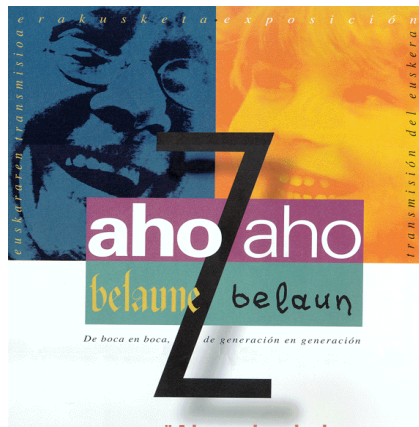
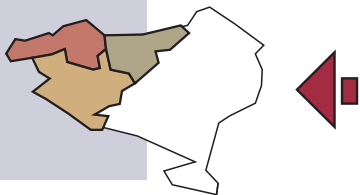


Euskara

Language policy



"Ahoz aho, belaunez belaun", the name given to a roving exhibition about language transmission



La **continuidad** del euskera

La **continuité** de la langue basque

Euskararen jarraipena

The tendency for the Basque language to gradually disappear has been turned around and famili transmission of Basque is slowly but constantly increasing

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Cymraeg

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Some of the publications brought out by the Deputy Ministry for Language Policy

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The language policy of the BAC is guided by the following three basic principles: democracy, positive action and complementarity.

- A) **Democracy.** Language planning has to be adapted to the will of the majority of people. That is why it is necessary to know what the public's attitude is and to institute a language policy which is adapted to the rhythm and intensity of the majority of the population. Therefore, it is necessary to periodically renew both political and social consensus.
- B) **Positive action,** When like policies are applied to different situations, inequalities may reoccur or even increase. The same applies to the apparent absence of any specific policy, which is really little more than one more way of strengthen an existing dominant situation. As a result, we advocate the use of positive action in favour of the minority language (in our case Basque) without detriment to the respect for the population's basic rights.
- C) **Complementarity.** Recognition of the need to draw up a language policy which redresses the balance of an initially unequal situation should not necessarily be identified with excessive intervention of public powers to replace individual and social initiative. In fact quite the opposite. The public sector has very clear cut aims and limits: to ensure that some democratic minimum is maintained without falling into the trap of doing things that can be done at an individual or community level. This is the only way of encouraging the development of a stronger and more structured civil society.

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The Deputy Ministry for Language Policy, which is currently a part of the Basque Government's Culture Department, was created in 1983 shortly after the Law for the Promotion of Basque (1982) was passed (although the current version of this law dates from 1995 - Decree no. 281/1995). This Ministry has the job of co-ordinating and monitoring the Basque Government's language policy and also laying down and developing the criteria which the Basque Government stipulates have to be followed by the Basque Country's public administration.

However, there are other bodies within the Basque Government which promote and disseminate the Basque language. These include: the Department of Education's Basque language service, the Institute for Adult Literacy and Basquisition (created in 1982), and the Basque Institute for Public Administration (created in 1983). The last of these has the job of determining administrative terminology, organising and assessing the language ability of civil servants and providing translation services.

The provincial and local councils of the Basque Autonomous Community also have sections or departments aimed specifically at promoting the Basque language.

In addition to all these bodies within the administration, there is also a long list of associations and private companies working on language normalisation, both for the language's corpus (including the Royal Academy of the Basque Language and, UZEI - an organisation which basically spends its time working on everything related to terminology) and for its status and promotion (here it is difficult to cite specific associations because there are several different kinds covering the needs of specific areas).

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The Gipuzkoa Provincial Council

This year an interdepartmental and inter-institutional steering commission (comprising the three Departments of the Basque Government upon which the language planning bodies mentioned previously depend, the three provincial councils and the local councils of the three principal Basque cities) was created with a view to analysing and optimising the financial and human resources spent on language normalisation. Although the final results of the study which this commission is carrying out are not yet available, it should be pointed out that the amount of money spent by all the commission's participating departments and bodies is slightly over 13,800 million pesetas per year, broken down in the following way: the Basque Government 12,645 million (i.e. 1.8% of its annual budget), the provincial councils 704 million pesetas and the Bilbao, Donostia-San Sebastian and Vitoria Gasteiz local councils 507 million pesetas. The Basque Government's Deputy Ministry for Language Policy will divide all of this money up into different budgetary items and then analyse it to propose ways of optimising existing human and financial resources before the end of this year (1997).

