

REPORT 2021



Ihobe in action

Ihobe people

More about Ihobe

We are **Ihobe**, the Public Environmental Management Agency reporting to the Department for Economic Development, Sustainability and the Environment of the Basque Government.

Our goal is to **improve the environment** by integrating environmental criteria in Basque public policy to create **sustainable value added** for our country and its organisations.



‘The Basque Green Deal: integrating the environment into sectoral policies’

The crisis caused by the pandemic highlighted the close relationships between health, the economy and the environment. A view endorsed by the scientific community.

Integrating the environment in sectoral policies is essential to address the major challenges facing our society; considerable, pressing, unprecedented threats that transcend borders: the climate crisis, the change of paradigm toward a circular economy and sustainability in the broadest sense, are real global challenges. The Basque Green Pact.

These are also the three priority lines of action around which we work in the public company Ihobe. I urge you to learn about the main results achieved in 2021.

Arantxa Tapia Otaegi

Minister for Economic Development, Sustainability and the Environment of the Basque Government and President of Ihobe, the Public Environmental Management Agency.

We are **Ihobe**, the Public Environmental Management Agency reporting to the Department for Economic Development, Sustainability and the Environment of the Basque Government.

Our goal is to **improve the environment** by integrating environmental criteria in Basque public policy to create **sustainable value added** for our country and its organisations.

‘We are taking steps to improve our environment’

The year 2021 was a busy first year for our government, with major challenges and achievements for our public company. This annual report sets out the main results.

However, it is people who are responsible for these achievements, the team members, the Ihobe team. As well as the team at the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Government

In 2022, we have decided to focus on areas that lead to clear environmental benefits, improve the competitiveness of our companies and make us stronger as an advanced, resilient territory. Advancing toward a better environment, improving our country.



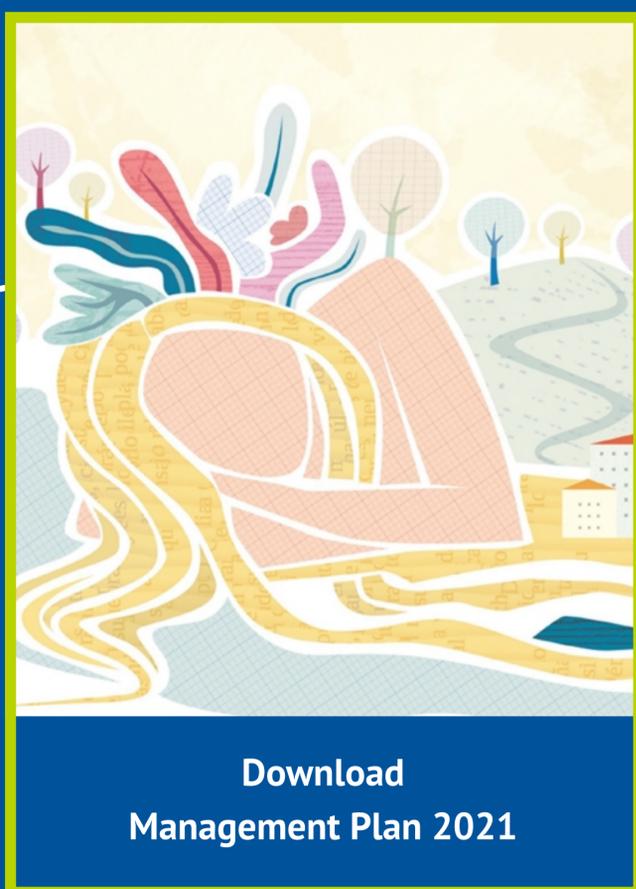
Alexander Boto Bastegieta

*General Director of Ihobe,
Public Environmental Management Agency, Basque Government*

We are **Ihobe**, the Public Environmental Management Agency reporting to the Department for Economic Development, Sustainability and the Environment of the Basque Government.

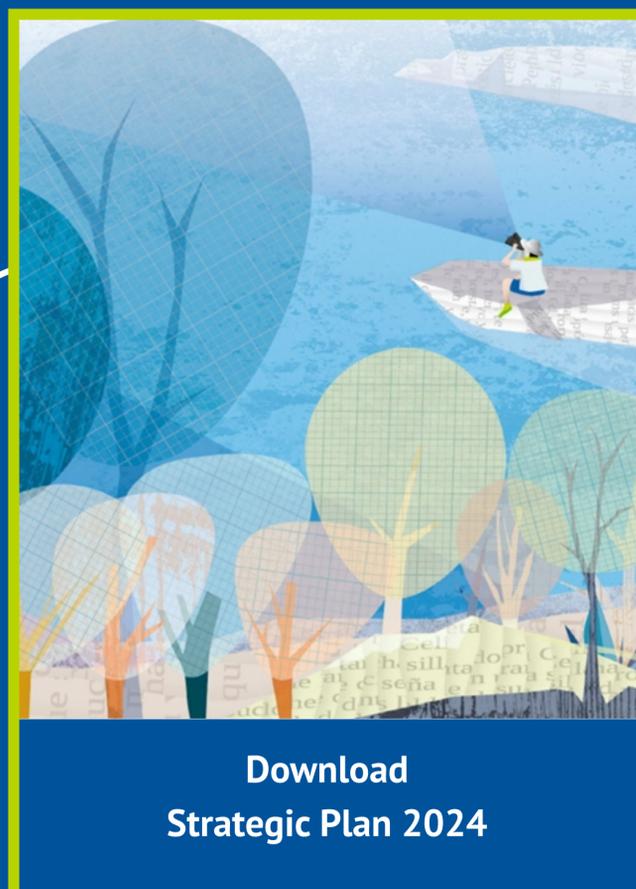
Our goal is to **improve the environment** by integrating environmental criteria in Basque public policy to create **sustainable value added** for our country and its organisations.

