

4th CONGRESS ON BASQUE COMMUNITIES 2007

PAPER BY THE FEDERACIÓN DE ENTIDADES VASCO ARGENTINAS (FEVA).

“DIAGNOSIS AND PROJECTION OF THE FUTURE”

Presentation

Egun on Eusko Jauriaritza eta Euskal Etxeetako ordezkariak, jaun-andreok,

Every four years, these talks that permit us to reflect, strengthen relationships, and set common objectives of the future, are an invaluable opportunity since not everything has been done yet. Each day we have to think of our Basque Centres' role, see if what we are doing is what we should be doing in terms of our members, especially the education and projection of youth and the Basque Country.

If the Basque Centres are the Basque Country's image in the world, we have a great commitment, spreading the other side of the truth to counteract distorted and manipulated information. Demonstrate the values of this peaceful and hard-working People and be able to make the qualitative jump from being “known” to being “recognized as a People”, as our President, Juan José Ibarretxe, says.

Today, just as before, the Basque sentiment is a reality in Argentina, it extends day after day through 3rd and 4th generations, people who take a feverish interest in their Basque roots. Therefore, it is from the unification of Basque natives, direct descendants and others of Basque roots, a passionate Basque sentiment emerges, a profound love for the Basque Country that drives us to work feverishly in defence of the Basque Peoples' inalienable rights and its pacification. That is why we feel and say, that its problems are also ours.

The Federation of Argentinean-Basque Entities and Basque Centres support and have supported our ancestors' land by supporting the cause, which is nothing else but democracy, liberty, recognition of the right to self-determination, a human being's most natural right.

We are at the service of a culture of dialogue, of coexistence, of conciliation, a culture of PEACE, which is why we do not understand those who do not follow that path.

As Basques and as descendants, we coexist in Argentina with people of different Countries and we build a sense of citizenship with everyone in a framework of tolerance, mutual respect, and in defence of rights such as LIFE and PEACE.

At the World Basque Congress held in Paris in 1956 it was said:
...“We Basques in Argentina are with all the Basques of the world. Friends of the Basque People are our friends and the adversaries are our adversaries”...

Today, fifty-one years later we maintain those postulations from Paris, inviting those opponents to a table of dialogue that is honest and firm.

These are the ideas we want to share with all the Basques of the world so as to maintain our identity strong and so that the Basque Country’s rights be respected.

Let us build bridges in that direction.

Eskerrik asko! Gora Euskal Herria eta mundua, pakean eta askatasunean bizi gaitezen.

❖ ***PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY***

The Argentine Republic occupies 1,800,000 Km², and has 37,000,000 inhabitants, 15% of whom have Basque surnames.

❖ **DIAGNOSIS OF THE CENTRES' SITUATION BASQUES IN ARGENTINA**

1. Number of Basque Centres associated with FEVA: 95

Active: 58
Associates: 12
Applicants: 25

2. Geographic distribution of the Centres

From north to south: Jujuy / Comodoro Rivadavia: 3000 Km.
From east to west: Mendoza / Mar del Plata: 1300 Km.

3. Distribution by provinces

In the city of Buenos Aires there are 12 (12.63%).

In the province of Buenos Aires there are: 53 (55.79 %).

In the province of Cordoba there are: 4 (4.21 %).

In the province of Santa Fe: 2 (2.10 %).

In the province of La Pampa: 4 (4.21 %).

In the province of Entre Ríos: 4 (4.21 %).

In the province of Rio Negro: 5 (5.26 %).

In the province of Chubut: 3 (3.16 %).

Province of Mendoza: 2 (2.10 %).

Province of San Juan: 1 (1.05 %).

Province of San Luis: 1 (1.06 %).

Province of Jujuy: 1 (1.06 %).

Province of Misiones: 2 (2.10 %).

Province of Chaco: 1 (1.06 %).

4. *By population density and other parameters:*

By population density:

In cities of more than 500,000 inhabitants: 14.

In cities between 101,000 and 500,000 inhabitants: 13.