The Bizkaia Provincial Council



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Through research, we have managed to find out the main indicators of the country's sociolinguistic situation and also show the strengths and weaknesses of its language normalisation process.

The 1991 and 1996 sociolinguistic surveys (which were carried out in all those areas where Basque is spoken), and census data are used to find out the sociolinguistic development of the Basque Autonomous Community, Navarre and the French Basque Country and subsequently to write up annual follow-up reports.

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The "Bai Euskarari" campaign

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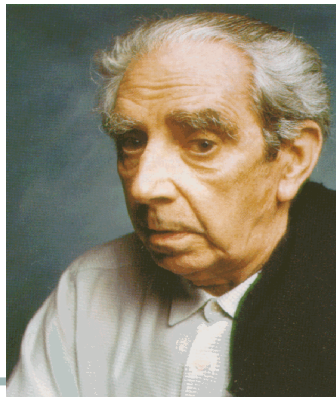
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Koldo Mitxelena
(1915-1987)

The standardisation process has been carried out over the last 20-30 years under the guidance of the Royal Academy of the Basque Language (founded in 1919) which has been an official consultative body since the passing of the Statute of Autonomy. The Basque Government, the Government of Navarre and the provinces of Alava Bikzaia and Gipuzkoa (which together make up the Basque Country) have signed a five-year framework agreement with this institution which is reviewed annually through the signing of corresponding co-operation protocols, to contribute towards the financing of the Academy's overheads and more priority work programmes including: the Basque Dictionary, the Standardised Dictionary, a Basque Grammar, The Linguistic Atlas of the Basque Country, Basque proper names and a Literary Dictionary.

As for terminology and lexicography, UZEI is systematically compiling modern Basque and developing and updating a terminology data base (called EUSKALTERM). To carry out this work it has signed a collaboration agreement with the Basque Government and other public administrations.

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Over the last 15 years the number of pupils enrolled in schools where all teaching is done in Basque has tripled

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The education system

The education system has been and still is one of the priority areas for language policy when it comes to the incorporation of new Basque speakers. The spectacular increase in the number of bilinguals over recent years is mainly due to the Basquisition of the education system.

Until the Basque Country obtained autonomy (1979), the Basque language was practically non-existent in the education system. The exception to this situation were the ikastolas, a network of schools set up by parents in which almost all subjects were taught in Basque. The number of schools gradually increased in the sixties and really began to bloom in the 70s - having as many as 12,000 pupils. By the 80's the number of pupils had reached over 65,000.

Law number 10 of the 24th of November 1982 entitled the Basic Law on Normalising Basque Use, recognises a pupil's right to be taught in both Basque and Spanish at all educational levels right up to university level. The 1983 Decree on Bilingualism created the following 4 different linguistic models in the education system which are still valid today.

Model X: Teaching is entirely in Spanish

Model A: The Basque language is a language subject

Model B: Approximately 50% of all subjects are taught in Basque and the other 50% in Spanish.

Model D: All teaching is in Basque with Spanish taught as a language subject.

Over the last 15 years the number of pupils going to school in the model A system has dropped from 79% to 48.6%, whereas model B students have doubled from 8.5% to 17.9% and model D has virtually tripled from 12.2% to 33.5%



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"Xabierto" the title of one of the first
text books to be published in Basque

Non-University education in the Basque Autonomous Community

| SCHOOL YEAR | 1982-83 | 1984-85 | 1986-87 | 1988-89 | 1990-91 | 1992-93 | 1994-95 | 1996-97 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Model X | 97.704 18,66% | 27.748 5,34% | 5.812 1,14% | 4.127 0,85% | 4.699 1,04% | 4.559 1,09% | 3.982 1,03% | 3.386 0,95% |
| Model A + X | 415.465 79,34% | 393.456 75,68% | 360.641 70,92% | 321.369 66,34% | 279.996 61,92% | 242.361 57,71% | 208.540 53,71% | 173.068 48,55% |
| Model B | 44.458 8,49% | 47.383 9,11% | 59.036 11,61% | 69.701 14,39% | 74.572 16,49% | 75.373 17,95% | 69.001 17,77% | 63.829 17,91% |
| Model D | 63.699 12,17% | 79.030 15,20% | 88.843 17,47% | 93.367 19,27% | 97.594 21,58% | 102.250 24,35% | 110.761 28,52% | 119.569 33,54% |
| TOTAL | 523.622 | 519.869 | 508.520 | 484.437 | 452.162 | 419.984 | 388.302 | 356.466 |

Source: The Basque Statistics Institute (EUSTAT) years 1982-83/1993-94.
The rest: The Basque Government's Department of Education

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The anagram of the University of the Basque Country (designed by Txillida)

The Basquisition of the education system has meant making sure existing teaching staff were qualified enough to give their lessons in Basque. In the 1976-77 school year only 4.7% of the teachers in kindergartens and primary schools in the Basque Autonomous Community knew Basque. However, by the 1995-96 school year, 67% of the teaching staff in public schools were able either to give Basque language classes or to teach their subject in Basque.

