



Capacity-Building Programme Local 2030

I. Background

The Local2030 Coalition is the United Nations (UN) System-wide platform to accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With 14 UN entities advancing the Coalition's on-the-ground delivery and five constituencies (national and local governments, civil society and academia, private sector, and youth) actively participating, the Coalition creates a point of convergence between the UN system and local development stakeholders. It is acknowledged as a key accelerator for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as one of the twelve SDG High Impact Initiatives.

At the local level, the Local2030 Coalition in Bilbao works very closely and collaboratively with the **Basque Government's Directorate for Social Innovation and Agenda 2030** and with the University of the Basque Country / **Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (EHU)**, both exemplary and key partners for advancing the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

With the [2027 SDG Summit](#) coming up as the next key milestone towards 2030, the Coalition is enabling connections to:

1. Better integrate local development stakeholders as key enablers for global agendas, promoting existing solutions and building strategic alliances.
2. Build capacities in the UN system and beyond to operationalize localization.
3. Scale up development and financing solutions to enhance local impact and to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Enhance data collection and analysis alongside multi-stakeholder dialogues to review sustainable development progress and promote evidence, stories, and champions.



This microcredential focuses on the second point mentioned above, namely the support provided by the Local2030 Coalition for capacity building through the “Bilbao Offer.” This initiative consists of a comprehensive, multi-level and multi-stakeholder capacity-building package that includes a global Training of Trainers (ToT); country-level training for UN entities, national governments, local and regional governments, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector; as well as mentoring and technical support delivered at the local level by both UN and non-UN practitioners.

This proposal builds on the experience of a training programme of this nature designed and delivered by the University of the Basque Country / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (EHU) in collaboration with the Directorate for Social Innovation of the Basque Government during the 2022/23 academic year. The programme, offered as a university **specialist diploma** entitled *“Integración Estratégica, Seguimiento y Comunicación de la Agenda 2030 y ODS”* - coordinated by Dr. Estibaliz Saez de Camara Oleaga- enabled the acquisition of the expertise necessary to scale this initiative from the local and regional level to the international level. In doing so, it positioned Euskadi as a reference in the localization of the 2030 Agenda and opened opportunities for collaboration with other regions, while providing valuable learning opportunities for individuals and organizations from Euskadi who enroll in this microcredential. The programme will remain open to participants from different regions and backgrounds interested in advancing the localization of the 2030 Agenda.

The development and coordination of the Bilbao Offer will be carried out by the University of the Basque Country (EHU), the Directorate for Social Innovation and Agenda 2030 of the Basque Government, and the Local2030 Secretariat based in Bilbao, in close coordination with the Local2030 Coalition Capacity Building Task Force. The Task Force, co-led by the Local2030 Secretariat, UN DESA, and DCO, will identify key gaps and opportunities to bring together actors working on localization capacity building across the UN system; harmonize efforts to ensure coordination and alignment; and leverage expertise, knowledge, and practical examples to deliver the most actionable capacity-building offers.



II. Objectives of the Bilbao Offer

Main Objective

The main objective of this microcredential is to operationalize the localization of the 2030 Agenda at the country level by strengthening the capacities of personnel from UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and other relevant practitioners to adapt and localize UN offers through strategies, financing instruments, programming, and related mechanisms. In addition, the programme aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to support the establishment of enabling environments for the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the development of appropriate regulatory frameworks, institutional capacities, and financing mechanisms. This approach is designed to be adaptable to different governance systems and to promote the meaningful involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including national governments, local and regional governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector, among others.

Specific Objectives

1. Mainstream localization in UN strategic documents at the country level as an enabler of the UN reform, including the UN 2.0 “Quintet of Change.”
2. Build capacities in UNCTs to implement localization through joint programmes.
3. Support existing joint programmes financed by the Local2030 Coalition through the Joint SDG Fund to boost their potential to scale up.

