


Network of Networks

From fragmentation to collective power


Bilbao, 2-4 June 2026
EUTRP Meeting

The EUTRP Meeting At a Glance

 **VENUE:** CRAI & Centenario Buildings, University of Deusto. ([See locations on Google Maps](#))

DATES

- Tuesday, 2 June: 14h00–17h00 → Cluster & Articulation Spaces | 18h30 → Welcome Reception
- Wednesday, 3 June: 08h30–18h00 → Meeting Day 1
- Thursday, 4 June: 08h30–17h30 → Meeting Day 2

 **WORKING LANGUAGES:** English · Spanish · French (Simultaneous interpretation available)

MEALS

- ✓ Welcome reception
- ✓ Welcome coffee, coffee breaks, lunches (3–4 June)
- ✗ Dinners not organised

TRANSPORT

Airport Bus: Bizkaibus A3247
Bus/Tram stops:

- Guggenheim or Deusto

ORGANISING TEAM

Marie Le Henaff, + 32 472 66 71 04
Maria Chiara Basili, +393384304181

SCAN FOR ACCESS

Meeting shared folder, including agenda, practical information, and other resources.



JOIN THE SIGNAL GROUP

Meeting updates, announcements, and quick communication with organisers.



Welcome Pack Overview

EUTRP Meeting 2026: A space for articulation, care and collective reflection.

1. WELCOME
2. AGENDA
3. LOGISTICS & PRACTICAL INFO
4. SAFETY NOTE

Welcome to the EUTRP Annual Meeting 2026!

Dear Participant,

Welcome to Bilbao and to the EUTRP Meeting 2026:

“NETWORK OF NETWORKS – FROM FRAGMENTATION TO COLLECTIVE POWER”

At a time of growing pressure on human rights defenders and relocation ecosystems alike, this meeting has been conceived as a space for reconnection, trust-building and collective reflection. This year’s gathering approaches the EUTRP as a true “network of networks”, bringing together regional, thematic and programmatic initiatives to strengthen coordination, complementarities and collective action.

We are especially pleased to co-host this meeting together with Red ProTEJER, and NARE programme as our local host in Bilbao. This collaboration reflects the spirit of articulation and cooperation that the meeting seeks to strengthen across protection ecosystems.

Bilbao and the wider Basque Country offer a meaningful setting for this gathering, bringing together strong traditions of civil society engagement, protection and international solidarity.

We are also delighted to welcome a broader and more diverse group of participants than ever before, including EUTRP members, grassroots organisations, regional networks, universities, psychosocial practitioners and allied actors.

Why “Network of Networks”?

This year’s theme reflects a shared recognition that increasingly complex realities cannot be addressed through isolated or fragmented approaches alone.

The meeting therefore explores how different actors, regions and initiatives can strengthen coordination, complementarities, referrals and mutual support — not by erasing differences, but by articulating them more effectively.

From fragmentation to collective power.

Meeting Purpose

The meeting aims to:

- strengthen articulation across relocation ecosystems,
- build shared political analysis,
- identify coordinated responses to current challenges,
- and reinforce collaboration and collective action across networks.

Meeting Objectives

👉 Strengthen coordination and trust across regional and thematic protection networks.

🌐 Build shared analysis of the political and operational realities affecting defenders and relocation ecosystems.

🕸 Identify coordinated responses around funding, mobility, psychosocial support and referrals.

❤️🩹 Embed care and trauma-informed approaches into collective ways of working.

Format

The meeting has been designed as a participatory and relational space rather than a traditional conference.

Participants will engage in:

- networking and mapping exercises,
- fishbowl debates,
- thematic workshops,
- cross-network exchanges,
- and collaborative working sessions.

On Tuesday 2 June, participants will also have the opportunity to join self-organised cluster spaces bringing together regional and thematic ecosystems, including regional networks, psychosocial practitioners, universities and allied initiatives.

Core Threads

 Strategic Articulation

 Networking

 Care

Operational Areas

 Funding

 Mobility

 Trauma-Informed Approaches

 Network Activation

Expected Outcomes


Throughout the meeting, participants will work towards identifying:

- shared priorities,
- collective actions,
- possible leads and contributors,
- and next steps for the coming months.

Working Languages and Interpretation

The primary working languages of the meeting will be:

- English
- Spanish
- French

 Simultaneous interpretation will be available during plenary sessions and selected working groups. We encourage participants to support an inclusive and multilingual environment throughout the meeting.

