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| **C2. BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TOOL** |
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| **START AND FINISH DATES: september 2021-december 2024** |
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| **WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?** |
| **LEADING ADMINISTRATION** |
| **Name** | **Department or Office** | **Contact name** | **Position** | **Email** | **Role** |
| Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa | Governance Department | Haritz Ugarte Aizpuru | Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation ServiceHead of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service | hugarte@gipuzkoa.eus | Project coordination |
| **CIVIL SOCIETY CO-LEADER (IF APPLICABLE)** |
| **Name** | **Contact name** | **Position** | **Email** | **Role** |
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| **OTHER INVOLVED AGENTS** |
| **1** | Provincial Council of *Araba* | *Lexuri Ugarte*  | *Territorial Administration* | *lugarte@araba.eus* | *Co-leadership* |
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| **2** | Provincial Council of *Bizkaia* | *Leyre Vitorica* | *Territorial Administration* | *leyre.vitorica@bizkaia.eus* | *Participant* |
|  | Maria Presa |  | *maria.presa@bizkaia.eus* |  |
| **3** | *Municipality of Bilbao* | *Carlos Urgoiti* | *Local Administration* | *curgoiti@bilbao.eus* | *Participant* |
|  | Amagoia Ibarrondo |  | *amagoia @bilbao.eus* |  |
| **4** | *Municipality of Vitoria-Gasteiz* | *Amaia Mujika* | *Local Administration* | *amujika@vitoria-gasteiz.org* | *Participant* |
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| **5** | *Municipality of Barakaldo* | *Asier Rodriguez* | *Local Administration* | *arodriguez@barakaldo.eus* | *Participant* |
|  | Carol Zabaco |  | *czabaco@barakaldo.eus* |  |
| **6** | *Municipality of Ermua* | *Montse Gutierrez* | *Local Administration* | *mgutierrez@ermua.net* | *Participant* |
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| **7** | *Municipality of Laudio* | *Ander Larrinaga* | *Local Administration* | *a.larrinaga@laudio.eus* | *Participant* |
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| **8** | Laura Vizcaino |  | Citizen | gerleila@google.com | *Participant* |
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| **9** | Ibatuz | Antxon Gallego | Company | agallego@ibatuz.com | *Participant* |
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| **10** | Kultiba | Andoni Lastra | Company | alastra@kultiba.net | *Participant* |
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| **11** | Arantzazu Otaolea |  | Citizen | maria.aranzazu.otaolea@bizkaia.eus | *Participant* |
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| **12** | Sareen Sarea | Mikel Barturen | Association | koordina@sareensarea.eu | *Participant* |
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| **COMMITMENT DESCRIPTION** |
| **WHY?** |
| PROBLEM | One of the most common criticisms by citizens is the difficulty of understanding the management of public budgets and as a consequence of this lack of understanding, many times, from ignorance, their management itself is questioned. This effect is aggravated in critical situations such as the current financial crisis, COVID-19 crisis, etc., which increase mistrust and the distance between citizens and public institutions.Basque public institutions publish their budgets and account for their budgetary exercises in accordance with well-established legal standards that, however, are not understood by the majority of citizens. In addition, the Basque institutional infrastructure, in which there are several levels of Public Administrations with distributed and delegated powers, makes it even more complex for citizens to understand how public resources financed by their taxes are managed.The challenge is to create a tool for transparency and accountability through which citizens will be able to understand the public budgets and, consequently, will adequately assess public management and participate in public policies more actively. |
| STATUS QUO | At present, each public institution has its budgets published in a different way; although the internal structure of budgets is perfectly standardized by law, there are no standards when it comes to displaying budgets and therefore they can be found in different formats and channels depending on the organization.Transparency information is published in a dispersed way: budget web pages, transparency portals, open budgets, etc. In addition, the budgets of the institutions and their dependent entities are often not consolidated, which is why citizens often have problems understanding the management of public resources as a whole.On the other hand, the standardized structure of budgets is very technical and not easy for a non-expert to understand. For this reason, citizens often cannot find the information they are looking for or do not understand the budget as a whole. For an easy understanding of the budgets, new formats or schemes are needed, and also in a unified way, that will allow an integrated explanation of the budgets of different public institutions. |
| WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT |
| EXPECTED RESULTS AND OVERAL OBJECTIVE | The aim is to develop a tool for consultation and understanding of public budgets by citizens:• That will be visual and easy to use• That will show the budgets of different institutions through a single tool• That will explain what the different programs and budget items are for• That will show income and expenses per inhabitantIn short, a tool that will allow publishing accessible budgets.The tool will be made available on a common web platform and on the web portals of different public institutions. Its use will be free and it will require no software to be installed.The budgets will be increased annually and a history of the budgets from previous years will be kept.The toll will use an easy-to-read language and its design will consider the perspective of linguistic equality and the compliance with the Basque language promotion policies of the participating public entities. |
| EXPECTED OUTPUTS ONCE THE COMMITMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED | Basque administrations (the Autonomous Government, Provincial Councils, local administrations, Parliament, etc.) will have a link to the accountability platform on their web pages so that citizens can consult their budgets. At the end of the financial year, the degree of execution of the budgets will also be reported.In this way, citizens will have a simple tool that will allow them to jointly consult and understand the budgets of Basque public institutions. |
| **WHAT DO WE WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO** |
| WHAT LONG TERM GOAL AS IDENTIFIED IN YOUR OPEN GOVERNMENT ESTRATEGY DOES THIS COMMITMENT RELATE TO? | This initiative will empower citizens and harness the power of new technologies to make budgets more understandable by citizens.It is an initiative that promotes collaboration with organized and unorganized citizens with a view to achieving greater prosperity, well-being and human dignity in our own countries and in an increasingly interconnected world.It is an initiative that facilitates the interoperability of government information systems at the state, regional, provincial and local level.It is an initiative that encourages citizen listening, and facilitates equitable and affordable access to technology, promoting connectivity for political participation.It is a unique and reusable tool for all Basque administrations and citizens, based on the principles of simple language, usability and accessibility.It is a measurable, impactful commitment that will be co-designed with civil society (organized and unorganized) |
| WHICH POLICIES DOES RELATE TO | To the budget and transparency policies of public institutions. |
| TO WHICH SECTORS | To different economic sectors |
| WHICH OGP VALUES WILL ENFORCE | Transparency and accountability. If we want to promote greater citizen participation in public affairs, we need to communicate budget information well so that citizens can assess public management.Ultimately, what we seek is to empower and mobilize citizens, taking advantage of the potential offered by new technologies for equal and non-discriminatory participation in the design and development of public policies. |
| **RESOURCES** |
| RESOURCES NEEDED | Estimated budget 50,000 eurosCOMMITMENT GROUP MADE UP OF AGENTS WITH A CITIZEN, EXPERT AND INSTITUTIONAL VISION |
| AVAILABLE RESOURCES | - Budget program aimed at Governance within the budget of the Governance Department of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa. Initial budget: 50,000 euros, destined to project coordination, search for technological resources and development of the accountability tool.- Budget program aimed at accountability of the Provincial Council of Araba. Initial budget: 12,000 euros.- Technical and technological resources of the public entities that make up OGP Euskadi, which will be used to integrate the budget management system of each one with the accountability tool. Initial budget: unspecified |

