

Three unique figures in the world of Basque language and culture have recently passed away. They are: Imanol Larzabal, Augustín Zubikarai and Martín Ugalde.

The singer-songwriter **Imanol Larzabal** (San Sebastian, 1947 – Orihuela, 2004) died on the 25th June. He was one of the most well-known singers of his time.



A few days later, on the 12th of July, **Augustín Zubikarai** (Ondarroa, 1914 – Galdakao, 2004) died at the age of 89. He was a writer, journalist and member of Euskaltzaindia (The Royal Academy of the Basque Language).



The journalist and renowned politician **Martín Ugalde** (Andoain, 1921 – Hondarribia, 2004) died on the 4th October. Martín Ugalde emigrated to Venezuela in 1947 and became one of the country's most significant journalists. He returned to the Basque Country in 1969 and was a member of the Basque Government in exile. He was director of Basque Language Promotion at the Basque Government between 1982 and 1985 and one of the founders of the *Euskaldunon Egunkaria* newspaper. He published many short stories, novels, plays, biographies and historical works both in Spanish and in Basque.



The Basque language is to have valuable new infrastructures. In Bizkaia, the provincial government is to open an **Euskararen Etxea** this year in Bilbao. The building will have 800 square metres of floor space spread over four floors and will offer several services and activities to promote the Basque language. What is more, it will provide office space to organisations involved in the standardisation of Basque. Its pilot project will be the opening of a Basque language interpretation centre and the building will also be home to a media library for researchers working on Basque language-related subjects.



On the 27th of July the Government's cabinet approved the **Basque Language Use Normalisation Plan** in the Basque Autonomous Region for the 2003-2007 period.

This plan covers the third planning period and replaces but also continues on from the one which governed the second period (1998-2002). Just like the previous one, this new plan used the AEBEMET "Administrazioan Euskara Bultzatu Erabiliz Metodologia" methodology.

It is applied by and to the Basque region's autonomous authorities. The plan's main aims are: for Basque to be, in addition to a language of service in working with the public, also a working language when dealing with other administrations and for language criteria to be applied in the different fields of action of the administration.

When defining the Plan's priorities, the administrative unit was taken as a reference point. Firstly, the character of each unit was specified - hence for example there are so called administrative units that deal with the public, units that are social in nature, those that are general in nature and those that are unique.

The plan then goes on to decide which administrative units are bilingual (classified as E units) and different levels of priority are then given to the remainder. For example, units I L have first-level priority, units II L are second level priority, III L third level and units IV LG and V LG are not priority.

The Plan envisages four types of language standardisation measures: those of a general nature, guidelines for using official languages, translation criteria and action for boosting languages.

The plan sets out the different linguistic criteria to be applied in the administration's different areas of action. The following areas have been taken into consideration: administrative contracts, subsidies and assistance, publications, the administration's image, public acts and activities requiring authorisation or administrative concession.

The number of events and commemorations organised for the Basque language is wide and varied. One of them, perhaps the most relevant, is the **International Day of the Basque Language** which is held every year on the 3rd of December



and coincides with San Francisco Xabier's day. This day, which became an official commemoration day according to the Basque Government and the Royal Academy for the Basque Language in 1995 has several predecessors. These include the seminars organised by the Basque Studies Society and the Euskaltzaleak Association during the Second Republic. It is also worth mentioning the work carried out by the Euskalzaleen Biltzarra Association in the French Basque Country, which held its first Basque Language Day in 1949.

Since 1995, the Basque Government, led by the Basque President, has called Basque society to an official event where, amongst other things the Government makes a public statement about the event.

**D**ualia, a company located in Aretxabaleta (Gipuzkoa) has developed an innovative **simultaneous interpretation service**. It is telephone operated and uses a system the company itself patented consisting of a headset connected to a mobile phone. The system can translated into 30 languages and is able to take 60 calls at a time.

**D**eusto University, in collaboration with the Bizkaia Provincial Government and the Basque Government is publishing several theology books in Basque. They belong to the *Erligio Kulturaren Bildurna* collection, co-ordinated by the Franciscan Joxe Arregi which already has nineteen books. For more information visit [www.teologia.deusto.es](http://www.teologia.deusto.es). In a similar vein, the San Sebastian diocese has several religious articles on its website [www.elizagipuzkoa.org](http://www.elizagipuzkoa.org).

**U**ztarri Kultur Taldea has published *Ongietorri*, a glossary in Basque, Spanish, Hasania and Arabic. It is a collection of 600 commonly used words for those Basque families who play host to the 450 Saharan children who come to the Basque Country in the summer. The aim of the glossary is to facilitate communication between the two communities.



