



**BIZKAIA**

Land of  
opportunities

 **Bizkaia**  
foru aldundia  
government



**Open to  
the world**



# Key advantages



**Bizkaia is a small territory with an outstanding international position in terms of economic competitiveness and welfare**



**Self-government and fiscal autonomy**  
as drivers of economic development



**Industrial strength**  
in a diversified economy



**Scientific, technological and entrepreneurial capabilities** at the level of the most innovative European countries



**Highly skilled workforce**



**Public-private partnership**



**Inclusive welfare and prosperity**

# Strategic Location

At the confluence of two continents and the axis of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean

Bizkaia is the historical land with the largest population and economic weight of the Basque Country

Its capital, Bilbao, is one of the main cities of the European Atlantic Arc

## 2,217 Km<sup>2</sup>

Surface

30.65 %  
of Basque Country

## 1.15M

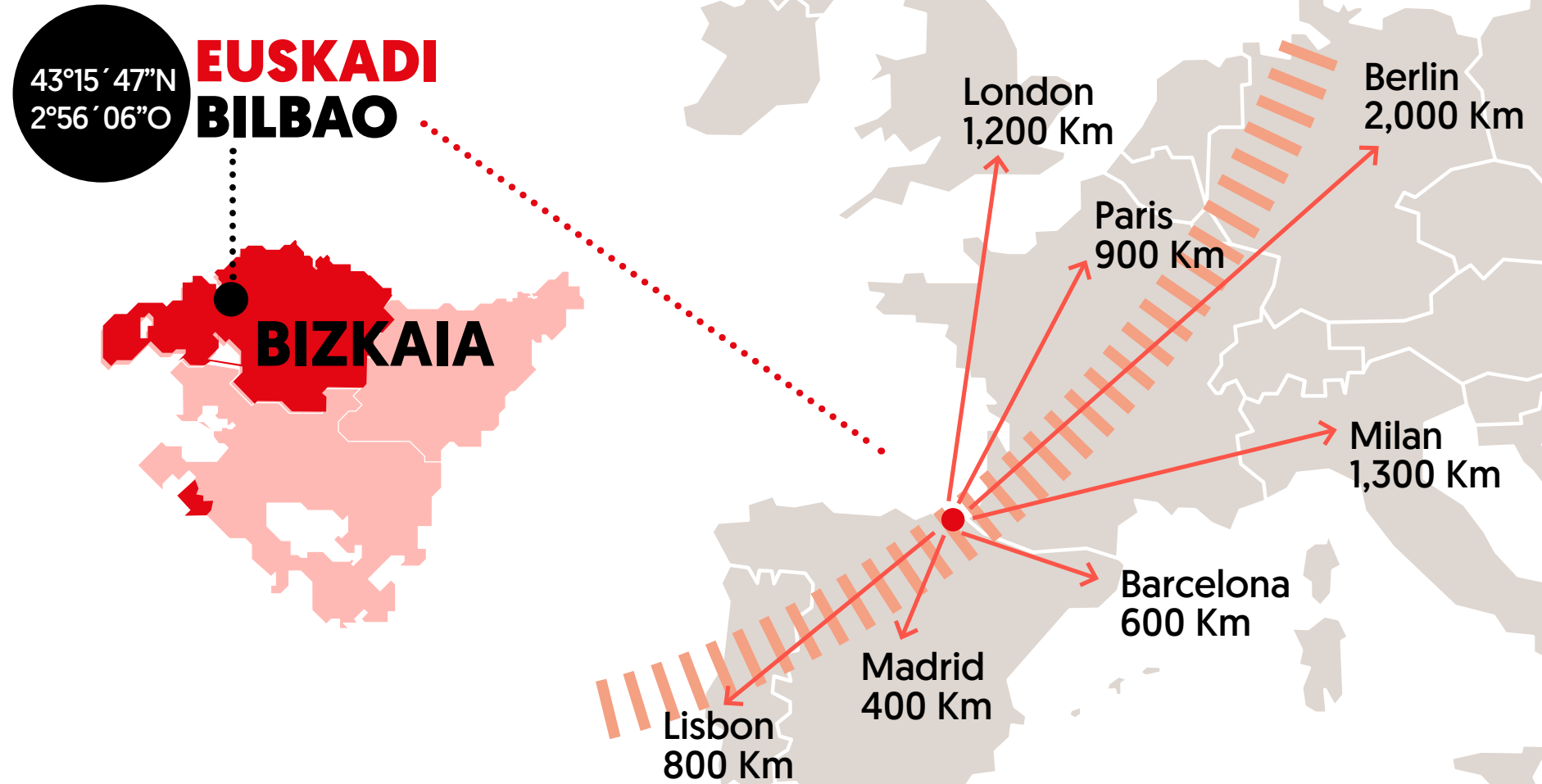
Population

52.08 %  
of Basque Country  
(2023)

