

EUSKADI

BASQUE COUNTRY



**EXTERNAL ACTION
PLAN
2018-2020**

Index

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 10TH LEGISLATURE	6
3. STRATEGIC APPROACH.....	11
4. MISSION.....	13
5. STRATEGIC GOALS:	14
5.1. Strategic Goal 1: to position the Basque Country as a global actor	14
5.2. Strategic Goal 2: to strengthen the presence of the Basque Country in Europe.....	16
5.3. Strategic Goal 3: to promote Basque interests around the world	17
6. LINES OF ACTION AND SPECIFIC ACTIONS	20
1.1. 21	
6.1. Structure of the EAP 2018-2020: Lines of Action and Specific Actions.....	22
6.2. Details of lines of action & specific actions.....	23
7. MANAGEMENT MODEL.....	33
7.1. Model of governance	33
7.2. Monitoring system	34
7.3. Budget	35

1. INTRODUCTION

The General Secretariat for External Action (hereinafter called the Secretariat) is a body that assists the Basque Premier in defining and establishing the direction of the political and institutional strategy for external action by the Basque Country. Its remit is therefore to drive and coordinate the international outreach actions of the Basque Government and its public sector organisations in an integrated, cross-sectoral manner by promoting bilateral and multilateral institutional links with international organisations, countries and sub-state bodies via international networks, with particular emphasis on the European Union. The Secretariat is also responsible for fostering and strengthening links between the Basque Country and Basque communities abroad.

At a strategic level the work of the Secretariat in the field of external action forms part of the 2020 Framework Strategy for Internationalisation, known as the Euskadi/Basque Country strategy (hereinafter called the EBC 2020). This strategy, approved in 2014 and updated in 2018, seeks to consolidate a cross-sectoral, inclusive internationalisation policy shared by all departments of the Basque Government and Basque public sector organisations.

The External Action Plan 2014-2016 was drawn up under this strategic framework. It involved intense international activity and has enhanced the position of the Basque Country abroad, promoted its interests at international level and, in short, raised its profile as a country in Europe and around the world.

At operational level, under the structure set out in the EBC 2020 for sectoral internationalisation plans, the External Action Plan 2018-2020 (hereinafter called the EAP 2018-2020) is the vehicle for implementing the EBC 2020 in the framework of institutional relationships abroad. It promotes and coordinates Basque Government actions with international outreach and cooperates with other Basque institutions, seeking to position the Basque Country as a global actor and defend Basque interests around the world. It is therefore the instrument for guiding, driving and monitoring the institutional internationalisation of the Basque Country. As such it promotes the values of Basque society on the international stage and facilitates the internationalisation of the departments of the Basque Government and its public sector organisations and other Basque actors with international outreach.

The start of the 11th legislature in 2016, and the rapid rate of geopolitical and economic change in the world led to the EBC 2020 being updated as a framework of reference for the internationalisation strategy of the Basque Country. From this perspective, and given its importance as a tool for channelling Basque external actions, the strategic planning of the Secretariat for 2018-2020 is presented here in line with the new features included in the EBC 2020 update, and with the programme of government for the 11th legislature.

The PEA 2018-2020 is the result of a process of reflection on the internal and external factors that affect external institutional actions by the Basque Government and Basque public sector organisations. It therefore represents the outcome of the process of assessment of the structure and content of the PEA as defined in 2014, emphasising the engagement of all management and technical staff at the Secretariat via surveys, individual meetings, workshops and the analysis of strategic documents. As a result, a useful, efficient tool has been built up for the strategic guidance, monitoring and assessment of external action by the Basque Country.

The EAP 2018-2020 Identifies the strategic priorities under the Euskadi/Basque Country strategy for the next three years in the field of international relations, and sets three strategic objectives:

- (i) To position the Basque Country as a global actor
- (ii) To strengthen the presence of the Basque Country in Europe
- (iii) To promote Basque interests around the world

To achieve the strategic goals, a number of actions are to be deployed with a view to enhancing the international position of the Euskadi/Basque Country brand, getting the Basque Country recognised as a benchmark for the factoring of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into public sector policies, promoting competitive intelligence in matters of internationalisation, increasing the presence of the Basque Country and its actors in European institutions and initiatives, promoting bilateral and multilateral cross-border links, consolidating and developing strategic partnerships and building up a global Basque community.

The ultimate aim is to work towards the vision set out in the EBC 2020: to position the Basque Country as a global actor with its own space in the construction of the project for

Europe; a cohesive, attractive, competitive country acknowledged for its uniqueness, its high levels of sustainable human development and its solidarity which is open to the rest of the world and closely connected to Basque communities abroad.

2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 10TH LEGISLATURE

The 2020 Framework Strategy for Internationalisation: the Basque Country Strategy, set in place during the 10th legislature, seeks to draw up and approve sectoral plans for internationalisation in the cases of institutional external actions and business internationalisation.

In that context, the PEA has been working since 2014 to meet the needs of the Basque Government as regards the internationalisation of institutional activities, and serving as a tool for positioning the Basque Country in an international context and promoting its best interests abroad in a multitude of sectors.

During the first three years of implementation of the PEA (2014-2016) the actions of the Secretariat sought to raise the profile of the Basque Country around the world, contribute to sustainable and sustained development in the Basque Country by promoting its interests abroad in numerous sectors, take part in the construction of Europe, forge deeper links with Basque communities abroad and improve the effectiveness and quality of external actions.

During that period a number of landmarks were reached which now form the foundations for the deployment of further activities in the years to come. The dynamic attitude of the Basque Country in its external activities is evidenced by the 80 meetings held by the Basque Premier with ambassadors from 57 countries, 29 visits received from high-level delegations and attendance at seven group meetings with diplomatic representatives of EU member states, ASEAN, the Visegrad Group, Latin America and the Arab League. Also noteworthy are the 11 institutional trips abroad made by the Basque Premier and the opening of new consular offices in the Basque Country by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Brazil, Estonia, Sweden, the Philippines, Colombia, Slovenia and Iceland.

As far as raising the profile of the Basque Country around the world is concerned, the period saw the launch of the Euskadi/Basque Country brand as the flagship of the country abroad. The Secretariat has drawn up and distributed a range of material for the international promotion of the brand (videos, multilingual presentations, etc.). 2015 saw the launch of the

www.basquecountry.eus website, which is intended to enhance the impact of the brand online by providing relevant information in four key areas: Industry, tourism, culture and the Basque language and external action. The website also includes a form under the slogan "I am the Basque Country", which organisations in all fields can use to sign up to the brand. Along with Basque public institutions from various areas, bodies from the fields of diplomacy, economics, education, social affairs and technology have signed up for the initiative, including consular offices in Bilbao, the chambers of commerce of Gipuzkoa, Bilbao and Araba, the universities of the Basque Country, Deusto and Mondragón, the Agirre Lehendakaria Center for Social and Political Studies, UNESCO Etxea, the World Rural Forum, Tecnalia and Innobasque, to name but a few.

