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EUSKAL GIZATALDEEN VII. MUNDU BATZARRA
VII CONGRESO MUNDIAL DE COLECTIVIDADES VASCAS
VII WORLD CONGRESS OF BASQUE COMMUNITIES
VII CONGRÉS MONDIAL DES COLLECTIVITÉS BASQUES
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CENTRAL AND
SOUTH AMERICA
REGIONAL MEETING

MEETING IN PARIS OF THE EUSKAL ETXEA OF EUROPE, ASIA & OCEANIA

12th-14th of may, 2017
Paris / Saint Ouen





With the cooperation of the Directorate for the Basque Community
Abroad - Secretary-General for Exterior Action PRESIDENCY –
BASQUE GOVERNMENT

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introduction





The Four-Year Plan for Institutional Action 2016-2019 that emerged from the 7th World Congress of Basque Communities Abroad, held in Vitoria-Gasteiz from 7-9 October 2015, established, as a concrete action, “to strengthen the role of the Euskal Etxeak and Federations as mechanisms for disseminating Basque reality and culture and foster the continuation or regular regional meetings among World Congresses, sharing best practices in different areas, including self-financing”.

Following these guidelines, the Meeting of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe Asia and Oceania took place in the Eskual Etxea in Paris from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 May 2017.

Delegations from 19 Euskal Etxeak in 8 countries took part in the Paris meeting: from Germany, Australia, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

The 19 participating Euskal Etxeak are located in the following cities: Barcelona, Madrid, Mallorca, Valladolid, Valencia (2 Euskal Etxeak: ‘Laurak Bat’ and ‘Euskaltzaleok’), Saragossa, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Montpellier, Pau, Paris, Brussels, London, Berlin, Munich, Rome, Sydney and Tokyo.

Attending on behalf of the Basque Government (which organized the meeting together with the Paris Eskual Etxea) were the Secretary-General for Exterior Action Marian Elorza, the Director for the Basque Community Abroad Gorka Álvarez Aranburu, the expert from the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad Manu Meaurio and the trainee in the Directorate Mikel Moreno.

The previous Regional Meeting of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania was held in Barcelona from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 March 2014.

In the Paris Meeting the presidential table that chaired the debate was made up of Marian Elorza, Gorka Álvarez Aranburu and Sébastien Daguerre, President of the Paris Eskual Etxea.

The parallel activities to the Meeting started on the Friday with a reception in Paris Eskual Etxea, followed by a visit to the mansion at 11 Avenue Marceau, the former seat of the Basque Government in Paris, and a dinner in the Basque restaurant ‘Beaurepaire’, near Notre Dame.

The working sessions of the Meeting took place on Saturday and Sunday in the assembly hall of Paris Eskual Etxea, according to the agenda shown in the attached Minutes.

The Paris Meeting was followed in a number of media, among them Euskal Telebista, France 3 TV, Le Parisien, Irekia, Euskal Etxeak Digitala, La Región Internacional, Naiz and Euskalkultura.com, and in different social networks managed by the Euskal Etxeak or by those present at the Meeting.

The next world encounter of the Euskal Etxeak will take place in 2019, with the holding of the 8th World Congress of Basque Communities Abroad, probably in Bilbao. The Regional Meetings of the Euskal Etxeak of North America, on one hand, and of Central and South America on the other, will take place in 2018.



welcome

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GREETINGS AND THANKS BY **GORKA ÁLVAREZ ARANBURU**, DIRECTOR FOR THE BASQUE COMMUNITY ABROAD



Kaixo lagunok:

It has been a real pleasure for me to share two intense days of work with all of you, in which we were able to analyse the situation of the Basque communities in Europe, Asia and Oceania, as well as sharing different experiences and situations in the nineteen Euskal Etxeak represented.

We are now in the final straight of the second decade of the 21st century and the Basque Community abroad, like our Euskal Etxeak, is in constant evolution. A fast and global evolution that we have to adapt and respond to.

The Basque diaspora of the 21st century looks to Europe and to countries where people can set up businesses and work to create a decent future, with the hope of returning to Euskadi one day and rounding off a good life plan. In this circumstantial or permanent period it is important not to lose the culture, the language or contact with Euskadi.

For this reason, and many others that occur in each country where there is a Basque presence, it is important to weave a 'web' of Basques in the world who can contact each other to share and build things. The Euskal Etxeak are a success story that is really worth continuing to promote and support, as platforms for Basques all over the world and as centres that disseminate our culture, language, values and traditions.

It is also important to use the new technologies and tools that have been created on the initiative of the Basque Government to try and respond to Basques worldwide, as well as the different communities or Euskal Etxeak: Basque Global Network or euskaletxeak.net

As Director for the Basque Community Abroad, I am willing to work with all of you so that any Basques who set off for other countries or reside elsewhere can maintain as solid a link with Euskadi as possible, responding opportunely to the needs and requirements of each community.

It is not an easy challenge, although it was very clear from the Paris Meeting that the Euskal Etxeak in Europe, Asia and Oceania wish to continue working together. They want to adapt continuously, as dynamic centres full of activities and initiatives, and they want to disseminate the essence of 'Basqueness' in their communities; to this end, collaborative work is more necessary than ever nowadays.

I would like to finish by thanking the Euskal Etxeak for attending the Meeting. Special thanks to the Euskal Etxeak in Paris for the work and cooperation so that everything could work out perfectly. I repeat my commitment to work with all of you on a daily basis, without losing sight

of an uncertain but promising future, if we join forces and initiatives.

This dossier covers the issues presented and discussed in the Meeting, as well as a series of conclusions that can help us to orientate our work over the next few years.

Eskerrik asko bihotz-bihotzez!



WELCOME SPEECH BY **MARIAN ELORZA**, SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR EXTERIOR ACTION



THE BASQUE COMMUNITY ABROAD IN TODAY'S WORLD

The debate that took place in the Paris Eskual Etxea between the late 1960s and mid-1980s has reappeared nowadays for all the Euskal Etxeak in Europe, Asia and Oceania (and also the rest of the world), with the question: Are we adapting to the new needs and aspirations of the young generations of Basques who live abroad?

The vast majority of these young people do not feel the rootlessness their parents and grandparents felt in the big cities they emigrated to. They are fully immersed in the digital society.

Basically, the Euskal Etxea as a 'community refuge' is not very necessary for them. The individualism of post-industrial societies has reached us... all of us.



The interfaces for our communities abroad will not be purely physical but increasingly virtual, that is how the Internet is being configured, and it is easy to access them with a simple click on a keyboard or keypad.

REINVENTING OURSELVES TO ADAPT TO THE NEW WORLD THAT IS ALREADY HERE

The Euskal Etxeak have a great role to play for Basques abroad. The need to show them empathy, give them a system of references (they should know where they come from and where they can go together) and services, based on a social fabric (where the generations mix) that can be mobilized with a few clicks on Internet. As we know, positive comments on blogs, Twitter, YouTube or Facebook can become viral in a matter of seconds and have an influence on people's behaviour.

The Basque community abroad (which extends beyond the Euskal Etxeak) needs to have a communication and collaboration environment in Internet, the great communication channel of our time.

We need to help the Basque Community abroad converge with the Information Society. We should digitalize with the same impetus with which we created companies and associations in the last century, thus contributing to create a solid communication system for the future.

To achieve this, one of the first steps to be taken is to "focus on young people", without pushing other generations out, but acknowledging that they are "the Internet generation".

WHAT IS THE "INTERNET GENERATION"? THAT OF THE MILLENNIALS

Millennials are hyper-connected, very familiar with technology and they interact through the social networks. Internet, mobile phones, social networks... are

natural tools for young people in their daily lives. They buy things, do transactions and share products and services. For them, using telematic technologies is a way of life.

In the light of this evolution -as technological as it is social- I would like to emphasise the need for reflection that emerges from what I have said so far: **The interfaces for our communities abroad will not be purely physical but increasingly virtual (and gradually increasing). That is how the Internet is being configured, and it is easy to access them with a simple click on a keyboard or keypad.**

The key question is not, therefore, about "saving" the Euskal Etxeak or "keeping them alive" at any price, but "making them useful" to as many people as possible in the Basque community abroad who live within their hinterland. To serve this community better, it is essential that the Euskal Etxeak adapt to the needs of these audiences, paying a lot of attention to the new needs of young people.

TO DO THIS, I PROPOSE AN ACTION STRATEGY TO YOU

We have to avoid feeling too comfortable about what we are doing. When it comes to creating solid relationships with the youngsters of the "Millennium Generation", we will not achieve good results if we do not understand their specific needs and preferences. We have to be receptive and open to their concerns. That is how one can create an empathetic relationship.

We have to listen to them and take what they say seriously. The great dependence of the Millennials on connectivity and mobile devices can convert a positive opinion in a reference that has the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of people from the same generation. The opposite can also happen, however... through the dissemination of negative opinions.

We need to speak their language. If the aim is to speak the language of the Millennium Generation, the Euskal Etxeak need to get them involved in their governance structures, with the objective of fostering initiatives that provide the best service to this segment of the population.

CONCLUSION

The adaptation of the Basque Community abroad to the Information Society through telephone networks and digitalization is the current “issue”, although we should not forget the past of our diaspora and its great value.

Indeed, the last few years have been a period of changes. Among these changes, we are witnessing the emergence of a new kind of emigration: highly-qualified people who are heading for Asia or Oceania (with the process of globalization we are living in) and, above all, big cities in Europe (thanks to the Single European Market). However, we should not forget that things were not like that in the 19th and 20th centuries: In those days, one of the key figures of our history abroad were the Basque emigrants, from both the southern and northern Basque Country, who headed for America.

Naturally, (as you in the Paris Eskual Etxea know very well), after the Second World War and the economic development that France enjoyed in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, contingents of workers arrived from Iparralde. Then there are those who came from the other side of the Pyrenees from 1937 onwards, and who continued to come in their efforts to flee such a difficult political situation.

Over the years, you have all made up the Basque presence in this city that is so big, multicultural and complex. We have to thank you for that.

We are now working in favour of our diaspora (the historic and solidly established one and also this new one, more “liquid” and still rather tricky to reach out to and understand) in this new global and changing context in the 21st century, which is so full of promise and challenges.

In the Final Declaration of the 2nd World Congress of Basque Communities held in Vitoria-Gasteiz in 1999, the authorities of Euskadi and Basque society in general were urged to build “a space that overcomes the classic borders, a **virtual territory** that would take Euskal Herria to wherever there are Basques, thus creating a **worldwide network** to defend and promote Basqueness in the World”.

This mandate was given at the end of the 20th century. Now, in the 21st century, in this Meeting of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania we have to make progress to adapt that mandate to the language and the instruments of the 21st century.

Eskerrik asko.

Thank You.

Merci Beaucoup.

minutes



COORDINATION



1. Selection process for representatives of Europe, Asia and Oceania to the Advisory Board of Basque Communities Abroad: first steps towards a procedure to regulate this matter

In relation to the representation of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania on the Advisory Board of Basque Communities Abroad, the delegates may elect a representative and three substitutes to replace them as required.

They also commit to the representative guaranteeing the continuity of the post and request that, as far as possible, they are notified sufficiently in advance of the date on which the Annual Meeting of the Advisory Board of Basque Communities Abroad will be held.

The process to elect the representative and the three substitutes is the responsibility of all the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania.

This proposal must be agreed with the two remaining Regional Areas, and a text must be drafted that indicates the procedure for appointing representatives to the Advisory Board of Basque Communities Abroad for its renewal in 2019.

2. The European Federation of Euskal Etxeak: the establishment of rules to carry out joint projects and optimize resources

The creation of a European Federation of Euskal Etxeak is seen as a long-term objective. It seems that it is necessary to obtain prior (and mutual) knowledge of the programmes that the Euskal Etxeak have, to make an analysis of the resources they could share. Then, an Euskal Etxeak would have to be selected to coordinate the network or federation.

Therefore, the prior steps are:

1. The Euskal Etxeak should get to know each other better and strengthen their relations.
2. See how the resources available to the Euskal Etxeak can be jointly exploited.
3. Use the Basque Global Network (BGN) as a meeting and coordination point, with the leaderships decided by the Euskal Etxeak.

An active debate platform in Internet -as BGN could be- can play a major role in this respect, to promote the exchange of ideas among the Euskal Etxeak and enable them to present their proposals.

3. Euskal Etxeak Network of the Mediterranean Arc (Rome, Marseilles, Montpellier, Barcelona)

The spirit behind a potential network of the Euskal Etxeak of the Mediterranean Arc is similar to that of the European Network. Here, the main springboard is geographical proximity, to take advantage of logistical resources, share technical know-how and best practices and carry out cultural promotion actions (performances by artists, film screenings, etc.).

4. How to share activities among Euskal Etxeak. Options for creating joint projects. Measures for organising coordination 'tours' for the organization of activities

BGN can be a meeting point for depositing and exchanging information (ideas that have been implemented and have worked well, or begin to plan joint actions by various Euskal Etxeak).

The representative of the Euskal Etxea of Sydney says that the important thing to do after the Paris Meeting is to have a virtual meeting point where people can obtain useful information. An Euskal Etxea should not start from zero when it wants to organize something novel.

The information should be deposited in a virtual website (knowing where to get there on the Internet) where someone who already knows something about a subject can upload information that can be really useful to those who enter the website.

Basically, it is about having a 'virtual information centre' that will provide users of the Euskal Etxeak with the kind of knowledge and information that is of interest to them.

The general feeling in the Meeting is that the BGN needs to be easy to access and serve for the exchange of information. In this regard, the representative of the Euskal Etxea in Tokyo says that there is a demand for information on Euskal Herria in Japan, and they receive requests from travel agencies and the media.

The Euskal Etxeak agree that the most important service that BGN can give is 'access to information'.

In the cities where the Euskal Etxeak exist there is also great interest in Basque cuisine, above all, and also Basque music groups (which attract an external audience whose loyalty needs to be obtained). These could be two fields to explore cooperation among Euskal Etxeak. Films too; this has worked well in the Euskal Etxeak in Barcelona, Berlin and Brussels.

5. Annual evaluation of activities. What has worked in each Euskal Etxea, and what has not...

All the Euskal Etxeak offer cultural and leisure activities to their members and other people who live where they are located, in an attempt to integrate into local society and showcase their work.

