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| **COMMITMENT 4. TOOL TO PROMOTE THE COLLECTION OF PROPOSALS AND ADHERENTS FOR CITIZENS’ LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY/POLICY-MAKING INITIATIVES IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY**  |
| *The idea is to develop a mechanism for collecting proposals and adherents for citizens’ legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiatives with a view to guaranteeing their successful outcome.*  |
| **START/END DATE: October 2021-December 2024** |
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| **WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT?** |
| **ADMINISTRATION PROVIDING LEADERSHIP** |
| **Institution name** | **Ministry or Directorate**  | **Contact name** | **Position** | **Email** | **Role in the development** |
| Basque Government | Public Government and Self-Government | Javier Bikandi Irazabal | Director of Citizen and Digital Services | j-bikandi@euskadi.eus | Responsible for its execution and introduction |
| **CIVIL ORGANISATION PROVIDING CO-LEADERSHIP (if there is one)** |
| **Organisation name** | **Contact name** | **Position** | **Email** | **Role in the development** |
| Arantzazu Gaur Foundation-Arantzazulab | Ione Ardaiz | Social Innovation Project Leader | iardaiz@arantzazulab.eus | Co-design | Corroboration and monitoring |
| **OTHER AGENTS INVOLVED** |
| **1** | *Bilbao City Council* | *Miren Gotzone Zaldunbide Solaun* | *Director of Citizen Attention and Participation* | *gzaldunbide@bilbao.eus* | *Co-leadership in execution and introduction*  |
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| **2** | *Belaunaldi Galdua Association* | *Maria Concepción García Martos* | *President* | *belaunaldigaldua@gmail.com* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **3** | *Citizenship* | *Jone Gardoki Arriotua* | *Citizen* | *agroturismoantekena@yahoo.es* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **4** | *Llodio Town Council* | *Maite Cortazar Agüera* | *Councillor for citizen relations*  | *m.cortazar@laudiokoudala.net* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **5** | *Canal of the San Ignacio Neighbourhood Association in Bilbao* | *Ismael Redondo Rojo* | *President* | *infinitomenos2@gmail.com* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **6** | *Eupraxia Systems SL* | *Óscar Blanco Hortet* | *Head of Marketing and R&D Projects*  | *oblanco@eupraxia.es* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **7** | Arantzazulab | *Ione Ardaiz Osacar* | *Social Innovation Project Leader* | *iardaiz@arantzazulab.eus.* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **8** | *Citizenship* | *Ignacio Romera Sobrino* | *Citizen* | *iromera@innokey.es* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **9** | *Ibatuz* | *Antxon Gallego Solaetexe* | *Citizen* | *agallego@ibatuz.com* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **10** | *Eusko Ikaskuntza-Basque Studies Society* | *Beatriz Akizu Aizpiri* | *Director of Foresight, Strategy and New Projects* | *beatriz.akizu@eusko-ikaskuntza.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **11** | *Vitoria City Council* | *Juan Carlos Alonso* | *Head of the Citizen Participation Service*  | *participacion-partehartzea@vitoria-**gasteiz.org* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **12** | *Elhuyar Foundation* | *Amaia Zarrabeitia Salterain* | *Head of Participation and Transformation* | *a.zarrabeitia@elhuyar.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **13** | *Bilbao Council of Women* | Maria Aranzazu Otaolea Velado | *Member of the Bilbao Council of Women* | *maria.aranzazu.otaolea@bizkaia.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **14** | *Basque Parliament* | *Zelai Nikolas Ezkurdia* | *Counsel* | *nikolas.z@legebiltzarra.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **15** | *Llodio Town Council* | Ander Larrinaga | *Councillor for Municipal Strategy* | *a.larrinaga@laudio.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **16** | *Emun aholkulariak* | *Mikeldi Zeberio* | *Consultant* | *mikeldi@emun.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **17** | *Kultiba* | *Aitzol Batiz Ayarza* | *Consultant* | abatiz@kultiba.net | *Commitment group member* |
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| **18** | *Barakaldo Town Council* | *Carol Zabaco Pérez* | *IT and Transparency Coordinator*  | *czabaco@barakaldo.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **19** | *Bizkaia Provincial Council*  | *Leyre Vitorica Donezar* | *Director of Transparency and Good Governance* | *leyre.vitorica@bizkaia.eus* | *Commitment group member* |
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| **20** | *EJIE-Basque Government Information Society* | *Alex Lara Garachana* | *Project Leader* | *a-lara@ejie.eus* | *Technology Manager of the project* |
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| **21** | *Basque Government* | *Koldobike Uriarte Ruiz de Eguino* | *Project Leader* | *k-uriarte@euskadi.eus* | *Project Leader* |
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| **DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMITMENT**  |
| **WHY** |
| THE CHALLENGE TO WHICH IT PROVIDES A RESPONSE | While the process to be followed in order to promote Citizens’ legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiatives is exhaustively described in the corresponding regulation: -European (Citizens’ Initiative – proposal relating to a legal act for the purposes of applying treaties) -National (Citizens’ Legislative Initiative – proposal relating to legislative proposals)-Autonomous (Citizens’ Legislative Initiative of the Basque Country – related to Legislative Proposals)-Provincial in Álava; Bizkaia; Gipuzkoa; (Citizens’ Initiative on Regulations – related to proposals for provincial regulations made to the General Assemblies) * Provincial in Álava; Gipuzkoa (Citizens’ Initiative on Regulations – related to proposals for provincial regulations)
* local in Vitoria; San Sebastián (municipal regulation projects)

