

The Centenary of Euskaltzaindia (100 years of fostering Basque)

The year 2019 was a landmark in the career of Euskaltzaindia, since it was the 100th anniversary of the Academy. Therefore, Euskaltzaindia was celebrating its centenary from september 2018 to october 2019. On the occasion of the Centenary, five different kinds of activities were carried out: academic activities (conferences, publications and themed exhibitions), institutional activities, artistic-cultural activities, actions to reflect the first 100 years of Euskaltzaindia and many other different events.

However, the centenary was more than an excuse for a celebration. Euskaltzaindia aimed to use it to renew the commitment made to the Basque citizens long time ago. How? For example by initiating several conferences, publications and cultural projects; by achieving strong agreements either with Basque agents or with southern or northern Basque Institutions; by strengthening its digital platforms; by multiplying the services on offer to the Basque society; and by giving publicity to its activities among the international community .

Within the Centenary of Euskaltzaindia there was an intention to highlight the following ideas:

- Work with other public, private and social agents in order to attain the program of the Centenary.
- In order to accomplish the program of the Centenary, work looking to the future rather than to the past.
- Through the Centenary, make a contribution to the process of reviving the Basque language.

These were the three principal goals of the Centenary:

- To give publicity to the work done by Euskaltzaindia throughout these last hundred years and validate the path travelled.
- To roll out the intentions and strategic thrusts of Euskaltzaindia towards Iker and Jagon sections (the needs speakers and users have).

- To try to structure civil society around the Basque language and culture, transcending different mentalities, thereby allowing civil society to give a new boost to the revival of Basque in the forthcoming two decades.

Some data furnished by the Centenary

Within the Centenary, 10 academic conferences were organized (170 speakers, 1100 participants), 2 exhibitions (one of them interactive), three institutional acts; seven artistic-cultural representations (among which theatre, music, dance, a romería, dramatized reading and singing); a documentary; a comic; a thick book gathering the labour of 100 years. [

In addition, the presence of Euskaltzaindia in the social networks increased significantly: the Academy gained 3,151 followers on Facebook: and 5,176 on Twitter. 32 videos were made and uploaded to YouTube, apart from those produced to record the presentations given during the academic conferences.

Finally, continuing on the path taken in 2018, its website made a huge step forward, with 300,000 users during the year 2019.

We can conclude that Euskaltzaindia has made good use of its Centenary to set its goals for the future; and in this sense, the digitization, internationalization, professionalization and propagation of the Basque language shall be developed and strengthened in the following years .