



Challenge Based Education (CBE) international conference 2026



CBE: educating for social impact

27.Oct - 28.Oct 2026

Cod. H51-26

Mod.:

Face-to-face

Edition

2026

Activity type

Workshop

Date

27.Oct - 28.Oct 2026

Location

Bizkaia Aretoa-EHU

Languages

Spanish English

Academic Validity

20 hours

Organising Committee



Description

This international conference focuses on exploring and analyzing Challenge-Based Education (CBE) experiences implemented in higher education institutions in collaboration with global organizations. Our goal is to create a space for professional and multidisciplinary dialogue that goes beyond theory, fostering the exchange of innovative practices, the evaluation of their impact, and critical reflection on their scalability and sustainability.

The event will address how CBE drives the development of technical skills while simultaneously promoting essential 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, collaborative leadership, and social and environmental co-responsibility.

Researchers, teachers, managers, and professionals from diverse fields are invited to share their findings and reflections, ensuring a pluralistic and diverse representation of experiences that enrich the collective understanding of the transformative potential of CBE.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The CBE i3lab permanent laboratory at the University of the Basque Country (EHU) is organizing the First International Conference on Challenge-Based Education (CBE). The Conference will bring together professionals from the educational, research, professional, industrial, and community sectors to share experiences, research results, and collaborative models aimed at generating real social impact through education.

The central theme will be “CBE: Educating for Social Impact,” providing a space for critical dialogue, the exchange of innovative practices, and reflection on the scalability, sustainability and educational transformation offered by the CBE approach.

Submission of proposals

Proposals must be submitted through this [FORM](#). Each author may submit up to two proposals in different formats, and applications will be accepted in the following languages: Basque, Spanish or English.

Objective of the Call for Papers

To gather and disseminate practical experiences, research, implementation strategies, and innovation case studies related to Challenge-Based Education, strengthening collaboration among educational institutions, organizations, and communities.

Thematic Areas

Proposals may address, among others, the following areas:

- Design and implementation of challenges in educational settings
- Collaboration with external stakeholders and community engagement
- Learning assessment in CBE-type projects
- Technological strategies and tools for challenge development
- Teacher training and institutional models for CBE
- Impact of CBE on skills, innovation, entrepreneurship, and employability
- Intersector-based experiences and collaborative work

Participation Modalities

1. Oral Presentation

Presentation of research, experiences, or theoretical developments.

Duration: 15 minutes + 5 minutes for questions.

Requirements: Title; Author/s and affiliation; Abstract (250–300 words); Objectives, methodology, results, and conclusions; Keywords (3–5).

2. Poster

Visual display of projects, research progress, or best practices.

Submission format: Abstract (200–250 words); Objective of the work; Challenge description; Participating entities; Keywords (3–5)

3. Interactive Session – Polyphony of Voices

Space to present collaborative case studies involving the academic community, external entities (companies, NGOs, government), and/or students.

Brief document (300–400 words): nature of the challenge; roles of participants; key results and reflections; added value of the collaborative work.

Evaluation Criteria

- Relevance to the CBE methodology
- Clarity of objectives and methodological coherence
- Soundness of results
- Degree of innovation and impact
- Effective collaboration among stakeholders
- Quality of writing and structure

Important Dates

Call for papers opening: 3rd February 2026

Call for papers closing: 30th April 2026

Notification of acceptance: 1st June 2026

Conference dates: 27th-28th October 2026

Certification

All papers accepted and presented will receive an official certificate of participation. The best contributions may be invited to be included in a subsequent publication.

General Rules

- All authors must be registered and have paid the registration fee.
- Each author may contribute to a maximum of two publications.
- The person registering the paper is responsible for submitting the final text.
- If the work is accepted for publication, the title may be modified, but not the content or the research topic.
- Final submission deadlines are non-extendable.

Evaluation Committee · CBE 2026 International Conference

An international group of reference in Challenge Based Education and educational innovation will ensure the quality and rigor of all contributions.

