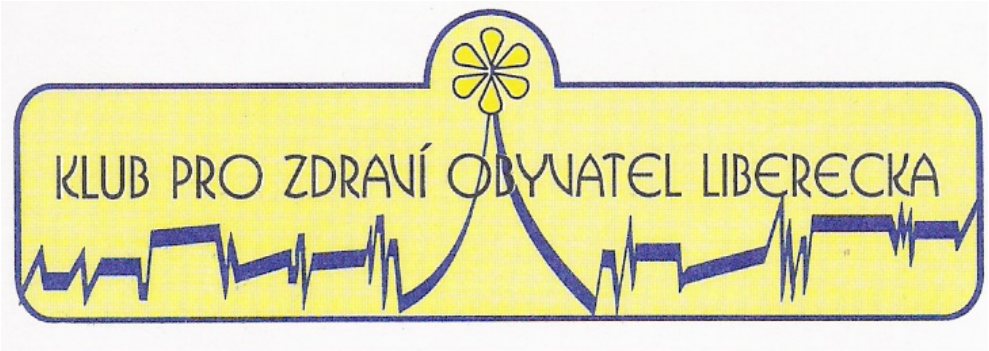


"Globalization versus National Cultural Heritage?"

I Panel: "Local traditions and culture: National or European Heritage?"

"Politics talks Culture. A Basque perspective"

Asier Vallejo
Basque National Party (EAJ-BNP)

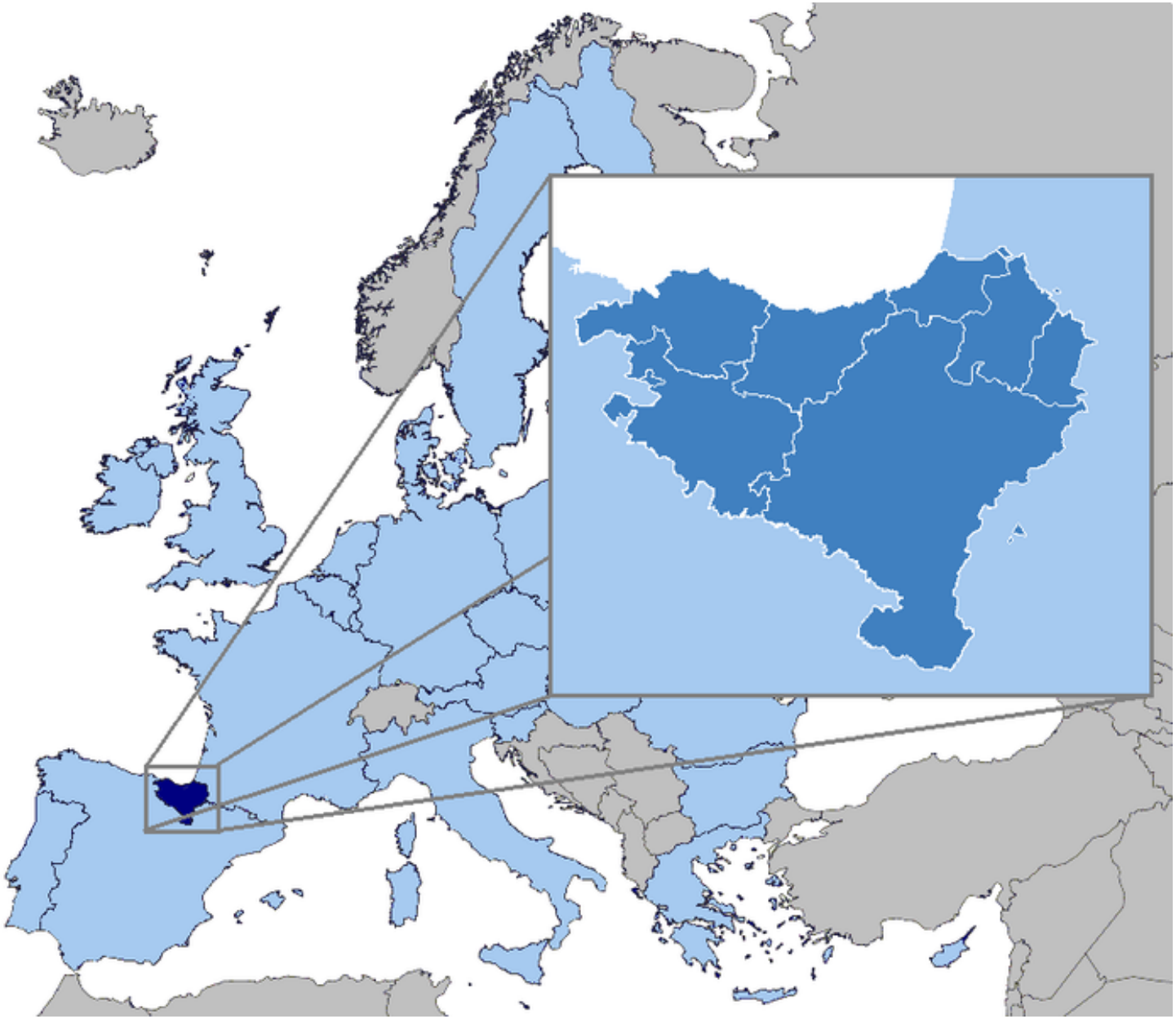
Liberec, Czech Republic, September 21st 2012

