

EUSKAMPUS COVID-19 RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 Pandemic, a healthcare, scientific, technological, financial, social, and political emergency and global challenge that requires more complex co-operative responses

Within the context of the health crisis produced by COVID19- and following the declaration of Pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11 March, the severity of the outbreak has resulted in governments implementing containment measures with major social-financial effects that have been added to the pressure endured by the healthcare systems around the world.

The health crisis and the measures implemented to alleviate it are producing severe effects on the economy and the society with a quick onset, affecting all spheres (individual and collective), the productive activity and demand, and the ability of the institutions to give due response to citizens' needs.

Questions such as:

How does the SARS-CoV-2 virus behave? How can we develop a vaccine? How long will it take to develop an effective and safe one? Which prevention measures are effective and efficient? How can we harness digital technologies and artificial intelligence, biotechnology and nanotechnology, to overcome this crisis and prepare for future emergencies?, etc.

Are followed by others like:

What are the forecasts of the Basque, Spanish, European, and global economy? How should we address the recovery? What will happen to the EU? How should it respond to this sort of crisis? How can we make the most of the crisis for the reinvention and upheaval of existing businesses? Will this crisis promote the energy/environmentally friendly transition? Or will it slow it down? Will it change the way in which we relate and consume? What will happen with the future of labour? How will the labour market change? Will science finally become a priority for our society? How will education change after COVID-19?, etc.

Beyond the challenges stemming directly from this situation, the change the system is being forced to make brings new opportunities to reinvent individual and collective behaviour patterns. Thanks to science and new technologies, they offer solutions for diagnosis, prevention and treatment, while producing new approaches for public systems, business models, or even in the way in which professional activities (working from home, Industry 4.0, social media, etc.) and education are developed.

There is a significant demand from different spheres (public administration, corporate, social agents) for scientific and technological solutions, while questioning the principles

and patterns that sustain the base of our financial and social systems, in order to solve specific issues that have derived from the health crisis and take on the subsequent social, financial, and political crisis. The complexity of these challenges requires the promotion of joint actions using innovative approaches that go beyond discipline dynamics and focus on offering specific solutions to certain problems, while generating new opportunities to create a better world.

Euskampus, a change to orchestrate a joint response

Researchers from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Fundación Tecnalia Research & Innovation (TECNALIA), the Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC), and the University of Bordeaux (UB) have proven their great capacity to respond and have submitted numerous research projects to many public tenders and private initiatives that have arisen to support and promote R&D&I activities on all levels: Europe, Spain, Basque Country and Nouvelle Aquitaine. The four institutions are key R&D players, due to their size and excellence, with clearly complementary abilities. They also maintain a strategic alliance that is articulated by means of special tools and agreements, which is stimulated through EUSKAMPUS FUNDAZIOA with joint operational programmes.

In fact, Euskampus Fundazioa is positioned as an interdisciplinary and multi-agent collaboration catalyst that promotes co-leadership among its trustees to face the great global challenges and maximise the social impact of science and technology:

- **Fosters** scientific and technological research of excellence in collaboration, connection and integration with agents of the Basque university, scientific and innovation ecosystem, with a cross-border vocation and an international dimension.
- **Connects** its partners with each other and with the necessary players to generate a leverage effect of their skills and experience, and make it available to the great social and global challenges.
- **Facilitates** interconnection, collaboration, participation, and inclusion of the stakeholders through a systematic and multidisciplinary approach.
- **Offers** its own, unique way of addressing diversity based on a local approach combined with a global, cross-border and international vocation, whereby this approach comes from a natural conception of the multicultural and multilingual reality that dominates the current context.

In all of the programmes and projects that it promotes or in which it participates in, Euskampus fosters values, such as genuine collaboration, co-leadership, mutual trust, inclusiveness, generosity and responsibility. The ultimate goal is to contribute towards addressing global challenges and generate a greater impact and social value.

In the current scenario, to provide value in this new world order, and coherently with their vision and mission, Euskampus seeks to activate a programme to support and

catalyse **collaboration projects among its trustees** and others entities that provide complementary abilities, **focused on specific COVID-19-related challenges** that have a **high potential for scientific, technological, financial, and social impact**.

