



Universidad  
del País Vasco

Euskal Herriko  
Unibertsitatea

# III RESEARCH AND TRANSFER PLAN 2024-2027

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eman ta zabal zazu



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# FOREWORD

**Eva Ferreira**  
**Rector of the University of the Basque Country**  
**UPV/EHU**

The University of the Basque Country has made research and transfer a hallmark of its university project. The evolution of our results in recent years are proof of that. We are the leading research institution in our autonomous community and are among the top nine universities of the Spanish state in terms of scientific production.

Our aim with the Research and Transfer Plan that we are now unveiling is to bolster that commitment, to continue to be at the top of research in our country and to improve its results. We want to enhance the value of society's investment to contribute to its well-being.

The Research and Transfer Plan 2024-2027 was unanimously approved by the Governing Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the university community for its contributions and the trust shown by that support; that means it is a collective project, one embraced by the whole of the Basque public university.

The key goals for this period are to bolster the international outreach and social leadership of our research; spearhead the involvement of the Consolidated Research Groups in post-graduate training, in knowledge transfer and dissemination (along with linking them to the Sustainable Development Goals); and, third, foster and consolidate the University-Company-Society Learning Centre network, while also reinforcing other cooperation tools with the business and social fabric.

We need to increase the number of research support specialists; along with bolstering and shoring up the stability of the structural funding and, in the long term, our strong research lines (therefore, promoting our own research centres); and, of course, forging stronger alliances with other research centres. We are therefore committed to stronger alliances with the BERCs (Basque Excellence Research Centres) and the IIBS (biohealth research institutes) in research, transfer and training.

The plan is certainly very ambitious, but I am sure that the goals are not beyond a university such as ours, committed to excellence.

**Eman ta zabal zazu** (Give and transmit)



## Table of Contents

Foreword.....	2
1. Background and Analysis .....	7
2. Rationale and Methodology .....	9
3. Deployment and Rolling Out of the Plan.....	11
4. Indicators .....	15
5. Approval, Monitoring and Assessment.....	19

A wide-angle photograph of a Mars rover on the surface of Mars. The rover is a small, six-wheeled vehicle with a solar panel on top, positioned in the lower center of the frame. The terrain is dark, rocky, and covered in reddish-brown soil. In the background, there are low, hazy mountains under a clear, orange-tinted sky. A white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text '01. BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS'.

# 01. BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS





# BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The University of the Basque Country / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (UPV/EHU) is the Basque public university. It is committed to its culture and to sustainable development through education, research, knowledge transfer, and local and global partnerships, in all fields of learning.

During its 44 years of existence, the UPV/EHU has established itself as a renowned university both locally and internationally. The Basque public university is the main scientific producer of the Basque Country, according to the 2023 Science in the Basque Country report by Ikerbasque. Furthermore, the results of the Basque social barometer consolidate the university as the top-rated institution in the Basque Country, a result attributable to the role of the public university. It is among the top 500 universities on the Shanghai ranking, with consolidated and cutting-edge groups in all knowledge areas. Its connection to the territory is by means of strategic alliances, such as the one in place with the Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC) and Tecnalia, as part of the Euskampus Foundation. Furthermore, belonging to international networks — such as the European ENLIGHT Alliance, the Latin American Postgraduate Network and the Euskampus-Bordeaux Cross-Border Campus — places the UPV/EHU in a position of institutional strength.

The previous research plans — I Research Plan 2011-2014 and II Research Plan 2019-2022 — paved the way the research and transfer at the UPV/EHU to reach its current position.

The final report of the II Research Plan 2019-2022 was used for the analysis and as the baseline to develop the new Research and Transfer Plan. The report highlighted the following strengths as regards meeting the proposed objectives: the number of staff with pre-PhD and postdoc contracts; the number of PhD dissertations defended, and, in particular, dissertations with international mention; the number and quality of the scientific publications; and the amount of funding secured, both in competitive

calls and through transfer contracts. The areas for improvement highlighted in the report relate to: the number of spin-offs; the mobility of the academic and research staff; the number of dissertations in conjunction with companies and other entities; and the number of ERC grants obtained. It is important to take into account that the COVID-19 pandemic occurred while the II Plan was being implemented and which would have a great influence on the envisaged R&D&I strategy.