In cities of up to 100,000 inhabitants: 68.

By location:

In provincial capitals: 12.

In important tourist cities: 10.

In cities that are large business and industrial centres, apart from capitals: 7.

Basque Centres in cities with universities: 14.

5. *Classification according to building situation:*

- Owned locale: 43.
- Rented locale: 11.
- Locales on gratuitous loan: 6.
- Locales on loan: 7.
- Other: 28.

❖ ANALYSIS OF MEMBER COMPOSITION

- Total Members: 18.000

Based on a study conducted on 31 Basque Centres and 9,800 members, which is a cross-section of Argentina's current situation, the following information has been obtained:

1. *Distribution by age:*

Age	%
0 to 15 years	7
16 to 30 years	14
31 to 45 years	15

Over 46 64

2. By gender:

Women 48 %

Men 52 %

3. Participation of Women on the Board of Directors: 46 %

4. Women Presidents in Basque Centres: 31%

5. Basque natives associated: 2 %

❖ **INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS**

The analysis shows that:

1. In Basque Centres as a whole, there is a critical situation with the youngest members since the number of older members is very high in relation with the Young.

from 0 to 30 years	21 %
from 31 to 45 years	15 %
Over 46	64 %

2. The level of member participation and attendance develops in the following manner:

- Up to 25 years old: all range of cultural and sports activities are carried out.
- from 26 to 40 years: many fade away because of life's commitments.
- From the age of 40 on they return with their children and become active in the institution.

3. There are different types of Basque Centres in Argentina:

- Long standing Basque Centres (over 50 years):

- Large quantity of members with balanced age ranges.
- Good administrative ability: Board of Directors with balanced participation by age and gender.
- Own facilities adapted to the activities.
- Activities that attract differing ages and genders.
- *Approximately 15%*

- Long standing Basque Centres (over 50 years):

- Few members with unbalanced age ranges.

- Institutional exhaustion: Board of Directors without balanced participation by age or gender.
 - Underused facilities.
 - Few activities are organized.
 - *Approximately 11%*
- **Medium standing Basque Centres (between 11 and 50 years):**
- With members in accordance with the environment they live in (small city, large city).
 - Good administration.
 - Own facilities that are not suitable for many for many activities (e.g.: a house).
 - Many activities because they collaborate with other institutions of the city to take advantage of synergies and convene more members.
 - *Approximately 27%*
- **Medium standing Basque Centres (between 11 and 50 years):**
- Few members with unbalanced age ranges.
 - Weak administration with little member participation.
 - Own facilities that are not suitable for many activities (a house).
 - Isolated from other institutions and they only focus on the cultural aspect or what the venue permits.
 - *Approximately 17%*
- **New Basque Centres (less than 10 years)**
- With members in accordance with the environment where they live (small city, large city) with balanced age ranges.
 - Good administration, with balanced participation.
 - Without its own facilities (rented or on loan).
 - Many activities because they collaborate with other institutions of the city to take advantage of synergies and convene more members.
 - *Approximately 13%*
- **New Basque Centres (less than 10 years)**
- Few members with unbalanced age ranges.
 - Weak administration with little member participation.
 - Without its own facilities. These are rented or on loan or functioning from the homes of Board of Director members.
 - With few activities because they are isolated.
 - *Approximately 17%*

CONCLUSION:

Basque Centres that are developing: 53 %

Basque Centres with differing problems in their current development: 47 %.

4. From the descriptive diagnosis and the work conducted in the “What FEVA de we want” conference the conclusion is:

“FEVA must develop actions to help sustain the Basque Centres that progress and actions to boost the growth of the others.”

To fulfil the objectives of its statutes and adapt the tools to the current situation, the following four-year plan has been drawn up:

FOUR YEAR PLAN 2008-2011

❖ Institutional Strengthening Programmes.

- 1) Relations with the Basque Centres.
- 2) Unique member ID.
- 3) Leader Training.
- 4) Communication.
- 5) Re-establishment of the Confederation of Basque Entities of America (CEVA).