A BASQUE CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE ON GLOBALIZATION

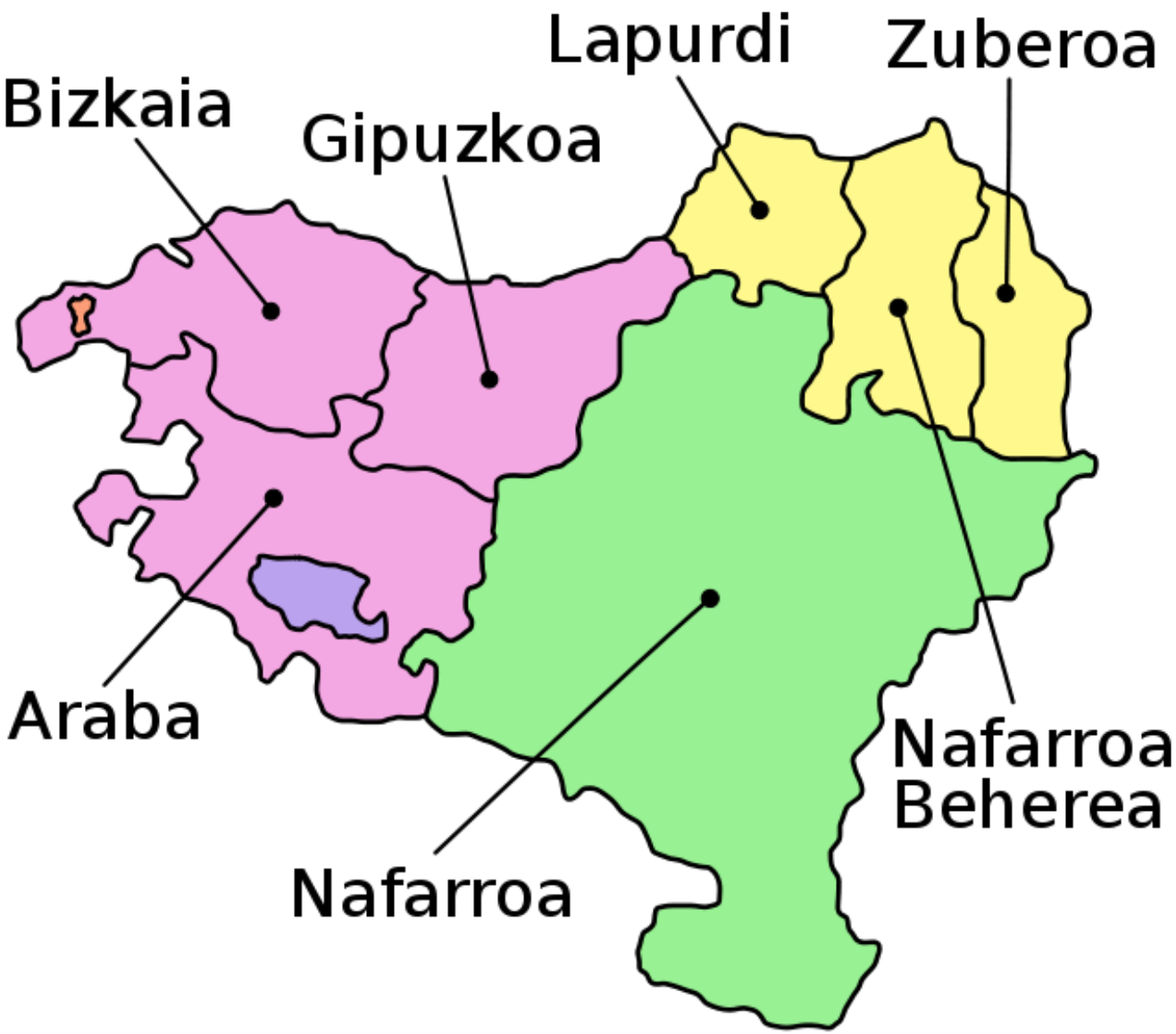
- Share some views as to how cultural globalization is affecting Basque culture
- Analyze 3 different types of initiatives to promote Basque culture in a globalized world: a public initiative, a public-civil society partnership initiative and a cooperation initiative within the European Union framework
- Cover the role the European Union is playing in the preservation and promotion of national cultures in general and Basque culture in particular

