

Basque Diaspora Akademikoa

JULY 2016 SYMPOSIUM REPORT
AND 2017 ROADMAP



Universidad
del País Vasco

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Unibertsitatea

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CAMPUS DE
EXCELENCIA
INTERNACIONAL

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INTRODUCTION

Events like this symposium, which attract such a diverse array of disciplines, all with the aim of collaboration, can play a key role in the future of the Basque Country, building bridges across our boundaries to connect researchers, thinkers, professionals and future leaders.

Events like this symposium, given the proper treatment and care, given the necessary dissemination, can help increase a social awareness about the need to first identify and then activate our intellectual patrimony. The connections could help us visualize a collective effort, the links that already exist and the ones that could exist.

However, we are here to begin a long journey but we also need to avoid re-inventing the wheel, for, it is worth remembering **past and current** fragmented efforts from Basque universities and different institutions to connect with the diaspora. Let us capitalize on the work done and row together on the same boat, all at the same time, benefiting from the same wind, in the same direction. ^[1]

Diaspora scientists have long been among the most influential innovators and change makers in their countries of origin. **Diasporas give back**- Diasporas often have the connections, the linguistic and cultural competence, the knowledge, and drive. Reaching out to other diaspora organizations and individuals has been instrumental in sharing challenges, identifying opportunities and developing strategies. ^[2]

The outcomes will take time, but we are ready to instigate and eager to continue working on this initiative. The celebration of **events** designed with this approach could bring the Diaspora together into a community, that is to say, a group of identified individuals working on a project, trying to solve similar problems,

[1] Text in italics, quoting some of the speakers of the symposium.
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How to improve diaspora engagement. The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/05/20/improving-diaspora-connections>
Isabella Martin, Deputy Research Assistant at a senior policy analyst with the Migration Policy Institute, an independent think tank that analyses international migration policy.

tackling similar initiatives, all in one, around the world, but interconnected, rooted to the Basque Country.

Diaspora Basques have a strong sense of Basque identity, so we have been told. Let us take advantage of this power. The creation of this community is true to the motto of this university, "eman ta zabal zazu". It is a dream that goes beyond the fact of belonging to a network or **community**. Here, we are dealing with a network-country, country-network galaxy that could contribute to the development of the Basque Country. The community could be used as a catalyst for all the academic forces in the country. A catalyst to connect anybody.

The Basque Academic Diaspora/Basque Diaspora Akademikoa could be a reason to strengthen the pride in belonging to this university and as a direct consequence, in belonging to this country,

Although we start from a blurred beginning, whose profile is not clearly defined yet, a diffuse starting point that needs to be neatly carved, we also face the possibility of unparalleled outcomes, with inestimable benefits that we all can share. Great ideas are diffuse, not clearly established. We should not be overwhelmed by this fact and keep on working together, joining forces.

Above all, we should bear in mind that the future generations that **nurture** the future Diaspora need to be identified and tracked in order to help, support, and also benefit from that exchange of knowledge, culture and expertise.

So, may this report be a record of the initiative and an overview for those who were unable to attend and are willing to participate.

Background – genesis

The project was mapped out by the Rector of the UPV/EHU Iñaki Goirizelaia, who saw the opportunity to celebrate a symposium of these characteristics within the already existing framework of the UPV/EHU summer courses, amongst which, the course **BASQUE YOURSELF** would be delivered.

Due to other happenings directly related to the spirit of this symposium, **and taking place at the same time**, it was decided therefore to set the date for our encounter, synchronizing it with the arrival of researchers and academics from all over the world who were coming to take part in some of the mentioned summer courses:

- ✦ The new role of the Basque Diaspora in the XXI century
- ✦ Excellence in Basque Studies
- ✦ The Basques in Nevada

all to be celebrated in July in Donostia-San Sebastian.

It is worth remembering that the original idea that fertilized the symposium was born at the last JAIALDI celebrated in Boise, in 2015. On that occasion, the Rector Iñaki Goirizelaia delivered a lecture in which he set the cornerstones for his future proposal of first, the celebration of the mentioned courses, and second, the outlining of the collaboration effort that would in the future, give birth to the Basque Academic Diaspora Community.

The first symposium, organized by the University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, on the Basque Academic Diaspora was celebrated in Donostia-San Sebastian, 2016 European Capital of Culture, on July 12th at the Carlos Santamaria Center. It was an opportunity to share knowledge and enjoy the international benchmark qualities of the city as a welcoming symbol of that academic diaspora we want to connect with and recover.

This Symposium was devised as the starting point to lay the foundations of an international community of academics and researchers with Basque ancestors or ties with the Basque Country dispersed all over the world. This network aims to share the roots that define its members and promote and strengthen future collaborations in search of mutual benefit in terms of knowledge and a sense of belonging. It was designed as an excellent opportunity to identify research, intellectual, and cultural activity across the planet and link it to its roots in the Basque Country.

All in all, it was done with the hope of creating and developing an international **community** of teachers and researchers who benefits from the shared and common potential. Its aim is to set up this arena for relationships as a meeting point for dialogue, exchanging ideas, and **knowledge** generation and transfer. This space will allow the Basque Country to keep growing with contributions from any part of the world, but will also benefit all those who decide to participate, as they will see a nexus of academic collaboration rooted in their own origins and with the spirit to grow in knowledge, staying true to the motto of UPV/EHU's: "eman ta zabal zazu" ("Share and spread knowledge").

