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Bilbao Bootcamp II

Scaling and Building Investable Territorial Solutions through the Localization Blueprint and the Marker 2.0

2026

In collaboration with:

Deusto
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Event details

- **Date:** 9-11 June 2026
- **Location:**Bilbao, Spain (in-person)
- **Duration:** 3 business days
- **Number of participants:** 150-200
- **Co-hosted by** the Government of Spain and the Basque regional government, the Joint SDG Fund, and the Local2030 Coalition

Anchored in the Local2030 Coalition's Localization Blueprint, the Bilbao Bootcamp is designed to support systemic territorial transformation by aligning public finance, governance reform, and private capital around mission-oriented development pathways. The Bilbao Blueprint Bootcamp II will convene global leaders, donors, and innovators shaping the future of sustainable development to accelerate local SDG solutions through catalytic financing and strategic partnerships. Hosted at the iconic Euskalduna Palace in Bilbao, this three-day gathering will serve as a premier global platform and launchpad for scalable impact, investment matchmaking, and cross-sector collaboration — advancing the next generation of territorial financing and systemic SDG transitions.

Beyond a space for connection and collaboration, the Bootcamp is also structured as an action-oriented platform to pilot the transition from isolated projects to territorial transformation at scale. Through the co-creation and structuring of investable financing local solutions, participating countries will test how concrete financial instruments, governance reforms, and institutional innovations can accelerate sustainable development in practice at the territorial level. The pilots participating in the Bootcamp are designed not as stand-alone initiatives, but as proof points for systemic change, demonstrating how localized financing solutions can inform national policy reform and contribute to global SDG acceleration and ultimately offering a high-level marketplace of ideas and capital that connect scalable opportunities with long-term investment.

Expected Outcomes:

- $200M in co-financing commitments mobilized toward territorially anchored transformation pathways
- 12 investable territorial transformation blueprints aligned with the Local2030 Localization Blueprint, designed for implementation, policy replication, and scale.30+ new strategic partnerships formed
- A strengthened global framework for territorial SDG financing, aligned with the implementation of FFD4 and the localization of finance agenda

Strengthened territorial governance and financing ecosystems in participating countries, aligned with systemic SDG transitions enhancing long-term investment readiness.

Background

The localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has emerged as a critical frontier for global development, where the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda must be translated into tangible, community-level impact. Yet, despite growing recognition of the importance of territorial approaches, local actors continue to face significant barriers in accessing the financing needed to drive transformative change.

At the same time, experience across countries shows that financing constraints are not only a question of capital availability, but also of institutional architecture. Bankable and scalable SDG investments tend to emerge where coherent and integrated public financing systems, predictable fiscal frameworks, and strategic territorial planning are in place. Strengthening this enabling environment—where public finance, policy direction, and private capital operate in alignment—is increasingly recognized as a prerequisite for unlocking sustainable investment at scale.

In response to this challenge, the Joint SDG Fund, the Local2030 Coalition, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and the Basque cooperation launched the inaugural Bilbao Blueprint Bootcamp in May 2025. The collaboration leveraged the Joint SDG Fund's catalytic financing experience, Local2030's localization network, Spain's leadership on propelling SDG Localization, and the Basque regional government's practical expertise in territorial development financing, to advance concrete solutions for food systems and green economy transformation at the local level.

This pioneering initiative demonstrated the power of catalytic financing solutions tailored to subnational contexts, unlocking new pathways for food systems transformation and green economy development in complex settings. Importantly, the initiative was also grounded in the understanding that catalytic financing is most effective when embedded within integrated territorial strategies - where public investment frameworks, regulatory coherence, and private sector engagement are mutually reinforcing. The 3-day event gathered a group of 65 multi-level stakeholders and was a steppingstone toward the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in Sevilla, demonstrating how joint and inclusive design processes can deliver high-quality, high-impact, and high-ownership results. From strengthening the seaweed value-chain in Zanzibar to crafting an integrated waste management PPP model in Cabo Verde the bootcamp also showcased how strategic partnerships can mobilize capital at scale and the scale and speed required to meet the SDGs by 2030. In sum, the eight countries that participated in the 1st Design Sprint secured $ 23 million for program implementation from the Joint SDG Fund and will be expected to scale/leverage the financing by at least a multiple of eight.

Building on this momentum, the Second Edition of the Bilbao Blueprint Bootcamp will evolve into a global convening, designed to inspire, connect, and equip a broader coalition of stakeholders. With a focus on local financing solutions for the SDG transitions, the 2026 edition will integrate inspiring sessions with thought leaders, thematic roundtables, and technical design workshops lead by practitioners to foster bold thinking, practical innovation, and investment matchmaking.

