# University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)

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# **Description of the Organisation**

The University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) is a teaching and research institution officially founded in 1980. The university employs over 7.500 people in 31 faculties and schools distributed in three different campuses, with more than 57.000 undergraduate and postgraduate students. The UPV/EHU offers the highest number of doctorate programmes of all Spanish universities, one third of which have received a mention of excellence from the Spanish Ministry of Education. The UPV/EHU has been recognised as an International Research Campus of Excellence by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN), and in 2021 was awarded the HRS4R award by the European Commission for human resources excellence in research.

# **Experience of the Organization in Previous European Projects**

Since the first European Research Framework Programmes, the UPV/EHU has been very active and has participated in a wide variety of collaborative projects. In the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) the University of the Basque Country participated in 94 projects, of which it coordinated 22, amounting to more than 30 million Euros. In Horizon 2020 (2014-2020), the UPV/EHU has so far been successful with 144 projects that have already attracted a total sum of more than 40 million Euros in research and innovation financing, including 9 ERC grants, of which 2 are Advanced Grants and one a Synergy Grant, and 9 projects from the FET programme. In addition, the UPV/EHU recently obtained its first MSCA Cofund grant in the last call of the H2020 programme.

The UPV/EHU is already participating actively in the new Horizon Europe programme (2021-2027) and has so far won 6 projects, 2 of which are ERC grants, with the UPV/EHU also coordinating 2 Pathfinder projects.

In 2014 the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) started to support Erasmus + Programmes. By the time it has been the beneficiary of 6 Jean Monnet, 21 KA2 Strategic Partnerships, 5 KA2 Capacity Building, 1 KA2 Knowledge Alliance, 1KA3 Support for policy reform, 1KA2 Universidad and 3 Sports.

## Experience And Expertise of the Organization in the Project's Subject Area

The persons involved in this project are researchers in Biodiversity Education and Education for Sustainability. Furthermore, they have experience in pre-service- and in service-teachers (primary school, secondary school and higher education) training in scientific competence and competences for sustainability involving active learning methodologies. They are involved in several national and international research and innovation projects, among others MERLIN (H2020, *improving public and students acceptation of river restoration using environmental education;* EDUCARSU (MINECO, Spain, *Commitments and responsibilities that teachers and future secondary school teachers express when faced with the problem of urban waste and its implementation in the classroom*); BIOTA (Monitoring of the biodiversity education program of the provincial government of Bizkaia); TRANTSENER (Transdisciplinary community towards energy transition at the Faculty of Education of Bilbao (UPV/EHU).

## Contributions that can be provided to the project

The UPV/EHU will make two main contributions to the project. On the one hand, in the training teachers in the application of transdisciplinary approaches and methodologies as well as problem-based learning approaches for teaching environmental issues from a sustainability point of view. On the other hand, the creation of a collection of lesson plans from a transdisciplinary and problem-based approach.

## **Reasons of involvement in the project**

The socio-environmental challenges we are facing in Europe and the rest of the world make the development, implementation and evaluation of educational resources for sustainability more necessary than ever. In this sense, overcoming the traditional divide between the research carried out in universities and the day-to-day educational practice in schools is vital and urgent. The Go Green project offers a wonderful opportunity for close collaboration between university research and educational communities.

## **Contact Person's Experience and Expertise**

Dr. José Ramón Díez graduated in Biology and got his PhD in stream ecology, both at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). After working in the field of ecosystem restoration and planning and management of protected natural areas and endangered species for the public administration, he returned to the UPV/EHU. Firstly, by training biologists in the Faculty of Science and Technology. Subsequently, since 2010, training primary and secondary preservice teachers in the area of Science Education and Education for Sustainability at the Department of Mathematics, Experimental and Social Sciences Education Degrees of Primary Education and Social Education and and in the master

of secondary pre-service teachers. Currently he is a lecturer at the Faculty of Education of Bilbao and he is heading the of the Biodiversity Education and Education for Sustainability team into STEM-ERG group.

Dr. Oihana Barrutia graduated with a degree in Biology and got her PhD in this scientific field from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). Currently she is a lecturer on Science Education at the University (UPV/EHU). Her research is nowadays focused on Biodiversity Education and Environmental Education.

Dr. Unai Ortega is graduated in Biology and obtained his PhD in this field of plant phisiology from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). Currently he is a lecturer on Science Education and Education for Sustainability at the faculty of Education of Bilbao (UPV/EHU), in the degrees of Primary Education and Social Education. He is trained in active teaching strategies.

Dr. Aritz Ruiz-González is an Assistant Professor at Department of Mathematics, Experimental and Social Sciences Education (Faculty of Education and Sport, UPV/EHU). He received his PhD degree in Life and Environmental sciences in 2011. He has previously conducted her research work on biodiversity and conservation. Nowadays, he is focused on science and sustainability education research, being her main research interests: pre-service science teacher education, biodiversity education and design-based research. Currently, he is a member of the Research Group STEM-ERG.

Dr. María Teresa Gómez-Sagasti graduated in Biology in 2008 and obtained an excellent *Cum Laude* distinction for her PhD degree in Environmental Sciences in 2014 (University of the Basque Country, UPV/EHU). In recent years Dr. Gómez-Sagasti combines her work as a postdoctoral researcher linked to the Department of Plant Biology and Ecology of the Faculty of Science and Technology (UPV/EHU) with university teaching in the area of Didactics of Experimental Sciences. Dr. Gómez Sagasti also collaborates actively in social events and informative workshops on science and sustainability

Oier Pedrera is graduated in Biology and she obtained the Master Degree in Secondary Education Teacher in the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). Currently, he is a researcher of the STEM-ERG group. He is researching on learning difficulties around plant nutrition and on the design of research-based teaching approaches for secondary education.