Among its members are **two prominent international leaders**:

- Sonia M. Gómez Puente (TU/e Eindhoven, The Netherlands)
- Mansi Sharma (University of Ghent, Belgium)

In addition, the committee includes professionals from **CBE i3lab, Educational Research, UPV/EHU and Euskampus Foundation**, experts in active methodologies, sustainability, employability, educational design and international projects.

- David Pérez-Jorge – Professor in the Department of Didactics and Educational Research and Director of the Master's Program in Teacher Training at the University of La Laguna. (University of La Laguna).
- Aitor Mendia-Urrutia – Professor and researcher at the Faculty of Education, Philosophy and Anthropology (UPV/EHU).
- Ana Bilbao-Goyoaga – Professor of Business English and expert in active methodologies (UPV/EHU).
- Esther Cruz-Iglesias – Professor and researcher in Didactics and School Organization (UPV/EHU).
- Frederik Verbeke – UPV/EHU professor and promoter of active methodologies.
- Itziar Rekalde-Rodríguez – CBE i3lab coordinator and UPV/EHU associate professor.

- Julieta Barrenechea – Head of Educational Renewal and Employability at the Euskampus Foundation.
- Olatz Zinkunegi-Goitia – Researcher and PhD candidate in Education for Sustainable Development (UPV/EHU).
- Paula Canal – EmPACT i3 project technician at the Euskampus Foundation.
- Pilar Gil-Molina – Professor of Developmental and Educational Psychology (UPV/EHU).
- Xabier González Laskibar – Professor of Business Organization and Administration (UPV/EHU).

Double-blind peer review

The conference will use a double-blind peer review system, guaranteeing a fair and rigorous process.

Remember: contributions must be submitted completely anonymously.

Objectives

- Promote and disseminate the CBE methodology.
- Share experiences on the application of CBE among teachers, students and institutions.
- Improve key skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, creativity and sustainability skills.
- Connect learning to real-world issues, including the SDGs.

Organised by



Directed by



Xabier González Laskibar

PhD in Business Administration - University of the Basque Country (EHU) Specialist in Challenge-Based Education (CBE) and sustainability in Higher Education. Xabier González-Laskibar holds a PhD in Business Administration and is a researcher at the University of the Basque Country (EHU). His work focuses on the implementation of active learning methodologies, especially Challenge-Based Learning (CBE), and on integrating the 2030 Agenda into the university curriculum. He has coordinated and participated in several Educational Innovation Projects (PIE) aimed at designing learning experiences based on competencies and real-world challenges. As a trainer of trainers for the University Teacher Training Program (SAE/HELAZ), he teaches the course “Challenge-Based Learning: How to Work on Sustainability Through Transversal Competencies” on the Araba, Bizkaia, and Gipuzkoa campuses. His teaching experience includes the design of competency-based rubrics, the evaluation of learning outcomes, and pedagogical alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. His research focuses on the implementation of sustainability in Higher Education, teacher/student satisfaction, and the adoption of active learning methodology.

Teachers



Sonia Gómez Puente

Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands) She has a strong international track record in engineering education innovation, and her work as a strategic advisor for Learning Innovation at TU/e has established her as a key figure in curriculum development and the implementation of active learning methodologies in higher education. Her extensive experience in CBE, educational design, teaching training and international collaborative projects make her a key expert, and her perspective will bring exceptional value to the Conference.



Mansi Sharma

Mansi Sharma is an education developer and trainer at the Department of Education Policy at Ghent University. She supports newly appointed teachers in delivering high quality education and designs interactive onsite and digital learning materials on themes such as challenge based education and sustainability. In parallel, she coaches Ghent University courses on implementing challenge based education as a pedagogical strategy. Since 2022, she has collaborated with colleagues from the ENLIGHT university network's educational taskforce to develop synchronous and asynchronous challenge based education trainings. Trained as a journalist and educational researcher, her academic and professional interests include education for sustainable development, life skills and career education, and international cooperation.

Registration fees

Registration begins on June 1st.

REGISTRATION	UNTIL 01-09-2026	UNTIL 23-10-2026
General	80,00 EUR	150,00 EUR
Student	50,00 EUR	80,00 EUR

Place

Bizkaia Aretoa-EHU

Avenida Abandoibarra, 3. 48009 Bilbao

Bizkaia