On this occasion we enjoyed the presence of prestigious academics and researchers from the United States of America and Europe, international benchmark individuals with evident ties to the Basque Country, due basically to **one or more** of these reasons:

- They have ancestors from any of the 7 Basque provinces
- They were born in the Basque Country
- They were Alumni from Basque universities
- They were international academics on Basque Studies

The symposium was divided in two different sessions:

- **One session open to the public**, celebrated at the Carlos Santamaria Centre, attended by a good number of participants, close to 100. The session was introduced by the Rector of the University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, **Iñaki Goirizelaia**, who gave the proper framework to all that followed.

[8] See Opening lecture by Iñaki Goirizelaia, Rector of UPV/EHU, Document 1.

• **One session, round-table meeting**, (attended by the speakers of the morning session and a group of 7 local academics) celebrated at Julianategi, led by the Rector and followed by an open discussion.

Program - Web Page

The program of the symposium, was published on the web <http://www.diasporakademikoa.eu/index.php/en/programme>

The image shows a webpage for the 'Basque Diaspora Akademihoa' symposium. The page is primarily blue and white. On the left side, there are three columns of text in Basque, which appear to be a program or list of speakers. On the right side, there is a logo for 'Diaspora Akademihoa' at the top. Below the logo, there is a section titled 'Eguzkiaren BASQUE DIASPORA AKADEMIHOA'. This section includes the dates '2014ko maiatzaren 23-24', the location 'Julianategi, Leizor', and contact information for 'Julianategi Berritu' and 'Diaspora Akademihoa'. There is also a small text box at the bottom right of the page that says 'Basque Diaspora Akademihoa' and 'www.diasporakademikoa.eu'.

Figure 1. Complete programme published on the web page and delivered to the attendees.

Invited guests

Although there was an initial aim to cover a geographical area as vast as possible, and some of the initially proposed census of academics were also active in parts of Europe and Asia, eventually, the selected group represented a varied scenario from the USA.

The speakers were informed about the goals of this symposium and also asked to prepare a lecture of 15 minutes based on the following aspects:

- Their connections with the Basque Country
- Their current work-lines
- Their proposal on how to build a Basque Academic Diaspora Network

The names of the invited guests with their short affiliation references is as follows:

• **William Douglass**, Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno.

His work has been a source of inspiration for much of the research done in this area over the last decades, and he is considered one of the foremost experts in Basque Studies in the last and current century.

He opened the round of lectures with his keynote speech. His analysis provided us with the perfect structure to contextualize the aims of the initiative, with his lecture:

"Configuring an International Scholarly Network of Basque Diaspora Specialists"

(See the short BiOs of all speakers at the end of the document in Annex 2.)

Stephen Ansolabehere, Professor of Government at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Title of his lecture:

"Five Ideas for building a Basque Academic Diaspora Network"

Xabier Irujo, Professor of Genocide studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Title of his lecture:

"Basque Bibliographic Production"

Mikel Prieto, Staff Consultant in Division of Transplantation Surgery at Mayo Clinic, Surgical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program and Pediatric Kidney Transplantation.

Title of his lecture:

"Basque Academic Global Networking"

Maidier Llaguno, Adjunct Faculty at Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University; Principal at AZPML Alejandro Zaera-Polo & Maidier Llaguno Architecture.

Title of her lecture:

"Urban cosmopolitics"

John Ysursa, Professor of History at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho; Faculty Director of Basque Studies Consortium, at the same university.

John Bieter, Professor of History at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho, and co-founder of the Basque Studies Program.

John Ysursa and John Bieter offered their lecture together,
the title was:

“Developing an integrated and sustainable
Basque Academic Global Network”

As dynamizer and rapporteur of the symposium, we enjoyed
the collaboration of Professor **Mari Jose Olaziregi (5)** Director
for Promotion and dissemination of the Basque Language at
Etxepare Euskal Institutua.

She introduced each speaker and conducted the morning
session, giving floor to the participants and concluding the
public session of the symposium with remarks, reflecting upon
the most important aspects mentioned in the lectures.

Dr Prof. Mari Jose Olaziregi, Director for promotion and dissemination of the Basque Language at Etxepare Euskal Institutua.
She is a Basque researcher, a poet and has held since March 2012 the position of Basque Philologist and Professor at the UPV/EHU. Family of origin,
she has also been Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and invited professor at the Chinese KUNMING UNIVERSITY, among others. She has completed Master's
at the Universidad Carlos III, Barcelona and the University of San Angulo (Belgium) in 2007. Besides, she is member at the Royal Academy of the
Basque Language (Euskaltzaindia), coordinator of the Committee to Promote Basque Literature from the European Institute L.A.T. (Literature Across
Frontiers), director and founder of the Multilingual Portal of Basque Literature (www.basque-literature.com) and since 2004, director of the Basque
Literature collection (translated) 'Basque Literature Series', from the Center for Basque Studies (University of Nevada, Reno).

Highlights from the morning session

- There are many diasporas, not just one.
- The real challenge is not to build networks but to put them to good use.
- There have been fragmented efforts by the Basque universities to connect with diasporas, some of which are NABO – FEVA (North American Basque Organizations, and the same in Argentina, respectively), without forgetting the founding figures of Diaspora in America: priests (Jesuits). That leads to confirm that Basque Diaspora studies began before Basque Diaspora establishment. Even more, the first efforts to build an Academic Network of Basque academics date back from the beginning of the 20th century. They attracted very important scholars, one hundred people for 20 years.

• Some of the institutions giving support and activating the Diasporas in general are the Basque Government and the Etxepare Foundation, or the University of Nevada as well as many other universities, NGOs, and different entities. Let's bear in mind that in Canada there are also active entities supporting the Basque Diaspora.