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURAL GLOBALIZATION

- Cultural globalization, driven by communication technology and the worldwide marketing of Western cultural industries, was understood at first as a process of homogenization, as the global domination of American culture at the expense of traditional diversity
- A contrasting trend soon became evident in the emergence of movements protesting against globalization and giving new momentum to the defense of local uniqueness, individuality and identity
- The process of integration of the European Union is slowly leading towards a common European culture, while coexisting with strong national cultures, such as Basque culture



THE BASQUE COUNTRY (1)



THE BASQUE COUNTRY (2)

General information	Figures
Area	**20.947 km^2**
Population	**3.114.276 inhab.**
Population density	**148,8 inhab./km^2**
Average age	**40 years**
Male life expectation	**76 years**
Female life expectation	**83 years**
Birth rate	**9,9%**
Death rate	**8,8%**
Anual population growth rate	**0,40%**
Number of municipalities	**683**
Main cities	**Bilbao, Gasteiz, Iruñea, Donostia-San Sebastián**
Languages	**Basque, Spanish & French**

BASIC DATA OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

ARABA

- Population: 321.205 inhab.
- Capital: Vitoria-Gasteiz (239.562 inhab.)

BIZKAIA

- Population: 1.156.141 inhab.
- Capital: Bilbao (352.700 inhab.)

GIPUZKOA

- Population: 709.607 inhab.
- Capital: Donostia-San Sebastián (186.185 inhab.)

7 TERRITORIES IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY (1)

NAFARROA

- Population: 642.051 inhab.
- Capital: Iruñea/Pamplona (197.932 inhab.)

LAPURDI

- Population: 239.635 inhab.
- Capital: Baiona (44.498 inhab.)

NAFARROA BEHEREA

- Population: 30.357 inhab.
- Capital: Donibane Garazi (1.521 inhab.)

ZUBEROA

- Population: 15.280 inhab.
- Capital: Maule (3.255 inhab.)

