
PRESENTATION OF EXPERIENCES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (EHU-UPV)

RECTOR PELLO SALABURU

UBC/EHU international relations. Promotion of university

The University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea will send the Basque Centres and Federations information regarding its international relations with other universities, programmes open for application and the requisites that must be met by foreign university students. This initiative will be complemented by a grant programme to enable students from universities in the Basque Centres' immediate areas to attend UBC/EHU. Also, UBC/EHU will offer the said universities the opportunity to take advantage of its Virtual University courses.

The University of the Basque Country/ Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea will extend an agreement proposal to the Basque Centres and their corresponding Federations with the aim of working in collaboration with the universities in their areas to investigate the possibility of setting up Open Courses in Basque Culture. UBC/EHU will also propose setting up its Doctorate programmes in the said universities, promising to give students involved in the programme top priority with regard to any corresponding pre or post doctoral grant programme.

The Presidency, through the General Secretariat of Foreign Action, the Education Department through its Deputy Ministry for Universities and Research, the Culture Department through the Deputy Ministry for Language Policy and the University of the Basque Country through its Vice-Chancellorship for Cultural Extension and University Projection and the Faculty of Philology, Geography and History, promise to prepare, within 6 months, a foreign language assistant programme for the 2001-2003 period, to be sent to the Basque Centres and Federations so as to collect together the commitments of the Universities and their surroundings.

In the event of the setting up of Open Courses on Basque Culture, the University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea undertakes to provide the University/ies concerned with any relevant bibliographic material through its Publishing Service.

In order to facilitate the organisation of Teacher Exchanges, the Basque Centres must, within a six-month period, provide the General Secretariat of Foreign Action with a list of the priority interests of the universities in their immediate areas.

The Culture Department through HABE, the Secretariat for Overseas Affairs and the University of the Basque Country/ Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea will draw up a programme of Basque language courses to be given in the Basque Centres by Basque Philology and/or Teacher Training Course students. Teachers' living costs (food and accommodation) will be covered by the Basque Centres. Transport costs will, in principle, be covered by the aforementioned Institutions and grants may also be provided.

THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF EUSKADI

MR. JOSÉ FÉLIX AZURMENDI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EITB INTERNATIONAL

Over 20 years ago, a Venezuelan student and friend, César Miguel Rondón, told me that in order to understand the Basque Country properly, you had to see it from the outside, preferably from America. César Miguel, who among other perhaps more laudable but certainly less famous qualities is best known for his soap opera scripts, then proposed the idea of writing a historical account of the Basque people by Americans and from the perspective of the American continent. Perhaps now would be a good time to ask him to write a television script starring Basque-Americans. What he has done in the meantime though, has been to give a great many of his characters Basque surnames.

I agree with Rondón in as far as I believe that we Basques are more interesting when seen from outside. I can find no other explanation as to why such a small country has left its mark in so many places throughout the world. For this reason, when we set up the International Basque Radio and Television Channel, we did so not only to enable you to feel closer to the evolution of our common country of origin, but also to give those of us who never left the opportunity to see ourselves from the outside, to look into this planetary mirror and see the horde of Basque faces staring back. For us, your role is not merely to receive our messages, but also to emit your own, and we hope that this new outlook will become evident in the very near future.

The first steps along the road to broadcasting via satellite (we currently broadcast via only one, which covers most of the American continent) were not easy. We began as part of a joint project between three Spanish Autonomous Communities called, appropriately enough, Galeuska. Unfortunately, this joint project did not last very long and we were forced to go solo, a move that entailed increased costs and commercialisation difficulties, but which, in the long term, has turned out to our advantage. Currently, ETB Sat is broadcast to over two million American homes via the Hispasat satellite. Almost half a million homes can now tune into the European EITB programme through Vía Digital and we are very close to signing an agreement which will enable us to broadcast via Astra to the vast majority of Europeans.

At this moment in time, the majority of signals are broadcast through intermediaries whom we must convince that our channel is a viable option. This is no easy task, especially when we consider factors such as: a reduced target audience, the fact that our offer is larger than our distribution recourses and that the programmes that interest a cable station do not always correspond to those expected of a public television company such as ours. The commercialisation of our channel is a complicated task, our audiences are varied and their demands multiple. We are not so naive as to not be aware that it is one thing to broadcast the signal, another thing to actually establish connection, and quite another, assuming these first two hurdles have been overcome, to satisfy our audience.

Nor are we so unworldly as to not be aware that you will doubtless already have one or more favourite channels or that you will primarily be interested in following the programmes broadcast by your country's national and regional stations. We do know, however, that you are also interested in general Basque issues, we know that you want to hear our point of view on general and specific themes, and this is the niche we see for ourselves. We aim to be a regular, relaxing, enriching, alternative channel. Alternative also with regard to certain Spanish television stations, which are often determined to show only the very worst aspects of our society.

We know that our service is not always as satisfactory as it might be. For this reason, we have given you a questionnaire to help give us a clearer idea of the extent to which our channel has been properly established, your opinion of the various programmes broadcast and what exactly you expect of us as a television station. Our primary objective is to broadcast to all one hundred thousand Basque homes in America and we are currently investigating ways to ensure that every

Basque on the American continent who wishes to tune into EITB can do so. Needless to say, we also want to collaborate with professional television channels, taking advantage of the fact that we can broadcast in a language as widespread as Spanish, but not at the cost of neglecting or disappointing our priority audience, i.e. you, and many others like you.

We are currently in the process of preparing a new series of programmes. We want to hear your opinion. We also want to hear that of others who receive our message. You will, I am sure, agree with us in that it is important for our way of seeing things, our perspective on the world around us, to reach your countries. News programmes and documentaries, contextualised accordingly to compensate for distance, are in many ways our top priority. The mass media should inform, but it should also form and entertain. However, while everyone defends this precept, in reality it is commercial criteria (audiences and the advertising income they generate) that win out in most cases. Public media companies such as EITB are lucky enough to be able to do what we believe to be right, but we must do so in an attractive format, because otherwise everyone will praise us and no one will watch us. We must develop our own style and create, in many ways, our own role model. In short, we must find the magic formula.