Our routemap



Download
Management Plan 2021

The image shows a stylized landscape with a winding river, trees, and hills. The text 'Download Management Plan 2021' is centered at the bottom of the graphic.



Download
Strategic Plan 2024

The image shows a stylized landscape with a winding river, trees, and hills. The text 'Download Strategic Plan 2024' is centered at the bottom of the graphic.

The background features a gradient from dark blue on the left to light green on the right. Scattered throughout are various geometric shapes, including triangles, rectangles, and irregular polygons, in shades of blue and lime green. Some of these shapes are arranged in circular or semi-circular patterns, resembling stylized flowers or gears. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper-left quadrant, containing the text 'Ihobe in action' in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

Ihobe in action

Ihobe in action

Results 2021



Businesses and organisations mobilised for the circular economy and tackling climate change

19**projects by public bodies**

supported by the funding programme for **Local Climate Eco-innovation**

40**projects**

funded through the **Circular Eco-innovation** call for applications 2021

106**SMEs**

confirmed in the first call for funding applications for the **Basque Circular SME** programme

50**municipalities**

in the process of designing and implementing the **Local Agenda 2030**

Ihobe in action

Results 2021



allocated to sectoral
integration of
environmental policy

70
million euro

*The **Ihobe multiplier effect** in the private sector has been €6:
for each euro allocated, €6 have been mobilised for **environmental investment**.*

Effects induced

by Ihobe's work in 2021:



148,627

tonnes of **greenhouse
gasses** avoided



138,370

tonnes of **waste and
soil** landfill avoided

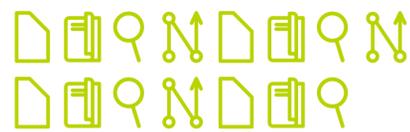


60.5

hectares of **land**
recovered

Ihobe in action

Results 2021

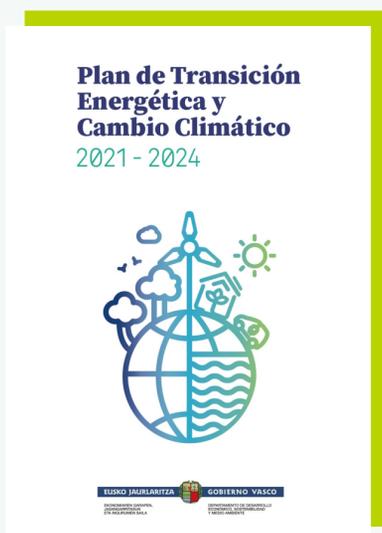


30
tools



providing advanced knowledge for **decision-making**
(publications, viewfinders, methodologies, technical guides, etc.)

Supporting environmental planning for sustainability



Approved in October



Approved in October



Approved in November



Approved in December

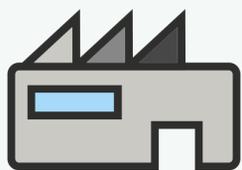
Ihobe in action

Results 2021



A public-private alliance set up in 2011 to enable collaboration between large businesses and the Basque Government. Its goals are to **develop innovative circular economy projects** and to generate and transfer knowledge to Basque industry, with Ihobe acting as Technical Secretariat.

Members of the **Basque Ecodesign Center**:



14

Basque companies



148,000

jobs



103,000

suppliers

Results 2021



We run the **Basque Centre for Advanced Circular Economy Services**, which is the result of a public-private collaboration involving the Basque Government, Bilbao City Hall, the University of Deusto, the University of the Basque Country, Mondragon University, the Euskadi-Tknika Centre for Applied Research in Vocational Training, and the Novia Salcedo Foundation.

The **Basque Circular Hub** has brought practical business training to:



130
young people



Ihobe in action

Results 2021



We run the **Basque network of environmental education centres**. It has four headquarters: two in Bizkaia (Ekoetxea **Urdaibai** and Ekoetxea **Meatzaldea-Peñas Negras**) and two in Gipuzkoa (Ekoetxea **Txingudi** and Ekoetxea **Azpeitia**).

In 2021, the **Ekoetxea** centres welcomed:



udalsarea 2030

udalerrri jasangarrien euskal sarea
red vasca de municipios sostenibles

The Basque network of sustainable municipalities, of which Ihobe is the Technical Secretariat, is a 20-year-old network comprising municipalities and public administrations that provides a platform for **coordinating the sustainability policies** of Basque local authorities from a comprehensive perspective.

In 2021, **Udalsarea 2030** involved:

191

Basque municipalities

Ihobe in action

Results 2021



Ihobe and the Basque Energy Agency (EVE) are the organisers of **ASTEKLIMA**, the **Basque Climate and Energy Week**. Its second edition from 24th September to 3rd October 2021 reached out to all corners of the Basque Country:

+200

activities

63

local

comprising
865,000
people



The Basque **Urban Waste Coordination Body (OCRU)**, for which Ihobe coordinates the Technical Secretariat, is in charge of coordinating activities for European Week for Waste Reduction in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

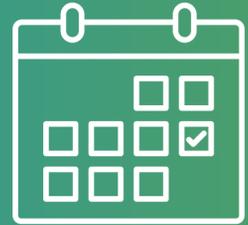
During the 2021 edition,
European Week for Waste Reduction in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country supported:

136

actions

Ihobe in action

Ihobe milestones



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

January

Green public procurement and recruitment in the Basque Government.

has greened **46% of purchases** from **38 organisations** and has won global praise.

[More information](#)
*March*

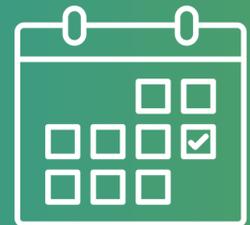
The first centre for advanced circular economy services in southern Europe

created by the **Basque Government** and **Bilbao City Hall**.


