

euskal etxeak



1998 Special Issue



GAZTEMUNDU 98

Young people want more responsibility

For the third year running, the GAZTEMUNDU programme once again brought together a considerable number of young people from different Euskal Etxeak (Basque Centres) throughout Latin America.

The initiative sprang from the World Congress of Basque Communities, held in Vitoria-Gasteiz in 1995, and it is worth reminding readers of its two main aims: to reveal all the facets of present-day reality in Euskadi, and to get new generations actively involved in the Euskal Etxeak.

Without entering into a detailed examination of the conclusions that were reached at this year's (1998) events, which we go into more deeply over the next pages, I would like to make some remarks about two aspects in particular. First of all, more than 90% of these young people said they were returning to their country of residence with a richer and more realistic picture of Euskadi, that their commitment to Basque culture had been reinforced, and that they felt ready to work more directly in the Euskal Etxeak in order to involve youth actively in the life of these centres. So there are grounds for us to state that the main objectives of the project have been fulfilled.

Secondly, we cannot but mention the constant frustration expressed by young people with regard to adults and their resistance to change which, in the opinion of those who took part in Gaztemundu, makes it impossible for younger generations to show what they are capable of when it comes to working in and on behalf of the Euskal Etxeak. Although this situation varies according to how each centre is run, it is still a cause for concern that this feeling should be general among these young people. Because this sensation they have then holds them back from taking part in the leadership bodies and, at a more general level, in the day-to-day running of the Euskal Etxeak. This frustration was certainly

Aurtengoa Gaztemunduren hirugarren urtea izan da. Oraingoan 47 izan dira irailaren 13tik 26ra bitartean gure artera etorri zaizkigun euskal amerikarrak. Multzo ugariena argentinarrak izan bada ere, Txile, Uruguay eta Venezuelako euskal etxeetatik ere taldean etorri dira; El Salvador eta Brasilek, ostera, ordezkari bana bidali dute. Azkenik, estatubatuarrak ez dugu izan. Hamabost egunetan makinatxo bat gauza bizi izan dute Euskal Herri osoan zehar. Halere, dena ez da hara eta hona ibiltzea izan. Lanak ere izan du bere tarteak. Norberak zekarren proiektuaren aurkezpena lehenengo lanegunetan egin eta gero, neska-mutilek proposamen berriak eztabaidatzeari ekin zioten hurrengo egunetan.



revealed, in an anecdotal way, when the question of use of information technology and the Internet came up. Many adults denied them access to this equipment when, in fact, it is the adults themselves who "are nearly always incapable of carrying out basic computer functions". These observations should lead to some deep thinking from the present leading bodies, because in order to improve and keep up the work done by Euskal Etxeak, joint work between the

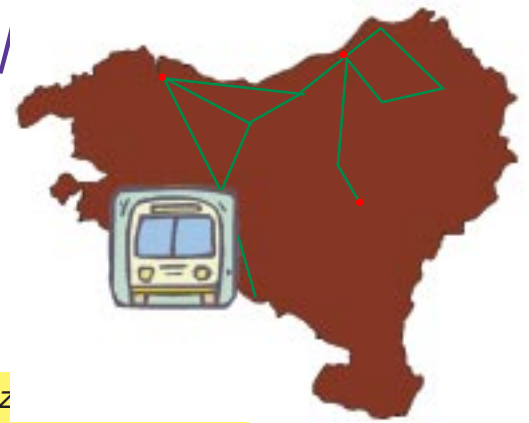
generations is indispensable. Previous meetings of the Gaztemundu programme have already helped to change behaviour in many instances, leading to greater youth participation in the leading structures and, consequently, to the younger generations being delegated to positions of responsibility. If we wish to perpetuate the effort put in by older members and be sure of a fruitful future for Basques living abroad, then that is the road we will surely have to take.

Finally, all evidence suggests that GAZTEMUNDU is gaining support and that active participation by youth, through the work they do and the conclusions they draw from it, is improving in quality year by year. What is important, from now onwards, is that all the people who have participated in the project continue the work of spreading Basque culture, carry out the commitments taken on publicly during their stay in Euskadi, and continue to develop Basque identity, culture and their impact overseas.

As for ourselves, we are convinced that we have a duty and a responsibility towards the younger generations abroad, with the third millennium nearly upon us. ■

Iñaki Aguirre Arizmendi
Director of Relations with Basque Communities

“ But it only took us two hours by bus to cover the whole country! ”



“ Distances here are so small! ”

Ostatu Gasteiz, Bilbao eta Hondarribiko aterpetxeetan eman zirela handik Euskal Herri osoko bazterrak bisitatu zituzten (Arabar Errioxa, kostaldea, Iruña, Iparraldea...)



Amongst the official visits the youth group took part in, we must mention the reception at Ajuria Enea with which the programme of activities began. After this they had the chance to visit Lakua and the Basque Parliament. The business side of things began at MCC in Mondragón and continued later in Zamudio Technology Park.



The most interesting visits proved to be to the Rioja Alavesa, Gernika, Iparralde and Nafarroa. Here we see a break to buy souvenirs.



They also took part in a romeria (outdoor festivities involving song and dance) in Olarizu in Vitoria-Gasteiz and visited the Kafe Antzokia in Bilbao. In the picture, Lekeitio, a delightful place to stop and take in the view.



Group work ended with the morning workshop at the Koldo Mitxelena Cultural centre in Donostia-San Sebastián.