The Euskal Etxeak in France request that the synergies and relations that have started to happen (in

Basque language, culture and tourism) between He-goalde (including Navarre) and Iparralde should be circulated among them. As well as in the Basque communities of Marseilles, Montpellier, Pau, Bordeaux and Paris, knowledge of this possibility for mutual relations in formal areas of action would have a positive impact in other cities in France that have Basque communities.

The representative of the Euskal Etxea of Marseilles proposes the creation of economic incentives to set up new Euskal Etxeak in Europe, Asia and Oceania, a kind of 'grant' that would involve a commitment to the efficient performance and implementation of the project presented by the new Euskal Etxea.

NEW INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES



1. Virtual networks of the Euskal Etxeak in Europe (social networks, websites): creation, mutual communication, IT tools, modernization

The idea that emerged from the debate in the Meeting is to create an online relationship among the Euskal Etxeak: providing services, uploading content, offering clear presentations and working together on documents... Basically, to achieve an ever higher level of interaction among the Euskal Etxeak by using the new technologies as the main tool. The Secretary-General for Exterior Action proposed BGN as a main resource for this purpose, although its use among the Euskal Etxeak would have to be standardised.

Likewise, the Euskal Etxeak agree that, as well as sharing useful information with the Directorate of the Basque Community Abroad and among the different Euskal Etxeak, it would be positive if the Directorate, as far as possible, could also inform the Basque Centres any actions and/or events that the departments of the Basque Government carry out in their respective cities, so that the Euskal Etxeak can take advantage and organise other related activities. The main idea is that there should fluid communication in both directions, both among the Euskal Etxeak and between the Directorate and the Euskal Etxeak.

2. For the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania, how to give a voice to their interests in a single representation (platform)

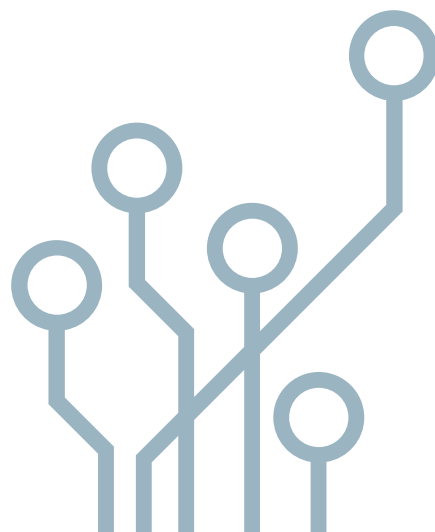
The Management Committee and the Euskal Etxeak conclude that there should be a mix between Administration and Euskal Etxeak in which the former provides a communication platform (BGN) and the Euskal Etxeak carry out the range of content of that platform (expressing their interests and fostering them through documents that can be worked on online on that platform).

That way, the Administration would continue as the facilitator of the process of creation of a common personality of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania, and these have to be given a differentiated and strategic value through their cooperation on the digital network.

3. The force of Basque culture ('soft-power'); how we can exploit it and foster it in the Euskal Etxeak

The representative of the Euskal Etxea of Tokyo proposes 'recognition' of those individuals who work abroad to promote Basque culture: e.g. a simple letter of congratulation (which would have great sentimental value for those people) or a symbolic appointment as 'ambassador of Basque culture' could be a first step.

The Euskal Etxea of Rome also mentions the advisability of recognising the work that people in the countries where the Euskal Etxeak are located do to promote Basque culture, without no other self-interest than the affection they profess for it.





SUBSIDIES



1. Subsidies: How to present applications and justify them

The Director for the Basque Community Abroad announced that the call for subsidies for the Euskal Etxeak corresponding to 2017 will be published in June, and together with that, the Euskal Etxeak will be sent a short guide (in Basque, Spanish, French and English) to help them present their applications for subsidies in a standardised way, and that they know how to manage the process that follows the granting of the subsidy.

2. Subsidies: Dates of calls, timescales, payments /// improving control and supervision

The Euskal Etxeak complain that for them to have a structured and coherent activity programme, the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad should make the annual calendar of its line of subsidies to the Euskal Etxeak public, and thus avoid functioning in a haphazard manner.

The Euskal Etxeak argue that it is not a case of “living off subsidies” but having an ‘approximate’ perspective on resources (the financing sources they can call on, and when) when it comes to designing their annual activity plans.

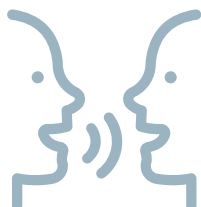
The Director for the Basque Community Abroad commits the following dates for 2017: In June, issue the call for subsidies and make the first payment of 15% before the end of 2017.

3. Individual requests for subsidy to the European Union. Possible subsidies in Europe

The Presidential Table emphasises that an active debate platform in Internet such as what BGN could become could also play a major role in this respect, to promote the exchange of ideas among the Euskal Etxeak and enable them to present their proposals (after they have been intensively prepared) to officers of the Basque Government and the European Union.

However, the Secretary-General for Exterior Action makes it very clear that, for the Basque Government to validate a joint application for subsidies presented by several Euskal Etxeak, a very rigorous process of prior preparation of the application for subsidy has to be followed before sending it to the corresponding European bodies.

It is not enough just to have an idea, get three Euskal Etxeak from three different countries together, write a dossier and fulfil certain basic conditions. The process of construction of the candidature is a very serious matter and must be based on a wide-ranging and solid basis of analysis and documentation. This needs to be explained in detail, as the EU application procedures require, and above all must have, a far-reaching and ambitious European dimension.



EUSKERA



1. The importance of teaching the Basque language in the Euskal Etxeak

The promotion of Basque in the Euskal Etxeak is mainly done through the 'Euskara Munduan' programme (managed to date by HABE; it will shortly pass to the Instituto Etxepare), focused above all on the provision of Basque language courses and the preparation of teaching/learning materials.

In parallel to the programme promoted by the Administration, the Euskal Etxeak have developed their own initiatives (e.g. Berlin or Rome with German and Italian universities) or created their own job pools (which, in most cases, have not functioned very well, due to their instability). The representatives state that there is a demand in their respective Euskal Etxeak, but there is a lack of teaching staff.

They consider that if the Instituto Etxepare is going to undertake the promotion of the Basque language abroad completely (including the Euskal Etxeak), then it is time to design a system of communication between the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad, the Euskal Etxeak and the Instituto Etxepare to organize this issue efficiently, bearing in mind the different interests that come into play.

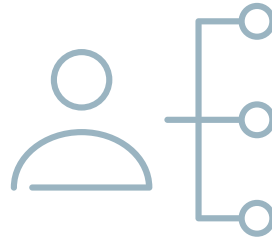
2. Teachers for the Euskal Etxeak: How can we get them?

This is a problem because the Euskal Etxeak suffer a high level of mobility of teachers: they cannot pay them enough, the teachers have to look for other, complementary jobs and quite often they are not part of the training process of HABE.

There is a demand for Basque teachers in the Euskal Etxeak, but to cover it the people in charge have to improvise alternative solutions (because quite often it is not possible to reach agreement with HABE or with the Instituto Cervantes). Therefore, they set up their own job pools on occasions, which they disseminate through the social networks (mainly LinkedIn) or make arrangements with universities (as in the case of Berlin or Rome, which are the Euskal Etxeak that have a professional relationship with universities).

It is clear that the Euskal Etxeak in Europe, Asia and Oceania need imminent help from the Administration in this respect. For different reasons (mainly those described above: high seasonality and low funding), the job pools set up to date have not worked well and the 'Euskara Munduan' programme needs another push.

Basically, the Basque community abroad generates a large number of requests to learn Basque, but there are not enough teachers to cover the demand. The Euskal Etxeak (which receive these requests for Basque language classes) need help; serious help that is required quickly.



Having a job pool with people signed up and a guarantee of assistance from the Instituto Etxepare could be a first step towards bringing more order to this issue.

HOW TO MANAGE 'BOTTLENECKS' THAT OCCUR IN THE EUSKAL ETXEAK



1. How can we strengthen the working group? How can we get people onto the management committee? How have the other Euskal Etxeak done this?

There is no magic formula to give the perfect response to these questions. The Euskal Etxeak attending the Meeting agree that there is no 'recipe' for getting people deeply involved and mobilising them to do things. The Euskal Etxeak explain the different forms of the horizontal assembly model that almost all of them use in the creation, design and deployment of events:

- The Euskal Etxeak in Valencia distributes tasks in its Assembly, delegating as much as possible to committees set up for the purpose. In this case the guidelines emerge from the Assembly, which designs a calendar establishing who does what and by what date.
- In Bordeaux they have a similar, but more formal structure, with a bureau in which they draw up lines of action and the working groups then implement them.



- In the Euskal Etxea in Berlin they even opened up meetings to anyone (even if they are not members of the Euskal Etxea) to try and get new ideas. However, these meetings need to be prepared well and a lot of time and effort is put in to find good ideas that can be put into practice.
- In Paris they are structured in a federation of thematic groups [one for Basque, another for dance, a mixed choir, the residence (one of their strongest points), the rugby team, etc.].

The idea is to identify the main challenges and opportunities for Euskadi, define a strategy to deal with the period of negotiations, which will conclude with the 'divorce' between the United Kingdom and the European Union in March 2019, and then the later scenario that emerges from this rupture.

2. The influence of BREXIT on the Euskal Etxea in London (the UK will be outside the European Union: implications)

The Secretary-General for Exterior Action informs that the Basque Government is closely monitoring events around Brexit and has maintained contacts with affected institutions and stakeholders to try and anticipate any negative impacts.

As a result of these contacts, a public-private Monitoring Committee has been set up with representation from the Basque Government, the Basque territorial administrations, EUEDEL (Association of Basque Municipalities), the Basque universities, the Basque Chambers of Commerce and the Port Authorities of Pasaia and Bilbao.

A Basque Government Office has also been opened in London. It will assume the responsibility of guaranteeing the interests of Basque companies, educational centres, cultural entities and a wide variety of organizations.

MISCELLANEOUS



The Euskal Etxea of Berlin proposes holding an annual meeting (without the presence of institutions) exclusively consisting of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania.

(Here, the Euskal Etxea of Berlin is basically saying that, bearing in mind that the World Congress is held every four years, and the Regional Meetings take place in between, it would be interesting to use the meetings of the Basque teachers that HABE organises every year to also meet in the years when there is no meeting planned. That way, the Euskal Etxeak would be able to meet every year).

For this possible meeting in 2018, it is proposed that each Euskal Etxea:

- Should come with a report prepared.
- Should set up groups in advance to work in committees.
- A series of urgent points should be prepared, such as the job pools for Basque teachers or analysing the information available on the Instituto Etxepare and its likely lines of action.

Rome requests that, in the next meetings to be held among the Euskal Etxeak, the best possible dates should

be chosen vis-à-vis organising travel, on one hand, and making the most of the working sessions on the other.

The representative of the Euskal Etxea of Berlin proposes that travel expenses for this exclusive meeting of the Euskal Etxeak in Europe, Asia and Oceania should be financed against the operating expenses of the call for subsidies for the Euskal Etxeak from the Basque Government. In principle, the Secretary-General for Exterior Action and the Director for the Basque Community Abroad are not against this proposal, and they agree to study it.



conclusions





1st Conclusion:

- > Regarding the representation of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania: elect a member at large and three substitutes.
- > The way in which the election process will be carried out remains to be defined and regulated.
- > It is recommended to set the date of the Advisory Board of Basque Communities Abroad with sufficient notice (as far as possible in advance).

2nd Conclusion:

- > Share agendas, contacts, equipment, resources and activities among the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania.
- > It is recommended to continue to promote the relations between Hegoalde and Iparralde (in the fields of Basque language, culture, tourism, etc.) and provide timely information on this (particularly to the Euskal Etxeak in France, which are very interested in cooperating), as it has a very positive impact on the Basque diaspora.

- > It is also recommended to establish a continuous relationship between the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad and the Instituto Etxepare. This regular contact could include the two points mentioned above regarding collaborative actions between both bodies.

3rd Conclusion:

- > The BASQUE GLOBAL NETWORK (BGN) is an instrument that the Basque Government offers the Euskal Etxeak for them to exploit by:
 - Creating working groups on the platform.
 - Making proposals and debating in these groups through online documents.
 - Operating as an information point, in which the Euskal Etxeak can find information that is of interest to them.
 - Disseminating BGN in their environments, so that friends and relatives can get on board and help the network to grow, turning the great potential it can offer the Basque Community abroad into reality.



4th Conclusion:

Internal and external communication by the Basque Government (Instituto Etxepare and the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad) and the Euskal Etxeak is very important to connect the internationalisation strategies of the Basque Administration with the priorities of the Euskal Etxeak.

This integral communication needs to be horizontal and vertical and promote networking (using the means of communication presented in the Paris Meeting, with the BGN and meetings and events as key instruments to increase commitment and participation in the initiatives that are carried out).

5th Conclusion:

In this sense, the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad asks the Euskal Etxeak in Europe, Asia and Oceania to identify their respective areas of influence to prescriptors or influencers and to draw up a network of these individuals, who could be contacted and activated later.

6th Conclusion:

In relation to the line of subsidies for the Euskal Etxeak, the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad undertakes, within its capabilities, to follow a calendar with a view to stability. This calendar would:

- > Try to comply with the timescales set
- > The Euskal Etxeak will be informed of this compliance.

7th Conclusion:

Regarding subsidies from the European Union, in the Meeting in Barcelona in 2014 it was agreed that, prior to applying for a subsidy the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania should organise themselves and then establish a list of items they could work together on. The next step would be to define -based on these items- a list of specific projects and later decide which Euskal Etxeak would take part in them. In this context, the Basque Government says it could act as a mediator through its Delegation in Brussels.

