

Programmatic Cooperation Framework for  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe



**Basque Municipalities Association**

## **INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION IN BASQUE COUNTRY**

*'Incentives for municipalities to  
co-operate and create IMC'*



**Mar Zabala**

**Director General of EUEDEL**

*8 July 2016 Batumi, GEORGIA*



**2.189.093** inhab. (4,7% of Spain)

**7.234** Km<sup>2</sup>

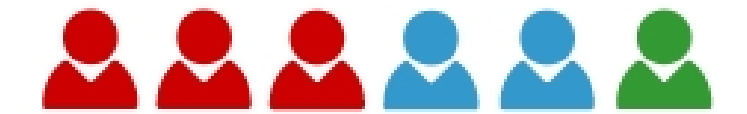
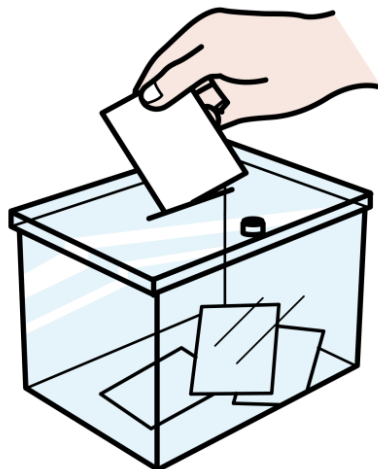
**303** inhab/km<sup>2</sup>



- **251 municipalities**
- **3 Regions:**  
Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa & Araba
- **3 capitals:** Bilbao, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Donostia/San Sebastián
- **Languages:** Basque and Spanish

**Western Pyrenees,  
North of Spain South  
of France**



**Local elections *may 2015:***

**2.633 local representatives  
in Basque municipalities**

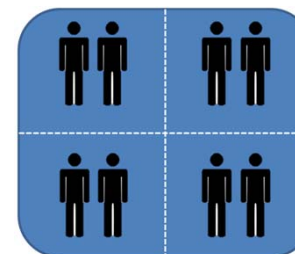
- Mayors: **251**      **25% women (64)**
- Councilors: **2.382**      **43% women**

## Basque municipalities in figures

**251** municipalities : **51** in Álava / **112** in Bizkaia / **88** in Gipuzkoa

*Population size:*

**3 capitals:** average of 260.000 inhab.

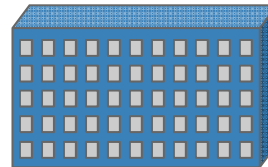


Only 6 municipalities  more than 50.000 inhab.

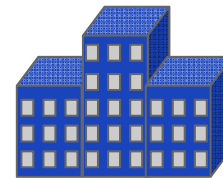
**72%** - 5.000 inhab. / **60%** - 2.000 inhab.



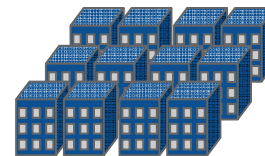
Basque  
Government



Diputaciones  
Forales  
(Regional  
Government)



Local  
governments



**251**  
municipalities  
with an average of  
**5.700** inhabitants  
(excl. capitals)



## A complex institucional framework

- 3 levels  
of regulation:
- 1- Basic State legislation**
  - 2- Basque parliament**
  - 3- Historic territories (provinces)**

The intraterritorial regulation (within each Historic Territory or province) of **intermunicipal management formulas** ( “mancomunidades” of municipalities, consortiums...) is the competence of the “foral” government bodies in each Historic Territory.