[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

Ihobe milestones



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

May

PACTO VERDE DE EUSKADI



Launch of the Basque Green Deal

The Basque mode for **fair and sustainable economic development.**

[More information](#)

May



Acceptance of the climate change commitment

by **21 Basque local authorities** which are signatories to the Mayoral Deal on Climate and Energy.

[More information](#)

Ihobe milestones

1

2

3

4

5

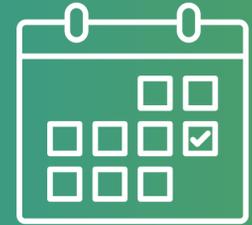
6

7

8

9

10



May

The Basque Country achieved a 2% reduction

in **greenhouse gas emissions** in the year prior to the pandemic.



Data taken from the last greenhouse gasses inventory for the Basque Country published by **Ihobe**. The **data broken down by historical regions** were released in September 2021:

Bizkaia

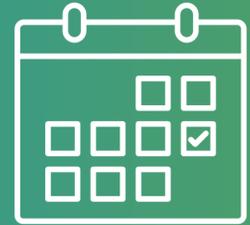
Araba

Gipuzkoa

More information

Ihobe in action

Ihobe milestones



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

June



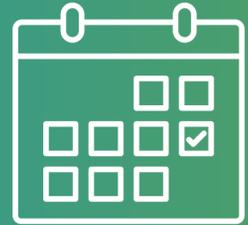
Public-private alliance for eco-design and the circular economy

created by the Basque Government and 14 Basque businesses.

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

Ihobe milestones



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

June



[Download](#)

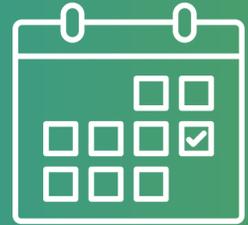
The state of the environment in the Basque Country is improving

[More information](#)



Ihobe in action

Ihobe milestones



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

September



Basque Climate and Energy Week

ASTEKLIMA 2021 ran almost 200 activities to raise awareness of the **energy and climate transition** in Basque society.

[More information](#)


ETE Zirkularra
PYME Circular
Euskadi

October

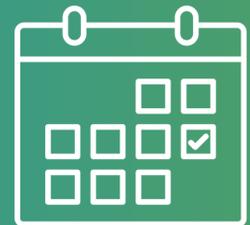
The Basque Circular SME initiative announced a new funding programme

to foster integration of the **circular economy** in Basque small and medium-sized enterprises.


[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

Ihobe milestones



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Urria



The Basque Country represented the voice of the regions at the United Nations Conference (COP 26)

on Climate Change.

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

More milestones in 2021



130 young people receive training and participate in practicals on the circular economy through the Basque Circular Hub

23/12/2021



The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve is declared the first sustainable tourism destination in the Basque Country

01/07/2021



The Basque Country leads the national ranking for accommodation with the EU Ecolabel

13/07/2021



Visits to the Argalarrio confinement area resume. This project is a leader in the recovery of contaminated land

14/05/2021



The first round of students graduate from the Master in the Circular Economy: Business Applications, run by the University of the Basque Country

02/07/2021



The Basque Country hosts more than 135 actions as part of European Week for Waste Reduction

25/11/2021

Ihobe in action

More milestones in 2021



Alexander Boto, General Director of Ihobe: 'Environmental policy is bearing fruit'

22/12/2021



The Basque Country promotes its social, economic and industrial model at COP26 in Glasgow as a key aspect of climate action

30/09/2021



Eight different cetacean species spotted off the Urdaibai coast during the 2021 edition of the 'Cetaceans at 10 o'clock' programme

25/11/2021



Ihobe participates in a conference on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

18/11/2021



Orkestra and Ihobe prepare a report on the opportunities for competitiveness in the Basque Country under the European Green Deal

25/10/2021



The Basque Government presents the future Law on Environmental Administration in the Basque Country to local authorities

04/10/2021

Ihobe in action

More milestones in 2021



Ihobek ekonomia zirkularrari buruzko ezagutza partekatu du Iberoamerikako Idazkaritza Nagusiak antolatutako nazioarteko panel batean

2021/09/22



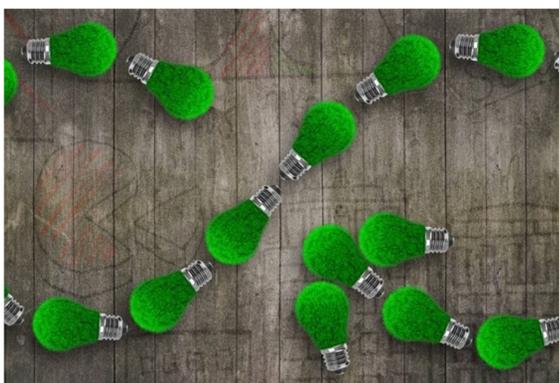
LIFE IP Urban Klima 2050 proiektuak arrakasta handia izan du Europako Batzordearen bisitan

2021/02/04



Ihobek eta Orkestrak euskal enpresek klima-trantsizioaren eta ekonomia zirkularraren aurrean duten lehiakortasuna aztertu dute

2021/07/23



Alexander Boto participates in the Basque Group of the Club of Rome with a conference on the circular economy and the limits of growth

21/06/2021



Ihobe and the Aclima Environmental Cluster identify green jobs needs in the Basque Country

06/05/2021



Ihobe reflects on climate inaction with the environmental team from the UK government

29/04/2021

Ihobe in action

More milestones in 2021



The Natura Bizia documentary for the Circular Berrindartzea programme showcases the value of the biodiversity in the Basque

