TC27 TRANSFORMATIONS COMMUNITY

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PRACTICE IN *MOTION*

DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2027

TC27 Submission Guide

1 Welcome to TC27

Transformations Community 2027 takes place in Bilbao, Spain, 11–14 October 2027, around one question: **“How is the practice of sustainability transformation itself being transformed?”** Proposals are due **31 January 2027, 23:59 Anywhere on Earth (AoE, UTC−12)**.

This guide explains the contribution formats, how to prepare each part of the proposal form, and how proposals are reviewed. Read it before you start; the form itself is short and cannot be saved or edited after you submit.

Read it alongside the Guidelines for Authors and Presenters, which set out the requirements for extended abstracts, references, authorship, review and publication.

TC27 is for researchers, practitioners, artists, activists, policy makers, community members and independent contributors who are working on and thinking about what is changing in the practice of transformation. Collectively, we will explore how we research, facilitate, organise, govern, care and create, and what this asks of us as practitioners. Proposals that show both a contribution (an argument, a method, a case, an experience) and a question it raises for the wider community fit this gathering best. Bring an individual contribution, convene a complete session or workshop, offer a creative, embodied or relational experience—early ideas are welcome—you can describe your work in your own terms.

2 How the gathering is shaped

Curated and convened sessions. Individual contributions (Sparks) are grouped by the programme team into curated sessions with related contributions. All other formats are proposals to convene a complete session or activity, which you design and run.

Three currents. TC27 invites encounters among people, practices and ways of knowing that don’t need to become the same to learn from one another. Three currents run through this gathering: artistic inquiry and creative practice, inner transformations, and care and relational practice. Each offers a way to explore what transformative work asks of us, including how we relate, imagine, question and act. We welcome contributions that bring these dimensions into the gathering through workshops, performances, installations, dialogue and other forms of shared inquiry, in any format.

3 TC27 Themes

The form asks you to tick the thematic tags that connect with your proposal. Tags indicate links between contributions and help curate the programme. They are optional, they overlap, and they do not place you in a fixed track. Tick as many as fit. Note that ticking “Care and relational practice” does not enter you into the Transformative Caring workshop co-curation process; for that, choose format G.

Changing agency and responsibility

Who acts, who decides and who is accountable as transformation work changes? This area invites inquiry into the shifting roles of researchers, practitioners, funders, communities and change agents; on taking on or handing over responsibility; on agency of more-than-human actors; and on what it means to act well when outcomes are uncertain.

Institutions and power in a changing world

How are governance, democracy, multilateralism, markets and organisations reshaping, or being reshaped by, transformation practice? Here we open questions about power and its redistribution, colonial legacies and decolonial praxis, policy and legal interventions, democratic innovation, and practice under political pressure or shrinking resources.

Knowledge, trust and action

How do knowledge, evidence and trust move between people and into action? Contributions may explore co-production across knowledge systems (including Indigenous and local knowledge), transdisciplinary methods, disruptive technologies and AI, mis- and disinformation, monitoring and learning, and the relationship between knowing and doing.

Artistic inquiry and creative practice

What can artistic inquiry and creative practice reveal, challenge or make possible in transformative work? Contributions may include arts-based research, performances, installations, participatory practices and creative interventions that explore relationships, identities, power, place, imagination and different ways of knowing and experiencing change. Artistic work has room here to challenge, surprise, delight and provoke on its own terms, not only to support dialogue or other session goals. Engaging with Bilbao and its own story of transformation is one possibility, not an expectation.

Inner transformations, identity and changing practice

Guiding question: What is happening to us as the work changes, and what capacities do we need to respond well? You might present research on capacities worth protecting in times of disruption; share a practical example of understanding your own agency differently or taking on new responsibilities; or propose experiences, methods or embodied and relational formats that shift how people understand their situation, their work and themselves as practitioners.

Care and relational practice

Guiding question: How can care shape the way we work, relate, navigate power, and engage with disagreement in transformative practice? You might give a Spark (Speed Talk) on radical or nature-sensitive approaches to care, or describe a case that addresses symbolic power in sustainability transformations. Care-related contributions are welcome in any of formats A–F. If you want to commit to a co-curated inquiry on care, see the Transformative Caring workshop co-curation process (format G) in section 5.

Other

If your work fits none of these, choose “Other” and name your theme in a few words. Proposals that speak directly to the core question are always in scope.