activity is in fact practically non-existent due to generalised lack of awareness among citizens and the difficulty of mustering the necessary adherence required by each procedure, in a certified and secure manner. Many of the initiatives fall by the wayside due to expiry of the deadline for mustering adherence, and those which do go ahead come from anonymous groups of citizens, a factor which partly detracts from the purpose of the citizens’ initiatives. This means that the task of certifying the validity of the adherence is complicated and requires, for its simplification, interoperability between the administrations.  |
| INITIAL SITUATION | All of the above means that citizens’ legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiatives is practically non-existent; either that, or many of the proposals are thrown out due to not having obtained the number of adherents established in the corresponding regulation.  |
| **WHAT FOR** |
| WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE*general results and objectives*  | The general objective corresponds to the global challenge of the institutions to explore new paths of governance between the public administration and citizens. Also therefore deemed necessary is the introduction of new approaches and tools to encourage the participation and involvement of citizens in developing the public agenda. In this context, the role of new technologies may be vital when strengthening the ability of the institutions to work in a more open, collaborative and effective manner when making decisions to tackle public challenges. And in this respect, technological advances not only offer citizens a better experience when interacting with the administrations, but also the chance to transform public governance. |

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|  | In this framework, the aim of this project is to develop a digital experience focussed on citizens. It will be designed to be accessible by the diversity of citizens in the Basque Country and the materials will be generated using a clear language. The details of the digital experience are as follows: * The phase prior to using the tool. This is when the system will be established in regard to how citizens will learn the details of this right, how the process to be followed will be communicated and, specifically, how any citizen can initiate the process to promote a citizens’ legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiative.
* The phase of using the digital tool. This will be the main phase in defining the digital experience as detailed in the following paragraphs.
* The phase following use of the digital tool. This phase will give details of how the results of their actions are communicated to the people promoting and forming part of the process, and of how the information is shared with citizens in order to instruct and raise awareness regarding this type of processes.