15/04/2021



100 young people take part in practicals in Basque SMEs in 2021 to design their own routemaps

08/04/2021



The Basque Country talks to the European Committee of the Regions on the crucial role of regional governments in the green recovery

26/03/2021



Ihobe renews the agreement with the Basque College and Association of Journalists to promote environmental communication

25/03/2021



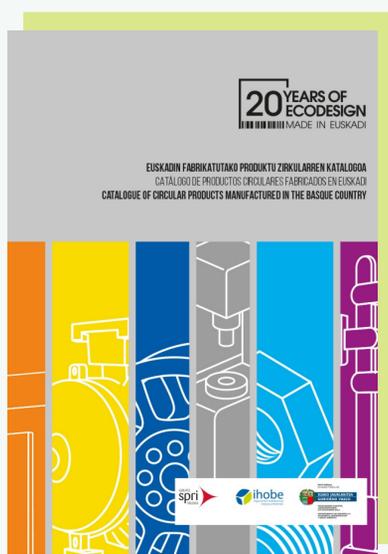
Ihobe reduces its energy, water, fuel and paper use in 2019

24/02/2021

Ihobe in action

Noteworthy publications

20 years of ecodesign catalogue of circular products manufactured in the Basque Country



01/10/2021

Guide to sustainable industrial construction in the Basque Country



15/12/2021

Contribution of Basque municipalities to the Sustainable Development Goals



01/12/2021

Report on emissions trading in the Basque Country



10/12/2021

Carbon footprint of organisations Calculator tool



17/12/2021

Guide on preparing local climate and energy plans in the Basque Country



08/11/2021

The EU Ecolabel



15/07/2021

Ihobe in action**Ihobe International****We help **position** the Basque Country
and the Basque Government
as **sustainability leaders****

via the exchange of knowledge and good practice, political representation and engagement,
and the creation of new global alliances.



Ihobe in action

Networking

1

2

3

4



The Basque Country holds the Presidency of **Regions4**, the global network of regional governments for sustainable development. Its diverse initiatives bring together more than **77 regions** representing more than **300 million people** to cooperate on climate change adaptation and biodiversity. The 2030 Agenda provides the routemap towards a sustainable and resilient future.



In **2021**, Regions4...

- co-organised the [main regional government event under the UN High-Level Political Forum in New York](#) in July.
- included the [Basque Country among the more than 220 governments which are signatories to the Edinburgh Declaration](#) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- invited [Ihobe as a main speaker](#) for a seminar on the integration of the climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development agendas.
- enabled prominent Basque participation in the Multilevel Action Pavilion at COP26 in Glasgow and the [selection of the Urban Klima 2050 project among the good practices highlighted in the publication titled 'Raising ambitions on climate adaptation'](#).

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

Networking

1

2

3

4



The Basque Country is a member of the Executive Committee of the Under2 Coalition, the biggest global network of countries and regions committed to reducing emissions under the Paris Agreement. The network members comprise **more than 260 governments**, which represents **50% of the global economy**, working on climate action, public policy innovation and transparency.



Achievements of the Under2 Coalition in 2021...

- Basque participation [in the global Net Zero Futures initiative](#) to showcase the work of the regions to achieve climate neutrality ([+info](#)).
- Basque participation in the [international press conference at COP26 to introduce the commitments of the regions to tackling climate change through to 2030](#).
- Basque participation in the General Assembly of the Under2 Coalition at COP26. The [Basque Country received a mention in the first edition of the Leadership Awards of the Under2 Coalition](#) for its Local Climate Eco-innovation funding programme.

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

Networking

1

2

3

4



The Basque Country is a member of the Executive Committee of ENCORE, a political platform bringing together **122 European governments** to support the implementation of the EU's environmental policy, improve governance and take action in three areas: achieve zero emissions through climate action; maintain and improve ecosystem services; and integrate a circular society to create a just transition.

- In **2021**, the [ENCORE Conference](#) took place virtually. The YOUTHCORE event presented the [Tullamore Declaration](#), which calls for better collaboration around European Environmental Policy.

[More information](#)



The Basque Country, via Udalsarea 2030, is a member of the global Local Governments for Sustainability network. With **more than 160 member governments** across **30 European countries**, ICLEI Europe promotes local action for low-carbon development which is nature-based, fair, resilient and circular.

- In **2021**, as part of the #SustainableCities campaign, ICLEI Europe, the Basque Country and Aalborg, supported by the European Committee of the Regions, organised the [5th Transformative Action Awards](#). The La Titaranya urban and social rehabilitation project in Valls (Tarragona) was a winner.

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

European projects

1

2

3

4

5



URBA KLIMA 2050

The **Urban Klima 2050** Integrated LIFE Project is set to be the **biggest climate action project in the Basque Country in the coming years**. With an investment of 19.8 million euros and the involvement of 20 member organisations, the project will take forward 40 specific actions **for climate change adaptation and mitigation** in the Basque Country, split into 5 areas.

- In **2021**, the project released seven implementation reports/tools/materials and organised three technical workshops, a public awareness-raising campaign and three international events to share the project progress, two of which coincided with [COP26 in Glasgow](#).

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

European projects

1

2

3

4

5



The goal of the AGREE project, supported by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, is to attract investment to **improve the energy efficiency of private homes** in the Basque Country and the **quality of life of the residents**. The project is led by the Department for Housing of the Basque Government, in collaboration with Ihobe and Tecnalia and with the local authorities in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Donostia-San Sebastián and Basauri.

- In **2021**, the project was unveiled to the Los Luises, Gastelu and Zarategi districts of Donostia-San Sebastián. Research was conducted with a view to rehabilitating the Adurtza and San Cristobal districts of Vitoria-Gasteiz, and the Federico Mayo district of Basauri. The goal is to invest approximately €8.5M and to achieve a 250-tonne reduction in Co2eq/year.