PARTICIPANTS

PARTEHARTZAILEAK



María Abásolo Jáuregui
Alem 1077 - 7000 Tandil - Buenos Aires ARG.
Cultura



Lorea Aguirre Ribonetto
Mendoza 1540 - 2° A Buenos Aires ARG.
Cultura



Rosina Aldabalde Gadea
Avda. Varela 781 - Minas - Lavalleja Uruguay
Cultura alda@adinet.com.uy



María Laura Anzuinelli Mugica
Pampa 676 - Santa Rosa - 6300 La Pampa ARG.
Cultura



María Velería Aramburu
Payro n° 753 - Tandil 7000 - Prov. Buenos Aires ARG.
Cultura



Karina Beatriz Balestrasse
Marmol 1247 - 1661 Bella Vista - Buenos Aires ARG.
Juventud



Silvana Beaskoetxea
Lisandro de la Torre n.º 424 Santa Rosa - 6300 La Pampa ARG.
Cultura



Gabriel A. Bentivegna Macri
Francisco Piovano 2928 - 2° B - 1744 Moreno Pcia. Buenos Aires ARG.
Juventud



Paula Bergara Tolosa
Cerrito 41 - Salto - 50.000 - Uruguay
Cultura
mypbt@hotmail.com



Nora Cecilia Bon Astigarraga
Francisco Piovano 2928 - 2° B - Moreno 1744 - Buenos Aires ARG.
Juventud



Agustín Fernando Borrás Alcain
Alem 480 - 3100 Paraná - Pcia. Entre Ríos ARG.
Juventud



Diego Martín Burrieza Andrade
11 de Septiembre 1760 - 2° F - 1426 Buenos Aires ARG.
Rel. Industrial diego.burrieza@iname.com



Vicente Corostola
CSS 11031. Po Box 025323 Miami, Florida 33102 - 5323 EE.UU.
Cultura vcorostola@etheron.net



Pablo Gabriel Cufre
Sarmiento 2246 - Rio Cuarto 5800 - (Cordoba) ARG.
Juventud



Rossana D.V. Dalfolo Ferreira
Pedro Belau 1667 - 30.000 Minas - Lavalleja Uruguay
Cultura



Paula Arantxa de Freitas Villalba
Avda. Luis Carlos Gentile de Laet, 1074 Tremembe - Sao Paulo - Brasil 02378.000
Cultura lvillalba@sol.com.br

PARTICIPANTS

PARTEHARTZAILEAK



Felix R. Eguilaz A.
134 Res. San Francisco «C» Urb. Prebo
1075 Valencia Venezuela
Rel. Industrial alenorsa@telcel.net.ve



Nicolas Escandon
Calle 64 n° 3080 - 7630 Necochea ARG.
Rel. Industrial
maupora@infovia.com.ar



Luis María Etcheverry
E. Scott 2567 - 1661 Bella Vista - Buenos
Aires ARG.
Cultura letcheverry@impsat1.com.ar



María Soledad Fernandes Onederra
Alberto Williams 5269 - 1665 Jose C. Paz -
Buenos Aires ARG.
Rel. Industrial



Nicolas Galetti Lagraba
Cabrera 799 - 7530 Cnel. Pringles. Pcia.
Buenos Aires ARG.
Rel. Industrial



Martín Eduardo Horvath Larreguy
Italia 369 - 8000 Bahía Blanca. Pcia.
Buenos Aires ARG.
Juventud horvath@arnet.com.ar



A. Daniel Inthamoussu Iglesias
Avda. Libertador Lavalleja 1859, Apto. 605
11800 Montevideo Uruguay
Rel. Industrial haizegoa@netgate.com.uy



Irene Isabel Iriniñz Moraes
Uruguay 896 - 50.000 Salto Uruguay
Cultura
iriniñz@unorte.edu.uy



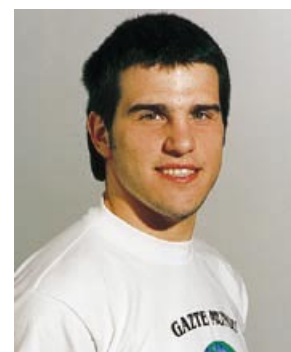
Florencia Sofía Ispizua
Calle 22 n° 172 - 7620 Balcarce Pcia.
Buenos Aires ARG.
Rel. Industrial digeispi@telefax.com.ar



Juan Sebastian Jaca Otaño
Azcuenaga 1327 - 3° A - 1115 Buenos
Aires ARG.
Rel. Industrial



Martín Pablo Larrañaga
Arenales 3800 - 18 «G» - 1425 Buenos
Aires ARG.
Rel. Industrial m.p.l@usa.net



Sebastian Larraza
Rioja 2173 - 1° D 2000 Rosario. Santa Fe
ARG.
Cultura



Patricio Lehuédé Expósito
Nueva Costanena 4359 Vitacura, Santiago
Chile
Cultura jmle@rdc.cl



Carlos Lehuédé Expósito
Nueva Costanena 4359 Vitacura, Santiago
Chile
Cultura jmle@rdc.cl



Dolores Martínez Rocca
Tucuman 1538 - 2000 Rosario - Santa Fe
ARG.
Juventud



Leonardo Michelli Aldasoro
San Martín n° 751 - 1913 Magdalena -
Buenos Aires ARG.
Rel. Industrial

PARTICIPANTS

PARTEHARTZAILEAK



Virginia Muniz Garrido
Barrio Garolini Ruta 12 - 30000 Minas -
Lavalleja Uruguay
Cultura



Daniela Patricia Muñoz Solari
Ignacio Carrera Pinto Block 124 D -
Santiago de Chile Chile
Juventud



Ignacio Orive Garcia
15 Calle Oriente y 2º Av. Norte 1554 San
Salvador El Salvador
Rel. Industrial



