

Arantzazulab Student Challenge Week

Overview of the Challenge Week 2027



Arantzazulab
demokraziaren
berrikuntza



EHU
Euzko Herriko Unibertsitatea
Universidad del País Vasco

Huron



Mondragon
Unibertsitatea

What is SCW?

Student Challenge Week is a collaborative initiative between four different partners:

- **Arantzazulab (Oñati, Gipuzkoa):** A democracy innovation laboratory that conducts research and experimental initiatives to strengthen Basque democracy. Arantzazulab acts as the host and convenor of Student Challenge Week, while also facilitating local connections through its extensive relationships in the Basque Country.
- **EHU:** Students will join from a variety of degree and master's programmes, such as sociology, politics, the double degree in sociology and politics, informatics engineering, and others.
- **MU – Global Digital Humanities degree:** offered by the Faculty of Humanities and Educational Sciences (HUHEZI), combines a transdisciplinary approach and Action Research to address complex social challenges and contribute to innovative social transformation in the city and the wider region.
- **Huron University (London, Canada) – Governance, Leadership and Ethics (GLE) programme:** A programme designed to help students understand the challenges of contemporary governance and develop inclusive, accountable and effective leadership skills. Its goal is to cultivate “Leaders with Heart” to meet the growing demand for ethical and transformative leadership across sectors.

One week

Three universities (EHU - MU - Huron College Canada)

One challenge

Student Challenge Week **brings students from different universities together to connect, learn and design solutions** to the pressing issues that shape our societies.

Participants are introduced to the **transformative potential of collaborative governance** in tackling complex public policy challenges, while also deepening their understanding of governance in practice from an international and comparative perspective – learning from faculty across universities, the experience of peers, and each other.

The topic on 2027

During a week (held in Arantzazu, Oñati) all students will work together around the challenge: **Governance of the future in Gipuzkoa**

Strengthening Democracy through Collaborative Governance in Gipuzkoa – a proposal by the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council: *How can Gipuzkoa strengthen democracy through collaborative governance by building more open, trusted, effective, and participatory relationships between public institutions and society?*

Democratic institutions across the world are facing growing pressures arising from globalisation, digital and technological transformation, demographic shifts, ecological transition, increasing social diversity, and widening social and economic inequalities. These dynamics have made public problems more interconnected and complex, while also transforming citizens' expectations regarding transparency, participation, accountability, and responsiveness.

Within this context, the thematic proposal therefore places **collaborative governance** at the center of a renewed democratic strategy for Gipuzkoa. Collaborative governance is understood as an approach in which public institutions exercise democratic leadership while actively incorporating the knowledge, experience, capabilities, and resources of citizens, civil society organizations, social and economic actors, universities, and other knowledge communities into public action.

Rather than replacing representative democracy, this model seeks to complement and strengthen it by creating more open, deliberative, and cooperative relationships between institutions and society.

Learning objectives

- Develop **knowledge** and **understanding** of **collaborative governance in practice**, situated within an international comparative perspective.
- **Forge connections with peers** from diverse national and post-secondary contexts, by working together, generating creative solutions, and presenting their work to fellow students and faculty.
- **Deepen** the **personal sense of agency and commitment** to engage with society's "wicked problems", particularly at a time of democratic decline when new forms of governance are urgently needed.
- **Build critical knowledge** of, and **perspectives** on, the specific problem space and challenge addressed during the programme.

The opportunity

- Work in a **real challenge** related to your interest and studies
- **Meet and work** with a range of **international** students
- Learn a new **methodology** (a problem solving method)
- Have an **immersive experience**



Some practical details

Dates: SCW full week: **15-19 February 2027**

Pre-session (online): date to be confirm.

Location: Arantzazu, Oñati

- Accommodation, transport and food is **covered at no cost** (Accommodation at [Arantzazu Aterpetxea](#))
- A maximum **15 student from EHU**
- A **certificate of participation** equivalent to 2 ECTS will be issued
- **The working language during SCW 2027 will be English**, and an upper-intermediate level of English will be required.

Sign up deadline: 23th of November, 2026

Contact & questions

Auxkin Galarraga

auxkin.galarraga@ehu.eus

Elene Cid

elene.cid@ehu.eus

