

XIIIth Conference of the World Mediation Forum



The 13th Conference of the World Mediation Forum will focus on the theme “Cultures of mediation and mediation as a transformative culture”, offering four days of shared reflection and practice through conferences, panels and workshops with specialists from different fields.

November 16-19, 2026 · Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain

16.Nov - 19.Nov 2026

Cod. C51-26

Mod.:

Streaming Face-to-face

Edition

2026

Activity type

Workshop

Date

16.Nov - 19.Nov 2026

Location

EHU Campus of Gipuzkoa

Languages

Spanish English

Academic Validity

40 hours

Web

<https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/ivac/xiii-conferencia-del-world-mediation-forum>

Organising Committee



Fundación
BBVA



Description

The World Mediation Forum (WFM) is an international non-profit organisation serving mediators from all continents, based on interdisciplinarity.

The mission of the World Mediation Forum is to develop and exchange knowledge, information and skills in all mediation areas, notably through the regular organization of international congresses for more than twenty years: (2003 in Argentina, 2005 in Switzerland, 2007 in Israel, 2009 in Venezuela, 2012 in Spain, 2017 in Quebec, 2019 in Luxembourg, 2022 in Portugal - virtual and 2024 in Brazil).

The **XIIIth Conference of the World Mediation Forum**, which will take place in **Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain**, from 16 to 19 November 2026, will focus on the theme of: "**Cultures of mediation and mediation as transformative culture**".

With this general theme, the conference will address mediation in a wide variety of fields: justice, universities, schools, businesses, NGOs, sports and leisure organisations, religious fields, health systems, neighborhoods, municipalities, etc. It will thus address the most traditional themes, while questioning the prohibitions and limitations of the practice of mediation, restorative justice, therapeutic justice, transitional justice and transformative justice. The conference will feature theoretical panels presenting research findings, as well as more practical workshops and specific training sessions for particular groups.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS/ PAPERS

Click here for more information -> [Proposed sessions and the guidelines for the conference.](#)

Abstract submission and acceptance dates:

- Abstract submission: from February 2
- Abstract submission deadline: June 1
- Notification of abstract acceptance (usually, one-two weeks after submission): before June 20, all submissions will have a reply.

Submit your abstract proposal through this [FORM](#).

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Pilar del Río**, journalist, writer, translator, and president of the José Saramago Foundation. We will celebrate with her the power of Literature and intergenerational commitment to human rights for peace.
- **Yves Cartuyvels**, emeritus professor at the Saint-Louis University - Catholic University of Louvain, Brussels, Belgium.
- **David Moore**, specialist in conflict management and constructive communication; co-founder of Transformative Justice Australia.
- **José Luis de la Cuesta**, Professor of Criminal Law at the Basque Institute of Criminology.
- **Riccardo Capi**, Professor of Criminology at the State University of Bahia, Brazil.

INVITED TRAINERS

In English:

- **Marie Keenan**, facilitator and Professor at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin, Ireland.
- **Ivo Aertsen**, Mediation and RJ trainer and Emeritus Professor at KU Leuven, Belgium.

In French:

- **Jacques Faget**, emeritus research director at the CNRS (Emile Durkheim Centre, Sciences Po Bordeaux), mediator trainer, practice group analyst, member of the National Council for Mediation.
- **Olivier Chambert-Loir**, certified mediator and trainer, accredited by the ISTC (Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, USA).

In Spanish:

Facilitators and members of the Laboratory of Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice of the University of the Basque Country (<https://www.ehu.es/es/web/ivac/sarrera>), coordinated by G. Varona:

- **Alberto Olalde**, PhD and professor of Social Work at the University of the Basque Country.
- **Mar Puga**, trained in Law and mediation, is a facilitator in Catalonia and the Basque Country, within and outside judicial systems.
- **Leticia Trombini Vidotto**, PhD in Psychology (Brazil), researcher and facilitator in the Basque Country.
- **Idoia Igartua**, PhD and professor of Criminal Law at the University of the Basque Country.