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

European projects

1

2

3

4

5



The project involves 35 organisations from 10 European countries to make progress in implementing the **circular economy in the construction sector**. Ihobe manages the project's scientific communication and dissemination work.

- In **2021**, the [Iceberg](#) project (still in its first year) developed functional tools to rapidly digitalise buildings at the end of their useful life, to improve planning, to accurately quantify and identify demolition waste, and for traceability to improve the circular nature of construction and demolition materials.

[More information](#)



The Adapyr project is run by the Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory (OPCC). Its goals are to **observe, capitalise, transfer and acquire good practices for climate change adaptation in the Pyrenees** with cross-border cooperation. Ihobe is a project member together with 11 other regional, national and international institutions.

- The main project activities in **2021** include completion of the [Pyrenean Climate Change Strategy](#) which sets out the vision for 2050 along with the challenges and lines of action for addressing climate change in the Pyrenees.

[More information](#)

Ihobe in action

European projects

1

2

3

4

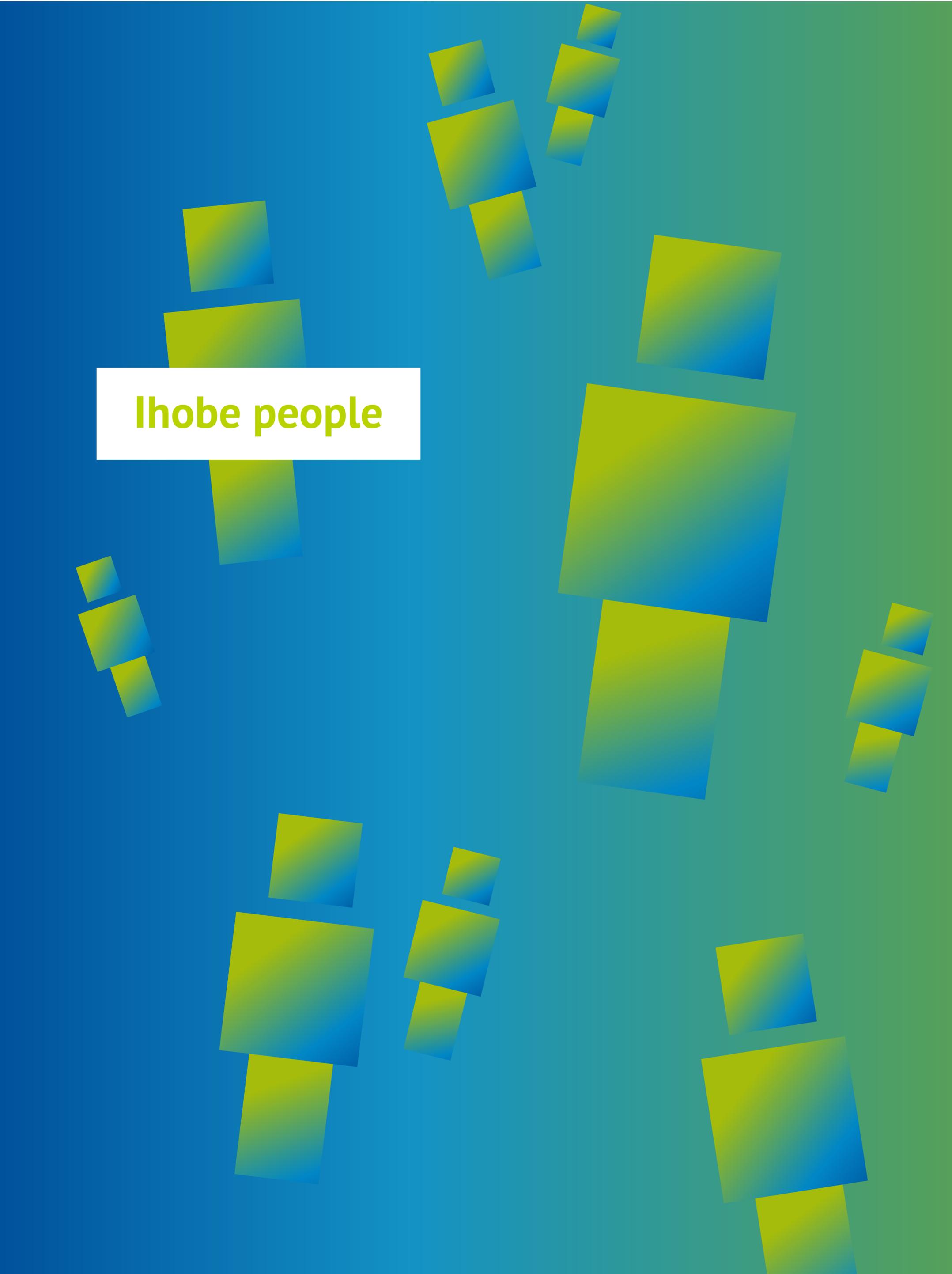
5



Coordinated by the Italian Area Science Park agency, POSIDON brings together 10 international organisations to **identify innovative and sustainable solutions** for appropriate and profitable management of **soil contamination**. Ihobe is a technical member of the project. It is part of the European Horizon 2020 programme.

- In the second half of **2021**, [the POSIDON project](#) successfully completed Phase 2. Phase 3 began in September and is due to finish in March 2022.

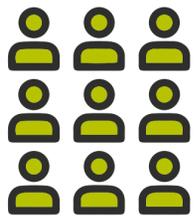
[More information](#)



Ihobe people

Ihobe people

As an organisation, we are committed to **transparency, good governance and equality** between women and men.