***\*This is an exclusive idiosyncrasy of the Basque Country with respect to the rest of the State.***

## Law 2/2016 of 7 April on Local Basque Institutions

### PRINCIPLES:

- **European Charter of Local Self-Government as a direct source**
- A system of own competences (local autonomy), based on the **principles of subsidiarity and proximity**, that must be complemented by a **powerful management system of local public services.**
- **Basque legislation opts for "shared management"**



## Law on Local Basque Institutions (7 April 2016)

### KEY ARTICLES:

- **Art. 1.1. Purpose of the Law:** local self-government pursuant to the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government.
- **Art. 2. Double regulation:** typology of local bodies & provision of local services.
- ★ **Rule of ‘priority’:** it must be the **municipality** that provides the services stemming from its **own competences.**
- **Art.9. Self-organisational power** → **Shared management:** *"the right to draw up associative formulas to carry out public works and provide local public services".*



## Law on Local Basque Institutions (7 April 2016)

### CONCLUSIONS:

1. principle of "**priority provision**" of public services by local bodies
2. if local services cannot be managed by the municipalities concerned, "**shared management**" of the services will be preferable.
3. The **formula of integrated management** of local municipal services by the "Diputaciones Forales", therefore, must be considered **an exceptional, residual solution**.

*\*the Law omits a "shared" management formula (municipalities+ "Diputaciones Forales").*

## Several forms & experiences of IMC

### **Mancomunidades (38)**

voluntary association of municipalities to manage local services

### **Consortiums (22)**

Municipalities with other administrations  
(Basque & regional governments)

**12.5 %** of total expenditures of local public sector

**87.5 % is managed by the municipalities.**

### Consortio de Aguas Bilbao-Bizkaia

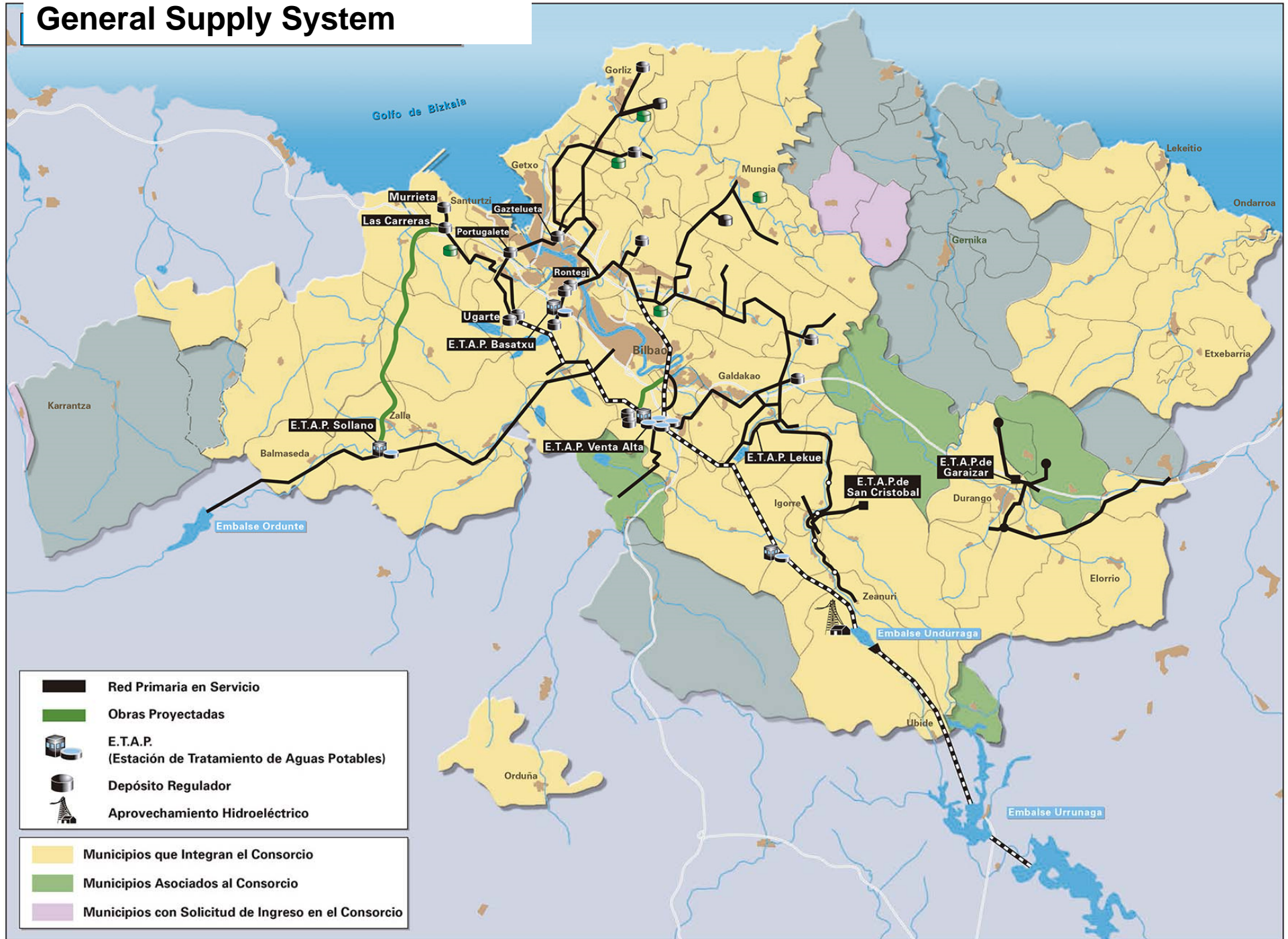
*primary water supply network and clean-up operations*



