



Innovating democracy: What can we contribute? An international perspective and dialogue



At a time when democracy is increasingly under threat, there is also a strong commitment to reaffirm it and delve into democratic culture.

25.Jun 2025

Cod. G06-25

Mod.:
Streaming Face-to-face

Edition
2025

Activity type
Summer course

Date
25.Jun 2025

Location
Arantzazulab, Gandiaga Topagunea

Languages
Basque English

Academic Validity
10 hours

Organising Committee

Fundación
BBVA



Description

We are living in a concerning time characterized by a growing authoritarian wave that challenges liberal democracies worldwide. Discussions about a crisis of democracy have emerged, reflected in different aspects within Western countries: widespread distrust of democratic institutions, political dissatisfaction, civic disengagement, rise of totalitarian and individualistic attitudes, and inability of public institutions to address social challenges with their current structures and tools.

At a time when democracy is increasingly under threat, there is also a strong commitment to reaffirm it and delve into democratic culture. On the one hand, there is a clear and notable commitment in our country's institutions to strengthening democracy (an uncommon effort nowadays, by the way). Various strategies have been launched to promote political innovation and new forms of governance within government structures, political parties, and public institutions, with the support of different social actors. The Basque context, with its strong tradition, institutional leadership, ongoing research efforts, and initiatives led by various social actors and democratic innovation groups, including institutions like Arantzazulab, has drawn international attention. At the same time, many individuals, organisations, and progressive governments worldwide are working to study democracy in more detail and develop innovative responses to its challenges.

This UPV/EHU Summer Course aims to bring together these perspectives, highlighting the contributions that our own value system can make to global debates on democratic innovation. To this end, internationally renowned experts will take part and will provide a comparative perspective on the contributions seeking to do in this field.

Ultimately, this course aims to identify key insights for qualitative advances in democratic renewal and governance transformation.

Objectives

Explore the strategies and initiatives of local institutions and key actors in fostering democratic culture and community building.

Delve more deeply our contribution to global debates on democracy innovation from our value system and engage in dialogue with local and international experts.

Gain insights from international experts on strengthening democratic practices.

Highlight the importance of deepening democratic culture in Basque society, bringing it into public debate, and encouraging institutional engagement in these dialogues.

Organised by



In collaboration with



Program

25-06-2025

09:00 - 09:30	Erregistroa
09:30 - 09:45	<p>Presentation by the Director of the activity</p> <p>Naiara Goia Imaz Arantzazulab - Zuzendari nagusia Ione Ardaiz Osacar Arantzazulab - Proiektuen arduraduna</p>
09:45 - 10:40	<p>“Open democracy: politics with and for the people (Behin-behineko izenburua)”</p> <p>Hélène Landemore University of Yale, AEB - Political science professor and researcher</p>
10:40 - 11:35	<p>“Challenges of Democratic Design”</p> <p>Michael Saward University of Warwick, United Kingdom - Professor and researcher in Politics and International Studies</p>
11:35 - 12:00	Atsedena eta kafea
12:00 - 12:45	<p>Round table: “Tokiko erakundeen estrategiak eta esperientziak kultura demokratikoan sakontzeko eta komunitate-zentzua indartzeko”</p> <p>Xabier Otxandiano Eusko Jaurlaritza / Gobierno Vasco, Gobernantza - Administrazio Digital eta Autogobernu Saila; Erakunde Harremanetarako Sailburuordea Yosu Arraiz Aramburu Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia / Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa - Estrategia zuzendaria María José Aranguren Querejeta Orkestra - Zuzendari nagusia Naiara Goia Imaz Arantzazulab - Zuzendari nagusia Asier Aranbarri Urzelai Eusko Jaurlaritza / Gobierno Vasco - Berrikuntza Sozialaren eta 2030 Agendaren zuzendaria</p>
12:45 - 13:30	<p>Round table: “Demokraziaren aldaerak, agertokiak eta aukerak XXI. Mendean. Arantzazulab-k sustatuko Ikerketako eta Esperimentazioko egitasmoen arduradunen arteko elkarriketa”</p> <p>Ione Ardaiz Osacar Arantzazulab - Proiektuen arduraduna (Moderator) Andoni Eizagirre Eizagirre Arantxa Mendiharat Deliberativa Julen Mendoza Perez Kogarri Maria Ajuria Hernandez Farapi Beatriz Belmonte Better Public Services</p>
13:30 - 14:00	Cierre
14:00 - 15:00	Bazkaria Gandiaga Topaguneko Hallean (partaideek elkarrekin hitz egiteko cocktail eran)

