

GAZTEMUNDU PROGRAMME: PARTICIPANT OPINIONS

0.- INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The Gaztemundu Programme was created in 1996, although it was regulated later in 2003. The first year, in 1996, 60 young members of Basque Centres or Euskal Etxeak came to the Basque Country to find out first hand about the life that they had only been told about by their parents, grandparents, etc.

This programme was created to promote young people's involvement in Euskal Etxeak activities, as they are considered to be the *preferable channel of relations between members of the Basque communities and the Basque Country Autonomous Community Public Authorities* (Law 8/1994 on relations between communities and Basque centres outside the Basque Country Autonomous Community).

The programme's main objectives were and are (as given in Decree 316/2003 regulating the Gaztemundu Programme): *"raising awareness on all aspects of life in the Basque Country encouraging new generations to join Euskal-Etxeak's active life."*

The programme continues to comprise of a stay in the Basque Country financed by the Basque Government during which participants attend work sessions, debate forums, cultural, institutional and tourist visits.

Certain requirements are set to take part in the programme, such as being aged between 18 and 30 years old, living outside the Basque Country Autonomous Community, being a member of an Euskal-Etxea for at least the last three years and having produced a work or analysis on the subject proposed in the annual programme call (in accordance with the Notification for 2007, dated 28th November 2006).

The participants' obligations include giving the greatest possible promotion to their stay in the Basque Country within their Basque Centre or Euskal Etxea, by means of conferences or speeches to the young people in this Euskal Etxea.

This therefore enables young people from the Euskal Etxeak to find out about real life in the Basque Country and/or expand their training on a specific subject and later transmit this new knowledge within their Euskal Etxea.

11 years have already passed since the start of the programme in 1996; since then, it has helped more than 400 young people to visit the Basque Country and having reached his point, it is worth stopping for a moment and considering the pros and cons of the programme, with the aim of improving it in the future.

For this reason, a survey was drawn up and put on the Internet for Programme participants (from 1996 to 2006) to complete. At the same time, a call went out to the Basque Centres or Euskal Etxeak which sent these young people, so they can broadcast it as widely as possible among the "gaztemundus" (people who have participated in this programme). However, it has not been easy to reach all the participants (it must be taken into account that they are mainly young people with student and/or work and consequently geographic mobility, given their age and they are therefore hard to get hold of), or get them to answer the survey. Only 104, or 24%, replied out of almost 500 participants (431 to be precise). However, and despite this questionable statistical reliability, we felt it was interesting to analyse their answers for future actions or changes in the Programme.

We didn't stop there. We also sought out the opinion of the Euskal Etxeak who sent out the Gaztemundu Programme participants. We produced a simpler survey for them to be answered by a representative of each Euskal Etxea. In this case, the percentage answering was also very low; in fact it was the same as for the participants, 24%.

The data from these surveys will be commented on for your interest, always taking into account that they do not involve representative samples either of the Centres which provided the young people or the Gaztemundu participants, although the people who have answered are presumably the people who are most interested and most involved in the Euskal Etxeak activities as well as the Euskal Etxeak with the best relationship with the Basque Government.

Quantitative and qualitative information will be analysed in both cases. Using the results data, the first are closed questions on the survey, meaning questions with pre-set answer options and the second are open questions on the same survey where the answerers can contribute as much as they want without any other prompts.

Below, we are going to describe the profile of the young people participating in Gaztemundu who have answered the survey, we are going to analyse their degree of relation and participation in their Euskal Etxea activities and finally, their opinions and proposals regarding the Gaztemundu Programme.

1.- CHARACTERISING THE PEOPLE WHO ANSWERED

We are going to analyse below what the people are like who answered the survey, comparing their profile, to a certain extent, with the participants in the Gaztemundu Programme between 1996 and 2006.

1.1. Origin

In order to determine the origin of our answerers, we are going to consider this origin as the same as the Euskal Etxea through which they participated in the Gaztemundu programme. In accordance with this (and independently of where they were actually born), more than half of the participants in the Gaztemundu Programme were Argentinean. Among those answering the survey, Argentineans were also in the majority and in fact, the proportion of Argentineans answering was higher than their participation in the programme.

Table 1.1. Origin of those answering the survey (%)

Country of Origin	Answering the survey	Total participants in Gaztemundu 1996-2006
Argentina	75	63
Australia	1	1
Brazil	1	1
Canada	2	2
Chile	1	4
El Salvador	0	1
Spain	1	0
United States	9	9
Great Britain	0	0
Mexico	0	1
Peru	0	2
Puerto Rico	0	1
Uruguay	3	9
Venezuela	8	6

(Vertical percentages)

100

100

1.2. Current residency

Most of those answering live in their country of origin, except for 9% who currently live in another country (and another 7% who did not specify their current place of residency). More specifically, 6% currently live in Euskal Herria, another 2% in another place in Spain and 1% in another country where no Euskal Etxea is registered.

This 6% who currently live among us come from Argentina and Venezuela.

Table 1.2. Current country of residence for people answering the survey (%)

Current county of residency	Answering the survey
Their country of origin	85
Euskal Herria	6
Rest of Spain	2
Another country where there is no Euskal Etxeak	1
Do not specify current residency	7
(Vertical percentages)	100

1.3. Gender

There are slightly more women taking part in the programme than men and this proportion is maintained among those answering the survey.

Table 1.3. Gender of those answering the survey (%)

Gender	Answering the survey	Participants in Gaztemundu 1996-2006
Male	45	45
Female	55	55
(Vertical percentages)	100	100

1.4. Age

The current average age of people who answered the survey is 35 years old.

They can be divided into age ranges as follows:

Table 1.4. Age of those answering the survey (%)

Age	Answering the survey
30 years old or under	22
Between 31 and 40 years old	57
Over 40 years old	20
(Vertical percentages)	100

1.5. Level of education

Everyone answering the survey has studied beyond primary school: four out of ten (41%) have secondary studies and the rest have been to university (diplomas, degrees, masters, etc.).