Without falling into the trap of elitism, as this is not what the mass media is about, we are aiming for a highly informative channel, with brief reports on a wide variety of themes, including tourist and business issues: entertaining, agreeable, high-quality television. We want you to feel proud of the image we portray of our country and of Basques throughout the world. We have much to say, and we want to say it in the most professional way possible. We have much to say also to Basques here about you, about the countries in which you live, about your work and the work of your ancestors. At the risk of overstepping myself, I may say that we are creating a permanent, mobile team of professionals whose job it will be to collect your stories. This team will be accompanied by professionals in each of your countries who are familiar with the local area and the Basques living there and who will send daily reports that will be incorporated into our teletext and Internet services.

We are currently witnessing the start of what may be the embryo of a news agency. Our contact with your respective countries should also serve to establish communications with professionals who wish to visit the Basque Country, exchange information about Basque issues and compare opinions regarding relevant areas of interest. It should also help us establish relations with the audio-visual media on our level which may be interested in our products, and prepared to participate in mutually beneficial exchange programmes.

The Basque Country: a global village on the Web

For obvious reasons, television always tends to take priority, but we should by no means forget the importance of radio. There is satellite-broadcast radio, but there is also radio via Internet, a phenomenon which is spreading rapidly and which offers a myriad of possibilities. Today, our two radio groups: Euskadi Irratia in Basque and Radio Euskadi in Spanish, can be heard loud and clear in all corners of the world through Channel 21 of Euskaltel. From January onwards, they will also be available through our multimedia Web, which will offer a wide variety of new and exciting options: you will be able to consult the Basque newspapers at the same time as anyone here, read books, make enquiries and listen to music, to name but a few of the services on offer. In some parts of America it is already possible to receive standard-quality television images via the Internet, a service which will become available to the whole continent and a large part of the world also in the very near future. In fact, at the end of this month we have a meeting in Miami concerning the possibility of using this method to broadcast our signal to the West Coast of the United States.

In the meantime, Internet radio enables anyone to tune into news programmes and other broadcasts whenever they wish. It also enables listeners to save programmes and enjoy them at leisure. While everything done for television is extremely expensive, radio programmes are cheaper and much more versatile. From January onwards, we will be offering you a weekend programme specially designed for overseas Basques and for the growing number of Basques living abroad for educational, solidarity or work reasons, most of whom have access to the Internet. An interactive radio programme in which anyone with access to the Web can participate.

The possibilities offered by the Internet for a small community spread all over the world are exceptional. On the web there are no borders, no limits, no separation. We can communicate without intermediaries. We can present ourselves as we wish to be known. Providing we make intelligent use of this communications tool, relations between Basques, their descendants and their friends, both between themselves and with their country of origin, could grow into a virtual, but nevertheless very real, community, with no borders, no barriers and no visas. The cultural and commercial possibilities are infinite, as are the exchanges between people who chose 'being Basque' as a starting point for communications. EITB aims to unite these precepts, to inform and to be informed: we are not talking about the future, we are talking about the present.

An exceptional situation

We hope to begin the year 2000 free from political violence, with a society that has reflected deeply on its vocation as a united people, a society in control of its destiny, that feels at home in the European Union, that has learned from the past and that looks to the future with optimism. A society with problems, this cannot be denied, youth unemployment being surely the most serious, but also with a will to overcome these problems together. If there is any single quality which characterises Basque society today, I would say that it is solidarity and openness. There is no longer any political or economic migration in the traditional sense, nor are there many overseas religious missionary projects, but a large number of Basques still travel to other countries on aid missions, to participate in development and improvement projects. You will find them in many of your countries. We must not forget these modern emigrants, as they too make up part of the Basque Network, the world wide Basque web.

Today, such things are not merely possibilities, but rather tangible realities that we aim to promote. The Basque Country has always had a set of strongly symbolic images which help to define its unique personality: glorious names and place names, and emblematic images renowned throughout the world. These days, we have the ideal emblem with which to enter the 21st century: the Guggenheim Museum. Since its inauguration, the mere mention of the name is enough to conjure up images of a city and region so small they can barely be seen on the map.

We are currently enjoying a favourable economic situation. We are immersed in an optimistic peace process. We are approaching the dawn of a new century. It is a perfect time to make a concerted effort to achieve our goals. Emerging technologies are ideal for communities such as ours. They afford us a new opportunity. We can communicate directly, without intermediaries. We can relate to each other on multiple levels. We can create a kind of intranet to connect us in real time. It is a time for the small people, the united people, the native people. It is a time for global interests, yes, but it is also a time for differences that go beyond artificial national borders. We have three native languages in the Basque Country: Basque, Spanish and French, and another one yet to learn: English, the language of important Basque-North American, Australian and Filipino communities as well as of a large part of our young people today.

We can now discuss these issues, and any others you think relevant at greater length and in greater detail. We have come here today to share our ideas and projects with you, but also to listen to your opinions and ideas and to work together to make important progress in our communications. Over to you.

HABE: BASQUE LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE BASQUE CENTRES: DESCRIPTION AND FUTURE GOALS

MR. JOKIN AZKUE ARRASTOA (HABE: BASQUE LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE BASQUE CENTRES)

Introduction

HABE's aim is to promote initiatives relating to Basque language teaching. It mainly operates within the Basque Autonomous Community.

It is clear that beyond our borders, there is a great deal of feeling for, and curiosity about, the Basque language and a great number of people who wish to know more about it, and in some cases even learn to speak it. All this is due to the work carried out by Basque Centres all over the world. It is the Basque Centres that have been the real promoters of our language outside the Basque Country and the Basque Centres that have been the true ambassadors for our culture throughout the world. In fact, many such Centres were running Basque language courses before HABE, or even the Basque Government for that matter, were even founded.

Basque language teaching has been an arduous task. It was carried out on a voluntary basis by many emigrants, who, without any kind of professional training and with only their own knowledge of the language to go by, undertook to keep their childhood language alive, a language which, over the years, they were obliged to apply to contexts totally foreign to its concepts and origins. These efforts deserve our unstinting praise. What these emigrants did was not only to conserve the language, but to spread it also, and mainly under conditions that can best be described as precarious. Thanks to their efforts, today we can say with pride that Basque language teaching has spread throughout the world. We can proudly say that nowadays, you can learn Basque in countries such as Venezuela, Belgium, Chile, Uruguay, the United Kingdom, the USA, France, Puerto Rico, Brazil and many others.