Jorge Alberto Ortega
San Martín 198 Chacabuco 6740 - Buenos
Aires ARG.
Cultura



Maria Alejandra Oteiza Elizalde
Corrientes 1388 - 2º A - 2000 Rosario -
Santa Fe ARG.
Juventud



Ana Clara Parodi Olave
Paraguay 1649 - 8º A 1062 Capital Federal
- Buenos Aires ARG.
Cultura aparodi@uscsoc.edu.ar



Ana Paula Rosselló Sepaur
Tres Sargentos 3857 - Bº Patagonia 8000
Bahia Blanca - Pcia. Buenos Aires ARG.
Juventud



Paula San Martín Peña
Las Heras 3231 - 2º E 1425 Buenos Aires
ARG.
Cultura



Idoia Ugalde Mendizabal
Urb. Trigal Norte. Calle Sirio 92-20. Quinta
«Guretxea» Valencia - Carabobo Venezuela Rel.
Industrial idoiaugalde@hotmail.com



Ignacio Unsain
Zapiola 93 - 6740 Chacabuco - Buenos
Aires ARG.
Juventud



Itxaso Uzcanga Meabe
Urb. San Jose de Tarbes. Edif. Pama B,
Apto. 3º A - Valencia - Carabobo Venezuela
Cultura



Claudia Angélica Valdivielso Solari
California 2184. Depto. 102 Provincia
Santiago Chile
Rel. Industrial



Ciro Volante
Tucuman 615 - 7300 Azul - Buenos Aires
ARG.
Juventud



Ignacio Zubillaga Etxegaray
Mitre 208 - 2º B Rosario - Santa Fe ARG.
Rel. Industrial



Estibalitz Zubizarreta Gallastegui
Avda. Ginebra, Quinta Bitargi California
Sur Caracas 1070 Venezuela
Rel. Industrial izaskun@reacciun.ve

First day impressions

The young people who took part in Gaztemundu had the opportunity to find out about various different aspects of modern Basque life, although one of the first things that they saw was the *romería*

at Olarizu in Vitoria. Just after they arrived, we wanted to know their first impressions of our country and their opinion about what they would be able to contribute to their own Centres at the end of their visit.

Ignacio Zubillaga. Rosario (Argentina)

«Everything we'd been told was true. The photos are lovely, but you have to come here and see it for yourself. We had an idea of what Euskadi was like, but the Euskadi we were imagining was the old one, where our grandparents or parents had lived. Although the Euskadi we keep alive back home has its fiestas and we dress up in traditional clothes and sing old songs, I believe we do know contemporary Euskadi, in the sense that a lot of information reaches Argentina about today's Basque Country as regards the business world, youth, unemployment, violence, etc. What we lack over there are the means with which to press forward, to make the Euskal Etxeak more complete. I think that's a problem we all share. Though this programme is a very positive one, due to my experience of previous years I'd say that it ought to be more effective than it actually is. Its impact is very limited, since the problem areas we go into here have not been sorted out. Two years is only a short time to come up with solutions but, in my Euskal Etxea at least, we're still experiencing the same old problems».

Paula Bergara. Salto (Uruguay)

«In Salto people have two impressions of Euskadi. There's the traditional picture of the small farmer, fiercely nationalist, inward-looking... And, on the other hand, the young people, we have access to more information from other sources. We know that Euskadi is a very industrial country where a lot of incentive is given to industry, something that doesn't happen in Uruguay. It seems to be a very rich country, and very vigorous economically, even though here they all tell us that's not the case. I knew nationalism existed here, but I never imagined it was so powerful, like I was surprised the other day to hear everybody in the *romería* talking and singing in Basque».



ONGI ETORRI!

Itxaso Uzkganga. Valencia (Venezuela)

«In the festival at Olarizu I saw a lot of young people and that pleased and encouraged me greatly, because in the Basque Centre in Valencia attendance by youth has dropped off quite a bit over the last five years. Young people have dropped out and don't bother to go to the centre any more. In contrast, here, youth still believe in Euskadi and dance and speak Basque, whereas in our centre Euskera (the Basque language) is getting lost. When I get back we're going to get together with young people to explain to them what there is here and persuade them at least to go to the fiestas, to try and recover the dances and songs that have been lost, because before we used to sing and dance in the fiestas and we don't do it any more».

Carlos Lehuedé. Santiago de Chile (Chile)

«I'd always been told the Basque countryside was very beautiful and green, and it turned out to be true. As soon as we landed at the airport I saw how lovely and green it was, that hasn't changed. In the *romería* I got talking to a young guy dressed in traditional village clothes and I liked that too, that they hold these *romerías*, and people of all ages take part. Mind you, talking of that, it's not how our grandparents told us it was».

Paula Arantxa de Freitas. Brasil

«The most important thing for us is taking part in a cultural interchange with Euskal Etxeak from all over the world, and we must get the most out of other people's experiences so as not to make the same mistakes. Though we're in permanent contact with Euskadi we don't have the chance to talk personally, so I'm making the most of my stay here to explain our situation. I may not go back with immediate solutions but I believe that it's a very worthwhile experience. It's very important to give a stimulus to young people. The other Euskal Etxeak complain that they don't let youth take part, but that's not the case in Brazil, where the actual Lehendakari (Director) of the Euskal Etxea is in his early thirties and there are also other young people involved in running it. It is very important to take up the new ideas that are emerging to be able to grow and achieve all that we want».