In the 2014-2016 period, landmarks in the contribution of the Basque Country to sustained and sustainable development via the promotion abroad of multi-sectoral interests included the setting up of the Network of Strategic Partners, based on partnerships with leading territories which share the same interests as the Basque Country (Aquitaine, Jiangsu, Bavaria, Querétaro and Flanders). These partnerships seek to share knowledge and models for public-sector policies, to undertake joint projects and to defend shared positions in an international context.

The setting up of this network was supplemented by the support and organisational efforts of the Secretariat on technical missions, learning tours (Chile & Mexico) and the making and receiving of institutional trips, all of which have enabled agreements, pacts and memorandums of understanding to be signed on a sectoral level with foreign governments and organisations from priority regions and countries, with international organisations and under the framework of international networks and associations.

Stand-out events here include the memorandums signed with the Ibero-American General Secretariat in November 2013 to explore opportunities for joint work and share experience in the fields of citizen-related innovation, gender equality, youth and innovation (SMEs), and with UNESCO in July 2016 to strengthen new models of governance to enhance citizen engagement in the construction of democracy and the integration of a cross-sectoral human rights perspective into education policies and practices.

In terms of participation in international networks and associations, the Basque Country has played a proactive role in the ORU/FOGAR network and in the Vanguard Initiative (as a founder member in both cases), in EARLALL and EUROMONTANA (both of which it has chaired), in CRPM and NPLD (in which it is a member of the governing bodies) and in the ERRIN network, whose working group on advanced manufacturing is led by the Basque Country.

Also in regard to the promotion of multi-sectoral interests abroad, Basque institutions have taken part in major international events such as the General Assembly of the Atlantic Rim Committee of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CRPM) held in Bilbao in 2015, the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in Paris in 2015 and the 7th World Summit of Regional Governments in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, where the Basque Country received two awards for good practices: one for its White Paper on Citizen Participation and the other for its Protocol for Monitoring the Development of Children in the School Environment. These awards came after those already presented to the Basque Government in 2015 by the United Nations in the fields of promoting a gender perspective (for the EMAKUNDE Basque Institute for Women) and encouraging public engagement in political decision-making through innovative mechanisms (for the IREKIA portal).

Further significant actions in Europe during the 2014-2016 timeframe included intense activities at Community institutions via the political and institutional lobby of the Basque Country at the EU, which led to high-level meetings between representatives of Basque institutions and deputy chairs and commissioners of the EU. Especially worthy of mention are the meetings during the 10th legislature between the Basque Premier and José Manuel Durao Barroso (President of the European Commission), Cecilia Malmström (European Commissioner for Internal Affairs), Herman Van Rompuy (President of the Council) and Markku Markkula (Chair of the European Committee of the Regions).

Basque actors also provided substantial support for EU initiatives and programmes, including the Horizon 2020 Programme in R&D&i, the INTERREG Programme for inter-regional cooperation, the LIFE Programme for environmental projects and the Creative Europe Programme in the field of culture. Specific actions of a sectoral nature were also taken, such as support for the candidature of Donostia-San Sebastian as European Capital of Culture in

2016, efforts to promote the position of the Basque Country as a benchmark for the deployment of regional smart specialisation strategies, the raising of the profile of the Basque vocational training as a way of fostering job creation and encouragement for the leading role played by the Basque Country in ocean and hostile-environment energy applications.

In the more specific framework of cross-border cooperation, the Basque Country worked hard to promote the Working Committee of the Pyrenees, the Atlantic Rim Committee and, especially, the Basque presidency of the EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation) in the Aquitaine-Basque Country Euro-region between 2014 and 2016. Another standout point is the incorporation of Navarre into the Euro-region in the course of a special session held in 2016 under the chairmanship of Basque Premier Iñigo Urkullu and Alain Rousset, President of the Regional Council of Nouvelle-Aquitaine.

In the context of links with Basque communities abroad, July 2016 saw the setting up of the Basque Global Network as an online social network to help people connect with each other and thus facilitate interaction with one another and with Basque institutions, providing a meeting point conducive to networking.

During the 2014-2016 period support was provided for more than 6000 actions promoted by Euskal Etxeak centres, 64 young people took part in the Gaztemundu programme and three new Euskal Etxeak centres were founded in Munich, Marseille and Montpellier/Jacou. Almost 300 grants were awarded to households in Basque communities which were in situations of extreme necessity, and over 50 cases of returning emigrants were dealt with.

The 6th Congress of Basque Groups Abroad was held in Vitoria-Gasteiz in October 2015 under the slogan *Diasporizatu!* As part of the conclusions of this Congress, a four-year institutional action plan for 2016-2019 was drawn up to strengthen links between society in the Basque Country and Basque communities abroad. Evidence of this plan can be found in this PEA.

Finally, the creation in 2016 of the Advisory Council on External Action can be highlighted as a unifying element to help make external action better and more effective. The forum thus set up is open to social and economic actors and seeks to encourage discussion on Basque

internationalisation policies, supplementing the work of the Interdepartmental Committee on External Action, the Inter-institutional Committee on External Action and the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Groups Abroad in their efforts to run and follow-up external action by the Basque Government.

3. STRATEGIC APPROACH

A process of reflection was staged to draw up a new external action plan for 2018-2020, as part of the update of the 2020 Framework Strategy for Internationalisation: the Euskadi/Basque Country Strategy, which in turn is based on the directives set out in the programme for government for the 11th legislature, the Framework of Consistency for Development Policies in the Basque Country, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Europe 2020 Strategy. This participative reflection process provides the basis for the strategic approach set out in the PEA for 2018-2020, which includes guidelines for the activities of the Secretariat up to 2020.

The PEA for 2018-2020 is based on three main lines: transversality, optimisation and efficiency. An inclusive, holistic perspective is used to draw up a cross-sectoral plan in which the whole structure of the Secretariat helps to attain the goals of the various lines of action proposed. At the same time, a plan has been drawn up that prioritises the optimisation of goals, lines of action and specific actions with a smooth structure to facilitate the monitoring and registration of activities.

The PEA for 2018-2020 introduces new approaches and guidelines that take into account the landmarks and achievements already attained in the 2014-2016 period as foundations on which planning can be based for the coming years. It also takes into account the challenges and opportunities arising from the international geopolitical context, which the Basque Country cannot ignore in deploying its institutional activities abroad.

On this basis, the intention is to give the Euskadi/Basque Country brand a higher profile in strategic terms and in the provision of content, its dissemination and the promotion of membership of the brand, bringing together efforts involving the country-brand as the main badge for raising the profile of the Basque Country around the world.