❖ Cultural Strengthening Programmes.

- 1) Cultural Training Workshops
- 2) Conference Cycles.
- 3) Historical Investigation Projects.
- 4) Exhibitions.
- 5) Basque Choral Music.
- 6) Basques in American Press.
- 7) Library Network.
- 8) Basque.
- 9) Book Fair.

❖ Youth, Sports and Gastronomic Programmes

- 1) Youth
- 2) Pilota Berria Programme.
- 3) Gastronomy.

❖ Social Activities

❖ Basque

❖ Zubigintzan (Building Bridges)

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING.

1-RELATIONS WITH THE BASQUE CENTRES.

2007/2011

Visit the Basque Centres.

Update the database to reformulate future activities.

Generate a more fluid dialogue and share experiences.

Support the activities that the Basque centres carryout and help the rapprochement with the community.

2-UNIQUE MEMBER ID

2007

A contest for the design of the identity card was held.

A winner was chosen and the prize was awarded.

2008/2011

Production of the ID for the Basque Centres which solicit it.

3- LEADER TRAINING.

Training Workshops:

2007

Basic ideas of organizational communication, its diagnosis and planning. (completed)

2008

Analysis on the subject of communication. Marketing in the Organizations.

2009

Experiences of other foreign community organizations.

2010

Leadership in institutional organizations.

2011

Common Institutional Management Model.

4- COMMUNICATION.

a) RADIO.

2007

The radio programme is being broadcasted in 30 Basque Centres.

2008

Broadcast the programme in 50 Basque Centres.
Prepare 50 new pre-recorded programmes.

2009

Expand the broadcast to 70 Basque Centres.

2010

Reach 90 weekly broadcasts.

2011

Broadcast to all the Basque Centres.
Prepare a third new set of 50 pre-recorded programmes.

b) SATELLITE NETWORK.

2008 / 2011

Expand the satellite network, adding two new antennas.
Continue with the broadcast of three/ four annual conferences.

c) WEB PAGE.

2007

Permanent support and updates of the page.
Increase its use as a means of information.
Construction of a database of Basques that are outside the organized Basque community

2008

Continue expanding the database begun in 2007.
Begin the construction of database of “Basque friends”

2009 /2011

Continue working on the previous databases.
Construct a network of “journalist friends of Basques”

d) SUPPORT BASQUE CENTRES TO CONSTRUCT THEIR COMMUNICATION PLANS.

2007/2008

Construct a task force in FEVA to focus on Organization Communications with the support of the ideal people from the Community.

The Basque Centres will appoint Communications people to work with the FEVA team.

2009/2011

That all the Basque Centres have communication task forces and that we may plan campaigns together.

5- PARTICIPATE IN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT PROCESS OF CEVA.

2007

Initiate contact with previous members of CEVA.

Co-organize the first meeting with agents interested in the project

2008 / 2011

Conclude the re-establishment process.

Establish an Executive Committee.

Prepare and execute common projects.

CULTURAL STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES.

1- CULTURAL TRAINING COURSES/WORKSHOPS.

2007:

Workshop:

Basic concepts of a people, nation and state. Constituent elements. Characteristics of the Basque Nation.

The territory, geographic location, historical territories, territorial conflict.

Historical privileges, the concept of foral laws. Relevant historical moments. Home and family. Causes and consequences of emigration at each period.

Participants: 35 people, one per Basque Centre.

2008

Same as the previous, for members of another 35 Basque Centres.

2009

Repeat the process again for the remaining Basque Centres

2010

Workshop:

The Basque Country today.

Political, social and economic situation.

Youth.

Cooperative system.

Participants: representatives from 35 Basque Centres.

2011

Repeat the previous with another 35 Basque Centres.

2- LECTURES

- Local Lecturers

25 Lecturers on various subjects of the Basque Nation's historical and current events.

- Lecturers from the Basque Country.

3 or 4 per year

2007

Topics:

1- The language. The habitat. The home. The villages. The tower house. The structure of surnames.