Ignacio Orive. El Salvador (San Salvador)

«It's astonishing how much changed in the Basque Country since the last time I was here twenty years ago. People have changed, the way of life is different now. The Basque Government is more rooted, I've seen many improvements. I'm going to tell young people who don't know Euskadi that it's a really beautiful country, with a wide, varied cultural life, and I shall try to arouse their interest so that they feel they should get to know their country of origin from close to and pay it a visit.» ■



“ We ask for your help, but we give our commitment too”

The different proposals of the working groups will be of value for the Second Congress of Basque Communities

The participants in the Gaztemundu Project devoted part of the time during their stay to acquainting the group with details of their personal projects and to drawing up a final document of conclusions which was read out in the closing session on the last day.

To this end, they divided up into three working groups, each corresponding to the main areas under discussion. Here is a résumé of the reports presented by each of the groups.

Taking as their starting point a study of the current state of the Euskal Etxeak, where despite many differences a series of problems were detected that affected all concerned, specific proposals were put forward by each of the working groups.

CULTURAL GROUP

The promotion of cultural activities must be one of the fundamental objectives of the Euskal Etxeak since, by encouraging youth in general, it will be possible to increase interest in our culture.

The proposals of the cultural group essentially break down into the following areas:

1 Euskara Betirako (Basque Forever):

As an indispensable cultural area of priority interest for the development of Basque culture in Latin America, it was established that active policies of intervention should be fashioned for the promotion of our mother tongue, EUSKERA, such as:

- That suitably trained people be available at Euskal Etxeak where there are no teachers.
- That interactive material in Basque (CDs, CD-Roms, Home Videos and Web pages) be produced in the Basque Country.
- The setting up of bilingual nurseries in the Euskal Etxeak to provide children with their first contact with Euskera.
- The creation of a "Latinoamerikan euskaraz" ("Speaking Basque in Latin America") project using materials already in existence from the "Argentinan euskaraz" ("Speaking Basque in Argentina") project.
- To introduce Euskera into different activities, taking into account the resources available at the different centres.
- To extend an invitation to all students of Euskera in all the Basque Centres of Latin America to attend the congress that is organised annually in Argentina.
- To set up a Latin American register containing relevant data concerning Basque language teachers and trainers, in order to facilitate contact with them on a permanent basis.

2 Sports:

- Since sport is an activity which can bring people of different ages together, and especially young people, the idea is to encourage the creation and promotion of pelota schools. Where there are Euskal Etxeak that do not have the necessary infrastructure, we propose that

agreements be drawn up with various institutions that do possess such facilities. This would be a way of promoting this sport.



3 Dance:

- We propose that there be interchanges of dantzaris (dancers) or dance directors between Euskal Etxeak, in such a way that where there are at present no dance groups, they can be created or, in other cases, improved.
- Educational videos should be made containing the different dance steps, and written back-up material provided showing the various costumes and history of the dances. Each Basque Centre must be responsible for obtaining such material in line with their needs.
- To make the latter possible, the Basque Government will have to provide a catalogue specifying what material is available.

4 Music:

- Communication between txistularis (flute players) and accordionists from the different centres should be encouraged, the idea being that they, insofar as is possible, popularise these activities.
- We must contact record companies, asking them to send up-to-date mailings of recordings of the whole range of musical styles, and attempt to negotiate discounts and special arrangements for bulk orders.
- We should use ETB television programmes to popularise musical instruments which are practically unknown in Latin America, such as txalaparta, adarra, dultzaina, etc.

4.1 Choirs:

- Choral activities in the Euskal Etxeak of Latin America play an important

role in spreading Basque culture. At present there are choirs with vast experience (such as the LAGUN ONAK of Buenos Aires), and choirs that have been set up only recently. In this area we would propose a series of steps to support choral activities: establishing a register of Latin American choirs, facilitating the exchange of resources and materials, inviting these choirs to perform and become known in Euskadi, sending instructors to provide support, and the organisation of a festival in Chacabuco.

5 Painting:

- In Basque festivals in various places there should be exhibitions of paintings by Latin American artists reflecting features of Basque culture, such as its mythology, countryside and musical instruments, to give only a few examples.
- Children's drawing competitions could be organised, the task being to design a Xmas card.

6 Gastronomy:

- Continuity should be given to educational programmes on gastronomy, attempting in this way to popularise this aspect of our culture.

7 Theatre:

- Basque centres should be supplied on request with bibliographical material on Basque playwrights and authors who focus on the problems, idiosyncrasies, events and customs peculiar to Euskadi.
- From Euskadi, encouragement should be given to organising competitions between playwrights and to the publication of the resulting material.
- Encourage exchange visits of Basque theatre companies, coordinating tour circuits in Latin America.
- If we consider theatre to be the art of the possible, we can perceive in this cultural activity a prime stimulus for the spreading of Basque culture and the possibility of combining with it all the other cultural activities, such as: dantzaris, Euskera, music, song, ballet, popular dance, mime, street theatre, etc.
- The first steps are now being taken in this field and we are beginning to see new movements on these lines in the Euskal Etxeak. The results are

very positive in terms of audience attendance, the setting up of theatre workshops formed by children, teenagers and senior citizens, and the formation of a stable body of actors, the majority of whom are active members of the centres.

8 Internet:

The Basque Government should create, as soon as possible, a Web page for the Gaztemundu project containing:

- An overall view of the programme.
- The findings from all the meetings.
- The contents of the Four Year Plan.
- Database of its participants.
- Interactive chat.
- Information about events organised in our Centres in the form of a visitor's book.

