



**21. korrika**  
2019ko apirilaren 4tik 14ra  
**GARESTIK GASTEIZA**

# Klika

Every Klik is a choice, choosing Basque, taking a decision. The decision is to learn Basque, to use it, to get involved, to take the step. Deciding to Klik means empowering yourself in Basque, enrolling at an euskaltegi or Basque language centre. A Klik means taking steps to ensure language rights for all. It's time for a commitment.

Klik on a new era, on culture, on our language. Klik with your eyes wide open. Take a deep breath, take a look at the Basque-speaking world and Klik to live, to be free, to choose Euskera, the Basque language. Klik, ikimilikiliklik! AEK considers Basque to be the key to a new society, and has chosen you to be part of this, with a Klik on you. A Klik to take a step towards the future. Klik on Korrika.

With this Klik, we'll discover the shape of the language, its melodies, its flavours; Klik is the music of the street; Klik to satisfy our hunger and our thirst for Basque.

Basque has decided to Klik to take it to the next level: that of action, of commitment, of making Basque universal, a Klik on our common future. The Basque Country has become aware of its language, has created the Basque community. Now is the Basque era, now is the time: take a step towards Basque, get up and do it, commit yourself, take the decision, Klik to speak Basque.

**Klik means commitment. Klik is an option to choose.**  
**Klik on Basque. Klik to learn it, to use it, to take the step.**  
**Klik on community, on language, on culture.**  
**Klik on the future, on a new era, on the Basque Country.**  
**Klik on me, on you, on all of us.**  
**Klik on the sweet taste of Basque, ikimilikiliklik!**  
**Klik on music, dance in Basque.**  
**Klik, ahobizi; Klik, belarriprest.**  
**Klik to nurture it, to help it grow, to commit yourself.**  
**Klik on our option. Klik, AEK. Klik, Korrika.**

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## KORRIKA

Organised by AEK, Korrika is a race for the Basque language that wends its way through the Basque Country. Its objective is twofold: on the one hand, to promote awareness of the need to speak Basque and, on the other, to raise funds that will enable the AEK Basque language schools to continue their teaching work.

Since the first Korrika run in 1980, from Oñati to Bilbao, the event has become one of the most important initiatives in support of the Basque language given the enormous number of people who participate in it. There have now been 20 editions of Korrika in the last 39 years, and on 4th April 2019 a new edition will set off, covering more than 2,000 km over 11 days for the Basque language, not stopping for a moment and with the participation of hundreds of thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds.

## AEK

Korrika is organised by AEK, an organisation with the mission to recover Basque and revive the language among the people of the Basque Country. To achieve its objective it teaches Basque language and literacy to adults, also working in other areas such as the research and publishing of educational material, teacher training, organising cultural activities and programmes to encourage Basque use, designing and implementing plans for regularised introduction of the language to companies and institutions, and organising awareness campaigns.

The first Basque literacy groups were created around 1965, when the first campaign was launched to recover the Basque language. As more and more groups took shape, while continuing its work in the field, AEK also started to promote teaching for people interested in learning the language. That mission, unchanged today, led, with the backing and support of Euskaltzaindia (Academy of the Basque Language) to the creation of the first evening schools or *gau-eskolak*, followed by the *euskaltegis* or Basque language schools.

As they run, the participants carry a baton which they pass from hand to hand, kilometre upon kilometre. Inside the baton is a message which won't be revealed until the very end of the run, when it will be read out.

Estimates put runners at several hundreds of thousands in previous editions of Korrika. Such high numbers and the tremendous movement generated around the initiative reflect in its full magnitude the extent of Basque society's commitment to its language. Korrika has become an event which gets all of Basque society up and moving every two years. Participation increases every edition and thousands of people volunteer in its organisation by joining the committees set up in the different villages and neighbourhoods, while hundreds of cultural and fun activities are organised along the way.

