

Democracy Lab Bilbao

Democratic engagement of youth and children



Draft agenda v. 13.01.2026

Day 1 – Tuesday, 10 February 2026		
<i>La Perrera Espazioa, Konekta room</i>		
Sabino Arana Etorbidea, 50, Basurtu-Zorrotza, 48012 Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain		
Time	Session	Speakers
Morning	Participants' arrivals	n/a
12:30-13:45	Registration and welcome lunch	
13:45-14:00 PLENARY	Welcome by the Mayor of Bilbao, Juan Mari Aburto Introduction by Eurocities and La Perrera host	Juan Mari Aburto , Mayor of Bilbao
14:00-14:30 PLENARY	Keynote address From Bilbao to Europe: Strengthening Democracy Through Youth Participation	Eider Inunciaga Bilbao City Councillor for Basque Language, Public Services, Civic Engagement, Agenda 2030 and Internationalization
14:30-16:00 PLENARY	City challenges presentations Short presentation of cities that were selected to present their challenges to youth and children engagement, followed by Q&A 1. Bologna, IT - Art and culture as pathways for youth	Challenge owners

	<p>empowerment in city decision-making</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Cascais, PT - Inclusive participation of children and young people 3. Leeuwarden, NL – Making youth participation structural, inclusive and impactful 4. Leipzig, DE - Reimagining youth participation through smart city tools 5. Milan, IT - Designing a Youth Climate Assembly for real impact 6. Valongo, PT – From symbolic to transformative participation for children and young people 	
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-18:00 TEAMWORK	<p>Teams formation and problem framing</p> <p>Participants form the challenge teams and start to explore the challenges in groupwork.</p>	Challenge owners and facilitators
18:00-18:30 PLENARY	<p>Mentors check-in</p> <p>Teams have a first check-in with their mentors on the progress so far to get their feedback and tips</p>	n/a
20:00 -22:00	<p>Pintxo-pote dinner</p> <p><i>Pintxo-pote</i> is a popular social tradition in the Basque Country that invites people to enjoy small tapas (pintxos) and drinks while spending time with friends, colleagues, and family. It is a relaxed and lively way to experience local gastronomy and everyday culture, and a perfect opportunity to connect in an informal atmosphere after a day of meetings. The pintxo-pote will take place in two distinctive venues that embody the themes of civic engagement, participation and collaborative innovation.</p> <p>Location: Kafe Antzokia, Done Bikendi Kalea, 2, Abando, 48001 Bilbao, Bizkaia</p>	



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Day 2 – Wednesday, 11 February 2026	
Time	Session
9:00-11:30	<p>Site visits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Azkuna Zentroa Discover how Bilbao's flagship cultural and community centre, housed in a former wine warehouse, uses arts, education and social innovation to strengthen social cohesion, accessibility and active citizen participation. Location: Arriquíbar Plaza, 4, Abando, 48010 Bilbao BAT B Accelerator Tower Explore Bilbao's leading innovation hub, where startups, corporations, investors and public institutions collaborate under an open-innovation model to foster entrepreneurship, talent and civic empowerment, especially among young people Location: Diego Lopez Haroko Kale Nagusia, 1, Abando, 48001 Bilbao Zorrotzurre Visit one of Europe's most ambitious urban regeneration projects and see how multi-actor governance, innovation ecosystems and community initiatives are shaping an inclusive, sustainable district grounded in youth engagement and social cohesion. Meeting point at the main venue 8:30: La Perrera Espazioa, Sabino Arana Etorbidea, 50, Basurtu-Zorrotza, 48012 Bilbao Koop SF34 & DIVERSITOURS Experience how a cooperative trains local residents as intercultural guides in a disadvantaged neighbourhood, using award-winning community-led tours to promote new narratives on migration, inclusion and urban citizenship. Meeting point at the main venue 8:30: La Perrera Espazioa, Sabino Arana Etorbidea, 50, Basurtu-Zorrotza, 48012 Bilbao
30'	<i>Transfer to the main venue</i>



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<p><i>La Perrera Espazioa, Konekta room</i> Sabino Arana Etorbidea, 50, Basurtu-Zorrotza, 48012 Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain</p>		
Time	Session	Speakers
11:30-12:00	Coffee break	
12:00-13:30 TEAMWORK	Innovation Capsule: creativity and lateral thinking. Creative activity to boost imagination and ignite ideas generation.	Matxalen de Pedro
13:30-14:30	Lunch	
14:00-15:45 TEAMWORK	Workshop: ideas selection Teams test ideas against their relevance and feasibility.	Facilitators
15:45-16:15	Coffee break & Mentors check-in	
16:15-18:30 TEAMWORK	Workshop: idea conceptualisation and prototyping Teams select concrete ideas for further development and start prototyping action plan for implementation.	Facilitators
18:30-18:40 PLENARY	Day 2 wrap-up	n/a
19:00-22:00	<p>Visit and dinner at the San Mamés Stadium</p> <p>The group will visit the city's football stadium, where they will have the opportunity to meet with those responsible for the ATHLETIC FOUNDATION project. The ATHLETIC FOUNDATION is closely linked to Athletic Club, the historic football team from Bilbao whose unique philosophy makes it a sporting and cultural reference both within and beyond Europe. Since its origins, Athletic Club has maintained a model based on commitment to its territory and the promotion of local talent—an exceptional principle in professional football that strengthens its identity and connection with the community. This uniqueness has made the team a collective symbol that transcends sport and forms an essential part of Bilbao's social imagination.</p>	



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	<p>To conclude the visit in a special way, it is proposed to complete the tour with a guided visit to San Mamés Stadium, an emblematic space for the city deeply linked to Bilbao's collective identity and which has also received important architectural recognitions. At the end of the visit, the group will be offered an informal dinner in one of the stadium's own spaces, creating an inspiring and symbolic setting to foster exchange among the participants.</p> <p>Location: Uribitarte Pasealekua, 3, Abando, 48001 Bilbao</p>
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Day 3 – Thursday, 12 February 2026		
<i>La Perrera Espazioa, Konekta room</i> Sabino Arana Etorbidea, 50, Basur to-Zorrotza, 48012 Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain		
Time	Session	Speakers
8:30-9:00	Welcome coffee	
9:00-9:30 PLENARY	Lighting talk: social innovation ecosystem in the Basque country	Asier Aranbarri – President Office in the Basque Government
9:30-10:45 TEAMWORK	Workshop: pitch preparation Teams finalise their prototypes and prepare for public presentation.	Facilitators, challenge owners
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-13:00 PLENARY	Final presentations and feedback session Teams present the result of their work and provide feedback to other participants.	Challenge owners, facilitators, mentors
13:00-13:10 PLENARY	Event closing	Eider Inunciaga Bilbao City Councillor for Basque Language, Public Services, Civic Engagement, Agenda 2030 and Internationalization Nets4Dem & Eurocities



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		representatives
13:10	Take-away lunch and departures	



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