4 Choosing a format

Pick the format that matches what you want to do with participants, not only what you want to say. If you have one piece of work to share, choose A. If you want to design and run a whole session, choose B–E. For artistic, creative, embodied or between-session ideas, choose F. To join the Transformative Caring workshop co-curation process, which is opt-in and involves a longer commitment, choose G. See the TC27 Formats table for details.

5 The formats in detail

Every proposal includes a descriptive title and a short program summary of up to 200 words (300 words for format F). This summary may be used in the conference program if the proposal is accepted. Additional submission requirements depend on the contribution format and are described below.

Contributors should also consult the Guidelines for Authors and Contributors, which establish common standards for preparing contributions, including requirements for extended abstracts, references, authorship, review, and publication.

The format-specific questions help reviewers understand the proposed contribution, its design, and its potential for learning and exchange. These responses are used in reviewing and planning the conference and are not normally published as program descriptions

Select a format to open its details.

A Sparks (research paper or practical case)

Details ▾

Sparks are speed talks: a 7-minute, focused presentation of one piece of research or practice, followed by a small-group discussion that you host. We group Sparks into curated sessions of up to six presenters around a shared thread.

Extended abstract (300–500 words): Describe the context, purpose, approach, and contribution of your research or practice. Include a descriptive title, 4–6 keywords, and relevant references. These are not prescribed headings. The title, keywords, and references are excluded from the word count. Extended abstracts are peer-reviewed and published in TC's open-access conference proceedings. Refer to the Guidelines for Authors and Contributors for detailed preparation, review, and publication requirements.

Sparking Inquiry (up to 100 words): Identify a question, insight, dilemma, or tension arising from the work that you wish to explore with participants. Explain how this could open a wider conversation.

Expected outcomes (up to 100 words): Describe what you hope participants will take from the exchange and what you hope to learn through the discussion.

A TYPICAL CURATED SESSION (90 MIN)

1 Opening by the session chair (5 min)
2 Up to six Sparks of 7 minutes each (about 42 min)
3 Breakout discussions: participants join the presenter they want to talk with (about 35 min)
4 Each group shares one insight; the chair closes (about 8 min)

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR THE FORM

- **Discussion plan (100 words):** one question or dilemma from your work that participants can explore, and how you will open the conversation.
- **Expected outcomes (100 words):** the insight, practical implication or open question participants should leave with, and what you hope to learn from them.

Tip: a strong Spark makes one clear point and asks one good question. Save the full details for the discussion.

B Pre-Organised Panel Talk

Details ▾

A panel brings together several contributors around a question that holds them together. Each panellist speaks for up to 7 minutes; the rest of the session is for moderated exchange and participant discussion. You can use a classic panel with Q&A, or alternate short inputs with small-group discussion and panel responses.

ONE POSSIBLE DESIGN (90 MIN)

1 Chair introduces the question (5 min)
2 Two or three short inputs, then small-group discussion (6 min), then panellists respond (7 min); repeat with the remaining panellists (about 70 min)
3 Groups share key points, panellists reflect, chair synthesises next steps (15 min)

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR THE FORM

- **Contributors and perspectives (150 words):** what each panellist brings, how their views complement or challenge each other, and whether each is confirmed or proposed. Add each active panellist and the moderator in the presenter section.
- **Session design (350 words):** the shared question, the sequence and timing, who moderates, and how the session closes. Together with the contributors field, this forms your 500-word session plan.
- **Intended audience and participation (250 words):** who benefits, including people outside academia and outside your networks, and how they will contribute.
- **Expected outcomes (250 words):** what should become clearer, be questioned or become possible.

Tip: diverse panels are reviewed more favourably, across disciplines, sectors, regions and career stages, and with practitioner or community voices where relevant.

C Interactive Dialogue

Details ▾

An Interactive Dialogue is a facilitated conversation in which participants, not presenters, do most of the talking. Short inputs (about 5 minutes each) can seed the dialogue.

EXAMPLES OF METHODS

- **World Café:** themed tables with a host and a 5-minute input each; participants rotate through tables in 15–20-minute rounds; hosts share highlights in plenary.
- **Fishbowl:** two or three short inputs, then an inner circle in conversation while others listen; anyone can step in to take a seat; reflections from both circles close the session.
- **Your own method,** such as open space, structured debate, deep listening circles or scenario conversations.