Celebration at a local cider house

In addition to the activities of lectures, workshops, and training sessions, the 13th FMM Conference will include a special moment of celebration and conviviality among speakers and participants, held at a local cider house, highlighting the traditional gastronomy and culture of the Basque Country. This activity is optional, has limited availability, and requires separate registration, available in the Registrations section.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Prof. Riccarco Cappi (Brazil)
- Prof. Yves Cartuyvels (Belgium)
- Ana Míria dos Santos Carvalho Carinhanha (Brazil)
- Prof. M. Kamuzinzi (Rwanda)

Basque Institute of Criminology (University of the Basque Country, Spain):

- Prof. Gema Varona (coord.)
- PhD researcher Luis Conde
- Prof. Isabel Germán
- Prof. Idoia Igartua
- PhD researcher María Ochandorena
- Prof. Alberto Olalde
- Prof. Ignacio Subijana
- Prof. Isabel Trespaderne
- Dr. Leticia Trombini
- Prof. Ane Viana
- PhD researcher Devi Yerga
- Technical administrative support: Jorge López

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Jean-Pierre Bonafé-Schmitt (France)
- Daniela Bolívar (Chile)
- John Braithwaite (Australia)
- Jacques Faget (France)
- Fernanda Fonseca Rosenblatt (Brazil)
- Mylene Jaccould (Canada)
- Marie Keenan (Ireland)
- Raoul Kienge (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Bhanu Prakash Nunna (India)
- Lode Walgrave (Belgium)

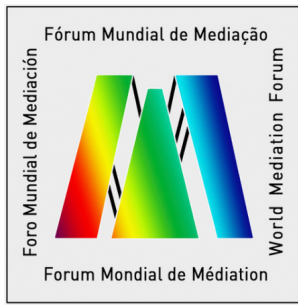
For more information about the city and accommodation: <https://sansebastianturismoa.eus/en/>

Follow our Instagram [@worldmediationforumconference](https://www.instagram.com/worldmediationforumconference) to stay up to date with conference updates and news.

Objectives

Training on mediation in a broad sense

Organised by



In collaboration with



Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia
Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa



DONOSTIA
SAN SEBASTIÁN

Program

TIMETABLE (preliminary)

16-17 November

09:00-12:30 Opening session & training

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-16:30 Parallel workshops

16:30-17:00 Break

17:00-18:30 Keynote presentation & debate

19 November

09:30-11:30 Keynote & participatory debate

11:30-13:00 Conclusion & Farewell

Full programme coming soon.

Programa completo próximamente.

Programa osoa laster.

Programme complet bientôt.

Directed by



Gemma Maria Varona Martínez

IVAC KREI

Gema Varona Martínez (Madrid, 1969) is director of the Basque Institute of Criminology/Kriminologiaren Euskal Institutua (Donostia/San Sebastián, University of the Basque Country), where she coordinates the Laboratory of Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice (<https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/ivac/sarrera>), which directs the Technical Secretariat of the Basque Forum of Restorative Justice promoted by the Basque Government. member of the Basque Academy of Science, PhD in Law, Diploma in Criminology and Master in Legal Sociology, she teaches Criminal Policy and Victimology at the Faculty of Law (UPV/EHU), co-directs the Postgraduate course “Working with victims” (UPV/EHU) and is co-editor of the Journal of Victimology/Journal of Victimology. Principal researcher in several projects (among them, in addition to those on interpersonal, political and environmental violence, currently one of the Ministry of Science on institutional victimisation), she is president of the World Society of Victimology, and author of monographs, chapters and articles in specialized journals (her most recent publications can be found at <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2794-2239>)

Teachers



Ivo Aertsen

Ivo Aertsen is Emeritus Professor of Criminology at the University of Leuven (Belgium) and actively involved in mediation and restorative justice education and training. At the Leuven Institute of Criminology he has been leading the Research Line on 'Restorative Justice and Victimology' from 2001 to 2019. He has coordinated a series of European research projects in the field of restorative justice and has been involved as expert for several international institutions. Currently, he is doing research on restorative justice related to institutional violence and environmental crime, and on restorative cities. He is Co-Editor of 'The International Journal of Restorative Justice' and General Co-Editor of 'The International Encyclopaedia of Restorative Justice'. ORCID 0000-0002-6929-6757.