One of the key elements of this experience will be a digital tool which is accessible and easy to use, sufficiently well known and available for use by the groups of citizens who promote an legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiative for the Basque Country, making it possible to: * Publicise and lend transparency to the process (publication of the documentation associated to the process on the website: composition of the promotion committee; start date of the regulation proposal; founded explanation of the reasons; articulated text; competent administration to process it; sources of support or funding where required; decision on whether or not it is accepted for processing; possible appeals and decisions; communication for starting to collect adherents; no. of adherents collected; notaries responsible for certifying adherents; certification of valid adherents; communication of the start of processing by means of links to the Parliament or General Assembly website, etc.). The tool must have an instructive/informative area (what, who, why...) serving as a guide and encouragement for its use.
* Secure, verifiable, non-renounceable and auditable electronic collection of adherents (not used for different purposes, protected against unauthorised destruction, alteration or dissemination). Study secure ways of collecting adherents from collectives affected by the digital divide, or by the impossibility of obtaining digital signature certificates (people with foreign passports).
* Verify the adherents and certify them using existing systems of interoperability (ID document, municipal census, etc.), depending on the requirements of each regulation.
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|  | Parallel to this, an endeavour will also be made to identify the need to change the rules regulating the citizens’ initiative, which are currently obsolete due to having taken effect prior to mandatory introduction of the e-administration (electronic administrative procedure, technical interoperability regulations, e-signature, data verification systems, e-register, etc.). The idea is that it be housed in the Basque Government platform and offered as free software with technical support to enable its external installation by citizen promoters when desired. Limited scope. Does not imply digitization of the lifecycle of the legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiative as a whole, which would mean involving all actors (Promotion Committee/Commission of the Provincial Parliament or General Assemblies/central or provincial electoral commission) and registration of the documentation, notifications between parties, the issuing of decisions... The Promotion Committee of the citizens’ initiative can use the tool housed in either the Basque Government or its own platform for the purposes of dissemination, collecting safe adherents and verifying adherents. This solves all of the part involved in promoting and fostering the citizens’ initiative, which is the challenge at hand. Any of the Basque administrations can install the tool for its use.  |
| ONCE IMPLEMENTED, WHAT WILL HAVE CHANGED?:*how and to what extent the expected results contribute to providing a solution to the challenge*  | A clear and accessible experience of the steps to be followed by all citizens in the Basque Country. The Basque administrations (parliament, general assemblies, autonomous, provincial and local governments) have the tool installed on their websites and promote its use. Promotion Committees exist which also have the tool for its dissemination among citizens and public agents. In the medium term, activity is generated and processing of the proposed regulations is underway.  |
| **WHAT WE WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO** |
| HOW IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE VISION OF OPEN GOVERNMENT (OPEN DEMOCRACY)  | This is an initiative which empowers citizens and takes advantage of the power of new technologies to make the legislative and executive institutions more effective and more focussed on citizens’ demands; it is also an opportunity to experiment with new models of collaborative governance. It is an initiative which promotes collaboration with organised and unorganised citizens with a view to achieving greater prosperity, well-being and human dignity in our countries and in an increasingly interconnected world.  |

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|  | It is an initiative which enables the interoperability of governmental information systems at state, autonomous, provincial and local level. It is an initiative which fosters listening to citizens, also enabling fair and affordable access to technology, fostering connectivity for participation in politics. It is an initiative which involves civil society and the public administrations in identifying innovative approaches to policy-making. It is a unique tool, reusable by all of the Basque administrations and the citizens, based on the principles of simple language, user-friendliness and accessibility. It is a commitment that can be measured, with impact, and which will be co-designed with civil society (organised and unorganised) It is a digital experience which makes it possible to strengthen collaborative governance, bringing citizens closer to the public institutions and to public policy-making.  |
| WHAT POLICY-MAKING DOES IT EFFECT? | The production of legislation, regulations and policies focussed on the citizens’ interests and needs.  |
| FOR WHAT SECTORS? | Any sector for which the citizens’ legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiative is envisaged.  |
| WHAT OGP VALUES DOES IT REFLECT?  | A demand for transparency in policy-making, with the institutional agents being more focussed on the aspirations and needs felt by the citizens and being more effective in their implementation. Greater citizen participation in public matters, in the conviction that this will help to improve public services, rationalise public resources, promote public innovation and, at the end of the day, prosperity, well-being and human dignity in an increasingly more complex society. The empowerment and mobilisation of citizens, making use of the power of new technologies, fairly and without discrimination, contributing to policy-making decisions. A transparency which helps to achieve more integral public and private actions focussed on the common good. Increasing access to new technologies with the spirit of opening-up and of responsibility, developing secure and accessible online spaces, i.e. platforms for the configuration of services, citizen participation and collaboration, and systems for sharing information, ideas, proposals and public priorities. Promoting the connectivity of civil society in order to generate shared public value.  |