• The importance of publications and editorials such as EKIN editorial, amongst others, which has been a decisive instrument to somehow maintain this Academic diaspora. Moreover, it is expected to remain this way in the future.

o As an example, **BOGA** a Basque Studies Consortium Journal, promoted by Boise State University, could be a channel to help visualize the collaboration of the Basque Academic Diaspora and academics in the Basque Country.

o Another example of possible collaboration when documenting the initiative could come from the biggest Basque library in the world outside the Basque Country, which is at the University of Nevada Reno.

• We are going back into the future, we are not inventing anything. Some of early Basques outside the Basque Country were rooted in their identity and built networks, but they were also able to move far beyond that. Diaspora Basques have a strong sense of Basque identity! Take advantage of it!

• Be romantic about big ideas and pragmatic on the specific operative details in how we implement them.

• Are we going to be front or rear driven? Front: we will drive, we will take the initiative, set the agenda and parcel out the division of labor. Rear: we will monitor what individuals and researchers do. Both approaches are important, both have their contributions to be taken into account.

• Let's not be rigid in crafting the future network and take into account the diversity and variety of potential participants. Basque academics do not necessarily work in Basque Studies, and maybe they are not even Basque. Be inclusive!

• Building connections that can appear in different clusters and help visualize the collective effort and the links that exist and could exist. Basics: links, nodes and elements. We have to harness this network to work together, create events that bring the diaspora together into a community or many communities: many different groups working on a similar problem, Build an extensive network based on existing networks: Etxepare, USAC, etc.

o Build a shared portal online, which may help visualize the network and could also provide dual, online degrees.

• AND very importantly, nurture the next Diaspora, so track all students and movements, exchanges, etc. We should be engaging future Basque students to work with Basque Diaspora academics. A suggestion would be to track all students that have visited the Basque Country and include them in the Diaspora community.

• For new Basque diaspora: The sense of Basque identity is intensified as the years living abroad increase. Therefore we have to take care of this new diaspora that has been being growing during the 21st Century, trained in the Basque Country but working all over the world. Let's build a reference point to support them and help them grow professionally while **establishing** local - international connections for the benefit of the Basque Country on a global perspective.

• Let's propose the proper questions and we will find the right answers.

• Let's be cautious about the emotional burden that can spoil our scientific work regarding the diaspora. Let us tell the stories, do not fabricate them.

• When it comes to create a directory of Basque Academic Diaspora, a possible example could be Harvard Dataverse. Let us learn from valuable initiatives whose efficiency is solidly confirmed. This tool could be a reference to create a Dataverse of Basque Research.

• We need a solid institutional foundation combining vertical/integrated and horizontal/sustainable structure with no single director, and with a shared power structure.

• A suggestion of collaboration could be “part-timers”. Hire academics on a part-time basis to participate in Basque institutions. This would be legal in the US. Spot candidates and consider the possibility of hiring them part-time.

• The 21st Century Diaspora is interested in:

- o Maintaining the connection to the motherland and collaborate with academic institutions.
- o Participating in the prosperity of the Basque Country: give back the investment the Basque Country made with them.
- o Facilitating and mentoring people in following our footsteps.
- o Contribute to change the image of the Basque Country worldwide: we are more than gastronomy.

• Amongst the possible ideas of collaboration:

- o Check and maintain the already existing collaboration between medical institutions in the Basque Country such as Cruces Hospital and Mayo Clinic, with Basque Government/Osakidetza on Healthcare issues.
- o Potential collaboration with UPV/EHU in Medical Education and Research.

• Other ideas:

- o Constitute a speakers' bureau
- o Internships
- o Teaching workshops
- o Common grant projects
- o Zortziak-bat EGUNA: Day of the Basque Diaspora

2nd Session – Afternoon Round-table meeting

In the afternoon, a round-table session, not open to the general public, was celebrated at Julianategi building, the Vice-rectorate facility on the Gipuzkoa Campus. Professor Mari Jose Olaziregi also conducted this session, dynamizing the discussion and proposing questions upon which the participants were asked to reflect.

In this session, led by the Rector of the UPV/EHU, he invited guests of the morning to be joined by a selected list of Basque Academics directly related to the piloting of the university and/or the government of the Basque Country in the last decades.

Invited guests

The names of the local participants that attended the afternoon session:

- **Iñaki Goirizelaia**, Rector of the UPV/EHU, Professor of Telematic Engineering in the Department of Telecommunications Engineering at the Superior Technical School of Engineering, UPV/EHU.
- **Nekane Balluerka**, Vice-Rector for Post-graduate Studies and International Relations, UPV/EHU. Professor of Methodology of Behavior Sciences at UPV/EHU.
- **Pedro Miguel Etxenike Landilibar**, President of Donostia International Physics Center. Professor of Physics at UPV/EHU. Minister of Education and Spokesperson of the Basque Government (first Government after Franco Regime).
- **Juan Ignacio Pérez Iglesias**, Professor of Animal Physiology at the UPV/EHU. Director of the Scientific Culture Chair. Former Rector of the UPV/EHU.
- **Pello Salaburu**, Professor of Basque Linguistics at the UPV/EHU. Former Rector of the UPV/EHU.

- **Juan José Ibarretxe**, Director of Agirre Lehendakari Center. Professor of Economics at the UPV/EHU. Former Prime Minister of the Basque Government (Lehendakari ohia).
- **Francisco Javier Caballero**, Professor of Philosophy of Law at the UPV/EHU. Director of Latin American Network of Masters and Doctorate Schools. Former Pelotari (1966 World Champion, Montevideo).

This session was also initially organized and structured as the delivery of the UPV/EHU'S proposal, followed by an open discussion to agree on the best terms to conform the mentioned community, its vision, mission, and strategic lines, together with a suggested road-map for the coming years.

UPV/EHU Proposal

To begin with, the proposal outlined a definition of the Basque Academic Diaspora and also a strategic approach for the entity that would support, promote and dynamize the Diaspora.