HABE has always considered the Basque diaspora to be extremely important, and it is one of our main aims to continue in the footsteps of those people who, motivated by their great love of this land, began this difficult task. We aim to professionalise Basque teaching in order to enable the Basque Centres to offer increasingly high-quality courses. For this reason, we have always maintained close ties with the Basque Centres who offer Basque language courses, collaborating with them in many different ways such as sending teaching material, training teachers or subsidising courses, to name but a few.

Currently, HABE monitors the teaching activity of the diverse Basque Centres located both in Spain and abroad on a daily basis. The «Argentinan Euskaraz» programme is especially important in this context, but I will expand on that in more detail a little later on.

The situation within Spain

There are currently 200 students learning Basque in Madrid and half that number in Barcelona. Málaga has around 50 students, and Valencia and Valladolid have approximately 30 each. The reasons for learning are various. Some learn because their ancestors spoke Basque, others because they plan to return to the Basque Country at some point in the future, and still others because they are curious about the language and want to learn more about it.

Some of the aforementioned Centres' teaching activities are more formalised than others. This is the case for Madrid and Barcelona, which are also the Centres with the greatest demand. Today, any citizen of these two cities can take classes at any level, with the guarantee that only the most up-to-date teaching methods will be employed, as well as the best teaching material. Both Centres

have a staff of highly-trained teachers: the Madrid Centre employs three full-time teachers and the Barcelona Centre has six part-time members of staff.

Over recent years, we have made it a priority to train a group of teachers for these two cities. For this reason, a few years ago we developed a project to promote the teaching activities of the two Centres. The project consisted of running methodology courses alternately in the two cities: two in Madrid and two in Barcelona, thereby gathering together teachers from both Centres. The contents of the courses were varied, with the aim of providing a global vision of the entire teaching/learning process, from how to develop the different language skills, through focusing on the most modern techniques, such as task-based activities, to criteria for developing teaching material. We also provided teachers with the latest teaching material published by HABE, as well as helping them with any problems arising from their professional activity.

The «Argentinan Euskaraz» Program

As I stated earlier, the «Argentinan Euskaraz» Program deserves a special mention. Set up in 1990, this year the programme celebrates its tenth anniversary. There have been two clearly defined stages to its development, the first from 1990 to 1995 and the second from 1996 to the year 2000.

The «Argentinan Euskaraz» is much more than just a Basque language course. It is a joint project set up between FEVA, Overseas Affairs and HABE, and although its fundamental aim is organising language courses, the related activities which have arisen around it are by no means less important. Throughout the year, a series of cultural activities take place which make a significant contribution to reviving the Basque atmosphere of the Basque Centres, an atmosphere which was becoming less and less perceptible. Before the programme, Basque had all but died out in the Centres, largely because the number of Basque speakers was gradually diminishing, and the language transmission from generation to generation was very scarce. It gives me great satisfaction to be able to say that thanks to the «Argentinan Euskaraz» Program, Basque is once again beginning to be spoken in the Basque Centres.

As I said earlier, over the last 10 years there have been two clearly-defined stages in the development of the programme. During the initial stage, the main objective was to train a group of students who themselves gave classes to both adults and children in the Basque Centres.

Over the years, this initial stage became increasingly consolidated until, in 1996, we entered the second stage and redesigned the plan to incorporate a wider range of objectives. The main objective of this second stage was to train a group of teachers to provide Argentina with a greater level of autonomy in the field of human resources, thereby enabling the Centres themselves to meet the demands of the programme. Today, I can safely say that, although we have not managed to train as many teachers as we hoped, we do have a team of teachers with extremely advanced language and teaching skills. I would also like to point out that current project leaders are mainly young people, something which, to a certain extent, guarantees the programme's future. These young people are second or third generation Basques, and it is they who have continued to develop the programme and who have given it its current solidity. I must underline once again the significant contribution that this has made to bridging the generation gap. Basque Centres continue to be social meeting places for emigrants and their descendants, and are therefore an ideal place for inter-generational mixing.

This is a great step forward. Argentina currently has enough human resources to take over the effective running of the project, and it is HABE's wish to continue to work in close collaboration with the Centres, making a positive contribution, both economically and as regards teaching aids, to the future development of the programme.

We believe that, taking advantage of the experiences of recent years, the time has come to take on a new challenge. The situation in Argentina as regards human resources is immeasurably improved and has brought with it changing needs. Nor should we forget the great technological advances that have taken place over the last few years, changes which enable us to focus on new

working methods and new techniques while remaining faithful to the constant goal of making the most of resources and optimising objectives.

Improvement in communications between the Basque Centres and HABE: HABENET

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

HABE is currently developing a project called HABENET, which will enable us to explore new working methods.

The HABENET project aims to develop and set up a series of telematic services and infrastructures to support HABE and the Basque language schools' activities. The objective is to improve the quality of Basque teaching in the following areas: education management, continuous training and teacher support, development and management of teaching material, development of self-teaching systems and external customer service.

HABENET will enhance internal and external HABE network communications (HABE, Basque language schools, teachers, students), contribute to the standardisation of teaching materials and make them immediately accessible, contribute to the setting up of self-teaching systems and on-line teaching and improve administrative management by introducing new information and communications technology.

Four general areas of activity have been identified:

- The creation of a HABE Intranet, which would use Internet Technology to manage all internal and external communications between HABE, the Basque language schools, Students and Teachers:
 - Relations between HABE-Basque language schools- Teaching staff
 - Development of an Electronic Material Catalogue
 - Extension for students-visitors-overseas Basques
 - Library extension
 - Extension for enrolment information
 - Enrolment reservation/pre-inscription extension
 - Enrolment access-EGA results
 - Basque language school activities
- HABE Content management (teaching material, publications). This area will cover the organisation of all teaching documents, including teaching material, library material, publications catalogues and thematic forums.
- HABE Electronic management. For the direct integration of administrative details, electronic forms, Delegation-Basque school connections, grants and applications, administrative aspects of inspections, greater operational efficiency and monitoring of the budget distribution.
- HABE on-line teaching. Incorporating Multimedia Technology into teaching systems, access to specific exercises according to level and area, area specialisation, specialised queries, tutoring, specialised programmes, continuous teacher training, both individual and supervised and development of self-teaching systems.