Bilateral and multilateral institutional links on an international level are seen as a key element for supporting and defending Basque sectoral interests abroad, especially in those countries and regions identified as strategic targets for Basque internationalisation efforts under the EBC 2020. It is therefore essential to continue strengthening institutional relationships from a general perspective, striving to turn them into strategic partnerships,

i.e. into stable, solid links with international organisations, countries and regions identified as priority targets and with relevant sectoral networks.

On a European scale, the EU continues to be a priority target of capital importance for Basque actions abroad. That is why great emphasis is placed on fostering the participation of the Basque Country in the European project, in the context of the major challenges that are to arise in the immediate future, particularly the expected exit of the UK from the European Union and the process of reflection opened up by the White Paper on the Future of Europe.

Links with Basque communities abroad also continue to be one of the main areas on which Basque actions abroad are focused. Emphasis is placed on the concept of two-way links, not only through support for Basque groups in other countries but also by valorising and encouraging knowledge of the Basque diaspora in the Basque Country itself.

The commitment of Basque society to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the UN's 2030 agenda provides external actions with a powerful tool for promoting the Basque Country around the world. The SDGs open up a new field for work on an international scale, in which the aim is to position the Basque Country abroad as a benchmark country for awareness, dissemination and adoption of the SDGs in public sector policies.

Finally, special emphasis is placed on encouraging competitive intelligence in matters of international relations and internationalisation within institutions and society itself, as a basis for excellence and success in Basque external actions.

4. MISSION

The mission of the General Secretariat for External Action is to plan, support and coordinate external action by the Basque Government, in line with Decree 70/2017 of 11 April. Accordingly, the Secretariat helps the Basque Premier to determine the shape and direction of political and institutional strategies for external action by the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. To that end, it is organised into three directorates (External Relations, European Affairs and the Directorate for the Basque Community Abroad) and a network of delegations at strategic points for the general interests of the Basque Country: the USA, Mexico, Argentina/Mercosur, Chile, Colombia and Peru and the EU. It also has an office in Madrid.

In line with the structure, functions and areas of authority conferred upon it, and within the framework of the EBC 2020, the Secretariat has the remit of setting up and implementing the Basque External Action Plan. Its actions are based on the following mission:

To programme, promote and coordinate external action by the Basque Government with a view to positioning the Basque Country as a global actor with its own space in the construction of the project for Europe, and to promote Basque interests around the world. Thus, its job is to represent the Basque Country at institutional level and establish stable, strategic partnerships with international actors, strengthen links with Basque communities abroad and express the commitment of Basque society to the 2030 Agenda.

This mission is consistent with the vision set out in the EBC 2020, and in essence continues the mandate handed down in the EAP in 2014. However, three new key factors have now been incorporated on which special emphasis is to be placed in 2018-2020. Firstly, there is express mention of a leading role for the Basque Country in the construction and the future of the European project as one of the main focal points for Basque action abroad, in line with the vision set out in the EBC 2020. Secondly, the concept of "strategic partnership" is factored in, to consolidate priority links between the Basque Country and certain international organisations, countries and regions and participation in networks. Thirdly and finally, a specific mention is included of efforts to promote the commitment of Basque society to the Sustainable Development Goals set in the UN's 2030 Agenda.

5. STRATEGIC GOALS:

The mission of the Secretariat explicitly states that the purpose of Basque actions abroad is “to position the Basque Country as a global actor with its own space in the construction of the project for Europe, and to promote Basque interests around the world”. It is from this clear, direct mandate that the three goals set out in the PEA 2018-2020 emerge:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL 1: To position the Basque Country as a global actor**
- **STRATEGIC GOAL 2: To strengthen the presence of the Basque Country in Europe**
- **STRATEGIC GOAL 3: To promote Basque interests around the world**

These goals are also in line with the common vectors for internationalisation set out in the EBC 2020, with the general lines for external actions in the 11th legislature presented to the Basque Parliament in February 2017 and with the remit of the Secretariat.

5.1. Strategic Goal 1: to position the Basque Country as a global actor

Projecting an image of the Basque Country abroad as an attractive, competitive country acknowledged for its uniqueness and its own identity, which is highly committed to global challenges is essential if the country is to gain weight and improve its position in the international context. This will help increase its influence around the world and make it a more attractive destination for projects, investment, visitors, talent and human capital.

The first building block on the way to achieving this purpose is to publicise a shared country-brand that highlights the strengths, unique features, values and positive attributes of Basque society as a way of giving the Basque Country a competitive edge on the international stage. In this context the Secretariat seeks to bring together initiatives and efforts in the "Euskadi/Basque Country" brand so as to promote activities based on the structure of the brand and cooperation between public and private actors to help convey and disseminate the country-brand around the world.

In line with the first vector in the EBC 2020, "Projection of the Euskadi/Basque Country brand abroad", the brand needs to go beyond an institutional framework and become used as a tool for communication and selling by the ecosystem of Basque actors active on the international stage, and by Basque society as a whole. The Secretariat thus seeks to take on the role of a driver to get actors to sign up to the brand and thus help to strengthen the country-image in a way that is consistent in style and attributes, increasing the overall power of attraction of the Basque Country.

Another building block for enhancing the position of the Basque Country in the world is the international projection of the commitment of Basque society to the UN's 2030 Agenda, in line with the third vector in the EBC 2020, "Contributing to solving major global challenges to sustainable development". The 2030 Agenda was approved by the UN in September 2015. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 economic, social and environmental targets. These goals will mark the direction of policies over the next 10 years for those governments that decide to adopt them and commit to developing strategies for protecting our planet that can also give rise to assurances of peace, prosperity and well-being for future generations.

They represent a commitment that is universal but markedly territorial in perspective, since all governments can adapt their resources, activities and targets in line with the specific challenges that they face. Accordingly, the Basque Country will seek to become an international benchmark for the factoring of SDGs into all institutional levels. To that end, the Secretariat will work jointly on coordination through partnerships established with all the public and private actors involved, taking on three main roles: the capturing of good practices at international level, the multi-level, multi-sectoral dissemination of SDGs in the Basque Country and the projection abroad of the Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda.

Finally, in line with the fifth vector in the EBC 2020 ("Capturing knowledge"), the promotion of competitive intelligence in matters of internationalisation is considered a key point for continuously improving the international position of the Basque Country through external action. Thus, efforts will be made to obtain information of strategic value on topics that directly affect the internationalisation of the Basque Country and can help to adapt the definition and direction of external action in the future, through the promotion of knowledge in the field of international relations at institutions and in society as a whole. To

that end, in a context in which territories compete for relevance and leadership, efforts will be stepped up to connect with Basque expertise in matters of international relations and to heighten awareness in society and among social and economic actors of the tools available for promoting internationalisation-related activities.