2- The pasture. Agriculture and livestock. The sea. The forest. The Basque Country's economy in history. Cooperativism.

3- Emigration. History of emigration to Argentina. Basque contribution to Argentina. History of Argentinean Basque Centres contribution to the Basque Nation.

4- The Basque Country's physical and political geography. Fuero (code of laws) and foralismo (in defence of the charters). Names given to the Basque country throughout history.

Itineraries: 4

Centres visited: 33/35

2008

Repeat the previous with another 33/35 Basque Centres.

2009

Topics:

1- Beliefs. Magic. Mythology. The plant world. The animal world. Customs from cradle to grave. Contemporary symbols.

2- Oral literature. Bertsolarismo (tradition of singing stories). Written literature.

3- Rural sports. Pelota. Dance. Music. Children's games.

4- Social, political and economic organization of today's Basque Nation. (health, education, youth, senior citizens, the environment, etc.)

Itineraries: 4

Centres visited: 33/35

2010

Repeat the previous with another 33/35 Basque Centres.

2011

Repeat the previous with the remaining Basque Centres.

3-INVESTIGATION PROJECTS

2007 / 2008

- Basque in Argentina Evolution, characteristics and its teaching.
- Basque dance in Argentina

4-EXHIBITIONS

2007

The 2006 exhibition itinerary programmed concludes:

- La Huella Vasca (The Basque Footprint)
- Photographs of the Basque Country by Mikel Arrazola
- Conditioning of two new sets of thematic photographs: sports, dance.

2008

Exhibit "la Huella Vasca" and the photographs of the Basque Country by Mikel Arrazola at the Buenos Aires Immigrant Museum.

Begin the exhibit of two new photographic exhibitions: sports, dance.

Condition the exhibitions: Festivals, traditions.

2009

Continue to circulate the exhibitions: sports and dance.
Initiate the tour of the exhibitions: Festivals and traditions.
Condition two exhibitions: gastronomy, caserios (farmhouses).

2010 / 2011

Complete the tour of all the exhibitions in all the Basque Centres.
Display exhibits in Cultural and Educational Centres of Buenos Aires.

5- BASQUE CHORAL MUSIC

2007

The basic working tools for the conduction of a choral group for conductors without professional training were provided. (Completed)

2008

Continue the training of the group of choral conductors without professional training.

2009

Provide a framework of reflection on different aspects of Basque choral music.
Provide working tools for the preparation and conduction of a choral group.

2010

Choral conduction workshop by a conductor from the Basque Country

2011

Exclusively Basque choral music conduction workshop.
Choral conference.

6- BASQUES IN AMERICAN PRESS

Objectives:

Recovery of the historical memory through the creation of a database of advertisements, articles, editorials, interviews, news, reports, etc. about Basques, in all the newspapers that have been published and are published in cities where there is an Euskal Etxeak.

2007

Presentation of the Basque Centre World Congress.
The incorporation of the Universities of La Plata, Mar del Plata, Del Centro (Tandil), Buenos Aires, Rosario and Córdoba, involving mainly youth from Basque Centres.

2008/2011

Continue and conclude the program.

7 – ARGENTINEAN NETWORK OF BASQUE LIBRARIES (RBVA).

1. Foster the integration of the RBVA.

- 2007: 18 % of Libraries
- 2008: 25 %
- 2009: 50 %
- 2010: 75 %
- 2011: 100 %

2. Generate a Collective Catalogue of Basque libraries in Argentina.

2008 / 2011:

- 500 registrations per year.

3. Promote the training and updating of those managing the Libraries.

2008 / 2011:

- A National Library Meeting during each year's National Basque Week.
- Prepare 6 electronic bulletins per year.
- A Symposium of Librarian Training each two years.

4. Promote reading and the use of the Libraries.

2008 / 2011:

- A promotional activity per year per Library.
- A biannual meeting of Libraries.

5. Integrate the Basque National System of Libraries (SNBE).

2008 / 2011:

- Manage the inclusion of our Network into the Basque National System of Libraries.

