

# BUSINESS CASE

## Pilot study



## Etxegoki

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## Pilot identification

Organisation: **Diputación Foral de Bizkaia**

Current phase: **In use**

City: **Bilbao**

Country: **Spain**

## Pilot overview

### General presentation

Etxegoki is a resource with 32 assisted apartments for persons with functional disabilities managed by the Coordinating Federation for Persons with Functional and Organic Disabilities of Bizkaia, (BC, Spain) or FEKOOR, which combines social and technological innovation to create a support system which promotes independent living.

This resource is a result of the joint work with the Bizkaia Regional Government (funding the project), and it was jointly created by the members of FEKOOR. The concept of "participatory design" has played a significant role in the general design and management of the "Etxegoki" assisted apartments, with the persons with functional diversity being involved themselves being the backbone of the entire project. The philosophy of this 34-resident community is that each person, with their functional diversity, has the support systems that they need to carry out their life project and make their own life decisions, respecting their decision-making and independence.

## Project team

Diputación Foral de Bizkaia; FEKOOR.

**Homes4Life**

EUROPEAN CERTIFICATION FOR AGEING IN PLACE



Homes4Life is a project which received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 826295.



## Key highlights

### Age-friendliness approach

The model of the Etxegoki is based on encouraging independent lifestyles through a system based on personalized support and environments that promote community participation, enabling the residents to obtain a higher degree of control over their own lives, through individual support plans. Besides, the resource's intervention model is based on the social transformation partnership project by FEKOOR and interacts positively with society as a whole so that persons with functional diversity occupy their rightful place in society as part of their basic rights and obligations, promoting conditions for universal accessibility, design for all and equal opportunities and also to enjoy freedom of choice, equality, participation and full citizenship. The ethical use of technology combined with flexible and personalized human support are the keys to the success of this resource, that aims to achieve the social activation of people to boost their community participation and quality of life.



### PHYSICAL

Etxegoki apartments have the cutting-edge technology to facilitate the development of each of the residents. The support technology in each of the 32 individual apartments is personalized, accessible and adapted to the needs, habits and customs of each person in order to improve the quality of life in aspects such as communication, safety, recreation, comfort and above all, functional independence.



### ECONOMIC

The model has several benefits: Better quality of life, degree of autonomy, better response to unforeseen situations, social and professional development of the individual, improvement in communication and performance of everyday life activities and self-esteem, reduction of need for support, reduction of care costs, improvement in the implementation and development of the independent living model.



### PERSONAL

Etxegoki draws on the concept of personal dignity and the recognition of the worth of each individual. Made of a community of residents with functional diversity, has the aim of enabling them to take charge of their own lives. Their participation in the design and running of Etxegoki serves as a proactive catalyst for their independence and responsibility in the management of the service.



### SOCIAL

Etxegoki has implied the creation of secure, healthy surroundings in a functional and sustainable building contributing in the advance of social transformation. It has provoked changes in the nearby surroundings with the suppression of architectural but also social barriers and contributed to achieve universal accessibility conditions and equal opportunities for all people in the surroundings.



### OUTDOOR ACCESS

The opening of the apartment complex, located in one of the most iconic districts in the city of Bilbao, has changed the immediate surroundings, breaking architectural and social barriers. Its location and connection with the urban community is one of the strengths of the project, encouraging participation in the local community, improving access to shops, community resources and training centres.



**A good opportunity to become independent and to set myself the challenge of becoming more autonomous” | “It has meant socialising with the environment” | “I have learnt to live. I decide my support, if I can't decide I'm not living my life” | “I make my own decisions, with the necessary support those who want to, can” | “I have gained freedom and intimacy” | Ander Urbiola, Amaia Olabarria, Maite Cabezudo and Juan Salgado. Neighbours at Etxegoki**