Care, Wellbeing and Participation

Care is not only a topic of this meeting — it is part of how we work together.

Many participants navigate contexts marked by repression, displacement and emotional strain.

We therefore encourage a meeting culture grounded in:

- respect,
- flexibility,
- attentiveness,
- and collective care.

Please feel free to:

- take breaks,
- step out of sessions when needed,
- participate at your own pace,
- and prioritise your wellbeing throughout the meeting.

A dedicated session on care and secondary trauma will form part of the programme.

Psychosocial Support and Safe Spaces

Engaging in this work can be intense, and some of the content you will be hearing or share during the event can also be found distressing. We want to make your experience of the event a safe and caring space.

To this end, a specialised team of wellbeing practitioners will be on-site to offer immediate support in moments of crisis via our "*Well-Being Check-ins*."

An example of a crisis includes: You have attended a session and felt triggered by the content, start to feel very anxious and/or not able to engage further in the conversations and you need someone to support you. The wellbeing check-in is a fully confidential space to accompany you in regulating your nervous system and for emotional stabilisation.

We have also designated a "Silent Room". This is a safe space for any participant to take a pause, disconnect, and regain their balance whenever needed. Full details on accessing these services and spaces will be provided at the start of the event to ensure everyone feels supported and informed.

Confidentiality and Safe Participation

This meeting follows the Chatham House Rule.

Participants may use the information shared during the meeting, but neither the identity nor affiliation of speakers or participants may be disclosed without consent.

We kindly ask everyone to:

- respect confidentiality,
- seek consent before taking or sharing photos,
- remain mindful of different political and organisational realities,
- and contribute to a respectful and inclusive environment.

ProtectDefenders.eu and the organising partners are committed to maintaining a space free from discrimination, intimidation and harassment.

Welcome Reception

 Tuesday, 2 June — 18h30
 The Artist Rooftop

Join us for an informal evening to reconnect, meet new participants and begin the meeting in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere overlooking Bilbao. Light food and drinks will be provided.

Participation and Punctuality

This meeting is designed as a collective and participatory space. We encourage participants to:

- arrive punctually,
- engage actively and constructively,
- and remain open to collaboration, exchange and unexpected connections.

The programme has been designed to balance strategic work, interaction and wellbeing.

Special Thanks

Our sincere gratitude to Red ProTEJER, NARE, the Basque Government, the Directorate for Human Rights and Support for Victims, Deusto University, and all organisations, facilitators and participants contributing to this gathering. Their support, commitment and collaboration have made this meeting possible.

We look forward to reconnecting in Bilbao!

The EUTRP Coordination Team

The Venue



The EUTRP Meeting 2026 will take place at [Deusto University](#) in Bilbao, located in the heart of the city and alongside the Nervión river, within one of the Basque Country's most important academic and social institutions. The venue area is centrally located and within walking distance of many hotels, restaurants, public transport connections and Bilbao's riverside cultural district.

The meeting will be hosted across two university facilities: the CRAI Building and the Centenario Building. The two buildings are connected by the Pedro Arrupe Footbridge (Pasarela Pedro Arrupe).

📍 CRAI Building (main plenary venue) | [Click for Google Maps](#)

Deusto University – CRAI Building
Ramón Rubial Kalea, 1
Abando, 48009 Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain

📍 Centenario Building | [Click for Google Maps](#)

Deusto University – Centenario Building
Avenida de las Universidades, 24
48007 Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain

Main locations

- Tuesday 2 June: Cluster & articulation spaces → Centenario Building
- Wednesday 3 June: Main plenary sessions → CRAI Building Atrio
- Thursday 4 June: Sessions split between both buildings

Additional information regarding room allocation and on-site logistics will be shared during the meeting.

Timetable

TUESDAY, 2 JUNE — ARRIVAL DAY

14h00 – 17h30: Cluster & networking spaces
📍 Centenario Building

18h30 – 20h30: Welcome Reception
📍 The Rooftop, by The Artist
Mazarredo Zumarkalea, 61, Bilbao

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE — MEETING DAY 1

From 8h15: Registration & Welcome Coffee

09h00 – 18h00: Meeting Sessions
📍 CRAI Building – Atrio

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE — MEETING DAY 2

From 8h30: Welcome Coffee
09h00 – 17h30: Meeting Sessions
📍 CRAI & Centenario Buildings

Meals

Tuesday evening: Welcome Reception at The Artist Rooftop

During the meeting days (3–4 June), participants will be provided with:





- welcome coffee,
- two coffee breaks per day,
- and lunch at the venue.