The Local2030 Coalition's Localization Blueprint provides the conceptual and operational foundation for this approach. It frames financing not as an isolated objective, but as one consequence of broader territorial system transformation that integrates governance reform, fiscal innovation, multi-level coordination, and mission-oriented planning into coherent development pathwaysto develop more robust investment ecosystems and bankable financing mechanisms. These principles will inform the Bilbao Blueprint Bootcamp II ambition to support countries in structuring catalytic solutions that advance local development priorities.

The Bootcamp will therefore support the piloting of territorial transformation solutions in selected countries, with the explicit objective of informing national public policy frameworks and replication across territories. By linking subnational innovation with national reform and global agendas, the initiative seeks to catalyze systemic change that accumulates from the local to the global level. The objective is not merely to finance projects, but to demonstrate how territorially anchored financing solutions can reshape governance systems, inform national reform, and collectively drive global sustainable development.

Key Value Propositions:

- **For Investors:** Direct access to investable territorial financing solutions backed by national and local governments — structured not only for financial viability, but for long-term systemic impact and policy alignment.
- **For Governments:** Co-creation and piloting of innovative financing mechanisms embedded within broader territorial transformation strategies, with clear pathways toward replication and scale.
- **For Thought Leaders:** A high-level platform to shape the next generation of development finance, advancing the shift from isolated projects to system-level territorial transformation.
- **For All Stakeholders:** An action-oriented platform that connects mission-driven public leadership, technical expertise, and private capital mobilization — strengthening the governance, fiscal, and institutional foundations that enable scalable and sustainable SDG acceleration.

Rationale and Objectives

This Forum aligns with the 2025 Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) priorities, building on the outcome document which emphasizes that territorial approaches are essential for materializing development commitments and that sustainable transformations require coordinated investments from multiple sources within coherent policy frameworks driven by public-private collaboration. Local governments, community-based organizations, and territorial stakeholders often lack access to the capital, instruments, and partnerships needed to implement transformative solutions aligned with national SDG pathways. At the same time, unlocking sustainable capital at scale towards the local level requires credible public financial systems, predictable fiscal frameworks, and coherent territorial strategies that reduce risk and provide long-term direction to capital markets. In this context, the Bootcamp contributes directly to the implementation of the "Compromiso de Sevilla" and the Seville Platform of Action commitments by advancing the localization of finance, moving from global pledges to territorially anchored financial solutions operationalized in investment pipelines at the subnational level.

The Bilbao Bootcamp 2026 recognizes that structuring investable projects is insufficient without strengthening the territorial systems, governance architecture, and financial ecosystems that sustain them. Therefore, the Bootcamp responds to this challenge by convening a global community of practice around the theme of Local Financing Solutions for the SDGs. Building on the success of the 2025 Design Sprint, this second edition will adopt a high-level global convening format designed to elevate the visibility, ambition, and connectivity of local finance innovations. It will serve as both a technical laboratory and a global stage, where bankable ideas are co-designed, refined, and matched with capital while also embedded within broader territorial financing strategies that align public budgets, regulatory frameworks, and private investment instruments. By connecting mission-driven public strategies with investment structuring expertise, the Bootcamp will strengthen both the supply of viable projects and the enabling conditions that support their long-term scalability, positioning territorial transformation at the center of the global sustainable development finance agenda.

The Forum will support 12 new countries in developing investable financing solutions embedded within broader territorial transformation strategies and contexts. These solutions will be co-created and stress-tested while amplified through inspiring discussions with global thought leaders. The event will also foster partnerships on-site, connecting country teams with selected impact investors, development finance institutions, and philanthropic capital.

In addition to the selected countries for prototype development, the bootcamp will also welcome territories -

with more established capital markets and financial infrastructure. These territories can share their experiences and best practices in structuring larger-scale impact investments, which may offer lower risk profiles for certain investors. Their participation will enrich the learning environment, foster peer exchange, and broaden the spectrum of investment opportunities available, while recognizing the diversity of development pathways and local contexts.