7 TERRITORIES IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY (2)

THE BASQUE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY (SPAIN)

- Population: 2.186.953 inhab.
- 3 Territories: Araba, Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa
- Capital: Vitoria-Gasteiz (239.562 inhab.)
- High degree of political autonomy within the Spanish State (the Statute of Autonomy was approved on October 25th 1979)
- Manages its own cultural policy through the Basque Government
- Official languages: Basque and Spanish
- Public Basque television network financed by the Basque Government

THE CHARTERED COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE (SPAIN)

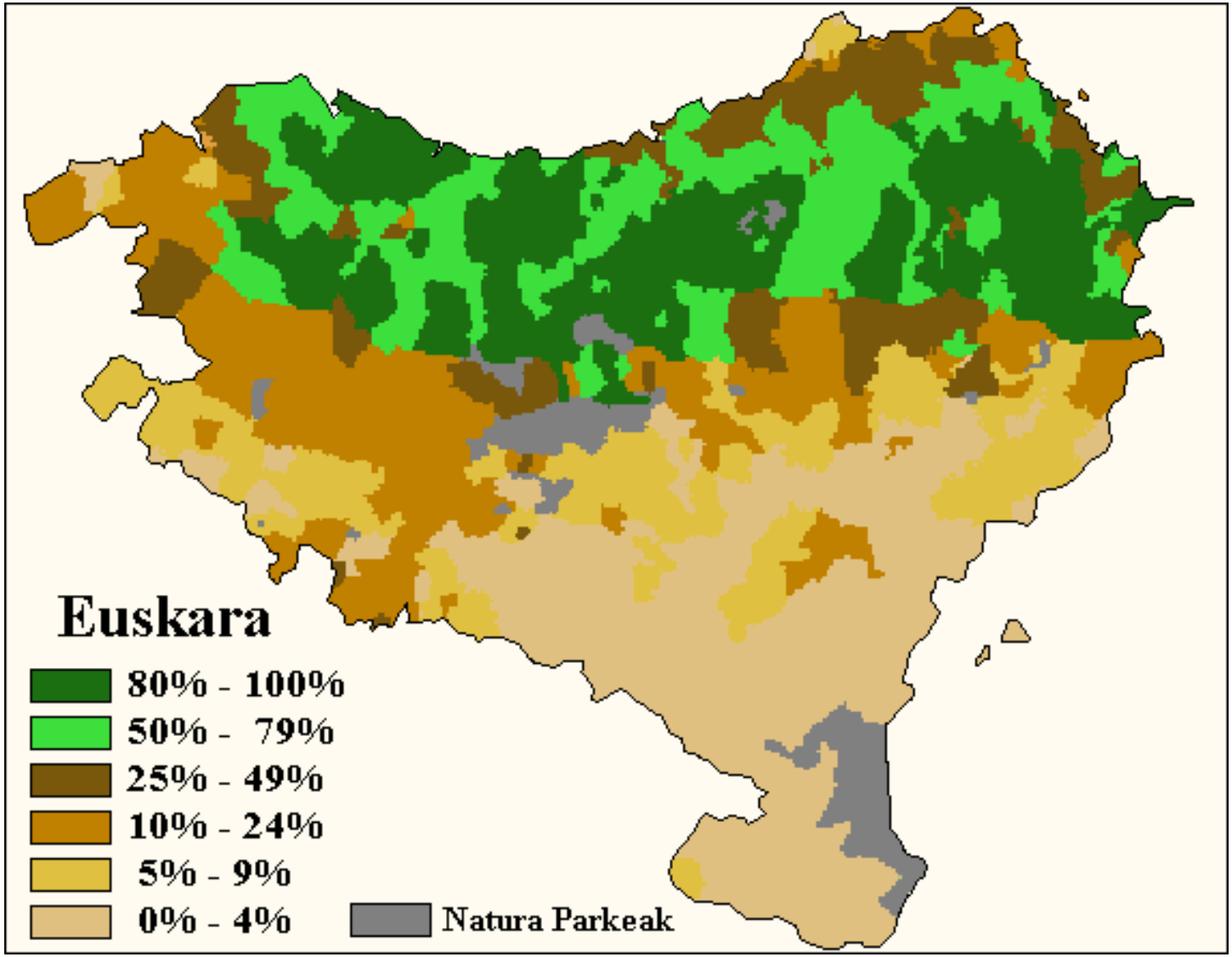
- Population: 642.051 inhab.
- 1 Territory: Nafarroa
- Capital: Iruñea/Pamplona (197.932 inhab.)
- High degree of political autonomy within the Spanish State (the Statute of Autonomy was approved on August 16th 1982)
- Manages its own cultural policy through the Government of Navarre
- Official languages: Spanish (Basque is only official in the Basque-speaking areas)
- Not only does not finance the public Basque television network but it does not allow the broadcasted programs to be viewed in Nafarroa

