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Languages shaping the future

PRESS KIT

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[Friesland] une place à l'euskara

ABOUT THE CONGRESS

From 23 to 26 September 2026, the Basque Country will host the International Congress of Minoritized Language Communities in Revitalization. **The World Emerging from Languages is the slogan of the congress, which aims to bring together different language communities from around the world, to reflect on revitalization discourses and to position discourses on language revitalization on a global scale and in a transformative way, moving them forward.**



LANGUAGES SHAPING THE FUTURE

IT IS NOT JUST A CONGRESS, BUT PART OF A PROCESS

1

DIAGNOSIS

In total, discourses from around **70 language communities across five continents have been analyzed from an intersectional perspective. These include, among others: Aymara, Bubi, Kichwa, Kurdish, Māori, Santali, Sencoten, Nquiyaampaa, Tongan, Balinese, Frisian, Dumi, Catalan, Hawaiian, Maasai and Mapuche.**

Qualitative methods were prioritized in the research, through in-depth interviews and focus groups. A significant number of documents produced by organizations and speaker communities were also analyzed as a complement.

2

SOCIALIZATION

Building on the findings of the diagnosis, special attention will be paid to **building relational and balanced ties with language communities around the world, and to recognizing the internal diversity within language communities. The aim has been to strengthen collective capacities so as to build transformative, inclusive and intersectional discourses, both locally and internationally.**

In total, twenty working sessions and a joint seminar have been organized across the Basque Country, and more than 100 stakeholders have taken part. These stakeholders have come from a range of social fields, including the Basque-language movement, feminism, environmentalism, youth movements, migrant solidarity groups, the LGBTIQ+ movement, anti-racism organizations and cooperation groups, among others.

3 THE CONGRESS

September 23-26, for four days, experts, activists and artists from around the world will come together between Bilbao, Irun and Hendaye. The lessons, discourses and experiences gathered during the two previous phases (the diagnosis and the socialization process) will take center stage through a rich program combining talks, round tables, workshops and artistic and cultural events.

“The aim is to strengthen collective capacities in order to share transformative, inclusive and intersectional discourses, both locally and internationally”



45 experts and stakeholders, we will, in a sense, travel around the world, and 35 language communities or so will be brought together. Starting close to home, we will have Basque, Catalan and Welsh speakers, as well as voices arriving from many corners of the world:

From Africa, among others, we will have Khoikhoi and Amazigh speakers. From Asia, Kurdish and Torwali speakers; from Oceania, Māori and Australian Aboriginal speakers; and from the Americas, Kichwa, Mapuche, Haitian Creole and Canadian Innu speakers, among many others.

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RIYE KURIYE KURIYE KURIYE KURIYE KURIYE KURIYE
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TOPICS

1

Why is it urgent to seek out, activate and spread new or renewed narratives?

2

Cultural discourses and the symbolic construction of identity attachment

3

Language, identity and community knowledge in future renewing narratives

4

Languages in resistance: agency, community activation and future narratives for language revitalization

5

Is it possible to articulate a shared global narrative or imagery among communities revitalizing their language and culture?

6

The contributions of technology and artificial intelligence to language revitalization processes

and much more...

 WHERE AND WHEN?**SEP
23****Euskalduna Palace · Bilbao**
14:30 - 19:00
Abandoibarra Avenue, 4, Abando, Bilbao**SEP
24****FICOBA · Irun**
08:30 - 17:00
Iparralde Avenue 43, Irun**SEP
25****FICOBA · Irun**
08:15 - 17:00
Iparralde Avenue 43, Irun**SEP
26****Borderline Factory · Hendaye**
11:00 - 12:00
64 Bd du Général de Gaulle, Hendaye**Cultural and artistic events will be held every afternoon**More information [**bihar.eus/kongresua**](https://bihar.eus/kongresua)

