

Bizkaia:talent, Euraxess Local Contact Point in the Basque Country (Spain), organises some activities for Researchers in order to foster interpersonal relationships among its users. Researchers from different areas and sectors meet through these leisure activities. Apart from that, the new Bilbao BBK House for hosting researchers support our activities, and we have started cooperating in the organisation of different events and activities.

### "SHEPHERD FOR A DAY – URKIOLA NATURAL PARK"

On **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March**, a group of 26 researchers, professors and their families from: Argentina, Byelorussia, Brazil, Congo, England (UK), Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, and even some locals, enjoyed a unique adventure to know the daily chores of a **Basque shepherd**, in one of the most impressive and stunning mountainous landscapes in the Basque Country: the **Urkiola Natural Park**. The shepherd, Patxi Solana, taught them to carry out his daily chores in his **Alluiz Natura** country house, located beside the Atxarte cheese dairy.

We learnt to make fresh cheese curd (*cuajada*) with the milk from the farm sheep; tasted Basque Cheese made of sheep milk, called Idiazabal; took part in Shepherd daily tasks as well as sheering the flock and milking the sheep; and made "talo". Talo is Basque bread, similar to the traditional corn *tortilla*, made of corn flour and water. It is round and is cooked in a warm metal plank.



At the end of the activity, the group enjoyed the surroundings, in spite of the bad and rainy weather, and had the opportunity of seeing other farm animals.

These professionals are working in Biscayan organisations such as the, BC3 – Basque Centre for Climate Change, BCAM- Basque Center for Applied Mathematics, Basque Country University, CIC bioGUNE: Center for Cooperative Research in Biosciences, Ingeteam, University of Deusto.