Table 1.4. Level of education for those answering the survey (%)

Level of education	Answering the survey
Primary	0
Secondary	41
University (diploma, degree, masters, etc.)	59
(Vertical percentages)	100

1.6. Employment situation

Regarding their current employment status, most (83%) have paid work, either on a contract or self-employed, and in some cases they complement their work by broadening their academic training. 14% are still studying, 3% are homemakers and 1% is unemployed.

Table 1.6. Employment situation of those answering the survey (%)

Employment situation	Answerers of the survey
Working	83
Studying	14
Homemaker	3
Unemployed	1
(Vertical percentages)	100

1.7. Relationship with Euskal Herria

Logically, given that we are talking about young people from outside the Basque Country Autonomous Community, only 2% of them were born in Euskal Herria (although they participated in the Gaztemundu Programme as members of American Euskal Etxeak, one is American and the other Venezuelan).

In 27% of cases one or both parents were born in Euskal Herria, in 28% one of the grandparents and in 39% of cases a great grandparent or ancestor.

Furthermore, another 3% said that they had a distant relationship, not based on origin but on their relationship with their corresponding Euskal Etxea.

Table 1.7. Relationship with Euskal Herria for those answering the survey (%)

Relationship with Euskal Herria	Answering the survey
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Born in Euskal Herria	2
One of both parents born in Euskal Herria	27
A grandparent born in Euskal Herria	28
A great grandparent or ancestor born in Euskal Herria	39
Another type of relationship	3
No answer	1
(Vertical percentages)	100

1.8. Basque identification

Half of these young people consider themselves to be as Basque as from their own country (51%). Furthermore, 17% define themselves as preferably Basque (3% only Basque and another 14% more Basque than from their own country) and another 29% preferably from their own country, all saying that they feel more from their country than Basque and without anyone saying that they only felt they were from their country.

This means that all these young people feel Basque, to a varying degree. Nevertheless, the greater the generational distance with Euskal Herria, the more they identify with their country of birth. This is illustrated in the following table jointly analysing the relationship with Euskal Herria and the feeling of Basque identification.

Table 1.8. Feeling of Basque identification among people answering the survey depending on their relationship with Euskal Herria (%)

		RELATIONSHIP WITH EUSKAL HERRIA				
		TOTAL	Born in EH	One both parents born in Euskal Herria	of both parents born in Euskal Herria	A great grandparent or ancestor born in EH
FEELING OF BASQUE IDENTIFICATION	Only from my country	0	0	0	0	0
	More my country than Basque	29	0	18	28	37
	As Basque as my country	51	0	46	69	44
	More Basque than my country	14	0	32	3	12
	Only Basque	3	100	0	0	2
	Don't know/No answer	3	0	4	0	5
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100

1.9. Knowledge of the Basque Language

One out of every ten young people answering the survey can get by effectively in the Basque language (7% say that they speak it quite well and another 5% speak it fluently).

Furthermore, 33% say that they can speak a little and slightly more than half (54%) say they know a few words; only 2% do not know any at all.

Table 1.9. Level of Basque language skills for those answering the survey (%)

Knowledge of the Basque language	Answerers of the survey
I speak it fluently	5
I speak it quite well	7
I can speak it a little	33
I know a few words	54
I don't speak it at all	2
(Vertical percentages)	100

Knowledge of the Basque language seems to correspond to a certain extent to their relationship with Euskal Herria: the closer this generational relationship, the better their knowledge of the Basque language.

Table 1.10. Level of Basque language skills among people answering the survey depending on their relationship with Euskal Herria (%)

KNOWLEDGE OF THE BASQUE LANGUAGE	TOTAL	RELATIONSHIP WITH EUSKAL HERRIA	
		Answerer or parents born in Euskal Herria	A grandparent, or great grandparent or ancestor born in EH
I speak it fluently	5	10	3
I speak it quite well	7	13	4
I can speak it a little	33	33	33
I know a few words	54	43	57
I don't speak it at all	2	0	3
TOTAL	100	100	100

2.- RELATIONSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN THE EUSKAL ETXEA

This section analyses the relationship between those answering and their Euskal Etxea and how participating in the Gaztemundu Programme can affect this relationship.

2.1. Degree of relationship with the Euskal Etxea

One requirement set to participate in the Gaztemundu Programme is to be a currently member of an Euskal Etxea and have been a member for the past three years.

94% of those answering the survey are still members of a Euskal Etxea today. 3% still collaborate in their Euskal Etxea, even if they are no longer members. And 2% say they have lost contact with their Euskal Etxea. This refers specifically to the two young people from Argentina and Venezuela who currently live in Euskal Herria and another part of Spain.

The members also demonstrate different degrees of implication: 35% are members of the Management Committee, another 29% although not members of the Management Committee have other responsibilities within the Euskal Etxea, whilst 31% are just members, without further responsibilities.

More men are on the Management Committee than women. Sitting on the Committee is also more common for those over 40, than those under this age.

Table 2.1. Relationship with the Euskal Etxea for those answering the survey depending on gender and age (%)

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE		
		Male	Female	<=30	31-40	>40
Member of the Management Committee	35	43	28	26	29	57
Not Committee member but other responsibilities	29	19	37	39	27	24
Only a member	31	32	30	26	37	19
Not a member but collaborates or participates in the Euskal Etxea activities	3	2	4	4	3	0
Not a member and does not participate in activities	2	2	2	4	2	0
Don't know/No answer	1	2	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Furthermore, the sense of Basque identification seems to affect assuming responsibilities: the greater the identification, the greater the presence in positions of responsibility.

Table 2.2. Relationship with the Euskal Etxea from those answering the survey depending on their feeling of Basque identification (%)

	TOTAL	BASQUE IDENTIFICATION FEELING		
		Preferably Basque	As Basque as own country	Preferably own country **
Member of the Management Committee	35	44	38	27
Not Committee member but other responsibilities	29	33	30	27
Only a member	31	11	28	43
Rest	6	11	4	3
TOTAL	100	100	100	100

*We consider people who say they feel only Basque or more Basque than their country as preferably

Basque

** We consider people who say that they feel more from their country than Basque as preferably from their country (remember that no one said they felt only from their country).