Dinners are not organised, allowing participants to explore Bilbao or arrange informal gatherings independently.




Agenda

Tuesday, 2 June Arrival, Reconnection & Articulation





 Centenario Building, Deusto University,
Avenida de las Universidades, 24

14h00 - 17h30	<p>    Cluster & Articulation Spaces</p> <p>Regional and thematic networking spaces designed to reconnect participants, strengthen complementarities and encourage informal strategic exchange ahead of the meeting. Participants are welcome to join and move between spaces depending on their interest.</p> <p><u>Clusters:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regional Ecosystems – Africa: Room A0042. Regional Ecosystems – Asia: Room A0083. Regional Ecosystems – Latin America: Room A0064. Regional Ecosystems – EU, Eastern Europe & Central Asia: Room A0165. Universities & Academic Engagement: Room A0056. Psychosocial Support & Trauma-Informed Practices (Practitioners only): Room A212
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 The Rooftop, by the Artist
Mazarredo Zumarkalea, 61, Abando

18h30 - 20h30	<p>   Welcome Reception</p> <p>An informal evening to reconnect, meet new participants and begin the meeting in a relaxed atmosphere. Light food and drinks provided.</p>
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Threads

-  Strategic Articulation
-  Networking
-   Care

Operational Areas:

-  Funding
-  Mobility
-  Trauma-Informed Approaches
-  Network Activation

Wednesday, 3 June

Shared Analysis & Operational Shifts












📍 CRAI Building – Atrio
Ramón Rubial Kalea, 1

08h15 – 09h00	 Registration & Welcome Coffee
09h00	 Opening Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, Andrea Bolaños• European Commission• Human Rights Office of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs• Basque Government• ProtectDefenders.eu (EUTRP Coordination)
09h35 – 11h00	  Mapping Our Ecosystem Complementarities, gaps and connections.
11h00 - 11h30	 Coffee Break
11h30 – 13h00	 Context - Global & Regional Snapshot Building shared contextual analysis across regions and networks.
13h00 - 14h30	 Lunch

Wednesday, 3 June

Shared Analysis & Operational Shifts

 CRAI Building – Atrio

14h30 – 16h00	 Analysis - Political Realities & Protection Challenges A fishbowl discussion exploring major political dynamics affecting relocation work.
16h00 - 16h30	 Coffee Break
16h30 – 17h45	 Implications - Operational Shifts for the EUTRP Ecosystem Priorities and areas for collaboration on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.  Funding & Donor Narratives2.  Mobility3.  Psychosocial Support & Trauma-Informed Approaches4.  Network Activation, Coordination & Referrals
17h45 - 18h00	  Gallery Walk and Wrap-Up
18h30	  Free Evening

Thursday, 4 June

Coordination, Action & Collective Priorities








 Centenario & CRAI Buildings

08h30 – 09h00	 Welcome Coffee
09h00 - 09h30	 Recap and Framing
<i>From CRAI to Centenario Bulding - Pedro Arrupe Footbridge</i>	
09h30 - 10h45	 From Implications to Actions: Coordinated Responses & Next Steps Thematic Working groups: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 💰 Funding & Donor Narratives - ROOM A2012. 🚶 Mobility - ROOM A2083. 🌱 Psychosocial Support & Trauma-Informed Approaches - ROOM A2094. ⚙️ Coordination, Referrals & Network Activation - ROOM A212
10h45 - 11h15	 Coffee Break
11h15 – 12h30	 From Implications to Actions: Coordinated Responses & Next Steps Mixed Working Groups
<i>From Centenario Bulding to CRAI - Pedro Arrupe Footbridge</i>	
12h30 - 13h00	 Cross-Over Plenary

Thursday, 4 June

Coordination, Action & Collective Priorities

 CRAI Building

13h00 - 14h30	 Lunch
14h30 - 16h00	 The multiple dimensions of the impacts of trauma Reflect on the broader impacts of trauma in all aspects of temporary relocation both to the HRDs and to the staff of the organisations
16h00 - 16h30	 Coffee Break
16h30 - 17h15	  Final Collective Session: From Fragmentation to Collective Power <u>Expected Outputs</u> ✓ Shared priorities ✓ Leads & contributors ✓ Next steps
17h15 - 17h30	  Closing Remarks

Logistic & Practical Information

Transport from Bilbao Airport to Bilbao City Centre

Airport Bus (Recommended)

The easiest and most affordable way to reach the city centre from Bilbao Airport is the Bizkaibus A3247 shuttle bus. The bus departs directly outside the arrivals terminal approximately every 15–20 minutes. Main stops include Alameda Recalde, Moyúa Plaza, Gran Vía, Bilbao Intermodal Bus Station

- Trip duration: approximately 20–25 minutes
- Ticket price: approximately €3 (can be paid directly onboard by card or cash)

If you are staying near the Guggenheim Museum or Deusto University, we recommend getting off at Moyúa Plaza or Alameda Recalde.

