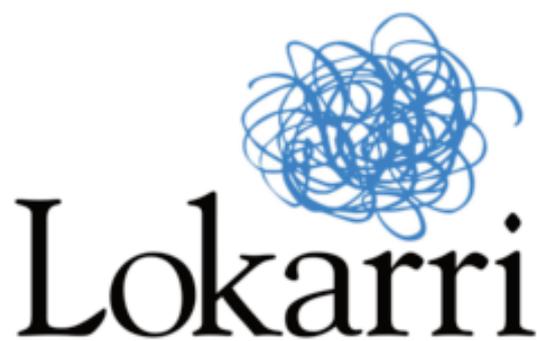


www.lokarri.org



Citizen network for agreement and consultation Basque Country

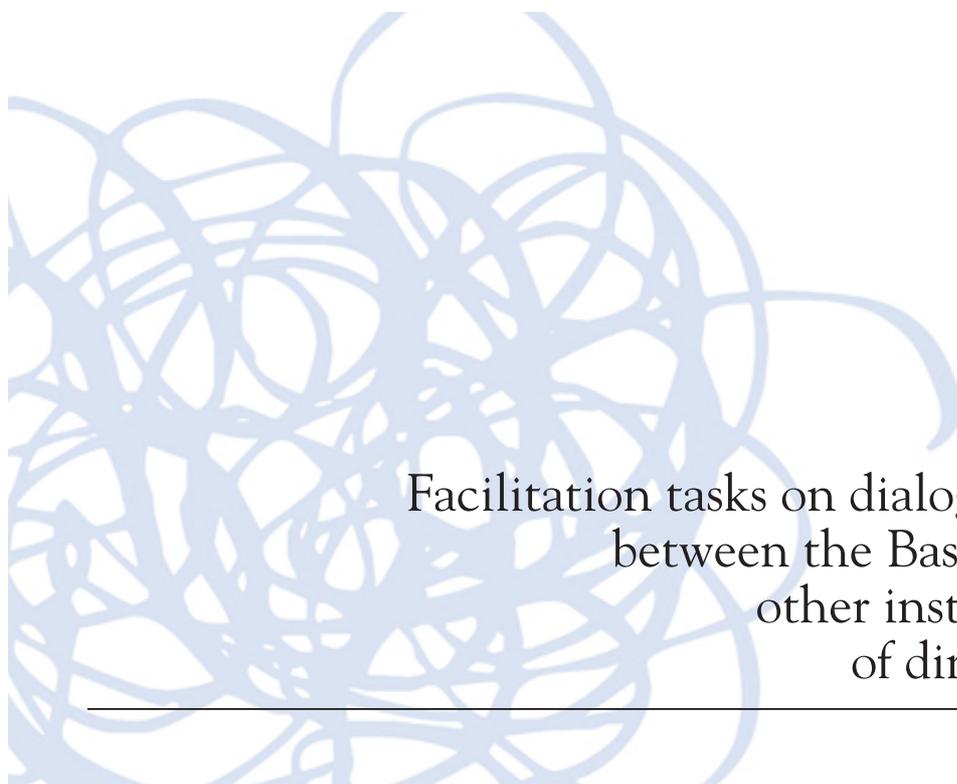
Lokarri is a citizen network that works in the Basque Country to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation. It is an independent, diverse and non-profit organization that has 2,000 members and a community of participants of more than 30,000 people.

Its action in the Basque process of the resolution of the conflict includes two key areas: 1) the tasks of facilitating dialogue and communication among Basque political parties and 2) the promotion of direct citizen participation.

In this regard, in recent years it has worked with several international individuals and organizations, such as the **International Contact Group**, that have collaborated in the Basque peace process, being the clearest example the promotion of the **International Conference** held on October 17th, 2011. That conference brought together a significant group of international personalities and a wide representation of Basque political parties and social agents, being the basis for ETA to declare the end of their armed activity. Lokarri has also organized recently the **Social Forum to promote the peace process**.

Lokarri also wants to offer to the public opinion contrasted situation analysis through several publications, press releases or public conferences.





Our work:

Facilitation tasks on dialogue and communication between the Basque political parties and other institutions, and promotion of direct citizen participation

On March 12, 2006 the Constitutional Assembly was held for Lokarri, citizen network for agreement and consultation, whose origin lies in the work of **Elkarri**, social movement for dialogue and agreement. Elkarri decided in its 8th and final general assembly to begin the creation of a new social organization, adapted to a new situation and new goals. Though Elkarri's mission has been completed, the peace effort should continue. Elkarri contributed to preparing for the peace process, Lokarri will contribute to developing it fully.

