2nd Democracy Breakfast of the EHU Node of the

ENLIGHT IDenti-T Network
Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Evolving Identities
in Times of Democratic Transformations

Identity Under Pressure: Provocations on Power, Recognition, and Democratic Transformations

[DRAFT]

Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 10-13 h
Bizkaia Aretoa, EHU

Building on the first Democracy Breakfast, which introduced members' research interests and disciplinary perspectives, this second edition will focus on stimulating interdisciplinary dialogue and strengthening intellectual connections within the EHU Node.

Rather than repeating individual research presentations or requiring immediate collaboration, the event will explore a shared question: **Who gets to define who we are — and what happens when our identities become sites of political, technological, and social struggle?**

The breakfast will combine short provocative interventions, moderated debate, and interactive activities. Its aim is to encourage intellectual curiosity, challenge disciplinary assumptions, and create an engaging space for exchange across the network.

Three Provocations

1. Who Has the Power to Define Us? *Identity, Law, and Democratic Recognition*
How do legal and institutional frameworks determine which identities are recognised, protected, or excluded? Can democratic institutions promote equality while reinforcing existing categories and boundaries?
Potential speakers: Sara Arruti, Beñat Maiz, or Ihintza Palacin.

2. Are We Still in Control of Who We Are? *Identity, Technology, and Human Agency*

How do AI, algorithmic classifications, and emerging technologies reshape identities and individual agency? Who controls the categories through which people are represented and governed?
Speaker: Aitor Jiménez

3. When Does Identity Become a Battleground? *Belonging, Polarisation, and Democratic Conflict*
How do collective identities become instruments of solidarity, exclusion, or political mobilisation? When do struggles for recognition strengthen democracy, and when do they deepen polarisation?
Potential speakers: Magdalena Bobowik, Joseba García Martín, or Irene Cisma.

Each speaker will deliver a **10-minute intervention**, presenting one central argument, a concrete example, and an open question for interdisciplinary discussion.

Proposed Programme

Time	Session	Format
10:00–10:15	Welcome & Identity Spectrum	Opening remarks and interactive exercise
10:15–11:00	**Identity Under Pressure: Three Provocations**	Three short interventions and initial reactions
11:00–11:30	**The Hot Questions**	Moderated interdisciplinary debate
11:30–11:50	Democracy Coffee Break	Informal networking
11:50–12:30	**Identity Dilemmas**	Small-group discussions
12:30–12:50	**One Thing I Hadn't Considered**	Collective reflections and plenary discussion
12:50–13:00	Closing & Next Steps	Final reflections and brief network updates

Participatory Dynamics

- **The Identity Spectrum.** Participants respond to a provocative statement, such as *"Identity is primarily something we choose, rather than something assigned to us."* A brief exchange reveals contrasting disciplinary assumptions.
- **The Hot Questions.** Participants submit questions following the three provocations. The moderator selects questions that connect different perspectives and encourage dialogue between speakers and participants.

- **Identity Dilemmas.** Small interdisciplinary groups discuss one of three hypothetical cases: an AI system categorising vulnerable citizens; a language policy balancing minority recognition and inclusion; or a political movement demanding protection for a supposedly threatened majority identity. Groups consider the tensions involved and how different disciplines might interpret them. A member of each group reports.
- **One Thing I Hadn't Considered.** Participants share an unexpected insight, challenged assumption, or unresolved question emerging from their discussions, highlighting the value of interdisciplinary exchange.

Format and Expected Outcomes

The event will adopt an **informal, interactive, and participatory format**, with round-table seating, coffee available throughout, and minimal reliance on PowerPoint presentations.

In-person attendance is strongly encouraged, as face-to-face interaction is central to fostering meaningful interdisciplinary exchange and strengthening connections within the EHU Node. However, **remote participation will also be available** for members unable to attend in person. No advance preparation will be required from participants other than the invited speakers.

The primary objective is to **stimulate intellectual curiosity, foster mutual understanding, and strengthen the sense of community** within the EHU Node. The most promising questions and insights emerging from the discussions may also serve as starting points for future ENLIGHT IDenti-T activities and interdisciplinary collaborations.