The projects supported by this programme should be proposed by researchers from the Euskampus trustee institutions based on three essential and inter-related dimensions:

1. **Shared VISION** Define the project, establishing a specific challenge, concrete goals, and the tasks to be developed, as well as the resources and the internal programmes/projects that will be activated and mobilised, and/or the programmes/call for tenders -present or future, local or international- that the project could apply for.
2. **Inclusive LEADERSHIP** The projects must be co-led by at least two Euskampus trustees and, when possible, they should have a inter/transdisciplinary nature. Due to their focus on challenges and collaborative character, these can be open to the concurrence of other institutions with which to share the design, development, and evaluation of the project. Different teams, responsibilities, spokespersons, dynamics, and work flows will be clearly defined.
3. **Responsible IMPACT** The projects must identify the expected results, what is expected to be provided to our institutions and different stakeholders and how to incorporate and promote different research and responsible innovation issues (public commitment, open access, gender equality, ethics, scientific education) within the project.

Considering the above, a tender procedure will be opened to select the research projects following the established processes and the criteria established in the Provisions set in this document.

Thanks to this Programme, Euskampus Fundazioa seeks to contribute to the development of initiatives that promote the recovery of our society, while accompanying in the transition towards systems that are more resistant to future emergency situations.

PROVISIONS

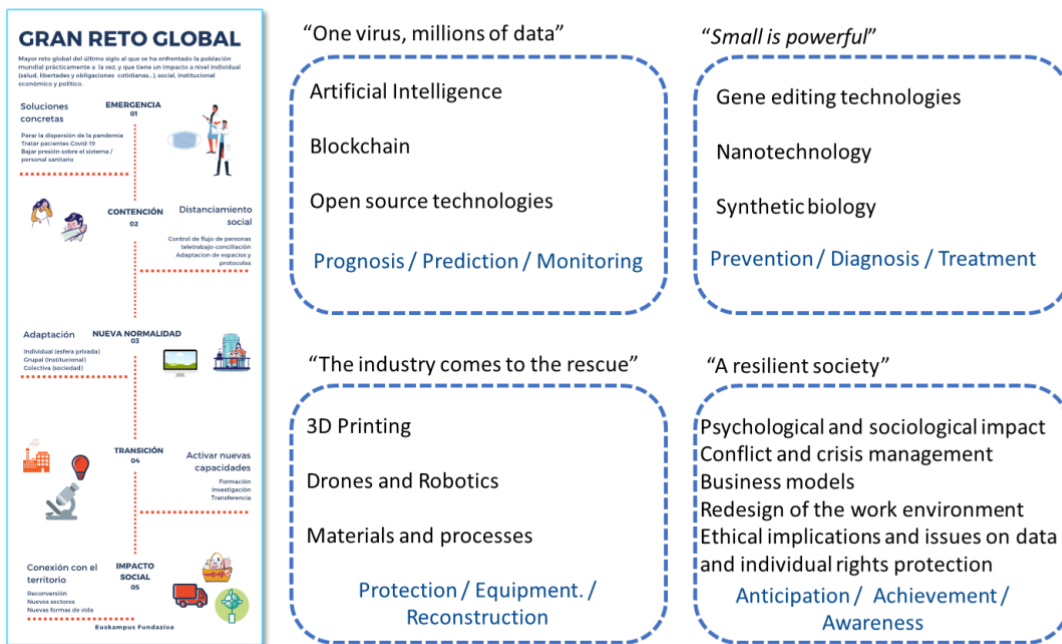
Article 1: - Institutions that can participate

1. The programme will be open to Euskampus Institutions¹ and their partner bodies from the Basque Science, Technology and Innovation System (SVCTI) and/or from New Aquitaine.
2. Each project must include the participation of at least two Euskampus Institutions, one of which shall lead the project, prioritising co-leadership formulas.
3. Euskampus Institutions shall be the direct beneficiaries, exclusively.

Article 2: - Focus of the research projects

1. The research projects will be framed within the following thematic fields² and shall clearly identify the challenge they respond to and their possible social impact:

Different research areas for a shared mission



Basic science, applied science, technology, Arts - Interdisciplinary approach

¹ Euskampus institutions include knowledge-generating entities that belong to its Board: UPV/EHU, Tecnalia, DIPC, and University of Bordeaux.

² The fields are broad and illustrative, and the lines within each field are an orientation and do not exclude other possible lines that have not been included in the figure.

2. The projects may be very focused on a specific problem or have a broader nature. Clearly inter/transdisciplinary projects shall be prioritised³, especially those projects that integrate different areas of knowledge (science, health sciences, engineering and architecture, arts and humanities, social and legal sciences).