Conclusion:

"... Culture is as necessary as freedom; because without it we disappear as a people; because it can be our best vehicle for international penetration. It is not just pure scientific research, the researcher or teacher's culture, it is also popular culture, the daily life of our people, in all the ways this is manifested. Culture is the language of the baserritarra (Basque farmer) and the poems of the writer; culture is a prehistoric excavation that arouses the interest of a museum; the sociological survey which reveals how we live today; culture is formed by the university work of someone like Padre de Vitoria, culture is in the journeys of discovery of our fisherfolk and seafarers; culture is the book that found its place on the shelf of a library, and culture is the "ZAMALTZAIN" that snakes its way through the carnival.

Culture is the product of a nation, what best describes it. If we wish to maintain our identity as Basques, we must perpetuate our culture, which does not mean we should turn it into a fossil; it is a matter of living it day to day, adapting its characteristic features to the needs of each period. And that culture does not just have to be cultivated in Euskadi, it must also be projected abroad..." (Jesús de Galindez)



- Gazteak lau egunetan zehar bildu ziren hiru taldetan (kultura, harreman ekonomikoak eta gazteria): hasteko, bakoitzak bere txostena azaldu zien taldekideei, gero gai bakoitzaren inguruko proposamenen zerrenda hezurmamitzeko denen artean.
- Kulturako taldeak arlo desberdinetako proposamenak luzatu zituen, euskara, musika, dantzak, pintura, gastronomia, antzerkia eta interneten ingurukoak.
- Industria eta harreman ekonomikoez arduratu zen taldeak gaiaren inguruko interesa duten gazteen artean elkarte bat eratzea proposatu zuen, euskal etxeen sarea oinarri hartuta, euren arteko harremanetarako web orri bat sortuz.
- Gazteriaren gaia jorratu zutenak irtenbide bila ibili ziren gaurko euskal etxeetan belaunaldi berriei tartea egiteko helburuarekin.

GROUP FOR "ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS"

A large part of the work presented by the exponents concentrated on the lack of information available for people or companies of Basque origin interested in carrying out investments or business activities both in Euskadi and in their country of origin.

Over recent years the Basque Government has developed a powerful campaign designed to promote foreign investment in Euskadi, Basque investment abroad and the formation of strategic alliances or joint ventures.

Nevertheless, in the opinion of the group's participants, small and medium entrepreneurs and investors from Latin America know little about these activities.

Working Proposals

To satisfy these needs, the formation of some kind of group is deemed appropriate, to bring together young Basques who have an interest in economic activity throughout the world. This group would channel information via the various Euskal Etxeak. This way of working has a dual purpose: on the one hand, to be able to make use of the facilities and infrastructure the Euskal Etxeak offer; on the other, to involve the Euskal Etxeak in stimulating business activities and to make their members aware of the need to see these activities as a vital aspect of relations between the Euskal Etxeak and Euskadi.

In order to be able to develop lines of work, the following objectives were set:

- To promote a fluid exchange of information between the different sectors interested in this area.
- To forge closer links between members, and in turn between them and the Basque Country.
- To create a suitable channel of communication for discussing the problems experienced by young business people.

- To encourage young people in the Euskal Etxeak to take part in the activities of this group.

As regards the means required to put this proposal into action, it was felt **necessary to create a web** in which information would be made available about the existence of the group, its objectives and information relating to all its activities, as well as the official pages in connection with this subject and, as a new touch, this would include the incorporation into the web of a **database of people interested in developing activities in this area**. This database is currently being developed.

As a complement to this, the following activities would be promoted and encouraged:

- The organisation of courses, seminars and forums on relevant subjects, run by outstanding figures in the various areas of interest.
- Circulation of information about the project and the activities of the group in events held by Basque communities, such as during the National Basque Week in Argentina or similar celebrations in other countries.
- Securing the support and commitment of the group to carry out official visits in order to foster the establishment of commercial links.

Breakdown of the group.

To develop the aforementioned activities in the best possible way, it was deemed necessary to create an **organising structure** established in network form, with the following components: delegates from the Euskal Etxeak, delegates from each country, a management body and an organ for circulating information.

Conclusions:

Given that *"whoever has greatest access to information will be best positioned in the future"* (Alvin Toffler), we ask for a certain degree of collaboration and support from the Basque Government, in the form of publicising this project, either through the magazine Euskal Etxeak, or via the usual means of contact with the Euskal Etxeak.



The participants listen attentively as representatives speak during the working groups at the Koldo Mitxelena Cultural Centre.

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group concentrated on problems common to all the centres: on the one hand, the lack of active participation by young people in the Euskal Etxeak, and on the other, their failure to be motivated by the various traditional activities (dance, pelota, Euskera).

As a response to this, proposals were made along these lines:

A. Drawing young people closer to the Euskal Etxeak

Objectives:

1. *To strengthen the future of our Euskal Etxeak.*
2. *To keep Basque roots alive.*
3. *To ensure that the younger generations are there to relieve the older ones, and thus guarantee the steady growth of the Euskal Etxeak.*

Strategies:

- Get to know what young people really do, what their likes and needs are, in the community that the Euskal Etxeak forms a part of.
- Use a range of advertising approaches to publicise the activities that are on offer for youth.
 1. Keep the whole community informed about past and future activities.
 2. Adjust the programme of activities in line with what young people suggest.

3. Propose and carry out creative and sporting activities in a way that is suitable for each Euskal Etxeak.

- We could include new non-traditional activities without losing our Basque identity, such as: family get-togethers and camps; intercultural activities; workshops; storytelling (Basque Mythology); talks and debates; round table discussions; activities connected with the plastic arts, sport, music, research into family origins; cinema forum; fiestas; competitions; conferences on the Internet,...