III. Framework of the microcredential. The Bilbao Offer.

This microcredential is framed within the **“Bilbao Offer”**, a programme led by the **Local2030 Secretariat** as part of its **capacity-building pillar**. The Bilbao Offer is a comprehensive initiative promoted by the Local2030 Coalition in collaboration with UN partners and key academic and institutional actors in the Basque Country, such as the Basque Government and the University of the Basque Country / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (UPV/EHU), aimed at advancing the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The initiative integrates systems thinking and strategic foresight into UN country-level work by equipping local, regional, and national stakeholders—including UN staff—with the tools, knowledge, and training necessary to implement territorial transformations aligned with the SDGs. This is achieved through the structured application of the **Bilbao Blueprint**, a methodology and strategic framework designed to guide impactful, place-based development planning and financing.

At the core of the Bilbao Offer is a **Training of Trainers (ToT) programme**, delivered through a combination of online and in-person modules. The online component includes several modules equivalent to a **3 ECTS diploma accredited by the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)**, where participants are trained in SDG localization, strategic planning, financing mechanisms, impact measurement, and the practical application of the Bilbao Blueprint. The in-person phase, held in Bilbao and Madrid, complements the online training through immersive peer learning, workshops, and field visits to local initiatives and projects.

Beyond capacity building, the Bilbao Offer also provides mentorship, technical support, and peer-learning opportunities, fostering a systemic approach to how countries plan, finance, and monitor sustainable development at the territorial level.

1. **Mainstreaming localization** in UN country-level strategic documents (e.g. Common Country Analysis, Cooperation Frameworks) as a key enabler for the implementation of systems thinking and strategic foresight throughout UN support.
2. **Training of trainers (ToT) (online)- MICROCREDENTIAL: 4 online modules of 6-8 hours each over 8 weeks from April 2026 to June 2026**, delivered by the Local2030 Coalition Knowledge and Scientific Network in partnership with the **University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (EHU)** and the collaboration of the University of Deusto, Mondragon Unibertsitatea, the Spanish Government, the Basque Government, the Italian research institute CESPI, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and diverse UN agencies and private sector representatives. Trainers will be six per country: three UN staff (RCO and two UN Agencies) and three national and local stakeholders (e.g., Ministry of Finance, region/ city, academia, civil society organizations, Local2030 Hubs, and the private sector). Upon completion of



the programme, an **official microcredential diploma** will be awarded to the trainers by the University of the Basque Country (EHU).

3. **Training of trainers (in person):** A final **Training of Trainers (ToT) week** will be organized in person for all trainers within each cohort (five countries per cohort, with two cohorts per year). This intensive week will include masterclasses and field visits led by local public and private stakeholders. The ToT week is scheduled for **June 2026**. It will also include sessions dedicated to tailoring the methodology, approaches, and tools to different national governance systems, as well as to specific local capacities and needs.
4. **Training of trainers (tools):** A toolkit will be made available to trainers, including: a workplan for the country-level training; key handbooks (covering institutional arrangements, strategic planning, monitoring, stakeholder engagement, etc.); an edited set of case studies of UN and non-UN localization initiatives to illustrate the training with concrete examples; and guidance on use of the Localization Marker as a tool to channel finance towards local impact, among others.
5. **Concluding training and technical support:** A pool of experts/mentors consisting of practitioners from UN entities and Local2030 constituencies will be made available to mentor the trainers, provide guidance for the training, and provide direct support to joint programmes on the ground to develop their workplans
6. **Technical bilateral visits from trainees from one beneficiary country to Bilbao/Euskadi** to deepen their knowledge and explore partnership opportunities for sustainable and continued knowledge exchange and successful implementation.
7. **Advocating and promoting capacity building experiences on the global stage:** Impact on UN, national and local plans, policies and programmes; workplans for country-level training; and handbooks will be the basis of advocacy and communications that the Local2030 Coalition will carry out, together with UN Country Teams, within international milestones such as the HLPFs, SDG Summits, etc., to foster the scaling up of these initiatives.



