

## **The EU Pact for Skills Regional Skills Partnership for 4gune**

Established in 2017, 4gune is the University Education Cluster for Engineering, Science and Technology of the Basque Country, which contributes to the strengthening the [II Basque University-Business Strategy](#), as well as the [Framework Strategy Universities + Euskadi Basque Country 2030](#), a new lever for boosting the internationalisation of the Basque University System (SUV).

The presidency of the cluster lies with the Directorate of University Policy and Coordination, within the Deputy Ministry for Universities and Research of the Basque Government's Department of Education.

Euskampus Fundazioa is the organisation commissioned to lead the cluster's operations, and to coordinate an ecosystem currently involving 11 Basque faculties and 11 entities.

### **The challenge**

The challenges that the Basque Country is currently facing, and that the 4gune Skills Partnership aims to address, are:

1. To bring the University closer to the companies to: accelerate R&D&I; be able to generate higher education training tailored to the demands of the sectors integrated in the strategic area of Advanced Industry, as well as to future trends; and do it from an inter-university cooperative perspective, with formats that can be adjusted to the needs of professionals.
2. To achieve official recognition of the professors work hours dedicated to knowledge transfer to the companies, which implies economic compensation and transfer hours acknowledgement (important for the research career).
3. To enhance the visibility of the university training and research offering (observatory).

### **The ambition**

The global vision of the 4gune Skills Partnership is to generate an ecosystemic model where administration, academia, business and society are represented, which can contribute socially considering the global transition in the digital, demographic and sustainability dimensions, and can be replicated in other strategic areas fostering cross-fertilisation.

The 4gune Regional Skills Partnership aims to analyse the needs in terms of university training within the fields of engineering, science and technology, and support and develop upskilling and reskilling activities and inter-university programmes. The Partnership will engage the Basque University System to implement the activities through accredited education (lifelong learning, postgraduate programmes, in-house training), so that skills can be acquired and applied by both future professionals and the current workforce, with an impact in the development of local talent.

This would help the long-term goal of positioning the Basque Country among the most advanced regions of European in innovation by 2030, and driving the transition to a digital, green and inclusive Euskadi ([STIP 2030](#)).

As a Regional Skills Partnership under the Pact for Skills 4gune will have the possibility of fostering new alliances to better address the regional challenges and skills gaps in the smart industry sector in the Basque Country and respond to business needs.

## The proposal

The 4gune Skills Partnership commits to:

1. Bringing together the stakeholders of the 4gune ecosystem to enhance Smart Industry training capacity and quality to respond to the Basque companies' demands to boost competitiveness by 2030.
2. Designing and delivering new inter-university training together with the Basque University System's institutions from 2024 onwards, with a focus on new technological trends and decision-making skills and competences to deliver the digital transition in the Basque companies.
3. Further developing the 4gune Business + University Programme to 2030 to continue fostering the knowledge transfer and the incorporation of new talent to the Smart Industry workforce, in relation to the green, digital and technological transition.

## Activities

The 4gune Skills Partnership will deliver activities in 3 key areas:

### 1. Skills intelligence

Ongoing identification of the training, research, and transfer capacities on Smart Industry within the Basque Schools and Faculties which are members of the 4gune ecosystem.

Contrast with the business sector on Smart Industry skills gaps and new professional profiles for the 2024-25 academic year and beyond.

### 2. Up- and re- skilling opportunities

Delivery of new inter-university training programmes in 2024-25 addressing the reskilling and upskilling needs at Basque companies to deliver on the digital transition in the industrial sector.

Undertake the structuring of the first Basque International Master in the area of Quantum Technologies - BIM Quantum -.

### 3. Communication and Awareness-raising

Participation in the University Industry Innovation Network annual event to share knowledge with peers and key agents on the sector on the new skills trends and implementation models.

Creation of new content (articles, interviews and videos) to be shared with the 4gune ecosystem and wider industrial sector to disseminate the results of the Business + University Programme, the projects developed in the renewable energy and automotive sectors, among others, and the promotion of talent and knowledge transfer in the Basque region.

## Tracking impact

KPI	Target	Timeframe for achievement	Key Milestones
Number of training, research and transfer capacities on Smart Industry identified	100	2024	Map of capacities for engineering, science and technology made available for consultation on the website.
Number of up- and reskilling opportunities offered linked to the work of the partnership.	2	After 2025	Executive Course for business managers and BIM Quantum. This can be complemented by additional actions.
Percentage of active workforce reskilled or upskilled by the up- and reskilling activities of the partnership.	5%	By 2027	Percentage of active workforce in the region reskilled or upskilled within the smart industry sector, spanning a period of 3 to 5 years from the start of the partnership
Number of organisations to participate in the Partnership and its activities.	22	2025	11 Faculties 11 entities (with a view to add more progressively)
Number of Business+University calls to financially support and promote skills and capacity transfer.	2	2025	The 4gune Business+University programme runs every year and is progressively including new entities to propose industry-related challenges.
Number of events attended by the Partnership and its members to foster knowledge transfer.	2	2025	Each member introducing the 4gune Skills Partnership at one event at the least.

## Partnership arrangements

Key regional and/or local partners as well as supporters of the regional Partnership.

Coordinating organisation/steering group:

- Directorate of University Policy and Coordination, within the Deputy Ministry for Universities and Research of the Basque Government's Department of Education.
- Euskampus Fundazioa

Types of organisations in the membership

- Faculties
- Public agencies and clusters
- Companies

Ways of working, frequency of meetings of members etc.

- E-mail notifications
- Annual meeting

## Supported by:

Key regional and/or local partners as well as supporters of the regional partnership.

## LEADERSHIP



## COORDINATION & SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS



## BASQUE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



KIMIKA  
FAKULTATEA  
FACULTAD  
DE QUÍMICA



BILBOKO  
INGENIARITZA  
ESKOLA  
ESCUELA  
DE INGENIERÍA  
DE BILBAO



GIPUZKOAKO  
INGENIARITZA  
ESKOLA  
ESCUELA  
DE INGENIERÍA  
DE GIPUZKOA



VITORIA-GASTEIZKO  
INGENIARITZA  
ESKOLA  
ESCUELA  
DE INGENIERÍA  
DE VITORIA-GASTEIZ



ZIENTZIA  
ETA TEKNOLOGIA  
FAKULTATEA  
FACULTAD  
DE CIENCIA  
Y TECNOLOGÍA



FARMAZIA  
FAKULTATEA  
FACULTAD  
DE FARMACIA



INFORMATIKA  
FAKULTATEA  
FACULTAD  
DE INFORMÁTICA



## COLLABORATING ENTITIES & BUSINESSES



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