From Bilbao Airport to the Venue (University of Deusto)

Take the Bizkaibus A3247 airport shuttle bus and get off at Alameda Recalde (recommended). From there, walk approximately 15 minutes to the University of Deusto, or take the tram towards Deusto/Guggenheim. Total trip duration: approximately 35–45 minutes

Taxi

Taxis are available directly outside Bilbao Airport arrivals. Approximate fares:

- Airport → City Centre: €25–€35
- Airport → University of Deusto/Guggenheim area: approximately €30

Official Bilbao taxi services:

- Radio Taxi Bilbao: +34 944 44 88 88
- Tele Taxi Bilbao: +34 944 10 21 21

Ride-hailing apps may also operate depending on availability.

From Bilbao City Centre to the Venue (University of Deusto)

The conference venue is located at the University of Deusto, near the Guggenheim Museum.

Walking

From Moyúa Plaza or central Bilbao, the venue can easily be reached on foot.

- From Guggenheim Museum: approx. 10 minutes walking
- From Moyúa Plaza: approx. 15 minutes walking

Tram

You may also take the Bilbao Tram towards La Casilla or Bolueta and stop at:

- Guggenheim
- Deusto

Both stops are within short walking distance of the venue.
Ticket price: approximately €1.50

Reduced fares available with a Barik Card.

Logistic & Practical Information

Public Transportation

We strongly encourage participants to prioritise walking or public transport whenever possible. Bilbao has an excellent and affordable transport network, and many destinations in the city centre are easily reachable on foot. Bilbao is a compact and well-connected city, making it easy to move around during your stay.

Here are the main transport options available:

Metro

The Bilbao Metro is one of the fastest and most convenient ways to travel across the city and nearby areas. Stations are clearly marked, trains run frequently, and tickets can be purchased at any station. Single ticket: approx. €1.70–€2 depending on zones. With a Barik Card, a rechargeable travel card valid on metro, tram, and buses, from approx. €0.70 per trip

Tram

The tram is ideal for moving around the city centre and along the river, connecting key locations such as Abando, Guggenheim Museum, and Euskalduna.

Buses

Bilbobus (city buses) and Bizkaibus (regional buses) operate extensive routes throughout Bilbao and surrounding areas. Tickets can be bought directly onboard or with a transport card.

Taxi & Ride Apps

Taxis are widely available and can be hailed on the street or found at designated taxi ranks. Ride-hailing apps may also operate depending on availability.

Our Venue's fare zone is in the city centre.

Emergency Contacts

General Emergency Number (Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade): 112
Country Code (Spain): +34

In case of emergency or urgent assistance related to the meeting, please contact:
Marie Le Henaff mlehenaff@protectdefenders.eu, Signal / WhatsApp: +32 472 66 71 04
and Maria Chiara Basili mcbasili@protectdefenders.eu, Signal/Whatsapp:
+393384304181

Logistic & Practical Information

Weather

June is usually a very pleasant time to visit Bilbao, with mild to warm temperatures and long daylight hours. Weather conditions are generally comfortable for walking around the city and moving between venues. At the same time, Bilbao's Atlantic climate can be somewhat unpredictable, and occasional rain showers are always possible. We therefore recommend bringing:

- a light jacket or sweater for the evenings,
- comfortable walking shoes,
- and a small umbrella or rain jacket, just in case.

We also encourage participants to check the weather forecast shortly before travelling and pack accordingly.

Payment

Most hotels, restaurants, cafés, taxis and shops in Bilbao accept international credit and debit cards. Nevertheless, it may still be useful to carry a small amount of cash in euros for occasional smaller purchases.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited inside all public buildings, universities, restaurants, public transport stations and most indoor public spaces in Spain. If you smoke, please do so only in designated outdoor areas and dispose of cigarette waste responsibly.