What do we understand by Basque Academic Diaspora Network?

Identity helps define our mission and vision. Once identity is outlined, we can picture and imagine the **COMMUNITY** we would create, regardless of the specific **entity** it will eventually adopt.

When identifying the **CIRCLES** that describe the types of diaspora we come to outline a series of groups. All of them share a common characteristic and that is the **existence of individuals amongst them, who are working in innovation-related matters, both in the academic and the business world.**

These circles could be described as follows:

First circle

Offspring of Basques, being

1. **First generation:** Born in the Basque Country but migrated abroad.
2. **Second generation:** Father or mother born in the Basque Country, but they were born somewhere else.
3. **Third generation:** one or more grandparent born in the Basque Country.
4. **Fourth generation:** one or more great-grandparent born in the Basque Country.

Second circle:

Alumni of the Basque Country, and living abroad, who still maintain their ties to their origins, and relatives back home. Emotionally tied to the Basque Country and somehow in debt for their upbringing and original background. This second circle, the one that corresponds to **ALUMNI**, could refer directly to the offspring of our university, the UPV/EHU. Let us remember that **amongst other things**, "we, the UPV/EHU, should be proud of having produced over the years, university education to more than 300,000 people" (6), some of whom are **ALUMNI** that represent the Academic Diaspora.

Remember that Diasporas also help spread ideas. Bear in mind that many of the emerging world's brightest minds are educated at Western universities. An increasing number go home, taking **with them both knowledge and contacts** (7). Our initiative with this symposium would be the **necessary step** towards that reunion with those representatives of the **ALUMNI**. Let us connect with those that stayed abroad, but are willing to **return to, or just stay tuned** with their origins, for identity reasons, for emotional reasons, for **commitment and acknowledgment** of their knowledge patrimony, in appraisal and recognition of the legacy to survive. Let us connect with those too.

(6) UPV/EHU Director/State Coordinator's lecture at Academic year opening ceremony, 2012
(7) The Economist, 31/9, The magic of diaspora

Third circle

Not offspring of any generation, nor Alumni but somehow tied to the Basque Country for professional-research-academic reasons. We are addressing here individuals whose lines of work are directly related to the Basque identity, culture and idiosyncrasy (Professor William **Douglass** is a clear example).

Moreover, we should also take into consideration a last but not least group, which includes: None of the individuals mentioned above, but those ready and willing to donate and collaborate for altruistic, patronage reasons, sympathetic with the Basque Country on the whole, or with diasporas in the general sense of the word. We shouldn't forget those who regardless of their origins or ancestors, or their academic background, are genuinely implied with the Basque Country, for professional or **non-professional** reasons.

Once we have defined what we understand by diaspora, the **Vision, Mission, and Strategic lines** of the entity that would support, promote and dynamize the Diaspora were proposed.

Vision

Be the entity **north star** supported by UPV/EHU, **the leading referent** in charge and responsible for all the connections who help knowledge creation, and its international promotion for the benefit of Basque Academics and therefore of the Basque Country and its Diaspora.

Mission

- **Identify and promote the knowledge patrimony** scattered all over the globe belonging to the Basque Academic Diaspora, and build new ways of connections with benefits for all the participants (research projects, training of students, exchange programs and mobility, knowledge transfer).

- **Help spread awareness** of the potential of this network **and contribute to the visualization** of the benefits obtained in terms of collaborative research, intellectual progress, and international projection.

Strategic lines

- Create and maintain programs and events for adhesion, connection, visibility and promotion of the Basque Academic Diaspora.
- Encourage and support a group of people in the Basque Country directly connected to the Basque Academic Diaspora.
- Help in the possible **strategic alliances** that may result among universities and research centers that share academics and **common fields of research**
- Help leverage **financial support** for joint-projects involving the diaspora.
- Develop a matching of capacities and **synchronicity of goals** with already existing diaspora institutions and programs in the Basque Country and all over the world.

These concepts are basic to describe the real fabric on which we could first discuss and then design the future road-map of the mentioned community.

Overall remarks

As main **remarks**, including those collected after the morning session and summarized by Professor Mari Jose Olaziregi, and also the contributions of those gathered at the round-table that day, were the following:

- Recognition of the real success of the meeting itself. Although many good things are blurred and difficult to **understand at first, they end up with** excellent results. There was an appeal for not becoming overwhelmed and disappointed by the lack of definition in the vast proposal-initiative, and to keep faith in the good outcomes resulting from today's meeting.
- Importance in realizing the power of people in the activation of these kind of collaborations. It is people who connect, not institutions.

- Emphasis on the emotional tie that defining this community means, rather than network. Let us appeal to this emotional tie to make the connection more powerful and more effective.
- Emphasis on the "umbrella" character to be provided by the UPV/EHU as an institution which supports and promotes the coming Basque Academic Diaspora Network or Community.
- Emphasis on the "nervous system" to be provided by the UPV/EHU to activate this network or community.
- In order to design the legal entity that would shelter the initiative, there is a need to create a flexible institution structure, maybe laying on a formal kind of agreement that will provide visibility in the long term. This institution could be Euskampus Fundazioa, who would act as the enabler of the project itself.
- Urge to identify the individuals who represent the Basque Academic Diaspora scattered all over the world and synchronize with them. Need to answer the following questions when dealing with the definition of the Basque Academic Diaspora:
 - Basques, Who are we? (look back)
 - Who we are, (future projection, our aims)
 - How many are there? Where?
- In terms of scientific disciplines and knowledge areas, it is vital to classify these individuals (e.g. quantum physics). Once we know who they are, we will be able to propose collaborative research, collaborative work. The building of this proactive attitude makes an outstanding difference for the coming future.