**C**ardinal Roger Etchegaray has been awarded the UNESCO's 2004 Peace Prize. Etchegaray was born in 1922 in Ezepeleta and started his religious training in the Uztaritze and Bayonne seminaries. He was ordained a priest in 1947 and appointed cardinal in 1979. He was Chairman of the Justice and Peace Pontifical Council from 1984 until 1998. Afterwards, he visited many regions in crisis around the world on the Pope's behalf. Several media sources have defined him as "Basque for peace".

**O**ver recent years the Labayru



Institute has carried out a great deal of major work in the field of Basque culture and especially, in the promotion of Basque and the standardisation of the dialect from Vizcaya. As a result, the Deputy Ministry for Language policy has decided to continue the collaboration that was started out in the year 2000 and to do so has signed a new framework agreement with the Bizkaia Provincial Government and the Labayru Institute which will last for the next four years and the protocol for this year.

**M**ore and more youngsters surf the internet. The Basque Government's Youth and Social Affairs Department offers them the possibility of doing



so in Basque by providing them with a great deal of information. One of the most used portals is undoubtedly [www.gazteaukera.net](http://www.gazteaukera.net), where you can find detailed information about the Gazte Plana including leisure activities, job and training opportunities, housing, education, etc.



**T**he Basque Language Advisory Board held its plenary session on the 9th September at the offices of Presidency in Vitoria-Gasteiz. The meeting's main aim was to present the memorandum on language policy for 2003. This memorandum is available for everybody interested at the Deputy Ministry's web site on [www.euskadi.net/euskara](http://www.euskadi.net/euskara).



**T**he internet portal known as Kaixo.com, in collaboration with HABE has set up on the internet the first on-line euskaltegi. This virtual euskaltegi helps all those people who are interested, the possibility of learning Basque for free. All you have to do is sign up. At their fingertips students will have, in addition to dictionaries and the usual grammar lessons, an on-line teacher.

The web-site is multilingual ([www.kaixo.com](http://www.kaixo.com)) (Basque, Spanish, French and English) making it easier to use for all those people scattered around the Basque Diaspora who are interested in learning Basque.

**T**he Basque Literary Prizes were awarded in the 23rd of November.

This year, the prize-winners are Jesus Mari Olaizola "Txiliku" for children's and young peoples literature in Basque for his book *Osaba Bin Flore*; Anton Garikano for the best literary translation with *Bederatzietatik bederatzietara*; Eduardo Gil Bera in Spanish language literature for *Historia de las malas ideas* and Jokin Muñoz in Basque language literature for *Bizia lo*.



**T**he Basque Language Advisory Board has recently published a study that is the result of an internal analysis process. Entitled *Quality in Basque. Reasons and objectives of a necessary definition*, it was prepared by the Media and Culture Monitoring Commission.

The publication will shortly be available to anybody who is interested in it on the Deputy Ministry for Language Policy's web site [www.euskadi.net/euskara](http://www.euskadi.net/euskara).



**P**EN (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Editors and Novelists) is an association created in London in 1921 aimed at promoting friendship and co-operation between writers. In 1951 a group of Basque writers set up PEN Euskal Bilkura although it did not prove to be as successful as had been hoped. In 1987, another group of writers made another attempt, although the project only lasted a couple of years. A few months ago, several Basque language writers came back to the project and after holding their founding meeting on the 23rd April, set up the Basque section called Euskal PEN Kula. It is chaired by Laura Mintegi. The honorary chair has been given to the pioneering veteran, Txomin Peillen.

**4**6 town councils from Bizkaia have started the Euskaraz biala campaign to promote the continuity of Basque through the family. The campaign was co-ordinated by Alkarbide, the Association of Basque Language Services at the Bizkaia local councils. It is aimed at parents with new-born children or with children between the ages of 1 and 6. To mark the occasion a handbook to promote Basque language use was published.

# euskararen BERRIPAPERA euskararen BERRIPAPERA euskararen BERRIPAPERA

**T**opagunea, the federation of local associations to standardise the Basque language was created in 1996. The area where it operates is determined by the 75 associations of which it is comprised. This non profit-making body has gained in strength during the seven years it has existed and as a result has increased its relevance in the world of Basque language and culture. Below is a list of member associations of Topagunea.