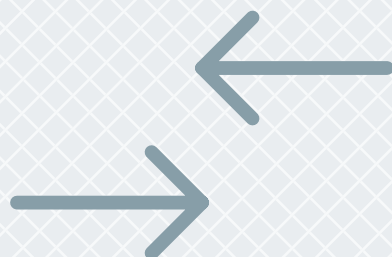
After consulting this Delegation, it is concluded that technical consultancy and support for the presentation of the project would have to be preceded by a very solid process of preparation of the candidature for subsidy by the Euskal Etxeak that wish to be involved in the project. This is indicated in the following diagram:



Therefore, the matter of the European network and application for subsidies has been put on ice for the moment, as the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania first have to define a solid basis for collaboration, reflect on the joint objectives they wish to achieve (among several and/or most of them), and finally give form to strong projects that can be presented for subsidies from the European Union.



parallel activities





Visit to the historic building in Avenue Marceau

The participants in the Paris Meeting visited the mansion at number 11 Avenue Marceau. It was the seat of the Basque Government in Paris from 1937 and was taken away from it in 1952. It has never been returned and nowadays it is the library of the Instituto Cervantes. Its historic and sentimental value is enormous: Among other

historic events, the idea of uniting Europe under democratic principles was conceived in the building, welcoming the German Christian Democrats of Konrad Adenauer into the European Movement. In the photo, last 12 May Marie-Neige Zilbeti from Navarre (a member of the Paris Eskual Etxea who worked with Lehendakari Agirre) received a distinction from the Director for the Basque Community Abroad, Gorka Álvarez Aranburu.



The next photo shows a group of participants walking towards the former seat of the Basque Government in Avenue Marceau, with Marie-Neige Zilbeti as their guide.



Welcome dinner in the Basque restaurant 'Beaurepaire' and a Basque atmosphere from three continents

The Paris event began with a welcome dinner on Friday 12 May in the Basque restaurant 'Beaurepaire', near Notre-Dame. Paris is home to a large community of Basque origin. It is also one of the greatest cities in the world; dynamic, open and integrated into the digital economy.

The worldwide and technological dimension of this European capital city was taken into account when selecting it as the venue for the Meeting of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania, as it meant being in a highly appropriate urban landscape to discuss a Basque world network in Internet, one of the main themes of debate during the Meeting. The next photo was taken during the welcome dinner in the Basque restaurant 'Beaurepaire', near Notre Dame.



This photo below shows a moment of the dinner after the welcome dinner in 'Beaurepaire': this was the main dinner of the event in the Paris Euskal Etxea.



Tour around the 16th district of Paris and a reception in offices in Saint Ouen (Santuene): Past and present of the Paris Eskual Etxea

Paris Eskual Etxea, the Basque Centre in Paris, was founded in the 1950s. On 18 October 1955, Louis Domecq from Labourd and Jeanne Idiart from Soule signed a contract to purchase an old laundry located at number 10, rue Duban, in the 16th *arrondissement* (district) of Paris. The Paris Eskual Etxea had just been born. It continuously fulfilling its objective today, although in its new offices in Saint Ouen ('Santuene' in Parisian Basque). In the image, some of the representatives of the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania on Friday 12 May in Paris.



Then, everyone together



More 'Basque connections' in Paris:



Benoit Etcheverry (representative of the Euskal Etxea of Marseilles) and Sho Hagio (from the Euskal Etxea of Tokyo).



Sam Ismail (Paris Eskual Etxea) with Gorka Álvarez Aranburu (Director for the Basque Community Abroad) in 'Beaure-paire'.

basque government networks



<http://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/eu/site/snetworking>



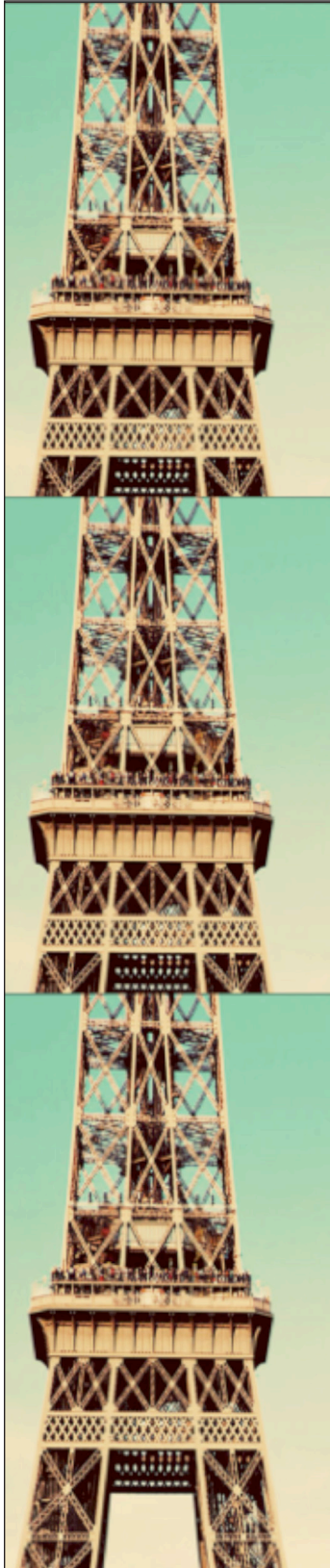
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annexes

PROGRAMME AND
AGENDA FOR DEBATE





PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Friday, 12 may 2017

- 17:45: Participants meet in the hotel lobby ("LE MANHATTAN", Paris – Saint Ouen)
- 18:00: Welcome at Pariseko Eskual Etxea and departure by Metro to the 16th District
- 18:30: Circuit "Historic Places of the Basque Government in Paris" (departure from Garibaldi metro station)
- 21:00: Welcome dinner, in the Basque restaurant "BEAUREPAIRE" (1, rue de la Bûcherie - Notre Dame).

Saturday, 13 may 2017

- 10:00: Regional Meeting, morning session at PARISEKO ESKUAL ETXEA (59, Avenue Gabriel Péri, Paris – Saint Ouen)
- 13:30: Breakfast, at Pariseko Eskual Etxea.
- 15:00: Regional Meeting, afternoon session at Pariseko Eskual Etxea.
- 21:00: Dinner at Pariseko Eskual Etxea.

Sunday, 14 may 2017

- 10:00: Regional Meeting, morning session: Conclusions of the Meeting
- 14:00: Farewell lunch

SUJETS DE DISCUSSION

Before discussions begin at the meeting we will ask the Euskal Etxeak to give a brief presentation (5 minutes each) of the topics they have proposed. These topics are the following and we have grouped them together in five blocks:

COORDINATION:

- How to choose representatives from Europe, Asia and Oceania for the Advisory Council on Basque Communities Abroad: first steps towards a procedure to regulate this matter
- The European Federation of Euskal Etxeak: Establishing basic principles, in order to promote common projects and optimize resources.
- Towards a network of Euskal Etxeak in the Mediterranean Arc (Rome, Marseille, Montpellier, Barcelona, etc.)
- How to share activities among Euskal Etxeak. Possibilities of generating joint projects. How to set up coordination "tours" to organise cultural activities
- Annual evaluation of activities. What has worked in each Euskal etxea and what has not...

NEW COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES:

- Virtual networks in the Euskal Etxeak of Europe (social media, websites): design, mutual communication, computer tools, modernization...
- The Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania, how to give voice to their interests in a single representation model (platform)

SUBSIDIES:

- Subsidies: How to submit applications and justify them.
- Subsidies: call dates, deadlines, payments /// how to improve controls and inspection
- How to make joint applications to the European Union. Potential grants and subsidies in Europe

BASQUE:

- The importance of teaching the Basque language in the Euskal Etxeak
- Teachers for the Euskal Etxeak: How to get them?

HOW TO DEAL WITH SOME "BOTTLENECKS" THAT OCCUR IN THE EUSKAL ETXEAK:

- How to strengthen the working group? How to attract people to the directive committee? How have the other Euskal Etxeak done it?
- ¿Cómo lo han hecho las otras euskal etxeak?
- The influence of BREXIT on the Euskal Etxeak of London (it will be out of the European Union. Implications of this)

*Transfers from and to the airport or station and the hotel are at participants' expense.



Eztabaida – Debate – **Débat** – Discussion

Gaiak **Temas** **Sujets** **Subjects**

Koordinazioa - Coordinación
Coordination - Coordination

1) Nola aukeratu Europa, Asia eta Ozeaniako ordezkariak Kanpoan den Euskal Gizataldeen Aholku Batzorderako: lehenengo aurrerapausoak prozedura baten bila gai hori arautzeko.

Cómo elegir a los representantes de Europa, Asia y Oceanía para el Consejo Asesor de Colectividades Vascas en el Exterior: Primeros pasos hacia un procedimiento para regular normativamente ese tema.

Comment élire les représentants d'Europe, d'Asie et d'Océanie au Conseil Consultatif des Communautés Basques à l'Extérieur : premiers pas vers une procédure pour régler normativement cette question.

How to choose representatives from Europe, Asia and Oceania for the Advisory Council on Basque Communities Abroad: first steps towards a procedure to regulate this matter.

2) Europako Euskal Etxeen Federakuntza: oinarriak jarri, elkarlanean proiektuak aurrera eramateko eta errekurtsuak optimizatzeko.

La Federación Europea de Euskal Etxeak: Establecimiento de unas bases, para llevar adelante proyectos conjuntos y optimizar recursos.

Fédération Européenne des Euskal Etxeak: mise en place des fondements, projets communs à mener et optimisation des ressources.

The European Federation of Euskal Etxeak: Establishing basic principles, in order to promote common projects and optimize resources.

Dirulaguntzak - Subvenciones Subventions - Subsidies

1) Dirulaguntzak: nola aurkeztu eskaerak eta nola egin zuriketa.

Subvenciones: Cómo presentar las solicitudes y hacer la justificación.

Subventions : comment présenter les demandes et leur justification.

Subsidies: How to submit applications and justify them.

2) Dirulaguntzak: deialdien datak, epeak, ordainketak /// kontrolak eta inspektzioak hobetu.

Subvenciones: Fechas de convocatoria, plazos, pagos /// mejorar los controles y la inspección.

Subventions : dates d'appel, délais, paiements /// améliorer les contrôles et l'inspection.

Grants: call dates, deadlines, payments /// how to improve controls and inspection.

3) Diru eskaera bateratuak Europar Batasunean. Europako dirulaguntza posibleak.

Solicitudes unitarias de subvención a la Unión Europea. Posibles subvenciones en Europa.

Demandes unitaires de subvention à l'Union Européenne. Possibles subventions en Europe.

How to make joint applications to the European Union. Potential grants and subsidies in Europe.

Euskara

1) Euskararen irakaskuntzaren garrantzia Euskal Etxeetan.

La importancia de la enseñanza del euskera en las Euskal Etxeak.

L'importance de l'enseignement de l'euskara dans les Euskal Etxeak.

The importance of teaching the Basque language in the Euskal Etxeak.

2) Irakasleak Euskal Etxeentzat: nola erakarri?

Profesores para las Euskal Etxeak: ¿Cómo conseguirlos?

Les enseignants pour les Euskal Etxeak: comment les obtenir?

Teachers for the Euskal Etxeak: How to get them?

3) Mediterraneo Arkuko Euskal Etxeen Sarea (Erroma, Marseilla, Montpellier, Bartzelona...),
Red de Euskal Etxeak del Arco Mediterráneo (Roma, Marsella, Montpellier, Barcelona...),
Réseau des Euskal Etxeak de l'Arc Méditerranéen (Rome, Marseille, Montpellier, Barcelone...),
Towards a network of Euskal Etxeak in the Mediterranean Arc (Rome, Marseille, Montpellier, Barcelona, etc.).

4) Nola partekatu ekintzak eta jarduerak Euskal Etxeen artean. Proiektuen bateratze aukerak. Ekintza kulturaletarako koordinateka "tour"-ak antolatzea.

Cómo compartir actividades entre Euskal Etxeak. Posibilidades de generar proyectos unitarios. Medidas para la organización de "tours" de coordinación para la organización de actividades.

Comment partager des activités entre les Euskal Etxeak. Quelles possibilités y a-t-il de générer des projets unitaires ? Comment organiser des « tours » de coordination pour l'organisation d'activités culturelles ?

How to share activities among Euskal Etxeak. Possibilities of generating joint projects. How to set up coordination "tours" to organise cultural activities.

5) Urteko ekintzen ebaluaketa. Zerk funtzionatu du Euskal Etxe bakoitzean, zerk ez...?

Evaluación anual de actividades. Qué ha funcionado en cada Euskal Etxea y qué no...

Évaluation annuelle des activités. Ce qui a fonctionné et n'a pas fonctionné dans chaque Euskal Etxea...

Annual evaluation of activities. What has worked in each Euskal etxea and what has not...

Komunikazio Teknologia Berriak - NTICs

1) Europako Euskal Etxeen sare birtualek (sare sozialek, web orriak): sorkuntza, elkarren arteko komunikazioa, informatikako erremintak, modernizazioa.

Redes virtuales de las Euskal Etxeak de Europa (redes sociales, páginas web): creación, comunicación mutua, herramientas informáticas, modernización.

Réseaux virtuels des Euskal Etxeak d'Europe (réseaux sociaux, sites web) : création, communication mutuelle, outils informatiques, modernisation...

Virtual networks in the Euskal Etxeak of Europe (social media, websites): design, mutual communication, computer tools, modernization...

2) Europako, Asiako eta Ozeaniko Euskal Etxeak: nola irudikatu haien interesak ordezkaritza (plataforma) bakar batean.

Las Euskal Etxeak de Europa, Asia y Oceanía, cómo dar voz a sus intereses en una sola representación (plataforma).

Euskal Etxeak d'Europe, d'Asie et d'Océanie : comment représenter leurs intérêts à travers une seule représentation (plate-forme).

The Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania, how to give voice to their interests in a single representation model (platform).

3) Euskal kulturaren indarra ("soft-power"): nola aprobetxatu eta bultzatu dezakegu Euskal Etxeetan.

La fuerza de la cultura vasca ("soft-power") cómo podemos aprovecharla e impulsarla en las Euskal Etxeak.

La force de la culture basque (« soft-power ») : comment en profiter et la promouvoir dans les Euskal Etxeak.

The strength of Basque culture ("soft power") how we can take advantage of this and foster it in the Euskal Etxeak.

Korapiloak – «Cuellos de Botella» - «Goulets d'Étranglement» - «Bottlenecks»

1) Nola egin lanean ari den taldea sendotzeko? Nola lortu jendea zuzendaritza batzordeetan sartzea? Nola egiten dute beste Euskal Etxeak?

¿Cómo fortalecer el grupo de trabajo? ¿Cómo lograr que la gente se acerque a la comisión directiva? ¿Cómo lo han hecho las otras euskal etxeak?