This complete turnaround in the previous situation has mainly been due to: the entry on to the labour market of new bilingual teachers and the tremendous effort at learning Basque made by many teachers under the instructions of the Education Department. To help this effort the IRALE programme, offering courses in Basque, was set up. IRALE also covers the cost of replacing teaching staff who are on day release to improve their Basque.

The introduction of bilingual education models also increased the demand for teaching materials in Basque. The Basque Government brought out a series of grants to reduce the cost of producing teaching materials in Basque and also to guarantee correct language use in the texts produced. There are three different types of grants: grants for teaching materials printed in Basque, audio-visual teaching materials and educational software.

The University

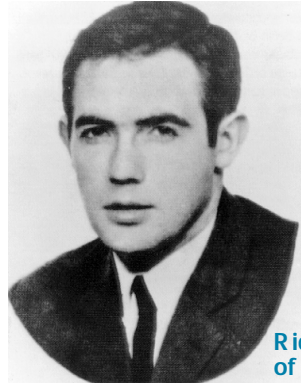
The University of the Basque Country has prepared a plan to introduce Basque in all those degree courses which wanted to classify their degrees into language models: Model A (the whole of the degree in Basque), Model B1 (all first and second year core subjects in Basque); Model B2 (the whole of the first year in Basque and the core subjects of the other years); Model C (all subjects in the first year in Basque); Model D (all first year degree subjects in Basque).



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Ricardo Arregi (1942-1969), forerunner of the literacy in Basque movement

The plan also involves: deciding the number of bilingual lecturers who should be contracted to be able to cover all the different teaching needs of the degree courses; to Basquise all the administrative staff of the University of the Basque Country; to create a Basque Institute (scientific terminology, texts, special translations) and within a maximum of four years guarantee that 65% of the core subjects taught in the University of the Basque Country are also available in Basque. In the 1996/97 academic year a total of 9,186 pupils (15% of the total) chose to study their degree courses in Basque at the University of the Basque Country.

Teaching Basque to adults

At the end of the 60s a movement sprung up parallel to the ikastola movement to teach Basque to adults. It was under the auspices of the Royal Academy of the Basque Language. What were initially simple night schools became gradually more and more important to eventually become Basque language schools (*euskaltegiak*).

Since the creation of the Institute for Basquisition and Literacy for Adults in 1983, this type of teaching has been regulated and subsidised with public money. The Institute supervises the activities of the Basque language schools and promotes, co-ordinates and provides educational guidance to the schools as well as publishing any necessary teaching materials. To give you some idea of figures for the 1995/96 academic year, there will be 12,963,000 teaching hours, 44,855 pupils, 2,039 teachers and 160 schools.



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"Euskaldunon egunkaria" and other magazines

Let us deal separately in this section with the radio, press and television.

The Radio

There were no radio stations broadcasting exclusively in Basque until the 1980s. Now there are two public radio stations created by the Basque Autonomous Community's Government which broadcast exclusively in Basque for the whole of the Basque Country - one is a general radio station (called Euskadi Irratia and set up in 1982) and the other is a music radio station for youngsters (called Euskadi Gaztea and created in 1990). There are also a series of more local radio stations which broadcast either entirely or partially in Basque.

The press

Support from the administration means that Basque can be found to a varying degree in all different types of press. Every year the Basque Government's Deputy Ministry for Language Policy offers subsidies to guarantee the survival of written press in Basque. To access these subsidies, the magazine or paper in question must be at least 30% self-financing. Five different types of publications are entitled to financial help in this way, four of them are aimed at press distributed throughout the Basque Country and the fifth is for local press. When awarding subsidies, different criteria are followed including whether the publications are daily newspapers, weeklies or children's and young people's magazines.