5.2. Strategic Goal 2: to strengthen the presence of the Basque Country in Europe

The EU has traditionally been one of the preferential areas for Basque external action. Priority will be given to continuing to operate as a joint participant with shared responsibility in the construction of Europe and expanding the presence and influence of the Basque Country in Europe from a political and multi-sectoral perspective in both public and private affairs.

As an element for bringing together a territory "united in diversity" and a platform for the social and economic development of the peoples of Europe, the EU is set to undergo an intense period of changes in the next 10 years, as it marks the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

These changes in the common project for Europe will stem, among other issues, from the expected exit from the EU of the United Kingdom. This will require mechanisms to be established to minimise repercussions for the other countries in commercial, institutional, budgetary and social affairs.

Another important challenge is to set up a process of reflection on the strategic bases according to which the future of the EU will be governed over the next 10 years. The White Paper on the Future of Europe opens up a process for determining the vision, governments and strategic horizons of the EU over the coming 10 years, based on five potential future scenarios ranging from continuing as is to working in greater depth towards a federal Europe, sharing more areas of authority, resources and decision-making in all fields.

In the face of these challenges, and in line with the fourth vector in the EBC 2020. "Contributing to the project for Europe", in the immediate future the Basque Country will assign maximum priority to direct participation in EU institutions. Efforts will be made to promote participation in Community decision-making forums so as to gain weight, leadership and a voice in the forums where issues of interest to the Basque Country are discussed, especially on the bodies of the Council, in the working committees of the Commission and in the Committee of the Regions.

The Basque Country is also to prepare a contribution to the reflection on the future of the EU, advocating that multi-tier governance should be prioritised based on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, by promoting the active participation of regions with legislative powers and those that represent national realities in EU institutions.

Moreover, as a further way of strengthening the role of the Basque Country in Europe, the Secretariat will seek to act as a platform for promoting the participation of Basque social and economic actors in European initiatives, programmes and projects by arranging awareness, assessment, accompaniment and support activities so that the participation of the Basque Country in Community affairs helps increase its influence and recognition in Europe.

5.3. Strategic Goal 3: to promote Basque interests around the world

Developing and maintaining a sound, stable, long-lasting structure of international relations can help safeguard the interests of Basque society abroad. To that end it is essential to intensify and consolidate bilateral and multilateral relations, develop and strengthen stable partnerships with international organisations and priority countries and regions and step up presence in those international networks which are of strategic interest to the Basque Country. Moreover, strengthening and supporting Basque communities abroad as preferential partners for promoting and disseminating Basque values around the world is a great help in the purpose of promoting Basque interests in the societies where such groups are present.

Much of the leadership and influence of the Basque Country abroad is obtained through institutional contacts with foreign governments and organisations. Such relations make it possible to drive and a company public and private bodies in processes of internationalisation, and are key for promoting Basque sectoral interests at international level, in line with the second vector in the EBC 2020, "Promoting and fostering sectoral interests".

The EBC 2020 also identifies a number of countries and regions as strategic areas for the internationalisation of the Basque Country. These territories are home to a large proportion of Basque interests abroad, and will receive priority attention in 2018-2020.

This is why the Secretariat seeks to bring together efforts to intensify institutional relations with foreign governments and public bodies, and to project the multi-sectoral reality of the Basque Country abroad and position the country on issues of global importance in multiple areas. In line with the fifth of vector in the EBC 2020 ("Capturing knowledge"), efforts will also be made to detect opportunities and develop tools for incorporating good practices into Basque organisations, be they public or private.

Special attention will also be paid to international organisations, countries, sub-state bodies and networks which are deemed to be of priority interest to the Basque Country in its efforts to continue forging solid, stable links. Thus, through direct discussions and interaction within international organisations, agreements will be fostered with priority countries and regions for extending the participation of the Basque Country and its actors in international networks, thus helping to defend the interests of Basque society abroad.

Special mention must be made of cooperation within the Network of Strategic Partners, which is to be consolidated via new partnerships with governments which have shared interests with the Basque Country and occupied leading positions in strategic areas, and via the strengthening of the agreements already in place with the implementation of contents on a sectoral and/or periodic basis to ensure that relations are long-lasting and mutually enriching.

In addition, the emphasis in cross-border and territorial cooperation will be on cooperation within the Aquitaine-Basque Country-Navarre Euro-region, with the French Basque Country and within the Working Community of the Pyrenees. In terms of strategic importance,

investments made, historical, cultural and geographical links the Euro-region stands out. Activities in this regard are carried out under the Strategic Plan for 2014-2020, which sets for priorities: Euro-regional citizenship, the knowledge economy, sustainable territory and open governance.

Promoting and strengthening links between Basque society and institutions and Basque communities abroad will continue to be a priority for the Secretariat, pursuant to Act 8/1994 of 27 May on relations with Basque groups and centres outside the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. At the same time, Basque communities abroad are certainly a key element in disseminating, fostering and promoting Basque interests in the societies where they are present. As a result the Secretariat, acting as the executor and coordinator of the Four-Year Institutional Action Plan for Basque Groups Abroad (2016-2019) and in line with the *Diasporizatu!* Slogan that marked the Fourth World Congress of Basque Groups Abroad in 2015, will seek to work reciprocally, supporting and strengthening links between the Basque Country and Basque communities abroad, strengthening the traditional diaspora through the network of Euskal Etxeak centres and identifying the needs of the new diaspora of the 21st century on the one hand, and heightening awareness in Basque society of the major contributions of the diaspora to the dissemination of Basque culture and values abroad on the other.

6. LINES OF ACTION AND SPECIFIC ACTIONS

The PEA 2018-2020 forms part of the sectoral plans for internationalisation envisaged in the EBC 2020, and its strategic deployment is therefore based on and aligned with the strategic vectors for internationalisation set out in that strategy:

- **Vector 1: Projection of the Euskadi/Basque Country brand abroad**
- **Vector 2: Promoting and fostering sectoral interests**
- **Vector 3: Contributing to the resolving of global challenges to sustainable development**
- **Vector 4: Contributing to the project for Europe**
- **Vector 5: Capturing of knowledge**

The three goals that emerge from the mission of the PEA for 2018-2020 give rise to eight lines of action closely linked to the five vectors for internationalisation in the EBC 2020, as shown below. These lines of action in turn break down into 35 specific actions which form the core of the activities of the Secretariat for 2018-2020.