Riccardo Cappi

PhD in Criminology from the Université Catholique de Louvain (2011), Master's degree in Economic Sciences from the Université Catholique de Louvain (1988), teaching qualification degree from the Catholic University of Louvain (1992), and Bachelor's degree in Criminology from the Université Catholique de Louvain (1992). He is currently a Full Professor at the University of the State of Bahia, a collaborating professor at the Federal University of Bahia, a collaborating professor at the Federal University of the Recôncavo of Bahia, and a Full Professor at the State University of Feira de Santana. He has experience in the field of Law, with an emphasis on Criminology, working mainly on the following topics: criminology, human rights, juvenile delinquency, modern penal rationality, and education. <http://lattes.cnpq.br/4640334021348071>



Yves Cartuyvels

UClouvain Saint Louis Bruxelles

Jurist, philosopher, and criminologist, Yves Cartuyvels conducts research at the intersection of these three disciplines, combining theoretical approaches with empirical research. Academic Director of the Certificate in Local, School, Penal, and Healthcare Mediation (MLSPSS) at UCLouvain (Belgium).



Olivier Chambert-Loir

Certified mediator and trainer in transformative mediation. Fellow and Board member of the ISCT (Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation - USA). President of the AATC (Association for a Transformative Approach to Conflict - France and the French-speaking world).



Jose Luis de la Cuesta Arzamendi

Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea / Universidad del País Vasco

Professor of Criminal Law. President honoraire. Basque Institute of Criminology. University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) Honorary President of the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP-IAPL). Former President of the Basque Council for the Participation of Victims of Terrorism (2010-2026) - Academic Degrees Doctor in Law (UPV/EHU), 1981. Extraordinary Doctorate Award. Extraordinary Degree Award (1977). Caja de Ahorros Provincial de Gipuzkoa Award. Second National Prize for the Completion of University Studies (Law). Higher Diploma in Criminology (Complutense University of Madrid), 1979. - Awards and recognitions Doctor honoris causa . University of Iasi (Romania), University of Huánuco and Universidad Autónoma de Perú (Peru). Honorable Professor, Northwest University of Politics and Law (Xi'an; China), 2006. Euskadi Research Award (2009) * Academies Full member. Jakiunde Full Friend. Real Sociedad Bascongada de Amigos del País (Royal Basque Society of Friends of the Country). Corresponding Member. Mexican Academy of Criminal Sciences



María del Pilar del Río Sánchez

Journalist, writer, translator, and President of the José Saramago Foundation, Pilar del Río was born in Seville. She began her career as a journalist at the Seville-based radio station La Voz del Guadalquivir and at Triunfo magazine, later working for Televisión Española, Canal Sur, and Cadena Ser. In 1986, reading the novel Baltasar and Blimunda profoundly moved her, leading her to seek out its author and

future husband, José Saramago. She subsequently became his translator, rendering numerous works by the Nobel Prize-winning author into Spanish. As President of the José Saramago Foundation, she maintains a strong commitment to promoting the moral and ethical principles expressed by the Portuguese writer in his work.



Jacques Faget

Emeritus Director of Research at the CNRS (Centre Emile Durkheim, Sciences Po Bordeaux), mediation trainer, practice group analyst, member of the National Mediation Council.
<https://shs.cairn.info/publications-de-jacques-faget--9665?lang=en&tab=aperçu>



Idoia Igartua Iaraudogoitia

Facultad de Derecho UPV/EHU

Doctora en Derecho Penal por la Universidad del País Vasco. Amplia experiencia profesional en la atención a víctimas de delitos y a la facilitación de procesos restaurativos, como jurista de los Servicios de Cooperación con la Justicia del Gobierno Vasco durante más de dos décadas. En la actualidad profesora del Departamento de Derecho Penal de la UPV/EHU y miembro del Laboratorio de Teoría y Práctica de Justicia Restaurativa.