The current Strategic Plan (SP) 2022-2025 is being rolled out in a post-pandemic period, and research and transfer is one of its strategic areas. Furthermore, Internationalisation, Digital Transformation, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Communication are defined as cross-cutting areas, all of which are interrelated with research and transfer.

The Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Plan 2030 (PCTI 2030) and the University System Plan (PSU) 2023-2026 stand out within the local factors. The PCTI 2030 sets out a research and innovation strategy shared between the public institutions, universities, research centres, technology centres, and social and economic agents in the Basque Country. On the other hand, the PSU 2023-2026 establishes the strategic rationale and the most important actions that define the financing structure of the Basque public university.

The preparation of the new research and transfer plan stems from the aforementioned context to put forward strategies and lines of action in order to comply with the objectives formulated in the research and transfer core area of the SP 2022-2025.

Simple

$$\left( n^2 + n \right) + n^2$$





## **02. RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY**



# RATIONALE AND METHODOLOGY

The III Research and Transfer Plan 2024-2027 is an operating plan based on the objectives and actions formulated in the research and transfer core area of the SP 2022-2025, and is in line with the PSU 2023-2026 and the PCTI 2030.

The following was taken into account to prepare the III Research and Transfer Plan 2024-2027:

- The final report of the II Research Plan 2019-2022.
- The SP 2022-2025, along with the other plans in force or in the pipeline at the UPV/EHU, in particular the Basque Language Master Plan, the Internationalisation Plan, the Post-Graduate Plan, the Communication Plan and the Equality Plan.
- The R&D&I strategy of the European Union, the Spanish State and the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

After analysing the context and framework for action, the general action lines are defined, with a detailed description how they are to be implemented. These lines encompass the 35 actions defined within the research and transfer core area of the SP 2022-2025, and their deployment will allow the better achievement of the objectives.


## Objectives of the Research and Transfer core area of the SP 2022-2025

- 01** Foster interdisciplinary cooperation between the R&D groups of the University.
- 02** Foster knowledge areas where there are a lack of research groups or lack of research tradition, but which contribute cultural wealth and need to be set up or stabilised.
- 03** Driving new research groups and incentivise new researchers by fostering a research career model.
- 04** Link the research challenges and the own SDG agenda, EHUagenda 2030.
- 05** Promote recognition of research with direct impact with a direct impact on the cultural wealth of society.
- 06** Stimulate entrepreneurship and transfer of knowledge.
- 07** Strengthen international and local external alliances.
- 08** Heighten the international visibility of the research excellence at our university.
- 09** Foster research in Basque, and help to adapt and disseminate in Basque the research in other languages.

## Objectives and key elements of the PSU 2023-2026

The PSU 2023 sets out seven core areas of action: Science Excellence, University+Business; University+Euskadi Basque Country; Quality and Innovative Teaching; Equitable and Inclusive University Community; Digitalisation and Social Impact. Out of those seven core areas (five priority and two cross-cutting), the first two are directly related to Research and Transfer. Science Excellence and University+Business. The other five are cross-cutting areas for the objectives formulated in the development of the Plan.

The PSU 2023-2026 likewise sets out seven strategic objectives (S.O), out of which S.O.4 is directly related to science excellence: "S.O.4. Strengthen the cooperation formulas with stakeholders of the RVCTI (Basque Science, Technology & Innovation Network): Bolster and harness the potential of the relationship with Basque Excellence Research Centres (BERC), Bio-Health Research Institutes (IIBS) and the Cooperative Research Centres (CIC), along with creating stable cooperation formulas with other RVCTI stakeholders to harness synergies and explore opportunities, shoring up their relationship beyond one-off projects and initiatives in the short term; Euskampus is an initiative that is a good example of the collaboration formula among the UPV/EHU, Tecnalía and the DIPC".



# **03. DEPLOYMENT AND ROLLING OUT OF THE PLAN**





### 03. Deployment and Rolling Out of the Plan

The action plan is defined and developed in the form of specific lines of action that will be used to advance in the fulfilment of the objectives and in the implementation of the actions put forward.