Links between lines of actions under the PEA 2018-2020 and the vectors in the EBC 2020

PEA 2018-2020		EBC 2020 (2018-2020)
GOAL	LINE OF ACTION	VECTORS
1. TO POSITION THE BASQUE COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL ACTOR	L.1.1 Spread the Euskadi/Basque Country brand	V1/V2
	L.1.2 Promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Basque Country	V3
	L.1.3 Foster competitive intelligence and knowledge in matters of internationalisation	V5
2. TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN EUROPE	L.2.1 To strengthen the participation of the Basque Country in EU decision-making processes	V4
	L.2.2 To facilitate the participation of Basque actors in EU projects and initiatives	V2/V4
3. TO PROMOTE	L.3.1 To promote Basque sectoral interests abroad	V2

	L.3.2 To develop and consolidate strategic partnerships	V2/V3/V4
	L.3.3 To "diasporise" Basque society and strengthen Basque communities abroad	V1/V2

6.1. Structure of the PEA 2018-2020: Lines of Action and Specific Actions

GOALS	GOAL 1: TO POSITION THE BASQUE COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL ACTOR			GOAL 2: TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN EUROPE		GOAL 3: TO PROMOTE BASQUE INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD		
LINE OF ACTION	L1.1. SPREAD THE EUSKADI/BASQUE COUNTRY BRAND	L1.2. PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY	L1.3. FOSTER COMPETITIVE INTELLIGENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IN MATTERS OF INTERNATIONALISATION	L2.1 TO STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPATION OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN EU DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES	L2.2 TO FACILITATE THE PARTICIPATION OF BASQUE ACTORS IN EU PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES	L.3.1 PROMOTE BASQUE SECTORAL INTERESTS ABROAD	L.3.2 DEVELOP AND CONSOLIDATE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS	L.3.3 TO "DIASPORISE" BASQUE SOCIETY AND STRENGTHEN BASQUE COMMUNITIES ABROAD
SPECIFIC ACTIONS	<p>1.1.1 Organised brand activities</p> <p>1.1.2 Brand activities promoted by Euskal Etxeak</p> <p>1.1.3 Euskadi/Basque Country Eguna</p> <p>1.1.4 Euskadi/Basque Country Laguna</p> <p>1.1.5 Euskadi/Basque Country Fund for promoting the brand</p> <p>1.1.6 Projection of Basque expertise abroad</p>	<p>1.2.1 Awareness, training and dissemination in the Basque Country</p> <p>1.2.2 Partnerships with institutions, actors and networks</p> <p>1.2.3 International promotion of the Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda</p>	<p>1.3.1 International mobility programme for technical personnel</p> <p>1.3.2 Relations with forums specialising in international relations and think tanks</p> <p>1.3.3 Knowledge network in matters of international relations</p> <p>1.3.4 External action grants</p> <p>1.3.5 Socialising of Basque external</p>	<p>2.1.1 Participation in EU bodies and institutions to promote the interests of the Basque Country</p> <p>2.1.2 Position of the Basque Country in the future of the EU</p> <p>2.1.3 Interests of the Basque Country in</p> <p>2.1.4 Relations with the Spanish State on European matters</p>	<p>2.2.1 Activities concerned with the construction of Europe and its impact on the Basque Country</p> <p>2.2.2 Support for the participation of actors in European projects and initiatives</p>	<p>3.1.1 Institutional relations within and outside the Basque Country</p> <p>3.1.2 Relations with international leaders</p> <p>3.1.3 Relations with diplomatic representatives</p> <p>3.1.4 Public diplomacy actions</p> <p>3.1.5 Support abroad for internationalisation projects</p>	<p>3.2.1 Collaboration with international organisations</p> <p>3.2.2 Relations with priority countries</p> <p>3.2.3 Relations with the Network of Strategic Partners</p> <p>3.2.4 Cross-border & territorial cooperation</p> <p>3.2.5 Presence in international networks</p> <p>3.2.6 Support for technical assistance projects</p>	<p>3.3.1 Consolidation of the Euskal Etxeak network</p> <p>3.3.2 The Basque community in the</p> <p>3.3.3 Fostering of knowledge concerning the diaspora in the Basque Country</p> <p>3.3.4 Dealing with Basque communities</p>

6.2. Details of lines of action & specific actions

GOALS

01 

POSITION THE BASQUE COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL ACTOR

02 

STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN EUROPE

03 

PROMOTE BASQUE INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD


→ LINE OF ACTION 1.1		Spread the Euskadi/Basque Country brand	
<p>Fostering a country-brand abroad that highlights the strengths, values and positive attributes of Basque society on a shared basis, through public/private sector cooperation. The Euskadi/Basque Country brand must be consolidated as a vital element for producing positive synergies in the position of the Basque Country as a global actor and facilitating the internationalisation strategies and projects of Basque actors through their association with the brand, especially in priority countries and regions. The aim is to make the Basque Country more attractive to international audiences, especially for talented foreigners, tourists and visitors and for key actors in the fields of politics, the economy, culture, social affairs and science on a worldwide level.</p> <p>To that end, efforts will be made in the Basque Country and abroad to facilitate and encourage activities that help project the brand and the Basque expertise associated with it, organised by the Secretariat itself or in cooperation with other public and private actors. Special emphasis will be placed on getting other institutions and actors to sign up to the country-brand, so that that can help support it and expand it by creating cooperation mechanisms that facilitate its shared use.</p>			
⚙️ SPECIFIC ACTIONS			
1.1.1 Organised brand activities	Bringing together efforts and initiatives around the Euskadi/Basque Country brand to organise or co-organise activities that help to disseminate the brand globally. These activities will be promoted by the Secretariat both within and outside the Basque Country.	Indicator	Target
		<i>Nº of brand activities organised by the Secretariat.</i>	60
1.1.2 Brand activities promoted by Euskal Etxeak centres	Promoting activities in which the Euskadi/Basque Country brand is used by Euskal Etxeak centres in the countries where they operate to encourage Basque communities abroad to sign up to the brand.	Indicator	Target
		<i>Nº of brand activities promoted.</i>	250
1.1.3 Euskadi/Basque Country Eguna	Organising a day-long event in the Basque Country every year to promote internationalisation in the broadest sense, engaging with Basque and foreign institutions, economic and social actors and key personalities in the world of international relations. The idea is to encourage synergies in internationalisation, share good practices and, above all, promote the dissemination of the brand and encourage people to sign up to it.	Indicator	Target
		<i>Nº of Euskadi/Basque Country Eguna events.</i>	3
1.1.4 Euskadi/Basque Country Laguna	Creating a form of institutional recognition for Basques and non-Basque individuals who make an outstanding contribution to spreading knowledge of the Basque Country and the brand values at international level.	Indicator	Target
		<i>Nº of personalities recognised as "Euskadi/Basque Country Laguna" ["Friends of the Basque Country"]</i>	30

1.1.5 Euskadi/Basque Country Fund for promoting the brand	Creating an interdepartmental fund for promoting cross-sectoral country events and projects in the Basque Country or abroad, with a multi-sectoral approach, which can help enhance the brand image internationally.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Creation of the fund.</i>	1
1.1.6 Projection of Basque expertise abroad	Encouraging and facilitating the participation of Basque public and private actors in events and platforms where good practices developed in the Basque Country and Basque expertise are disseminated, thus helping to project positive values associated with the image of the Basque Country abroad.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of international events with Basque participation at which expertise is disseminated.</i>	25

GOALS

01 
**POSITION THE BASQUE
 COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL
 ACTOR**

02 
**STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE
 OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN
 EUROPE**

03 
**PROMOTE BASQUE
 INTERESTS AROUND THE
 WORLD**

→ **LINE OF ACTION 1.2**

Promote the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Basque Country

Making the Basque Country an international benchmark for the factoring of the UN's 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into public-sector policies, taking into account the importance with which the UN regards territorial aspects in the adaptation and implementation of the goals set for 2030.