54

people
40 women
14 men



49

years
average
age



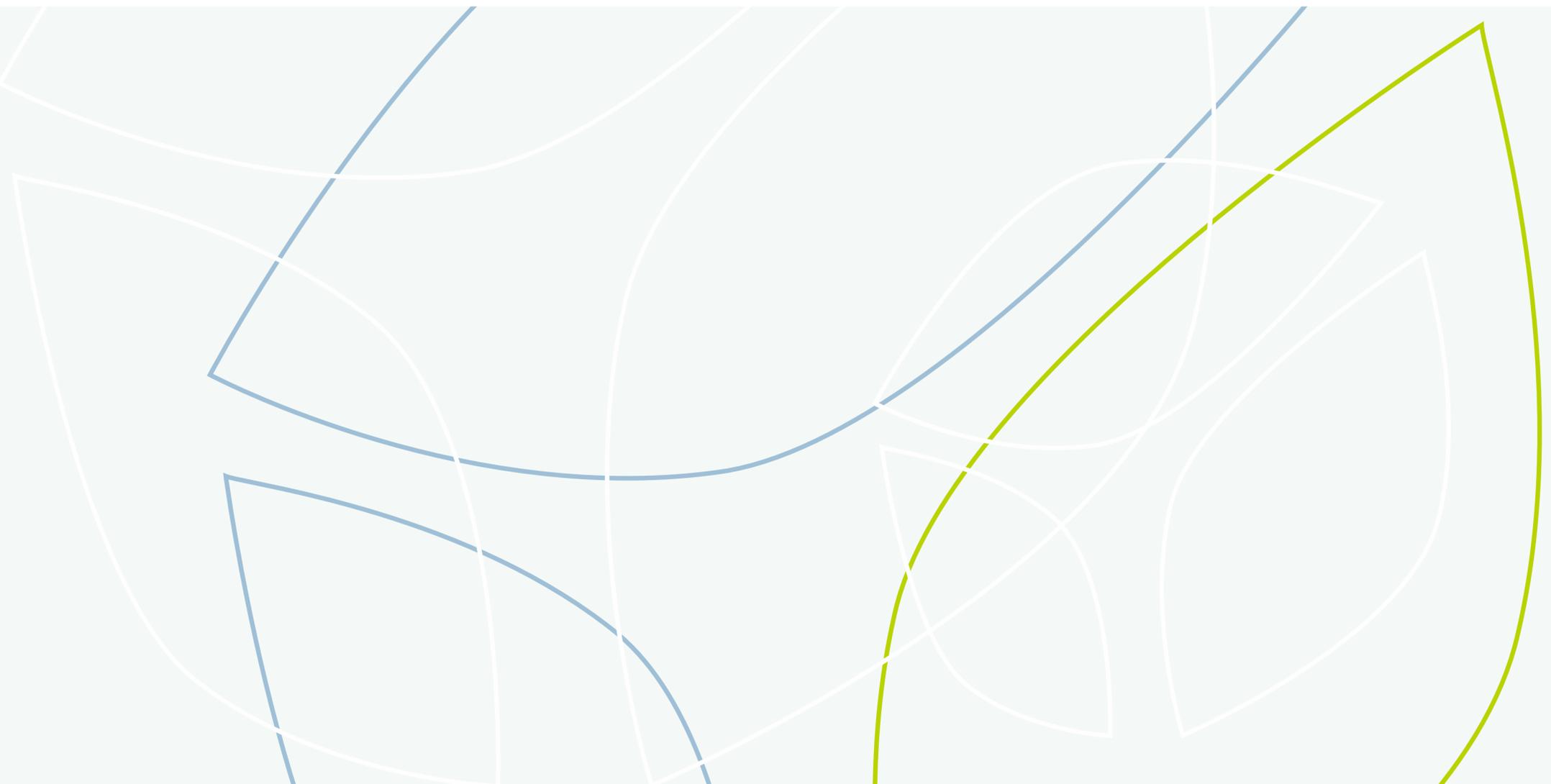
%78

goi mailako
tituludunak



8,12

level of satisfaction
with their jobs
at Ihobe



Ihobe people

Ihobe Board of Directors

**PRESIDENCY****Arantxa Tapia Otaegi**

*Minister for Economic Development,
Sustainability and the Environment*

**SPOKESPERSON****Alberto José Fernández González**

Director of Technology and Innovation

**VICE-PRESIDENCY****Amaia Barredo Martín**

*Deputy Minister for
Environmental Sustainability*

**SPOKESPERSON****Ane Etxenausia Aramburuzabala**

Director of Tax Administration

**SPOKESPERSON****Javier Agirre Orcajo**

*Director of Environmental Quality
and the Circular Economy*

**SECRETARY****José Antonio Armolea Solabarrieta**

Director of Legal Advice at Ihobe

**SPOKESPERSON****Olga Martín García**

CEO of Aclima

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT****Alexander Boto Bastegieta**

General Director of Ihobe

Ihobe people

Ihobe Organisational Chart

GENERAL MANAGEMENT



Alexander Boto Bastegieta
General Director of Ihobe

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT



Ignacio Quintana
Strategy and Innovation



Jose Antonio Armolea
Legal Advice

DEPARTMENTAL



Jaione Lanborena
General Secretariat



José María Fernández
Circular Economy



Mari Mar Alonso
Climate Action



Xabier González
Environmental sustainability

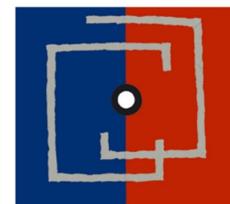


IN MEMORIAM
Marian Barquín López
You will always be part of Ihobe.