Primary Objectives:

- **CONNECT** strategic partnerships and territories through structured matchmaking between country teams, impact investors, DFIs, and philanthropic capital
- **STRENGTHEN** the public financial and institutional foundations that enhance the bankability and scalability of territorial SDG investments in line with the Localization Blueprint's systemic approach
- **CO-CREATE** and pilot 12 bankable, catalytic financing solutions as scalable models for territorial transformation grounded in systemic reform and guaranteed government backing as well as clear implementation pathways
- **COMMIT** to measurable outcomes with partnership agreements and financing commitments
- **SCALE** proven solutions through a global network of practitioners and a replicable framework for local SDG financing

Forum Architecture

The Bilbao Blueprint Bootcamp 2026 will serve as a global platform to accelerate the localization of the SDGs through bankable and catalytic subnational financing solutions. Guided by the Local2030 Localization Blueprint, the Bootcamp will prioritize the structuring of financing solutions as instruments of systemic territorial transformation embedded within coherent, rather than stand-alone projects. This approach will convene high-level thinkers, doers, and investors in a dynamic setting to inspire, co-design, and connect local financing innovations with global capital. The in-person event will follow a highly interactive format, combining key features listed below:

- **Spark Talks – Exclusive Thought Leadership:** Visionary and inspiring talks by global thought leaders to inspire bold thinking and build capacity of broader audience.
- **Thematic Leadership Roundtables – Strategic Dialogues:** Curated leadership dialogues on critical themes such as blended finance for local development, PPP models for municipal infrastructure, local investment ecosystem, digital finance and territorial data systems, and more.
- **Technical Design Workshops – Co-creation Labs:** Hands-on sessions to co-create subnational financing blueprints tailored to the needs of territories in 8-10 participating countries.
- **Investment Matchmaking Rooms – Strategic Partnerships:** Structured networking between successful local solutions and investors to unlock capital for sustainable territorial development.



Participants

- Members of UN Country Teams as well as representatives from local and national governments from 20 selected countries for prototype development and peer learning.
- Policy and financing experts from UN entities and externals, identified by the Local2030 Coalition and Joint SDG Fund networks.
- Leading high-level representatives of public and private institutions with proven innovation track records to contribute market insights and stress-test designs.
- Strategic practitioners from World Bank, impact investors, philanthropists, other IFIs and DFIs with expertise in local sustainable development or food systems and green economy financing to guide investment strategy development and commit to partner on implementation of prototype solutions.
- High-level and inspiring leaders in the impact investing space.
- Broader audience for capacity-building.



Organizers



The **Government of Spain**, host country of the FFD4 Conference in 2025, is championing multilateralism and the localization of SDGs both at the national and local levels and in global Fora. As such, it is hosting the Local2030 Coalition, the UN system-wide platform for the localization of the Agenda 2030, and supporting the Joint SDG Fund, which drives systemic transformation toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through integrated programming focused on identifying and supporting innovative policies and financing solutions. Spain is also supporting politically, technically, and financially efforts to localize development finance, through the elaboration and promotion of approaches and tools to support the localization of sustainable development at all levels.

The **regional Government of Euskadi** (Basque Country) has funded over 1,300 international projects in 65 countries and has recently legislated to dedicate 0.7% of its budget to international cooperation, in line with the goal set by the 2023 Spanish aw on Sustainable Development Cooperation and global Solidarity – positioning itself as a global leader in decentralized Official Development Aid. The Basque regional Government and the city council's support for the Local2030 Coalition's Secretariat in Bilbao reflects a significant contribution to the development of models for SDG localization. Building on its successful track record, this experience offers a potential blueprint for mobilizing citizenship ownership, building capacity, and fostering innovation across key actors, including local governments, businesses, civil society, and knowledge institutions. By promoting strong public-private alliances and the creation of roadmaps, this approach helps establish the enabling conditions needed to attract sustainable investment to the territorial level.

The **United Nations Joint SDG Fund** accelerates progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals by supporting innovative policies and financing solutions. Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinators, the Fund accelerates key SDG transitions at country level by fostering collaboration across UN entities, ensuring alignment with national priorities, and mobilizing diverse multi-stakeholder partnerships and financing for maximum impact. The Fund has delivered strong results, using US$ 344 million in commitments to unlock an additional US$ 6.6 billion in external investments. Its initiatives have reached over 206 million people to date, showcasing its effectiveness in service delivery and community capacity building.

The **United Nations Local 2030 Coalition** is the United Nations' system-wide platform for the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It ensures that the UN system is equipped to align global goals and national policies with local contexts, needs, and priorities, while securing a one-UN approach to localization. Through its five constituencies—national and local governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth—the Local2030 Coalition serves as a convergence point between the United Nations system and local development stakeholders, enabling connections for higher impact and systemic transformation, with a focus on those furthest behind. The Localization Blueprint serves as the Coalition's operational framework to translate this systemic vision into actionable territorial transformation pathways.



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