

## Outside session 3: Azkuna Zentroa Integration and diversity through culture

### Date & Time

Wednesday, 13 June, 9:30 – 11:30

### Location

Azkuna Zentroa

### Description

*Please note that for this session pre-registration required – limited to 50 participants maximum, transportation to and from locations included.*

Organised in collaboration with the UCLG Committee on Culture, of which Bilbao is Vice-Chair, this session will commence with an on-site visit to the [Azkuna Zentroa](#) to present and explain the diverse programmes it carries out in coordination with the Bilbao City Council that encourage a vision of integration and diversity from the arts, culture and sports, as well as promoting gender equality.

Once the visit is finished, participants go to a room in the Azkuna Zentroa for debate and exchange of experiences. The presentation by UCLG will (a) explain the conceptual frame of Culture 21 Actions, (b) introduce its database of good practices and (c) provide some key examples in cities around the world. Dudelage will present its projects for the integration of women asylum seekers and the effects and impact of the projects to date.

The UCLG [Agenda 21 for Culture](#), adopted in 2004, was the first international document to systematically address the importance of the relationship between culture, citizenship, participation, inclusion and sustainability. In March 2015, at the first UCLG Culture Summit, which was held in Bilbao, a practical toolkit and guide named “Culture 21 Actions” was approved. On the basis of the objectives and principles of the Agenda 21 for culture, “Culture 21 Actions” provides specific guidelines to cities interested in evaluating, designing and implementing cultural policies which contribute to sustainable development. “Culture 21 Actions” deepen the understanding of “the public”, based on the idea of Commitments between the local governments and the society. The nine Commitments summarise the cultural dimension of a sustainable city. “Culture 21 Actions” can be considered as a toolkit that is coherent with the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. But it goes beyond these documents: “Culture 21 Actions” provides coherence, clarity, capacity and agency to the role of culture in cities.

One of the nine Commitments is devoted to “**Culture, Equality and Social Inclusion**”. Aiming to reinforce the capacities of culture to contribute to new social bonds, this commitment affirms that cultural and creative processes make it possible for individuals and communities to explore their histories and sense of identity, promote the development of new meaning in their lives, and give them greater freedom. Therefore, cultural processes are essential in preventing exclusion and “leaving no one behind”.

In the last years, active participation in cultural life has been identified by researchers and cities as one of the key aspects in social inclusion. It provides the motivation and possibility of increased civic participation, lends cultural visibility to minorities, fosters mutual recognition and cooperation between different generations and cultures, boosts employment, and improves a city or region's security and image. Moreover, culture is an important means for establishing new social spaces and for developing new collective meanings. It can also contribute to conflict resolution, the strengthening of the social fabric, and greater resilience in groups and communities. Last, but not least, anti-discrimination policies and programs must seek links between cultural issues and all other areas of political action. These processes usually require long-term dedication and open, participatory methodologies.

Bilbao is an increasingly diverse and intercultural city. Therefore, the Immigration Programme and the Local Immigration Council, represent key tools for the municipal management of immigration and diversity, contribute actively to the definition of the cultural policies of the city. The City of Bilbao works in collaboration with the private sector, civil society and other institutions to make culture and public spaces for cultural purposes accessible to all people with any kind of disadvantage.

## Format

1. Departure from Euskalduna conference centre to Azkuna Zentroa – travel time 10 minutes by coach.
2. Introduction and brief visit of facilities by Barbara Epalza Azqueta, Marketing Manager Azkuna Zentroa (30 min maximum)
3. Presentations from UCLG, Dudelage and Agenda 21 City, debate and exchange of experiences, Q& A with audience (60 minutes)
4. Return to Euskalduna conference centre by coach (10 minutes; leave Azkuna Zentroa by 11:15)

## Languages foreseen

English, Spanish

## Contacts

1. **Eva Baños de Guisasola**, CEMR Policy Adviser – Environment, Energy and Climate, [Eva.BanosDeGuisasola@ccre-cemr.org](mailto:Eva.BanosDeGuisasola@ccre-cemr.org), +32 2 213 86 99
2. **Jordi Pascual**, Coordinator Culture UCLG, [coordination@agenda21culture.net](mailto:coordination@agenda21culture.net)

CEMRBilbao2018.eu  
#CEMRBilbao2018

More info



In partnership with



Supported by