Ihobe and equality

We are recognised by Emakunde as a **'Collaborating body for equality between women'**

emakumeen eta gizonen
berdintasunerako
lankidetzaren erakundea



entidad colaboradora
para la igualdad de
mujeres y hombres

The network comprises organisations with this badge and which are voluntarily committed to promoting equality between women and men.

Some results from the 3rd Equality Plan:



The entire workforce trained in an **empowerment** workshop and another workshop on the **feminist economy** of care.



Collaboration with local bodies to promote the **employability of women** who have difficulties accessing the job market.



Review of hiring procedures to correct and include **equality clauses**.



The International **Change the Change** Conference included talks on female leadership and took a **gender perspective** on climate change.



We are currently preparing our **4th Equality Plan**.

Ihobe people

Ihobe and social responsibility

We promote the **development** of the **organisations** in our **social** environment

We take an active role in activities where we can fulfil a social role that aligns with our abilities and values and supports our strategy. We support measures that contribute to environmental sustainability. Above all, we value **cooperation, integration and education**.

Main milestones in 2021



New version of the **procurement procedure** enables **direct hiring** from **social enterprises**.



Donation of **50 computers** to **ten NGOs** via a participative process.

%15

Around **15% of new hires** from **social enterprises**, which is above the 5% established by the Basque Government.

+35.000€

billed by **social enterprises** and **special job centres**.



6 social enterprises and **special job centres** hired.



Review of **template documents** to ensure **social clauses** are effective.

Transparency



€ **13.7M**

budget in 2021



100%

budget execution
in 2021



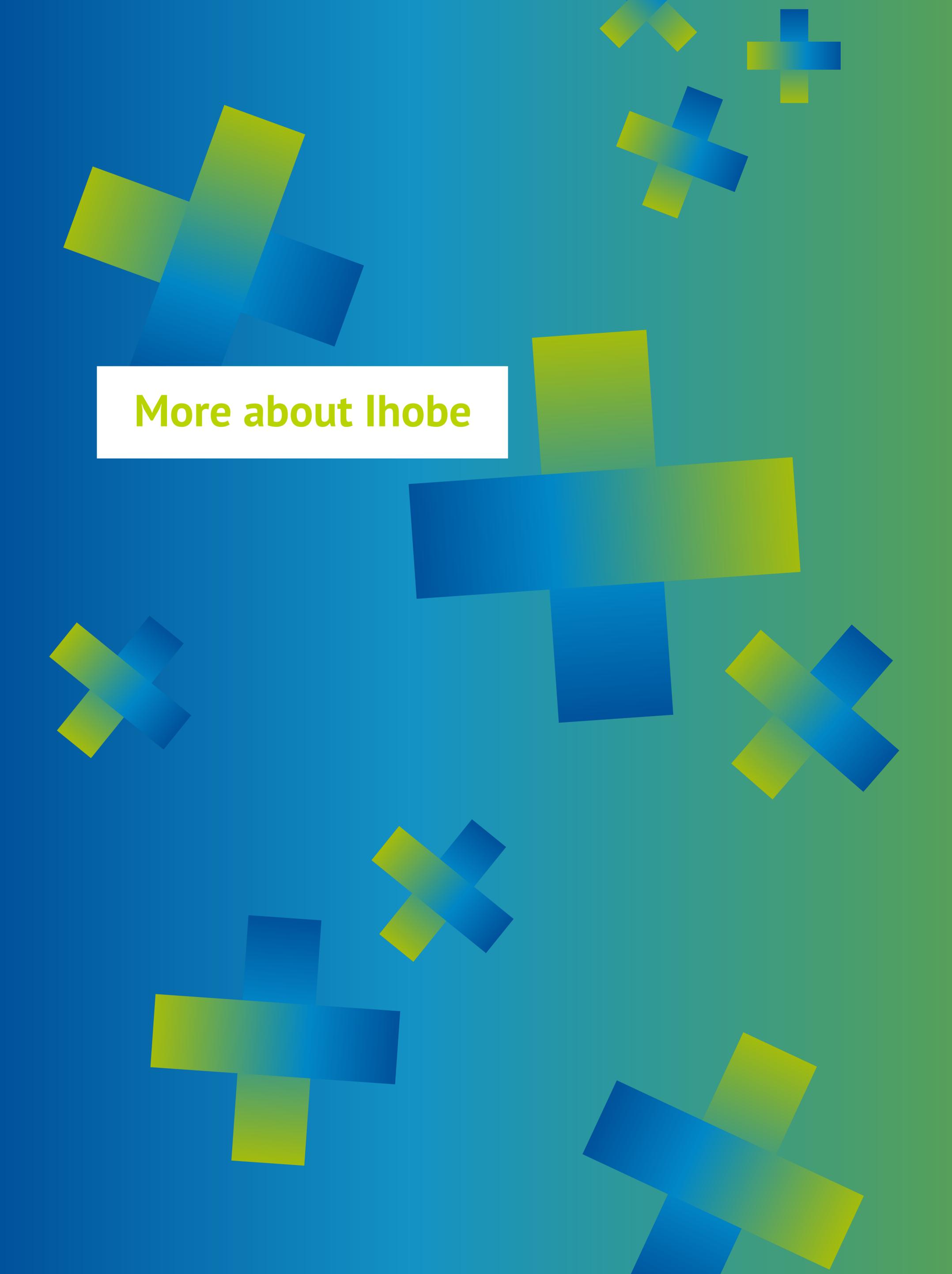
0%

debt



16 days

on average to pay
invoices to suppliers
in 2021

The background features a vertical gradient from dark blue at the top to light green at the bottom. Scattered throughout are several geometric shapes, including rectangles and squares, some of which are arranged to form crosses. These shapes have a color gradient from blue to green. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper left quadrant, containing the text 'More about Ihobe'.