Basing ourselves on those who declared that they were currently members (the vast majority of those answering: 94%), we can see that the number of years they have belonged to the Euskal Etxeak is generalised: almost two thirds of them have been members for more than 10 years.

Furthermore, the older they are, the longer they have been members.

Table 2.3. Time as a Euskal Etxea member for people answering the survey (who are members) depending on their age (%)

		TOTAL	AGE		
			<=30	31-40	>40
YEARS AS A EUSKAL ETXEA MEMBER	Over 20 years	31	14	34	38
	Between 11 and 20 years	31	24	32	38
	Between 5 and 10 years	29	52	23	24
	Under 5 years	7	10	9	0
	Don't know/No answer	1	0	2	0
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100

It should be highlighted, as a curious fact, that people who answered whose parents were born in the Basque Country had been members for longer than those whose grandparents were born in the Basque Country and they had been members longer than those with great-grandparents or ancestors born in Euskal Herria (those born in the Euskal Herria were not taken into account as there are only two of them). This means that the closer the origin, the longer they had been members of the Euskal Etxea.

Table 2.4. Time as a Euskal Etxea member for people answering the survey (who are members) depending on their relationship with Euskal Herria (%)

		TOTAL	RELATIONSHIP WITH EUSKAL HERRIA		
			Father and/or mother born in EH	A grandparent born in Euskal Herria	A great grandparent or ancestor born in Euskal Herria
YEARS AS A EUSKAL ETXEA MEMBER	Over 20 years	31	48	36	18
	Between 11 and 20 years	31	19	36	36
	Between 5 and 10 years	29	22	25	38
	Under 5 years	7	7	4	8
	Don't know/No answer	1	4	0	0
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100

2.2. Participation in the Euskal Etxea activities

Those who declare themselves to members, or although not a member say that they participate in Euskal Etxea activities, were asked about their participation in different types of activities.

Most of our answerers participate to a varying degree in an activity organised by their Euskal Etxea (90%).

Furthermore, almost three out of four (72%) are in charge of organising an activity. This percentage rises above 90% when referring to people over 40 years old, and people who have positions of responsibility within their Euskal Etxea.

Table 2.5. Organisation of activities in the Euskal Etxea by those answering the survey (who are members or who collaborate) depending on their age and the degree of relationship with the Euskal Etxea (%)

		AGE			RELATIONSHIP WITH EUSKAL HERRIA			
		TOTAL	<=30	31-40	>40	Member of the Committee	Not on the Committee but with responsibility	Only a member
ORGANISER OF AN EUSKAL ETXEA ACTIVITY	Yes	72	70	64	95	94	93	38
	No	28	30	36	5	6	7	63
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

As we stated, either as organisers or attendees, a high number of our answerers participate in the different activities organised in their Euskal Etxea. The activities they participate in most are lunches or dinners (88%), followed by Basque dances (52%), Basque language classes (45%), sports (35%) and choirs (23%). Furthermore, 59% said they had taken part in other activities such as talks and conferences, children's activities, etc.

Table 2.6. Degree of participation in Euskal Etxea activities for those answering the survey (who are members or collaborate) (%)

		RELATIONSHIP WITH EUSKAL HERRIA					
		Lunches or dinners	Basque dances	Basque classes	Sports	Choirs	Other activities
DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION	Yes, as organiser	59	26	14	14	4	42
	Yes, as attendee	29	26	31	21	19	17
	No	12	47	55	66	77	41
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Participation in different activities, particularly in terms of organisation, depends on certain factors.

In the case of the participation in lunches and/or dinners organised by the Euskal Etxea, this seems to depend directly on the age and the degree of involvement in the Euskal Etxea: the older the person the greater their responsibility within the Euskal Etxea, and the more frequent their participation in this type of activities.

Table 2.7. Degree of participation in lunches or dinners by those answering the survey (who are members or who collaborate) depending on their age and the relationship with the Euskal Etxea (%)

		TOTAL	AGE			RELATIONSHIP WITH EUSKAL HERRIA		
			<=30	31-40	>40	Member of the Committee	Not on the Committee but with responsibility	Only a member
PARTICIPATION IN LUNCHES OR DINNERS ORGANISED IN THE EUSKAL ETXEA	Yes, as organiser	59	50	50	90	83	73	22
	Yes, as attendee	29	32	38	5	14	23	53
	No	12	18	12	5	3	3	25
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

In the case of participating in dances and in choirs, the most influential variable is age, but inversely: younger members participate more in the dances; older people participate more in the choirs.

Table 2.8. Degree of participation in dances by people answering the survey (who are members or collaborate) depending on their age (%)

		TOTAL	AGE		
			<=30	31-40	>40
PARTICIPATION IN BASQUE DANCES	Yes, as organiser	26	45	16	33
	Yes, as attendee	26	32	31	10
	No	47	23	53	57
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100

Table 2.9. Degree of participation in choirs of those answering the survey (who are members or collaborate) depending on the age (%)

		TOTAL	AGE		
			<=30	31-40	>40
PARTICIPATION IN CHOIRS	Yes, as organiser	4	0	3	10
	Yes, as attendee	19	23	10	33
	No	77	77	86	57
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100

Age is also a decisive factor when participating in sports, although gender seems to affect this concept more: men participate much more than women in the sports activities and the degree of participation is influenced by age as older people participate more in the organisation whilst younger people attend more.

Table 2.10. Degree of participation in sports by those answering the survey (who are members or collaborate) depending on gender and age (%)

TOTAL GENDER AGE

			Male	Female	<=30	31-40	>40
PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS	Yes, as organiser	14	24	5	5	12	29
	Yes, as attendee	21	35	9	27	17	19
	No	66	41	86	68	71	52
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Participation in the Basque language classes is intrinsically linked with knowledge of the language: those who speak the most Basque are those who most often act as organisers, those who can speak a little are those who most often just attend and those who know the least Basque participate the least in this type of activities.