- As an example of immediate collaboration offering, it is mentioned that there has not been any previous collaboration between Mikel Prieto and the Medical School from the UPV/EHU. Doctors from **Mayo Clinic** are ready and open to collaborate with the Medical School of this university.
- We are not conscious today of this Basque Academic Diaspora and its potential. There is an evident need to create social awareness of the benefits it would produce.
- Acknowledge the pride and honor it means to belong to the Basque Land, acknowledge the sense of belonging, based on our identity but that goes far beyond that identity.
- Acknowledgement of the commitment of the group, a characteristic inherent to the success of the project.
- Need of social media and Internet enablers (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) to manage this community.

Getting to work

Next steps – Operative actions and Roadmap

One of the main reasons to discuss the proposal of the UPV/EHU was to agree on a possible road map for the coming years. For that reason, there was a first **list of operative actions** suggested:

1. Creation of the community

We visualize the outcome as a **community** rather than a network. The main difference of this community in contrast with the network would be precisely the emotional implication that lies in belonging to a group of these characteristics. This emotional link would be the **DRIVER** of the project. This community will be created according to the definition proposed of Basque Diaspora Academics.

2. Entity definition and setup of the entity to support the Diaspora

2.a. The next step is to define and set up the **entity** for the promotion and management of this community according to the strategic approach proposed (Vision, Mission, Strategic lines). This entity will act as the enabler and manager of that community. Amongst other things, it would be in charge of:

- Completing a census of all Basque academic diaspora representatives. Inclusive attitude. Let us not be rigid in crafting the future network and take into account the diversity and variety of potential participants, quoting William Douglass.
- Instigating and activating all contacts, promoting communication and interaction.

2.b. This community manager role could be carried out by **Euskampus Fundazioa**. It would consist of, amongst other things, being in charge of the following:

- o **Web and Outreach:** Management of social networks. Capitalize the effort already made by other institutions: Etxepare Euskal Institute, University of Nevada, NGOs, NABO (North American Basque Organizations), FEVA (Organization of Basques in Argentina), Bizkala Talent, just to mention a few.
- o Lobbying
- o Design of common projects of multidisciplinary thematic.
- o Organization of the next symposium.

3. Synchronize the community with tools already existing in the system.

Some of them are provided by our institutions (8)

- » Basque Government – Foreign Affairs Office
- » Bizkaia Talent
- » Others...

4. The ALUMNI from UPV/EHU

Would be a special group to integrate into this community. We should bear in mind that one of the types that illustrate this academic diaspora is precisely the ALUMNI from this university. The target, however, would be, in the mid-long term, to integrate ALUMNI **also from the other Basque universities** in all Euskal Herria (Spanish and French side).

Road-map

This extended list of operative actions could be a tentative road-map proposed to the participants of this session:

- 1.- ... < Dec2016 – entity definition
- 2.- ... < April2017 – Community + Web
- 3.- ... < July2017 – 2nd Symposium
- 4.- ... < December2017 – First projects

However, due to the lack of time, it was decided to leave some time to all the participants and suggested they handed in their comments or suggestions in the coming future after they had received the final report with conclusions.

The time is now and the opportunity is great!

Let's make it happen!

(8) See Annex 3 for detailed information about the elements already existing in the system that are worth synchronizing with this initiative.

ANNEX 1: Opening lecture by UPV/EHU's Rector Iñaki Goirizelaia

Basque Academic Diaspora
1st Symposium – Donostia-San Sebastián
Opening lecture
University of the Basque Country
2016/07/12

Opening lecture

First of all I would like to welcome all of you, especially all of you coming from other countries. For the University of the Basque Country it is a great pleasure to have you all here, on this campus which is also your university, everyone's university.

I want to make a special mention about the people from the **Euskampus** Foundation who worked really hard to organize this event. Eskerrik asko Igor, Eskerrik asko Itsaso.

You are all Basque Scholars from around the world. Some of you were born in the Basque Country and left, others are descendants of Basque immigrants and still others are scholars whose work is vitally important in defining Basque identity through professional, academic, or cultural ties between Euskadi and the rest of the world.

Zenbat gara? ⁽⁵⁾ How many are we? When faced with the dream of identifying the people spread all over the world that represent the Basque Academic Diaspora, that question comes to our mind, Zenbat izango dira? Zenbat gara? Our goal is to identify the Basque Academic Diaspora, an initiative promoted by our university.

As Bill Douglass reminds us *"Identity can be defined as a person's source for giving understanding and a constructed meaning to life experiences and events. Meaning tends to be organized around a primary or core identity that frames other identities, loyalties, and interests. The various identities that one person has are not necessarily in conflict with each other; rather they may be complementary. There seems to be a symbiotic Diaspora identity*

(5) Zenbat gara Euskal Herriak? Txindia, founded at the University of Nevada's Reno (UNR) in 1989. They adopted that name as it was the first address made at the first meeting of the students' association in 1996.

that incorporates and synthesizes the Basque and host country identities” (Douglass et al 1999)

For at least 5 centuries the entire Basque Country has been one of Europe’s prime areas of emigration. Consequently, every inhabited continent on the globe has received a Basque immigrant contingent. Some Basque “colonies” are centuries old, others are quite recent (10).

We could affirm that we are one of the smallest peoples in the world with one of the largest Diasporas (11). According to some accounts, more than three quarters of all Basques live outside of their original homeland. (12)

When they left the Basque Country looking for a better life, most of them worked hard without good working conditions. They were looking for something better than what they had back at home. Some of their dreams became reality, some of them did not. But some of their descendants were able to study at universities following their ancestors’ dreams and became professionals in all areas of knowledge. Some of them are now academics and they are working for universities and research centers located all over the world.

