

Basque Experience in Public Ethics



1. The starting point: the basque experience.
2. Our experience:
 - Organizational structure.
 - Adaptation process.
 - Assessment (self-assessment & “peer review”).
 - Systematic approach.
3. Final overview.

Introduction

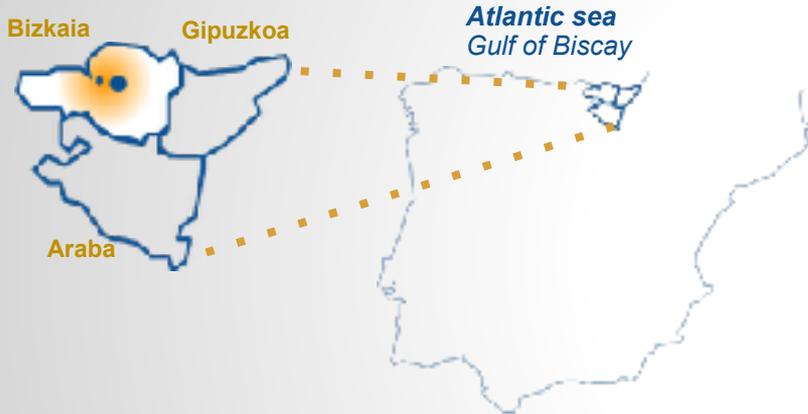
Our experience

Conclusions

Basque Experience in Public Ethics

1. The starting point: the basque experience.

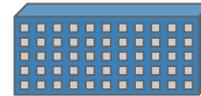
Global view



Unemployment	11,9 %
Income per inhab. (%EU)	120 %
Expenditure per inhab.	1,500 €
Debt per inhab.	274 €

Institutional levels

Basque Government



Province Government



Local Government



Population

2,164,311 inhabitants

251 local governments

6
(2%)

> 50,000 inhab.

36
(14%)

10,000 - 50,000 inhab.

63
(25%)

2,000 - 10,000 inhab.

146
(58%)

< 2,000 inhab.

300

High
population
density

inhab. per km²

Basque Experience in Public Ethics

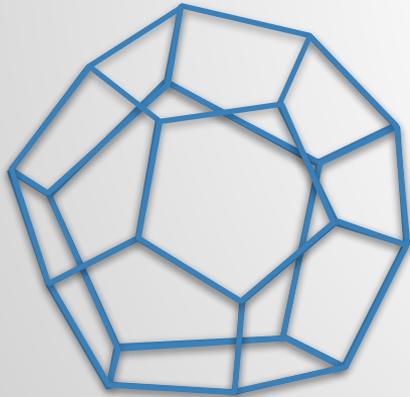
1. The starting point: the basque experience.

Code of
Ethics

PEB
Adaptation

PEB
Assessment

PEB
Action plan



12 principles of
Governance
Excellence

ELoGE
(Dodecahedron)

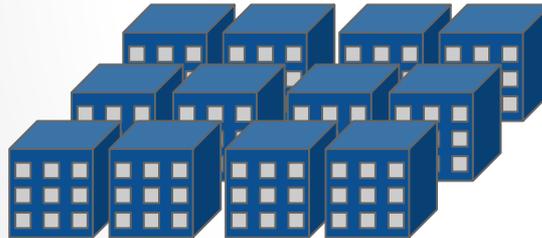
- ✓ In the **Board of Managers of EUDEL** (Basque association of municipalities) we **decided to implement a Code of Conduct** that led us to the implementation of the **Public Ethics Benchmarking** (2012-2015).
- ✓ The **process** went through these **stages: adaptation** of the generic tool to get the Basque Score Card (BSC), **assessment** of the municipalities following the BSC and definition and implementation of the **action plan**.
- ✓ We consider the **pilot experience** as a **big achievement**, and thanks to the **Centre of Expertise** we are now moving on to deal with **European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)**.

Basque Experience in Public Ethics

2. Our experience: organizational structure.



National Ethical Committee



✓ A stable **National Committee on Ethics** would have helped to accomplish the action plans quicker and smoother in the municipalities.

✓ The **composition** of the **Local Committees on Ethics** should be **similar to each other**, approved by the same way and stable too.

✓ The **participation of the opposition**, councillors of the Council, in the **assessment** need to work according to the **same rules** everywhere.

Steady ethical committees help having a bigger impact.

Basque Experience in Public Ethics

2. Our experience: adaptation process.



Some differences showed up while discussing some indicators.

Are all the **chapters** need to be included?