| Name                              | Town or City        |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Abarrak Euskara Elkarte           | Arrigorriaga        |
| Arrekikili                        | Larrabetzu          |
| Asapala Kultur Elkarte            | Mahatserría (Bilbo) |
| Austari-Korta Kultur Elkarte      | Zeberio             |
| Axola elkarte                     | Abanto              |
| Barriktan Euskara Elkarte         | Elorrio             |
| Batana Batu                       | Mahatserría (Bilbo) |
| Berbaizu                          | Deustua             |
| Berbaro                           | Durango             |
| Berbetan Euskara Elkarte          | Balmaseda           |
| Berbots Erandion Euskaraz         | Erandio             |
| Bizarra Lepoan                    | Getxo               |
| Boluntzarreta E.B.E.              | Uribe Kosta         |
| Durangaldeko Herri Komunikabideak | Durangaldea         |
| Eixu! Zaldibarko Euskara Elkarte  | Zaldibar            |
| Euskal Birusa Elkarte Kulturala   | Ermua               |
| Euskarabila Euskara Elkarte       | Basauri             |
| Euskeraz Berbetan                 | Bermeo              |
| Ganoraz                           | Arratia             |
| Gurien Bai                        | Iurreta             |
| Lagatzu                           | Zamudio             |
| Mungia Euskaldunduz               | Mungia              |
| Totoan K.E                        | Txorierrí           |
| Tximintx elkarte                  | Derio               |
| Urdulizko Euskara Taldea          | Urduliz             |
| Zenbat Gara                       | Bilbo               |
| Zertu K.E                         | Arratia             |
| Zorritzetan                       | Lezama              |

| Name        | Town or City   |
|-------------|----------------|
| Basalarrina | Laudio         |
| Geu Elkarte | Gasteiz        |
| Hogehitalau | Aiara          |
| Tiki-Ttaka  | Arabar Errioxa |



| Name                   | Town or City                   |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bierrik Elkarte        | Sakana                         |
| Biltoki                | Txantrea (Iruñea)              |
| Karrikaluze            | Atarrabia                      |
| Karririkiri elkarte    | Iruñea                         |
| Mailope Kultur Elkarte | Araitz-Betelu                  |
| Ttípi-Ttapa Fundazioa  | Bidasoa, Baztan, Malerreka,... |

| Name                             | Town or City |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Abaraska Euskara Elkarte         | Pasaia       |
| Arrasate Euskaldun Dezagun       | Arrasate     |
| Arrasate Komunikabideak          | Arrasate     |
| Axtroki Kultur Elkarte           | Eskoriatza   |
| Bagera Euskara Elkarte           | Donostia     |
| Baleike aldizkaria               | Zumaia       |
| Danbolin-Zulo Kultur Elkarte     | Zestoa       |
| Dobera                           | Hernani      |
| Donostiako Komunikabideak        | Donostia     |
| Elgoibarko Izarra                | Elgoibar     |
| Ekin Emakumeak elkarte           | Arrasate     |
| ...Eta Kíttol! Euskara Elkarte   | Eibar        |
| Euskal Hazia elkarte - Arnasa    | Pasaia       |
| Galtzaundi Euskara Taldea        | Tolosa       |
| Goibeko Kultur Elkarte           | Elgeta       |
| Goiena                           | Deba Goiena  |
| Goierriarrak Kultur Elkarte      | Goierri      |
| Gure Txeru                       | Getaria      |
| Hitzaro                          | Ordizia      |
| Illati Euskara Elkarte           | Idiazabal    |
| Irun Iruten                      | Irun         |
| Jardun                           | Bergara      |
| Karenka                          | Mutriku      |
| Karkara Taldea Kultur Elkarte    | Orio         |
| Laixan                           | Oñati        |
| Lau Haizetara                    | Errenteria   |
| Loramendi Euskara Elkarte        | Aretxabaleta |
| Manuel Larramendi Kultur Bazkuna | Andoain      |
| Maxixatzen Euskara Elkarte       | Azkoitia     |
| Noaua! Kultur Elkarte            | Usurbil      |
| Orratx! Kultur Elkarte           | Lezo         |
| Pil-Pilean Kultur Elkarte        | Soraluze     |
| Ttakun Kultur Elkarte            | Lasarte-Oria |
| Txaparro                         | Zarautz      |
| Txatxilipurdi                    | Arrasate     |
| Uztartzen Kultur Elkarte         | Azpeitia     |
| Zuhatza                          | Deba         |

Since last June it has been possible to consult the literary heritage of the **Sancho el Sabio Foundation** at [www.euskadi.net/LiburutegiDigitala](http://www.euskadi.net/LiburutegiDigitala). This has come about thanks to co-operation between the Basque Government and the Sancho el Sabio Foundation. As things stand, over 3,000 books and 800,000 pictures can be accessed.



