



## FORUM OF THE EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS IN DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIÁN, BASQUE COUNTRY, SPAIN

26.11. - 28.11.2024

Venue: Palacio de Congresos y Auditorio **Kursaal**, Zurriola Hiribidea 1, 20002 Donostia, Gipuzkoa, Spanien

### Tuesday, 26.11.2024

- from 8 am Breakfast at the hotel
- 9 - 9:10 am **Welcome by the organisers.**
- Welcome by FUEN Vice President **Bahne Bahnsen**
  - Welcome by LANGUNE General Director of GAIA group **Tomas Iriondo Astigarraga**
- 9:10 - 9:20 am **Welcome and introduction to EU Policy and some key facts on multilingualism.**  
**Anna Solé Mena:** Senior Expert for multilingualism, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission
- 9:20 - 10:30 am **The added value of the language industry.**  
Presentation and round table moderated by **Itziar Aldabe Arregi, Hitz Center, University of the Basque Country**
- **Ruairí Ó Néill**, Director of Corporate Affairs of Údarás na Gaeltachta, Ireland
  - **Ignacio Pérez Prat**, Responsible for Digital Transformation in Romansh, Switzerland
  - **Samuel Frontull**, Researcher at the University of Innsbruck and Institut Ladin in South Tyrol, Italy
- 10:30 - 11 am **Coffee break**
- 11 am - 12 pm **How can countries and regions support and fund the development of language technologies?**  
Introduction and moderation: **Manuel González Bedia**, General Director of Strategic Planning for Advanced Digital Technologies and the New Language Economy.
- **María Coutinho Villanueva**, Deputy Director General of Planning and Linguistic Dynamisation of the Galician Government
  - **Rafael Muñoz Guillena**, Head of the Department of Computer Languages and Systems at the University of Alicante. Vives, Valencia
  - **Maite Melero Nogues**, Leader of the Research Group for Automatic Translation at the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre
  - **Aitor Aldasoro Iturbe**, Vice-Minister for Language Policy of the government of the Basque Country
- 12 - 1 pm **Foster cooperation of minority languages to advance digitalisation & artificial intelligence.**  
Introduction and Moderation: **Marie Heguy-Urain**, Euroregion, Project Manager for "Euroregional Citizenship" (Culture, Education, Youth, Sport, Multilingualism)
- **Itziar Cortes Etxabe**, Coordinator of the Elhuyar Language and Technology Unit, the Basque Country



- **Benaset Dazeas**, Director of Lo Congrès Permanent de la Lengua Occitana, France
- **Alexandru-Iulius Jerpelea**, Student and Creator of Machine Translation in Aromanian, Romania

1 - 1:30 pm

**Welcome by the local hosts.**

- Welcome by President of the Basque Country, **Imanol Pradales Gil**
- Welcome by President of the province of Gipuzkoa, **Eider Mendoza Larrañaga**
- Welcome by the Major of Donostia, **Eneko Goia Laso**

1:30 - 3 pm

**Lunch**

3 - 4 pm

**The added value of multilingualism in the digital environment.**

Moderation: **Éva Adél Péntzes**, FUEN General Secretary

- **Josu Waliño**, Director of the Foundation Puntu.eus, the Basque Country
- **Peter Bresan**, Consultant for economic and infrastructural matters at Domowina, Germany
- **Roger Serra**, Director of Fundació.cat, Catalonia
- **Seda Akbulut**, Manager of the Universal Acceptance Program, Turkey

4 - 5 pm

**“...this page is not available in...”**

Digital content that is only available in the majority language – how can we overcome this challenge?

Moderation: **Éva Adél Péntzes**, FUEN General Secretary

- **Christina Gestrin** (Finland), General Secretary of the Swedish Assembly in Finland
- **Joanna Hassa**, General Manager of the Association of German Socio-Cultural Societies in Poland
- **Elizabete Krivcova**, Lawyer and expert in digitization in Latvia, specializing in cases of linguistic discrimination
- **Usame Zukorlić**, Minister for reconciliation, regional cooperation and social stability of the government of the Republic of Serbia

5 - 5:15 pm

**Break**

5:15 - 6:15 pm

**An entire value chain from research to application to strengthen the language and economy of our communities.**

- **Izaro Navas**, Economist, the Basque Country
- **Amaia Balda Etxarte**, general coordinator of the EMUN cooperative, the entity in charge of the ‘Gehi’ research project, the Basque Country
- **Eli Pombo Aramendi**, Iametzta Manager, the Basque Country

7:30 pm

**Dinner** at the Txirrita restaurant (San Bartolome Kalea 32, 20007 Donostia)

**Wednesday, 27.11.2024**

from 8 am

Breakfast at the hotel



- 9:30 - 10 am      **Tax incentives for the Basque Country.**  
-     **Itziar Agirre Berriotxo**a, Minister for Finance of the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa
- 10 - 10:30 am      **Musicians in minority Languages, the Basque case.**  
**Olatz Salvador**, singer songwriter and musician
- 10:30 - 11:30 am    **Digitalisation of the entertainment industry (video games, etc) in minority languages.**  
Moderation: **Harro Hallmann**, head of communication at the Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger, Denmark  
-     **Luistxo Fernández Ostolaza**, Journalist, IT specialist, writer, and blogger at Code Syntax, the Basque Country  
-     **Adam Edwards**, Commercial Director of Tinint, Wales  
-     **Dr. Jörg Hübner**, Head of the RAPAki project group, games in Sorbian, Germany
- 11:30 am - 12pm      **Coffee Break**
- 12 - 1 pm            **Minority languages in audiovisuals and media.**  
Moderation: **Johan Häggman**, FUEN Policy Advisor  
-     **Arantza del Pozo Etxezarreta**, Director of Voice and Natural Language Processing Technologies at Vicomtech, the Basque Country  
-     **Iona Mercer**, SpeakGaelic Online Learning Associate (MG Alba) and **Mirren Buchanan**, Online Producer (MG Alba), Scotland  
-     **Joxe Felipe Auzmendi Lizarralde**, Director of On Time Ekoizpenak, the Basque Country
- 1 - 1:20 pm         **Forum closure by Gösta Toft** (FUEN) and **Lohitzune Txarola** (LANGUNE).
- 1:20 - 1:30 pm      **Institutional closure** of the forum by **Mikel Jauregi Letemendia**, Minister of Industry, Energy Transition and Sustainability of the Basque Government.
- 1:30 - 3 pm         **Lunch**
- 3 - 6 pm             **Excursion** to the San Sebastián Donostia Aquarium (Plaza de Carlos Blasco Imaz, 1, 20003 Donostia-San Sebastián)
- from 7 pm          **Dinner** in the San Sebastián Donostia Aquarium

#### Thursday, 28.11.2024

- from 8 am          Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
- 9:00 - 10:30 am    **Evaluation of the conference**  
Moderation: **Johan Häggman**



from 10:30 am      END OF PROGRAMME and individual departure