THE FRENCH BASQUE COUNTRY (FRANCE)

- Population: 285.272 inhab.
- 3 Territories: Lapurdi, Nafarroa Beherea and Zuberoa
- Capital: No official capital, as it is a part of a broader French region (Aquitaine: Bordeaux is its capital)
- Very low degree of political autonomy within the French State (no Statute of Autonomy has been approved)
- Does not manage its own cultural policy
- Official languages: French (Basque is not official)
- Does not finance the public Basque television network but it does allow the broadcasted programs to be viewed in the French Basque Country

LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

- Spanish is the predominant language in the Basque Autonomous Community and in the Chartered Community of Navarre
- French is the predominant language in the French Basque Country
- The Basque language is spoken by almost 1/3 of the inhabitants of the Basque Country, around one million people
- The Basque language might be the oldest living language of Europe, as it is a preindoeuropean isolated language that has nothing to do with the other languages that sorround it
- The Basque language has 5 dialects and a unified version created in 1968



FLUENT SPEAKERS OF THE BASQUE LANGUAGE

INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE BASQUE CULTURE IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

- Public initiatives: the Etxepare Basque Institute
- Public-civil society partnership initiatives: Donostia-San Sebastián European Capital of Culture 2016
- Cooperation initiatives within the European Union framework: Dantza Hirian – Border Festival of Dance in Urban Landscapes

THE ETXEPARE BASQUE INSTITUTE - BASIC FACTS

- In 1545 Bernart Etxepare wrote a book called “Linguae Vasconum Primitiae”, the first book in the Basque language
- Public institution created in 2010 by the Basque Government
- Mission: to spread the Basque language and culture throughout the world
- Encourages the international diffusion of the Basque language and Basque artists of all disciplines: Basque literature, cinema, sculpture, painting, music, etc.

THE ETXEPARE BASQUE INSTITUTE - THE BASQUE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

- Its goal is to promote the presence, study and learning of Basque outside the Basque Country
- Promotes publications & translations and fosters the presence of Basque at seminars and conference circuits
- Promotes lecturers and chairs programs at foreign universities, securing the presence of Basque language and culture in an environment of academic excellence
- 33 universities in 15 countries in Europe and the Americas offer courses in Basque language and culture
- Participates at the world´s main language fairs, such as Expolangues (Paris) and the Language Show (London)

THE ETXEPARE BASQUE INSTITUTE - THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROMOTION OF BASQUE CULTURE

- Its goal is to promote the dissemination of Basque culture around the world by fostering the internationalization of artistic events of excellence
- Handles proposals for grants for various artistic disciplines to facilitate the presence of Basque artists on the world stage
- Develops activities to open windows to Basque culture in each discipline, organizing and financing cultural events, such as exhibitions, festivals, fairs, conferences and shows
- Works to show audiovisual output produced in the Basque Country overseas through different programs
- Promotes exchanges with similar institutions and bodies

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

- European Union initiative conceived as a means to bring the different European peoples together and for them to discover each others cultures
- Its goals are: showcase the wealth, diversity and common features of European cultures; foster greater mutual knowledge among European citizens; and enhance awareness of belonging to a single European community
- The European Union makes a financial contribution through its Cultural Framework Program
- The first European Capital of Culture was Athens in 1985
- Guimaraes (Portugal) and Maribor (Slovenia) are the 2012 European Capitals of Culture

