

Use of the language on the streets. Basque Country

Definition

This indicator quantifies the presence of languages in the main streets of towns, by observing informal conversations overheard in the streets.

Scope

Basque Country

Indicators and categories

- Use of Basque on the streets: No. of people that speak Basque in conversations overheard on the streets
- Use of Spanish on the streets: No. of people that speak Spanish in conversations overheard on the streets
- Use of French on the streets: No. of people that speak French in conversations overheard on the streets
- Use of other languages on the streets: No. of people that speak other languages in conversations overheard on the streets

Sub-indicators (crosses)

Use of Basque on the streets, by sex and age

Source(s)

Measurement in the streets, Basque Country

Characteristics of the source

This study quantifies the use of languages heard on the streets in the Basque Country. By observing the conversations overheard in the street, it reveals how many people speak Basque, Spanish, French and other languages.

The measurements take place in over a hundred towns in the Basque Country, and employ direct observation techniques. In other words, with no questions asked, the observers note down the language used by people that pass by in the street of that town. This way, the receiving function is to control the real frequency, in practical application, of the act of using each language. One of the most outstanding advantages of using this technique is that the observer can note down the natural tendency of the speaker, avoiding the subjectivity of data and thus obtaining more reliable results.

Administrator of the source

Soziolinguistika Klusterra (Sociolinguistic Cluster)

First data and frequency

First data: The first measurement was taken in 1989, and since then six further measurements have been taken in the following years: 1993, 1997, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

Frequency: Currently, measurements are taken every five years.

On a municipal level, we only have data representative of the municipals where specific measurements have been taken. The first measurements included in EAS are from 2011 and the latest are from 2019. The majority of the municipal level measurements are carried out every five years, along with the

	Euskal Herria Measurement, but some municipals do so every two or three years.
Sample and margin of error	In the 7th edition (2016) information was collected from 187,635 conversations and 515,260 speakers.
Complementary information	
Publications and reports	<p><i>Medición del uso de las lenguas en la calle. Euskal Herria, 2016</i> http://www.soziolinguistika.eus/files/hekn2016- es 1.pdf</p> <p><i>Eraitzen txostena: Hizkuntzen erabileraren kale-neurketa. Euskal Herria, 2016</i> http://www.soziolinguistika.eus/files/hekn2016- eu 1.pdf</p> <p><i>Mesure de l'usage des langues dans la rue. Pays Basque, 2016</i> http://www.soziolinguistika.eus/files/erabilera-fra.pdf</p> <p><i>Measurement of the street use of languages. Basque Country, 2016</i> http://www.soziolinguistika.eus/files/erabilera-ing.pdf</p>
Questionnaire(s)	<i>Record of the data collection of mediation on the streets</i>