The Secretariat will work to capture knowledge of good practices at international level in regard to SDGs and will cooperate with the Secretariat to the Premier's Office to help factor those goals applicable to the specific circumstances of the Basque Country into Basque public-sector policies. To that end it will seek to raise the profile of SDGs in-house at the government and at public institutions, and to heighten awareness among all actors involved through a multi-tier, mixed public/private approach with a view to drawing up an Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda. It will also seek to incorporate cross-sectoral actors and include representatives from different sectors of Basque society (business, education, health, etc.) in the debate. Once SDGs have been factored into public-sector policies, efforts will be made to disseminate the Basque Agenda abroad and to get it recognised as an example and an international benchmark for other countries and regions.

 **SPECIFIC ACTIONS**

1.2.1 Awareness, training and dissemination in the Basque Country	Encouraging all actors who form part of Basque society to take up the 2030 Agenda, by working to promote knowledge of the Agenda through communication campaigns, seminars, training sessions, the preparation of teaching materials, etc. The specific aim is to draw up an Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda aligned with that of the UN.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of awareness, training & dissemination activities in which the Secretariat takes part.</i>	20
1.2.2 Partnerships with institutions, actors and networks	Developing partnerships and strengthening links with governments and institutions in the Basque country and abroad, and with public and private actors, and taking part in networks to build up a network of contacts based on the Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda that enable partnerships in favour of the agenda to be put together and good practices to be captured.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Approval of the Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda</i>	1
	<i>Nº of members of the partnership for the 2030 Agenda</i>	50
1.2.3 International promotion of the Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda	Disseminating the Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda internationally to consolidate the position of the Basque Country abroad and its commitment to tackling global challenges.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of international events at which the Euskadi/Basque Country 2030 Agenda is disseminated.</i>	12

GOALS

01 
**POSITION THE BASQUE
 COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL
 ACTOR**

02 
**STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE
 OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN
 EUROPE**

03 
**PROMOTE BASQUE
 INTERESTS AROUND THE
 WORLD**

→ LINE OF ACTION 1.3		Foster Competitive Intelligence and Knowledge in Matters of Internationalisation	
<p>Promoting knowledge of international relations at institutions and in society as a whole. The idea is to obtain valuable information on strategic topics that can help deploy Basque external action in general and enhance the international position of the Basque Country in particular.</p> <p>To that end, the Secretariat will promote and encourage the international training of personnel at the Basque administration and young people with the potential to make careers in this field. This support for training is expected to have a positive effect on the international position of the Basque Country in the future.</p> <p>Concurrently, efforts will be made to obtain strategic information on matters of international relations through two main channels: by valorising and connecting all knowledge in this field available in academic circles in the Basque Country and by encouraging links with think tanks and research and opinion centres worldwide.</p>			
🔧 SPECIFIC ACTIONS			
1.3.1 International mobility programme for technical personnel	Encouraging technical personnel to learn more about internationalisation and international relations within institutions by designing an international mobility programme for them at foreign governments and organisations.		
	Indicator		Target
	<i>Creation of the programme.</i>		1
1.3.2 Relations with forums specialising in international relations and think tanks	Encouraging and promoting links with think tanks and opinion forums abroad, especially in the field of international relations and global geo-politics, with a view to keeping up with the latest schools of thought in these areas.		
	Indicator		Target
	<i>Nº of joint initiatives</i>		8
1.3.3 Knowledge network in matters of international relations	Valorising and connecting the skills and expertise held in Basque academic circles in the field of international relations (research centres, universities, institutions) to favour a networking, increasing collaboration and generating positive synergies in this field.		
	Indicator		Target
	<i>Exploratory study with a view to creating the network</i>		1
1.3.4 External action grants	Reviewing the programme of external action grants and adapting them to meet new needs, with a view to attracting more and better talent through more attractive calls aligned with the current context.		
	Indicator		Target
	<i>Nº of grants awarded</i>		36
1.3.5 Socialising of Basque external action	Promoting and implementing activities through which Basque society can learn more about the nature and intensity of the external actions deployed by all the actors in the Basque ecosystem of internationalisation.		
	Indicator		Target
	<i>Nº of activities informing Basque society about external actions</i>		15

GOALS

01 
 POSITION THE BASQUE
 COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL
 ACTOR

02 
 STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE
 OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN
 EUROPE

03 
 PROMOTE BASQUE
 INTERESTS AROUND THE
 WORLD

→ LINE OF ACTION 2.1

To strengthen the participation of the Basque Country in EU decision-making processes

The Basque Country needs to maintain a strong presence in the decision-making processes of the EU, which is its natural area for priority action, increasing its role and its participation in order to defend its interests on both overall and sectoral levels.

Accordingly, the Secretariat will work to join forces to give the Basque Country more of a voice in Europe and increase its representation on those Community bodies that deal with issues of interest to it as a country, or that decide on initiatives and policies that affect the Basque social and economic actors in the course of their activities.

Specifically, in the context of changes within the EU, particular emphasis will be placed on the challenges posed by the coming years: on the one hand the need to take up a position as a country in the face of the White Paper on the Future of Europe, in the form of a document to be drawn up by the Basque Government establishing its vision; and on the other hand the defence of the best interests of the Basque Country in the face of the exit from the EU of the UK.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS

2.1.1 Participation in EU bodies and institutions to promote the interests of the Basque Country	Continuing to promote the proactive participation of the Basque Country in EU institutions, especially the bodies of the Council, the technical committees of the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of EU Council meetings coordinated & nº of technical committee memberships</i>	31
2.1.2 Position of the Basque Country in the future of the EU	Promoting the role of the Basque Country and enhancing its position through political and institutional lobbying in Europe in regard to the challenges that will mark the future of the EU in the coming years, through various activities such as seminars and high-level meetings.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Drawing up a Basque vision of the future of the EU</i>	1
	<i>Nº of activities at which the Basque vision of the future of the EU is promoted</i>	9
2.1.3 Interests of the Basque Country in the face of Brexit	Defending the interests of the Basque Country in all sectors in the face of the exit from the EU of the UK.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of meetings of the Brexit Monitoring Committee and nº of presentations in forums on the issue</i>	12
2.1.4 Relations with the Spanish State on European matters	Promoting discussion with the Spanish State, specifically with a view to reactivating the Bilateral Committee on European Affairs and the Conference of the Autonomous Communities on EU-related Matters.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of meetings of the Bilateral Committee and of the Conference for EU-Related Matters</i>	13

