



# World Cities

*EU – Third Countries Cooperation on  
Urban and Regional Development*

**BILBAO**

**FIELD VISIT REPORT**

**15-17th NOVEMBER 2017**



## Cape Town's Delegates:

**Mr Leight Stolworthy:** Manager Innovation, Research and Development Urban Investment and Development. City of Cape Town.


**Mr Robin Jutzen:** Principal Catalytic Sectors Officer, Enterprises and Investment, City of Cape Town.


**Mr Enrico Girolo:** Programme Manager Strategic Initiatives, Enterprises and Investment, City of Cape Town.

## World Cities Project:

**Mr Ifigo Bilbao:** Senior Expert on Sustainable Urban Development.

The basic programme of the field visit was like:

<b>Wednesday 15.11</b>	<p>This first day in Bilbao was focused on knowing the physical and geographical aspects of the city and its metropolitan area.</p> <p>The delegation, accompanied by Mr Alfonso Martinez (Bilbao Metropoli 30) and Ms Alba Esteban (Bilbao City Council), visited the coastal area (Sopelana beach, Getxo, Las Arenas, etc.). From La Galea they could explain us the construction process of the new Port facilities.</p>  <p>delegates over Sopelana beach</p> <p>After a working lunch in Ereaga, we visited the "Puente Colgante" (Transporter Bridge) a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, we went by car along the shore of the river to understand the former and current industrial importance of Bilbao.</p>
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	<p>Finally, we climb to the Mount Artxanda for seeing the panoramic view over the city and understand how the geographical issues have conditioned the growth of the city over more than eight centuries.</p> <p>We finished the day having dinner in the Old Quarter and discussing about the next day's agenda and expectations.</p>
<b>Thursday 16.11</b>	<p>The second day was the most institutional and focused on Smart City Strategy, Economic Development and the Abandoibarra area.</p> <p>Terminus Building. Plaza Circular, 1.</p> <p>9:30 - 12:00 Mr. Asier Abaunza. Councillor for Urban Planning. Bilbao City Council. Welcoming and a large and interesting explanation about the urban transformation process of Bilbao. He underlined the cooperation between different public administrations through Bilbao Ria 2000. In this public entity, each government shared its capacities (land and buildings, laws and normative, funds and finance issues, etc.) in order to build common projects. He also explained the Basque tax system, a key point to understand this successful process.</p>  <p>Mr Abaunza explaining the Bilbao's urban renewal process</p> <p>12:00 12:45 After a coffee break, Mr Josu Santacruz, from CIMUBISA (a municipal public company), told us about the Smart City Strategy of Bilbao.</p> <p>12:45 - 14:00 Ms Eva Salcedo, from Bilbao Ekintza (another municipal public entity), explained the strategy that Bilbao is following to attract and maintain talent, improve entrepreneurs and support SMEs. She underlined how Bilbao is focusing this strategy on creative and cultural industries as member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.</p> <p>14:00 - 15:30 Basque Pintxos - Lunch</p>

15:30 - 16:30 Visit to Abandoibarra area accompanied by Roberto San Salvador, Director of the City Lab Katedra, Deusto University. We saw the Guggenheim Museum, the Euskalduna Congress Centre, Euskadi Square, Isozaki Atea, new bridges, etc. Then, in the new Library of Deusto University, he explained how the Katedra works and the methodology 360° that they have created for urban processes.



Delegates visiting Abandoibarra with Roberto San Salvador.

We also contacted with Kristina Apiñaniz, Director of the Basque Cluster for Environment and Cleantech: ACLIMA. She cannot meet us but Iñigo is going to meet her in the next weeks to explore possible collaboration fields between ACLIMA and South Africa.



View of Abandoibarra area



**Friday  
17.11**

This third day was, mainly dedicated to Zorrotzaurre Island.

9:30 - 11:15. After explaining briefly Zorrotzaurre Island, Ms Marta Alvarez, Director of International Consultancy of IDOM, introduced her company as a Basque company in a global market. They are working in consulting, engineering, architecture, project management, etc. She showed several projects from different countries and areas carried out by IDOM.



Visit to Idom's Headquarters

11:15 - 11:30 Coffee break.

11:30 - 12:15 Naybe Florez, Architect of Idom, explained the capacities that her company has for developing urban planning, urban infrastructures and mobility facilities. She described us the different phases that Zorrotzaurre has and the two European projects that are going to be developed in this area: UIA (Urban Innovative Action): As Fabrik a EU funded project aiming at enhancing the competitiveness of local companies. Recently a EDUSI (Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy) has been approved for this new island. She also show us several urban projects in Africa, America or Europe, good examples of the great capabilities that they have.

Then Blas Beristain, Architect expert on sustainable building, accompanied us to visit all the building, describing how was its refurbishment process. From the roof we can have great perspective of Zorrotzaurre and the River Nervión.

13:00 - 12:30 Visit to ZAWP (Zorrotzaurre Art Work in Progress) project in Zorrotzaurre. Mr Manu Alvarez and Ms Ruth Mayoral, leaders of the project, explained us this original project for attracting artists and creative industries to this area hosting them in former factories. It is a nomad project and as the re-urbanization process progresses they have to move to other abandoned old factories.

It was very interesting how this process is going to be managed by a foundation and they are able to obtain benefits for the city, owners, artists and neighbours. They are members of the European Network of Living Lab and the ENCC (European Network of Cultural Centres).



Manu explained the ZAWP project

14:30 - 16:30 Lunch at "La Gabarra" (Courtesy of IDOM)

16:00 - 17:30 Conclusions and next steps: South African delegates were positive impressed by the visit. Basically, Cape Town wants to have access to European funds. We discussed about four possible resources for collaboration:

- Collaboration with no costs: students and postgraduates exchanges between Deusto University and the University of Cape Town and de African Centre for Cities. Exchange between municipal experts.
- Collaboration on the European Funds framework: to analyse which European calls are open for South African partners (H2020, Life, etc.). It is necessary to analyse the EU-South Africa's agreements, especially the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) 1999, and try to explore common projects
- Collaboration through the European AIDs and the Annual Action Programme in favour of the Republic of South Africa (DG International Cooperation and Development.
- Collaboration through new funds that could be provided for the next World Cities project editions. We could propose to DG Regio and the European Parliament to provide new funds for collaborative project between European and Non European cities.

	<p>Thematic Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To explore a methodology for involving different government levels in Cape Town to develop the Mobility Corridors and Nodes. Define a model for involving public and private investors in these ambitious projects following the example of Bilbao.</li> <li>- Smart City Strategy. To share knowledge between both municipal teams in order to enrichment their own approach to the Smart City concept. Share as part of this topic, information on the Public Procurement for Innovation Project.</li> <li>- Creative Cities. To cooperate in the framework of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and share best practices.</li> <li>- To share the knowledge between both municipal teams on the creation and management of Cape Innovation and Technology Initiative.</li> <li>- Be as municipal entities facilitators for the creation of an exchange network for students, specialists, public servants, etc.</li> </ul>  <p>SA Delegates finished the day visiting the Guggenheim Museum.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>18.11</b></p>	<p>6:50 Departure to Cape Town (Via Amsterdam)</p>

**Contact:**

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