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR THE FORM

- **Dialogue design (500 words):** the central question, the method and how it unfolds, how you work with disagreement, and how you close.
- **Intended participants (250 words):** whose perspectives matter, and how you will include people of different backgrounds and confidence, including first-time participants.
- **Expected outcomes (250 words):** what understanding, connection or open question could emerge, and how participants will capture it.

D T-Lab (Transformations Lab)

Details ▾

A T-Lab is a hands-on session to explore a practice, a policy, or both. It might demonstrate a tool, method, game, or process and let participants try it; use simulation or role play; or bring researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and community members together on a real policy case. T-Labs last 1.5 hours.

A TYPICAL STRUCTURE (1.5 H)

1 Context and objectives (10 min)
2 Main activity: demonstration, hands-on work and/or policy dialogue (60 min)
3 Reflection on applications, limits and action points (20 min)

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR THE FORM

- **Focus and session design (500 words):** the challenge, the approach, tool or case, the activity, your facilitation, and how you close.
- **Intended participants and preparation (250 words):** who the lab is for, any materials or preparation, and how newcomers can take part. Maximum 30 participants in person.
- **Expected outcomes (250 words):** what participants will be able to do, understand or assess differently, and what remains open.

E TransAction workshop

Details ▾

TransAction workshops are skills-oriented sessions of a half day (3 hours) or a full day, held on the differentiated programme day [Tuesday 12 October, to confirm], before the shared convergence phase. They suit work that needs time: building competences, developing a method together, or making progress on a shared problem. Insights may be carried into the convergence days.

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR THE FORM

- **Whole proposal:** up to 1,500 words, including your 200-word summary and presenter bios, which are limited to 100 words each for this format. Within that total, there is no fixed limit per question.
- **Workshop focus and engagement plan:** the issue or opportunity, the stages and activities, facilitation methods, and how you close with learnings and next steps.
- **Intended participants and preparation:** the useful mix of experience, any preparation, and how people outside your network can join. Maximum 30 participants in person.
- **Expected outcomes and follow-through:** the skills or understanding participants gain, and what could continue afterwards.

F Creative, experiential or other contribution

Details ▾

This is the open door for artistic work, exhibitions and installations, performances, film, embodied or relational sessions, creative workshops, local encounters, outdoor activities and anything that happens between sessions. Artistic work is welcome on its own terms; it doesn’t need to be designed as a facilitated session. Interest in co-creating with others is welcome.

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR THE FORM

- **Summary (up to 300 words):** for this format, your summary can be longer than in other formats. Describe the proposal and how it contributes to transformation theory or practice.
- **Type of contribution:** tick all that apply.
- **Describe the work or experience (no fixed limit; keep it focused):** what people will encounter or do, and its tone (for example, energetic, quiet or provocative). For a session, how it unfolds from arrival to closing. For an exhibition, installation or performance, the work and how people will meet it.
- **Participation and care (no fixed limit; keep it focused):** ideal and maximum numbers, any sign-up or preparation, and how people with different abilities can join or opt out without feeling excluded.
- **Practical needs:** add what you already know about timing (including set-up and take-down), space and setting (room or corridor, privacy, seating, light, acoustics, outdoor and weather backup, hybrid), equipment and materials (what you bring and what you need from us), and any extra volunteers or indicative costs such as shipping or supplies. “To be developed” is fine.
- **Work samples or links** (optional).

G Transformative Caring workshop co-curation process (opt-in)

Details ▾

Violeta Cabello and Alevgul Sorman from the Participatory Processes and Care group at the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) invite proposals for 2-hour workshops as part of Transformative Caring, a co-curated one-and-a-half-day process on 11–12 October 2027. The process explores the question: “How do we cultivate collective care for one another while transforming ourselves within a world marked by overlapping and intensifying crises?

Choosing G means joining the Transformative Caring workshop co-curation process, which runs from early 2027 until the conference. If your idea is taken forward, you will join two 1.5-hour collective sessions (April and September 2027), co-design a session with a small transdisciplinary team between May and August, and take part in the workshop on 11–12 October 2027. Ideas may be clustered, so you might develop your session together with others rather than on your own. If you want to share care-related work without joining this process, choose one of formats A–F and tick the “Care and relational practice” tag.