Table 2.11. Degree of participation in Basque classes from people answering the survey (who are members or collaborate) depending on the level of Basque (%)

		KNOWLEDGE OF BASQUE			
		TOTAL	I speak fluently quite well	it or I can speak it a little	I know some words or nothing
PARTICIPATION IN BASQUE LAGNAUGE CLASSES	Yes, as organiser	14	58	12	5
	Yes, as attendee	31	0	50	27
	No	55	42	38	68
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100

Participation in other types of activities is mainly determined by age and degree of connections with the Euskal Etxea: the older people who have positions of greater responsibility within the Euskal Etxea are those who participate the most in organising other types of activities (cultural weeks, conferences, activities with children, publications in the Euskal Etxea, musical activities, mus, etc.).

Table 2.12. Degree of participation in other activities by those answering the survey (who are members or who collaborate) depending on their age and the relationship with the Euskal Etxea (%)

		AGE			RELATIONSHIP WITH EUSKAL HERRIA			
		TOTAL	<=30	31- 40	>40	Member of the Committee	Not on the Committee but with responsibility	Only a member
PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES ORGANISED IN THE EUSKAL ETXEA	Yes, as organiser	42	36	31	76	64	43	22
	Yes, as attendee	17	18	19	10	3	23	19
	No	41	45	50	14	31	33	59
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

2.3. Degree of implication after participation in the Gaztemundu Programme

After participation in the Gaztemundu Programme most of those answering are equally (43%) or more (45%) implicated in the operation and/or in the activities. 6% are less implicated than before and another 2% are no longer members.

Those who, to a large extent, say they have increased their implication are women, younger people and those who feel preferably Basque or as Basque as from their own country.

Table 2.13. Implication in the Euskal Etxea after participating in Gaztemundu of those answering the survey depending on gender and age (%)

		TOTAL	GENDER		AGE		
			Male	Female	<=30	31-40	>40
IMPLICATION IN THE EUSKAL ETXEA AFTER PARTICIPATING IN GAZTEMUNDU	More	45	38	51	61	47	48
	The same	43	53	35	30	39	43
	Less	6	0	11	4	7	5
	No longer member	4	6	2	4	5	0
	Don't know/No answer	2	2	2	0	2	5
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2.14. Implication in the Euskal Etxea after participating in Gaztemundu from those answering the survey depending on the feeling of Basque identification (%)

		TOTAL	BASQUE IDENTIFICATION FEELING		
			Preferably Basque	As Basque as own country	Preferably own country **
IMPLICATION IN THE EUSKAL ETXEA AFTER PARTICIPATING IN GAZTEMUNDU	More	45	44	53	33
	The same	43	39	42	47
	Less	6	0	2	17
	No longer member	4	11	2	3
	Don't know/No answer	2	6	2	0
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100

*We consider people who say they feel only Basque or more Basque than their country as preferably Basque

** We consider people who say that they feel more from their country than Basque as preferably from their country (remember that no one said they felt only from their country).

2.4. Assessment by the Euskal Etxeak on the implication of the Gaztemundu Programme participants after taking part in the programme

At the same time as the survey was run on the Gaztemundu Programme participants, the same call for collaboration was made to the Euskal Etxeak who sent young people to participate in this programme. It refers in total to 84 Euskal Etxeak, of which 20 replied (exactly 24%) 85% of the Euskal Etxeak answering are Argentinean, 10% American and the remaining 5% Canadian. The Argentinean presence among those answering is once again greater than the real presence, as shown in the following table.

Table 2.15. Geographic distribution of the Euskal Etxeak (%)

Location country	Euskal Etxeak answering the survey	Euskal Etxeak who sent participants to Gaztemundu 1996-2006	Total Euskal Etxeak *
Argentina	85	58	47
United States	10	17	22
Canada	5	1	1
Uruguay	0	10	6
Venezuela	0	4	4
Australia	0	1	2
Brazil	0	1	1
Chile	0	1	2
El Salvador	0	1	1
Spain	0	1	6
Great Britain	0	1	1
Mexico	0	1	2
Peru	0	1	1
Puerto Rico	0	1	1
Andorra	0	0	1
Colombia	0	0	1
Cuba	0	0	1
France	0	0	1
Italy	0	0	1
Paraguay	0	0	1
Dominican Republic	0	0	1
(Vertical percentages)	100	100	100

* The total is greater than 100 due to rounding off decimals

The answers provided by these Euskal Etxeak are mentioned because they are particularly interesting, and their contributions can help to improve the programme, but it must be taken into account at all times that this data lacks reliability and statistical validity.

Two thirds of the Euskal Etxeak who answered (65%) believe that the Gaztemundu Programme is useful to achieve greater implication in their Euskal Etxeak from the young people participating in this programme.

Three quarters of these Euskal Etxeak say that more than half the young people sent to participate in Gaztemundu are still linked to their Euskal Etxea.

And more than half the Euskal Etxeak answering say that at least 50% of the participants in Gaztemundu linked to their Euskal Etxea have assumed positions of responsibility in it.

3.- ASSESSMENT OF THE GAZTEMUNDU PROGRAMME AND PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

This last section will analyse questions such as the general assessment of the Gaztemundu Programme, the preferred programme model, the choice of participant type and the possible changes to improve the programme.

Before we go any further, we should state that the Gaztemundu Programme has not always been the same: between 1996 and 2001 the programmes were considered to be general, meaning that they provided a general view of the Basque Country with tourist and institutional visits, etc. From 2002, however, they became specific, meaning that they include tourist and institutional visits but they are mainly aimed at training on different topics by means of themed courses which vary from year to year: in 2002, the first time that a programme of this type was run, it focussed on Basque dancing; this year, 2007, was dedicated to a seminar on providing skills for future leaders.