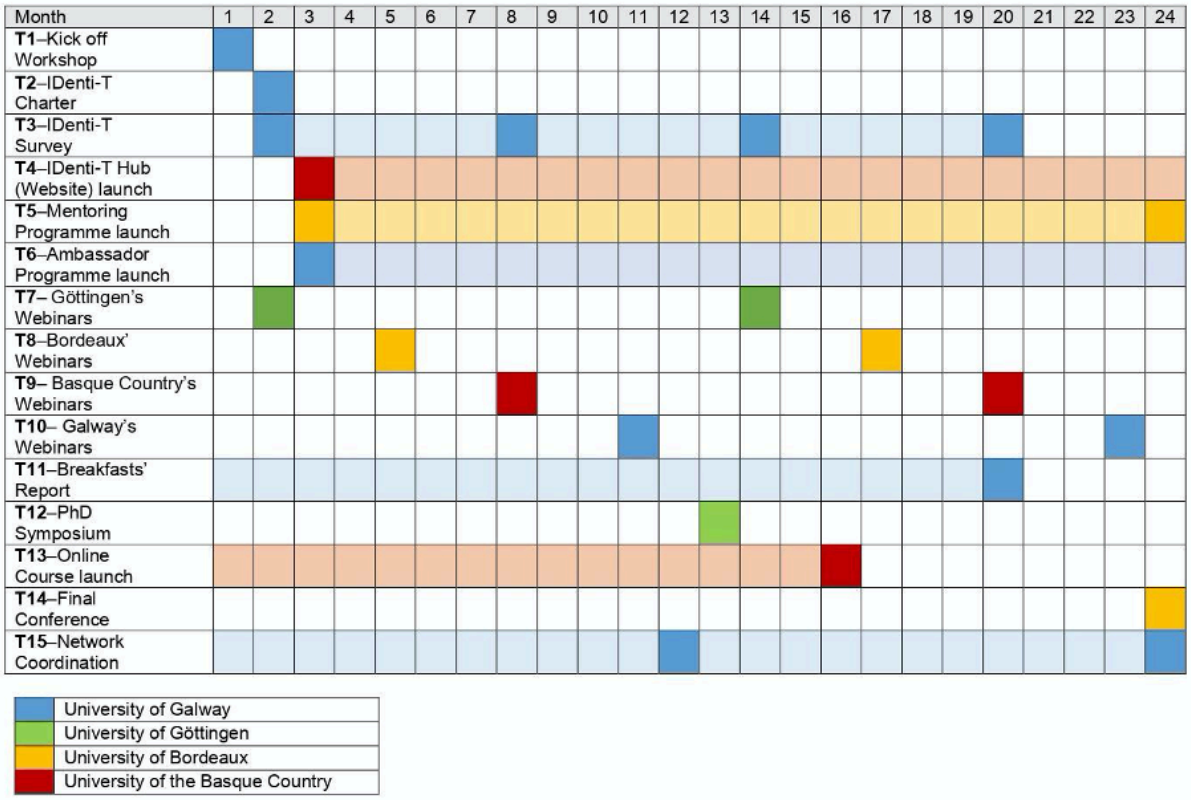
Attendance

Nº	EHU Node members	In-Person Attendance	Online Attendance	Unable to Attend
1	Aitor Jiménez	**X**		
2	Andrea Meijomil González			**X**
3	Beñat Maiz Lourido			
4	Ekain Payán Ellacuria	**X**		
5	Elizabeth Pérez Izaguirre			**X**
6	Estibaliz Cepa Rodríguez			**X**
7	Ignacia Perugorría	**X**		
8	Idoia Landa Reza		**X**	
9	Ihintza Palacin Mariscal			
10	Iker Nabaskues Martínez de Eulate			
11	Irene Cisma Díaz		**X** (From 12h onwards)	
12	Itziar Rodríguez Gago		**X**	
13	Joseba García Martín	**X**		
14	Lorea Azpiazu Izaguirre			**X**
15	Magdalena Bobowik	**X**		
16	Maider Zilbeti			**X**
17	Maitane Arnoso Martínez			
18	Maria Cañas Miguel			
19	Nagore Arbaiza Lekue		**X**	
20	Olga Vicente Sarasúa		**X**	
21	Omar García Zabaleta			**X**
22	Sara Arruti Benito			**X**
23	Teresa Casas Grille	**X**		
24	Hue Thien Ta		**X**	
	Total			

EHU Node Responsibilities

Lead	Participate
• Develop and host the **website** (website launch: January 2026) • Organise **2 webinars** (June 2026 y 2027) • Coordinate the **online course** (launch: January 2028)	• Attend kick-off workshop in Galway • Attend webinars • Participate in the mentoring programme • Organise **bi-annual democracy breakfasts** • Encourage students in the University of the Basque Country to produce outputs as part of the ambassador programme

IDenti-T Timeline 2025-2027



EHU Node Webinar #1: *Algorithms of Belonging & Digital Frontlines: Platform Infrastructures, Identity Politics and Borderless Radicalization. A Global North–South Dialogue*

Presenters

- Camilo Tamayo Gómez, University of Huddersfield
- Ottavia Galuzzi, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Moderator: Ignacia Perugorría

When? Wednesday, July 8th, from 12:00 to 14:00 CET
Format: Online
More information available here

EHU Node Webinar #2: *Sacred Politics, Contested Democracies: Faith, Identity and the New Right in Comparative Perspective*
Presenters
Moderator: Joseba García Martín
When?
Format: Online
More information available here

Potential future webinars:

EHU Node Webinar #3: *Borders of Belonging: Migration, Diversity and the Far-Right Politics of Exclusion*

EHU Node Webinar #4: *The Politics of Backlash: Anti-Gender Mobilisation, Anti-Rights Movements, and the New Far Right*

EHU Node Webinar #5: *Contesting the Far Right: Collective Resistance, Democratic Solidarities and the Politics of Hope*