8- BOOK FAIR

2007

- First time participating in Argentina's biggest cultural event. Placing a stand in collaboration with FEVA along with the Juan de Garay Foundation in collaboration with the Basque Government.

Execution date: April 16 to May 7, 2007.

Assessment: 1,800,000 visitors, 1,700 cultural acts.

FEVA, Juan de Garay Foundation, 4 cultural acts.

2008 / 2011

- Continue the activity carrying out the necessary adjustments to improve the presence in said exposition.

YOUTH, SPORTS AND GASTRONOMIC PROGRAMMES.

1- YOUTH.

Diagnosis:

- The lack of information on our youth is the main cause for the loss of identity in Basque Centres.
- Lack of interest to get to know the activities and the youth that carry them out.
- Lack of youth participation.
- Lack of motivation from the Board of Directors towards the youth collective, and the youth's lack of participation in the Board.
- Absence of generational substitutions for directors.

Objectives:

- Construct an active youth collective committed to the Basque feeling.
- Strengthen the feeling of belonging through the spreading of the Basque People's values.
- Reinforce the information channels to improve internal and external communication.
- Maintain relations and activities with institutions like NGOs, soup kitchens, schools, etc.
- National and International Basque Centre Youth Exchange Program.
- Achieve a space for youth in the FEVA Communication projects.

2007/2001 Activities

- National meeting of Basque Centre youth.
- Implementation of a FORUM on the FEVA web site.
- Txistu (Basque flute) workshop.
- Cultural Training Workshop
- Methodology for the creation of projects workshop.
- Creation of a monthly digital bulletin with general information on Basque Centre youth activities and projects.

2- PILOTA BERRIA

Objectives:

- Boost the sport of Pelota, in its different variations, with the support of technical and material means, in Basque Centres that wish to join in on this program we have called "Pilota Berria" (PIBE).
- Motivate the leaders of Basque Centres so that they may take on greater responsibilities in national and international institutions that govern the future of this sport.
- Support the suppliers of equipment and "pelotas" for the sport, so that they may be manufactured at a national level.
- Encourage the reconditioning of "trinquetes" and/or "pelota" courts.

- Organize workshops to train instructors.
- Organize children, youth and adult tournaments.
- Collaborate with Basque Centres that do not have sports venues access to them, through the signing of agreements with bodies in their towns that own them.
- Participate as founding members of the International Pelota Committee.

2008/2011.

During the next four years, we are set out to go from 10 “pala” players to 50, 20 “pelota” players to 60 and from 10 players to 50 in “xare”. Boosting these activities in South American countries.

3-GASTRONOMY

2007

Pilot experience:

Two theoretical / practical traditional Basque cuisine workshops.

2008 / 2011

Cooking workshops conducted by cooks from Basque “txokos” (gastronomic societies).
Three cooks, 5 workshops each, every year.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

- Twinning programmes to boost solidarity like those developed by the Oñate Town Hall with the José C. Paz Basque Centre and the Arrasate Town Hall with the Sunchales' (Home of Cooperation)
 - Promote exchange activities and visits between different Basque Centres and the regional integration of the same for specific activities: dances, festivals, camps, picnics, Aberri Eguna, Basque Day, National Basque Weeks, etc.
 - Continue promoting contact between all types of Basque institutions and those in Argentina.
 - Continue promoting relations between people of differing circles: politicians, businesspeople, arts, science, etc. from the Basque Country and Argentina.

BASQUE.