Some of the central ideas of this plan are cross-cutting and permeate its development, by providing its reference value. Special mention should be made of the social image of the UPV/EHU, the commitment to equality policies, the signing of a Code of Ethics which is binding on the whole university community, and the impetus to the SDGs. Those cross-cutting values have also merited being developed into specific lines of action, but their range reaches beyond their unique lines. Some lines are more aimed at actions in research, others more at transfer, and others will be addressed together, sometimes working with other services and bodies of the university. Figure 1 graphically shows the fuzzy classification of the lines of action.

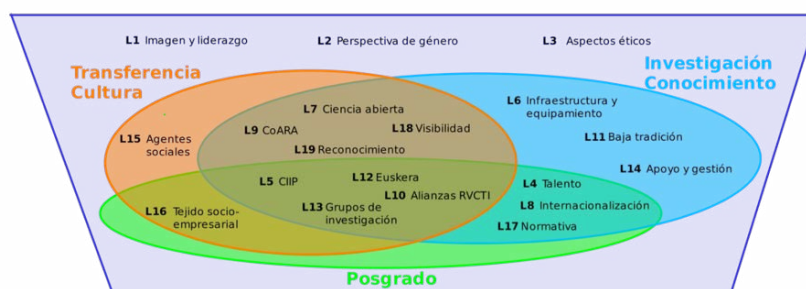


Image 1: graphic expression of the lines of action and their sphere

A brief description is presented for each of the 19 lines of action established, along with the objectives and actions of their implementation.

## 03.1. LINES OF ACTION

### 3.1.1.

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#### **ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY AND SHORE UP ITS SOCIAL LEADERSHIP AND CREDIBILITY**

Impetus will be given to the active involvement of the research staff in cultural and knowledge dissemination tasks, and the recognition of their work in activities with social impact and direct effect on the cultural enrichment of society and on the SDGs. Special attention will be given to initiatives that entail the transmission of the Scientific Culture to society.

Accordingly, tools will be developed that allow the social impact of the research, the transfer and cultural activities in all knowledge areas to be measured and assessed, and which foster the visibility of the research and transfer of knowledge and culture of our research groups. Therefore, establishing stable networks with social organisations will be prioritised. Our university will spearhead research lines in social leadership and calls to boost those fields of learning.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objective **O5** (A5.1, A5.2, A5.3, and A5.4).

### 3.1.2.

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#### **DRIVE RESEARCH STRATEGIES WITH GENDER PERSPECTIVE, BY REINFORCING THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN**

In keeping with the IV Gender Equality Plan of the UPV/EHU 2024-2027, in its research and transfer core area, this plan focuses on giving impetus to the leadership of women, particularly in the technological and experimental areas. Therefore, all the transfer and research calls will include mechanisms that incentivise the leadership of women, particularly young leadership, and will foster gender balance in the research groups. Cross-cutting feminist approaches will likewise be developed; in particular, the focus will be on research and transfer projects and initiatives on themes of gender, equality and care. Gender perspective research projects, linked to SDG 5, which are conducted at the UPV/EHU, will be monitored.

Moreover, continuity will be given to the AKADEME programme to train and support the leadership of academics, who are seeking to develop leadership and self-leadership skills; the aim will be to encourage them to access and remain in posts of responsibility in research, teaching and the transfer of knowledge.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O3** (A3.4) and **O4** (A4.1).

### 3.1.3.

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#### **SPEARHEAD AN ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROVIDE SUPPORT AND MENTORING FOR RESEARCH STAFF ON ALL ETHICAL ASPECTS IN RESEARCH.**

Monitoring of the code of ethics will ensure that the research and transfer at the university are aimed at meeting the demands and needs of society, and governed by the criteria of freedom, equality, transparency and ethics. In any event, both national and international research will follow the guidelines established in the UPV/EHU Code of Ethics. In particular, the university will not contribute to giving impetus or encouragement to violence or warfare.

Specific training actions will be organised on ethical aspects of the research with human beings, of experimenting with animals and using biological agents; as well as on those aspects related to the veracity of the data, the benefits of the research or the interest of the objectives. Mentoring will be provided on the processes to implement proposals, justify projects and publish results, when so required. Such actions will be particularly aimed at post-graduate students and trainee research staff, with the aim of generating awareness of the ethical aspects of the research.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O4** (A4.1) and **O5** (A5.2).