This Symposium is devised as the starting point to lay the foundations of an international network of academics and researchers with Basque ancestors or ties with the Basque Country dispersed all over the world. This network aims to stay in tune with the core that defines its members and promotes and strengthens future collaborations in search of mutual benefit in terms of knowledge and a sense of belonging. Our goal will be to identify scholars, researchers, intellectuals/thinkers who contribute to create knowledge all over the world and link all that activity to its roots in the Basque Country.

[10] José Larrea: Americans and that of the Philippines are centuries old whereas the Basque presence in Australia dates from the early 20th century and that of British Columbia is a more recent World War II.

[11] The Basque Government estimates that the diaspora population consists of 4.3 million people (2) (1996). Lately the government argues that the number of diaspora Basques or the children of the Basque Country in the 21st century is 5 million (Euzkadi, July 10/2008). However, this figure is extremely difficult to corroborate. Given that the diaspora is about 1.33 times as large as the population in the home country with an institutional presence in over 30 countries, **Director of communication and contact of economic cooperation**. Downloaded from The Basque Diaspora Website 2013.

[12] US-Dutch-Spanish-Siberian Research Professor in his introduction to The Basque Diaspora Website, Monthly Edition and Homeland, 1995-2013. Pedro I. Doménil.

At a time marked by the globalization of exchanges, when the perception of distance and time are changing, how do Basques experience our identity? Postmodern communications empower the "imagining" of a psychologically interconnected, yet geographically diffuse Basque diasporic identity (13). This common sense of belonging, these different paths and experiences, reveal a mosaic of characters. Those culturally intertwined individuals that silently work around the world, benefit from their cultural hybridity. Their hybridity is a result of living in a host country different from their own, but, still, giving sense to their transnational identity in this globalized world.

We think that a Basque Academic Diaspora could be another way of expressing our Basque identity in a constantly changing world. Knowledge and culture are the key, and knowledge and culture could also be the key to uniting with a common goal, to create a knowledge-based Basque Academic Diaspora. Let us help identify those individuals, and let us start today.

All this leads us to reflect on what we have done, as the University of the Basque Country, to contribute to the development of relations with the Basque Diaspora, and above all, from the University perspective, to study it, and especially the academic Diaspora. When we start speaking about Basque Academic Diaspora there is a person that immediately comes to our mind: Jose Antonio Agirre, under whose term as Lehendakari the Basque university was inaugurated in 1936, later to be silenced by the force of arms. The creation of the Basque university is without doubt, one of the great contributions made by **Lehendakari Agirre**.

Agirre himself is a clear example of the Basque Academic Diaspora, if I may say. He was a full-time professor at Columbia University, where he taught Advanced Research in Modern History of Western Continental Europe and Advanced Research in Latin American History. He was therefore, one of the first components of this Basque Academic Diaspora that we want to recognize and strengthen looking to the future. (...)

Today, our relationship with Columbia University is alive and well, thanks to the joint research work done with the Agirre Lehendakari Center, located at the University of the Basque Country, which is also directed by another Lehendakari, Lehendakari Ibarretxe, a professor of our university, who is also here today with us.

Recalling these facts, I am aware of the many people who have belonged and belong now to this Basque academic Diaspora. Some of them are well-known and their contributions are part of our intellectual heritage.

However, the vast majority of these people perform their work teaching and doing research at universities throughout the world without having been able to network, to help each other out, to **complement** each other's work or to take advantage of a common and shared potential ^[14].

When focusing on the academic Diaspora of the 21st century, we cannot forget to mention the community of Alumni developing their professional careers around the world, those students from the Basque Country that finished or complemented their studies at the UPV/EHU, or at any other university of the Basque Country **and** have become scholars in different disciplines. We come as one with Iñigo Lamarka, president of EHU Alumni, when he affirms that "it is necessary to knit a powerful network, leaving an imprint of the social, economic and cultural value they contribute with to the Basque society, improving at the same time the feeling of belonging and loyalty to the University" ^[15] of the future generations to come. As professor Oiarzabal ^[16] reminds us, in a way, our effort should be a common one, an effort which spans university, NGOs and governments, empowering identity maintenance of the Diaspora, a common effort which will allow us to strengthen effective channels of communication. We would like to consolidate the sharing of knowledge with mutual benefit. We want to re-connect each other with their past legacy, acknowledge it and cherish it, **protect** it and strengthen it. Our university wants to contribute in a specific field, the academic

[14] The Rector's speech at EHU's 50th Anniversary, Basque 2010.

[15] EHU's webpage, Alumni, Iñigo Lamarka, President's greeting.

[16] The Basque Diaspora Webpage, Identity, Nation and Normalization, I. Oiarzabal 2015.

where we will do our best to promote and establish effective channels of communication, of interaction and collaboration.

This is the main reason for this symposium. Our aim is to establish a space for this relationship which could serve as a meeting place for dialogue, for sharing and contrasting ideas and for generating and transmitting knowledge, a space allowing the **Basque Country** to continue growing in knowledge with input from anywhere in the world. This is why we are taking steps in this direction, assuming an active role in the promotion and development of the academic community of the Basque Diaspora.

We, at the University of the Basque Country assume the role of leading this initiative to first identify and then re-connect the **Basque Academic Diaspora**. We want to be the leading promoters of this project, offering our open hand to other higher education institutions of the Basque Country who might want to follow and come aboard the same ship with the vast world as the main roadmap. Let us start this adventure, for the recognition of the work done so far, for the recognition of the academic past that nurtured those careers, and for the future of our Basque international scholars.

