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26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY**  
Bilbao 13-16 September 2017 <http://www.ehu.eus/evs2017>

***FIRST CIRCULAR***

Following the commitment of the European Vegetation Survey to organize its 26<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Bilbao (University of the Basque Country), we wish to invite you to participate in it. We hope you will find a good opportunity to make new contacts and to strengthen the old ones, to inspire with other colleagues' experience and results and also to show your research work in a selected and specialized scientific panel. The organizing team is working with enthusiasm to fulfill these targets and hope that you will have a good experience in these days in the Basque Country.

We hope to see you in Bilbao,

*The Organizing Committee*



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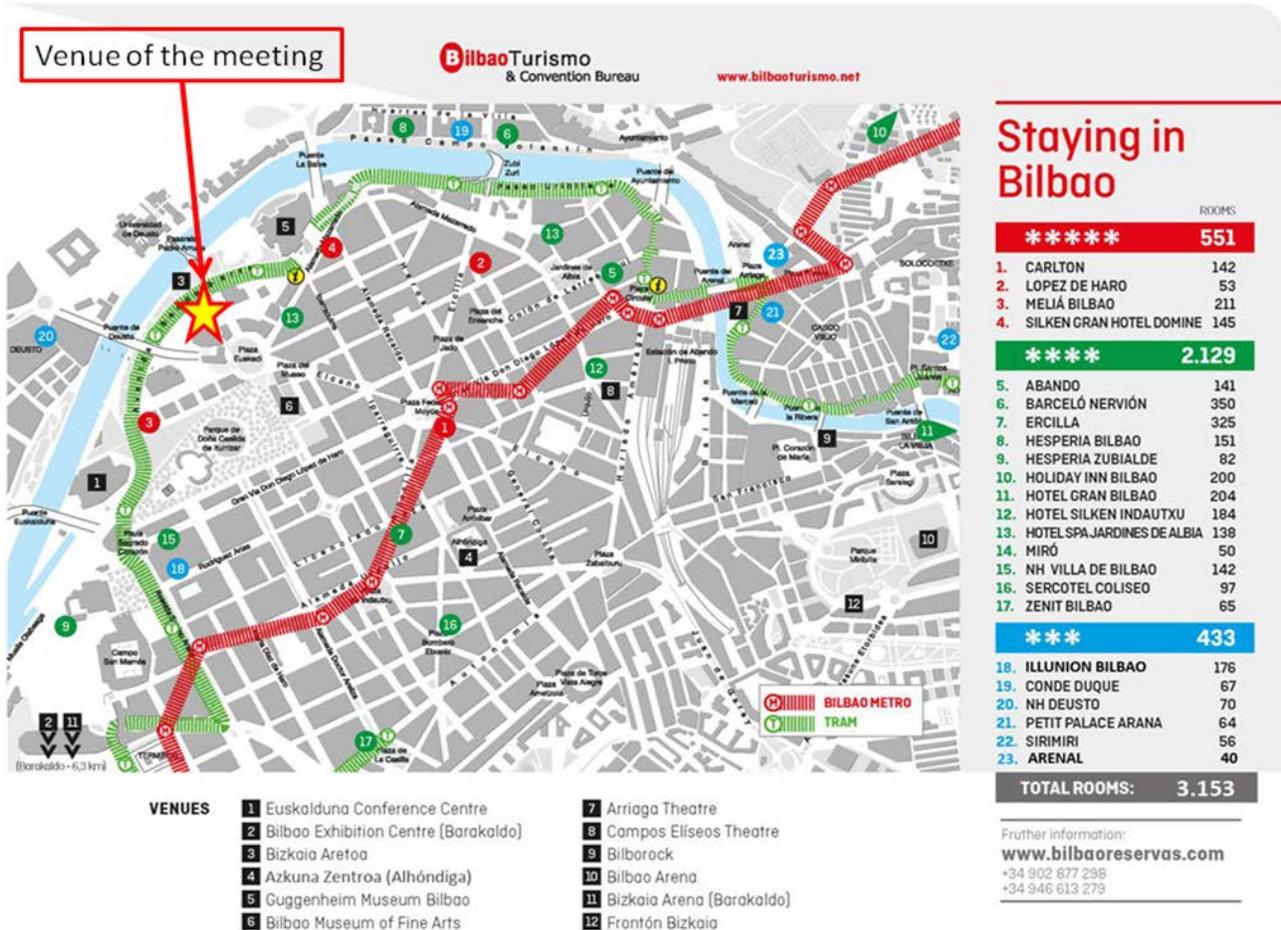
***DATES & VENUES***

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The 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Vegetation Survey (IAVS Working Group) will be held in Bilbao from Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 September 2017.