Article 3: - Term of the research projects

1. All the projects will be developed within the 2020 and 2021 financial years. In any case, these will end on 31/12/2021, maximum.

Article 4: - Financing provided by Euskampus

1. The aid provided by Euskampus will have a limit of 50,000 euros per project, and 20,000 euros per institution, maximum.

2. The aid will also have a co-funding character when granted alongside other grants and funds that the participating teams may have:

- The projects proving complementarity with requested or undergoing projects - either single or collective- that respond to the identified challenge will be prioritised.
- Projects proving a projection towards other local, state-level and, especially, international tenders will be prioritised. The support from Euskampus will be a lever to access such programmes.

3. The grant provided by Euskampus will be transferred to beneficiary institutions for their management, following the internal procedures of each institution, destined exclusively for the project implementation and without applying indirect costs. It may cover:

- The costs of staff hired directly for the project, and, in the case of Tecnalía, the dedication of their own staff.
- Different execution costs, expendables, materials, publications, travel, etc.

³ We distinguish three levels of discipline co-operation.

- Mono : Collaboration within a discipline. For example, between particle physicists, both experimental and theoretical.
- Multi: each discipline provides its knowledge to build a linear value chain. For example, neuroscientists and clinical neurologists in a translational approach, from the lab to the patient.
- Inter: Collaboration implies the synthesis of shared approaches, languages, and challenges, while each discipline maintains its own methods. For example, ICT, physicists, and mathematicians in a particle laboratory like the CERN.
- Trans: Collaborations begin by defining the challenge to be tackled; there is a crossed-fertilization between these disciplines and institutions from outside academia/research. This is the key collaboration to face great social and global challenges such as climate change and population ageing within the framework of the missions.

Article 5.- Procedure for project submission

1. The proposals will be entered following the attached model - Euskampus COVID-19 Resilience Project Report. The abbreviated Curriculum Vitae of the members of the research team shall be added to each Project, adhering to the MICINN format. The abbreviated Curriculum Vitae generated automatically by the Normalised CV FECYT application will also be valid. The researchers at the University of Bordeaux or associate entities based in New Aquitaine could submit their CV following the format suggested by the ANR- Agence Nationale de la Recherche
2. Proposals shall be sent via e-mail to covid19@euskampus.eu with the reference #resiliencia_euskampus before 17:00 hours of 27 July 2020.
3. Euskampus Fundazioa may require the participating institutions as much complementary and/or additional documentation as needed to appropriately comprehend, evaluate, and process the proposal.

Article 6: – Admission and correction of the proposals

1. In the event that the proposal were not completed in all of its terms, or if it were not accompanied by the documentation established in the agreement, it will be requested from the interested party (preferably via e-mail), so that they may solve the issue or provide the mandatory documents within **3 work days**. It is hereby established that if they failed to comply, the request will be considered as withdrawn.
2. Failure to include the requested Report in the proposal shall be considered an unfixable error.

Article 7: –Evaluation of the presented interdisciplinary research projects

1. The assessment of the projects will be developed by a panel of experts in the proposed scientific areas, who shall be independent and with renowned research prestige, as well as experienced in assessments.
2. For the assessment, the following criteria shall be considered, with the relevant weighing:
 - a) Scientific-technical quality, relevance and viability of the proposal: 20%
 - b) Quality, track record and appropriateness of the research teams: 20%
 - c) Applicability/Expected impact in the regional context and/or in the identified stakeholders: 20%
 - d) Integration and degree of interdisciplinary nature of the teams from different institutions: 20%
 - e) Adaptation of the budget to the work plan, co-financing schemes, and projection of the leverage of other grants: 20%
3. As a result of the assessment process, the following will be established:

- a) A relation between the proposals whose rejection is proposed, along with the motivation on which the rejection proposal is based.
- b) An itemised list of the projects that best adapt to the established assessment criteria, with the relevant reasoned assessment.

Article 8: – Resolution: deadlines and procedure

1. The final resolutions, which shall be fundamentally based on the assessment, will be developed by Euskampus Fundazioa.
2. The resolution shall determine the acceptance or rejection of the proposal, expressing in the former, the deadlines for its development and the approved grant amount, as well as what is assigned to each institution.
3. The maximum deadline to solve this process and notify the interested parties of the resolution shall be 2 months counted from the deadline for the submission of proposals.