Having said this, we are going to make a distinction between the young people answering who have taken part in one type of programme or the other, in order to determine whether this affects their assessment.

The samples are widely distributed: 46% of those answering participated in general programmes and the remaining 54% in specific programmes.

The following questions, therefore, will be analysed taking this variable into account, as well as those which have already been taken into account up to now.

3.1. General assessment of the Gaztemundu Programme

The vast majority of the participants in the Gaztemundu Programme rate it as good (94%), 6% consider that it is neither bad nor good and nobody has defined it as poor. In this respect, no differences are appreciated between those who have participated in general or specific programmes.

When the Euskal Etxeak which sent these young people were consulted for their opinion on the programme, 100% of those answering considered that the programme was good.

Table 3.1. Assessment of the Gaztemundu programme by participants answering the survey and Euskal Etxeak answering the survey (%)

		Participants answering the survey	Euskal Etxeak answering the survey
ASSESSMENT OF THE GAZTEMUNDU PROGRAMME	Good	94	100
	Neither good nor bad	6	0
	Poor	0	0
	TOTAL	100	100

3.2. Preferred programme model

Opinions are divided on how the programme should be run in the future: 48% of the young people answering consider that it should be specific, meaning aimed at providing courses on specific themes and 39%, on the other hand, think it should be general, with tourist and institutional visits, providing a general idea of what the Basque Country is like but without centring on any specific topic. Furthermore, 9% respond spontaneously, given that this answer option is not included in the questionnaire, that

both types of programme should be combined, for example by alternating them every year. The remaining 5% does not know or did not answer.

In this case, differences can be appreciated between participants in the two types of programme: those who have participated in general programmes mainly think that they should continue to be general, whilst most of those who have taken part in specific programmes opt for keeping them specific. This makes us think that most people participating are satisfied with the programme they participated in.

Table 3.2. Type of programme chosen by those answering the survey depending on the type of programme they participated in (%)

CHOSEN TYPE OF PROGRAMME	TOTAL	TYPE OF PROGRAMME THEY PARTICIPATED IN	
		General (1996-2001)	Specific (2002-2006)
General or tourist	39	57	20
Specific or with courses	48	32	64
Both types	9	6	11
No answer	5	4	5
TOTAL	100	100	100

When the Euskal Etxeak who sent young people to the Basque Country on this programme are also asked for their preferences on this matter, there is also no clear preference, even a few more choose general programmes (50%) rather than specific programmes (35%) or spontaneously, a combination of both types of programmes (15%).

The young people who believe that themed courses should continue have provided suggestions on the topics involved. Some of the topics proposed are: dance, music, native instruments, history of the Basque Country, traditions, mythology, clothing, gastronomy, Basque language, sports, culture, art, socio-cultural entertainment, children's games, education, sociology, politics, real life in the Basque Country, administrative and leadership matters, managing organisations (aimed mainly at managing Euskal Etxeak), the media, technology, libraries and archives, tourism, etc.

The topics proposed from the Euskal Etxeak do not vary too much from those given by the young people; we would only have to add the proposal of topics related to providing dynamism and cultural administration and managing conflicts.

3.3. Future participants

With regards to who should participate in the future in the Gaztemundu Programme, most of the young people surveyed (75%) consider that it should be opened up to people over 30 as long as they are responsible for youth programmes. Another 24% preferred that it was kept as it was, with an upper participation limit of 30. The remaining 1% did not answer.

Those who had participated in specific programmes are the strongest backers of programme supervisor participation, including the over 30s.

Furthermore, as answerer age increases, so does the belief that the age limit should be scrapped.

Table 3.3. Opinion of people answering the survey on who should participate in future Gaztemundu depending on the type of programme they took part in their age (%)

		TOTAL	TYPE OF PROGRAMME THEY PARTICIPATED IN		AGE		
			General (1996-2001)	Specific (2002-2006)	<=30	31-40	>40
WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN GAZTEMUNDU	Under 30s	24	32	18	39	22	10
	Programme supervisors even if they are over 30	75	66	82	57	78	90
	Don't know/No answer	1	2	0	4	0	0
	TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Also among the Euskal Etxeak, the widest spread idea is that in the future, young programme supervisors should participate even if they are over 30 (backed by 70% of the Euskal Etxeak in the survey).

3.4. Changes or improvements to the Gaztemundu Programme

With a view to improving the Programme, the young people in the survey were proposed a series of changes for them to decide which they would adopt.

The percentage marking the suitability of each one of the changes proposed is as follows:

Table 3.4. Changes or improvements chosen for the Programme by those answering the survey (%)

		TOTAL	TYPE OF PROGRAMME THEY PARTICIPATED IN	
			General (1996-2001)	Specific (2002-2006)
CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME	Requirements to join the programme	42	40	45
	Information supplied to apply for the programme	28	23	33
	Talks and courses given in the Basque Country	29	36	24
	Duration of the programme	20	13	27
	Institutional visits in the Basque Country	20	26	16
	Tourist visits in the Basque	13	9	18

Country			
TOTAL	100	100	100

In order to analyse the proposals to change the programme dates, we have taken into account, not the type of programme in which those answering had participated but the time of year that they came, meaning, we have distinguished between those who visited in the months of September and October (from 1996 to 2002) and those who came in July (from 2003 to 2006).

Table 3.5. Change in travel dates requested by those answering the survey depending on the period when they travelled (%)

(% of people who did wish to change the travel date)	TOTAL	TIME OF YEAR THE PROGRAMME TOOK PLACE	
		September-October (1996-2002)	July (2003-2006)
CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROGRAMME			
The travel dates	11	15	6
TOTAL	100	100	100

The aspect which most people thought needed changing involved programme participation requirements. Having seen that most of the young people think that youth programme supervisors should participate, even if they exceed the age limit set until now (30 years old), it is logical that almost half of the young people surveyed said they would change the participation requirements.