Today, AEK is one of the most important organisations in the field of teaching the Basque language and its literacy to adults, with over 100 schools and more than 500 teachers, offering support in drawing up plans to introduce the language and programmes to encourage its use. AEK also provides a translation and correction service and publishes the magazine *AIZU!*

One exciting thing we would like to highlight since the last edition of Korrika is the backing it has received from society. On the one hand, more and more people are choosing to use the Basque language in their everyday lives following the BATZUK call for support launched in KORRIKA 20. But also refreshing are the

increasing numbers of people who are coming to our schools to learn Basque. However, the authorities are not yet allocating these centres the funding they need. In the Basque autonomous region within Spain the situation is still not one of normality, although progress has been made; in Iparralde (the French Basque Country), subsidies have increased, but not enough to teach Basque to adults in general, while in Nafarroa (Navarra), despite the darkest years having come to an end, the steps taken so far have been small. It is essential to speed up badly-needed Basque teaching for adults, and for greater investment to be made. That's why all funds raised through the 21st Korrika will go to support AEK language centres.

## THE 21ST KORRIKA PAYS HOMAGE TO TXILLARDEGI

For many people, Txillardegui is among the key figures of the break between generations that took place in Euskal Herria, the Basque Country, after the Spanish Civil War. In those difficult times - breaking with the dictates of tradition - a new body of thought grew up, one which took in the fields of politics, culture, philosophy and religion.

Txillardegui left a rich legacy in areas like literature, research, education and Basque cultural activity. In his day, he chose to KLIK on the Basque language, its literature, its people and more.

Txillardegui's primary concern was that the people needed their language, and the Basque language is the essential emblem of the country.

### This is what Txillardegui did for Basque speakers:

For many years, he argued for the need to create a unified language for use at the highest level. In 1957 he was appointed as a corresponding member of Euskaltzaindia, the academy of the Basque language, but never became a full member, even though he was more than qualified as a Basque scholar.

In October 1964, he called Basque writers and teachers together for an open meeting to hear their opinions. A year later he published a report on the decisions taken at this meeting. This report was the most important precedent for the one drawn up in 1968 by the Assembly of Arantzazu, considered the founding document of standard Basque. Txillardegui was both precursor and author of this first report.

Therefore, taking advantage of the fact that in October 2018 we will be presenting the 21st KORRIKA and this year is the 50th anniversary of STANDARD BASQUE, in the conviction that it is well-deserved, we propose that the 21st KORRIKA pay homage to Txillardegui. This is in recognition of his life's work, as it is to him that we owe what is probably the most important achievement in the history of Basque speakers. Nothing more needs to be said. There is a fundamental fact in the history of Basque, more important than anything else, and this is the creation of STANDARD BASQUE.

## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

### In the organisation:

By joining the committees created to organise Korrika in your town or neighbourhood.

### In funding Korrika:

- By acquiring the *Korrika laguntzailea* emblem.
- By purchasing 21st KORRIKA merchandising.
- By acquiring the Korrika participant's bib from the AEK Basque schools or from the Korrika shops, either before the race or on the day it passes through your town.
- By helping to raise funds for Korrika or by paying the amount you wish to donate into the Korrika bank account opened in the Laboral Kutxa bank ES70 3035 0072 02 0720037810
- By carrying the baton and contributing with your family, with the members of associations or with friends.

### In helping to spread news:

- By visiting the Korrika website ([www.korrika.eus](http://www.korrika.eus)) and participating in its social networks. Also, by participating in the cultural events organised to celebrate the Korrika Kulturala.

### In Korrika itself:

- By taking part in the start of the 21st KORRIKA, on 4th April in Gares, and in the closing party on 14th April in Gasteiz.
- By participating in the race wearing the race bib, thereby showing everyone that we want to learn, speak and live in the Basque language.

### Businesses and shops:

- By sponsoring the different initiatives to advertise Korrika.
- By acquiring your own *Korrikalari* or *Korrika laguna* emblem.
- By acquiring kilometres. Anyone wishing to choose this option should head to the Korrika offices.

**æk**



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