

FROM SCIENCE CENTERS TO CITIZEN SCIENCE CENTERS

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WHO

BIOOK is a non profit organization that promotes scientific culture, open science, citizen science and community bio/DIYbio.

Upon request from the BBK Foundation, a banking foundation in Bizkaia province (Spain), BIOOK has presented a proposal for a **Citizen Science Center designed for a specific location in the city of Bilbao.**

With a team of experts in architecture, design, business, communication, systems design, community labs, museums, management and programming, we have created a citizen science space like no other.

WHAT

The presented proposal contains:

- Context, competitive landscape and reference models.
- Architectural plan for two complementary spaces that add up a total of 795 m².
- Brand and space design proposal.
- Five year business plan aiming for economic sustainability.
- One year program of activities and events.
- A program for incubation of art, design science & technology based projects resulting products and services.
- Management and organizational plan.
- Communication plan.
- Essence, values, mission and vision.
- Launch plan

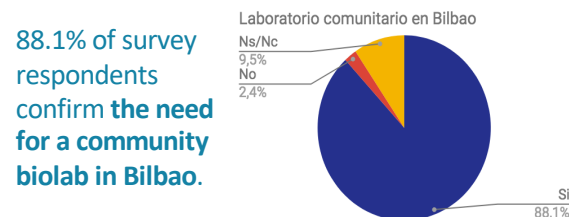
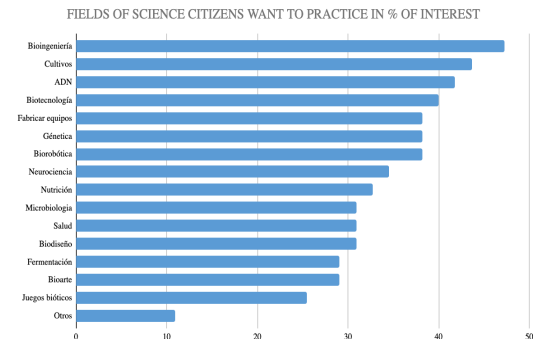
WHEN

The team of experts was assembled in May 2019 and the project was **presented to BBK Foundation on September 2019. Planned opening year 2021-2022.**

WHY

BIOOK runs a **highly successful yearly open science program that includes events such as** the Citizen Microscopy Station, Biotic Games, Neuroscience, Genetics or Bioart Sessions, and the yearly BBK OPEN SCIENCE Festival.

Surveys conducted during our yearly program show the **interest of citizens in practicing science** in fields such as bioengineering, neuroscience, biotech or genetics.



WHERE

Our events take place at different locations such as cultural centers, educational institutions, a concert hall and our small community lab.



Posters of three BBK Open Science events.

Our objective is to combine our outreach offer at diverse locations with a **continuous citizen science program at a space in Bilbao suited for transdisciplinary science practice, science training, projects, entrepreneurship, science culture promotion & dissemination.**

The center has been designed for a specific existing space located on a densely populated central city area, close to universities, schools and cultural centers and near Bilbao's new innovation district, the Island of Zorrozaurre.

RESULTS

We have presented a hybrid between a science center, a research center, a social innovation hub, a business incubator and a community-city lab. **Consists of two separated but complementary halls, a training-production hall and a dissemination-exhibition hall.**

CONCLUSION

Science and technology literacy through practice is a basic need for today's society. Science centers fulfil an important role but do not cover the needs of citizens that want to engage in community/DIY science, advanced training and scientific production. Open labs are allowing a growing number of amateur science communities to make a contribution to science and scientific culture, changing the way science is done applied, perceived and disseminated. **There is a need for Citizen Science Centers that facilitate engagement with real science and amateur-professional collaborative science.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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