On the one hand, taking into account the type of programme in which they participated, it can be seen that those who had taken part in general programmes are more likely to press the need for changes to talks, courses and institutional visits, whilst those who took part in specific programmes tend to opt more for changes to tourist visits. This seems to show that in the future, regardless of the type of programme, we should not neglect aspects related to the complementary programme. Furthermore, participants in specific programmes request more improvements in the application information.

Looking, not so much at the type of programme they participated in, but the participation dates, it must be highlighted that those visiting the Basque Country after 2002 tend to ask for more changes in the duration of the programme (it has always been 15 days) but on the other hand, they seem more satisfied with the travel dates (from 2003 it was held in July instead of the autumn).

In addition to suggesting certain changes to see if participants consider them appropriate, we also asked them to make their own direct suggestions. These spontaneous suggestions mainly involve selecting participants, but also the information provided, course structure, travel dates and duration of the programme, further monitoring on the work developed by the participants in their Euskal Etxeak, etc.

3.4.1. Spontaneous suggestions from the participants to improve the Gaztemundu Programme

a) The most abundant suggestions concern the *participant selection system or criteria*.

Some young people state that it should not be enough just to be a member of a Euskal Etxea but that the participants should also be effectively committed to an activity within the Euskal Etxeak and more specifically, in charge of the specific area that this programme is focussed on each year.

They also requested extending the participation age given that in most cases the people in charge of the activities or management in the Euskal Etxea were over 30.

Some even mentioned the possibility of increasing the minimum age to be able to take part (21-23 years old) so that it took young people who had already finished studying.

One possibility proposed involved establishing the programme's requirements (minimum or maximum age, etc.) every year depending on each edition's specific topic.

And we must also mention the possibility of running two programmes jointly: one general programme for young people under 30 with tourist and institutional visits, and another for over 30s focussed on a specific topic.

Other comments refer to those participating in the programme really being members for a sufficient length of time (allusions were made to having friends in high places) and some people even request that the minimum time to have been a member of the Euskal Etxea in the selection criteria increase from 3 to 5 years.

On the other hand, there are also several comments on whether being a member of a Euskal Etxea should be a requirement to be able to choose the programme, given that it has been shown that several descendants of Basques do not participate (nor are they members) in the corresponding Euskal Etxea as they do not agree with how the centre is run, but they feel as linked to Euskal Herria or more so than many members.

Another suggestion for change involved eliminating the selection criterion that participants had not visited the Basque Country before. This follows the idea that people who run activities and have made the most effort to learn and train up on these activities, and who therefore most deserve to participate in the programme, might have done this by travelling to the Basque Country.

Another idea which is repeated involves requiring that participants have a certain level of knowledge of culture and current events in Euskal Herria.

Furthermore, some people mention that optimally only one participant from each Euskal Etxea should attend each edition.

In general, the widest spread idea is that not just anyone participates in Gaztemundu but we have to optimise and make the programme as profitable as possible by only inviting people who really work in the field corresponding to that particular edition of Gaztemundu. One thing which remains clear in the comments made by the participants who have contributed their opinions are their complaints regarding that fact that some of these participants had taken the programme as an opportunity to visit the Basque Country for free, without being implicated in the Euskal Etxeak and its activities, before or after, requesting more checks afterwards. There are also numerous complaints regarding the fact that, although they are responsible for an activity, it was not the area corresponding to the course, meaning that more information was required. Both points (the monitoring and the information) will be analysed later on.

b) Other improvement suggestions cover the *application information*.

Some proposals allude to the possibility of providing information on the programme earlier, both to be able to send it out to all the associates and so that the participants themselves can get organised (in terms of studies or work, in case they wish to prolong their stay at their own expense, etc.).

Other suggestions refer to the use of alternative media to advertise the programme (complaining that the Euskal Etxeak do not always promote it appropriately) or the possibility of running adverts to give it greater visibility.

It was also noted that the programme notification should indicate the type of activities which are going to be carried out during the programme, to avoid inappropriate candidate selection. In this respect, several participants have commented that they are in charge of a certain activity in the Euskal Etxea but other activities were covered in the programme they participated in. It is therefore a problem of inappropriate information.

Other aspect where more information is required concerns the projects and activities developed by other colleagues on the programme. Participants would like, before they travel, to learn about each person's specific areas to be able to work their exchange more effectively.

c) Other suggestions for improvements are concerned with *monitoring the participants regarding their later work in the Euskal Etxea*.

Programme participants demand greater monitoring from the Euskal Etxeak on the projects presented by the participants as a requisite to take part, to see if they are being produced and how and therefore see the validity of the programme and prevent "fraud" from people attending the programme as a holiday. This refers to the fact that the people receiving a grant should pay back the cost of their stay and training in the Basque Country within their Euskal Etxea by developing the activities which they have been trained to run.

Other people think that the Basque Government should do this monitoring.

d) *Dates and duration of the trip*

On the one hand, changes are mentioned for the travel dates (between 1996 and 2002, the programme was developed in the autumn, in the months of September or October and from 2003 it was run in July). One participant proposes that the travel dates should match the academic calendar of the countries where people are travelling from, specifically in South America they ask for the trip to be made between January and February (however, let's remember that only 6% of those who came in July asked to change the trip dates).

On the other hand, there are numerous requests for changes to the duration of the trip. Some people would like to cut the duration short for work reasons (mainly suggested by Americans who only have two weeks annual holiday). But a lot more people consider that it would be better to expand the time they stay in the Basque Country. Quite a few young people say that they extended their stay at their own cost and among them they mention that for people who wish to stay on, it would be a good idea to provide cheap accommodation and a programme of activities on topics that they are interested in.

e) *Programme contents*.

This compiles suggestions both regarding topics which the courses should include and specific indicators on how to develop the programme.

Some suggest that the programme should combine courses with tourism, whilst others believe that they should cover specific topics, proposing courses on Basque economy, education, sport, geography, culture, politics, etc.