### 3.1.4.

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#### DEFINE AND CONSOLIDATE THE RESEARCH CAREER AND THE STRATEGIES TO ATTRACT PRE-PHD AND POSTDOC RESEARCH TALENT

The position of research lecturer will be developed as a means of accessing the promotion of the permanent PhD research staff. Furthermore, access to the university system will be reviewed for postdoc research staff with R3 accreditation from calls of recognised standing, by analysing support channels in the transition, particularly in areas of knowledge with a low research tradition, and always in coordination with the defining of the staff master plan. The action plan defined in the framework of the *Human Resources Strategy for Researchers* (HRS4R) strategy to attract international talent will be followed; continuity will be given to working with social stakeholders in order for the temporary research staff to develop their career in optimum working conditions.

The strategy to attract international talent will be in keeping with a commitment to training and retention, particularly in areas of interest, where the setting up of new post-graduate training itineraries aimed at the needs of the Basque Country's scientific and technological landscape will be fostered.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objective **03** (A3.3 and A3.5).

### 3.1.5.

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#### BOLSTER AND INSTITUTIONALISE THE OWN RESEARCH INTENSIVE CENTRES (CIIP)

The UPV/EHU will continue to drive the setting up of CIIP, an action that will help to consolidate the strong position of the UPV/EHU in the most prestigious international rankings, such as the Shanghai Ranking and the Stanford University list, and to strengthen the positioning and contribution to the development of the Basque science, technology and innovation system.

In particular, this plan seeks to: showcase case the research excellence activity; represent the CIIPs in the governance bodies; reinforce the leadership of the existing centres; shore up the excellence category; give impetus to the CIIP brand as the "BERC of the UPV/EHU"; position the CIIP as benchmarks of the UPV/EHU in their alignment with the country strategies in research and innovation; and to identify new opportunities for the CIIP.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **01, 04, 05, 06** and **07**; with special emphasis on Action A1.4 and as a cross-cutting approach on many of the actions envisaged in the SP 2022-2025.

### 3.1.6.

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#### IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURES, SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES AND RESEARCH LABORATORIES TO FOSTER CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

The university's multiannual infrastructure plan includes new buildings - such as the Medicine & Nursing Faculty and the Korta II building - which will host new research laboratories to shore up the existing infrastructures. The reallocation of available spaces in the research buildings, in line with the current situation of the consolidated groups and CIIP, will also be addressed. In this vein, there will be a special focus on incorporating equipment from European financing, such as ERC grants or linked to the CIIPs. In particular, the spaces of the Hitz and EHUQC centres will be equipped.

The centres will be consulted to pinpoint needs in common that can be addressed in conjunction with the SGIker, along with offering advice, training and support for the accreditation of premises and ensuring they met current biosecurity legislation.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O1** (A1.4), **O6** (A6.3), and **O7** (A7.4). Furthermore, the PSU 2023-2026 also includes as a key element in the Science Excellence core area the progress in setting up research infrastructures to provide the university with benchmark capabilities in Europe.

### 3.1.7.

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#### FOSTER OPEN SCIENCE ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS TO INCREASE THE IMPACT AND REPRODUCIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH RESULTS

There has been a strong move to support open publishing, by means of transformative agreements with the main publishers, by covering the costs of the APC (Article Processing Charge) of open access publication. The development of those agreements will be analysed according to the needs and assessment of the results. In any event, the aim is to improve open publication conditions and to progressively increase the resources allocated in that regard.

There will be greater support for the use of and access to the Digital Archive for Teaching and Research (ADDI) in keeping with the new assessment and funding criteria, which require research results to be published in open repositories.

The university library is also going to embark on a process to launch an institutional data repository, which may provide support services to the management of research data and the appropriate infrastructure to publish them following state and European guidelines regarding the reuse and reproducibility of the analyses.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O6** (A6.2) and **O8** (A8.2); and it is also aligned with HE 2021-2027, the National Open Science Strategy (ENCA) 2023-2027 and the *Open Science Euskadi strategy*, which is highlighted as an essential initiative in the Science Excellence core area of the PSU.