The Registration and Plenary Sessions will be held in the "Bizkaia Aretoa" of the University of the Basque Country in Avenida Abandoibarra, 3, 48009 Bilbao. See the next map:

The EVS is a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science.  
Chairman of Organizing Committee for the 26<sup>th</sup> EVS Meeting is Javier Loidi  
Dep. of Plant Biology and Ecology, University of the Basque Country. Bilbao, Spain.  
Office: + 34 94 6012451 - email: [javier.loidi@ehu.eus](mailto:javier.loidi@ehu.eus)



## TOPICS

The main topic for the 26<sup>th</sup> EVS meeting is:

### Diversity patterns across plant communities in the frame of global change: conservation challenges

In Vegetation Science, the study of vegetation from the perspective of its diversity, environmental drivers, dynamism, relationships between organisms, together with applied issues such as management and conservation, encompasses the range of the permanent interests of scientists. However, in recent times some challenging phenomena influence the planning and targeting of our research, such as the global change and the urgent necessity for the conservation of biodiversity. In this context, we want to focus on several topics which are of special interest for our scientific community, such as:

✦ **Assessment and conservation of European Habitats**, which are absorbing the efforts of many European colleagues,

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- † **Vegetation data sets: constraints and challenges**, which are nowadays a solid foundation enabling important reviews of large vegetation units and have a promising future for macroecological studies,
- † **Vegetation evolution along time: vegetation dynamics and cultural history in Europe**, the temporal perspective is always important in vegetation studies,
- † **Below ground ecology: Interactions between soil organisms and plant communities**, a relatively new and promising field in ecology, fundamental for a more complete understanding of the ecosystem,
- † **Ecology and classification of European mires**, as a particularly significant topic relevant for the conservation of those habitats all over Europe,
- † **Invasive species in plant communities: patterns, drivers and impacts**, always relevant from the conservation point of view.

In addition to them, any other contribution in the frame of vegetation survey will be welcome.

#### **PROGRAMME OUTLINE**

Wednesday	September 13, 2017	EVS Meeting (registration and sessions)
Thursday	September 14, 2017	EVS Meeting (sessions and EVS Business Meeting)
Friday	September 15, 2017	EVS Meeting (sessions, closing ceremony and social dinner)
Saturday	September 16, 2017	Excursion

#### **MEETING & EXCURSION FEES**

The fees for the meeting are in the following table (in €):

	Early, before 10th May	Late, after 10th May
IAVS members	145	175
Non IAVS members	165	195
Students	115	145
Students (non IAVS members)	135	165
Accompanying persons	60	60
Post meeting excursion	30	30
Social dinner	30	30

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- \* The registration **fee for each participant** (ordinary and student) covers:
    - lunches and coffee/tea-breaks;
    - meeting pack with programme.
  - \* The registration **fee for accompanying persons (consider only partners and/or children)**, covers:
    - lunches and coffee/tea-breaks during the Meeting.
  - \* The **additional fee for the meeting excursion of Saturday, September 16** covers:
    - lunch;
    - transport from/to Bilbao center.
  - \* The **Social Dinner** will be held on Friday evening 15 September.

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## **EXCURSIONS**

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On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> there will be the choice of participating in one of three excursions. We will leave at 9:00 and return at about 19:00, depending on traffic and other events. A lunch bag will be provided as well as a short written guide of the visited site. Weather is unpredictable but usually that time of the year is still considered summer and we hope having good dry conditions with warm temperatures; in any case bringing a rain coat is convenient. There will be hikes of different length in the three sites but their difficulty is low: hiking shoes will be enough.

**Excursion 1: Monte Buciero.** Coastal area of eastern Cantabria. *Quercus ilex* forest, *Genista occidentalis* scrub, coastal dunes and cliffs, salt marshes. The Santoña, Victoria and Joyel Marshes Natural Park offers a fantastic opportunity to visit some of the most characteristic types of coastal vegetation in northern Spain. We will walk through a well conserved *Quercus ilex* subsp. *ilex* forest growing on limestone soils in Monte Buciero. There we will have the opportunity to observe the characteristic Mediterranean flora of this evergreen broadleaved forest and also the *Genista occidentalis* scrub, whilst enjoying an astonishing view over the Bay of Laredo and the Asón river mouth. After lunch we will visit the sand dune vegetation in Ris and Joyel (*Cakiletea*, *Ammophiletalia* and *Crucianelletalia* communities). Then, we will explore a saltmarsh with *Spartinetea*, *Sarcocornietea* and *Salicornietea* communities. Finally, a short walk on the impressive cliffs will lead to an area covered with unique scrubs with *Olea europaea* var. *sylvestris*. The difficulty of the walk is medium/low. Special footwear for salt marshes is not necessary. Leader: Mercedes Herrera



