

Digital Inclusion and Generative Artificial Intelligence: Is Gipuzkoa socially cohesive and digitally sustainable?



Action-research to address the strategic challenges of the data gap and digital rights with vulnerable communities.

15.Jul - 16.Jul 2025

Cod. Z14-25

Mod.:

Streaming Face-to-face

Edition

2025

Activity type

Summer course

Date

15.Jul - 16.Jul 2025

Location

Miramar Palace

Languages

Spanish English

Academic Validity

10 hours

Web

Organising Committee



Description

The historical territory of Gipuzkoa is shaped by its unique socioeconomic and cultural characteristics. Over decades, it has developed into a socially cohesive society. The province's population and institutions particularly value community-driven initiatives, cultural diversity, and social transformation through collaboration.

In this local context, 21st-century Gipuzkoa should aspire to become a digitalized society where social cohesion remains a fundamental pillar, in line with international trends. However, it is crucial to acknowledge the significant social impact of the current surge in Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) on Gipuzkoa's citizens and communities. In daily life, algorithmic decision-making directly affects people's activities in healthcare, banking, shopping, social interactions, and employment, among others. Beyond concerns about privacy, issues such as biometrics, data extraction, and the growing presence of disinformation on social media platforms highlight how digital technology is increasingly distancing itself from citizens' understanding. Moreover, as international research has demonstrated (Eubanks, 2017), the effects of Generative AI and data exploitation are particularly pronounced for vulnerable communities.

Among the disruptive challenges that can be identified are: the impact of the data gap, the need to guarantee digital rights, and the necessity of developing specific strategies and public policies to foster digital inclusion.

By recognizing digital rights as fundamental human rights, the Directorate for Human Rights and Democratic Culture of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa organizes this Summer Course with the active participation of communities and citizens. The initiative is organised and funded by the Province Council of Gipuzkoa and led by Prof Igor Calzada, in direct collaboration with local and international partners. The strategic challenge of fostering a socially cohesive and digitally sustainable society falls within the responsibilities of the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council, which promotes social innovation practices.

The main objective of this Summer Course is to answer the following action-research question: If Gipuzkoa is a socially cohesive territory, is it also digitally sustainable?

Objectives

Social cohesion: To analyze and promote the inclusion of vulnerable communities and ensure equal participation opportunities. The objective is to examine the impact of Generative AI and other emerging technologies on vulnerable communities through action-research, fostering effective practical exercises with migrant communities and Gipuzkoa's citizens in general.

Digital rights, inclusion and sustainability: To ensure the protection of digital rights for all communities in Gipuzkoa, with a special focus on vulnerable social groups, such as migrants. By promoting responsible and ethical use of technology, AI and data, the goal is to create a safe and just digital environment for both vulnerable communities (migrants) and Gipuzkoa's citizens.

AI and social innovation (AI for Social Innovation; AI4SI): This Summer Course is not only designed to prepare pedagogical content on data and algorithms, but it also aims to propel Gipuzkoa's society toward a shared strategic goal, ensuring that no one is left behind. Beyond social cohesion, the objective is to establish a community-driven digital model that is socially cohesive and digitally sustainable, embracing plurality and diversity while considering the risks and opportunities of digital society.

Generative AI (GenAI) and urban and territorial AI: Given the rapid penetration of AI in Gipuzkoa, the Summer Course also seeks to analyze the implications of Generative, Urban, and Territorial AI (<https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/calls-for-papers/generative-ai-and-urban-ai-policy-challenges-ahead-trustworthy-ai-whom>). Since AI's effects in Gipuzkoa can be diverse, the aim is to conduct action-research in collaboration with institutional representatives from Barcelona, Rotterdam, Bordeaux and Wales to directly understand initiatives in leading cities and regions facing the algorithmic tsunami.

Course specific contributors



Program

15-07-2025

08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 10:00	<p>“Digital Inclusion & Gen AI: Strategic Roadmapping & Policy Challenges”</p> <p>Igor Calzada Múgica Ikerbasque/EHU+Cardiff University/WISERD (Spain/UK) - Director del curso</p>
10:00 - 11:00	<p>“Digital Inclusion: Global Perspective”</p> <p>Seeta Peña Gangadharan LSE (UK)</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee-break
11:30 - 12:30	<p>“Barcelona: Founder of the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CCDR) (2018-2025): Current Initiatives on Urban AI”</p> <p>Joan Batlle Montserrat Barcelona City Council, International Projects Office, Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CCDR), UN + CIDOB-Urban AI (Spain)</p>
12:30 - 13:30	<p>“Rotterdam: Leading Role at the Coalition for Digital Rights (CCDR) with Digital Inclusion Cutting-Edge Projects”</p> <p>Miranda Saunders Rotterdam City Council, Digital Inclusion Office, Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CCDR), UN (Netherlands)</p>
15:30 - 16:30	<p>“Lightning Talk: There-Is-No-Alternative (TINA)? Digital Inclusion & GenAI”</p> <p>Simona Levi XNet Jorge Campanillas Iurismática Abogados (Spain) Alex Rayón Braind & Code (Spain) Gemma Galdon Clavell Eticas Consulting (USA)</p>
16:30 - 18:00	Roundtable