### 3.1.8.

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## INCENTIVISE THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF ALL RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The calls for human resources, pre-PhD and postdoc research staff will include an international component, with a minimum stay requirement and providing mobility stipends. In particular, impetus will be given to dissertations with international mention and dissertations under joint supervision.

Actions aimed at increasing the places offered on international exchange programmes of Master's and PhD students, with special emphasis on those strategic destinations for the Basque Country (including Europe, Japan, Latin America and Canada).

Impetus will be given to the actions in the framework of the European ENLIGHT Alliance; collaborations will be consolidated with Bordeaux University, with specific actions, such as supporting the Cross-Border Cooperation Laboratories (LTC) and the joint participation in projects of the Horizon Europe (HE) programme such as Cofund Adagio. Collaboration in the framework of the Latin-American Postgraduate Network and with the Euroregion will also be increased, by spearheading programmes to support joint research projects. Furthermore, we will continue to develop the HRS4R strategy as part of the defined action plan.

Furthermore, the support and mentoring strategy will continue for participations in international calls, particularly in HE, and particularly shoring up the leadership of our teams. Accordingly, there will be proactive work to support the project proposals coordinated by our university and ERC grants, particularly in the Health area and with women's leadership.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **03** (A3.5), **07** (A7.1, A7.2, A7.3, A7.5) and **08** (A8.4). Furthermore, it is very closely aligned with the University+Euskadi Basque Country core area of the PSU 2023-2026. In particular, this line of action will enable us to address two areas for improvement detected in the II Research Plan assessment, specifically research staff mobility and obtaining ERC grants.



### 3.1.9.

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#### **SIGN UP TO THE ADVANCEMENT PROPOSALS OF THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT, RECOGNISING THE WORK PLACEMENTS THAT MAXIMISE THE QUALITY AND THE IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED**

The UPV/EHU has joined the CoARA (*Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment*) initiative, which sets a five-year timeline to proceed to review the criteria, tools and assessment processes of the research at the university, in conjunction with other organisations along signed up to the agreement.

The agreement establishes a common course to reform the research assessment with a change of paradigm; the need for an approach based on value and the social and scientific impact, including qualitative indicators, is highlighted. Impetus will be given to actions aimed at raising awareness about those new assessment criteria, given that each research is in turn an external assessor.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O2** (A2.2), **O3** (A3.3), and **O5** (A5.1, A5.3, and A5.4).

### 3.1.10.

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#### **RENEW THE AGREEMENTS AND ALLIANCES WITH STAKEHOLDERS OF THE RVCTI (IN PARTICULAR, WITH BERC AND IIBS) AND INCREASE THE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS WITH OTHER SCIENTIFIC AGENTS**

During the first stages of this plan, the agreements between the UPV/EHU and the BERC and the IIBS - both framework and specific agreements - will be reviewed and adjusted, in order to define and consolidate the bilateral relations that are mutually beneficial and consider the specific characteristics of each institution. The aim is to thus foster collaboration, strategic alliances, increasing scientific production, raise the Basque scientific community visibility, and the ties between training, research and transfer.

While the plan is in force, the agreements reached will be monitored, with special emphasis on the status and degree of compliance of the collaboration, exchange and ties of the research staff between those centres and the UPV/EHU. This action will subsequently be also extended to the CIC and other RVCTI stakeholders.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objective **O7** (A7.1, A7.2, A7.3, and A7.4). The PSU also mentions the intensifying of relationships between the University and other RVCTI stakeholders - with the focus on the relationship with the BERCs and IIBS - as one of the key elements of the Science Excellence core area.

### 3.1.11.

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## SPEARHEAD RESEARCH IN AREAS WITH A LACK OF RESEARCH TRADITION

A map is being prepared to identify these areas, which will be finished by the end of the second year of this plan being in force, namely 2025. Accordingly, the initiatives will be established for the embodiment and implementation of this line. Furthermore, measures aimed at driving the research in the initiatives will be deployed, by supporting the completion of PhD dissertations and maintaining and incorporating positive discrimination in the calls to support research; in particular, in those aimed at setting up emerging groups or at contracting trainee research staff.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objective **O2** (A2.1, A2.2, and A2.3). Furthermore, some of these areas are concentrated in Education and Health, which are both also considered priority in the PSU 2023-2026.

