



Irakasleen Topaketa

Boisen, 2023ko martxoaren 17tik 19ra



The North American Basque Organizations Euskara Program, led by Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain, chair, and Edurne Arostegui, coordinator, organized an Irakasleen Topaketa (Euskara Teachers Meeting) in Boise from March 17-19. The intensive workshop took place at the Basque Museum & Cultural Center where 11 of our Euskara teachers worked with Kinku Zinkunegi Uzkudun, head of Etxepare's Euskara Munduan program, analyzing and understanding the pedagogy and curriculum of the program. Euskara Munduan promotes Basque language literacy among Basque communities around the world. This training workshop was approached from an active learning perspective that involved engaging teachers with the course materials through discussion, problem solving, case studies, and role playing, among other activities.

Many teachers met for the first time in person on Friday evening, as the group trickled into Boise from across the United States. On Saturday the real work began. Teachers were divided into two groups to discuss their own experiences teaching Euskara, their struggles and challenges, and what works well for them. Later they brainstormed trying to create the perfect semester for students that start from level zero.

During lunch, Kinku was recognized and awarded the Al Erquiaga Bizi Emankorra (Lifetime Achievement) award. It was a very emotional moment when long-time N.A.B.O. officers and friends Philippe Acheritogaray, president, Annie Gavica, vice president, Martin Goicoechea, director of the *bertsolaritza* program and former Euskara chair, Kate Camino, secretary and facilitator, and Mayi Petracek, treasurer, met with us via Zoom and personally thanked Kinku for his work promoting and preserving Euskara in the North American Basque diaspora. Martin Goicoechea performed an especially touching *bertso* in Kinku's honor.

During the afternoon session, Prof. Nere Lete from Boise State University's Basque Studies Department shared the online platform Landu with the teachers. This program was created by Prof. Lete and Patxi Juaristi, a Global Training Intern, to help Euskara students progress in their studies through exercises that compliment the Euskara Munduan curriculum. Prof. Lete has shared access to this platform with N.A.B.O. Euskara giving both our teachers and students new resources for their language learning journeys.

After that, Kinku presented different versions of Euskara Munduan materials to the teachers, including the online platform and the digitized materials. He also shared some of the pilot programs that other diasporic communities are working on and many other anecdotes and tips. Later that day, we had dinner at the Euzkaldunak Basque Center where the teachers were recognized and Kinku's Bizi Emankorra award was announced. Todor Azurtza, administrator of N.A.B.O.'s *bertsolaritza* program, sang a *bertso* to Kinku for all to enjoy. We had a great time eating and talking, strengthening our community of teachers.

On Sunday morning, the Euskara coordinator, Edurne Arostegui, presented the different resources available to teachers, including online materials and digital platforms. There was a general discussion about what resources teachers are already using and what they need. After that we all went to have lunch and also visited the Anduiza Fronton.

It was a very special weekend for all of us. We are strengthening our teacher community in North America and moving forward with Euskara. We would like to thank the following institutions for all their help and support:

North American Basque Organizations

Etxepare Basque Institute

The Basque Museum & Cultural Center

Boise State Basque Studies

Euzkaldunak Basque Center

Special thanks to all of our teachers for their incredible support of our language. Eskerrik asko: Anita Anacabe Franzoia, Eli Etxetxikia, Esther Ciganda, Eukene Franco-Landa, Gloria Lejardi, Itxaso Uriarte, Jon Puertas, Madalen Bieter, Maitane Muruamendiaraz, Maite Errarte, Sonia Castanon, Steve Mendive, eta Susana Siccardi.