B. Strengthening the Euskal Etxeak youth groups and pushing for the creation of new groups where there are none

Objectives:

1. *Increase active youth participation.*
2. *Strengthen links with Euskadi.*
3. *Get children and young people to identify with their Basque roots.*

Strategies:

- To achieve more effective participation, each Euskal Etxeak must go about setting up a youth subcommittee, so that we can really take part in decisions and strategies that affect us all.
- The internal functioning of this body will work in consonance with the Euskal Etxeak it belongs to, the members of the subcommittee being res-

ponsible for deciding on its internal organisation.

C. Coordinating the work of the various Euskal Etxeak youth groups

Coordination between groups is just as important as the actual work of the Euskal Etxeak youth groups. To facilitate this, we propose the creation of a Coordinating Body at a national level, extendable to the Euskal Etxeak of America.

Objectives of the Coordinating Body:

1. *To exchange ideas and experiences through direct contact between young people involved.*
2. *To discuss the progress of all the Euskal Etxeak.*
3. *To chart and share new strategies for action.*
4. *To push for greater integration and unity between the youth groups.*
5. *To create good channels for spreading information and exchanging experiences.*

Strategies:

- In the first place, we propose that a meeting be called in the short term (last week of February or first week of March).
- The first Euskal Etxeak to organise this meeting will be the Zazpirak Bat centre in Rosario (Argentina), while the organisation of the next one will be taken on by another Euskal Etxeak.
- Using the opportunity provided by the fact that the Semanas Vascas (Basque weeks) are being held in Argentina, invitations will be sent out to all the centres in Latin America to also attend other meetings and events.
- We must not forget that one objective of this Coordinating Body is that there should be fluid communication between young people, both participants and non-participants in Gaztemundu, and for this we will use the I.T. resources of the different Euskal Etxeak, through the creation of a page on the Internet. ■

The participants give high marks to the programme

" Brilliant organisation, activities agenda too crammed"

At the end of their stay in Euskadi, the young people who took part in Gaztemundu 98 filled out a questionnaire designed to record their opinions about different aspects of their time here, whilst also being of use to improve future encounters. Below we present a schematic résumé of the replies.

The average mark given to the Programme was 8.2 out of a possible total of 10.

Areas that received the highest marks (9) were trips and the efficiency of transport, as well as official receptions, though other aspects were well appreciated such as the meetings and cultural activities that took place; visits to companies; time spent in hostels, the general information received; the quality of talks and reports and what was achieved in them, and the approach and work of the group leaders (8.2).

Sightseeing visits were given 8 points and, finally, the standard of candidates chosen, the progress and results of the working groups received the lowest score (7.5), though this was also creditable.

THE MOST AND LEAST ATTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE PROGRAMME

In this section, it was very clear to see that the replies depended upon which working group the participant had put their name down for, as the activities considered most interesting were related to each of the topic areas (i.e. culture, economic and industrial relations and youth).

In general terms, what were considered most attractive were the specialised talks, official visits and, to give an example from the cultural side of the calendar, their encounter with the bertso-laris (oral poet/singers). Among the least attractive or most criticised aspects of the Programme, mention was made of the concentration of various talks on the same day, meaning that there was too little time to be able to take in the



The young Americans arrived here with clear political ideas.



Taking a rest after visiting the Zugarramurdi caves.

content, whilst there was also comment about the excessively specialised nature of some of these talks.

Almost all of the participants were very much in agreement that the project had made them enthusiastic about trying out new initiatives and ideas where youth were concerned. As for their expectations prior to the experience, 70% felt they had been fulfilled, while 20% felt that was true only to a small degree. A majority (80%) also defined the exchange of experiences as enriching. Furthermore, regarding the topic content of the programming, some considered that more weight was given to some areas rather than others, while 60% wished to critici-

se the rushed nature of the agenda on certain days.

More than 90% chose to say that the picture they now had of the Basque Country was far richer and more accurate than before. The same percentage took the line that their commitment to the Basque Country had been reinforced, and that they had thoroughly enjoyed the project.

DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION AND INTEREST

The average assessment under this heading produced a mark of 7.5.

The principal objectives that it was felt had been achieved were a strengthening of Basque identity and values, a first-hand knowledge of Euskadi today and that closer links had been forged between young people from different Euskal Etxeak and different countries.

Similarly, the work of the monitors and coordinators was positively assessed.

It was felt that members of the group had got on very well together, though some participants brought up the fact that the Argentinean delegation was overrepresented.

SUGGESTIONS AND ASPECTS TO BE IMPROVED

The participants were consulted as to the suitability of the date for the Programme (the second half of September), and the general reply was that it was the most convenient time (only 6 stated that the months of January-February were the best time).

Among aspects to be improved on, mention was made of the need to orga-



Photograph taken by one participant in a park in Iruña.

nise the distribution of time in a better way, so that certain days do not become so overloaded, the desire for there to be more contact with young Basques (this was mentioned over and over again), also that the topics should involve greater specialisation and be gone into deeper; along these lines, it was suggested that work should be followed up in a more specialised group framework (with focussed reports), accompanied by more intervention by group leaders. As for activities that the participants planned to undertake in their centres, they all showed a willingness to make known what they had seen in Euskadi, and to work with the intention of involving young people more directly in the Euskal Etxeak, as well as putting in to practice the proposals that had emerged from each of the three topic areas.

OPINIONS ABOUT EUSKAL HERRIA AND ITS IMAGE ABROAD

The qualities that have most struck these visitors to the Basque Country are those that spring from the coming together of modernity and tradition, since above all they cite the level of economic growth, high technology and infrastructure and, at the same time, aspects peculiar to the Basque country such as the singular character, tenacity and hard-working nature of its citizens. The third element in their general overall impression, and something they particularly admire, is the idea of cooperation with less advanced countries which they perceive to be the founda-

tion stone of the Basque Government's activities abroad.