### 3.1.12.

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## FOSTER RESEARCH IN THE BASQUE LANGUAGE AND INCREASE THE DISSEMINATION AND THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AROUND BASQUE AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY

In keeping with the IV Basque Language Master Plan regarding research and transfer, impetus will continue to be given to PhD dissertations being written in Basque, in order to promote dissertations in Basque with international mention. Initiatives will be rolled out to improve and disseminate data, resources and services to conduct research and transfer activities in Basque.

Strategies will be deployed to increase the academic impact and international outreach of research in Basque, by promoting translation and localisations of publications in Basque. Furthermore, impetus will be given to actions that boost the dissemination in Basque of research results with social impact published in other languages, in particular in English, such as the *Inpakta* journal.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objective **O9** and the three actions included in it. Special emphasis will be placed on the Education areas, where the use of Basque in research is very important, as indicated in the PSU 2023-2026.

### 3.1.13.

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#### **DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED APPROACH AND PERFORMANCE TO DRIVE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESEARCH GROUPS I (GIC/GIU) IN POST-GRADUATED TRAINING, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND DISSEMINATION TASKS, AND THEIR LINK WITH THE SDGS**

This plan seeks to increase the percentage of people in the consolidated research groups by means of shoring up the own calls that complement the GIC call of the Basque Government.

Activities and actions linked to the SDGs and to increasing the social impact of the UPV/EHU will be arranged; the aim will be to encourage the participation and involvement of the consolidated groups, so that our society and socioeconomic environment are aware of the research being done, and value its contribution to social wellbeing and development. Stable relations will be fostered with social organisations, both to boost the dissemination actions and to pass on their needs to research and education.

Furthermore, this plan seeks to align the research and transfer strategy with post-graduate university studies. The generation of scientific knowledge by our consolidated groups in strong cutting-edge research areas must be linked to attractive training and to being the foundation to be in a strong position to attract local and foreign talent.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O1** (A1.1, A1.2, A1.3, A1.5), **O3** (A3.2), **O4** (A4.1, A4.2), and **O5** (A5.2).

### 3.1.14.

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#### **STRENGTHEN THE SUPPORT FOR MANAGING RESEARCH**

The volume and variety of the research conducted — and in the provenance of the sources of financing — have increased in recent years. Specialist support needs to be offered to the research groups, by setting up procedures that streamline the red tape and increase efficiency and coordination. Therefore, the technical support staff is going to be increased and the Research Management Division restructured. The specific needs of each campus are going to be taken into account in this resource specialisation and consolidation process.

This line of action is cross-cutting and seeks to fulfil the nine objectives set; in particular, it will facilitate the implementation of Actions A1.1, A2.1, A2.2, A3.5, A7.1 and A7.3.

### 3.1.15.

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## **FOSTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOCIAL STAKEHOLDERS AND COLLABORATION IN DISSEMINATION AND TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE**

Tools are going to be incorporated that facilitate the search for information on the consolidated groups based on their priorities, challenges and missions, such as the scientific production portal and the technology offering and knowledge transfer portal. In this line of action, impetus will be given to the activities that foster mutual knowledge and act to promote the meeting and discussion forums in areas of strategic interest, such as those run by EHUgune, the Summer Courses Foundation and Euskampus Fundazioa, which drive cross-curricular collaboration. These activities will be supported by specific calls that foster such collaboration

Specific calls will be organised that give impetus to the establishing of University-Business-Society projects and stimulate collaboration in training excellence of the students, dissemination and transfer of knowledge to society. Impetus will continue to be given to knowledge dissemination and transfer activities that are already consolidated.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O5** (A5.1, A5.2, A5.3, A5.4), **O6** (A6.3, A6.4) and **O7** (A7.2). The PSU 2023-2026 highlights among its differential elements the role of the university as a key stakeholder for the social and economic development of the Basque Country; it also identifies strengthening and showcasing the social impact as a key element in the University+Business core area.