OBJECTIVES:

- Teach Basque to children, youth and adults in Basque Centres
- Teach Basque and Basque culture in universities and language schools to youth and adults
- Teach Basque and Basque culture to children at the Euskal Echea School
- Make it known to more people and in new circles the offers to learn Basque

TYPES OF COURSES OFFERED

By area and pupils

- Children in Basque Centres
- Children at the Euskal Echea School
- Adults in Basque Centres
- Adults in University

By teaching method

- On-site
- BOGA Programme
- Remote tutoring

By level

Familiarization	60 to 90 hours / year	1 year
Basic		
Level 1 A	90 to 120 hours / year	3 years
Level B	90 to 120 hours / year	3 years
For teachers	150 hours / year	4 years
Level 2 or higher	barnetegis	

Courses (teaching post and groups of pupils)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHILDREN WORKSHOPS	12	13	15	16	18
LEVEL 1 A, FAMILIARIZATION, 60-90 HRS YEAR, ADULTS	38	39	40	41	42
LEVEL 1 A, OVER 90 HOURS YEAR	23	24	25	26	27
LEVEL 1 B	5	6	7	8	9
BOGA	15	16	17	18	19
UNIVERSITY - LANGUAGE SCHOOLS	2	3	4	5	6
SCHOOLS	2	2	2	2	2
BASQUE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	98	104	111	117	124

Pupils

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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CHILDREN WORKSHOPS	172	180	196	204	220
LEVEL 1 A, FAMILIARIZATION, 60-90 HRS YEAR, ADULTS	259	267	275	283	291
LEVEL 1 A, OVER 90 HOURS YEAR	306	314	322	330	338
LEVEL 1 B	30	36	42	48	54
BOGA	182	188	194	200	218
UNIVERSITY - LANGUAGE SCHOOLS	12	18	24	30	36
EUSKAL ECHEA SCHOOL	900	900	900	900	900
BASQUE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION	3	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	1864	1906	1956	1998	2060

Relation active teachers/ teachers' level of Basque

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1990-1996 PLAN AND 2004-2007 PLAN LEVEL 2	12	35	35	35	35
2004-2007 PLAN LEVELS 1 A AND 1 B	37	14	14	14	14
ARE TAUGHT IN THEIR BASQUE CENTRES	4	4	4	4	4
2008-2011 REMOTE PLAN		10	10	10	10
TOTAL	53	63	63	63	63

Teaching venues

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
BASQUE CENTRES ADULT COURSES	45	47	49	51	54
BASQUE CENTRES COURSES FOR CHILDREN	10	11	13	14	16
UNIVERSITY	1	2	3	4	5
SCHOOLS	2	2	2	2	2
BASQUE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION	1	1	1	1	1

ZUBIGINTZAN (BUILDING BRIDGES)

Zubigintzan!, NABO and FEVA, which had initiated the path towards building bridges between both countries, would like to present the projects that we propose to carry out together.

- 1- Reactivation of CEVA (Confederation of Basque Entities of America).
- 2- Produce audiovisual material to culturally educate children, youth and adults. With educationalists/ teachers, etc. of the community, to produce the different framework for each group. Manage the collaboration of Euskal Telebista to use the audiovisual material that will be produced for each outline
The objective is to educate the new generations and all those who become part of the Basque Centres interested in their roots but do not have knowledge of the Basque People, with the purpose of creating an identity.
- 3- Photograph Fund.
Within the framework of the project to recover the historical memory (Urazandi, Basques in American press, etc.) we propose the creation of a diaspora photographic fund (families, dance groups, choirs, boards of directors, Basque Centre buildings, etc.)
 - Create an index card to classify the photographs.
 - Involve all the Basque Centres in the execution of the work; propose that the youth carry out this activity (digitalization, fill in the index cards, etc.)
 - The federations will commit themselves to receive all the material and send it to the Community Relationship Management and provide a copy to all the Basque Centres involved in the project.

Final words

With all these projects, we are trying to strengthen our institutions and contribute to the culture of harmony between our people. Today, the world's Basque people must contribute a culture of life and peace to the world. And to do this we would like to remember an anecdote:

In 1932 the League of Nations convened Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud to debate on how to eliminate crime and war. Considering what happened after, those geniuses did not achieve much. However, they did leave behind a simple and valuable guide: *“There are no ideological reasons to oppose violence; it is not an intellectual repulsion. It is a basic intolerance, violence is no longer supported. And everything that produces a connection of feelings between people, cannot help but exert the opposite effect. All that promotes love and culture will work against violence, and also against war”*.

Let us build bridges towards life, towards peace