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**Excursion 2: Obarenes Natural Park.** Inland Atlantic-Mediterranean transitional territories in the Obarenes Natural Park (Burgos). The trip will go from Atlantic to Mediterranean areas allowing us to see the changes in the vegetation across this gradient. Our first stop at Portillo de Busto will give us the opportunity to observe the great contrast between the vegetation of the southern and northern slopes. *Quercus rotundifolia* forests and their succesional communities develop on the southern slopes due to the rain shadow effect and intense sunshine, whilst beech forests are the most widespread potential vegetation on the northern slopes. There we will observe different types of scrubs, dry grasslands and chasmophytic communities. We will continue our itinerary through areas with *Quercus faginea* and *Q. pyrenaica* forests. We will also take a short walk to observe the flora of *Pistacio-Rhamneta* and *Festuco-Poetalia* communities. The walk will finish in the medieval town of Frías where we will have a chance to visit its castle. The difficulty is low. Leader: *Itziar García-Mijangos*

**Excursion 3: Valderejo.** Inland Atlantic-Mediterranean transitional territories in the Valderejo Natural Park (Araba, Basque Country). We will visit a varied set of plant communities following a climatic gradient from Atlantic to Mediterranean. The trek starts in the village of Lalastra and stretches about 7 km following a downward trail along the Purón river, saving a rump of 300 m. We will have the opportunity to see beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), *Quercus faginea* and *Quercus rotundifolia* forests, as well as *Genista occidentalis* scrub and *Festuca hystrix* hard grasslands. Along the last stretch of the trail, we will walk along a canyon and have the possibility to see impressive calcareous cliffs. The trek ends in the village of Herrán, where the bus will be waiting for us. If there is time, we will have a short visit to the medieval town of Frías, where we will have the possibility to have a coffee. The difficulty is medium to low but we will have to walk most of the day. Leader: *Javier Loidi*

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### **PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ABOUT ACCOMMODATION**

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There are several facilities for accommodation in Bilbao:

<http://www.bilbaoturismo.net/BilbaoTurismo/en/tourists>

In the next future more specific accommodation possibilities will be provided.



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## WHAT TO DO NOW & DEADLINES

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If you wish to receive the Second Circular with the preliminary programme, please return the pre-registration form(s) available on the web page **before April 1st, 2017**.

If you require an official **letter of invitation** to attend the Meeting, please contact soon the Chairman of Organising Committee, Javier Loidi, Department of Plant Biology and Ecology, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) P.O. Box 644. 48080 Bilbao, Spain. email: [javier.loidi@ehu.eus](mailto:javier.loidi@ehu.eus). This letter does not represent any commitment on part of the organizers to provide financial support for you, it is only for obtaining embassy visa or other specific issues.

If you want to participate at the EVS meeting and you need **financial support from IAVS**, you have to apply by filling the specific form additionally to the registration form. Please, also read the instructions for "IAVS Financial Support" available on <http://iavs.org/Membership/Financial-Support.aspx>, point 2. Participation in IAVS meetings (**deadline for application for financial support is March 1st, 2017**).

All the Meeting information, further circulars and application form will also be available on <http://www.ehu.eus/evs2017>.

### DEADLINES:

March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	Financial Support Form
April 1st, 2017	Pre-Registration Form
May 10th, 2017	Early registration. Fee Payment. Letters of Invitation (especially for embassy visa)
June 10th, 2017	Late registration. Fee Payment. Abstract Submission
September 13, 2017	The Meeting starts

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### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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- Javier Loidi - Chair
- Idoia Biurrun
- Juan Antonio Campos
- Itziar García-Mijangos
- Mercedes Herrera
- Isabel Salcedo
- Daniel García-Magro
- Vlatka Horvat
- Diego Liendo
- Marta Torca

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P.O. Box 644. 48080 Bilbao (Spain)



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**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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- **Emiliano Agrillo** Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- **Fabio Attorre** Dept. of Environmental Biology, University "La Sapienza", Roma (IT)
- **Andraž Čarni** Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana (SI)
- **Milan Chytrý (EVS secretary)** Dept. of Botany and Zoology, Masaryk University, Brno (CZ);
- **Monika Janišová** Institute of Botany, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Banská Bystrica (SK)
- **María Pilar Rodríguez Rojo** Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo (ES)
- **John Rodwell** Ecological Consultant, Lancaster (UK)
- **Joop Schaminée** Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Gr., Wageningen University. (NL)

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*The meeting is an important opportunity to network, share your research findings and discuss key issues Vegetation Science is facing in Europe.*

*We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the development of the meeting topics.*

*See you in Bilbao.*

**Organizing & Scientific Committee Board**



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