Comment renforcer le groupe de travail ? Comment attirer les gens au comité directeur ? Comment l'ont fait les autres Euskal Etxeak ?

How to strengthen the working group? How to attract people to the directive committee? How have the other Euskal Etxeak done it?

2) BREXITen eragina Londreseko Euskal Etxearengan (Europar Batasunetik at geratuko da. Horren inplikazioak).

La influencia del BREXIT sobre la Euskal Etxea de Londres (Quedará fuera de la Unión Europea. Implicaciones de ello).

L'influence du BREXIT sur l'Euskal Etxea de Londres (Elle sera hors de l'Union Européenne. Les implications de cet événement).

The influence of BREXIT on the Euskal Etxea of London (it will be out of the European Union. Implications of this).



EUSKO JAURLARITZA
GOBIERNO VASCO

KANPO HARREMANETARAKO
IDAZKARITZA Nagusia
SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE
ACCIÓN EXTERIOR

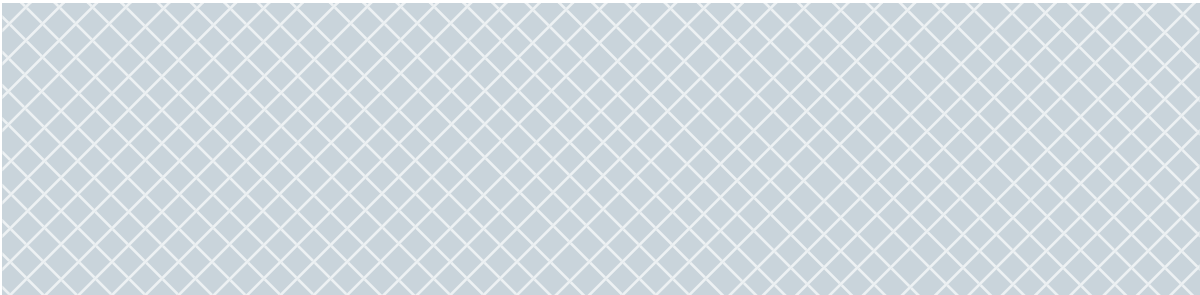
REGIONAL MEETING OF THE EUSKAL ETXEAK OF NORTH AMERICA

16th February 2018
Basque Cultural Center
South San Francisco





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GREETING AND THANKS BY GORKA ÁLVAREZ
ARANBURU (DIRECTOR FOR THE BASQUE
COMMUNITY ABROAD)
 - 3 > MINUTES
 - 4 > PHOTOS AND ANNEXES
- 

introduction





2. photo (left to right) Martin Goicoechea, Benan Oregi, Iñigo Medina, Valerie Etcharren and Gorka Álvarez.



The aim of the meeting held on 16th February 2018 at the Euskal Etxea in San Francisco was for the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad to take the second step determined in the 2016-2019 Four-Year Institutional Action Plan (a plan which came out of the 6th World Congress of Basque Groups Abroad).

*“the meeting brought
together representatives of
20 basque bodies*

As at the meeting from 12th to 14th May 2017 in Saint-Ouen, Paris, the Directorate took the following action, decided on in 2015: *“To strengthen the role of the Euskal Etxeak and Federations as mechanisms for disseminating Basque culture and realities is to foster the continuation of regular regional meetings between World Congresses, sharing good practices in different areas, including self-financing.”*

In line with this commitment and taking advantage of the winter meeting of NABO and the 36th anniversary of the SFBCC this weekend, representatives of different Euskal Etxeak in North America (United States, Mexico, Canada and St Pierre et Miquelon) took part in a meeting called by the Directorate at the Basque

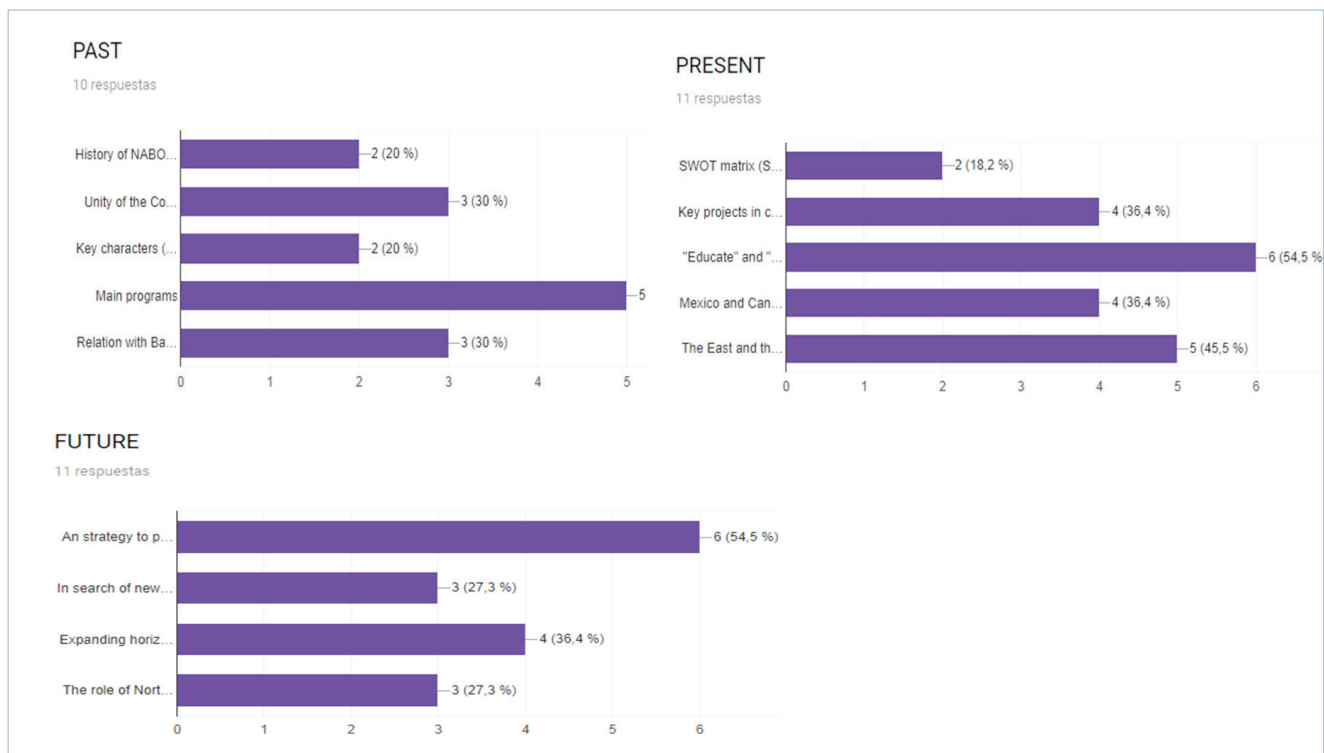
Cultural Center of South San Francisco. The meeting was attended by representatives of 20 bodies: Basque Groups Abroad of North America, Elko, Boise, Boise Museum and Boise State University, Anaitasuna, BEO and BCC of San Francisco, CBS Reno, Reno, Buffalo, Oinkari Basque Dancers, Euskal Etxea of Colorado, Rock Springs, Ontario, Vancouver, Mexico, Quebec, New England, Los Banos, Bakersfield and St. Pierre et Miquelon.

The Basque Government (the meeting was held thanks to the cooperation of the SFBCC and NABO) sent a delegation made up of the Director for the Basque Community Abroad, Gorka Álvarez Aranburu, the expert Benan Oregi and the intern Iñigo Medina.

*“the matters discussed at
the meeting were agreed in
advance by means of an on-line
questionnaire*

The working sessions took place on Friday in the SFBCC meeting room following the agenda reproduced below. The matters discussed were agreed weeks in advance by means of an on-line questionnaire sent out by the Directorate.

Representatives of Basque organizations in North America chose the topics by voting and were able to propose other matters of interest to them. Finally, the matters for discussion were divided into three sections: Past, current situation and outlook for the future of the organizations in North America (Past, Present and Future).



Graphics 1, 2 and 3. Results of the questionnaire of matters for discussion at the meeting.

The matters discussed in each part were the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1) Past:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) "Main Programs" B) "Basque Government—NABO relations" C) "Steps Together" | <p>3) Future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) "A new strategy 2020-2050?" B) "Educate+Recreate=Perpetuate" C) "SWOT Matrix" |
| <p>2) Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) "Where are we now? Basque Government" B) "Where are we now? NABO" | <p>4) Questions for the enquiry</p> |

The inputs and outputs were established by means of a specific methodology to meet seven specific goals:



The debate was chaired by Gorka Álvarez Aranburu, Annie Gavica (president of NABO) and Valerie Etcharren (deputy director of NABO).

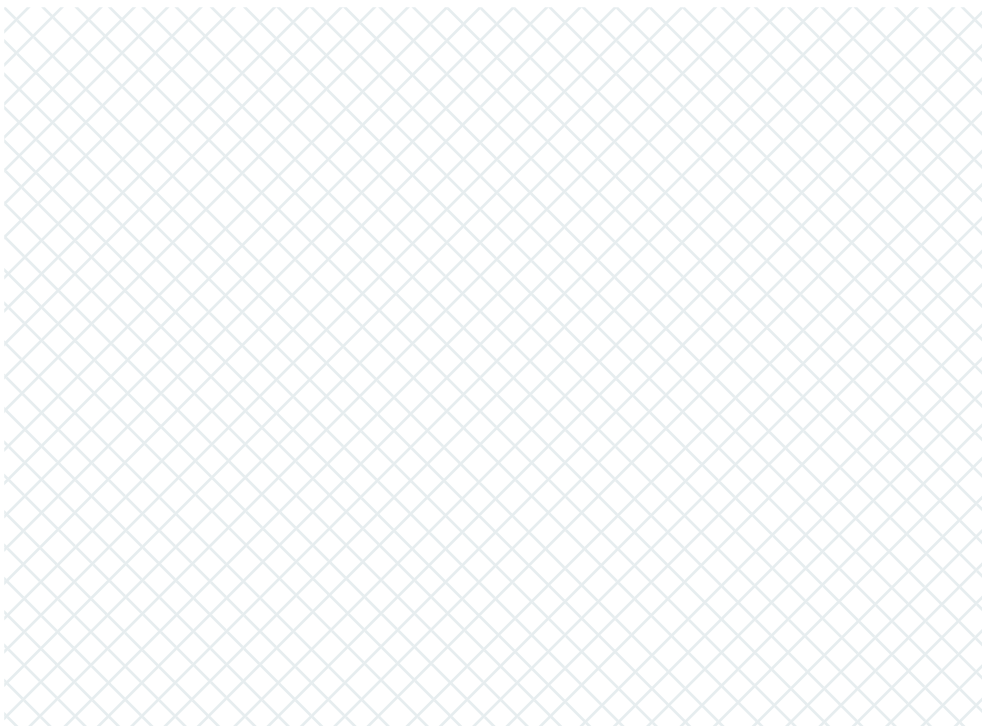
The activities parallel to the meeting were held at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. After the meeting, all the Euskal Etxeak representatives came together for a dinner.



3. photo. Meeting held in the meeting room of the BCC.

The meeting in San Francisco was followed by different media (Euskal Etxeak Digitala, euskadi.eus, Irekia, Euskalkultura.com, scoop.it etc.) and had a significant impact on the social networks used by the people attending it.

The next meeting of all the Euskal Etxeak will take place in 2019 as part of the 7th World Congress of Basque Groups Abroad, which is planned to be held in Bilbao. The next date on the calendar is the Regional Meeting of Euskal Etxeak in Central and South America, in autumn 2018.





welcome

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4. photo. Gorka Álvarez Aranburu, Director for the Basque Community Abroad.

GREETING AND THANKS BY **GORKA ÁLVAREZ ARANBURU**, DIRECTOR FOR THE BASQUE COMMUNITY ABROAD



Egun on!

It gives me great pleasure to open this Regional Meeting of Euskal Etxeak-Basque Clubs of Mexico, the United States of America and Canada, and also to welcome the Euskal Etxea of Saint Pierre et Miquelon, which recently joined the Register of Euskal Etxeak.

Ongi Etorri danori eta eskerrik asko gure deiari erantzuteagatik!

Why are we here today?

The 2016-2019 Four-Year Institutional Action Plan that emerged from the 6th World Congress in 2015 sets as a specific measure "to foster the continuation of regular regional meetings between World Congresses, sharing good practices."

In line with these instructions, the Basque Government has called this meeting to discuss things together with

the Euskal Etxeak of Mexico, the United States of America, Canada and Saint Pierre et Miquelon.

A meeting that sets out to look back, to observe the present by sharing good practices and experience and above all to look forward.

I have headed the Basque Government's Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad for nearly a year now, and I personally believe - and this is shared by my team in Gasteiz-Vitoria - that the best way to deal with the great human and cultural heritage represented by the Basque diaspora is to approach the people who make up the Basque Community abroad.

You are all here today to represent your centers and nobody is more aware than you of the path you have taken up to now, the good practices you have implemented, the difficulties you have come across and above all how to approach the future. This is something we all have to do together, and the Basque Government also wants to share with all of you its experience and its thoughts on the future.

The Euskal Etxeak and then federations have been a successful model which has made it possible to sustain, organize and promote the Basque diaspora throughout the world. Today the Basque Government's register of Euskal Etxeak includes 191 Euskal Etxeak in 25 countries. A great "treasure" to cherish and support!

We are here to think about things together with you but above all to listen to you.

It is not easy to manage the Basque diaspora. It is a very old community abroad, in a wide range of circumstances, and in addition a new 21st- century Basque community is also being formed.

The Basque presence in North America is almost as important in form as in numbers, and its presence goes back to the great transatlantic migratory movements. To the point where the three oldest legal documents in North America, excluding Mexico, are Basque: the will of a fisherman from Hondarribia, Domingo de Luça, who died in 1563 in Newfoundland, and those of two Basque sailors, Juan Martinez de Larrume of Orio, dated 1577, and Joannes Echaniz, from 1584.

While, as we have seen, the Basque presence in North America goes back a long way, Law 8 set out to foster a much closer relationship between the Basque Country and its Associations abroad, and in fact next year this law will be 25 years old!

The same law also encouraged the 6 World Congresses held from 1995 onwards, with the next one in 2019. In 2017 we brought the Euskal Etxeak of Europe, Asia and Oceania together in Paris, and in November we will be doing the same in Mar del Plata with the Euskal Etxeak and Federations of South America. These meetings should serve to provide content for the next World Congress, where a solid basis has to be laid down for working until 2023.

