

# Arroces del mundo



## Brief description of the activity

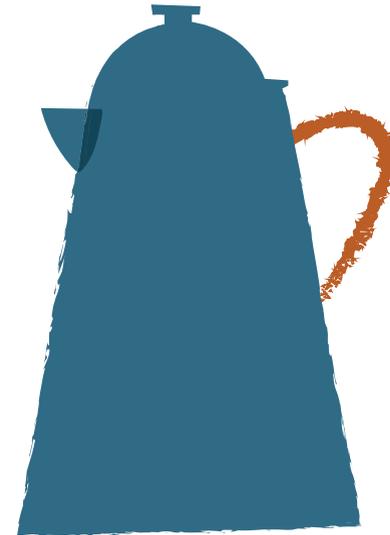
Arroces del mundo is an intercultural, popular, participative and self-managed festival that aims to promote interculturality and the interrelation between different people and social organizations.

The activity takes place in June, outdoors, and consists in occupying the plaza of the San Francisco neighborhood with a common purpose: cooking rice. Different associations and groups register to participate in the activity, and when the day comes, they settle in the square, with stoves, pots and knives, to prepare a dish whose basic ingredient is rice. It is not by chance that the proposal is to cook this food: San Francisco is home to people from very different geographies, but we can affirm that rice is present in the food habits of many cultures. Each of them has its particular way of preparing the rice dish, has a recipe linked to its origin, and in the day of Arroces del Mundo, all those ways of cook-

ing rice become a reflection of the cultural diversity of the neighborhood. It is a practice that reflects multiculturalism, and does so in a collective way: all registered groups cook so that all people who come to the square that day can take a plate from one group or another, share what has been cooked eat at large tables that bring together people of all kinds.

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The Barrios Altos Group Coordinator does not receive a subsidy from any public or private institution to carry out the activity. It operates through self-organization and the freedom and autonomy to launch its own messages. The financing (for tables, chairs, communication, infrastructure to carry out activities) is obtained from the voluntary contributions of the organizations that make up the Group Coordinator, from other groups, from the inscriptions and from the sale of T-shirts, badges, etc.



## Arroces del mundo

### Topics, objectives and methodology:

Celebrate the diversity of neighborhoods and make visible their intercultural richness

The main tool is the food and the act of cooking, in which the different ingredients and recipes are visible depending on the culture. Cultural activities are also organised, to expose local artists' work

Generate a space for meeting and exchange of knowledge from different cultures and backgrounds

Food is a useful tool for this, as sitting at a large table with people you do not know and sharing food leads to the sharing of stories that arise through it. Promote social cohesion in the neighborhood and coexistence.

The tool to promote social cohesion and coexistence is leisure coupled with the demand. It is about having a nice and fun day where you can meet people and cultures different from your own and also share with those people food and social de-

mands that concern us all.

Take the public space and live the streets

This is done by carrying out all activities in the street, from the preparation of food, to children's workshops, musical or dance performances, etc. Make people feel theirs that space they are occupying and generate an awareness of responsibility and care of our neighbourhood.

### Duration:

A whole day, from the morning, when people start cooking until the afternoon. Activities are organized during the morning and the meal hours.

### Costs:

It is a self-managed event: no subsidies or contributions of public money are received.

The people who work in the event (coordination, production, carrying out activities, graphic design, etc.) are volunteers.

Revenues come from donations, group registration for food, and the sale of merchandising (T-shirts, aprons, badges, etc).

The total budget is around 9.000€.

The expenses of the activity are:

- Poster printing
- Merchandising material
- Stage and sound equipment
- Rental tables and chairs (5.000€)
- Fences rental
- Insurance

**Location:**

In Bilbao, the location is Plaza Corazón de María, the biggest square in the San Francisco neighbourhood.

This celebration needs to be organised in public spaces, so a big plaza or big public area is necessary.

**Materials:**

- Tables and chairs to have lunch
- The kitchen tools (pans, cookers, etc) are brought by each participant
- Infrastructures that are necessary to carry out the activities scheduled during the day (technical sound equipment, tents, stage, etc.)
- Materials to sell and raise funds: T-shirts, aprons, pins, etc.

**Communication:**

- Social networks
- Posters and flyers
- Mailing list
- Press release

**Setting:**

- Plaza Corazón de María, in San Francisco (Bilbao).

- All the activities are done in the square, in the open air and are accessible to all the people who want to participate: cooking, eating, music, dances, etc.

**Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:**

It is recommendable to have a team with people from different organisations.

**Participants involved:**

It is an event open to all kinds of people: neighbour, organisations, etc.



## Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

Nowadays, Arroces del mundo congregates more than 3.500 people from very different origins that live in Bilbao.

It was not allways like that. At the beginnig, 16 years ago, the participation was not that big, the participants were the organisations behing the event, and a few neighbours and local business. Little by little, it has become the biggest reference for intercultural celebration in Basque Country.

Arroces del mundo is a party, but it is also claim. It is a day to occupy and recover the streets of our environment through cooking and through activities organized around it throughout the day. It is also a day of denunciation of the degradation and marginalization suffered by the Barrios Altos as a result of institutional abandonment. It is a shout to celebrate diversity, to de-

find the coexistence and interrelation between people and groups of diverse origins.

Throughout the morning cultural activities are organized to celebrate the richness of the neighborhoods: concerts, dances, a parade. A rice contest is also organized.

## Video, links and external resources

**2018:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtQdXLJpTfg>

**2017:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFMYcB0Ftjg>