## 40,842€

Annual GDP per capita

33,280 €  
EU-27 (2023)



# Connected and Open to the World



## By sea Port of Bilbao

Main Atlantic port in southern Europe, facilitates about **30% of trade with Europe**

Connects with **148 countries** and **800 ports** worldwide. Handles **32.8 million tons**



## By air Bilbao Airport

The most important international airport in northern Spain. **6.7 million passengers**

Direct connection to major European cities



Best airport in Europe in 2024

## By Land

Road infrastructures and main railway connections connecting Bizkaia with the Peninsula

**Madrid: 4 hours by road, France (Paris): 8 hours by rail and the center of Europe**



# Digitally connected



## European ranking 2024

**1st** TOP

in broadband deployment

**1st** TOP

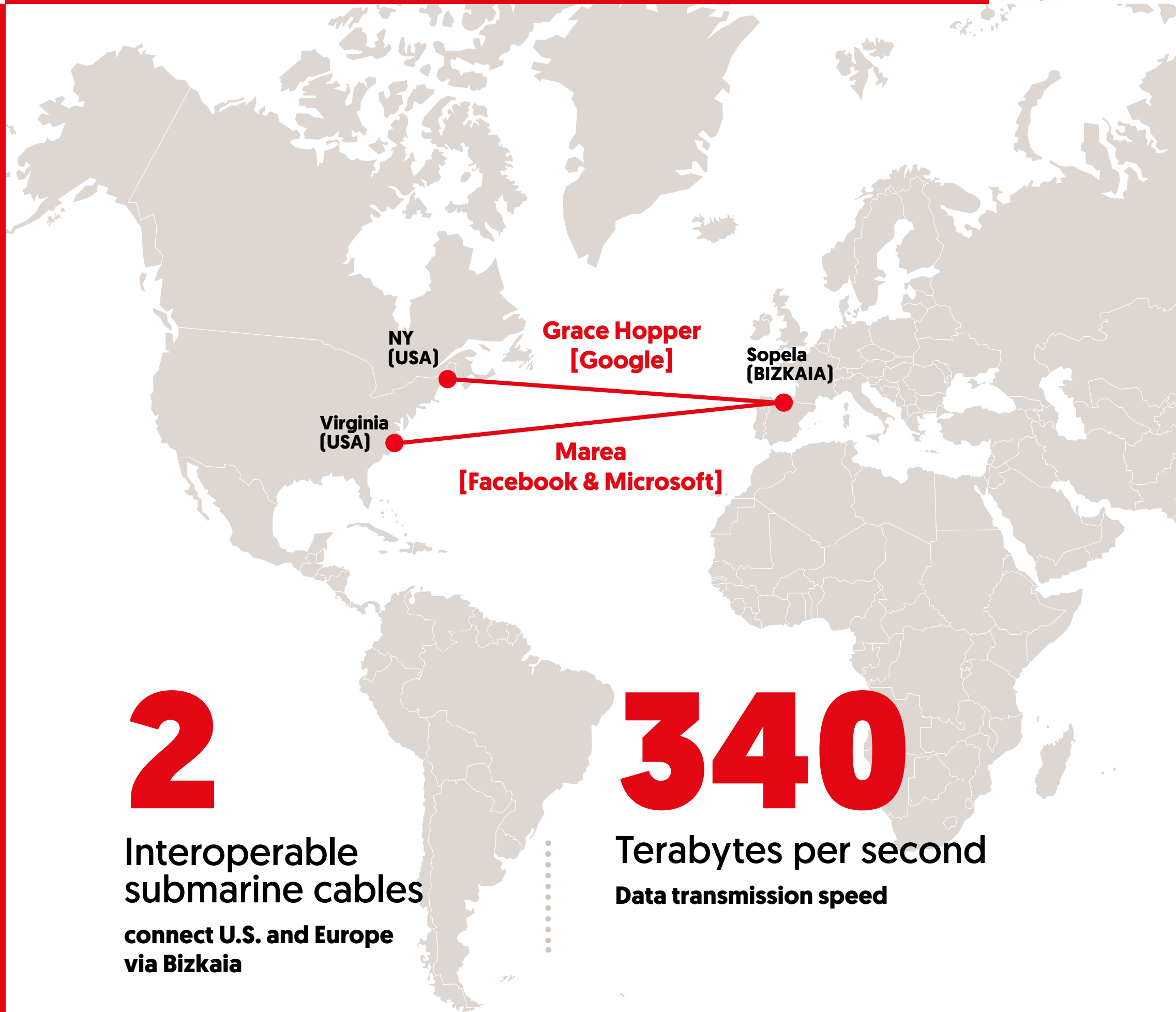
in electronic exchange of information between companies

