The purpose of this seminar is to analyze and describe the key economic, political, social and cultural changing factors that have influenced the urban regeneration process of the Metropolitan Area of Bilbao (MAB) in the last 20 years, and the key factors that have driven the area into a new international role. After the industrial crisis of the 1980s the MAB has experienced major social changes that have not only transformed the image of the area, but also redirected its old industrial structure into a new development model that is now framed inside the competitive reasoning of the New Economy. These changes have had important positive and negative consequences in the socioeconomic structure and development of the actual MAB, and are strongly influencing its future growth by introducing in the urban regeneration process, new economic, political and social challenges.

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