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A set at the Basque televisión studios

The following is a general picture of the situation of written press in Basque:

- * There is one newspaper written exclusively in Basque. It is called Euskaldunon Egunkaria and was founded in 1990. It has sales of around 12,000 copies per day. There is also a weekly magazine called Argia (founded in 1963) with a circulation of around 10,000. This magazine is also entirely in Basque, contains general information and is distributed in the whole of the Basque Country.
- * There are also a series of specialist magazines (literary, informative, cultural, scientific, comics) with an average circulation of around 1,500 which, once again are distributed throughout the whole of the Basque Country.
- * There are also four children's magazines each with a circulation of between 2,500 and 8,000 copies.
- * It is also worth pointing out the phenomenon of local press which became more generalised from the eighties onwards. This type of press which includes approximately 40 publications is free of charge and is financed by local councils to help promote the Basque language.
- * In short, the press in Basque normally has a circulation of less than 8,000 copies and receives public subsidies. From a subject point of view it covers many different fields including literature, religion, science, culture and general information.

The television

Ever since 1982, when "Basque Public Radio and Television" was set up, there has been a television station broadcasting programmes in Basque for the whole of the Basque Country. It was estimated by an opinion poll that the audience level was over 225,000 in 1996. There are also local television stations, especially in the province of Gipuzkoa, broadcasting mainly in Basque.



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An informative booklet entitled "En marcha el II período de Planificación Lingüística"

The introduction of Basque into public institutions is closely linked to the recognition of the language's official status which was obtained in 1979 in the Basque Autonomous Community and in 1982 in Navarre. It was in 1989 that the Basque Autonomous Community first embarked upon a programme to introduce Basque into the administration with a view to guaranteeing that in the administration there were as many bilingual speakers as bilinguals in society and also so that the public's relationship with the administration, paperwork and the working relationship between civil servants could also be carried out in Basque. That is why, in accordance with the sociolinguistic situation of each part of the administration, the means have been found to gradually and selectively start upon Basque language use programmes in the different sections of the administration. At the same time, different language training programmes have been organised so that civil servants can learn Basque during the working day, with the government even covering the cost of replacing those civil servants who are on day release. For the 1990-95 period 8,915 civil servants had an obligatory language "profile" attached to their posts. This number represents 34% of the number of civil servants working in the Basque Government, the regional councils and local councils. During this first period, 88.5% of the civil servants managed to obtain the language profile stipulated for their job. In November 1996, the Basque Parliament agreed upon the objectives and intervention criteria for the second planning period which will run until the year 2,002.



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Industrial companies following a plan for Basque language normalisation

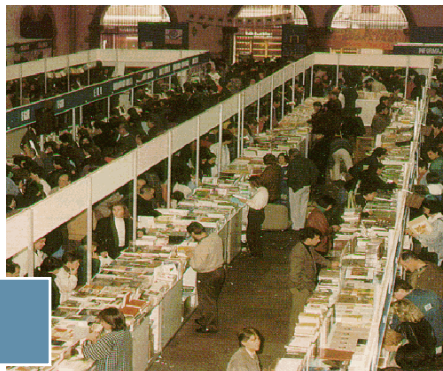
As for private companies, Spanish and French were traditionally the languages used in trade and industry with Basque being relegated to the most northern areas of the Basque Country. However, it is now more and more frequent for knowledge of Basque to be required for some kinds of job openings such as those related to the education system, the administration or jobs involving attending the public. Advertising is in Basque in the press, the radio and television, and this is thanks to both public and private initiatives. However, the amount of advertising in Basque is still very small in comparison to the total amount of money spent on advertising in the Basque Country and does not account for more than 5% of the total. The Basque Government's Deputy Ministry for Language Policy is promoting pilot plans to encourage Basque language use in companies. To do this it has brought out special subsidies to support both the design and monitoring of plans for language normalisation in companies.



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The Basque book and record fair in Durango

When talking about cultural events in Basque, it is especially worth mentioning those areas related to literature, music, improvised public recital (bertsolarismo), the theatre and the cinema.

Books and other publications

Between 1990 and 1995 4,435 books were published. Literature in Basque went through a major setback after the Civil War. It was in the fifties when original literary works first saw the light and also when classic works were published once again. Up until very recently political and social motivations and attempts to keep the language alive guided the work of Basque writers. After 1975, literature in Basque gained in independence and became widely known as a form of literary expression. Thanks to the effort made by both the public and private sectors, translation of literary works into Basque has improved considerably over recent years. It is also becoming more and more frequent for works written originally in Basque to be translated into other languages. Approximately 15% of all the books published in Basque are literary works (this percentage covers both books originally written in Basque and books that are translated). This figure translates into about 150 books per year.