**2nd**

in fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) coverage

**3rd**

in very high capacity fixed network coverage



# 2

Interoperable submarine cables connect U.S. and Europe via Bizkaia

# 340

Terabytes per second  
Data transmission speed

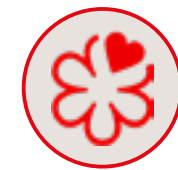
# Identity

## Cultural

- An ancestral people with millenary traditions that love the avant-garde
- Land of the Basque language, euskera (Basque)
- Basque rural sports (Herri kirolak), Basque pelota, cesta punta (jai alai). Basque folklore, music and dances

## Social

- Intense social life
- Cooperation and community work (Auzolan)
- World reference gastronomy



12 restaurants with  
**14 Michelin Stars**  
in Bizkaia

## Historical

- Biscay's legal charters (Fueros), Economic Agreement
- Self-government
- Own Parliament with legislative capacity and own tax system



# Own tax system



## Safe and stable tax environment

### Basque Country debt rating:

Standard&Poors (2024/3/21):  
A3 AA Positive,

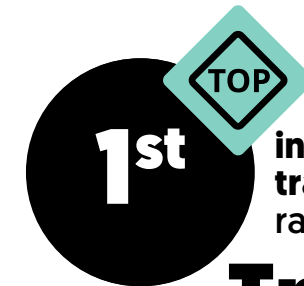
Moody's (2024/4/4):  
A3 positive

## “Zero uncertainty” policy in tax consultations

The tax authority responds to any tax inquiries from companies or individuals in a legally binding manner

## Avoiding double taxation

Bizkaia benefits from the double taxation avoidance agreements signed by Spain with other countries, especially with Latin America and Europe



in the 2015 tax  
transparency  
ranking

## Transparency

Transparent tax authority

## Proximity and agility

The Government of Bizkaia is more agile and operational due to the characteristics of the territory (self-government, proximity to citizenship...)



# Self-government and fiscal autonomy



97.31 %

Fiscal Autonomy

providing economic and investment opportunities

## Investment & financing

## Startups

## R&D&I intensive companies

## Highly qualified and talented people

4<sup>th</sup>

European Cities and regions of the Future 2024 Ranking

large European city (Bilbao) in foreign investment attraction

11<sup>th</sup>

European Global Fortune 500 Companies 2024 Ranking

as Bilbao is the headquarter of the energy multinational Iberdrola and the financial giant BBVA





# Industrial and technological ecosystem

# Industry + Advanced Services

## Economic engine of Bizkaia

**37.2 %**

GVA in industry and  
advanced services  
in Bizkaia (2022)

Spain: 31.5% (2021)

**4,128**

Industrial  
establishments (2022)

**29.4 %**

employment in industry  
and advanced services  
(2021)

EU-27: 29.2%

**31,492 M€**

turnover of industrial  
companies (2023)



# Strategic sectors



## Advanced Manufacturing

Bizkaia is committed to **Industry 4.0 and the transition to Industry 5.0**, based on a solid business ecosystem that incorporates **innovative technologies in industrial environments and strategic sectors** such as aeronautics, automotive and energy

## Mobility

Led by the highly **competitive and innovative automotive industry**, the result of a long industrial, commercial and financial tradition in Bizkaia

## Energy

Strategic sector with significant dynamism throughout its value chain, **leading the energy transition**



