publication is distributed to more than 1200 subscribers. <u>Topics - News on</u> <u>European Funds - Bizkaia.Eus</u>



Posters promoting the activities of the ZiTeK programme disseminated among citizens.





At all award-giving events and other events, regardless of the location they are carried out in, the co-funding by the ERDF is publicised on flags in order to give it visibility among the attending audience.

Videos published on social networks where a reference to ERDF co-funding is made.



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### Criterion 2.- The action includes innovative elements.

The ZiTeK programme seeks the generation of innovative business projects; therefore the purpose of the action itself is innovative.



attracting new ideas.

In addition, in its execution and governance is has many innovative elements, among which are the direct transfer of knowledge from the university to the corporate reality by creating innovative companies and making it possible, at the same time, to bring students closer to the jobs market by locating the incubator in university campuses.

Likewise, innovative methodologies are used such as carrying out virtual activities, games, theatre plays, escape rooms and competitions aimed at

#### Criterion 3.- Adaptation of the results obtained to the goals established.

The goals of the ZiTeK programme are the promotion of entrepreneurial culture in the university community and support for the creation of innovative and technology-based companies, through the exploitation of the results of research carried out at the university and their application to the business world and the jobs market.

ERDF co-funding has enabled the fulfilment of these goals, as in the latest activity report corresponding to 2020, 15 activities were carried out with the participation of 1304 people; in addition, the occupancy percentage of the entrepreneurship rooms for business projects, and the modules where new companies are located, is at around 80%.

#### Criterion 4.- Contribution towards solving a problem or weakness detected in the field of application.

The Basque Inter-Institutional Entrepreneurship Plan 2024 considers that entrepreneurship is one of the most important spheres of action for recovery from the current crisis and for the creation of new economic activity and quality employment in the Basque Country.

The ZiTeK programme is precisely focused on strengthening entrepreneurship, fostering an entrepreneurial culture, promoting the creation of new companies by supporting innovative entrepreneurial projects and by assisting the promotors during the first years of life of the new company.

#### Criterion 5.- High level of coverage of the population it is aimed at.

The ZiTeK programme has a high level of coverage as the target population of this action are students, new graduates, teaching staff and research staff from the Bizkaia Campus of the Basque Public University. All the activities carried out are open and publicised throughout the Bizkaia campus and are known by students and teachers. Having three locations also makes it possible to visualise and identify this action practically throughout the entire campus, reaching a higher number of target audiences and facilitating communication with those people motivated to become entrepreneurs or with their own business ideas or projects.

### Criterion 6.- Consideration of the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

The ZiTeK project is aimed at students, new graduates, teaching and research staff, with equal opportunities



and without any kind of discrimination, guaranteeing throughout their activity inclusive and equal participation. Thus, the activity report 2020 states that 1304 participated, of which 669 were men (51.3%), 631 women (48.39%) and 4 were non-binary people (0.31%). The project also helps to give greater visibility to the entrepreneurial woman as a person who leads her own projects.

Likewise, non-sexist and non-discriminatory language is used throughout the technical, legal and graphical documentation.



Furthermore, the ZiTeK project complies with the principles of environmental sustainability. On the one hand, all of the project's management and all the documentation is carried out via online channels, websites, cloud-based services, electronic applications... which enables a minimisation of the

environmental impact. On the other hand, the installations where the incubators are located are on the university campus, providing proximity between the university and the business world, limiting greenhouse gas emissions by reducing travel. Similarly, by sharing a space between all the innovative companies, there are energy savings. In addition, all the rooms and meeting spaces are furnished with furniture made from recycled materials.

#### Criterion 7.- Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments.



The ZiTeK programme is part of the Base Inter-Institutional Entrepreneurship Support Plan 2020 and the Inter-Institutional Entrepreneurship Plan PIE 2024 which contain the commitment, by the main public agents of the Basque Autonomous Community, to support entrepreneurship, thus contributing towards the Basque

Country's economic and social recovery.

Likewise, the ZiTeK programme is part of Bizkaia Provincial Council's "Bizkaia Goazen 2030" Strategic Plan, which fosters a number of activities among which is entrepreneurship, and of the new "Bizkaia Egiten" Strategic Plan, focused on the creation and improvement of employment and economic activity, people and equal opportunities, mobility and sustainability, and on modern and open management.

Furthermore, the ZiTeK programme coexists with other initiatives by Bizkaia Provincial Council to promote entrepreneurship jointly with BEAZ and the EHU/UPV, such as the services for supporting and creating businesses through the PAE (entrepreneur support point), offering a Master's degree in Entrepreneurship, training, memorisation and acceleration of innovative business projects or support for an entrepreneurial vocation at young ages (under 18s), among others.



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