More about Ihobe

More about Ihobe

Partnerships

This public agency undertakes **ongoing cooperation** with other organisations and fosters a spirit of collaboration around **environmental policy** which has widespread benefits for all of Basque society.

Ihobe **works closely** with the following bodies:



More about Ihobe

Suppliers

In 2021,
Ihobe's suppliers wanted more knowledge
on clean technologies, climate change adaptation
and green procurement.

Ihobe organises the annual **Ihobe Supplier Forum** to disseminate its lines of work and its recruitment plan. The forum supports the strategic needs for knowledge or support in this subsector, both in Ihobe and for socio-economic agents across the Basque Country. The needs of the participating companies are recorded through the forum.



[More information](#)

More about Ihobe

Ihobe and environmental communication

At Ihobe, we believe that **quality environmental communication is key to making society** more sustainable. In 2021, we continued to promote the Environmental Journalism in the Basque Country Award and the Environmental Communication School, and we launched the En verde-Berdean podcast on sustainability and the environment.

Environmental Communication

We have a collaboration agreement with the Association of Environmental Journalists (APIA). This led to the creation, among other initiatives, of the **Environmental Communication School** comprising summer courses at the University of the Basque Country to address two key concerns: communication and the environment.

The third edition of the Environmental Communication School, held on 8th and 9th September 2021, looked at the **energy and climate transition** in the context of a critical period of social and economic transformation that includes the environment.

[Download report](#)

More about Ihobe

Ihobe and environmental communication

Environmental Journalism Award



We work with the Basque Association and College of Journalists (CVP-AVP). Since 2019, it has promoted the **Environmental Journalism in the Basque Country Award** that recognises journalists working on sustainable development, climate change and natural environment conservation, among other matters.

The 2021 winner was **Eva Caballero**, journalist and director for the 'La Mecánica del Caracol' programme on Radio Euskadi. An experienced journalist, she conducts her work with rigour and responsibility.

More about Ihobe

Ihobe and environmental communication

Podcast chanel

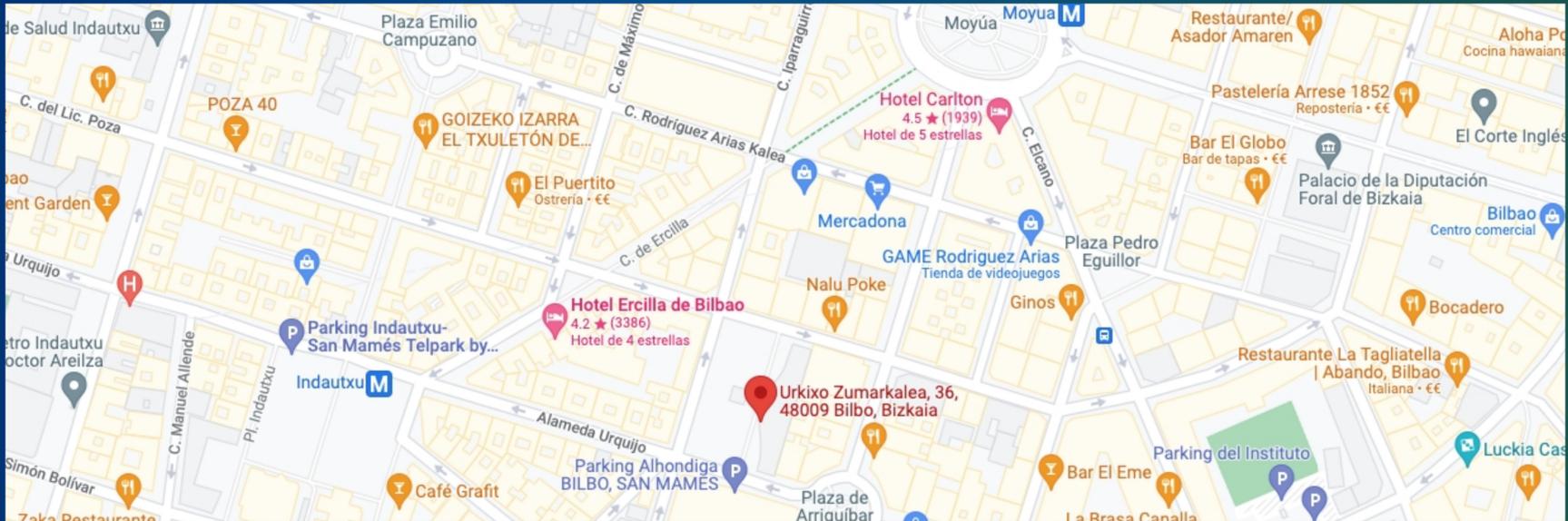
In 2021 we launched *En verde-Berdean*, a podcast by Ihobe on sustainability and the environment led by the journalist Begoña Beristain. The podcast gives a platform to people and organisations working towards a more sustainable lifestyle model. It discusses their experiences and projects linked to the natural environment and environmental challenges in the Basque Country.



In the first episode, we heard from the writer and naturalist **Gabi Martínez**. In the second, we were joined by **Lexeia Larrañaga** and **Alex Gutiérrez**, Director and Producer, respectively, of Avis Producciones. In the third, we heard from **Adriana Uribesalgo**, Creative Director and co-founder of Ekmodo. In the fourth, **Izaskun Suberbiola** took us into the Mater ecoactive museum. In the fifth, the writer, scientific communicator and environmental expert **Andreu Escrivà** discussed some keys to halting climate change. And in the last episode of 2021, **Alexander Boto**, General Director of Ihobe, looked at the past, present and future environmental challenges in the Basque Country.

Subscribe!





📍 Alameda Urquijo N°36 - 6ª planta, 48011 – Bilbao

☎ 94 423 07 43

✉ info@ihobe.eus

Join our online community