Participants



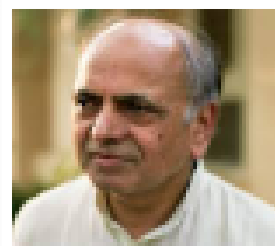
YAZMIN NOVELO



ZURBAIR TORWALI



XAN AIRE



GANESH DEVY



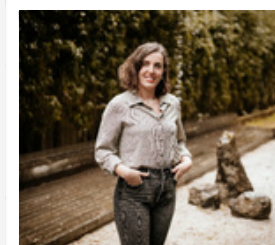
URTZI URRUTIKOETXEA



TOROGA BREDÁ



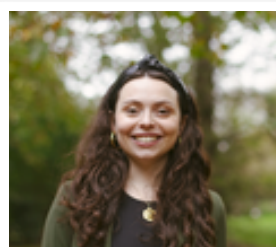
TALENT MUDENDA



ONINTZA OLAIZOLA



TAHIR BAYKUSAK



SOPHIA SMITH



SERGIO MARINAO



JASONE MENDIZABAL



PAOLINA VERCOUTERE



RAHERA COWIE



PAULA LAITA



NABRAJ LAMA

Participants



NAILEJILEJI TIPAP



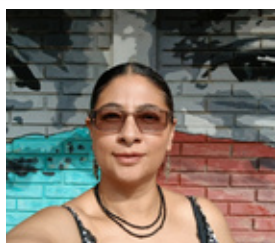
MUSTAPHA EL ADAK



MÓNICA PEREÑA



AINHOA PARDINA



MIRIAM VIVIANA GONZÁLEZ



MICHEL DEGRAFF



MARÍA IZQUIERDO



BARBARA FILION



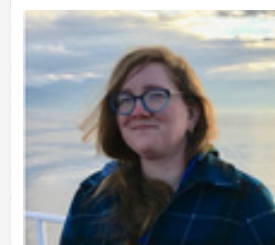
KSENIIA BOLSHAKOVA



LORNA WILLIAMS



KEKOA LLOYD



ANNA BELEW



JUSTYNA OLKO



JON SARASUA

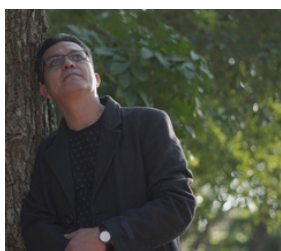


JELISAVA DOBOVSEK



KHALED WHALI

Participants



ELIAS CAUREY



JEAN BAPTISTE DJERIDE



ELIN JONES



CLAYTON CRUSE



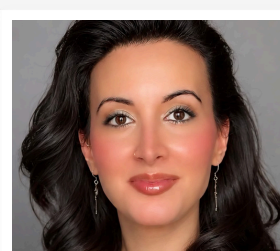
BELEN URANGA



ARTIZ IBÁÑEZ



DARREN FLAVELLE



AYSA ZAYZAOU



ANDICHI CHAHID



ALBERT BADOSA

A selection of testimonies:

✉ komunikazioa@bihar.eus

WHY IS IT URGENT TO SEEK OUT, ACTIVATE AND SPREAD NEW OR RENEWED NARRATIVES?



ALBERT BADOSA
CATALAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

He is a linguist trained at the University of Barcelona, specializing in linguistic diversity, revitalization and documentation. He is active in language activism through the HIGA Association, working with communities in Mali and Vietnam. He also researches the sociolinguistics of heritage languages in Catalonia.

CULTURAL DISCOURSES AND THE SYMBOLIC CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY ATTACHMENT



RAHERA COWIE
**TE REO MĀORI, AOTEAROA (NEW ZEALAND) SPEAKING
COMMUNITY**

Rahera Cowie (Ngāi Tahu, Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Kahu) is a teacher of Māori Education and a weaver. She specializes in the revitalization of the Māori language and Indigenous knowledge, and runs workshops that combine language learning with cultural practices. Her research examines the role of weaving in the revitalization of Māori language and culture.

LANGUAGE, IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE IN FUTURE RENEWING NARRATIVES



PAOLINA VERCOUTERE
KICHWA-SPEAKING COMMUNITY, ECUADOR

LANGUAGE RIGHTS ACTIVIST AT SISARIY, A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED AUTHORITY
ENGINEER IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH A MASTER'S DEGREE IN GENDER AND PUBLIC POLICY
FORMER GOVERNOR AND FORMER MUNICIPAL COUNCILOR.

A selection of testimonies:

✉ komunikazioa@bihar.eus

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROCESSES



SOPHIA SMITH

PIAŚINTEIN, ENGLISH, ITALIAN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

AUTHOR OF HOW TO KILL A LANGUAGE: POWER, RESISTANCE AND THE RACE TO SAVE OUR WORDS.

A journalist who writes about languages; she creates linguistics-related content for a million followers on social media. She holds a degree in Modern Languages and has a decade of experience in international journalism.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO ARTICULATE A SHARED GLOBAL NARRATIVE OR IMAGERY AMONG COMMUNITIES REVITALIZING THEIR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE?



MICHEL DEGRAFF

HAITIAN CREOLE (KREYÒL) SPEAKING COMMUNITY

He examines the role of languages in decolonization and liberation, challenging language hierarchies and the inequalities they create. He argues that mother tongues are not obstacles but resources for promoting knowledge, dignity and empowerment, and proposes collaboration among different stakeholders to build fairer and more inclusive societies.

LANGUAGES IN RESISTANCE: AGENCY, COMMUNITY ACTIVATION AND FUTURE NARRATIVES FOR LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION



TAHIR BAYKUŞAK

KURDISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

TAHIR BAYKUŞAK IS A TEACHER AND RESEARCHER OF THE KURDISH LANGUAGE, AND HAS WORKED AT THE KURDISH INSTITUTE OF ISTANBUL. IN HIS MASTER'S THESIS, HE ANALYZED THE DISCOURSE OF THE KURDISTAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. HIS TALK WILL ADDRESS THE ROLE OF LANGUAGES IN RESISTANCE AND LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION.

**For more information or to arrange an
interview, please contact us:**



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GOBIERNO VASCO**



Beasaingo Udala



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POLITIKA SAIA
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