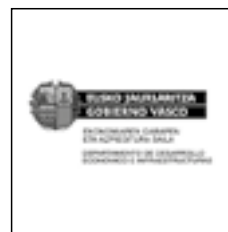
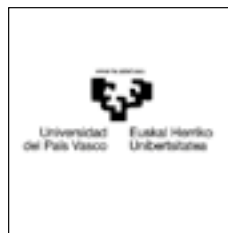
# Advanced Manufacturing



Bizkaia has a reference **Centre of Excellence in the generation, use and development of new knowledge in advanced manufacturing technologies, the CFAA**, Aeronautics Advanced Manufacturing Center

**114**  
companies  
[2025]

**Promoting and collaborating institutions and entities**



# CFAA

Fabrikazio Aeronautiko Aurreratuko Zentroa  
Centro de Fabricación Avanzada Aeronáutica



# Sustainable mobility



The Basque Country accounts for 45% of the total production volume of the automotive industry in Spain

**300** companies | **+18,000 M€** turnover | **40,000** jobs



AIC, a reference Excellence Center, with 32 organizations of 9 different nationalities and more than 950 professionals working under the open innovation concept



Driving companies in Bizkaia and world leaders in the automotive industry



International reference in the railway industry



Reference in the bicycle industry



# Energy



Leading global companies and  
major international corporations

**241**  
companies

**35.4 %**  
of the industrial  
GVA

**10,511**  
jobs



**Energy Intelligence Centre, a reference  
excellence center, headquarters of the  
BH2C Basque Hydrogen Corridor**



**A global innovation and knowledge  
centre for smart grids**



High impact initiatives in **Smart Grids,  
Hydrogen and Renewable Energies**



# Leading innovation hub in Europe

**0.616**  
points

Basque Country  
European  
Innovation  
Scoreboard  
(EIS) 2024

Spain: 0.50; EU-27: 0.55

**strong**

Basque Country  
Regional  
Innovation  
Scoreboard  
(RIS) 2023

At the level of Auvergne-  
Rhône Alpes or Düsseldorf



**3.64 %**

of people employed in the  
Basque Country work in R&D  
(2021)

Madrid: 2.85; Catalonia: 2.35,  
Dresden: 3.44; Stockholm: 3.72

**2.16% GDP**

R&D expenditure in the Basque  
Country 2023

Spain: 1.49%; EU-27: 2.22%

**925.5 €**

R&D expenditure per  
inhabitant 2023 in Basque  
Country

Madrid: 862.3 €; Catalonia:  
698.7€; EU-27: 788 € (2022)

**x3**

Three times the number of European  
patent applications per million  
inhabitants compared to Spain

Bizkaia: 81; Spain: 25 (2023)

