TRANSFORMATIONS COMMUNITY

CASE FOR SUPPORT

PRACTICE IN *MOTION*

BILBAO
11–14
OCTOBER 2027

Case for Support and Collaboration

Transformations Community 8th Biennial Conference
11–14 October 2027 | Palacio Euskalduna, Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain

1 Transformations 2027

How is the practice of sustainability transformation itself being transformed?

This question shapes TC27, a gathering grounded in transdisciplinary research, practice and inquiry on sustainability transformations. It brings different disciplines, knowledge traditions and fields of practice into shared inquiry, welcoming contributions through research, situated experience, experimentation and critical reflection. Over four days in Bilbao, we will investigate what is changing in how we understand, organise and undertake transformation work, and what we can learn from one another in the process.

Practice in *Motion* invites us to investigate these changes together.

2 The Transformations Community

The Transformations Community brings together people engaged in sustainability transformations through transdisciplinary research, practice and inquiry. Since 2013, TC's biennial conferences have provided opportunities to share knowledge, examine assumptions, develop methods, build relationships and investigate how transformation itself is changing across different contexts. TC also works through dialogues, publications, creative formats and smaller gatherings.

The 2025 conference, co-hosted with the Earth System Governance Project and Wits University in Johannesburg, was the first in Africa. It connected science, policy, art, and practice around sustainability transformations toward justice and equity, shaped by strong local leadership. The 2023 conference ran as a hybrid event across Sydney, Prague, Maine and online, with more than 700 attendees and 400 speakers.

TC/ESG 2025

400+	50+	330+	130
participants	countries	speakers	sessions

TC27 is expected to bring together 300–500 participants, including researchers, practitioners, policy and civic actors, artists, facilitators, funders and institutional leaders from around the world. TC27 will bring regional and international communities into conversation in Bilbao, creating opportunities to learn across places, disciplines, sectors and traditions of knowledge.

Bilbao's Palacio Euskalduna stands on the site of the former Euskalduna shipyard, in a city whose post-industrial transformation raises questions about who benefits from change, what is carried forward and whose experiences are less visible. The region carries a strong cultural and linguistic identity and traditions of civic organisation.

3 Opportunities for support and collaboration

There is no single way to be part of TC27. We invite organisations whose work and commitments align with the Transformations Community's focus on sustainability transformations research and practice to contribute through financial support, substantive collaboration, or a combination of both. These contributions help shape the conditions for participation, learning and exchange, and create opportunities for relationships and activities that extend beyond the conference.

Financial support: what your contribution makes possible

Partner contributions go to the parts of TC27 that registration fees alone cannot carry: who can attend, how people meet, and what lasts after the week. Support can make participation possible for people who would otherwise not be there, including early-career researchers and practitioners, community partners, artists and participants from the Global South. It can enable accessibility, interpretation and care, as well as creative and arts-based practices that go beyond conventional presentations.

Financial contributions can also support place-based learning with initiatives in Bilbao and the wider Basque Country, with fair compensation and reciprocity for local hosts. Documentation, synthesis, learning briefs and recordings can help carry what was learned into the wider Transformations Community.

> A contribution of **€1,500** could, for example, help cover travel and registration for one participant who could not otherwise attend. Support may be directed towards a particular activity, combined across several areas, or contribute more broadly to the conference.

Substantive collaboration: what we can develop together

While the TC27 programme takes shape through the contributions of individuals and groups, it is the relationships made and reinforced that nourish transformations practice and inquiry. Our partnership approach reflects TC's guiding principles: transdisciplinarity, translocalism, transformative learning and temperance. Together, these principles create space for different kinds of knowledge and contribution, learning across places and communities, and a dynamic balance between individual strengths and what we can make possible collectively.

If your research group, institution or initiative is working on sustainability transformations, we welcome a conversation about how you might contribute to TC27. Collaboration could involve bringing together a research network, developing a workshop or shared inquiry, facilitating place-based learning, or exploring publishing and knowledge exchange opportunities. These arrangements can be developed with the TC27 team to support the interests of participating communities while contributing to the wider conference inquiry.

Collaboration may begin with TC27 and develop through continuing research, inquiry, learning and practice. The conference offers a starting point for relationships that can carry ideas and activities beyond Bilbao.

4 An invitation to participate

We welcome organisations whose work and commitments align with the Transformations Community, especially those that support sustainability transformations, equity and justice; transdisciplinary learning and knowledge exchange; responsible research, innovation and practice; reciprocal, place-based and community-engaged approaches; and ecological, social and cultural resilience. TC27 partners contribute to the conditions for participation and help extend learning and exchange beyond the conference. Financial support does not confer influence over proposal review, speaker selection, session acceptance or conference governance. Opportunities for substantive collaboration, co-curation and programme development are agreed with the TC27 team and guided by the conference's principles.

We are happy to shape a partnership around your priorities, combine opportunities, or discuss in-kind support. The best first step is a short conversation about what your organisation cares about and where your support would matter most.

Let's explore some possibilities together.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

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