Our symbol, created by the artist Eduardo Chillida, represents the tree of knowledge. It has its roots in the Basque Country, but its branches extend around the world, like the Diaspora. The deep roots are the old ancestors and branches are the worldwide citizenship, illustrated by some of the academics here today. You represent the cutting edge of transdisciplinarity, and the **latest in terms of progress** in a variety of disciplines. This is the first symposium and it is clear that some of them are here with us today but others are not sufficiently represented. I believe that we are all connected in one people, we owe a debt to all those that are not here today but exist and also to all those who came before us, as well as those who will come later, in generations to come.

I started this speech with a quote from Douglass and Bilbao in their book *Amerihanuah*. Identity can be defined as a person's source for giving understanding and a constructed meaning to life experiences and events... Basque scholars help us outline that Academic Diaspora we are about to identify, and nurture, setting up the roadmap for future collaboration, a network of Intellectual collaboration on which we could all gain from and grow from. Help us color that tree of knowledge spreading its branches all throughout the world, with its roots firmly tied to its beginnings, but constantly growing and expanding, as depicted by Chillida. Let us be faithful to our motto:

"eman ta zabal zazu".

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<http://www.ehu.es/es/errektorearen-agerraldi-publikoak>

EUSKAL KULTUR ERAKUNDEA/INSTITUTE CULTUREL BASQUE
<http://www.eke.eus/en/basque-cultural-institute/about-us>

EUSKO IKASKUNTZA Basque Studies Society,
<http://www.eusko-ikaskuntza.org/en/quienessomos/>

ETXEPARE EUSKAL INSTITUTUA, <http://www.etxepare.eus/eu>

Aurrera goaz, III World Congress of Basque Communities,
Eusko Jaurlaritzza Gobierno Vasco,
http://www.nabasque.org/old_nabo/NABO/Congress.htm

Guztion artean, V World Congress of Basque Communities,
Eusko Jaurlaritzza Gobierno Vasco,
http://www.nabasque.org/old_nabo/NABO/four_year_plan.htm

ANNEX 2: SHORT BIOS of all speakers.

WILLIAM DOUGLASS

Prof. **William Douglass**, a notorious Social Anthropologist by the University of Chicago, and Prof of Social Anthropology as well as founder and first director of the current Center of Basque Studies of the University of Nevada, who has served in that capacity for 33 years. He is author of more than two dozen **books and 200 articles** on a wide array of topics--particularly Basque and Italian emigration worldwide, ethnic identity and its maintenance, and family history. His most notable Basque-related publications are *Death in Murelaga: The Social Significance of Funerary Ritual in a Spanish Basque Village* (1969) and (with Jon Bilbao) *Amerikhanuah: Basques in the New World* (1975).

STEPHEN ANSOLABEHRE

Stephen Ansolabehere is Professor of Government at Harvard University. He is an expert on U.S. elections and voting behavior, and has written extensively on electoral competition, public opinion, media, political parties, election law and administration, and voting rights. He also researches energy policy and politics. He is the Principal Investigator of the **Cooperative Congressional Election Study**, a consortium of over 50 different university research teams, which conducts large-scale public opinion studies in the United States. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University. He is a Truman Scholar, a Carnegie Scholar, and a Hoover National Fellow. In 2007, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

JUAN URIAGEREKA

Professor of Linguistics at the University of Maryland, working at the edge of Chomsky's Minimalist Program. He has made proposals exploring new territories: on spell-out of syntactic structures, the emergence of barriers to question formation, rejections of syntactic categories, etc. Uriagereka was as a **founding member of the Linguistics Department at Maryland in 1988**. He has directed or co-directed 19 dissertations and

participated in sixty others, and is the co-author, with his mentor Howard Lasnik, of two textbooks on syntax. In his capacity as Associate Provost for Faculty he led the approval and promotion of family-friendly policies, regularizing the status of professional-track faculty, organizing leadership forums, and updating promotion/tenure policies at Maryland.

XABIER IRUJO

Xabier Irujo is co-director of the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he is professor of genocide studies. The author was the first guest research scholar of the Manuel Irujo Chair at the University of Liverpool and regularly teaches courses on genocide and cultural genocide at Boise State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara. He holds three master's degrees in linguistics, history and philosophy, has two PhDs in history and philosophy. Irujo has lectured in various American and European universities and has mentored several graduate students. Member of the editorial board of four academic presses, Irujo has authored more than ten books and a number of articles in specialized journals and has received awards and distinctions at national and international level.

MAIDER LLAGUNO

Maidier Llaguno-Munitxa is Principal at AZPML (Alejandro Zaera-Polo & Maidier Llaguno) architecture and is currently Adjunct Faculty at Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Columbia University. She has held teaching positions in the past at Yale School of Architecture, Berlage Institute, and the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich. Maidier obtained her diploma in architecture with honors from UPV/EHU, School of Architecture in 2006 and graduated with distinction from GSAPP Columbia University in 2010. She is currently completing her Ph.D which she has developed between the Institute of Technology in Architecture (ITA) at the ETH in Zurich and the Civil and Environmental Engineering department at Princeton University. Maidier's work has been exhibited and published extensively in various international periodicals and newsletters.

MIKEL PRIETO

Dr. Mikel Prieto is a Staff Consultant in the Division of Transplantation Surgery at Mayo Clinic and serves as the Surgical Director of both the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program and Pediatric Kidney Transplantation. He is a native of Spain, where he graduated from the Medical School of the University of the Basque Country in 1984. He went on to do a Transplant Research Fellowship at the University of Minnesota, followed by a fellowship at the Royal Liverpool Hospital in the UK. He completed a residency in General Surgery at Lahey Clinic in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1998. This was followed by a Transplant Surgery and Immunology Fellowship at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In 1999, Dr. Prieto joined Mayo Clinic as an Assistant Professor and Consultant in the Division of Transplantation Surgery. He is also very involved with affiliated organizations. At LifeSource, he has been the Chair of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Committee and is currently the Chair of the Clinical Policy Board. In addition to his appointments in Transplantation, he also served as the Medical Director of International Practice Operations for Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, until July 2015.