In these specific courses, they think theory and practice should be combined more and one specific idea involved recording the demonstrations (for example recording dances in the case of courses on dances) to then distribute these recordings among all the participants to show them in their classes back in the Euskal Etxea.

They also requested more talks and conferences, visits and contacts with companies, and several people have mentioned that it would be desirable for the participants to get in contact with people in the street, particularly with young people from the Basque Country.

They also mention the need to give greater importance to the Basque language, stress the importance of learning and practising the Basque language, using the programme as a trampoline to boost the Basque language among the youth in the Diaspora.

As well as all the above, they state the need to establish objectives and specific guidelines within the programme and once it has finished, run an evaluation on the programme, by means of a test or a survey, as well as debates and follow up on the conclusions obtained from the participants themselves. Based on this, it is proposed to repeat the programmes every 3 or 4 years applying possible improvements to each one.

e) *Other proposals.*

These are some of them:

- Fewer participants in the programme, smaller groups.
- Start the activities earlier to have more free time in the afternoon and get to know the social life in the Basque Country, be able to contact family members or other activities (wash clothes, shop, etc.).
- Better Internet access to be able to contact families during their stay in Euskal Herria.
- More talks and activities in English (participants from North America complain that the course is designed for Spanish speakers and not English speakers). There was a comment on the possibility of accepting English and French as working languages or if not, only Basque, so that all members of the Diaspora are on an equal footing. The possibility was even raised to run two programmes: one in Spanish and the other in English, alternating languages each year or even running a programme in the United States, given that often the most active people in the Euskal Etxeak are those with small children and the consequent travel problems.

3.4.2. *Spontaneous suggestions from the Euskal Etxeak to improve the Gaztemundu Programme*

Not only young people who participated in Gaztemundu have sent us their suggestions, but the Euskal Etxeak that they came from also suggested some changes or improvements. These refer again to the participant selection criteria, the programme contents, the duration of the programme, etc.

As far as participant selection is concerned, comments refer to following the criteria more strictly to select the candidates, to select the most suitable people for each specific course. The Euskal Etxeak also mention the idea of selecting just one participant per centre. Another proposal mentions the need for a faster selection process so that the young people can make plans and get organised.

We must also mention the need to widen the number of participants in each edition so that more young people can take part.

As far as programme development is concerned, there are several specific proposals.

One of them alludes to holding a meeting for participants in their country of origin prior to departure to get to know each other before the programme starts.

Another suggestion refers to the possibility of carrying out programme variants depending on its content: if it is a general programme then the young people should travel to the Basque Country; whereas specific courses could be held by professionals from the Basque Country travelling abroad to make the courses available to more people.

Another proposal, which was also mentioned by the young people, is the possibility of recording the lessons, demonstrations or instructions given in the specific courses (such as dances) and sending them out to the Euskal Etxeak.

Some people also state the suitability of the programmes combining general and specific contents; that they are biannual programmes or they last one month.

Alternately, they also suggest the possibility of participants taking a final exam, consequently awarding a certificate from the Basque Government to those that pass. This would evaluate the knowledge acquired and achieve greater concentration from the participants.

Finally, greater commitment is requested from the participants with their Euskal Etxea, either by signing an ethical contract with them, commitment of greater implication, etc.

3.5. Requirements for Gaztemundu Programme participants

3.5.1. Requirements suggested by the participants themselves

Another question set to Gaztemundu participants asked them what they thought, openly and without setting any limits, about what should be asked of them at the end of the programme.

The most repeated idea is that they should transmit what they have learnt during their stay in the Basque Country in their Euskal Etxea, requiring greater commitment to their Euskal Etxea, in fact the word 'commitment' was the most used in the suggestions.

So it is considered that the young people participating should be more implicated in the Euskal Etxeak (more and during a minimum period of time), working more closely with them, organising activities in the centre applying what they have learnt during their stay in the Basque Country, even if in this respect, they ask that the Euskal Etxeak are more flexible and capable of opening up to new ideas from what was learnt in the programme.

They would also request that the project presented at selection should be completed, maybe reformulating it, in accordance with the new knowledge acquired.

But not only do they request greater participation and organisation of activities, but also the presentation of talks where they can explain their experience to other members as

well as giving courses on what they have learnt for other people interested in the topic they are covering. These courses could be repeated over time to include different groups of interested young people.

Another possibility which does not involve attendance, as an alternative or in addition to the above, would be to record a video about their experiences in the programme, and what they learnt, to be distributed among the young people in the Diaspora.

It has also been proposed to produce an evaluation report on their experience, which includes conclusions on the topics covered, the general vision and the commitments which are assumed once the programme has finished. This report could be aimed at their Euskal Etxea but at the same time, there is the possibility of drawing up reports which are handed in, along with the corresponding documentation, to the Basque Government within a certain time after the programme has finished, indicating how they have applied what they learnt to Euskal Etxea activities.

Other suggestions involved analysing the Euskal Etxea's situation and raising proposals to work on the deficient aspects to achieve better institutional reinforcement; incorporating these young people into the centre's Management Committee, with the right to speak but not to vote, for one or two years; organising meetings with other young people from the Euskal Etxea interested in participating in future programmes, etc.

In short, running specific actions in the Euskal Etxea strengthening the link between it and young people, so that Gaztemundu is not "stroll" round the Basque Country, and all cases, strengthening the feeling of Basque identity.

3.5.2. Requirements suggested by the Euskal Etxeak

The same question was also set to the Euskal Etxeak who sent young people to the Gaztemundu programme. The suggestions provided did not vary substantially from those given by the young participants.