You might propose an embodied workshop, a conflict transformation experiment, an exploration of infrastructures of care that redistribute power, an immersive role play or a reflexive dialogue forum. Researchers, philosophers, artists, practitioners, activists, policy makers and anyone interested are welcome.

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR THE FORM

- **Workshop idea and approach (300 words):** what you want to explore and how.
- **Intended participants (100 words):** who should take part, and how people from different backgrounds can join.
- **Contribution to the shared inquiry (100 words):** what your workshop adds to the collective exploration of care and to the wider TC27 programme.
- **Commitment:** a checkbox confirming that you understand proposing to Transformative Caring means joining its co-curation process.
- **Wider programme:** whether the TC27 programme team may consider your workshop for the wider programme if it is not selected for Transformative Caring (yes or no).

G proposals are reviewed by Violeta and Alev, who also contact applicants about the outcome and next steps. The TC27 team supports this process. If your workshop isn’t selected for Transformative Caring and you answered yes, the TC27 programme team will consider it for the wider programme, with no new submission needed. Participants will decide together how to share what emerges from Transformative Caring with the wider Transformations Community.

TC27 Formats

FORMAT	BEST FOR	YOU PROPOSE	LENGTH	GROUP	FORM QUESTIONS
A. Sparks (Speed Talk)	Sharing one research finding, case or practice and opening a discussion on it	One 7-minute talk, placed in a curated session	7 min talk + small-group discussion within a 90-min session	Whole session audience	Discussion plan, expected outcomes (200 words)
B. Pre-Organised Panel Talk	Bringing 3–5 contrasting perspectives on one shared question	A complete session	90 min	Open	Contributors, design, audience, outcomes (1,000 words)
C. Interactive Dialogue	A facilitated conversation (World Café, Fishbowl or your own method)	A complete session	90 min	Open	Design, participants, outcomes (1,000 words)
D. T-Lab	Hands-on work with a tool, method, game or policy case	A complete session	1.5 h, or 3 h on request	Max. 30 in person	Focus and design, participants, outcomes (1,000 words)
E. TransAction workshop	Sustained, skills-oriented work on the differentiated day	A half- or full-day workshop	3 h or full day	Max. 30 in person	Focus and plan, participants, outcomes (whole proposal max. 1,500 words, incl. summary and bios)
F. Creative, experiential or other	Artistic work, exhibitions, performances, embodied or relational sessions, outdoor or between-session activities	A work, activity or installation	Your choice	Your choice	Summary up to 300 words; type, description of the work or experience, participation, practical needs (no fixed limits)
G. Transformative caring workshop co-curation process (opt-in)	Joining a co-curated inquiry on collective care, led by Violeta and Alev	A 2-hour workshop within the 1.5-day Transformative Caring process	2 h, on 11–12 Oct	Your estimate	Idea and approach, participants, contribution (500 words); commitment; wider programme

Still unsure? Write your summary and choose the closest format. Reviewers and the programme team may suggest a different format if it would serve your contribution better. You can also ask us first at info@transformationscommunity.org.

6 Presenters, co-authors and roles

List only the people who will actively present or facilitate, up to five per proposal. The first person is the lead presenter and our main contact. Everyone listed appears as a speaker in the programme and needs to register for the conference.

For each presenter, you will need: name, email, organisation or community (“Independent” is fine), country of residence, role, a bio of up to 150 words, and optionally LinkedIn, a website and a photo. We also ask whether each presenter identifies as an Early Career Researcher (ECR).

ROLE	USE FOR
Lead presenter	The main contact; presents or facilitates
Co-presenter	Presents part of the contribution
Moderator	Chairs a panel or manages the exchange
Facilitator	Guides a dialogue, lab, workshop or experience

For moderators and facilitators, mention relevant facilitation experience in the bio. Reviewers consider whether the team can run the session well.

Co-authors: Include only those who will actively present or facilitate in the presenter fields. List all authors, including those who will not present, at the beginning of the extended abstract, immediately after the title and before the abstract text. See the Guidelines for Authors and Presenters for authorship requirements.

Number of appearances. You may submit more than one proposal and appear in more than one. To give as many people as possible a place in the programme, we may limit how many accepted appearances one person has.

7 How proposals are reviewed

Extended abstracts undergo single-anonymized peer review by two reviewers.