- Publicly-owned utility company founded in 1967, to guarantee water supplies to the area known then as Greater Bilbao.
- This supra-municipal district comprised **80 municipalities**,  
*and it serves over one million people: 90% of the population of Bizkaia and 48% of Basque Country.*



# General Supply System





**Consorcio de Aguas Bilbao-Bizkaia**

**Executive body:** 80 municipalities,

**Funders:** Basque government and 'Diputación Foral' Bizkaia

**Contributors:** users (citizens) and EU

**Consorcio de Aguas Bilbao-Bizkaia**

**The water Consortium distributes is 2,000 times cheaper than bottled water.**

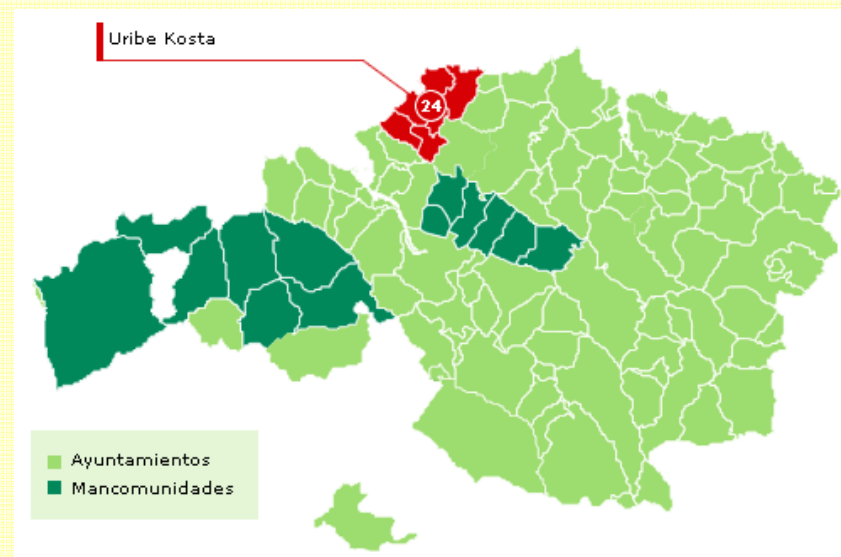
**1 bottle of water 1€  
= 1.600 liters of tap water**



**'MANCOMUNIDAD' of URIBE KOSTA (Bizkaia)**

Now includes a total of **7 municipalities of Bizkaia**

- *Social services, gender equality, Euskera (basque language), refuse collection, environment, employment*





## **MUNICIPAL DOG POUND (shared service in 'Mancomunidad' of Debarrena)**

Now includes a total of **7 municipalities of Gipuzkoa**.  
The dog pound facility is in the municipality of Eibar.

**Collection of abandoned pets**  
(dogs and cats).

**The responsible veterinarian,  
serves the animals collected  
with a trainer entitled.**

At this time the cost of this joint  
service amounts to **33,000 euros**.







*Thank you very  
much*



**Basque Municipalities Association**

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