### 3.1.16.

#### **BOOST AND STRENGTHEN THE NETWORK OF UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS-SOCIETY LEARNING CENTRES, UNIVERSITY CHAIRS, AND OTHER RELATIONSHIP AND COOPERATION TOOLS WITH THE BUSINESS AND SOCIAL FABRIC**

The UPV/EHU has been a trailblazer in the setting up of a network of University-Business-Society Learning Centres and Chairs committed to sharing the university activity with society, by means of driving dual training, providing services and advice to companies and institutions, entering into contracts with the productive fabric, setting up spin-offs, registering patents, and the synergic cooperation with other RVCTI components.

The objective of increasing the impact of the UPV/EHU on society and on its business fabric, in keeping with the 2030 Agenda, seeks to spearhead the progress and transformation of Basque society given the new global and local challenges and scenarios. The collaboration of our consolidated research teams will be bolstered with the companies that create most wealth and social wellbeing in the Basque Country in order to support them with their main science and technology challenges and make them more competitive. Furthermore, this collaboration will seek to increase the participation the students on any UPV/EHU degree in business or technology challenge university learning centres and learning-service and social commitment learning centres. It seeks to drive the collaboration synergies with the Basque Government's II Basque University+Business Strategy 2022-2026 and the PCTI Euskadi 2030 to achieve a greater socioeconomic impact, better technological-business results, and to drive innovation, particularly in the SMEs, and foster STEAM vocations, above all among female students.

Our university's calls will foster support for the learning Centres that foster collaboration with social organisation that drive and bolster the leadership of the UPV/EHU in Basque society.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objective **O6** (A6.1, A6.2, A6.3, and A6.4), thus driving the areas for improvement related to entrepreneurship and achieving industrial dissertations stemming from the II Research Plan assessment.

### 3.1.17.

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#### **AMEND THE OWN REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE RESEARCH AND TRANSFER COLLABORATIONS, AND TO ATTRACT TALENT**

In the last two years, numerous regulatory changes were approved that directly affect the governance and running of the university; in particular, aspects related to research and transfer. The internal regulations and procedures must be adapted to those legislative changes, seeking, as far as possible, to facilitate collaboration and the exchanging of knowledge with other researchers.

In particular, the regulations regarding the ties and affiliation of the university's research staff to external centres and vice versa. The entrance process for foreign students and the regulations to propose and manage post-graduate and PhD studies are going to be reviewed and updated as well.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **03** (A3.3, A3.4), **07** (A7.2) and **08** (A8.4).

### 3.1.18.

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#### **BOOST THE IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION PORTAL AS A MEANS TO SHOWCASE THE RESEARCH RESULTS OBTAINED**

In order to increase the visibility of the research results obtained at the university, the necessary tools will be developed to expand the information to be shown on the scientific production portal, including research projects and contracts, and other transfer results, such as patents. The resources aimed at validating records are going to be increased, by using bibliometric identification systems, such as ORCID; awareness-raising and support campaigns are going to be conducted with the university community to increase the number of people using those resources.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **03** (A3.2, A3.5) and **08** (A8.3).

### 3.1.19.

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## RECOGNISE THE INTENSIFICATION OF RESEARCH AND TRANSFER ACTIVITIES

The priority scientific research, transfer and dissemination activities will be recognised as merit in the internal calls, in the Individual Dedication Plan ("Jardun") and in the design of activities aimed at fostering the recognition of six-year periods of research and transfer.

This line of action is aimed at fulfilling Objectives **O2** (A2.2), **O5** (A5.1, A5.3 y A5.4) and **O7** (A7.3); along with implementing areas for improvement in the compliance of certain indicators such as participation in HE projects.



## **04. INDICATORS**







<sup>1</sup> When two values appear, the first reflects the target value set for 2022 in the II Research plan, and the second the real value observed in 2022.

<sup>2</sup> When two values appear, the first reflects the target value set in the PSU 2023-2026, and the second the target value set in this plan.

<sup>3</sup> The accumulated value in the four years of the plan being in force.