ADVANTAGES OF THE PROJECT

HABENET will enable us to overcome distance barriers which currently make programmes such as «Argentinan Euskaraz» so difficult. We will be able to work constantly as a united team. It will enable us to maintain a more personal contact with overseas teachers and train teaching staff regardless of their geographical location. We will also be able to manage materials and set up individual plans aimed at maintaining current high language levels and teacher qualifications.

HABENET will provide you with constant access to technicians, advisors and collaborators to an extent currently impossible due to the high transport costs involved. It will enable us to extend this kind of service to other countries. In short, HABENET will overcome geographical boundaries in the interests of developing projects aimed at spreading and promoting our language throughout the world.

THE EXPERIENCE OF SUKALDE IN MEXICO

MR. PABLO SAN ROMÁN, PRESIDENT OF SUKALDE

Sukalde is a non-profit-making Civil Association consisting of a group of Mexico's top professional Basque Chefs. It was officially founded in November 1996 before a notary, in accordance with Mexican law.

As a result of being officially recognised as a Basque Centre in 1998, we believe that, in certain areas, we are in a position to make a significant contribution to the Congress to be celebrated from 20 to 29 October in Vitoria-Gasteiz. These areas are:

Influence of Sukalde in Mexico: Currently, Sukalde has around 30 members, 80 % of which are head chefs in top restaurants with excellent reputations throughout Mexico. To give just a few examples, Sukalde members include the chefs of the following restaurants: «Tezka» (Juan María Arzak), «Puerto Chico», «Rivadeo», «Hotel Imperial», «Orfeo Catalá», «Hotel Royal», «Guria», «Bakea», «El Parador de José Luis», «Hotel Radison», «Restaurante El Faro de Belgrado» and «Loyola, Centro Vasco». As you can see, the influence of Sukalde on the Mexican restaurant scene is extensive, and is making a significant contribution to the expansion of our gastronomic culture in this country.

Demand for Basque products in Mexico: The presence of our members in the kitchens of the aforementioned restaurants has increased Mexican demand for Basque products. Pressure is being put on large-scale distributors who have recently become aware of the phenomenon and who are seriously considering setting up import projects to meet this growing demand.

Basque Gastronomic Days in Mexico: As part of this effort to promote Basque cuisine and demand for our products, we have organised various Gastronomic Days for November in which we hope to involve the country's principal import and commercialising companies. We have already contacted companies such as «La Europea», «Cesarfer», «La Selva» and «La Puerta del Sol», among others, as well as Jesús María Herrasti (Managing director of International Operations at the Mondragón Group), to investigate the ways in which Eroski might collaborate. During these gastronomic days, in which the renowned Basque chef Luis Irizar will participate, we aim to promote the following quality Basque products:

- Cheese (Idiazabal, Roncal, Baztán)
- Wine (Rioja Alavesa), txakoli (Bakio and Getaria), and cider (Astigarraga)
- Liqueurs (Pacharán Lizarra)
- Pâté (Productos Martiko)
- Tuna, anchovies, cod (Garabilla, Ortiz,...)
- Gernika pepper seeds
- Beans from Tolosa
- Chili peppers (Ibarra)
- Elvers from Aginaga
- Other Quality Label products

As you can see, our association does not only aim to promote the cultural side of Basque cuisine, but the commercial aspect also.

What has been Sukalde's contribution to the Mexican Basque Centre?: We believe that it is important for other Basque Centres throughout the world to be aware of the part that Sukalde has played in the resurgence of the Mexican Basque Centre restaurant, a resurgence that has also had a positive effect on the Basque Centre itself. Some years ago, the Basque Centre Restaurant was one of the most prestigious restaurants in Mexico. However, 10 years ago, after the death of one of the principal licensees, the restaurant deteriorated so much that it was finally forced to close. The subsequent managers did nothing to improve the situation, until finally, due to the

influence of Sukalde in the organisation of Basque Centre end-of-month dinners, Pablo San Román, the current President of Sukalde, agreed to take over the management of the restaurant. Nowadays, we are proud to say, the Basque Centre Restaurant has recovered a large part of its old prestige.

Helping to place emigrating Basque chefs: Our association provides an important source of support for Basque chefs who arrive in Mexico looking for work, especially now, given the increasing demand. One of Sukalde's activities is to help Basque chefs find employment in important Mexican restaurants.

Other activities: Among the other activities carried out by Sukalde with the aim of promoting Basque cuisine, we would like to mention the following:

- Tamborradas⁵ («Parador de José Luis» Restaurant)
- Cookery courses (Mexican Basque Centre, «El Tajín» Restaurant, North Anahuac University)
- End-of-month dinners (Mexican Basque Centre)
- Gastronomic Days (Palacio de Hierro, «Hacienda de los Morales» Restaurant, «Las Mañanitas» Restaurant)
- Intxaurre Festival (New tendencies in Basque-Mexican cuisine)
- Other activities such as fairs, restaurant advice service, etc.

Goals for 1999: Among the objectives set for 1999 we would like to mention the following:

- Gastronomic Festival of Basque Cuisine in Mexico (as mentioned earlier)
- Professional exchange between Mexican and Basque chefs.
- To rent a property to serve as an office, club and school
- To create a library of Basque cuisine and Basque festivals and traditions
- To continue efforts aimed at the association's professional growth
- To raise awareness of Sukalde and its activities in other Latin American countries.

⁵ Tamborradas: musical processions closely linked with the gastronomic tradition.

WORLD MEETING: NETWORK OF BASQUE ENTREPRENEURS

PROPOSAL: MR. RAY ASPIRI, MR. MIGUEL LAGUNA

Introduction

There are several initiatives, each at a different stage of development that bring together people and activities around a shared Basque identity or origin or simply sympathy towards the Basque people.

Making use of the progress already made in this area, the idea has arisen to concentrate a network of Basque employers and entrepreneurs who would have a relationship based upon the values already mentioned previously and also on aspects and initiatives of an economic nature.

To start out with, there are three possible parallel lines of action:

- The creation of a world network
- The launching of a university programme for entrepreneurs
- The developing of a world meeting.