From the beginning Lokarri works for peace and the normalization of coexistence in Basque Country. Its principles correspond to three overarching commitments, which it assumes from the moment of its creation:

- 1- The defense of non-violence, life, and human rights as an ethical absolute
- 2- Opting for pluralism and dialogue without exclusion as a foundation for living together
- 3- Respect for the popular will and for democratic principles as a basic rule for politics

International Conference to promote a resolution of the conflict in the Basque Country

On 17 October 2011 an International Conference was held to promote the resolution of the conflict in the Basque Country. The Conference took place in the House of Peace in Donostia-San Sebastianon and brought together

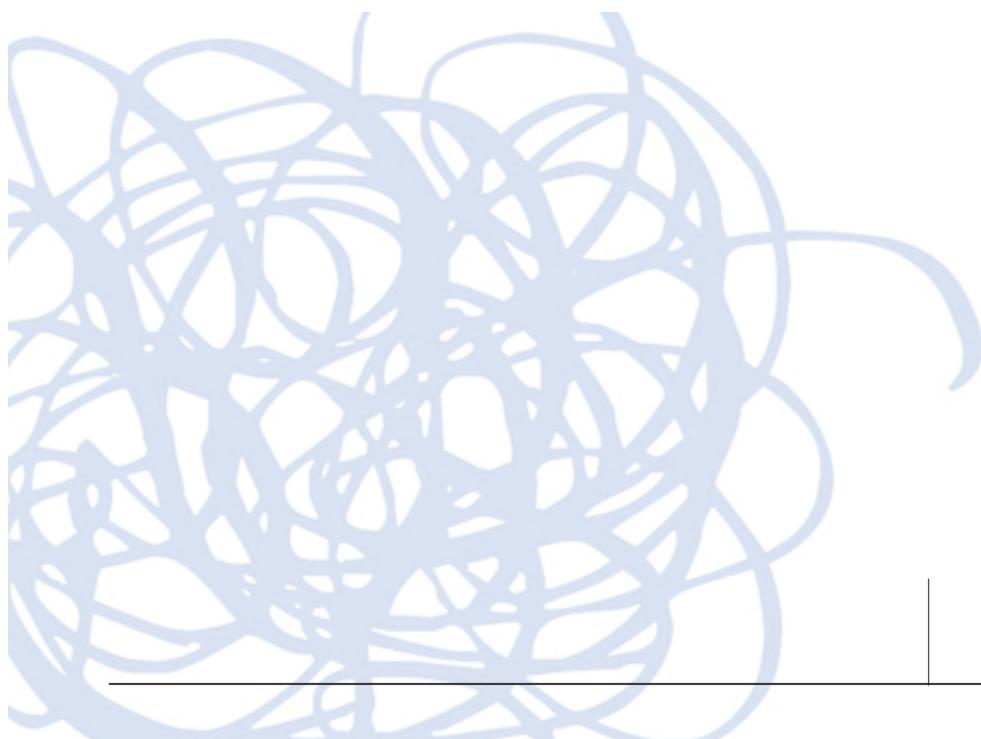
major international personalities and most of the political parties and trade unions of the Basque Autonomous Region, Navarre and the French Basque Country.



The International Conference concluded with the reading of the declaration prepared by the international figures following a process of consultations with the political parties and trade unions. The text called upon ETA, the Spanish and French governments, political parties and Basque society as a whole to take decisive steps that would contribute towards a lasting peace in the Basque Country. Three days later, ETA responded to this call by announcing that it was definitively abandoning its armed activity. The International Conference was planned as the culmination of the work done to achieve the support of the international community interested in the Basque process towards peace.

As regards the international personalities, Kofi Annan, Gro Harlem Bruntland, Bertie Ahern, Pierre Jose, Gerry Adams and Jonathan Powell took part. They were later joined by Jimmy Carter, Tony Blair and George Mitchell, who endorsed the conclusions. The importance of these figures thus gave the Conference strong international support.

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Citizen participation

Lokarri has developed citizen dialogue experiences, organizing local forums and open participatory events addressed to all Basque society. Their aim is to create meeting spaces for different political sectors, trying to build bridges of dialogue and understanding that could generate a social stream that would encourage institutions and parties to address a constructive dialogue to overcome political differences.

To do this Lokarri has some stable participation tools, such as the **Social Observatory** of the peace process to know what the public opinion think on peace and coexistence and to gather new ideas and proposals that will contribute to significant advances.

Social Forum to promote the peace process

The Social Forum is an initiative that emerged from cooperation between very different entities, social networks and foundations that share the objective of providing a channel for citizens to participate and drive the Basque peace process forward.

The difficulties and challenges posed in the peace process require new ideas in areas where no progress has been made or that are too weak: 1) the definition of an agenda for disarmament and the reinsertion of prisoners and people on the run, 2) the guarantee of all democratic Human rights and Freedoms and 3) how to face up to the past and lay the groundwork for harmonious co-existence.

If you want to keep informed about the Basque peace process, send us an e-mail to info@lokarri.org and you will receive a monthly newsletter