From another angle, they are unanimously of the opinion that the idea held about Basque society in their own countries must be improved and filled out: they are concerned that a greater degree of independence be achieved in relation to the State, and concerned about the image received abroad. They argue, therefore, in favour of the promotion of tourism and of spreading information about the situation of normality which makes up life in Euskadi, since they have been impressed by the high standard of economic development here.

Lastly, we must point out the different ways of experiencing Basqueness amongst these young people from the diaspora (as Mari Karmen Garmendia, the Basque Government's Minister for Culture, reminded them in her closing contribution on the last day, "nobody is either more or less Basque. There are just different ways of experiencing Basqueness"). So, alongside the unquestionable feelings of pride in their origins and their belonging to a culture which distinguishes them from other cultures and countries, they consider that there are values common to Basques like loyalty, perseverance and tenacity, and a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

As a final point, the group that constituted Gaztemundu 1998 wished to say that they were willing to keep alive the feeling of belonging to this country and to transmit their affection for it and for its language to their descendants. ■

- Egonaldiaren azken egunetan, gazteei inkesta itxurako galdera-sorta bati erantzuteko eskatu zitzaien, euren iritziak eta iradokizunak jasotzeko
- Orotara hiru ziren euskaldunberriak; halere, denek adierazi zuten euskararen aldeko apostua, eta HABEren «Argentinan Euskaraz» egitarauaren jarraipena ez ezik Hegoamerika guztira zabaltzea eskatu zuten
- Gustokoen izan zituzten jardueren artean zenbait hitzaldi, erakundeetara egindako bisitaldiak, eta kultur ekitaldien artean, bertsolariak egindako saioa izan ziren
- Euskal Herrira estrainekoz heldutako bat edo besteri malkoak ere atera zitzaizkion arbasoen lurra Sondikako aireportuan zapaldu orduko
- Gaztemundu Egitarauan parte hartzeak euskal nortasuna sendotzea ekarri die, zalantzarik gabe, eta gaurrengungo Euskadi ezagutzea bertatik bertara
- «Txundituta utzi nau tradizioa eta modernitatea uztartzeko euskaldunek izan duten abileziak»
- ETAre su-etenak bete-betean harrapatu zituen, eta horrek euskaldunen artean sorrarazi zuen itxaropen giroa gertutik bizi izan zuten

1) Description of the Programme

The Gaztemundu Programme aims to be a vehicle of expression and identity for young Basques at an international level.

The objective is for youth in the Basque communities to have direct knowledge of the Basque country, establishing relations with organisations, companies and people who work and are active in the Basque Country, and that they establish platforms and forums for contact between Basque youth living both inside and outside of Euskal Herria. In the case of the latter, their input would be centred in the Euskal Etxeak.

The Gaztemundu Programme consists of various days during which young people from Basque communities visit the Basque Country, where there will be a combination of topics for investigation, talks, sightseeing and group work.

2) Preconditions for taking part

Those taking part must be between **20 and 30 years old**, must not have been chosen for the events of previous years, must live outside of Euskal Herria and be descendants of Basques and members of Euskal Etxeak that are officially recognised and entered in the Register of Basque Centres.

The maximum number of **places available** for each year's encounter is **60**.

THE EUSKAL ETXEAK MUST IN ALL CASES CARRY OUT A PRESELECTION OF CANDIDATES AND SEND A MAXIMUM OF 3 APPLICATIONS PER BASQUE CENTRE. COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NO MORE THAN ONE EUSKAL ETXEA MAY SEND UP TO 10 APPLICATIONS

On the application form, the topic area chosen must be indicated first, then, within this area, the specific nature of the working proposal. These topic areas will be specified below and, for guidance, some subjects to be dealt with, though other subjects related to this material may be proposed.

a) Analysis of the situation: young people and their links with the Euskal Etxeak

b) Economic and industrial relations between Euskadi and your country

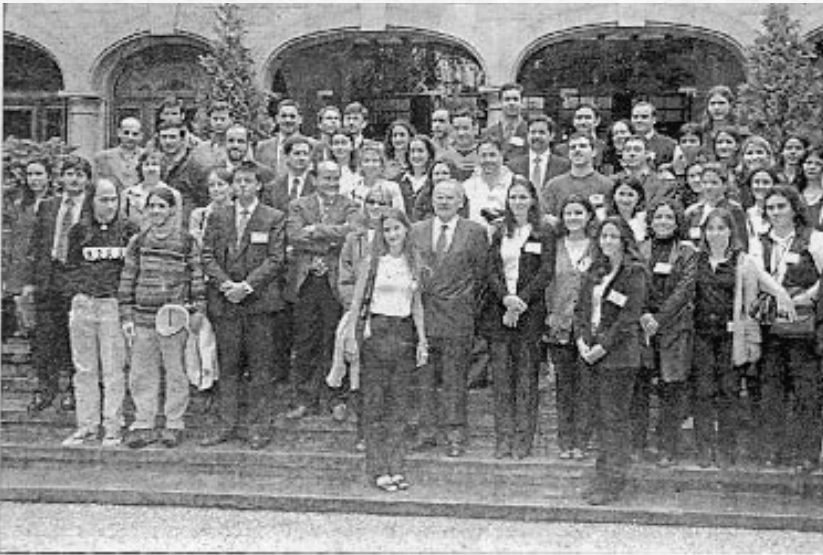
c) Culture

3) Development of the working proposal

Those who are finally selected and enrolled as participants in the Programme will have to write a paper on this proposal. Depending on the conditions imposed by the selection process, this will be carried out either individually or as a group. The paper must in no case exceed 15 A-4 sheets, typed and on one side only, and cover the context, objectives, content of the subject chosen and the way it will be presented, as well as any materials that might be required for such purposes. This paper must be sent early enough to allow time for the preparation of the definitive calendar for these encounters.