- Greater implication in the Euskal Etxeak at all levels, even joining Management committees.
- Active participation in the centre during a minimum period of time.
- Broadcasting experience gained from the programme to other members of their community, as well as using their knowledge and experience to motivate other young people in the centre.
- Annual meetings for "ex-gaztemundus."
- Organising regional meetings between neighbouring centres.
- Producing various types of reports:
 - At the end of the programme:
 - Evaluation reports on the programme's development, defects and suggestions for improvement.
 - List of suggestions to propose in their own Euskal Etxea based on what they have learnt.
 - Some time after their visit to the Basque Country:
 - Reports on specifying the projects presented to apply for Gaztemundu and explanations if they have not appeared.
 - Reports on the applications in the Euskal Etxeak on the knowledge acquired during the trip or simply on the activities which are organised in the centre (as a way of demonstrating their implication).

As a curiosity, we should comment that more than one centre said that they could not demand anything, that it was a prior commitment or a moral duty for the participants to make the most of their knowledge and experience in the centre.

4. CONCLUSIONS

We could say that the prototype for the person answering our survey (and we could include all participants to date in the Gaztemundu Programme as well) corresponds to a young Argentinean, with a good level of education, who knows a little Basque but not much, who feels as Basque as from their own country and who, after participating in the Gaztemundu Programme, continues to be a member of their Euskal Etxea, with the same or greater implication than before, participating or even organising different activities in the Euskal Etxea and who, furthermore, has assumed positions of responsibility in it (assuming responsibilities in the Euskal Etxea, mainly participation in the Management Committee as well as organising activities is determined to a large extent by age: as people get older they assume more responsibilities).

The Gaztemundu Programme assessment is very positive, from both participants and the Euskal Etxeak who sent them. We should not forget, in any case, that we do not have answers from all the participants (or all the Euskal Etxeak they came from) but that presumably, those who answered were the most motivated and have the best relationship with their Euskal Etxea, which could significantly affect their answers.

Having said this, we are not surprised by the programme's positive evaluation, even if there are suggestions for improvements (in some cases pulling in different directions, so the programme supervisors should take the most opportune decision in their opinion).

There is no clear opinion regarding whether the future of the programme should be general (as it was from 1996 to 2001) mainly based on institutional and tourist visits, or if it should be more specific (as it has become since 2002), with talks and courses on specific topics. Those who have participated in general programmes demand more changes in the courses and talks, whilst those who took part in specific programmes request more changes in the tourist visits. Having seen this, it would seem reasonable to combine elements from both types of programmes, meaning treating certain topics specifically accompanied by tourist and institutional visits which could combine work with other recreational aspects.

What does seem clear is that the programme must eliminate the current age limit and open up to the over 30s, whenever they are in charge of a specific activity in the Euskal Etxea.

It is also necessary, in this respect, to make significant improvements both to the information sent out from the Basque Government, and candidates selection by the Euskal Etxeak, so that each edition of the programme is attended by people who are really going to make the most of the information provided, meaning that they are effectively people in charge of the activities on which the course is based and that these people are really committed to their Euskal Etxea so when they return they can apply what they have learnt and diffuse it among the largest possible number of people.

In the opinion of the participants themselves, certain work commitments should be set on their return in addition to writing reports assessing the programme and giving details applying the knowledge in practice to how their Euskal Etxea operates.

In short, Gaztemundu should not be approached as a holiday programme or a stroll round the Basque Country. Gaztemundu is a programme to learn and take this knowledge back to the Euskal Etxeak. It is therefore essential that the most suitable

candidates are chosen to make the most of the resources invested in them, both by the Government and the Euskal Etxeak.

ANNEXE:

OPINIONS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS IN GAZTEMUNDU 2007

a. Suggestions regarding the selection criteria:

- Return the work presented to apply for the stay with corrections
- The person applying should appear on the list of members previously provided by the centre to the Basque Government.
- Maintain the condition involving membership of a Euskal Etxea over the last 3 years.
- Require a certain prior knowledge of the Basque Country.
- Establish the presentation requirements annually, in accordance with the call for papers in this year.
- In the assessment criteria, take into account not having ever been to the Basque Country before if it is a general programme and eliminate this criterion for specific programmes.
- Continue to assess knowledge of the Basque language in the selection criteria. Doubts on how to measure this knowledge.
- Possibility of including other merits in the selection criteria? Doubts regarding this point.

b. Suggestions regarding the information provided when applying:

- Send the information out earlier to get ahead with paperwork and be able to organise early.
- Opinions on the management or distribution of the information by the Euskal Etxea: it is considered to be correct and sufficient that the information is distributed by the centres because this ensures that the people receiving the information really are active and participate in the centre; however, it has been added that distribution sometimes depends on who manages the information within the centre.
- Proposal to publish the annual programmes for the next four years during the World Basque Community Congress; this means that this congress would debate and decide the objectives or topics for the next few years and the Congress year would serve to evaluate what has been run in previous years and define proposals for the next few years. This would help young people find out which topics were coming up in future years and they be able to apply to the most suitable course for them in accordance with their interests and work within the Euskal Etxea (they could even start working on their application project beforehand).

c. Suggestions on how to check the participants' work afterwards:

- Complete the work presented to apply for the programme. Monitor how this work is being carried out.
- Establish a network of participants in the Gaztemundu Programme.

d. Suggestions regarding the dates and duration of the trip:

- Make suggestions on accommodation and possible visits to those who decide to extend their stay in the Basque Country once the Programme has finished (the vast majority of the participants in 2007)

e. Suggestions regarding the programme content:

- Combine the contents of the general and specific programmes.
- Repeat the experience of evaluating the programme every four years during the World Basque Community Congress.
- Topics proposed for specific courses: native music and instruments, gastronomy, recovery of historical memory, etc.
- Completing a pre-project to apply for the programme and after exchanging ideas and experience with colleague, finish the project whilst the programme is running.
- Publish (in paper and computer format) the works presented to apply for the stay, so that all the participants have access to the works produced by their colleagues.

f. Other proposals:

- Give more free time which will permit, among other things, more contact with people in the street.

OPINIONS ON DEMANDS ON PARTICIPANTS AFTER ATTENDING THE PROGRAMME:

- Draw up a written report on the experience
- Give talks
- Carry out practical work in the Euskal Etxea