

## 1. Spanish Best Practices Programme/ 2. Bilbao facing the new Millennium/ 3. Urban Renewal of the Besòs Seafront-Forum 2004

### Description of event:

1. a. General presentation of the Programme: background, aims, contents, tools partners, results, etc. b. Presentation of the Electronic Library and Data Base. c. Presentation of the Spanish Best Practices Catalogues. d. Brief on Spanish Best Practices and lessons learned.
2. Bilbao has been a city whose economy was based on heavy industry: iron, steel and shipbuilding. Bilbao felt the need to start a deep process of urban transformation.
3. The urban transformation has finally integrated an area that was historically forgotten by the metropolitan zone. The inhabitants of the adjoining neighbourhoods have benefited from extremely high-quality public spaces and an important revaluation of dwellings built decades ago. The project, constantly subjected to environmental and affordability auditing, shall represent a change in the way huge urban transformations are carried out, as it definitively consolidates the need to incorporate sustainability as a prime requirement. Likewise, the coexistence of centrally-focused spaces and public and private buildings with infrastructures that was originally heavily polluted (waste incinerator, water treatment plant and power plant), signifies a very important urban culture change, since it implies that large cities should take responsibility for their heavy infrastructure and should not export them to the outlying districts which later suffer the effects. The most significant operation in Barcelona's case has been the covering of the water treatment plant with a huge plaza that will be the centre point of civil demonstrations.

### Name of organization:

1. General Direction of Urban Planning and Land Policy. Ministry of Housing, Government of Spain
2. Bilbao City Council
3. City of Barcelona

### Description of organization:

N/A

### Partner organizations:

Spanish Federation of Local Government (FEMP), Ministry of Working and Social Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Polytechnic Madrid University, Autonomous Madrid University, Habitat ONG

### Confirmed speakers:

N/A

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