Dr. Prieto has special interests in kidney and pancreas transplantation in adults and children, living donation, laparoscopic donor nephrectomy, and kidney paired donation.

JOHN YSURSA

Professor John Ysursa, PhD in History by the University of California, Faculty Director of Basque Studies Consortium, at Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. He has been actively involved in the Basque-American community in various ways, including Basque cultural endeavors that bridge the worlds of academia and popular culture. One chief responsibility is to serve as managing editor of one of Boise State's first online academic journal, *BOGA: Basque Studies Consortium Journal*. Additional responsibilities entail facilitating various initiatives of Boise State Basque Studies both on Campus (e.g., periodic academic conferences, visiting performers and scholars, webmaster of the program's university webpage,

contacts of international partners to foster student, faculty, and professional exchanges, amongst others) and in the larger local community in an effort to forge "learning links." Research and teaching interest include workshops and regular course offerings on various aspects of Basque culture including issues of identity, immigration, rituals, history, music, song, dance, **just to mention a few.**

JOHN BIETER

He is a co-founder and Professor in the Basque Studies program as well as a Professor in the History Department at Boise State University. He received a B.A. in Economics/Social Science from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, his M.A. in History from Boise State University and earned his **doctoral** degree in History from Boston College. He is the co-author of *An Enduring Legacy: A History of the Basques in Idaho* and recently published a new book titled: *Showdown in the Big Quiet: Land, Myth and Government in the American West* (2015).

ANNEX 3: Synchronization with existing elements in the system. BASQUE GOVERNMENT

As previously mentioned in this report, some of the summer courses organized by the UPV/EHU in the same location at the same time were directly related to the symposium, as was *The (new) role of the Basque Diaspora in the XXIst century*. In this course, directed by Imanol Galdos, Donostia City Hall President's office technician (Donostiako Udaletxe Zezendaritza laguntzatarako Teknikaria) and introduced by Marian Elorza Head of Foreign Affairs Office in the Basque Government, the role to be played by the government in matters related to the Basque diaspora were explained. More specifically **Asier Vallejo** from the same department at the Basque Government, announced an interesting tool ready to be soon launched: Basque Global Network, <http://basqueglobalnetwork.eus/eu/>

The Lehendakari, Iñigo Urkullu, closed the autumn meeting of the North American Basque Organizations (N.A.B.O.) where he provided news about the creation of a network of Basques in the world called the Global Basque Network, with the aim of putting all the Basques who for different reasons live or work outside the Basque Country (students, businessmen, aid workers, professionals, etc.) in touch with each other. Historically the Basque community abroad has been organized around the Diaspora and the Euskal Etxeak. The Government now wants to take a step further, irekia.euskadi.eus.

This tool emphasizes the idea that the future of Euskadi is in the world, and it is time for us to fight the so called talent drain, some of which is part of the diaspora we want to connect.

This is precisely the virtual community which offers the possibility to collaborate online and help us map the key agents in the academic diaspora. In this Basque Global Network, it is possible for anyone to give his/her name and start the virtual coordination. They also offer a newsletter on matters related to the diaspora. Its subscription is free of charge and keeps you regularly updated.

We believe this is a tool already existing in the system that could help build the census with all the individuals identified in the Basque diaspora. It could be the beginning to later identify those who represent the academic and research diaspora.

ANNEXES

BIZKAIA TALENT

It was also commented at the mentioned summer course in the lecture offered by Iván Jiménez, Director of Bizkaia Talent, <http://www.bizkaiatalent.eus/> how a part of the diaspora 2.0 is precisely the scientific diaspora, which in itself constitutes a strategic player. According to his contribution, identifying this community could be a challenge for the Basque Country in the coming years. It is necessary to re-attract talent offering a flexible working proposal.

For that reason they have launched the tool **Basque Talent Map**, <http://www.bebasquetalentnetwork.eus/>, in which once you are registered, you are able to visualize who there is all over the world ready to collaborate with you, doing research on the same disciplines, or willing to start business in other countries.

In Euskampus, we believe as well, that this could be a tool that could help us stay in tune with the scientific diaspora subscribed to this Basque Talent Map network.



Family picture at the end of the morning session, at the Carlos Santamaria Center: Francisco Javier Caballero, Juan José Ibarretxe, Xabier Irujo, Mainer Llaguno, Alfonso Carlosena, Iñaki Goñizelala, Nekane Balluerka, Mari Jose Olaziregi, Astier Vallejo, Pedro Miguel Etxenike, Pello Salaburu, Stephen Ansolabehere, Mikel Prieto, William A. Douglass, John Ysursa, Juan Uriagereka, and John Bieter,

Family picture at Julianategi Building, Campus Vicerectorate in Donostia: Gorane Agirre, Francisco Javier Caballero, John Bieter, Mainer Llaguno, Xabier Irujo, Iñaki Goñizelala, Mari Jose Olaziregi, Nekane Balluerka, John Ysursa, Juan Uriagereka, Itxaso Etxebarria, Igor Campillo, Juan Ignacio Perez Iglesias, Pello Salaburu, Mikel Prieto, Stephen Ansolabehere, William A. Douglass, Juan José Ibarretxe and Pedro Miguel Etxenike.



Finally, the audience enjoyed a music performance delivered by the Orchestra of the Université de Bordeaux. A final gift wrapped in music, illustrating the leit-motiv of **this first symposium on Basque Academic Diaspora: share knowledge across borders.**