General aims

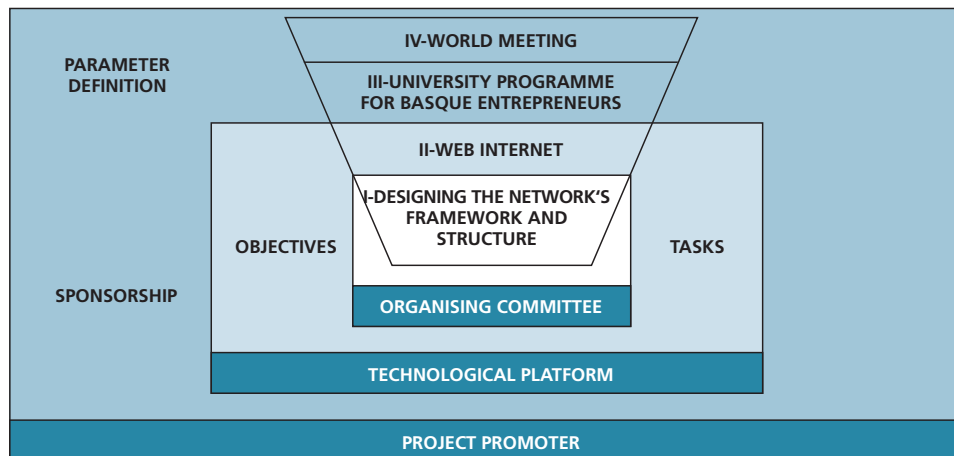
- To use economic matters to create closer ties between Basque communities.
- To create a platform that can be used as an area or meeting point for Basque employers and entrepreneurs.
- This platform, that would be based upon technological media, would allow all those people who wish to do so, to enter into direct contact from any part of the world and at any moment in time.
- To promote the organisation of a world meeting that allows the presentation, discussion and debate of economic matters of interest as well as the interaction between participants.
- To boost the launching of a university programme of entrepreneurs and to create a favourable environment for its development.

Specific aims

The specific aims of the world network, individually applicable to each member would include, amongst others:

- To encourage relations around economic concepts
- To boost the network's economic potential
- To stimulate trade
- To detect professional and workplace opportunities for relationships
- To promote investment initiatives and projects
- To share knowledge and intellectual capital.
- To widen the field of action of its members and support their promotion processes.
- To boost the image of its members and share in successful experiences.

Frame of reference



Methodological approach

STAGE I. DESIGNING THE NETWORK'S FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURE

- Defining the shared values necessary to form a part of the network (which should be open and non-restrictive).
- Collecting potential elements of interest relating to economic matters.
- Establishing the (interactive) communication channels to be used both when creating the network and when maintaining and developing it.
- Defining the possible participation and collaboration of the different agents
- Looking at the possible platform or dissemination tools to be used.
- Analysing the demographic situation of the Basque people around the world and adapting actions as a result
- Preparing a detailed work plan for subsequent project stages.

STAGE II. DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING A SPECIFIC INTERNET SITE (TECHNOLOGICAL PLATFORM)

- Project-related aims.
 - To inform and present the aims and structure of the future network of Basque entrepreneurs
 - To test the interest raised by the initiative
 - To detect subject-areas and contents around which to develop relations between the members of the network.
 - To achieve the participation and co-operation of the different existing agents, groups and initiatives.
 - To measure its potential attraction and to develop possible participation estimates
 - To collect comments and suggestions on network subjects, organisation and operation.
- Tasks to be carried out:
 - Launching, promoting and distributing of the internet site address amongst the different participating agents and forums.
 - Positioning of the web page in search-engines and developing of «banners» to be included in all the web-pages of collaborating institutions, companies and organisations.
 - Managing, up-dating and maintenance of the information included within the site.

- ### STAGE III. DEVELOPING A UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME FOR BASQUE ENTREPRENEURS

- ## STAGE IV. ORGANISING A WORLD MEETING OF BASQUE ENTREPRENEURS

- ⇒ Planning ⇒ Programme development ⇒ Sponsorship management ⇒ Marketing and dissemination ⇒ Logistics and production

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Tentative timetable

Stages	WEEKS								MONTHS											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Stage I. Designing the network's framework and structure																				
2. Stage II. Developing and maintaining a specific internet site																				
3. Stage III. Developing a university programme for Basque entrepreneurs																				
4. Stage IV. Organising a world meeting of Basque entrepreneurs																				