Marie Keenan

University College Dublin

Emeritus Professor (RTA) at the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, University College Dublin. She is a criminologist, restorative justice practitioner, forensic psychotherapist, and registered social worker. <https://people.ucd.ie/marie.keenan> (See also: <https://themeetingfilm.com/>)



David Moore

David B. Moore is current President of the Australian Association for Restorative Justice. David taught politics and history at Melbourne- then Charles Sturt University, where he coordinated Justice Studies, and piloted programs using group conferencing in justice and education systems. After working in the Queensland Premier's Department, David co-founded Transformative Justice Australia in 1995, and taught restorative practice in Australia, North America, Norway and the UK, while providing conflict management services in Australian organisations. This work inspired David Williamson's Jack Manning Trilogy of plays (1999-2001), and Michael Rymer's movie Face to Face (2011). Since the early 2000s, David has worked as an independent facilitator, trainer, and adviser on conflict management and constructive communication. His publications include Transforming Conflict (2000), The Jack Manning Trilogy: A study guide (2003), and Setting Relations Right in Restorative Practice (2023) with Alikki Vernon.



Alberto Jose Olalde Altarejos

Facultad de Relaciones Laborales y Trabajo Social (Sección Araba)

He holds a PhD and is a Professor of Social Work at the University of the Basque Country (EHU). He has professional experience as a social worker (1998-2011) in residential care for incarcerated individuals and young people in conflict with the law, as well as experience as a mediator and facilitator in public family mediation and restorative justice services of the Basque Government. He also has experience facilitating restorative processes in cases involving terrorism and sexual abuse within religious institutions.

https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/graduak/grado-trabajo-social/profesorado?p_redirect=fichaPDI&p_idp=174507



María del Mar Puga Arcos

Programa de Justicia Restaurativa

Licenciada en Derecho. Máster en Gestión y Resolución de Conflictos: mediación por la Universidad de Barcelona. Curso de especialidad universitaria en intervención social con perspectiva sexológica en Iseus. Ha trabajado durante diez años como mediadora en los servicios públicos de mediación familiar y justicia restaurativa del Gobierno Vasco y Catalán. Ha participado como facilitadora de procesos de justicia restaurativa en victimización sexual. Es miembro del Laboratorio de teoría y práctica de la justicia restaurativa del Instituto Vasco de Criminología. Se ha formado en temas relacionados con la comunicación y el acompañamiento: C.N.V, Practitioner en P.N.L, Coaching sistémico, supervisión, sistémica, círculos de diálogo restaurativo y de reparación del daño, entre otros.



Leticia Trombini Vidotto

Psychologist graduated from the Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro (UFTM). Master's degree from the Graduate Program in Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo (FFCLRP-USP), with a research internship at the University of New Hampshire, USA; PhD in Psychology from the University of São Paulo, with a research internship at the University of the Basque Country, Spain; Member of the CNPq research group DIALOG: Laboratory for Research in Dialogical and Collaborative Practices (USP-RP). Member of the Laboratory of Theory and Practice of Restorative Justice (LJR) of the Basque Institute of Criminology (IVAC-KREI), University of the Basque Country (Spain). Conflict Conciliator and Mediator, with an emphasis on Team Mediation. She has practical and research experience in the following areas: Social Constructionism; Single-Session Narrative Therapy; Dialogue Facilitation and Conflict Transformation; Restorative Justice. Contact: leticiatvidotto@gmail.com

Registration fees

Online registration will allow access to the practical training materials for the morning sessions, but participation in the practical training cannot be certified for online participants as it requires attendance in person. Participation in all other Conference activities will be certified in accordance with ECT regulations.

Those who register for the Conference in person may be accredited for the practical training received (9 hours in total). The same language of practical training (English, French or Spanish) must be chosen for all three days.

REGISTRATION FACE-TO-FACE	UNTIL 15-07-2026	UNTIL 08-11-2026
General	70,00 EUR	120,00 EUR

REGISTRATION LIVE ONLINE - ZOOM	UNTIL 15-07-2026	UNTIL 08-11-2026
General Online	-	60,00 EUR

Place

EHU Campus of Gipuzkoa

Gipuzkoa