

1. What is the institutional and strategic vision of the Basque Government to support this international federation?

For us, the global network of minority languages, our experience, is a space for sharing knowledge and tools. That has great strategic value for us.

The revitalisation of the Basque language has taught us that the future of a minority language does not depend solely on a language policy. The commitment of the community, the actions of public institutions, education, the social partners, the business world, culture and, today, the digital environment and technology must be combined.

Therefore, the support of the Basque Government for this international federation should not only be understood as financial or institutional support. The strategic objective is to strengthen this network: to make linguistic communities aware of each other, to learn from each other's experiences and to have a voice of their own at the international level. We're talking about different ways of looking at the world from different languages, not just language, but community. I invite those communities and nations, if we take away our language, what distinguishes us as a people?

So we understand our contribution on three levels: sharing knowledge, building networks of relationships, and fostering collaborative projects. We want to make available to other communities the policies, tools and evaluation experiences that we have developed over the years around the Basque language, but we also want to learn from others.

Because we don't think the Basque experience can be copied anywhere else. Each language has its own history, territory, community and legal framework. But there are principles and tools that can be shared: linguistic rights, transmission, knowledge, use, administrative engagement, socio-economic, technological and community activation.

And, after all, for us the main value of this federation is that every minority language has to go its own way, but that it does not feel alone on that path.

2. How can the official experience of public policies in the Basque Country serve as a model for other linguistic communities, such as the Kurds?

The first thing we have learned from the experience of the Basque language is, that the revitalization of a language is not the result of a single measure, much less of an institution or association. It is the result of many years of public policy, social mobilization and institutional cooperation.

That is why I would say that the value that our experience can have for other linguistic communities is mainly due to processes: what has been done, why it has been done, what tools have been used, what barriers have been encountered and what we have learned.

For example, we have developed a system of adult Euskaldunization to increase the knowledge of the Basque language; we have developed policies to promote linguistic rights and the use of the Basque language in the public administration; we have created tools to work with companies in the socio-economic field; and we have also made progress in language technologies in recent years. Today, moreover, one of our main challenges is to take steps forward in street and everyday use.

All of this can help us engage in dialogue with other communities.

Building the future of a linguistic community is at the heart of language policy. That is why, in addition to education, administration and culture, the world of work, leisure, sport, the media and the digital environment are also part of language policy. This is what we call transversality, without which we can hardly advance.

Today we face a huge challenge: digitization and artificial intelligence and the era of language technologies. If a language is not present in new technologies, future generations will find it increasingly difficult to use it in their everyday digital environment. Therefore, cooperation between minority languages must also have a technological dimension. The current strategy of the Basque Government, for example, promotes the integration of the Basque language into vocal knowledge, transcription, chatbots and correctors. To do this, it is essential to collect the data and create the corpus.

One of the aims of the federation is to share knowledge. Learning from each other. We also have a lot to learn from Kurdistan, Wales, Catalonia, Corsica or other linguistic communities. There's the real strength of this network.