In short, the relationship between the Basque Government and the Basque Community Abroad has been constant, and now we are meeting at a time when we

would like to take a new approach, to make this relationship more solid and enable us to work together.

This is why today we will be raising different topics to propose, share and discuss between all of us. To this end I would ask you for sincerity, commitment and an eye to the future, to reflect together and take the Basque diaspora into the dimension it deserves in the 21st century.

Thank you very much - you now have the floor!



Gorka Álvarez Aranburu
Director for the Basque Community Abroad



minutes



1. PAST



- A)** The meeting began with a historical review of what has been achieved by cooperation between the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad and NABO.

The federation of Basque bodies in North America (NABO) was set up with three main tasks:

- 1) To foster relations between the Basque Euskal Etxeak, clubs and associations.
- 2) To pass on Basque culture.
- 3) To work to make the Basque cultural identity visible.



1. image: Poster presenting the meeting.

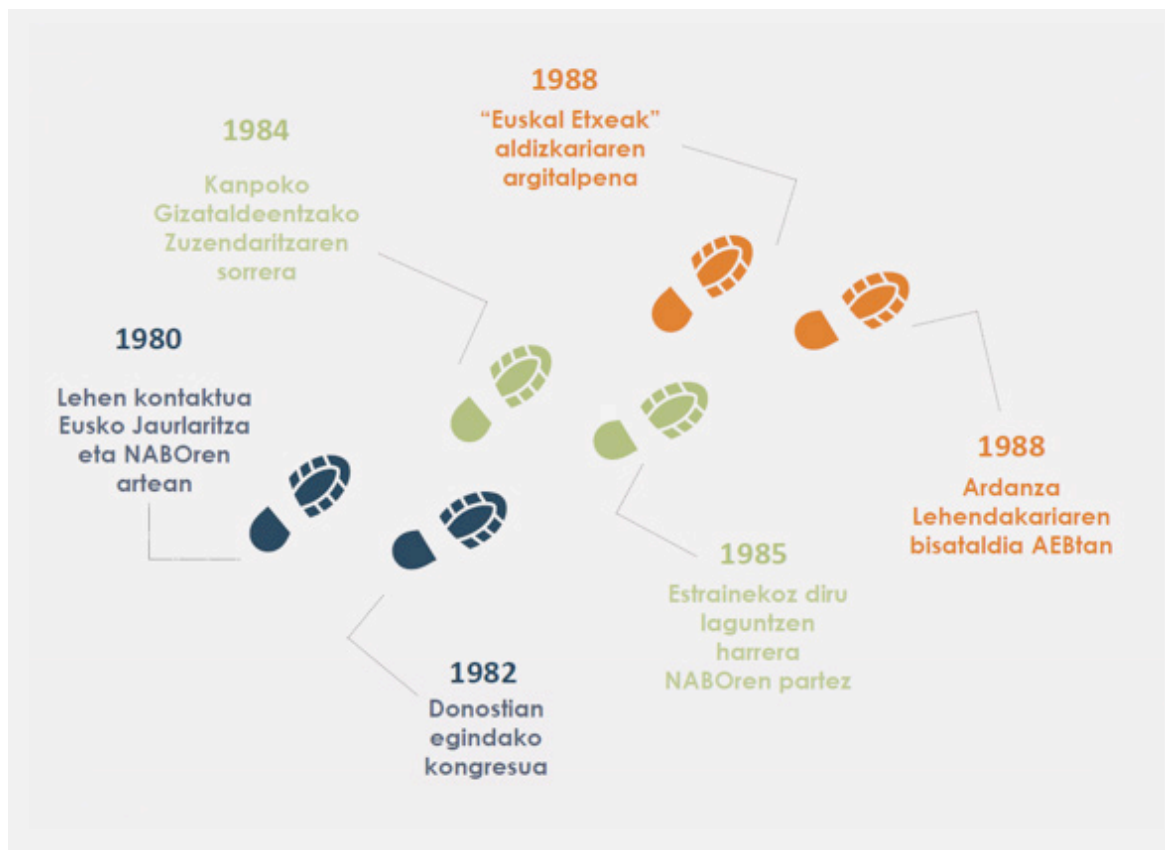
It would not be possible to take on these challenges and goals without a series of initiatives and actions. Thus, as well as recognizing the achievements of NABO, mention was made, among other things, of the success of the Basque festivities in America, the development of the “Gu” concept by the North American network and the practical internationalization of Basque awareness.

As pointed out above, the matters discussed at the meeting were agreed in advance by means of a questionnaire addressed to the participants. Among them, the main programs run by NABO:

- > Basque language classes at the Euskal Etxeak.
- > “Astero” (a newsletter that has, for thirteen years, published the agenda of different Basque associations and new testimony and information concerning Basques born in North America).
- > The “Bizi Emankorra” prize in recognition of a lifetime of work for Basque culture.
- > Different initiatives related to pelota.
- > Mus championship
- > Fostering the Udaleku program (summer camp).
- > Meetings and annual assemblies of NABO.
- > NABO calendar of activities of Euskal Etxeak in the United States.
- > Annual celebration of Euskal Kantari Eguna.
- > The “Memoria Bizia” program to collect testimony throughout the length and breadth of North America.

- B)** The first contacts between the Basque Government and NABO were described, and the main milestones highlighted.

Here is a graphic of them:



On his visit, Lehendakari Ardanza clearly outlined the principles of the collaborative relationship between the Basque Government and NABO.

The Lehendakari's words can be summed up in three points:

1. *"The Basque Government wants to help because of Basque Americans' **commitment** to your cultural identity"*
2. *"Our policy of support must be based on respect. **Respect** for plurality of opinion". These relations do not contradict your identity as Americans"*
3. *"Work **together** in a relationship of reciprocity"*

- C) He also quoted Law 8/1994 which governs relations with Basque Groups and the work done by both sides since its unanimous approval:

Entry of NABO in the register of Euskal Etxeak (1999)	
Collaborative projects in the United States, Mexico and Canada.	<i>Hidden in Plain Sight</i>
Participation in all 6 congresses of Basque Groups (1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015).	<i>Smithsonian Folklife Festival</i>
Participation in the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Groups.	<i>Memoria Bizia</i>
Application for assistance.	<i>Urazandi Collection</i>
Participation in the "Gaztemundu" program.	<i>Running the "Ikastola" project</i>
Coordinating joint programs with CBS and BSU.	<i>Jaialdi</i>



Comments and contributions to the round table in the first block



- > Bob Echevarria, an Elko delgate, mentioned the problems arising in the past with records in the Basque Government database, as members of the Euskal Etxeak in the United States were wary of supplying their personal data. It took a lot of work to implement the record.
- > Kate Camino, a delegate from Reno, praised the co-operation between NABO and the Basque Government and underlined the work done to foster Basque culture, especially in small clubs. Noel Fagoaga, a delegate from Quebec, referred to the work done by his Euskal Etxea in this respect. Valerie Arrechea, vice-president of NABO, underlined the importance of the summer camp (Udaleku) in fostering the txistu and dance as well as dealing with different cultural and geographical topics.
- > Pierre Etcharren of the SFBCC, and Bob Echevarria, an Elko delegate, referred to the beginnings of NABO. The Udaleku program played a significant part in the establishment of relations between clubs. Valerie Arrechea underlined the importance of the network arising from Udaleku with a view to encouraging relations between the young people in the clubs.
- > Mayi Petracek mentioned the assistance received from the Directorate in purchasing computer equipment in the years 93/94, which helped to boost the efficiency of clubs' work.
- > Michel Goicoechea, a delegate from St Pierre et Miquelon, presented his club, reviewed the history of his community, gave information about the island and explained the situation and programs of his club.
- > Mention was also made of the role played by the Boise Ikastola, the progress made over the years in the Basque education program in the United States and the role of the Basque Government in supporting this program was praised.

2. PRESENT



- A)** In the second block, starting out from the topics with the most votes in the questionnaire before the meeting, the current work of the Euskal Etxeak and Basque bodies in North America was discussed.

- | |
|---|
| > Institutional presence of the Basque Government in the form of its New York delegation. |
| > 2020. urtera begira AEBan finkatutako |
| > 2019 Congress |
| > Basque Diaspora Archive |
| > Basque Global Network |
| > Diasporizatu! and Basque Diaspora Day |
| > Etxepare Institute |

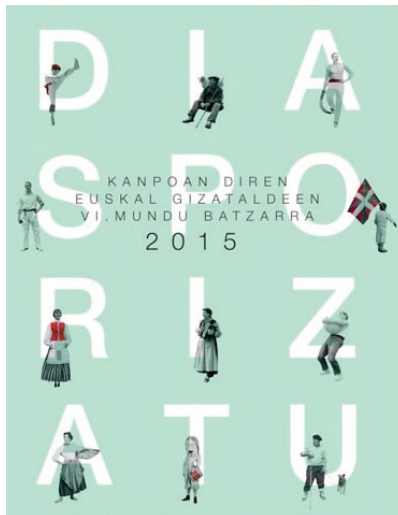
The Directorate has set up the Basque Global Network, a social network for people in the Basque Diaspora to join. This tool enables the Basque groups around the world to get in touch with one another.

It can be used to announce different events and initiatives, share calendars and documents, etc.



3. Image. Logo of the Basque Global Network.

It is a social network in four languages (Basque, Spanish, English and French) which has over 800 users in 20 countries, 12 specialist groups and so on.



4. Image. Poster for the 2015 Congress.

Another of the points discussed was Basque Diaspora Day. As we all know, this day sprang from the commitment undertaken unanimously in 2015 during the 4th World Congress of Basque Groups Abroad. In December 2017 an open process was run to choose the date, with the whole of the Basque diaspora taking part. Out of the 46 proposals initially received, 8 went through to the final stage of the process, and finally 8th September was chosen.

Among the projects discussed was that of the Basque Diaspora Archive, the aim of which will be to collect physical testimony to our diaspora, documentation about Basque groups abroad, publications, documents, press cuttings, historical objects and so on. The whole diaspora in North America was invited to make contributions to the Diaspora Archive, which will be housed on the premises of the Historical Archive of the Basque Country in Bilbao.

It was also recalled that this initiative by the Directorate is in line with the goals set forth in the NABO Statutes:

"To collect, preserve and display articles, relics, data, specimens, and material things illustrative or demonstrative of the heritage, history, customs, modes, culture and habits of the Basque people"

NABO's objectives: Sec. 1, c)



5. photo. Premises of the Historical Archive of the Basque Country.

B) Another of the matters discussed at the meeting - also considered strategic - was the current situation of the North American Basque Groups, in relation to which different aspects and questions were considered. One of the first points talked about was Udaleku, presented as one of NABO's most successful programs, and this led to discussion of other topics. Among other things, the following was raised:

- > Principal programs under way
- > Operating procedures
- > Visions and strategies
- > Educate + recreate = Perpetuate
- > Key projects
- > East and West
- > Canada, Mexico and St. Pierre et Miquelon

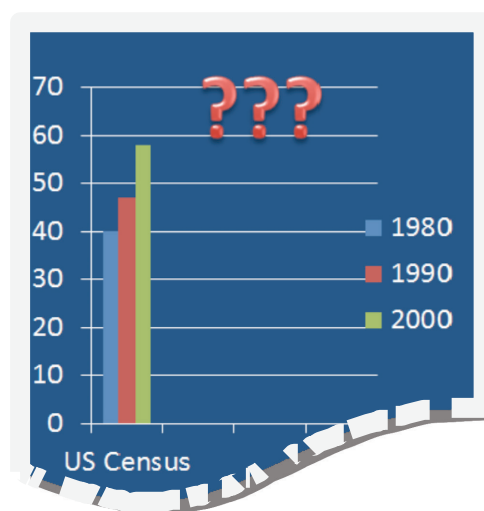
To use the term coined by William A. Douglass, mention was made of the "NABO effect" to answer the question "How many of us are there?".

The demographic census of ethnic groups carried out in the United States every ten years indicates a significant increase in the Basque community.

This increase is due to the successful expansion of Basque identity and the growth in our community.

However, while the Euskal Etxeak in North America show this growth, it is difficult to give specific figures due to the privacy laws in force in each country.

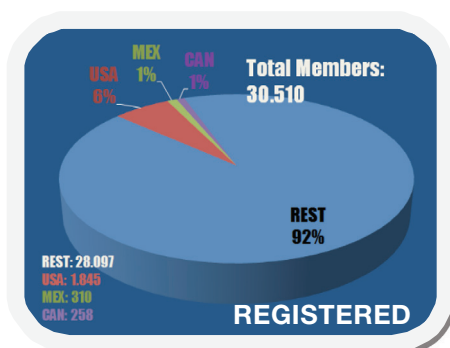
The question of the number of members of the Euskal Etxeak might lead to misunderstandings over the situation in North America. This issue mainly affects the United States, whose Euskal Etxeak have 6,647 members, though the number of members recognized by name is less than 1,900.



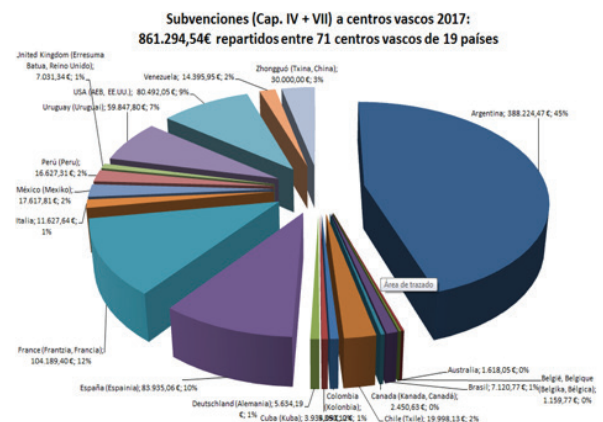
5. Image. No. (in thousands) of citizens of Basque origin according to the census carried out in the United States in recent years.

Discussion then turned to the matter of revenue and the increased amounts of money received by NABO since the Basque Government's 1994 law came into force and the subsequent setting up of the program of subsidies. This was followed by a wide-ranging chronological review of the subsidies received.

