

Social Welfare Work of the Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa (BBK)

Information provided by the BBK

The Social Welfare Work department of the Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa (Bizkaia's savings bank) within the framework of the cultural activity developed, as well as collaborating economically with entities like the Museum of Bellas Artes, Bilbao Arte or the XXVIII Festival BBK of current musics, it has been sponsoring a series literary awards in the Basque language in collaboration with the Euskaltzaindia (Academy of the Basque language). The contest includes four literary disciplines: novel (Txomin Agirre Award), theatre (Toribio Alzaga Award), poetry (Felipe Arrese Beitia Award) and essay (Mikel Zarate Award). On the other hand, an award for the disciplines of narration and poetry in Basque has also been announced; it is specifically directed to the youngsters with the aim of approaching literature to them (Resurrección M^a de Azkue Award).

Usually, about 30 people coming mostly from the education field participate in the adult competition, but more experienced writers also participate. Most of the participants repeat edition after edition. 98% of the participants come from the province of Gipuzkoa, although most of the awards are open to all and the only requirement is to write the work in Basque. A work coming from the University of Reno (United States) was even presented once.

The award directed to the younger ones is different: it is announced at the schools of the whole of the Basque Country and usually about 400 children participate. The majority are from Gipuzkoa, but youngsters coming from Bizkaia, Northern Basque Country or Navarre also participate; the youngsters from Alava are the ones that participate the least.

The BBK, as the sponsoring entity, is only involved in the financing aspects of the competition, the rest is a responsibility assumed by the Euskaltzaindia. In this sense, it is the academy of the Basque language who appoints the jury composed of three people for each discipline; after reading the works presented, the jury meets to put their considerations in common and afterwards issues an official document which announces the name of the winner. The selected work is later on edited.

For more information:

https://portal.bbk.es/servlet/Satellite?pagename=Negocio_Ext/Page/culturabbkTemplateExt&c=Page&cid=1159820947668&localizador=%231158929044991%231159820947516%231159820947668&hizkuntza= cast&tipovisitor=4