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2016 - BASIC FACTS

- Donostia-San Sebastián will be the European Capital of Culture in 2016, together with the city of Wroclaw in Poland
- Partnership between the Donostia-San Sebastián City Council, the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, the Basque Government and cultural, social & economic agents
- 16 Spanish cities presented their candidacy in September 2010
- 6 preselected cities presented their final projects in April 2011
- On June 28th 2011 Donostia-San Sebastián was selected and in May 2012 officially designated as European Capital of Culture 2016
- 3 Spanish cities have been European Capitals of Culture: Madrid (1992), Santiago de Compostela (2000) and Salamanca (2002)

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2016 - MAIN AREAS

Under the global title of *"Culture to overcome violence"* there are 4 areas that address values inherent to the project, with the goal to transform and improve coexistence in Europe:

- *Lighthouse of peace* – conflict, coexistence, rejection of violence, in favour of human rights, empathy, difference
- *Lighthouse of life* – healthy living, solidarity, reconciliation, feminist ethics, gastronomy, inclusion/exclusion, citizen empowerment
- *Lighthouse of voices* – languages, artistic forms of expression, diversity, the Basque language, translation
- *Lighthouse of the sea and earth* – territory, landscape, city and nature, sustainable mobility, borders, governance

BASQUE COOPERATION INITIATIVES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION FRAMEWORK

Institutional initiatives to promote cooperation between the Spanish Basque Country and the French Basque Country:

- The Aquitaine-Basque Country Euro-region created in 2011 as a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation: one of its main areas of activity is the promotion of artistic and cultural dynamics
- The Basque Eurocity Baiona-San Sebastián created in 1993 as a cross border cooperation project with a urban corridor of 50 kilometers and 600.000 inhabitants: is where Dantza Hirian, the Border Festival of Dance in Urban Landscapes, takes place

BORDER FESTIVAL OF DANCE IN URBAN LANDSCAPES - BASIC FACTS

- Offers 10 days of entirely free contemporary dance exhibitions in the streets, creating an alternative to the theater and a link between architecture and dance
- 7th edition from September 13th to 22nd 2012: 8 cities located in the Basque Eurocity Baiona-San Sebastián, 20 urban landscapes, 12 dance companies, 1 round table, etc.
- Collaborative projects and exchange with 13 festivals associated with the international network of dance festivals in urban spaces CQD - Dancing Cities, which currently includes 38 European and American festivals
- Joins the celebration of European Cooperation Day 2012 today

DANTZA HIRIAN (3)

SEPTEMBER 21st 2012 - EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY

- A new initiative of the European Territorial Cooperation community
- Celebrates Territorial Cooperation within the European Union and between the European Union States and its neighbors
- Around 200 events are taking place this week in almost 40 countries
- An opportunity to discover the improvements these initiatives have brought to the daily life of the people who live in these countries, including cultural development
- Has the support and coordination of INTERACT

INTERACT - BASIC FACTS

- A program created in 2003 to deliver services to European Union programs working with European Territorial Cooperation
- Offers practical support, training and advice on management techniques, financial issues, European regulations, communication, strategic orientation and policy development
- Has a total budget of 40 million EUR for the 2007-2013 period (85% European Regional Development Fund funding and 15% national contributions) co-financed by EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland
- There are 4 regional points in Turku (Finland), Valencia (Spain), Viborg (Denmark) and Vienna (Austria)
- Its Managing Authority is located in Bratislava (Slovakia)

EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2012 (3)

EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY 2012 (4)

FINAL THOUGHTS ON CULTURAL GLOBALIZATION FROM A BASQUE PERSPECTIVE

- Cultural globalization is affecting Basque culture
- Different initiatives are being implemented with the objective of promoting Basque culture internationally
- Cooperation between different public institutions and civil society is key in order to achieve success in this effort
- The European Union is proving to be a very valuable contributor in the effort to preserve, enhance and promote Basque culture in an increasingly globalized world
- The European Union has a very high degree of cultural diversity
- The European Union´s integration process is slowly leading especially the younger generations towards a common European culture, without losing the uniqueness of national cultures

Moc děkuji za pozornost

Eskerrik asko zuen arretagatik

Thank you very much for your attention