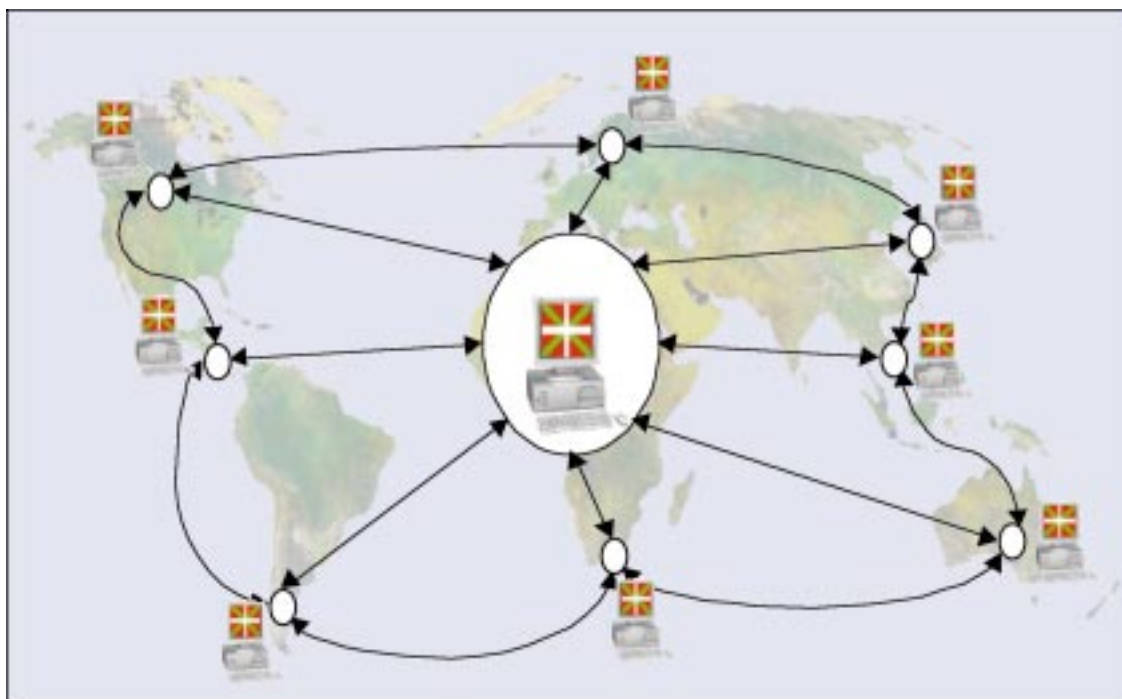
The next steps

To start the first 2 stages of the project (2 months), set an estimated reply, assimilation and maturing period for the proposal (4-8 weeks) and from then onwards look at the process's feasibility and the possibility of carrying on with it.

Present the ideas to different authorities and decide which institution is going to lead and finance the project's launching. It would seem reasonable to assume that the Basque Government should accept this responsibility.

Decide who is going to co-ordinate and support the project's development (put it out to public tender).

Start collecting suggestions, recommendations and initiatives from this moment onwards.



For any comments or suggestions on the content of this initiative, please contact the following e-mail address: j-legarreta@ej-gv.es

«ON-LINE» COURSE ON BASQUE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

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Introduction

The course that is being proposed aims to meet two objectives. Firstly, to provide a service to the Basque community overseas so that this community can have direct access to information on the country which it has always had a major interest in, and secondly for the University of the Basque Country to boost the development of off-site education using the tools of the future.

The techniques to be used have already been put into practice in courses run at Deusto University itself and also jointly run courses between Deusto University Le Moyne College (New York) and Fairfield University (Connecticut), in which pupils from all three sites shared subject matters and lecturers, exchanged ideas and debated together.

Course description

This course looks at the structure, context and content of the public provincial institutions in the six Basque provinces from both a territorial and comprehensive perspective. It will use both classic and modern texts and will look at the subject area from a historical and a legal viewpoint. It will look inside what the idea of a chartered ancient right is and what this implies. It will examine how the Basque provincial institutions arose, their classic institutional set-up and how they gradually disappeared in both the North and the South Basque Country. It will also examine the economic agreement and the first steps taken in the statutory system up until the Statute of 1936.

Provisional dates for the course are the first semester of the year 2000, probably from March to June.

The course will be in Spanish, although the on-line programme will also be available in Basque and English. This course could be given in English, but to do so would involve major sections of the pupil's materials being translated.

Who the course is aimed at

It is aimed at the Basque community scattered around the different Basque Centres. In the future it will also be aimed at students interested in this subject in other universities.

Course format

This course uses a completely new teaching methodology, since it will be entirely off-site, with the majority of the students in Latin America and the majority of the teaching staff and technical equipment at Deusto University. Students basic tools will be e-mail and the Internet.

E-mail will be used to maintain direct contact between lecturer and students both individually and at a group level.

The internet will be used to carry out course research-work in such a way that

- Students exchange points of view on questions related to the subjects designated by lecturers.
- They can access material prepared for following the course (notes, audio-visual lectures, audio, picture and text files, the on-line programme and timetable).
- They can hand in the written work that lecturers ask from them
- They can search for material and information on the subject-matters which the course is dealing with.
- They can receive guidance from course lecturers.
- They can carry out self-assessment tests.

Hence, individual work, which will later be put out at a group level, will become the main core of the course.

The different areas of activity are comprised of:

1. «CLASSES»

These are divided up into 14 different subject areas. The student will have a brief subject-related audio-visual class and html notes together with other kinds of material (files with classic texts, image and sound files), all allocated right at the start of the course and made available in Elkano (the name of Deusto's server for the course that provides us with a virtual classroom).

The on-line programme and timetable will indicate the work to be carried out daily and weekly (and will also stipulate a starting date and a handing in date) together with the material needed. If, for any reason the programme or timetable has to be modified, the student will automatically be notified by e-mail.

Once a class's «starting date» has been reached, students can use Elkano to raise any kind of doubts and questions that are not clear from the course material and the reply will be sent out to all pupils. As soon as the class «finish date» has been reached, the pupil must participate in the debating forum that is explained below to show the material has been learnt.

2. TAKING PART IN ELKANO

This means:

- A. Real-time computer debate between students about the questions raised by lecturers. The questions will be prepared by the lecturer in a series of folders (one for each class) that will then be used as a debating forum in which students will pool the knowledge they have acquired during the course so that they can strengthen this knowledge and the lecturer can provide additional information arising from the debate surrounding the subject-matter being studied.
- B. Observing the material made available to the student in the workspace on subjects to be studied (photographs, engravings, maps, sound files, links with other internet sites, legal and historical texts, diagrams, etc.)
- C. Looking for internet URLs related to the subject being studied and include them in Elkano.
- D. Write essays on subjects set by lecturers which the pupils then load onto Elkano

3. INTERACTIVE TESTS

One of the main wishes expressed by students taking an off-site course is the possibility to measure the knowledge they have acquired during the course. To achieve this, a series of

interactive tests are offered that tell the student whether the replies he/she is giving are correct or incorrect and why. They also tell the student what mark he/she has achieved. A date is given to each test so the student knows when he/she should be ready to take it. These tests are not aimed at helping the lecturer to mark students. It is not a question of pressurising the student, but rather a matter of providing him/her with self-confidence and in fact only the student knows what score he/she has obtained.

Student evaluation

Lecturers use the following concepts to mark their students: Participation (50 %), course work (20 %) and a final exam (30 %).

Participation: This means the work the student has done in Elkano. The BSCW system keeps the lecturer informed about each and every one of the movements that the students make in Elkano, so that the number of times the student has visited a web site is known, as well as on what day and at what time. So within this general concept the following are graded:

- 1) Visits to documents,
- 2) Questions raised on the subject matter that are considered of interest for the whole of the class,
- 3) Discussion in Elkano about subjects proposed by the lecturers in the folders,
- 4) Search and provision of links to interesting web-sites on the subject.