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| **WITH WHAT** |
| WHAT RESOURCES DO WE NEED? | Anticipated budget of EUR180,000COMMITMENT GROUP MADE UP OF AGENTS WITH A CITIZEN, EXPERT AND INSTITUTIONAL VISIONTechnology infrastructure |
| WHAT DO WE HAVE? | BUDGET of the Directorate for citizen attention and digital services. Ministry of Public Governance and Self-Government. Basque Government. Initial budget: EUR180,000 COMMITMENT GROUP (THE AGENTS INVOLVED AS EXPLAINED IN THE PREVIOUS SECTION)HUMAN, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS OF THE BASQUE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SOCIETY, EJIE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOOL AND FOR ITS DISSEMINATION AND INTRODUCTION  |

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| **ACTIONS** |
| **GOAL** | **WHAT YOU GET*****Product or service*** | **START DATE** | **END DATE** | **RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION** | **CONTACT PERSON** |
| **1** | Final composition of the commitment group with participation of the autonomous, provincial and local administrations, of the Basque Government, and of organised and unorganised citizens  | September 2021 | October 2021 | Basque Government. Directorate of Citizen Attention and Digital Services | Javier Bikandi Irazabal. Director of Citizen Attention and Digital Services |
| **2** | Analysis of all regulations on legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiatives and international policy-making trends in citizens’ initiatives  | October 2021 | December 2021 | Basque Government. Directorate of Citizen Attention and Digital Services | Koldobike Uriarte Ruiz de Eguino. Public Innovation Project Leader  |
| **3** | Establishment of the final scope (decision on upcoming citizen participation initiatives such as the right to petition and others forming part of local, provincial autonomous regulations). Identification of the groups of people on which the digital experience will focus and on which it will not, based on design of the services | January 2022 | January 2022 | Basque Government. Directorate of Citizen Attention and Digital Services | Koldobike Uriarte Ruiz de Eguino. Public Innovation Project Leader |
| **4** | Contracting of the design and development company | December 2021 | February 2022 | EJIE-Basque Government Information Society | Alex Lara Garatxana. Project Leader |
| **5** | Identification of elements to be developed from the point of view of the digital experience of the different profiles/citizen collectives  | February 2022 | April 2022 | EJIE-Basque Government Information Society | Alex Lara Garatxana. Project Leader |
| **6** | Development of the functional aspects | May 2022 | May 2023 | EJIE-Basque Government Information Society | Alex Lara Garatxana. Project Leader |
| **7** | Tests of the system and of the experience | June 2023 | July 2023 | EJIE-Basque Government Information Society | Alex Lara Garatxana. Project Leader |
| **8** | Pilot project: dissemination of the experience and of the platform, collection of proposals, selection of the pilot project, co-management of the initiative  | Sept 2023 | June 2024 | Basque Government. Directorate of Citizen Attention and Digital Services | Koldobike Uriarte Ruiz de Eguino. Public Innovation Project Leader |
| **9** | Dissemination and management of the change | September 2024 | November 2024 | Basque Government. Directorate of Citizen Attention and Digital Services | Koldobike Uriarte Ruiz de Eguino. Public Innovation Project Leader |

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| **10** | Participatory assessment | November 2024 | December 2024 | Basque Government. Directorate of Citizen Attention and Digital Services | Koldobike Uriarte Ruiz de Eguino. Public Innovation Project Leader |

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| **CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS** |
| IS IT IN LINE WITH THE 2030 AGENDA? TO WHAT SDGs DOES IT CONTRIBUTE? HOW? | **Goal 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure equal access to justice for all and develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. * **16.6 EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS**

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

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels* **16.10 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements* **16.B LAWS AND POLICIES (HUMAN RIGHTS)**

Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development |

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| HOW IS THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE ADDRESSED?*Design, implementation and evaluation stage* | Including the gender perspective from the design (scope) by means of participation in the commitment group of people with vision in the field. Developing functions in the tool to prompt reflection on gender discrimination and incorporating positive actions to correct inequality in the development of regulations, in such a way as to make them easily visible and accessible. Taking care when disseminating the tool with respect to the access of groups interested in participating in legislative/regulatory/policy-making initiatives either including the gender perspective or which directly help to correct gender-based discriminations or to promote positive actions. Incorporating the gender perspective to the participatory evaluation. |