<sup>4</sup> Aged 40 or under.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline 2022<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Target value 2027<sup>2</sup></b>
1	No. of dissertations defended	400/462	435/480
2	No. of dissertations defended by women	249	250
3	% of dissertations defended with international mention	40	49
4	No. of industrial dissertations defended	18	65
5	No. of dissertations in Basque defended	60	60/70
6	No. of beneficiaries of pre-PhD grants	635	645
7	% of women among the beneficiaries of pre-PhD grants	54	52
8	% of full-time PDI (academic & research staff) taking part in mobility programmes (stays of over four weeks)	2,11	3,6
9	No. of researchers received from the Marie Curie programme (stays of over four weeks)	53	55
10	% of GIC A as per BG call out of the GIC total	71	75
11	% of groups aligned with the SDGs (GIC/GIU)	47,6	75
12	% of groups led by women (GIC/GIU)	46	52
13	No. of projects led by young researchers <sup>4</sup>	98	120
14	No. of scientific publications (WOS)	3.582	4.000
15	No. of scientific publications (Scopus)	4.010	4.667
16	No. of scientific publications in Q1 (WOS)	57,1	60
17	No. of scientific publications in Q1 (Scopus)	60/67,1	61,5/70
18	% of international scientific co-publications (WOS)	53,1	55
19	% of international scientific co-publications (Scopus)	50,2	54,5
20	No. of articles published in open access (WOS)	2482	3000
21	No. of articles published in open access (Scopus)	2819	3500
22	Resources obtained from non-international calls (M€)	138 <sup>3</sup>	170 <sup>3</sup>
23	Resources obtained from HE and other international calls (M€)	30,6 <sup>3</sup>	33 <sup>3</sup>
24	No. of grants obtained from the European Research Council (ERC)	5 <sup>3</sup>	8 <sup>3</sup>
25	Revenue from transfer -contracts- (M€)	41,8 <sup>3</sup>	45,5 <sup>3</sup>
26	No. of <i>spin-offs</i> created	52 <sup>3</sup>	60 <sup>3</sup>
27	Revenue from licences and patents (M€)	0,6 <sup>3</sup>	1 <sup>3</sup>
28	No. of EPO and PCT patents	69 <sup>3</sup>	80 <sup>3</sup>
29	No. of media impacts	13.160	14.600

An archaeological excavation site with workers. A woman in a black tank top is in the background, and a woman in a white t-shirt is in the foreground, looking down. A large blue object is in the foreground. The scene is outdoors with earth and rocks.

**05.  
APPROVAL,  
MONITORING  
AND ASSESSMENT**



## 05. Approval, Monitoring and Assessment

The III Research and Transfer Plan was submitted to the ordinary meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Committee on 21 February 2024 and, subsequently, to the Government Council on 22 February 2024. After its submission, a period for amendments was opened in both governing bodies of the university; the plan was subject to the participation protocol in the standard setting procedure, so that anybody from the university community could make contributions. Furthermore, it was presented to the Heads of the Departments, the lead researchers of the research groups and the Postgraduate Committee in meetings held with those bodies during January, February and March 2024. Once all the suggestions submitted through the appropriate channels, and as the result of the dialogue with the people involved, the final version of the III Research and Transfer Plan was drawn up; it was submitted for its approval to the ordinary meeting of the Research, Development and Innovation Committee on 17 April 2024, after which it was referred to and unanimously approved by the Government Council on 24 April 2024.

An interim monitoring report of the Plan will be produced in 2026 with the results obtained during its first two years in force. The report will contain the values of the indicators, along with a qualitative assessment of the progress made in the objectives to be met and the actions to be carried out.

The report will be produced by a monitoring committee, whose members will be two representatives of the Vice-Rectorate for research, two representatives of the Vice-Rectorate in charge of transfer, and one representative from

the Vice-Rectorate in charge of postgraduates. Those representatives will be appointed by the vice-rectors in question or the people that they delegate. Subsequently, the report will be submitted to be assessed and checked by the Research, Development and Innovation Committee.

The interim monitoring report will coincide with the end of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and, as applicable, the introduction of the new Strategic Plan. The alignment of both plans will then be analysed and, if necessary, changes or corrective measures will be incorporated in the envisaged lines or actions - or new ones included - in order to adapt the Plan to the new objectives.