GOALS

01 
 POSITION THE BASQUE
 COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL
 ACTOR

02 
 STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE
 OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN
 EUROPE

03 
 PROMOTE BASQUE
 INTERESTS AROUND THE
 WORLD

→ LINE OF ACTION 2.2		To facilitate the participation of Basque actors in EU projects and initiatives	
<p>Projecting Basque expertise in Europe and capturing knowledge, information and good practices in strategic areas through the involvement of Basque socio-economic actors from the public and private sectors in supranational sectoral initiatives set up by the European Union.</p> <p>With this in mind the Secretariat will provide support and a platform to enable Basque actors to increase their participation in Community initiatives and programs by organising and promoting dissemination and information activities concerning new opportunities arising in specific sectors. At the same time, efforts will continue to provide support and personalised advice on accessing these initiatives, with a view to increasing the presence of Basque actors in Europe, producing positive synergies and enhancing the potential for cooperation and collaboration so as to strengthen the role of the Basque Country in the EU from a multi-sectoral approach.</p>			
⚙️ SPECIFIC ACTIONS			
2.2.1 Activities concerned with the construction of Europe and its impact on the Basque Country	Promoting dissemination, information and awareness activities concerned with the construction of Europe and the impact of EU programmes, initiatives and policies on Basque society and socio-economic actors.		
	Indicator		Target
	<i>Nº of events concerning the construction of Europe organised</i>		9
<i>Nº of reports on EU programmes, initiatives and policies</i>		50	
2.2.2 Support for the participation of actors in European projects and initiatives	Providing advice and support for Basque public and private sector actors for their participation in EU projects and initiatives.		
	Indicator		Target
	<i>Nº of projects and initiatives supported in the EU framework</i>		150

GOALS



01
POSITION THE BASQUE
COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL
ACTOR



02
STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE
OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN
EUROPE



03
PROMOTE BASQUE
INTERESTS AROUND THE
WORLD

 LINE OF ACTION 3.1

Promote Basque Sectoral Interests abroad

Gaining presence abroad through institutional actions to strengthen bilateral relations and actions of public diplomacy to defend the sectoral interests of the Basque Country and export good practices.

From a multi-sectoral perspective, the Secretariat will seek to use its directorates and delegations abroad to promote the sharing of knowledge and good practices, and to support Basque actors in internationalisation projects in strategic geographical areas. To that end, it will consolidate, maintain and extend the Basque Country's current network of institutional international relations by promoting and organising official trips, technical missions, learning tours, meetings with diplomatic representatives and public diplomacy activities as key instruments for fostering the sectoral interests of the Basque Country abroad.

 SPECIFIC ACTIONS

3.1.1 Institutional relations within and outside the Basque Country	Promoting institutional relations in and outside the Basque Country via the making & receiving of institutional missions as a tool for building bridges and partnerships and detecting opportunities in advance.	Target
	Indicator <i>Nº of institutional trips to/from foreign locations organised by or with the help of the Secretariat.</i>	55
3.1.2 Relations with international leaders	Fostering relations with key personalities who occupy significant, high-responsibility posts abroad, to inform them of the situation of Basque society.	Target
	Indicator <i>Nº of learning tours organised</i>	5
3.1.3 Relations with diplomatic representatives	Consolidating relations with diplomatic representatives (at embassies and consulates) in and outside the Basque Country as an instrument for defending Basque interests around the world.	Target
	Indicator <i>Nº of meetings between the Basque Premier and diplomatic representatives</i>	50
	Indicator <i>Nº of working forums, meetings and breakfasts organised with members of the diplomatic corps</i>	30
3.1.4 Public diplomacy actions	Promoting public diplomacy actions abroad with a view to gaining influence and prestige through cooperation, culture, science and social networks, among others.	Target
	Indicator <i>Nº of public diplomacy actions taken abroad</i>	18
3.1.5 Support abroad for internationalisation projects	Supporting and accompanying the start-up of internationalisation projects in various thematic areas led by Basque actors or organisations.	Target
	Indicator <i>Nº of internationalisation projects supported</i>	60

GOALS



01
POSITION THE BASQUE
COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL
ACTOR



02
STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE
OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN
EUROPE



03
PROMOTE BASQUE
INTERESTS AROUND THE
WORLD

→ LINE OF ACTION 3.2

To develop and consolidate strategic partnerships

Maintaining and strengthening preferential strategic links with international organisations, priority countries and sub-state bodies belonging to the Network of Strategic Partners and increasing the presence of the Basque Country in international networks with a view to consolidating and increasing its influence in international decision-making forums and promoting Basque interests, especially in those geographical areas considered as preferential for the internationalisation of the Basque Country in the EBC 2020.

Strategic partnerships merit special consideration in the remit of the Secretariat, as they represent fundamental foundations for the deployment of the institutional strategy of the Basque Country abroad. Special emphasis will therefore be placed on fostering cooperation and exchanges with these actors. On the one hand, membership of international networks and agreements with international organisations give the Basque Country a voice in major decision-making forums and multiply the potential for establishing new links with states and sub-state bodies; and on the other hand, extending and consolidating agreements with priority countries and regions helps to disseminate and promote the interests of the Basque Country as a country in geographical areas which are considered strategic at general and/or sectoral levels.

⚙️ SPECIFIC ACTIONS

3.2.1 Collaboration with international organisations	Extending collaboration with international organisations by setting up agreements and energising commitments already entered into.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of joint initiatives with international organisations</i>	12
3.2.2 Relations with priority countries	Promoting sectoral or multi-sectoral agreements with institutions in priority countries as defined in the EBC 2020.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of joint initiatives with governments or bodies in priority countries</i>	25
3.2.3 Relations with the Network of Strategic Partners	Consolidating the Network of Strategic Partners by setting up framework agreements on specific projects. Efforts here will focus on providing partnerships already established with specific, sectoral content and on adding new members with specific interests to the network.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of joint initiatives within Network of Strategic Partners</i>	20
3.2.4 Cross-border & territorial cooperation	Increasing activity within the framework of the Aquitaine-Basque Country-Navarre Euro-region, with the French Basque Country and in the Working Community of the Pyrenees. Territorial and inter-regional cooperation initiatives will also be set up, particularly within the EU.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of cross-border and inter-regional initiatives and cooperation projects jointly undertaken</i>	15
3.2.5 Presence in international networks	Promoting and increasing the presence of Basque Government departments and actors from the public and private sectors in international sectoral networks.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of new sectoral networks identified</i>	5
3.2.6 Support for technical assistance projects	Creating a joint public/private line of support to promote and encourage technical cooperation projects with strategic regions, countries and organisations abroad.	
	Indicator	Target

GOALS



01
POSITION THE BASQUE
COUNTRY AS A GLOBAL
ACTOR



02
STRENGTHEN THE PRESENCE
OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY IN
EUROPE



03
PROMOTE BASQUE
INTERESTS AROUND THE
WORLD

→ LINE OF ACTION 3.3

To "diasporise" Basque society and strengthen Basque communities abroad

Based on the Four-Year Institutional Action Plan that emerged from the 6th World Congress for Basque Groups Abroad (2016-2019) and in line with the *Diasporizatu!* slogan, the Secretariat will seek to work reciprocally, supporting and strengthening links between the Basque Country and Basque communities abroad as a strategic, preferential element for promoting the interests of the Basque Country in the societies where they operate, and heightening awareness in Basque society of the diaspora to stress its role in disseminating the Basque culture and identity around the world.