Personal Safety

Bilbao is generally considered a safe and welcoming city, including for visitors moving around on foot and using public transport. The areas surrounding the venue, hotels and city centre are usually calm and easy to navigate both during the day and in the evening. As in any urban environment, we nevertheless recommend taking basic precautions, keeping an eye on your personal belongings, avoid leaving bags or valuables unattended, and remain attentive in crowded or highly touristic areas. Should you experience any difficulty or feel uncomfortable at any moment during the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the organising team.

Medical Care

The Basque Country has good-quality medical services and pharmacies are widely available throughout Bilbao. In case of illness or medical emergency during the meeting, please contact the organising team and we will assist you in identifying the appropriate services. Participants travelling from outside the European Union are strongly encouraged to ensure they have valid travel and medical insurance for the duration of their stay.

Internet & Connectivity

The meeting venue will provide Wi-Fi access for participants. Bilbao also offers good internet and mobile connectivity throughout the city, including free public Wi-Fi points in many public areas and transport hubs. Major mobile providers in Spain include Movistar, Vodafone, Orange and Digi. Visitors can also easily purchase prepaid SIM cards or eSIMs if needed.

Safety Note

ProtectDefenders.eu is committed to creating and ensuring a safe space for everyone in every meeting we organise. Everyone must be treated with respect and dignity, and strive to support an environment that is free of discrimination or intimidation.

A Safe and Harassment-Free Space Principles

This event is dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age or religion. We do not tolerate harassment, including sexual harassment, of participants, organizers and the hosts in any form. Meeting participants violating these rules may be expelled from the Meeting at the discretion of ProtectDefenders.eu.

We encourage all participants to:

- Interact and engage peacefully. Differences in opinion will naturally arise, so please think of these differences as useful for expanding your thinking and ways of seeing the world;
- Help build a space that recognizes and validates the multiple lived experiences;
- Remain mindful of each other's physical and emotional boundaries;
- Use inclusive language. Be respectful of how people want to be referred to in terms of gender identity or expression (like pronouns), and practice inclusive language as often as you can. We encourage you to step outside the gender binary zone. Do not engage in racist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, sexist, ageist, or otherwise exclusionary behaviour, including, but not limited to, any and all forms of shaming, erasure, and victim blaming. Do not make exclusionary jokes, not even ironically;
- Listen and make adjustments in your behavior if someone says they feel uncomfortable. Don't ask others questions that you wouldn't want to be asked yourself or ask permission to ask for clarification or suggestions for how to do better in the future;
- Challenge oppressive behavior, which includes harassment, verbal or physical violence, violation of consent, and any action that perpetuates classism, ageism, ableism, racism, misogyny, heterosexism, transphobia and other oppressions;
- Respect privacy. Communication within this space is considered private, and each attendee is free to decide how much, or how little, they want to share. Do not take photos, videos, or record. Do not share any information online. Do not share information shared within the Meeting with people outside of the Meeting without the explicit consent of all involved. If you have received permission in the past, ask again; circumstances may have changed, and information may no longer be valid;
- Respect and recognize diversity of bodies and gender expressions;
- Practice self-awareness: be aware of how much time and space you are taking up;
- Recognize that we all carry intersectional identities;
- Remember that "no" is no. Without having to explain why;

Safety Note

By participating in the Meeting, the participants agree and expect others not to take part (active or passive) in any form of:

- **Harassment** including, but not limited to, any verbal or physical conduct that may be reasonably perceived as denigrating or showing hostility (even if disguised as humour) towards an individual because of her/his/their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy or related condition, marital status, age, abilities, physical appearance, body size, and citizenship. Conduct prohibited are unwelcome discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity, deliberate “outing” of any aspect of a person’s identity, deliberate misgendering, slurs, negative stereotyping or intimidating acts (stalking, unwelcome physical contact and sustained disruption in discussions and conversations).
- **Unwelcome sexual attention**, including any specific activity for which affirmative consent was not requested and given, sexual jokes, unwelcome requests for dates, obscene gestures, and any suggestive comments and any unwelcome physical contact. Alcohol consumption or use of other intoxicating substances is neither an excuse nor an invitation for harassment.
- **Sexual exploitation** including unwanted sexual activity or behaviour that happens without consent or understanding, sexual activity with a child under the age of 18 (lack of knowledge of the age is not a defence).
- **Intimidation** or retribution to someone who has reported discrimination or harassment, or appeared as a witness.
- Encouraging any of the above behaviour.

Our safe space principles are based on AWID Member Community Guidelines, which you can find here: <https://www.awid.org/awid-member-community-guidelines>