Course work: The student will be asked to use different kinds of material to write a two-page essay on a certain subject.

Final exam: The exam is stored in Elkano. The student has a limited amount of time to load the sheet with his/her replies once he/she has accessed the document with the questions.

Students will know how their grades are doing every two weeks via an e-mail message sent by their lecturer. This means the student doesn't find him/herself up against one single final exam and will know right away if he/she should be working harder.

At the end of the course, Deusto University will issue a certificate stating that the course has been taken satisfactorily.

Student requirements

Each student needs a computer connected to Internet with the following:

1. An e-mail address
2. A browser (Netscape, Explorer...) (freeware)
3. The Macromedia Shockwave plug-in
4. A sound-card

It is vital that the student know how to use internet and e-mail

At the beginning of the course the student will be sent an e-mail message with the necessary instructions on how to follow the course. The Elkano interface is very intuitive and simple but in case of doubt, the student has on-line information about how to use it.

What is more, students will be helped out and guided by the lecturer in each new task via e-mail.

Provisional general programme

CLASS #1

The core of chartered rights I:

1. The world of Austria.
2. The origin of chartered rights.
3. Their content and basic foundations:
 - 3.1. Civil and penal perspective.

CLASS #2

The core of chartered rights II:

1. Their content and basic foundations:
 - 1.1. Civil and penal perspective (cont.).
 - 1.2. Perspectives from the point of view of public law.

CLASS #3

The emergence of Basque Political Organisations or Historical Provinces:

1. Notes on the conception of territory, borders and power-relations during the Middle Ages.
2. The role of Navarre in the creation of a Basque political structure.
3. Other power centres; Castille; France and England.

CLASS #4

A look at the institutional organisation of the Historical Provinces I:

1. Bizkaia:
 - 1.1. Territorial blocks. Peripheral blocks.
 - 1.2. The provincial parliaments.
 - 1.3. The provincial governments.

CLASS #5

A look at the institutional organisation of the Historical Provinces II:

1. Gipuzkoa.
2. Lapurdi.

CLASS #6

A look at the institutional organisation of the Historical Provinces III:

1. Nafarroa.
2. Behenafarroa.

CLASS #7

A look at the institutional organisation of the Historical Provinces IV:

1. Zuberoa.
2. Araba.

CLASS #8

The decline of the chartered rights model in the Northern Basque Country:

1. The call of the states and the reply from the Basque provinces.
2. Assembly meetings and the abolition of chartered rights. Article 10 of the Constitution.
3. Repression in the French Basque Country.

CLASS #9

The decline of the chartered rights model in the Southern Basque Country I:

1. «Matxinadas».
2. Ideas for possible new political structures in the Basque Country (Larramendi, Garat, Chaho, The Convention war).

CLASS #10

The decline of the chartered rights model in the Southern Basque Country II:

1. The 19th Century. The clash between the Constitution and the chartered rights.
2. The 1st Carlist War. The Confirmatory Act.
3. «La Larga».

CLASS #11

The remains of the chartered rights model.

CLASS #12

From a system of chartered rights to an autonomous system I:

1. Attempts at recovering the chartered rights system. The foundations legitimising the request for a special system for the Basque Country.

CLASS #13

From a system of chartered rights to an autonomous system II:

1. The Draft Statute of Autonomy of the Basque Country:
 - 1.1. The Statute of Estella.
 - 1.2. The first Statute of the Administrative Bodies.

CLASS #14

From a system of chartered rights to an autonomous system II:

1. The Second Statute of the Administrative Bodies.
2. The 1936 Statute.

For further information:

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EXILE AND SOLIDARITY: THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BASQUES

JEAN CLAUDE LARRONDE (Lawyer and Historian)

The history of the International Association of Friends of Basques (LIAB) considers the two decades following the end of the 1950s as the most important, and also the most dramatic years in contemporary Basque history: the years of depression which followed the military defeat of the Basque Country, the years of organisation whilst living in exile, the years of sacrifice during the Second World War, the years of hope after the liberation of France and finally the years of frustration and bitterness that followed when it became clear that neither the western democracies nor the UN were prepared to overthrow Franco's dictatorial regime, a vestige of a bygone era which had no place in modern Europe.

Unlike Catalonia, which became an Autonomous Community in 1932, the Basque Country did not gain its Statute of Autonomy before the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. It was not until 7 October 1936 that a «Basque National Union» Government was formed in Gernika under the leadership of President José Antonio de Aguirre. This same Government was defeated by rebel troops loyal to General Franco and supported by Mussolini's powerful fascist army and Nazi pilots and technicians. The bombing of undefended towns such as Durango (31 March 1937) and, more notoriously, Gernika (26 April 1937), provoked cries of indignation throughout the civilised world, whose citizens witnessed with horror the devastation of a small catholic town in the name of a so-called «Crusade».

In the summer of 1937, around 150,000 Basques fled into exile, evacuated by boat from ports in the Bizkaia, Santander and Asturias Provinces. To their surprise, on arriving in France they were taken under the wing of an extremely efficient organisation that had been set up by their Government. Nevertheless, initially at least, public opinion in both Paris and the French Basque Country was not altogether sympathetic to their cause. Franco's propaganda service had preceded them, and many French citizens could not, and perhaps more importantly, did not want to, understand the stance adopted by Basque nationalists during the Civil War. The exiles were forced to explain time and time again that they had been brutally attacked by Franco's troops right from the start of the conflict. If they had eventually found themselves fighting on the side of the Communists, it was only because they had a common enemy in Franco. This was the argument that they presented to the conservative, catholic media and institutions. The Paris delegation of the Basque Government (opened in the autumn of 1936), the newspaper *Euzko Deya*, the folkloric groups *Eresoinka* and *Elai-Alai* and the *Euzkadi* football team played a vital role as ambassadors, disseminating these basic truths and counteracting the effects of Franco's propaganda campaign. Little by little, the French population began to realise that the Basque exiles were not, as they had been led to believe, the «red separatists» that had razed the emblematic town of Gernika to the ground. The first glimmerings of support for the Basque cause began to take root.

One of LIAB's most notable precursors was the «French Committee for Civil and Religious Peace in Spain».