# Science & Technology ecosystem

## 7 Technology centers



## 5 Research and Excellence Centers (BERC)



## 1 Cooperative Research Centres (CIC)



## 7 Excellence and intelligence centers



## 5 Innovation hubs





**1** Basque Country  
Technology Park with  
**5 campuses** in Bizkaia

**288**  
companies

**4,496 M€**  
turnover

**12,200**  
jobs

**3 M/m2**  
of extension

# High productivity

## Encouraging strategic investment and collaboration between economic agents



Encouraging investment in R&D&I



Public policies and institutional support



Modern infrastructures



Education and Training



Collaboration and networking



Innovation culture

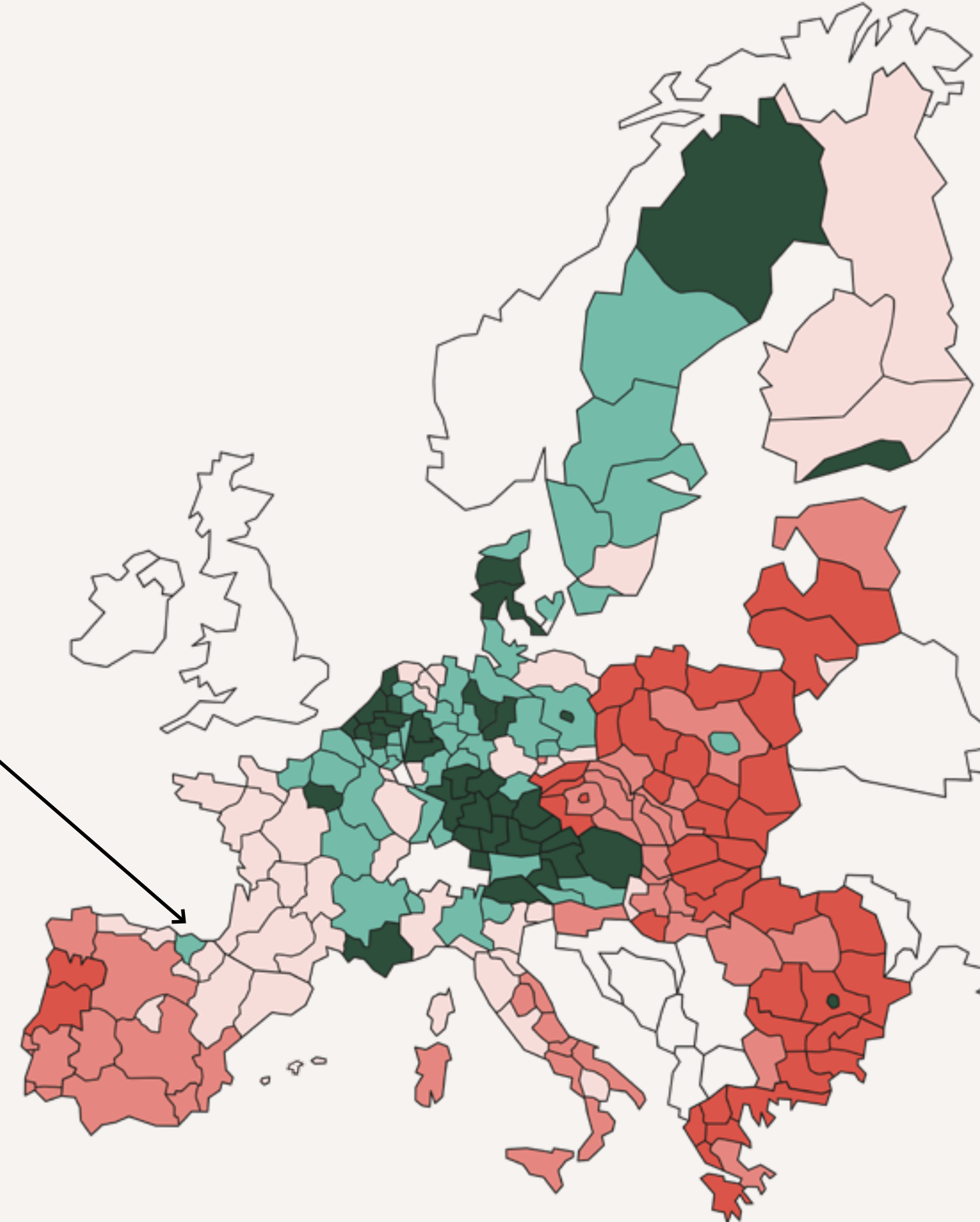
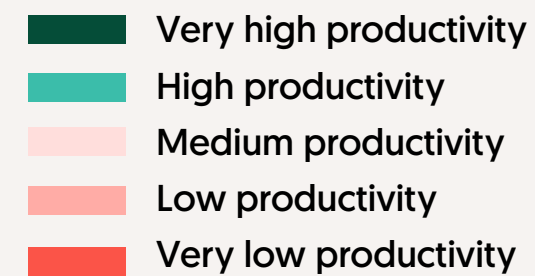
## Productivity in 2022

Bizkaia:

**117.7**

**Labor productivity per employed person**

EU-27: 100





# Talent

# Attractive land for Talent

## 67.6 %

of Basque Country  
population aged 25-34 with  
tertiary education  
(2023)

Spain: 52; EU-27: 43.1



**8<sup>th</sup>**

Global cities talent  
competitiveness  
index (2022)

Bilbao ranked in ability  
to Retain Talent

**5<sup>th</sup>**

Europe  
Best Cities  
Ranking  
(2024)

Bilbao ranked in the  
field of Educational  
Achievement

**15<sup>th</sup>**

World's  
Best Cities  
(2024)

Bilbao ranked in population  
with a bachelor's degree or  
higher degree



# Quality Education

**3** University Campuses



**+70,000**  
Students

**32,458**  
Undergraduate enrollments

**213**  
University Degrees and Masters



**2** Vocational training associations  
business fabric oriented vocational training centers with high employability



**24,916**  
Basque Region Students

**89.6 %**  
Employability



**3** Specialized Training Campuses





# Entrepreneurship

# Internationally recognized Entrepreneurial ecosystem

**39**

Best Startups  
Cities in Europe  
2024 ranking

Bilbao's position in the  
Startup Heatmap Europe

**431**

Number of  
start-ups created  
between  
2014-2023

**\*** Survival rate 77%

**3,033**

People  
employed

**754 M€**

turnover





# B Accelerator BAT-Tower

## International Entrepreneurship Center

Located in the BAT-Tower, it is **one of the most important and best connected open innovation hubs** in Southern Europe a unique public-private collaboration model