1998 IRAILAK 15, ASTEARTEA

DEIA



EL LEHENDAKARI ARDANZA RECIBIO AYER A JOVENES VASCO-AMERICANOS. El Lehendakari, Jose Antonio Ardanza recibió a un grupo de 47 jóvenes de Centros Vascos procedentes de seis países latinoamericanos, que inician desde ayer y hasta el 26 de setiembre, una visita para conocer la realidad del País Vasco con motivo de la tercera edición del programa "Gaste Munda" organizado por la Secretaría de Acción Exterior. El encartero en el que también estuvo presente el Secretario de Acción Exterior, Andoni Ortuzar, comenzó a las 9,45 horas de la mañana en el Palacio de Ajuria Enea. (Foto Paulino Oribe)

4/m. minuto

VIVIR AQUÍ
SOCIEDAD

Retorno a un «hogar» desconocido

Medio centenar de jóvenes descendientes de vascos busca incentivos para revitalizar las Fiestas Vascas

A. MURRIO

VITORIA.— Los tres visitantes locales, Iñaki de Txabadi que castro ha sido llamado. Acaban de llegar, pero ya tienen el corazón puesto en el País Vasco. Desde que nacieron en su tierra, han vivido en los Estados Unidos y ahora están de vuelta para contribuir en las Fiestas Vascas de Euzkadi que algunos consideran la mayor fiesta de Euzkadi.

Por los motivos, dicen a la hora de volver que por ellos no se van a ir nunca. En su vida, se han movido de casa de una nueva vida, pero no quieren olvidar sus raíces, incrementando con los años una nostalgia que también les impulsa a volver.

«En toda mi vida, mi sueño siempre ha estado de volver a mi tierra, pero con ganas que se cumpliera pronto, pero con ganas que se cumpliera pronto, pero con ganas que se cumpliera pronto», dice uno de ellos, un joven de 22 años, nacido en un barrio de Iquitos y que vive en Euzkadi desde que se fue a estudiar.



Cuatro jóvenes hijos de emigrantes vascos desearían, entre otros, que se revitalizaran las Fiestas Vascas.

El 14 de junio de los 47 jóvenes de Centros Vascos procedentes de seis países latinoamericanos, que ayer llegaron a la capital vasca para conocer la realidad vasca.

Iñaki de Txabadi vive en Vancouver, en Canadá, y ha vivido en Euzkadi y Navarra y, para él, es el segundo lugar de su vida. «Vine a estudiar hace ocho años y prácticamente me he acostumbrado a la vida vasca», dice.

Además de los representantes de los Centros, los Centros Vascos de las respectivas países son los representantes vascos en los respectivos países y, en su mayoría, una parte que no siempre se ve.

Para Carlos Lechero, su joven hermano de 19 años, la gran generación de una familia vasca de México. «Los jóvenes que vienen a Euzkadi buscan una mejor adaptación a la realidad vasca, porque las personas que vienen a Euzkadi, pero con ganas de volver a su tierra, con ganas de volver a su tierra, con ganas de volver a su tierra».

«Vine a estudiar a Euzkadi en el Centro de San Sebastián cuando tenía 16 años, pero me quedé porque me gusta mucho el País Vasco, pero me gusta mucho el País Vasco, pero me gusta mucho el País Vasco».

«Vine a estudiar a Euzkadi en el Centro de San Sebastián cuando tenía 16 años, pero me quedé porque me gusta mucho el País Vasco, pero me gusta mucho el País Vasco».

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Famous for a few days

In their own countries, they had never been followed by so many media.

Hirugarren urtez, Ameriketatik etorritako gazte euskaldunok gure artean izateak komunikabideen arreta erakarri zuen. Horrela, egunkariak, irratiek eta telebistak ere gorde zuten horren berri emateko tartetxoak.

For the third year running, the presence of groups of young Basque-Americans stirred up the interest of the media. Newspapers, radio stations and Euskal Telebista (Basque Television) all followed their stay in Euskadi.

The truth is that they took turns to act as representatives of their different countries. Some answered the questions posed by reporters from the press, while others responded to questions from radio stations. Moreover, pictures of them all appeared in the news bulletins on Euskal Telebista, who broadcast a report on the start of their programme with the welcoming speech by the Lehendakari on the day after their arrival in Euskadi, at the reception he offered them at Ajuria-Enea Palace.

In view of the fact that this was the first visit to Euskadi for most of them, they expressed feelings of gratitude at having had the opportunity to experience the programme. These were mixed, in all their declarations, with the emotion of having been able to make the dream come true of visiting the land of their forefathers, a place they had heard so much about and that surprised them so much by being so different from the land their ancestors left. ■



**EGUNEZ KALEZ-KALE
HERRIA IKUSTEN,
EUSKAL TABERNETAKO
ZERBEZAK EDATEN.
GAUEAN OHEZ-OHE
PEKATU EGITEN..
ZUEN AMAK BALEKI
NOLA ZABILTZATEN..!**

*(Gaztemundukoek Xabier Euzkitze
eta Jon Sarasua bertsolariekin izandako
bileran atera zuten bertsoa)*