Under the leadership of its President, Jacques Maritain, this Committee, despite its officially «neutral» stance, became increasingly sympathetic towards the Republicans and the Basque cause. Similarly, the «National Catholic Basque Protection Committee» provided a crucial source of support for refugees, and in particular for Basque children.

These last owe much to an «inspired patron»: Manuel de Ynchausti, an unassuming but highly efficient and enterprising individual who founded and organised LIAB, as well as embarking on a project to set up a World-Wide Association of Basques. Unfortunately, this latter project failed, but all of you here today are witnessing the genesis of this Association in our era.

LIAB was founded on 16 December 1938 during a particularly difficult period for the Basque population. There could no longer be any doubt of Franco's victory, and the official recognition of

his regime by France and Great Britain in the near future seemed inevitable (in fact it took place on 27 February 1939). The Basque Government urgently needed to re-establish itself, and France was the logical headquarters due to the large number of refugees that had fled there. Two Committees were set up, which formed the French Section of LIAB: the Basque Support Committee (humanitarian) and the Committee on General Basque Interests (whose aim was to provide information about the Basque Country). The following are just some of the most famous members, the majority of whom were Christian Democrats: François Mauriac, Jacques Maritain, Cardinal Verdier, Edouard Herriot and Ernest Pezet, the LIAB secretary general.

The Basque Country's most prestigious ally was, however, François Mauriac, President of the «Committee on General Basque Interests». The famous writer continued to be a staunch supporter of the Basque question as well as a wholehearted anti-Franco campaigner right up until his death in 1970. In 1937 he wrote these prophetic words: *«Maybe one day we will understand that this poor nation suffered and died for our sake. Let us pray that we do not find their dead in the place where we are forced to bury our own.»* François Mauriac saw the Spanish Civil War as a foreshadower of the Second World War.

When the Second World War finally broke out, the Basques joined the Allies in the fight against the Nazi tyranny that they had been forced to suffer since 1937. President Aguirre confirmed the «unconditional support» of the Basque population for the French cause. To this end he wrote: *«Given the reasons cited and the methods used by the German army to declare war, we are fighting for all that we know is right and all that we deem worthy of condemnation...»*

Through LIAB, thousands of Basques joined the French cause and were initially allocated to factories working for the Ministry of Defence. With the start of the German offensive in 1940, the already precarious situation of Basque refugees deteriorated even further; the Paris delegation of the Basque Government was closed and hundreds of Basque citizens were sent to Gurs concentration camp in the foothills of the Pyrenees. The Basque authorities remained in contact with General de Gaulle in London, and in 1941 signed an agreement to aid the French resistance forces operating in occupied territory (information and vigilance services, smuggling American, British and Canadian pilots across the French/Spanish border, etc.).

In 1944, the Basque Government decided to regroup all Basques fighting on the French side to form a military unit composed of Spanish Civil War veterans and volunteers who had been too young to fight during that earlier conflict. The Gernika Battalion, under the command of Kepa Ordoki, participated in the offensive against the «German pockets» concentrated at Pointe-de-Grave, in northern Bordeaux. The offensive, which took place from 14 to 20 April 1945, resulted in the total surrender of the German troops and during his inspection of the victorious army two days later, General de Gaulle saluted the Basque flag and said to Kepa Ordoki: «Commander, France will never forget the efforts and sacrifices made by the Basques during the fight to free our country.»

Having miraculously survived his odyssey in the heart of Nazi Germany, President Aguirre, who had been living in New York since the end of 1941, assigned LIAB a key role in the overseas affairs of the Basque Government.

During the euphoric celebrations that followed the French liberation and the Allied victory, LIAB was re-established in Paris on 7 May 1945. New faces began to emerge in the leadership of the association and although the Christian Democrats were still in the majority, LIAB also opened its doors to non-communist socialists.

The Basque Government delegate in the United States, Jesús de Galíndez, put forward the idea of turning LIAB into a UN affiliated non-governmental organisation. Unfortunately, his tragic disappearance in March 1956, when he was kidnapped and assassinated in New York by a commando group working under orders from Trujillo, the Dominican dictator, prevented him from developing his idea during the International Basque Congress held in Paris in September of that year.

During the years that followed the end of the Second World War, the Basque population waited expectantly for the western democracies to topple Franco's dictatorial regime. Basque Nationalists remained unified under the leadership of President Aguirre while regrettably, the Spanish Republicans broke up into factions.

Before long, however, General Franco's Government achieved resounding international victories, such as the Concordat with the Vatican in 1953 and the Spanish/North American Agreements. In the same vein, declarations condemning the dictatorship, made during the Yalta, San Francisco and Postdam Congresses in 1945, continued to have little or no effect whatsoever: Spain was accepted into UNESCO in 1952 and into the UN in 1955.

These events forced the Basque Government to readjust its foreign policy, as declared by President Aguirre during his speech at the 1956 Paris International Basque Congress. But, what was the point if not to prepare the ground for the toppling of Franco's regime in the heart of the Iberian Peninsula? The two general strikes of 1947 and 1951 had placed the Spanish dictator in a precarious position. Surely this option should be explored as a possible way of overthrowing the dictatorship? But Franco had made a concerted effort to reinforce his position on the international scene, something which the Basque Government learned to its cost when its «embassy» at Avenue Marceau 11 in Paris's sixteenth district was attacked in June 1951.

The Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), the main opposing political force to General Franco in the Basque Country, regrouped in hiding and intensified resistance.

Meanwhile, the Basque Government's foreign activities were having some effect.

Its «European relations» in particular are worth mentioning: after the French Liberation, the PNV collaborated in the setting up of «New International Groups» (NIG), a European organisation of Christian Democrat parties. Basques were also active in the founding of many federalist movements. Furthermore, President Aguirre, a well known and highly respected international figure, has gone down in history alongside other great leaders of his era such as Bidault, de Gasperi and Adenauer. Did he not owe part of his authority and international renown to the ties established both before and during the Second World War by the International Association of Friends of Basques?

In short, the Association played a key role in the Basque Government's foreign policy during a particularly difficult period which lasted for over twenty years.

Furthermore, LIAB has gone down in contemporary history as the most effective and prestigious organisation that aided and supported the Basque Country and its population in an unforgettable demonstration of solidarity and unfailing friendship.