Fewer indicators could bring a **better performance** of the whole process.

Keep it simple! A reduced list of indicators can have a big impact and a better performance.

✓ While looking over the sort of indicators, **some discussions were held on bribery**, and on personal **intimacy** and the **scope of the public registers** referred to transparency and accountability.

✓ We **avoided to include** indicators for both **political parties** and **employers** chapters. While you get a less global and complete system, it makes **easier and shorter the process of adaptation** of the Score Card.

✓ A **shorter list of indicators** can probably bring good results with a **better performance**.

Basque Experience in Public Ethics

2. Our experience: assessment.

Chapter E 1. Transparency, access to the information and participation.	Transparency, administrative procedures, public commitment and assessment.
E.1.4.	El Ayuntamiento publica mensualmente en su página web municipal y en el tablón de anuncios el lugar, los días y las horas en que realizará sus reuniones, indicando en las mismas si son abiertas a la asistencia de la ciudadanía y el aforo máximo permitido de la sala en la que se realizan.
1. El Ayuntamiento NO publica ni en su página web ni en el tablón de anuncios el lugar, los días y las horas en los que realizará sus reuniones.	0
2. El Ayuntamiento publica en el tablón de anuncios el lugar, los días y las horas en los que realizará sus reuniones, pero NO en su página web.	3
3. El Ayuntamiento publica en su página web y en el tablón de anuncios el lugar, los días y las horas en las que realizará sus reuniones, pero NO especifica si son abiertas para la ciudadanía.	7
4. El Ayuntamiento publica en su página web y en el tablón de anuncios el lugar, los días y las horas en las que realizará sus reuniones, Y ADEMÁS especifica si son abiertas a la ciudadanía.	10
E.1.4 SELF-ASSESSMENT Score 5	

✓ The possible choices when assessing each indicator have to be **very specific** and leave **no margin of subjectivity**.

✓ In order to trust the process and avoid a political misuse of the results of the assessment, **the scores were not shared between each municipalities** (just average scorings to provide references for measure purposes).

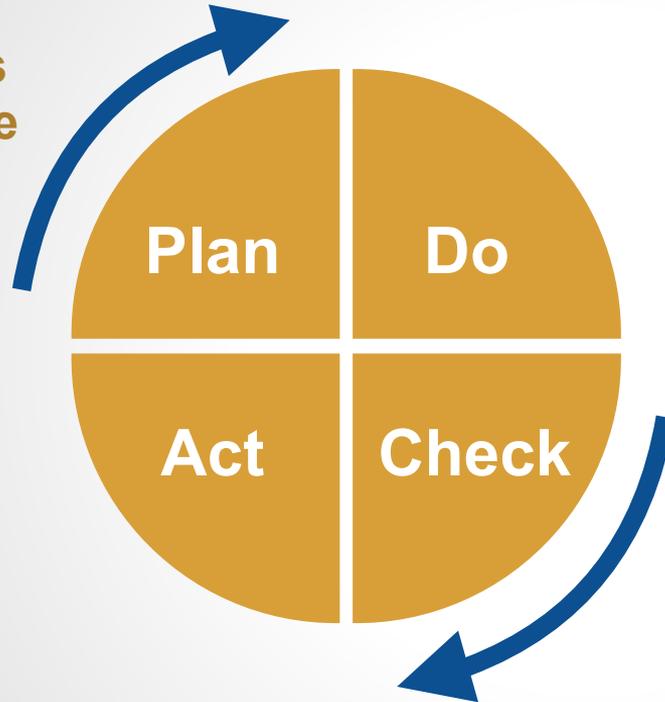
✓ We also kept a **low media profile** to create a confidence context between the municipalities.

A harder work when adapting the indicators, can help the assessment to be more objective.

Basque Experience in Public Ethics

2. Our experience: systematic approach.

The continuous
innovation cycle
(PDCA)



✓ We need to find a **balance to deal with transparency, accountability and participation and a good performance** on the governance of the public administrations.

✓ A **stable National Committee on Ethics** would help on **deploying the systematic approach** needed for the long term. The goal is **not the scoring** but being **continuously improving our activities** to be more ethical and to **gain high standards of confidence** from citizens.

The adoption of the whole system would really transform the municipalities.



Steady ethical committees help having a bigger impact.



Keep it simple! A reduced list of indicators can have a big impact and a better performance.



A harder work when adapting the indicators, can help the assessment to be more objective.



The adoption of the whole system would really transform the municipalities.



**Special thanks to the Centre of
Expertise for Local Government
Reform.**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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