Thus, on the one hand there will be more attention for and closer links with Basque communities abroad, including both the traditional diaspora, through the consolidation of Euskal Etxeak centres, and the new diaspora of the 21st century, whose needs must be identified, assessed and addressed. On the other hand, in line with the *Diasporizatu!* slogan, efforts will be made to promote knowledge of the diaspora in the Basque Country itself through actions to raise awareness in today's Basque society of the historical contribution of Basque communities abroad to the international image of the Basque Country as a country.

⚙️ SPECIFIC ACTIONS

3.3.1 Consolidation of the Euskal Etxeak network	Promoting the consolidation of the Euskal Etxeak network by supporting their activities and operations, especially by helping them to incorporate ICTs so as to improve communications within the network and with Basque institutions.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of Euskal Etxeak activities supported through subsidy lines</i>	2000
	<i>Nº of case files processed online</i>	600
3.3.2 The Basque community in the 21st century	Working towards the construction of a global Basque community by identifying the specific needs of new types of emigrant in the 21st century; setting up support and assistance mechanisms based on the public sector to deal with these new emigrants, promoting the Basque Global Network as an element for communication and interaction between the new diaspora and the traditional diaspora and encouraging young people to take part in the Gaztemundu programme, which encourages a generational shift in management bodies and seeks to rejuvenate the active membership of Euskal Etxeak centres.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of participants in the Gaztemundu programme</i>	45
	<i>Nº of users of the Basque Global Network</i>	2000
3.3.3 Fostering of knowledge concerning the diaspora in the Basque Country	Promoting initiatives to increase knowledge of the diaspora at home, such as Diaspora Day and the Archives of the Basque Diaspora.	
	Indicator	Target
	<i>Nº of research and dissemination initiatives</i>	10
	<i>Introduction of Basque Diaspora Day</i>	1
3.3.4 Dealing with Basque communities abroad	Consolidating attention on Basque communities abroad, e.g. aid to households in situations of extreme need, assessment and support in regard to returning to the Basque Country and aid in emergencies or disasters abroad, always within the framework of resources and authority of the Secretariat.	
	Indicator	Target

	<i>Nº of households benefiting from aid for cases of extreme necessity</i>	300
	<i>Nº of cases of returning migrants dealt with</i>	60

7. MANAGEMENT MODEL

The management model for the External Action Plan 2018-2020 comprises three basic lines: (i) the model of governance, which ensures coordination and consistency in the deployment of the plan; (ii) the monitoring system, which enables the activities carried out to be monitored and identifies achievements in the implementation of the plan; and (iii) the budget, which sets out the financial resources that the Secretariat for External Action can bring to bear up to 2020.

7.1. Model of governance

The management model for the External Action Plan 2018-2020 is based on four main elements:

- The Interdepartmental Committee on External Action, regulated under Decree 127/2007 of 31 August
- The Inter-institutional Committee on External Action, regulated under Decree 52/2008 of 18 March
- The Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Groups Abroad, regulated under Decree 234/1995 of 11 April
- The Advisory Council on External Action, regulated under Decree 96/2016 of 28 June

The horizontal nature of the remit of the General Secretariat for External Action means that to attain the goals of the PEA 2018-2020 it must cooperate with other areas of government and with external actors. It is therefore necessary to set mechanisms in place for strengthening interaction with other departments and public sector organisations so as to ensure smooth, effective sharing of information and proper coordination of efforts.

The Secretariat is to report to the Interdepartmental Committee on External Action, to which it must give an account of its activities and achievements in the framework of institutional external action. At the same time, efforts will be made to strengthen informal channels of communication and collaboration between departments by promoting ongoing contacts with other departments and assigning specialists with external action-related profiles to them.

Under the leadership of the Secretariat, the Inter-Institutional Committee on External Action is charged with handling cooperation and collaboration between Basque institutions for the

sharing of external action projects. Its remit is to make use of synergies and analyse, plan, promote and foster external action on a coordinated, integrated basis. Its members are drawn from Basque Government departments, from the Basque provincial councils, from the municipal councils of the three provincial capitals of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country and from EUDEL.

The main purpose of the Advisory Council on Relations with Basque Groups Abroad is to support and strengthen links between the Basque Country and Basque groups abroad, including the Euskal Etxeak centres, to coordinate institutional action in this area and to heighten awareness of it in Basque society. The Council ordinarily meets once a year.

Finally, the Advisory Council on External Action is made up of actors from various areas (social, academic, cultural, scientific and technological, environmental, business-related, etc.) who have knowledge and experience of international affairs. Its remit is to involve civil society in external actions by the government, ensuring that all interested parties contribute to achieving the mission and goals of the External Action Plan.

7.2. Monitoring system

The monitoring system in place is intended to engage and monitor the degree of implementation of the PEA. It is based on a balanced scoresheet of indicators designed to facilitate the monitoring process. As well as the indicators drawn up for actions under the PEA for 2018-2020, it also covers the goals pursued by the end of the implementation period in each case and their planning throughout the term of the plan.

It is therefore possible to measure the progress of the plan systematically in-house, make any adjustments required for the successful implementation of the actions and goals envisaged and correct any deviations at future planning stages.

A final report on the PEA for 2018-2020 will also be drawn up as an integral part of the monitoring system. This overall report will outline the results achieved during the term of the plan and the extent to which the goals and targets set have been met. It will also set out their contribution to the EBC 2020, seeking to serve as a foundation for the next external action plan.

The possibility of regular, independent assessment of the EAP to analyse the achievements of the 2018-2020 period in greater detail has not been ruled out as a supplementary element in the monitoring system.

7.3. Budget

The budget endowment available for implementing the Plan of Action in 2018 is €8 million. This figure is expected to rise by 1.1% in 2019 and by a further 1.4% in 2020.



*Euskadi,
bien común*



EUSKO JAURLARITZA
GOBIERNO VASCO