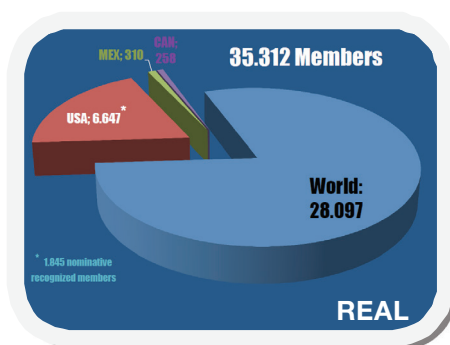
In the case of NABO - entered as a federation in the Register of Euskal Etxeak - a limit of 50,000 euros was established, except in the case of setting up special programs.



6. Image. Number of recognized members of the Euskal Etxeak in North America.



8. Image. 2017 subsidies by countries.



7. Image. Number of unrecognized members of the Euskal Etxeak in North America.

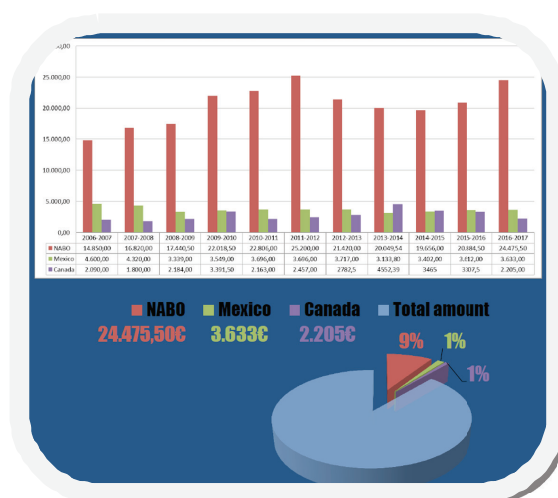
País	%	Total	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Argentina		477	33	21	30	32	23	24	24	21	4	30	30	25	16	37	24	23	10	11	15	11	22	11
Australia		4				3				1														
Brasil		5			1	1				2								1						
Canada	1,13	8		3			1	2		2														
Chile		35		4	4	2	1	1	1	2		1	1		3	3	2	2		2	2		2	2
Colombia		10													1	3	1	2	1	1		1		
El Salvador		4	2	1	1																			
España		3								1							1				1			
México	0,99	7	1			1	1		1	2												1		
Perú		12	1			3	5			1					1	1								
Puerto Rico		2	2																					
United Kingdom		1								1														
Uruguay		51	7	8	6	6	4	1	2	2			2	2	1	2		2	2		1	2		1
USA	8,49	60	5	1	6	1	1	9	12			3	1	1	6	1	2		2	2	6		1	
Venezuela		27	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	3						1	1							
Total por año	10,62	706	52	47	47	57	38	30	38	50	4	34	34	30	30	46	30	30	15	15	25	15	25	14

8. Image. Number of participants in Gaztemundu. Figures for USA highlighted in yellow.

One of the Directorate's most successful programs is without a doubt Gaztemundu, and the meeting conducted a chronological analysis of North American participation in this.

The language programs run by HABE and the Etxepare Institute in North America were described in similar terms. The budgets assigned for teaching Basque were presented, with a report on the activities of the Etxepare Institute over the last year (294 students, 6 assistantships and 8 chairs).

Basque language classes are taught in: San Francisco, Los Banos, Rocklin, Elko, Reno, Denver, Homedale, Boston, Boise, New York, Salt Lake City, Rock Springs, Bakersfield and Home Mountain (USA); Quebec (Canada) and Mexico DF (Mexico).



9. Image. Subsidies in the last 10 years for teaching Basque in North America.



Comments and contributions of the round table in the second block



- > Kate Camino referred to the Basque Global Network. Kate, administrator of the publication Astero, had analyzed the feedback from the people wanting to be users. These people were unwilling to share their personal details with the Basque Government. Gorka Álvarez pointed out that changes had been made in this area, including a link to the LinkedIn social network as a security measure to avoid fraudulent profiles and false users.
- > Bob Echevarria mentioned the geographical distance separating these groups when describing relations between east and west. Xabier Berrueta, the NABO pelota delegate, underlined the usefulness of technology to aid communication between clubs. The “Zoom” platform is now used to publicize the meetings for all the clubs. Valerie Arrechea and Mayi Petracek said that technical problems had recently arisen. Martin Goicoechea, the NABO Basque language delegate, agreed with Xabier, and mentioned as an example the use of the AISA platform for learning Basque.
- > Noel Fagoaga, the Quebec delegate, rated his participation in NABO meetings very positively. With regard to geographical distance, he pointed out that the distance between the east coast and the west coast is the same as that from the east coast to the Basque Country. Therefore, it is easier for them to stay in contact with the Basque Country. *“This helps to establish a common agenda for the east coast clubs, and the same happens in the west. In any case, there are organizational problems, as in the east the lack of a federative body is felt. NABO is supposed to be this valid interlocutor, but it is based in the west.”*
- > Kate Camino stated that the main difference between the communities on the two coasts is the type of emigration. The west has people related to the first Basque emigrants, and are in the third or fourth generation. The east coast, on the other hand, attracts young people who come to work or study, and tend to be more mobile.
- > Argia Beristain, a member of the Boise club, recalled her stay in Washington D.C. and highlighted the progress made in recent years in developing the Basque-American identity on the east coast. Among other things, she mentioned the Basque language



classes, Christmas celebrations and children's activities.

- > Aitor Inarra, the NABO Basque language coordinator, underlined the big differences between the east and west coast communities: "Comparisons cannot be made between clubs: for example, in the area of Basque language. NABO as an institution can help clubs, but the commitment of the latter is fundamental. NABO is the basis for all their work in common."
- > Lorea Palacios, the representative for North America on the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Groups, referred to the situation in Mexico: *"With regard to Basque language teaching, we have sufficient resources, but we should strengthen cooperation and exchanges with other clubs in North America, and a good way of doing this would be to extend the Udaleku program."*
- > Mayi Petracek, the delegate for Colorado and NABO treasurer, pointed out the difficulties in attracting young people to the clubs and to Basque culture, because of the wide range of cultural and leisure options that currently exist.
- > Elena Sommer, the delegate for Vancouver, explained the situation of her club: "In Vancouver we are isolated from the rest of the Basque community in North America." *The club is shrinking, even though it makes an effort to offer an attractive agenda aimed especially at children. Many people have arrived recently from the Basque Country, but they*

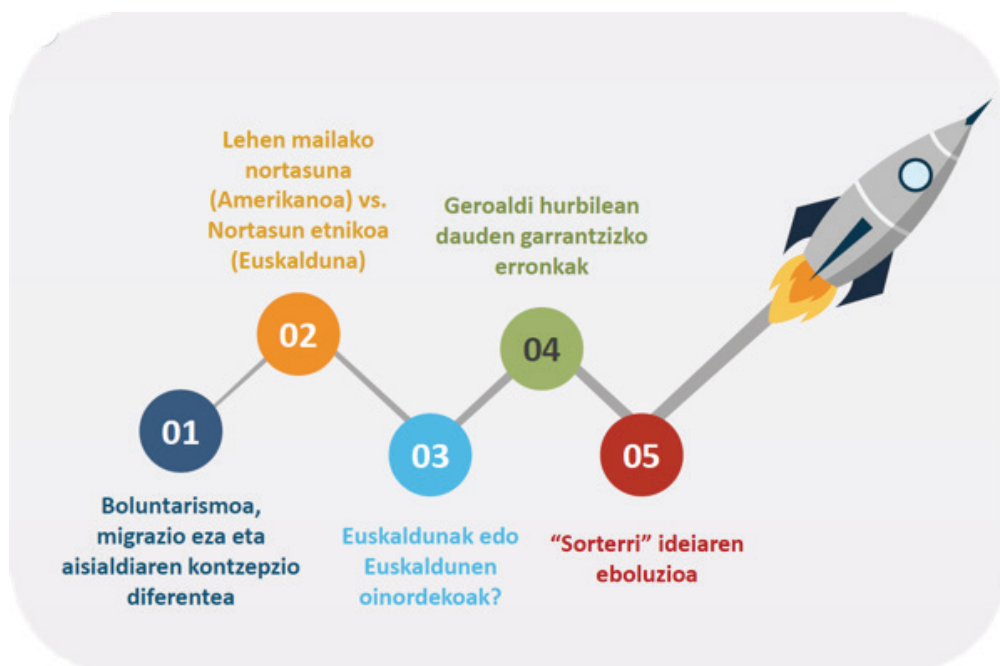
show no interest in Basque culture and prefer to enter into other cultures unfamiliar to them. We made an effort with Basque language classes, and though they worked quite well at first, they ended up stopping."

- > Gorka Álvarez, Director for the Basque Community Abroad, mentioned the limit established in subsidies. He wanted to know whether the sums provided were sufficient or helpful. The current limit set for federations is 50,000 euros, while the amount set for Euskal Etxeak is 30,000 euros for cultural activities and 10,000 euros for infrastructures. Kate Camino answered that the small clubs need more assistance. Benan Oregi, an expert working for the Basque Community Abroad, pointed out that the primary task of the Basque Government is to subsidize federations, as they are the bodies most familiar with the small clubs and the best able to distribute this assistance. This is why the limit set for the federations is higher.
- > Noel Fagoaga asked about the kind of initiatives subsidized: *"What type of program does the Basque Government aim to help or foster?"* Gorka Álvarez replied that the subsidies are not linked to specific initiatives *"The aim of the subsidies is to support the initiatives that the Euskal Etxeak are trying to implement independently. If a club wants to run a special project, the Directorate will always be willing to listen and assess their proposal."*

3. FUTURE



- A)** In the last part of the meeting the strategy for the long-term future was considered, within the first point of the three columns in the questionnaire. The future of the diaspora in North America is closely linked to the following questions and concepts:



B) Right from the start, NABO's philosophy has been to try to bring different generations together under the slogan "Learn + Recreate = Perpetuate." Interest in these practices as well as calling for certain actions related to Basque culture and heritage form part of NABO's DNA. This is why its statutes say the following:

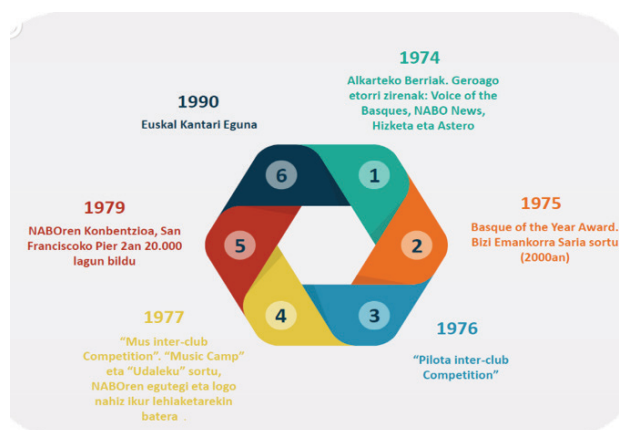
> Sec. 1 Objects, c):

"To educate and enlighten its members and their children and the general public in matters relating to the Basque people and their past and present culture, customs, habits, ethnicity, culture and heritage, and to disseminate information relating thereto and to encourage, support and help the preservation of the Basque language..."

Regarding educational programs, mention was made of the program to disseminate Basque culture and the most successful initiatives:

> Center for Basque Studies	> Basque Museum and Cultural Center
> BEO	> Cenarrusa Center
> Ikastola	> Udaleku
> "BOGA"	> Etxepare
> Gaztemundu	> Euskalkultura
> Euskaletxeak	> About Basque Country

It would not be possible to pursue these initiatives without a long tradition of enterprise. NABO as a federation seeks to forge closer relations between the Euskal Etxeak in North America, to help set up programs and to foster an active calendar. Thus, at the meeting stress was laid on the importance of different initiatives the body has engaged in which have been consolidated over time. Specifically:



- c) The last part of the meeting concentrated on considering a SWOT analysis in order to make an overall assessment of the future strategy of the Basque groups in North America. This analysis provided an overview of the strengths, weaknesses, potential opportunities and threats:

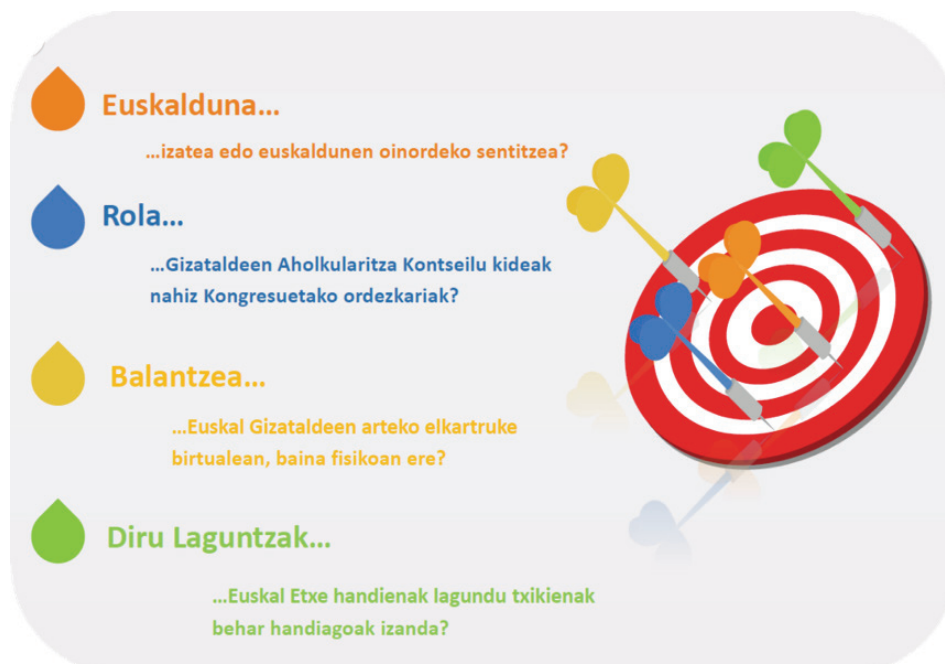


7. Image. SWOT analysis of North America.

4. Questions for the Enquiry



In order to enrich debate and complete the session, participants in the meeting were asked some exploratory questions as a way of getting feedback and enabling exchange. The matters discussed were the following:



8. Image. Graphical summary of the “Questions for Enquiry” concerning North America.

The last point revolved around the slogan for the congress to be held in 2019, to which end the topics dealt with at previous congresses were reviewed.