Whoever wants to gain greater knowledge of **Basque phrases** can now access a new tool. [www.armiarma.com/intza](http://www.armiarma.com/intza). The content of this website is based upon the work of Koldo Izagirre (Euskal Lokuzioak, 1981) and has subsequently had more additions made to it by Izagirre himself, Joxan Elosegi and Josu Landa.



After the success of *Alice-**ren** abenturak lurralde miresgarrian* (1864) and *Ispiluan barrena* (1869) **Manu Lopez**, a lecturer and writer, has translated ***Alizia haurrentzat*** (1869). This latest story, like the others was originally written by Lewis Carroll. The book is aimed at younger readers.





The Basque Sociolinguistic Institute, SEI has presented a Basque statistical data base called EDB 1.0. The data base has been set up to bring together in one single place all those studies which different bodies and institutions have published including: The Basque Government, The Navarre Government, Provincial Governments and Local Councils and associations. The EDB's most important sources of information are the Basque Statistics Institute (EUSTAT), the Deputy Ministry for Language Policy, the Navarre Statistics Institute, the National Statistics Institute, the French Statistics and Economic Studies Institute and the SEI itself. The data base can be freely accessed at the following web site. [www.sortu.org/edb](http://www.sortu.org/edb).

The Culture Department has taken another step towards ensuring the continuity of the Basque language amongst groups of Basques scattered around the world. In fact, it was precisely with this aim in mind that the Basque Minister for Culture, Miren Azkarate, visited the United States, Mexico and Venezuela. In the U.S. she took part in the annual meeting of the North American Basque Organization, which was held in Bakersfield, California. There, she presented a plan to develop the Basque language in the U.S. She also travelled to Boise (Idaho) with a view to setting up a Basque studies programme at the State University. In Mexico, she signed collaboration agreements with the Metropolitan University and the Iber-American University as well as with Mexico's National Library. In Venezuela a delegation from the Culture Department explained the Boga method for internet Basque-learning at the Basque Centres in Caracas and Valencia.



The Deputy Ministry for Language Policy has settled 5 of the official



notifications for public assistance that it had offered: those corresponding to Euskalgintza, the media, new technologies, private companies and local authorities and town councils. The amount of money awarded for all of these totals € 8,399,162. If we break that amount down to the amount given out in each category and the number of projects subsidised it works out as the following: Euskalgintza (158 projects, € 1,001,518, the media (100 projects, € 3,793,644) new technologies (100 projects € 900,000), private companies (82 projects € 961,000) and local authorities and town councils (139 projects € 961,000).

The Deputy Ministry for Language Policy has recently presented the **Basque Country's System for Language Indicators (EAS)**. This indicator system aims to provide public authorities and all those organisations and people working in the process of Basque language normalisation, as well as the public in general, with detailed information on the internet about the situation of the Basque language and its development throughout the Basque Country.



The information is very much up to date so that it will always be the very latest facts and figures that are available, but bearing in mind that the system has a dual aim, i.e. that of measuring the situation and, at the same time, looking at the development of Basque, in as far as is possible, figures from previous years will also be available. The system has three information levels:

- Firstly for each sub-area and indicator there is a text that summarises the situation that this indicator or sub-area refers to.
- In addition there is the indicator itself – i.e. a set of numerical data.
- And finally there are some indicators that have associated information in the form of reports or interesting links.

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Since 2002 Basque language teaching internationally has gone up spectacularly and especially since the commitments made during the Basque Groups Conference held in 2003. This is mainly for three reasons. Firstly, its teaching has been stepped up in places that are favourable to the language (in Basque centres around the world) and secondly, it has accessed others that were foreign to it (several universities). What is more, teaching materials have been developed. A few years ago, anyone wanting to study Basque had to be taught it in Spanish. After the 2003 World Conference teaching materials were developed in French and English. And finally, there are now State aids for Basque Centres requiring assistance in this matter.



As a result of all this, the number of people learning Basque outside the Basque Country has reached 1,800. In 1990 this figure was not even 500.

Several associations, all working on similar projects will shortly have new headquarters in Billabona (Gipuzkoa). These will be at the Mintzola building which will be home to the **Basque-language Oral Studies Research Centre**. The Basque Government, the Gipuzkoa Provincial Government and the Billabona Town Council are backing the idea of the building which will also provide a headquarters for the Association of Friends of Basque Improvised Verse, the Xenpelar Documentation Centre and Lanku.

The Basque Statistic Institute EUSTAT has recently published the results of the "Survey on the Information Society: Families" covering the second quarter of 2004. According to the study 98,000 people in the Basque Autonomous Region surf the net in Basque. Many of the websites that offer the possibility of surfing in Basque have the assistance of the Deputy Ministry for Language Policy.



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In Basque

In Spanish

In English