Music

As for music, the first record in Basque after the Civil War came out at the end of the fifties. It was choir music initially and later traditional folk music that marked the starting point of Basque music at that time. It was not until the 1960's that what came to be known as New Basque Music (1961) finally took off thanks to a group of singers and, more especially, singer-songwriters. With the arrival of the eighties, hard rock became popular in Basque, although this increase in popularity has not meant a drop in traditional music sales.



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Improvised poetry

Improvised verse (Bertsolaritza)

Bertsolaritza is the Basque word used to describe an improvised form of poetry sung live to an audience. The first records of this form of culture date from the Middle Ages although it was not until the nineteenth century that more detailed knowledge of it could be obtained. By this century bertsolarismo had gained in prestige and by the 1960s was drawing large crowds. In recent years bertsolari schools have been set up and the learning of bertsolarismo has even been included as a subject in some ikastolas. Radio and television have helped increase knowledge of bertsolarismo which is gaining in both popularity and supporters.

The theatre

Institutional support, especially from the Basque Government, coupled with the appearance of a public radio station broadcasting in Basque, has promoted theatre in Basque over recent years. There are currently 36 professional and 33 amateur theatre companies offering about 122 performances in Basque per year. Theatre groups have also become a breeding ground for television actors in Basque. The quality of these actors has increased dramatically over recent years and it is more and more frequent to see them acting outside the Basque Country. In Soule (in the French Basque Country) a traditional type of theatre is still acted out in a similar way to in medieval times. This type of theatre is called Pastorale.



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Films dubbed in Basque in 1996 for commercial distribution

The Cinema

The first full-length feature film was produced in Basque in 1981 (Segobiako Ihesa). Since then a total of 48 full-length feature films, 6 medium-length films and 78 short films have been produced. At the same time, as a result of the creation of a public television station in Basque, companies have been set up to dub films and documentaries from other countries into Basque. Likewise, there are 4 companies working mainly on producing television programmes. Currently, a commercial circuit is being set up to enable audiences to see Basque films although a lot of time will be needed until a stable commercial circuit is set up.

As well as everything that has been mentioned above, a series of subsidies are also provided to promote:

- a) The compilation and dissemination of oral traditions (songs, verses, dialects)
- b) The production of videos, software, radio programmes and books in Basque.
- c) The incorporation of Basque into the field of new information and communication technologies.

Apart from these subsidies for Basque language promotion in different fields, the Basque Government's Deputy Ministry for Language Policy is carrying out several pilot programmes including those aimed at fostering family transmission of Basque and the dubbing and projecting of Basque films in commercial cinemas.



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Mascots from the "Ahoz aho, belaunez belaun" roving campaign

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The important increase in the bilingual population is becoming evident even in the increase of Basque use with friends and to a lesser degree, in a family environment, since although many children have learnt Basque at school, the parents of these children have no knowledge of the language.

The most important challenges over the coming years include promoting the family transmission of the Basque language: intensifying the programmes in the education system and the teaching of Basque to adults aimed at incorporating new Basque speakers; improving the language ability of those who have come to the Basque language via the school system by attending not only to quantitative criteria but also to qualitative criteria; progressively creating the necessary conditions for the language attitudes of public and private bodies to adapt to the needs of new generations; establishing language criteria in subsidy policies and the contracting of services from public institutions and revising the allocation of resources, not just economic but also human to guarantee the viability of strategically important projects.

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The Basque Government has entrusted the Deputy Ministry for Language Policy with the designing and drawing up of a General Plan for Encouraging Basque Language Use in collaboration with the Basque Language Advisory Board which will have to be debated and subsequently approved by the Government's Cabinet meeting.

This is a strategic plan with the following aims:

- To reach a consensus on short and medium-term language normalisation aims with a view to adapting the programmes and establishing evaluation criteria.
- To carry out an in-depth analysis of budgetary allocations for Basque language recovery whilst foreseeing the future effect of current plans with a view to establishing priorities.
- To study the proposals for improving inter-institutional co-ordination on the one hand and the co-ordination between public powers and social initiatives on the other.



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The Basque Language Advisory Board is a meeting place for different institutions and people who work in the field of normalisation and its aim is to advise on the general plan for Basque normalisation and monitor and assess the degree to which said Plan is adhered to.

The Board is presided over by the Lehendakari (the President of the Basque Government) and has 39 members: 14 of them represent institutions and public powers and the other 25 have been selected from people with a recognised prestige in the Basque-speaking world.

The Board also has four specific commissions: Place names; Use Plans; Continuity and the Inter-Generational Transmission of Basque and The Media.