16-07-2025

09:00 - 10:00	<p>“Algorithmic Government: Digital Inclusion Data Policy Challenges”</p> <p>Zeynep Engin University College London (UL) + Cambridge University Press (CUP) (UK)</p>
10:00 - 11:00	<p>“Digital Inclusion in Wales: Migrant Communities and Municipalities”</p> <p>Dr. Daniel Roberts CWMPAS Wales Cooperative Centre (UK)</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee-break
11:30 - 12:30	<p>“Digital Inclusion in Gipuzkoa: Mapping Out a Portfolio of Projects”</p> <p>Itziar Eizagirre Irureta Gipuzkoa Province Council (Spain)</p>
12:30 - 13:00	“Concluding Remarks and Introduction to the Action Research Workshop”

15:30 - 17:00

Action Research WORKSHOP: Anitasun-Sarea (Migrant Communities) & Elkar Bizi (Network of Municipalities)

17:00 - 17:30

“Conclusions of the Summer School and Next Steps”

Igor Calzada Múgica | CWMPAS Wales Cooperative Centre (UK) - Director del curso

Directed by



Igor Calzada Múgica

Ikerbasque-UPV/EHU, Principal Research Fellow

Dr. Igor Calzada, MBA, FeRSA, Principal Investigator (Full/Research Professor, Unibasq+R3) in digital, urban, and policy transformations from the contemporary perspective of Social Innovation and Web3 (blockchain and data cooperatives). Fulbright Scholar in California and Learned Society of Wales grantee. 2012-21: Senior Researcher, University of Oxford (funded by EC, ESRC, Fulbright, RSA, and Ikerbasque) as well as Cardiff, Strathclyde, Aston, Vrije, Nevada, California, and JRC, EC (Italy). Expert, European Research Executive Agency on AI and Democracy and People-Centered Smart Cities, United Nations. Scientific Director at AeA and BasqueGov. Research lines: Digital Citizenship, Smart Cities, Digital Rights/Sovereignty, and Decentralized Web3 Technologies. Books: Datafied Democracies (Springer, 2024), Benchmarking City-Regions (Routledge, 2024), Emerging Digital Citizenship Regimes (Emerald, 2022), and Smart City Citizenship (Elsevier, 2021). Postdoctoral (Ikerbasque, 2012) and predoctoral (Caja Madrid, 2008). Track record of 170 international presentations. Director of 10 editions of Summer Courses. 2002-11: MCC Cooperative Group and Director BasqueGov. DRC Fellow (Canada). www.igorcalzada.com/publications



Itziar Eizaguirre Irureta

GIPUZKOAKO FORU ALDUNDIA

Dr. Itziar Eizaguirre, Ph.D., Province Council of Gipuzkoa, Spain. She holds a PhD in Governance for Sustainable Development (2024) from the University of the Basque Country. With expertise in environmental law, ecopolitics, and territorial sustainability, she has served for 20 years as a consultant and manager for public administrations on governance, strategic planning, and climate policy. Currently, she works at the Human Rights and Democratic Culture Directorate of the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council. She co-directs the UIK 2025 Summer School Digital Inclusion & GenAI (15-16 July 2025, San Sebastián, Spain).

Teachers



Joan Batlle Montserrat



Igor Calzada Múgica

Ikerbasque-UPV/EHU, Principal Research Fellow

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Jorge Campanillas



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Zeynep Engin



Gemma Galdon Clavell

Gemma Galdon-Clavell doktorea Eticas Consulting-eko sortzaile eta zuzendari nagusia da, eta kudeaketaren, zuzendaritza estrategikoaren eta ikuspegia gauzatzearen arduraduna da. Teknologiaren eta datuen erabileraren eragin sozial, etiko eta legalean duen diziplina anitzeko prestakuntzari esker, taldearekin batera, irtenbide praktikoak diseinatu eta ezar ditzake datuak babesteko, etika, argigarritasuna eta adimen artifizialeko alborapenaren erronkak zehazteko. Haren ekarpenek bat egiten dute zehaztasun akademikoarekin, esperientzia politikoarekin eta prozesu teknologikoetan pertsonak babesteko konpromisoarekin, eskubideak eta balioak zehaztapen tekniko bihurtzen dituzten soluzio eta zerbitzu aitzindarien bidez.



Simona Levi



Seeta Peña Gangadharan



Alex Rayón



Dr. Daniel Roberts



Miranda Saunders

Registration fees

FACE-TO-FACE	UNTIL 15-07-2025
Free registration	0 EUR
LIVE ONLINE	UNTIL 15-07-2025
Free registration	0 EUR

Place

Miramar Palace

Pº de Miraconcha nº 48. Donostia / San Sebastián

Gipuzkoa