1995: Euskadi Munduan / Building the future
1999: Euskadi Munduan eraikitzen
2003: Aurrera goaz
2007: Zubigintzan
2011: Guztion artean
2015: Diasporizatu!
2019: ???



Comments and contributions of the round table in the third block



- > Bob Echevarria, after listening to the Questions for Enquiry, pointed out that 30 years ago it was easier to define Basque cultural identity. *"I might not be Euskaldun, as I don't speak Basque, but I've always felt Basque, for 45 years: eginez eta ekinez".*
- > Valerie Arrechea compared identity to a description of oneself: *"It's a question of keeping active in your culture, which is really what defines identity. In this respect, there are three aspects that contribute to the development of the Basque community in North America. First of all, the identity of the Basque immigrants who make up the first generations in the country. Second, the people who are born into a Basque family and within Basque culture, giving them a link to a specific group and a culture. Finally, the people who come to Basque culture despite the wide range of culture and leisure options currently on offer."* She also defended the work of the Euskal Etxeak as a meeting place for anybody interested in Basque culture.
- > Kate Camino argued that identifying with Basque culture means taking on Basqueness. She spoke of the role of USAC as a bridge between the USA and the Basque Country.
- > Lisa Corcostegui mentioned the importance of forging stronger links and encouraging people to discover Basque culture and feel comfortable with it.
- > Noel Fagoaga considered Basque culture to be an instrument for mediation with other people: *"In our case, trainera boat events are the starting point for attracting people to other areas of Basque culture."*
- > Elena Sommer also stated her opinion about Basque culture: *"Living in the Basque Country for a while and immersing oneself in its culture serves to adapt to our reality, and people can consider themselves Euskalduns."*
- > Aitor Inarra recalled the last Congress of Basque Groups Abroad: *"The groups that formed with dif-*

ferent people dealt with different proposals in relation to the actions to be taken in the next four years. One of the topics discussed was the importance of helping small clubs, as the secret to achieving a high profile consists of paying attention to the little things... Paying attention to small clubs and planting seeds in small communities."

- > Larraitz Ariznabarreta, of Boise University, talked about how to attract non Basque-speaking students to Basque culture. *"In the Oinkari group there are some dantzaris who do not speak Basque. How can we awaken their interest in learning the language? Perhaps developing the Ikastola could help with this."*
- > Martin Goicoechea referred to new technology as a way to expand and improve the range of learning in Basque: *"The AISA system enables anybody to learn Basque conveniently anywhere, from home..."*



photograph





6. photo. Delegates from the Euskal Etxea of St. Pierre et Miquelon with Gorka Álvarez (Director for the Basque Community Abroad).



7. photo (left to right). Valerie Etcharren, Gorka Álvarez and Annie Gavica.



8. photo. Euskal Etxeak delegates at the meeting.



9. photo. Crest in the entrance hall of the BCC.



10. photo. Basque Cultural Center, San Francisco.



11. photo. Cart used by Basque shepherds (outside the BCC).



12. photo (left to right) Pierre Etcharren, Iñigo Medina, Gorka Álvarez, Martin Goicoechea, Valerie Etcharren, Michel Goicoechea and David Lamoreux.



13. photo. Communal meal on the 36th anniversary of the BCC.



14. photo. Award of the 2017 Bizia Memory Prize Valerie Arrechea collects the prize from Annie Gavica and Gorka Álvarez.



15. photo. Pelotaris of Joko Garbi and Esku Pilota with Benan Oregi, Gorka Álvarez and Xabier Berrueta (President of the Federation).



EUSKO JAURLARITZA
GOBIERNO VASCO

KANPO HARREMANETARAKO
IDAZKARITZA Nagusia

SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE
ACCIÓN EXTERIOR

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA REGIONAL MEETING

2018
Mar del Plata





The 2nd Central and South America Regional Meeting, organised by the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad, was held on Friday 2nd November 2018 in the city of Mar de Plata, Argentina, taking advantage of the holding of Basque National Week in the city and the Denak Bat Basque centre of Mar de Plata celebrating the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

Following the accreditation of all the participants, there was a round of introductions and Gorka Álvarez, Director for the Basque Community Abroad, explained how the meeting would work, its programme, interventions and so on.

The meeting began with an explanation by the Directorate itself of news and matters relating to its regular programmes (subsidies for Basque centres, extreme need assistance, Gaztemundu, Basque community specialisation grants, the euskaletxeak.eus portal and the Basque Global Network), the holding of Basque Diaspora Day, setting up the Basque Diaspora Archive and preparing the 7th World Congress of Basque Communities, to be held in the last third of 2019.

Some thoughts were offered on the continued relevance of Law 8/94, the highest regulatory framework in this field, given that in 2019 it will be 25 years old.

Starting with subsidies for Basque centres, figures for 2017 and 2018 were presented, and the advice on mak-

ing and justifying applications given by the Directorate in each round of applications was reviewed. The participants raised various matters and concerns, notably the following:

- > Why it is a good idea to use a digital certificate to submit applications, in response to which the current technical and legal difficulties in issuing strong digital certificates by IZENPE, the official Basque certification body, were explained.
- > The possibility of making assessments and ratings public. The Directorate answered that it cannot do this in a general way because of data protection law, but if Basque centres make a request on an individual basis they have always been informed of their own respective assessments.
- > Venezuelan representatives repeatedly mentioned the obstacle represented by the bureaucratisation of relations between Basque centres and the Basque authorities.

With regard to the Extreme Need Assistance, figures were also provided on the 2017 and 2018 rounds of applications and the forthcoming reforms in the regulatory decree were explained:

- > The Euskal Etxeak will have the legal status of “collaborating bodies”, so they will have to sign the pertinent agreements when they submit applications.
- > The economic criteria will be updated by adapting the indicators to the social and economic circumstances of each country.

- > The essential target group will be made up of the members of the Euskal Etxeak, i.e. the “organised” Basque community, without ruling out other members of the Basque community who can accredit their Basque origins.
- > So that the Basque centres can assess all the new information they were to be offered a period of public consultation on the draft decree.

An objection was raised that the people who need the extreme need assistance often cannot pay a subscription. The Directorate responded that to solve this the Euskal Etxea would have to decide what to do: let them be associate members without paying a subscription, etc. If these people are shown as members in the euskaletxeak.net register, they are considered members.

Objections were also raised to the excessive bureaucratisation of the assistance. The Directorate indicated that its procedures had to be regulated, though it tried to simplify them as much as possible.

The Directorate also raised the topic of the grant of the Returned Certificate, announcing that in 2018 five certificates were granted out of 20 applications, all to people from Venezuela. This year no more applications are being taken.

Regarding the Gaztemundu 2019 programme, the Directorate announced that the training given to participants will concern the management of cultural bodies and their

stay will coincide with the World Congress, as envisaged in the 2015-2019 Four-Year Plan

Regarding grants for specialisation in Basque communities, it was announced that the call for applications in 2019 would be around March-April, after standardising the varying rules of different directorates for foreign affairs in a single decree.

The Directorate insisted on the importance of Basque centres having all their details correctly updated in the official register hosted on euskaletxeak.eus, both to respond adequately to increasing requests for information by outside parties and to properly assess applications for subsidies. Also, the weekly online newsletter the Directorate uses to publish news and information of interest to the Basque diaspora was described.

Concerning the Basque Global Network, it was announced that 1,200 people are already registered and work is being done to improve the network and encourage new members to register.

The Directorate thanked the whole community for taking part in the celebration of the Euskal Diasporaren Eguna recently instituted on 8th September. A total of about 60 Euskal Etxeak joined in, and a video was shown with highlights from each of them. Those present were encouraged to carry on celebrating this emblematic date in the future.



Finally, it was announced that a Basque Diaspora Archive was being set up, housed in the Archive of the Basque Country in Bilbao, with the ultimate aim of creating a centre to study and present the migrations, linking the concept of migration today and the fact that the Basques were and still are migrants, too. Initial work on ordering and cataloguing existing materials was to begin in summer 2019. Participants were invited to contribute documents, photographs and materials of all kinds to this Archive.

After a coffee break, Irene Larraza, director of the Etxepare Basque Institute, talked about the work of her institution, and specifically the Euskara Munduan programme. Some of the proposals made by the participants were:

- > The need to create chairs of Basque language and culture in Latin America, as a way of cementing links with the Basque Country.
- > It would be useful to create a list of literary works and testimony on the diaspora in the world, and the Basque diaspora could cooperate in this.
- > The problem of Patagonia: difficulties in getting about and teaching Basque.
- > The lack of teaching material for children and the need for an institutional framework to resolve this.

After this, the federations taking part in the meeting (FEVA, FIVU and the Venezuela federation) talked briefly about the following subjects:

AR-2371, Buenos Aires, Argentina, F.E.V.A. (Federation of Basque-Argentinian Bodies)

Central topics:

1. Basque language: Mention was made of the Argentinian Euskaraz programme and emphasis was laid on the need not only to train teachers but also to focus on the youngest.
As an achievement, the accreditations of Basque teaching-learning were mentioned.
Current problems: not having face-to-face teachers in some places because of the distances involved, so teaching by other means was being considered.
2. Young people (Gaztemundu and exchanges): mention was made of the issue of a new generation.
Some changes to the Gaztemundo programme were suggested:
 - > Increasing the number of places offered, to which the Directorate responded that there was no budget for this.
 - > Not having more than one member from a single Basque centre. The Directorate argued that it was done like this to enable applicants who had scored the required points to attend, regardless of which Basque centre they came from.
 - > Rating "not having been to the Basque Country before" was not considered appropriate.
 - > It was asked that the age limit be raised. Peru, Uruguay and Brazil also agreed with this proposal, suggesting a limit of 40 years old.
 - > Setting up workshops for those who have passed through Gaztemundu to share their experiences, the material generated during their stay, etc. There should be feedback for the Euskal Etxeak: people trained in the programme should then "generate" something and commit to their Euskal Etxea. The Directorate confirmed that the obligations in the regulatory degree stipulate that

there must be feedback by the participant to the Basque centre (article 13). It is up to each centre to ensure this requirement is met. On the other hand, the Basque centre is responsible for the candidate it presents, so possible objections to the participants do not make sense.

3. Txikis: the meeting of txikis in Llavallol and the workshop to train txiki leaders were mentioned. The importance of focusing not only on young people but also on children was highlighted.
4. The positive results of the “Hator Hona” in Necochea and “Anima Zaitetz” in Villa María were mentioned.

UY-2363, Montevideo, Uruguay - F.I.V.U. (Federation of Basque Institutions of Uruguay)

Central topics:

1. Leadership as a topic for Gaztemundo: problem of new generations. Raise at World Congress. Proposing a multi-disciplinary Gaztemundu.
- Broadening the age range: today “young” is considered from 18 to 40 years old.
2. Declaring the card game of mus intangible cultural heritage, encouraging its play throughout the Basque diaspora.
3. The Basque government should not send Basque centres collections of irrelevant books but graphic material on specific topics of interest to the Euskal Etxeak (history, dance, art, Basque language, music, gastronomy, Kirolak, etc.): they ask for this while bearing in mind how difficult it is to bring these materials into the country.

VE-2583, Venezuela Federation and VE-2522, Caracas, Venezuela, Caracas Basque Centre

Central topics:

1. How to run an Eusko Etxea in a hyper-inflationary economy: the exchange rate issue.
2. How to cope with the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis to help our community.

The following topics were also mentioned:

- > “Tierra y Gracia” (“Land and Grace”) Foundation: Basque-Venezuelans who are organised with the support of the Basque government to send humanitarian aid (medicines for chronic illnesses).
- > Importance of including young people in centres’ executive committees. The problem of new generations.
- > Proposal: every 2 or 3 years run cultural festivals at Basque centres in Latin America. Each Euskal Etxea should host one every 2 or 3 years. This will attract young people.

They also pointed out the advantages of disseminating Basque through songs, verse and explanatory videos.

After the interventions by the federations there was a break for lunch, where the participants were able to meet one another and exchange comments and experiences. Before resuming the session, Juan Pedro Arín, on behalf of EITB, showed a new app to watch Basque channels on smart TVs.

Next, the Basque centres who had put forward topics for discussion in advance explained their concerns and approaches.



AR-2302, José C. Paz, Argentina, Toki Eder Basque Centre

1. Forging links of strength and joint action with Basque institutions working in the area of equality.
2. The importance of including the gender perspective in Basque centres and the need to consider the group conducting research into this field.
3. Fostering talks, exhibitions, etc. and implementing gender policies.

AR-2572, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Basque-French Centre

1. Designing a Basque cultural exchange programme for South America.
2. Fostering research into local history, Basque centres, personalities, Basque initiatives and so on. Setting up an academic journal about Basque history and culture for the Latin American diaspora, like that in Laprida, with the publication Guregandik by the Arturo Campión study centre.
3. The Basque Diaspora Advisory Council: a regular census of human resources must be implemented in Basque centres around the world, placing the accent on outstanding figures in the different forms of Basque culture, as well as on important personalities in their local or regional sphere of influence. This should be done every four years, coinciding with the World Congress of Basque Communities Abroad, so making it possible to update the database of all Basque centres.
4. Implementing an institutional and cultural scheme between FEVA and the Patagonian Basque centres, in order to strengthen links and overcome the obstacles of distance.
5. Creating a permanent meeting place for Basque centres in towns where there is more than one Basque

institution, to coordinate actions, cultural activities and joint measures: to join in the Buenos Aires Celebra festival, to coordinate Basque Diaspora Day and so on. Appearing as an organised, united diaspora. This year the Delegation organised the film series El Viaje de Aguirre at the Centro Cultural Kirschner (CCK), with the participation of the Basque centres of the city of Buenos Aires in the form of a representative of each centre in the debating groups. The experience was highly positive and the idea is to carry on organising meetings of this kind.