**Attraction point for entrepreneurial talent and open innovation**, where startups, companies, investors and public administration work together

**8,000** m<sup>2</sup>

9 floors

**+140**

Connection with  
international Hubs

**800**

People

**42**

Corporations

**106**

Startups

# Advanced entrepreneurship support pathway



Incubation spaces

Training

Financing

Acceleration services

Networking

Tax advantages

Other services



# Business incubator Network for companies

Specialized in biotechnology, digitalization,  
advanced manufacturing and silver economy

- **BIC Bizkaia**
- **BIC Bizkaia Ezkerraldea**
- **Design Kabi**
- **NIC- Nagusi  
Intelligence Center**
- **ZITEK UPV/EHU**
- **DeustoKabi**

**94**  
companies

**516**  
jobs created

**118 M€**  
of turnover





# Acceleration services



## **BEAZ acceleration program**

6-month program for Startups in growth phase and with a scalable business model



## **International acceleration**

Connection with international reference entrepreneurship ecosystems for the acceleration of the companies business models



**Quality  
of life**



## \* High life expectancy

**1<sup>st</sup>**

European ESPON  
Quality of Life  
Index

**Position of the Basque Country in life expectancy at birth indicator**

**Basque Country: 84.4 years** [2023]

Bizkaia: 84.4 years; EU-27: 81.5 years [2023]

## \* Public, universal, free, quality health care system

Basque health system with extensive infrastructures meeting the needs of the citizenship

9.4% of GDP [2022] in health expenditure in Bizkaia

**Highest health expenditure per capita in Spain**

**Basque Country: 3,775 €**

Spain: 2,814 €; EU-27: 3,685 € [2022]

## \* Security

**One of the safest territories in Europe**

**Basque Country: 48.5 crimes** per 1,000 inhabitants

Spain: 50.9; EU-27: 56 [2023]

# A unique natural environment

**+150 km**  
of coastline

**3** natural  
parks

**1** Urdaibai Biosphere  
Reserve  
(UNESCO)

**59.5 %** wooded  
forest area



# A land to **live and enjoy**

**52<sup>th</sup>** Happy  
City  
Index 2025  
**Bilbao out  
of 200 cities**

**7.4**  
**Satisfaction with  
life Bizkaia**  
EU-27: 7.1 [2022]

**\***  
A vibrant territory  
with world-class  
**museums**

**\***  
**4 World  
Heritage Sites**

**\***  
An attractive  
**cultural and  
leisure offer**

**\***  
An **open, friendly  
and inclusive**  
people



# Commitment to sustainability

## Inclusive society

**31.9**

**Bizkaia**

**GINI Coefficient 2022**

Spain: 32; Germany: 29

## Quality employment

**1<sup>st</sup>**

**Position Basque  
Country  
annual average salary  
in Spain 2022**

## Sustainable mobility

Commitment to  
sustainable public  
transport and the  
transition to renewable  
energies

**73.9**

**Gender Equality  
Index**

2021 (Bizkaia)



**Bilbao hosts the Secretariat  
of the Local Coalition 2030**  
for the implementation of  
the SDGs at regional and  
local level



# International events venue

**The best setting** for high level events, trade fairs, conference and international business meetings

Internationally recognised **high-capacity infrastructures**



## **BEC, Bilbao Exhibition Center**

6 halls  
**150,000 m<sup>2</sup>**

Convention Centre  
**18,000 m<sup>2</sup>**



**1st** Best Congress  
Centre in the  
World  
(2003) Award

## **Euskalduna Conference Centre and Concert Hall**



**1st** Best Sports  
Building in the  
World in 2015

## **San Mamés**

open to business  
events and  
professional congresses  
**21,000 m<sup>2</sup>**



Open to  
the world

Industrial and technological  
ecosystem

Talent

Entrepreneurship

Quality  
of Life

**Bizkaia**  
foru aldundia  
government

# Bizkaia, land of opportunities

**To invest**  
**To start a business**  
**To work**  
**To live**





**Unique in the World**

