

Challenge Sheet

Ihobe

Selecting, Collecting and Automatically Assessing Public Works Tender Documents in the Basque Country

How might we select, collect, and automatically assess public works tender documents in the Basque Country to detect whether they comply with Article 84 of the Basque Environmental Administration Act?

Sub-challenges

- How might we properly structure tender documents so they can be analyzed and assessed for compliance with Article 84?
- How might we automate the drafting and delivery of adaptation recommendations regarding these documents?
- How might we optimize data collection spaces by generating reports that demonstrate the degree of legal compliance?
- How might we identify environmental product declarations that include secondary material content and draft material input forms for the BIRBER application?

Context

IHOBE is the public company attached to the Department of Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment of the Basque Government, responsible for supporting the integration of environmental criteria in public policies and strategic planning tools.

Under the framework of Law 10/2021 on Environmental Administration, Article 84 establishes that public works contracts must incorporate at least 40% of recycled, reused, or circular economy materials. However, ensuring effective compliance with this article still presents both technical and operational challenges.

Currently, IHOBE supports various public departments to help them comply with this article. This process is based on direct guidance, case-by-case validation of tender documents, and the design of tailored responses, which requires a significant investment of specialized time and resources.

Additionally, continuous monitoring is carried out by reviewing and preparing regular reports on a selection of public works contracts, chosen based on budget thresholds. The goal is to verify whether the applicable regulations are being properly met. This task is time-intensive and, in many cases, is outsourced through third-party contracts. Simultaneously, the Department for Economic Transition drafts and sends formal notices to public authorities that fail to mention or properly implement the regulatory requirements in their tender specifications.

This work is mainly conducted through spreadsheets, office documents, and unstructured workflows, which makes it difficult to identify patterns, leverage previous knowledge, or scale support without overburdening the technical team.

Moreover, many of the environmental clauses found in the tender documents contain ambiguous language, misalignment with the legal framework, or poor verifiability. The lack of version traceability, the dispersion of documents, and the variability in approaches across similar contracts hinder strategic insights, regulatory quality improvement, and the replication of best practices among institutions.

IHOBE wants to take a further step: to turn this technical review function into a digitized, accessible, and replicable institutional capability, reinforcing the public sector's leadership in the ecological transition of the Basque Country.

Objectives

- Carry out active and systematic monitoring of public works contracts' compliance with Article 84.
- Reduce the operational burden of reviewing tender documents and environmental clauses.
- Ensure the coherence, clarity, and legal accuracy of the environmental content included.
- Increase traceability and generate collective knowledge on green public procurement, especially regarding the use of secondary materials in construction.
- Expand IHOBE's capacity to evaluate outcomes and improve regulatory compliance.
- Strengthen the institutional leadership of the Basque Country in circular economy practices.

What are we looking for?

A technological solution that can:

- Classify and visualize environmental clauses by theme, sector, or contract phase.
- Detect inconsistencies or regulatory gaps compared to a validated repository.
- Automatically generate response templates or tailored recommendations for each case.
- Reuse previously validated content by IHOBE and make updates easier.
- Visualize the level of regulatory compliance in analyzed tender documents.
- Support a strategic approach to the continuous improvement of tenders.
- Produce compliance reports including data and statistics to assess progress (or lack thereof) in analyzed contracts.
- Allow recycled or reused materials to be easily incorporated into existing digital tools so that they are automatically calculated and properly managed in construction projects.

We are not looking for a closed or ad-hoc tool, but for an integrable, flexible, and customizable system that can scale across all contracting authorities interested in reinforcing green public procurement.

Key Considerations

- The solution must be usable by technical staff without advanced IT knowledge.
- It must integrate with standard office tools (Microsoft 365, Word, Excel, SharePoint, and the Basque Country's tendering platform).
- Information must be traceable, editable, and segmentable by user or role.
- Generated responses must undergo legal review before being sent.
- The system should evolve with new regulations or technical advances.

- All technical activities must exclusively use AI-assisted development tools from the Microsoft Copilot family, including for coding, documentation, testing, and maintenance—ensuring traceability, efficiency, and alignment with IHOBE's technological standards.
- All activities must be carried out within IHOBE's corporate environment (tenant) using IHOBE-provided accounts, access, and resources.

Key Dates and Process

To participate in the challenge, register at this link: <https://bind.spri.eus/govtech-application/>

- Deadline for submitting your proposal: 04/08/2025 at 23:59h
- Semifinalist startups will be announced between 13/10/2025 and 17/10/2025
- Finalist startups will be announced on 30/10/2025
- The winning startup will be announced on 20/11/2025

Selection Process

Phase 1 – Pitches by semifinalist startups with the public entity: Startups will present their solution in a 10-minute pitch.
→ 3 finalist startups will be selected.
→ This phase will take place from October 27 to 29, 2025.

Phase 2 – Interviews with the finalist startups and the public entity: Startups will present a deeper version of their proposal.
→ This phase will take place from November 17 to 19, 2025.

What you access

Winning startup

- Paid pilot of up to €15,000
- The pilot will begin in January 2026 and will last 6 months