AR-2573, Viedma, Argentina, Aberri Etxea

1. Creating cultural activities and meetings in Patagonia, with the aim of overcoming distances and reinforcing the transmission of Basque language and culture in the region.
2. Dealing with payment of Basque teachers in small groups: this topic was repeated by different participants. Irene Larraza mentioned that some time ago the budget for Euskara Munduan was cut back considerably and her goal is to restore it so that more can be paid. In any case, it is a slow process.
3. Regarding Basque films: mention was made of the need for the catalogue to include dubbed or subtitled films.
4. Establishing criteria to host Barnategis.
5. Mention was made of the problem of the Patagonian centres ("Patagoniarantz" programme).
6. They made clear that it was impossible for them to take part in Gaztemundu: without young people going to learn, they cannot teach at their Basque centre. This also takes in the need to work with and train children, not just young people. In this case, Patagonia may have two problems: on the one hand, the distance to Ezeiza airport, which is not paid for by

the Basque government, and on the other the fact that in Patagonia there are several centres that are not officially recognised by the Basque government, such as - among others - those of Neuquén and San Martín de los Andes.

They also offered their thoughts on the importance of work with children, so that later on, as young people, they will remain linked to the Basque centre. Salto commented that in relation to this they organise a football tournament and Flores and Euskal Erria mentioned the pelota academies as a driving force. Finally, they referred to the "Patagoniarantz" programme.

CL-2331, Viña del Mar, Chile, Eusko Etxea - Valparaíso Basque Centre

They laid special emphasis on the problem of new generations: there are many young people of Basque descent in the region. Many of them are aware of this but not all. The first generation is now dying and the third generation does not have much information. Transmission from generation to generation has failed. As it is a university area, two programmes have been set up to attract young people:

1. There are about 80 young Basques at the university (on exchanges). They want to organise activities with these young Basques. Among these activities, they have converted an apartment with two bedrooms, living room and dining room on the premises of the Euskal Etxea, so that at least three young students can live there, in exchange for contributing to the Basque centre. It is being publicised through the UPV/EHU.
2. There is a school founded by a Basque priest, father Kepa, for 1,800 children in vulnerable circumstances. The aim of the school is to disseminate Basque culture. The Basque centre is training teachers to teach

Basque language, dance and sports to these children, who are not of Basque descent.

AR-2319, San Nicolás de los Arroyos, Argentina, Euskal-Etxea San Nicolás (San Nicolás Basque Centre)

Once a month they cook for children at different educational levels (Etxe Nasaia). At the end of the year they will be going into a top-security prison where they will also be cooking. Like this they reach out to local society, as does Laurak Bat with Buenos Aires Celebra al País Vasco (the Buenos Aires Celebrates the Basque Country festival).

BR-2400, São Paulo, Brazil, Eusko-Brasilidar Etxea

As they had at the 2011 World Congress, they suggested generating economic resources for the Euskal Etxeak through business activities and events.

PY-2570, Asunción, Paraguay, Euskal Etxea Jasone

They commented that it would be useful to set up scholarships for the local populations.

CU-3857, Havana, Cuba, Basque-Navarrese Charity Association

Their main concern was the poor quality of their communications, the difficulty in information reaching members of the Euskal Etxea. Insufficient Internet speed to send information to members and other Euskal Etxeak. Need to access online material on the Internet. The Euskal Etxea website will be appearing by the end of the year.



PE-2347, Lima, Peru, Euskal Etxea de Lima

1. They proposed regulating the territorial representation of the Basque centres on the Advisory Council: appointing alternate council members (substitutes or replacements) to help relations between the Euskal Etxeak and the Directorate. The Directorate suggested electing a member and three substitutes, something it will propose at the 2019 World Congress.
2. They were in favour of setting up cultural competitions in this region of Latin America.

They also expressed their willingness to make statements in solidarity: for example, expressing their support for the Euskal Etxea in Madrid over the attack on it (painting on its front wall). Obviously the level of support of each Basque centre for more or less political matters like this is for each to decide, but by way of example in this case, the Basque government issued an official statement condemning the said attack.

SV-2337, San Salvador, El Salvador, El Salvador Basque Centre

They indicated that legislative changes were on the way to prevent money laundering.

AR-4203, Posadas, Argentina, Euskal Jatorri Basque Centre Civil Association, Posadas, Misiones province

1. They asked that the age for Gaztemundu and other programmes be extended to people over 35 as their association's membership lacked people younger than that.
2. They proposed regulating the membership of the FEVA executive committee, as it is generally made up of the biggest Euskal Etxeak or those from Buenos Aires.

3. They suggested decentralising the activities run by FEVA into the different Euskal Etxeak in the country.

They also commented on the possibilities of much for attracting young people to the Basque centres.

AR-3535, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Euskaltzaleak Basque Language School of Buenos Aires

1. Basque language:
 - > How the Basque language teaching programme with Etxepare Institutua works.
 - > Payment for hours for Basque language teachers, mainly in small groups.
 - > Barnetegis for Basque language learners.
 - > Activities in Basque between nearby Euskal Etxeak.
2. New generations ("trikipoteo" with young people).

AR-2295, Chivilcoy, Argentina, Beti Aurrera Basque-Argentinian Centre

They asked that the "Giras Culturales" programme of cultural tours be resumed

BR-2325, São Paulo, Brasil, Eusko Alkartasuna de São Paulo

They did not intervene as the topics they submitted in advance had already been dealt with. These were:

1. At the Regional Meetings and World Congresses there are too many talks and little time for representatives of the Basque centres to discuss their everyday situations: dissemination and communication, attracting new members, future of the Basque diaspora, etc. Change the approach.

2. The traditional training activities in Gaztemundu stop there being representatives of small Basque centres that do not have young people to get involved in these activities.

CO-2599, Caldas, Colombia, Mendietakoak Basque Cultural Centre Foundation (did not intervene in the end)

Like the previous group, they did not intervene as the topics they were most concerned about had already been dealt with, though what they mentioned in advance was the importance of recovering the historical memory of the Basques in the region.

The round of interventions came to an end (before the time planned) and there was a break. Finally, the regional meeting was closed by the Lehendakari, Iñigo Urkullu, in the presence of the General Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Marian Elorza, and the Basque Delegate to Mercosur, Sara Pagola.

Gorka Álvarez, Director for the Basque Community Abroad, addressed these words to those present to close the Regional Meeting:

Lehendakari jauna.

Kanpo Harremanetarako Idazkari Nagusia Anderea.

Eusko Jaurlaritzako kideak.

Euskaditik etorritako kazetariak.

Arratsalde on denori eta ongi etorriak Erdi eta Hego Ameriketako Euskal Etxeen Eskualdeko bilera honetara.

Egun osoa daramagu lanean Euskal Etxeen oraina aztertzen baina batez ere etorkizunera begiratzen.

Welcome to this regional meeting of Euskal Etxeak of Central and South America.

At this meeting we have discussed different aspects of the communities represented here today in ten countries: Argentina, Uruguay, Venezuela, Chile, Cuba, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay and El Salvador.

This meeting was requested by the community at the 5th World Congress of Basque Communities. A place for reflection between congresses, divided into three regions:

- 2017 Paris. Europe, Asia and Oceania.
- 2018 San Francisco. Mexico, the United States, Canada and Saint Pierre et Miquelon.
- November 2018 Mar del Plata. Central and South America.

Mission accomplished! And now we are looking towards the 2019 Congress.



We have shared the Directorate's programmes: Subsidies, Extreme Need Assistance and Gaztemundu, among others.

The Basque language, through the Euskara Munduan or Argentinan Euskaraz programmes, is a topic that involves and concerns the community, and which we have tried to share with the Director of Etxepare, Irene Larraza.

We have also shared ideas and experiences concerning the transmission and values of Basque culture in this region. The issue of new generations concerns the biggest Basque community in the world, that of Central and South America. Also working with young people and training the future leaders of the centres.

There is concern over the transmission and dissemination of the memory of the Basque diaspora, our people's memory. The forgotten song of a people who have always sung.

Mention was made of the need to implement equality policies at the centres, taking the Basque experience as an example. But also of disseminating these practices in the places and countries where the communities live. Venezuela described its worrying situation in which it is a real effort for its two Euskal Etxeak to keep going but they are facing up to the situation with enthusiasm.

We are in the era of communication and the Euskal Etxeak are aware of the opportunities this creates to open themselves up to their communities and the world, without giving up on personal contact.

Exchanges between young people and people in the Basque Country and in the diaspora are positive and we are considering how to foster them. Exchanges that

are not only cultural, but also bring the realities of the Basque Country to the diaspora, and those of the diaspora to Basque society.

In short, issues have been described, but above all good practices, ideas and commitments for the future have been exchanged.

Bukatzeko, hemen dugu Lehendakari jauna XXI. Mendeko Erdi eta Hego Ameriketako Euskal Diaspora. Lanean jarraitu nahi duen komunitatea eta etorkizunari aurrez-aurre begiratu dion komunitatea. Hemen eta aurreko Eskualdeko bileretan egindako erreflexioak izango dira 2019. Munduko Kongresuaren oinarriak, elkarrekin lan egiteko. Eta lana badugu aurretik! Ez da erronka makala!

Lehendakari, much of the Basque diaspora in Central and South America is here. Men and women who feel proud to belong to the Basque Country but above all, people who want to work; to work for the present and future of these communities, a job we are doing together.

Eskerrik asko.

Finally, the Lehendakari, Iñigo Urkullu, formally closed the 2nd Central and South America Regional Meeting with the following speech:

Lagun agurgarriak!

Ze poza Mar del Plata-ra heltzea eta hamar herrialdeetako euskal komunitateen ordezkariekin elkartzeko aukera izatea.

It is an honour and a pleasure to come to Mar del Plata and have the chance to share a few minutes with you, the representatives of the Basque communities in ten countries.

"Hidden among mountains, on both sides of the western Pyrenees, the Basque people has over many centuries conserved its primitive language, its ancient government and customs."

This is how Wilhelm von Humboldt described the Basque Country after his visit in 1799.

Today you form part of our people, because from the slopes of the Pyrenees our ancestors have emigrated since the 15th century, and above all since the 19th, to "America", the promised land.

Some did so by choice but most were obliged to.

*Years and centuries have passed, and today **the image of the "Basque" is associated with the values of honesty, seriousness, work and commitment.***

This positive image of the Basque Country in the world is also due to an organised, exemplary diaspora. A diaspora that has managed to adapt to the surroundings in which it has settled without renouncing its origins.

Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay, Chile, Cuba, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Paraguay and El Salvador were the favourite destinations for Basque migration. Organised communities were formed there, communities that you are representing today at this Central and South America Regional Meeting prior to the World Congress of Basque Communities that we are holding in 2019 in the Basque Country.

Izan zirelako gara eta garelako izango dira.

Azkeneko 82 urte hauetan, Eusko Jaurlaritzak beti izan du gertu, eta beti jarraitu du gertutik, euskal komunitatea mundu zabalean.

Euskal etxe guztien atea beti egon dira irekita.

The Basque government has cooperated with Basque communities since it was set up, and in a more structured way since the Relations with Basque Communities Abroad Act was passed on 27th May 1994.

*In the 25 years it has existed, this act has made it possible to **roll out, expand and strengthen the network of Basque communities abroad.***

Today we have a network of communities organised in 191 Euskal Etxeak in 25 countries with over 36,000 members.

The highest concentration of Euskal Etxeak is to be found in Central and South America, and especially here in Argentina.

Today the job of this meeting is to think and look to the future. To rethink our strategy. Society and migratory movements are changing. The needs of the Basques of the late 19th century, of the exiles of 1939, of the

workers in the 40s, 50s and 60s of the 20th century are different from those of the young people deciding to leave the Basque Country today, and the demands of the societies of the 21st century.

The Euskal Etxeak must adapt in the right way to these new circumstances and realities. **This meeting is our lighthouse** to chart our course and carry on voyaging together.

The Euskal Etxeak meet a dual challenge: disseminating and integrating. Basque language, dance, food, sport and culture differentiate us from other societies and you work to make them known, to help to spread them. At the same time, the Euskal Etxeak integrate your work in the culture and society in which you live and of which you form part.

At this meeting you have exchanged ideas and worked together to share the experience of this dual responsibility and to discover the virtues of many successful initiatives being carried out at your centres.

At this meeting you have also shared the **concerns common to all centres**: new generations, involvement in voluntary work, passing on our culture and language, financing the institution and the activities it organises.

We are interested in your thoughts and conclusions. We are interested in your proposals and solutions.

The Basque government is preparing the **2019 World Congress**, to be held in the last quarter of the year, which will be fed by the contributions made today, as well as those from the Europe, Asia and Oceania Regional meeting held in Paris, and the Mexico, United States, Canada and Saint Pierre et Miquelon Regional meeting held in San Francisco. The Congress will be the

place to share and decide on our joint lines of action for the period from 2019 to 2022.

As a result of this shared work and reflection, I am today presenting an initiative that is just starting up in the Basque Country and for which I am asking for your help. We started out from the conclusion of the last World Congress: the form, development and future of Basque communities abroad is inseparable from the form, development and future of the Basque Country itself.

The communities are part of the history, the present and the future of the Basque Country and that is why we have set up a place in our Historical Archive in Bilbao to **gather together all the memories and activities of the communities over the years**.

In this digital era we are asking you for a simple form of cooperation: to voluntarily send the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad whatever documents, publications, objects, audiovisual material, letters or photographs you consider to be of interest to this initiative. The aim is to create a Basque Emigration Archive and make it available both to the people in our diaspora and Basque society in general and to researchers able to analyse and publicise this rich history of the Basque Country beyond its own borders.

The goal is to preserve and publicise our whole memory, history and activities.

With this initiative we are contributing to the goal of DIASPORIZATU! This is the slogan of the last World Congress, which is still very much in our minds in the Basque government.

And I am coming to the end.

I conclude by repeating my congratulations to all the Euskal Etxeak who took part in the first Basque Diaspora Day on 8th September.

*It was an important day and it is up to us to give continuity to the day itself and to the spirit behind it: “**Diasporizatu!**”, which means spotlighting the Basque Country and the different communities in which the Euska Etxeak do your work throughout the world.*

Bukatzeko, esker oneko mezu bat.

Eskerrik asko zuen lanarengatik! Eskerrik asko zuen kemenarengatik! Eskerrik asko zaudeten tokietan Euskadiren arima bizirik mantentzeagatik!

Euskal Etxeek dirauten bitartean Euskadi bizirik egongo da ere non nahi.

Diasporaren Eguneko leloa zioen bezala: “Euskadi zugar bizi da!” Zuengan bizi da!

We have work, projects and a future to build together.

The cause of the Basque people goes on.

Eskerrik asko!