1. **Review.** Proposals are assessed against four equally weighted criteria, with consideration given to the requirements of each contribution format.
2. **Programming.** The program team makes the final decisions, drawing on reviews and considerations of balance across formats, themes, regions, and career stages, as well as available space.
3. **Outcome and feedback.** You will hear the outcome by the end of March 2027. We intend to share reviewers' comments with you along with the outcome.

The four criteria (25% each)

CRITERION	REVIEWERS ASK
Fit with the central inquiry	Does the proposal speak to how the practice of sustainability transformation is changing? Does it engage with justice, equity, power or care where relevant?
Clarity and coherence	Are aims, approach and outcomes stated and consistent with each other? Is the plan realistic for the format and the time?
Engagement and participation	Does the design involve people actively and inclusively, in a way that suits the format?
Contribution and originality	Does it bring a new perspective, method, case, practice or form of expression?

Reviewers score each criterion on a five-point scale according to how fully the proposal meets it:

SCORE	MEANING
5	Fully meets the criterion
4	Largely meets the criterion
3	Partly meets the criterion
2	Minimally meets the criterion
1	Does not meet the criterion

What the criteria look like in each format

Reviewers apply the same four criteria to every format, with these points in mind:

FORMAT	REVIEWERS LOOK FOR
A. Sparks Extended Abstract	A clearly articulated research or practice contribution, grounded in an appropriate approach, with findings, emerging insights, or promising directions for further inquiry, and a question or tension that invites meaningful exchange.
B. Panel	A well-defined shared question, contributors with distinct perspectives, and real time for audience participation and synthesis
C. Interactive Dialogue	A clear structure and participant roles, a method suited to the question, and facilitators able to run it well
D. T-Lab	A genuine hands-on or policy component, a plan realistic for up to 30 people, and attention to applications and limits
E. TransAction workshop	Skills or practical understanding participants can build, a design realistic for the time, and a path for follow-through
F. Creative, experiential or other	Artistic, creative or relational quality with room to challenge, surprise or move people on its own terms; welcome and inclusion; realistic logistics
G. Transformative Caring workshop co-curation process	A meaningful inquiry into collective care, suited to 2 hours and to a mixed group

Research-oriented and practice-oriented contributions

Research-oriented contributions (disciplinary or interdisciplinary) are judged on a clear question, sound methods and solid theoretical grounding, and on what they add to current debates.

Practice-oriented contributions (transdisciplinary or co-produced) are judged on meaningful involvement of non-academic partners, integration of different knowledge systems including Indigenous and local knowledge, attention to power and whose voices are heard, practical relevance, and potential for learning and change beyond the session.

Transformative Caring proposals

Transformative Caring (format G) proposals are reviewed by Violeta and Alev, using the same four criteria, with emphasis on their contribution to the shared inquiry on care. If a G proposal isn’t selected for Transformative Caring, it moves into the general review.

8 Practical information

Key dates

DATE	MILESTONE
31 January 2027, 23:59 Anywhere on Earth (AoE, UTC−12)	**Submission deadline (all formats, including Transformative Caring)**
31 March 2027	Notification of outcomes
11 October 2027	Shared arrival and opening
12 October 2027	Differentiated programme: community gatherings, TransAction workshops, Transformative Caring
13–14 October 2027	Shared convergence phase

Before you submit

- Write your text in a separate document first. The form cannot be saved as a draft or edited after submission.
- Submit one proposal per form. You can submit several.
- Allow 20–30 minutes, and have presenter details and bios (max. 150 words each; 100 for TransAction) ready.
- Keep to word limits. Longer text may be shortened.
- Check your proposal against the Guidelines for Authors and Presenters.

Visa invitation letters

If you need a visa invitation letter, say so in the form. Visa processes can take months, so start as soon as you are accepted.

Accessibility and inclusion

Tell us about any accessibility, language or other needs in the “Space, equipment and support” field (or under “Participation and care” for format F). We aim for sessions that welcome people across backgrounds, abilities, career stages and knowledge systems, and we encourage you to design yours the same way.

Tips for a strong proposal

- Make the link to the core question explicit: what is changing in your practice, and what question does that raise?
- Design for participation. Reviewers look closely at how participants will contribute, not only listen.
- Be concrete about timing, roles and outcomes, and realistic about what fits in the time.
- Write for a mixed audience. Avoid jargon, and explain any method by what people will actually do.

Before you submit, read the Guidelines for Authors and Presenters. They explain how to prepare your contribution and how it will be reviewed and published.