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| **ACTIONS** |
| **MILESTONE** | **WHAT WILL BE ACHIEVED*****Product or service*** | **START DATE** | **FINISH DATE** | **LEADER** | **CONTACT**  |
| **1** | Constitution of the commitment group | September 2021 | October 2021 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **2** | Analysis of the difficulties and needs of citizens | October 2021 | March 2022 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **3** | Study of the current state of communication of Budget information in the Basque public institutions | January 2022 | June 2022 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **4** | Definition of the content to be communicated and public contrast | July 2022 | October 2022 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **5** | Design and implementation of the budget visualization web tool. Use tests with citizens | November 2022 | April 2023 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **6** | Implementation in OGPEuskadi entities | May 2023 | December 2023 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **7** | Communication aimed at promoting the use of the tool by the rest of the Basque institutions. | January 2024 | November 2024 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **8** | Communication and awareness actions among citizens | January 2024 | November 2024 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |
| **9** | Participated evaluation | November 2024 | December 2024 | Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa - Services and Administration Innovation and Transformation Office | Haritz Ugarte - Head of the Administration Innovation and Transformation Service |

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| **MAINSTREAMING ELEMENTS** |
| ALIGNMENT WITH 2030 AGENDA | **16. Peace, justice and strong institutions**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels * **16.6**

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels* **16.7**

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements  |
| HOW WILL GENDER PERSPECTIVE BE ADDRESSED*Design, deployment and evaluation phases* | Incorporating the gender perspective from the design (scope) through participation of expert people in the commitment group. Developing functionalities in the tool that will stimulate reflection on gender discrimination and the incorporation of positive actions that correct inequalities, so that they can be easily visible and accessible. Taking care in the dissemination of the tool to provide access to groups interested in participating that incorporate a gender perspective or contribute directly to correcting discrimination based on gender or promoting positive actions. Incorporating the gender perspective in participatory evaluation. |