Directed by



Naiara Goia Imaz

Arantzazulab, Managing Director

Naiara Goia is currently the Managing Director of Arantzazulab, a leading democracy innovation lab and reference centre for collaborative governance in the Basque Country. Since 2020, she has been responsible for the design, launch and development of the lab. An expert in innovation, Naiara brings over 20 years of experience in directing complex, strategic public-private initiatives on an international level. Prior to her role at Arantzazulab, she worked for many years at MONDRAGON Corporation (world leader in the cooperative movement and the largest business group in the Basque Country), where she led various initiatives focused on open innovation, promoting technological and social innovation strategies aimed at business transformations in the cooperative sector. Naiara's work is driven by a deep commitment to democratic innovation, fostering collaborative networks and developing comprehensive strategies for systemic governance transformation. She also collaborates with several universities as a lecturer. Naiara holds a Masters in Telecommunications Engineering (UPV/EHU - ENST Bretagne) and an MBA in Business Management. She has had additional training in Collaborative governance, Leadership, Public communication, among others



Ione Ardaiz Osacar

Arantzazulab

Teachers



Maria Ajuria Hernandez

Farapi koop. elkarte



Asier Aranbarri Urzelai

Gobierno Vasco

Asesor de la Secretaría General de Transición Social y Agenda 2030. Lehendakaritza-Gobierno Vasco (2021-2022). Asesor de la Secretaría General de Acción Exterior. Lehendakaritza-Gobierno vasco (2017-2021). Profesor de Relaciones Internacionales en la Universidad de Deusto (2016-actualidad). Asesor de Gobernanza Pública y Autogobierno. Gobierno Vasco (2012-2016). Alcalde de Azkoitia (2003-2011). Portavoz de EAJ-PNV JJGG de Gipuzkoa (2003-2011).



María José Aranguren Querejeta

Orkestra, Instituto Vasco de Competitividad

Mari Jose Aranguren is the general director at Orkestra and Professor in Economics at Deusto University. She has worked at Orkestra since its beginning in 2006. Mari Jose is a recognised expert in the area of competitiveness and territorial strategy, cluster and networks, and the analysis and evaluation of policies, having published several books and articles in specialised national and international journals of impact. She has vast experience in leading national and international projects in the research areas previously mentioned and has worked closely with different agents of the Basque Country. In December of 2016 Mari Jose received a special recognition from Harvard's Institute of Strategy and Competitiveness for her career and contribution to territorial competitiveness. From 2014 to 2016 Mari Jose was a member of the Advisory Group for the European Commission as part of the Horizon 2020 programme, in the Societal Challenge 6 'Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, Innovative



Ione Ardaiz Osacar

Arantzazulab



Yosu Arraiz Aramburu

Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia



Beatriz Belmonte



Andoni Eizagirre Eizagirre

Mondragon Unibertsitatea, Irakasle Titularra

Profesor Titular de Mondragon Unibertsitatea. Doctor en Filosofía.



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Hélène Landemore



Arantxa Mendiherat

Deliberativa

Co-founder with Yago Bermejo of Deliberativa, an organisation that advises governments to design and implement deliberative processes involving citizens chosen through civic lottery, and promotes deliberative democracy. Co-author with Ernesto Ganuza of the book "La democracia es posible. Sorteo cívico y deliberación para rescatar el poder de la ciudadanía" ("Democracy is possible. Civic lottery and deliberation to reclaim the power of citizens" (2020, Ed. Consonni). She is a member of FIDE (Federation for Innovation Democracy - Europe), Democracy R&D, Innovative Citizen Participation Network of the OECD and KNOCA. In a previous life she designed and activated crossovers between the arts and other fields of production. She is still closely following the project she created together with

Idoia Zabaleta and Ixiar Rozas, Borradores del futuro (Drafts of the future), a collection of stories that imagine the future of existing alternatives. Graduated in Political Science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Bordeaux (France). Holds a Master's degree in Arts Management from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. Lives in Bilbao.



Julen Mendoza Perez



Xabier Otxandiano



Michael Saward

Registration fees

FACE-TO-FACE	UNTIL 25-06-2025
Free registration	0 EUR
LIVE ONLINE	UNTIL 25-06-2025
Free registration	0 EUR

Place

Arantzazulab, Gandiaga Topagunea

Arantzazu Auz., 1, 20567 Oñati

Gipuzkoa