IV. Objectives of the Microcredential “Capacity Building Programme Local 2030”

The objectives of this Training of Trainers (ToT) are:

- Equip trainers with the knowledge and skills to apply the Bilbao Blueprint as a systems thinking and strategic foresight tool to guide investments toward impactful, place-based SDG outcomes.
- Promote the development of local multi-stakeholder ecosystems that support inclusive economic and social development, the provision of quality public and basic services, and climate action through a territorial approach.
- Strengthen participants’ capacity to identify and activate key levers of territorial transformation, building on local realities and solutions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Foster peer learning, knowledge exchange, and international as well as inter-territorial collaboration among trainers and participating institutions.

V. Methodology of the Microcredential “Capacity Building Programme Local 2030”

This microcredential will be delivered using a cross-cutting, **learner-centered pedagogical methodology** that includes:

- Active, experiential learning focused on addressing real-world challenges.
- Peer learning and collaboration across countries and teams.
- Continuous formative assessment, with ongoing feedback from facilitators.
- Action-oriented approaches directly applicable to participants’ local and territorial contexts.
- Use of collaborative digital tools and a multilingual online learning platform to enhance interaction and accessibility.



VI. Academic Structure and detailed programme of the Microcredential “Capacity Building Programme Local 2030”

The 3 ECTS microcredential is structured into **four modules** as follows:

- Module 1: Localization to enable systems thinking and strategic foresight.
- Module 2: Creating enabling environments for systemic change.
- Module 3: Transforming local systems through strategic investments and catalytic projects.
- Module 4: Catalyzing broader alliances and developing roadmaps for territorial transformation.

The programme will conclude with a final project, to be developed after the completion of the four modules, in which participants will apply the knowledge and tools acquired during the course.

This modular curriculum is designed to combine academic rigor with applied, action-oriented learning. Each module is co-delivered by interdisciplinary faculty and expert practitioners, providing theoretical foundations and practical tools for localization of the SDGs through territorial strategies and catalytic investments.

The **detailed programme** of this microcredential is as follows:

Module 1: Localization to enable System Thinking and Strategic Foresight (6 hours)

- Introduces the Bilbao Blueprint as a dynamic framework for systems thinking in territorial planning.
- Explores how strategic foresight can be applied to anticipate and shape sustainable futures at the local level.
- Includes scenario building, future mapping, and the identification of key drivers of territorial transformation.

Module 2: Creating Enabling Environments for Systemic Change (8 hours)

- Examines the legal, institutional, policy and social conditions necessary for driving systemic, inclusive, and sustainable change.



- Focuses on multi-level governance, decentralization, financing frameworks, and public-private collaboration.
- Integrates case studies from Local2030 pilot countries and input from UN agencies local, regional and national governments.

Module 3: Transforming Local Systems Through Strategic Investments and Catalytic Projects (8 hours)

- Teaches participants how to focus on systems and on the territorial dynamics rather than single actors or sectoral policies, to design, finance, and implement high-impact projects.
- Overcomes sectoral silos and explores investment prioritization as well as metrics for impact assessment to reinforce national and subnational financing architectures within a systemic approach.
- Includes tools for mapping SDG synergies and trade-offs, using digital platforms developed by Local2030 partners.

Module 4: Catalyzing Broader Alliances and Roadmaps for Territorial Transformation (8 hours)

- Distribute responsibilities and align resources among stakeholders for policy coherence and efficient investment use.
- Ensure multi-level governance coordination, clarifying institutional roles across national, regional, and local levels.
- Designs for sustainability and scalability by fostering multi-actor and interterritorial coherence to build scalable pipelines of investable projects. engaging private sector and financial institutions.

After completing the four modules, participants will apply the knowledge and skills acquired to develop a **Training Plan** tailored to their specific territorial contexts. Participants may work individually or in teams to co-design a localization training plan based on the **Bilbao Blueprint**. The Training Plans will undergo **peer review** and may be selected for presentation during the **in-person immersion phase** in Bilbao and Madrid.