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Etxepare Basque Institute launches a portal for literary samples designed to promote the translation and publication of original works in Basque

-The tool aims to facilitate the sale of publishing rights for Basque works, fostering their international exposure.

-Irene Larraza: “This tool is available for all Basque authors, aiming to showcase a wide range of samples from current literary titles to reach the largest audience possible.”

Today, the Etxepare Basque Institute unveiled a new tool aimed at promoting global exposure of Basque literature and support its translation into other languages. The announcement was made at a press conference in San Sebastian, with the Basque Government's Minister of Culture and Language Policy, Bingen Zupiria, and the Institute's Director, Irene Larraza, in attendance.

Entirely in English, this portal features samples of contemporary Basque literature, is designed with two primary goals in mind. Firstly, to assist writers, publishers and literary agents in the Basque Country with the sale of foreign translation and publishing rights for literary works in Basque, and in this way raise the international profile of Basque literature. Secondly, to offer the international public a snapshot of the most recent literature in Basque.

The portal offers a significant number of samples translated into English or French of Basque titles that have not yet been published in these languages. The titles are chosen for two different reasons.

Some of the titles have successfully applied for grants for the translation of literary samples. This call, initiated by the Institute in 2021, invites publishers or translators to apply for funds to translate chapters or sections of a particular title. This also directly benefits the authors, who have a sample of their work in English and/or French that they can use to achieve their objectives. This call operates on an automatic basis, meaning all applications meeting the specified criteria receive support for their translation and are subsequently included in the list of samples available on the website.

The website also includes samples in English and/or French of all the works in Basque that have been awarded the Euskadi Prize since 2021. Between them, there are a total of 31 titles, and this number is expected to gradually increase in the coming years.

The titles listed are divided into fiction and non-fiction, as well as subcategories, such as children's books, poetry, novels, essays, and short stories. Each title includes information in English about the book and author, a downloadable sample (chapters, excerpts, poems, etc.) in English and/or French, a contact for publishing rights and additional information such as publisher, number of pages and ISBN. Visitors can explore the portal by category or author. The information on available titles has been provided by the authors or copyright holders themselves.

According to Irene Larraza, director of the Etxepare Basque Institute, the aim of this initiative is to increase the visibility of current Basque literature, promote translation into other languages and, as a result, contribute to greater participation by Basque-language writers in international festivals and events.

Larraza emphasized that this resource is not meant to be a catalogue, selection, or anthology of works, nor a definitive directory of translated Basque literature. Instead, it

serves as a complement, a partial showcase of the recent literary production in the Basque language. “This tool is available for all Basque authors, aiming to showcase a wide range of samples from current literary titles to reach the largest audience possible,” added Larraza.

This tool is an addition to the Institute's strategy to enhance the visibility and international presence of Basque literature. Other components include a translation support scheme (translation of complete works and translation of literary samples) and grants to cover travel expenses for writers invited to show their work abroad, agreements with international festivals and events to include Basque writers in their programmes, and the annual Etxepare - LABORAL Kutxa Itzulpen Saria translation prize. With these initiatives, Etxepare seeks to boost the global projection of Basque literature and support authors in their international careers.

The portal featuring samples of Basque literature is available at www.basquebooks.eus. Since 2020, the Basque publishing sector and institutions have jointly embraced this brand to promote Basque literature and books internationally. Under this brand numerous promotional and outreach activities take place at book fairs, festivals and other national and international events. This website also provides information on industry professionals in the Basque Country, funding schemes to encourage foreign publishers to publish works of fiction and non-fiction by Basque authors or works originally written in Basque, support for festival and event organisers to invite Basque authors, and access to a range of translation-oriented resources developed by EIZIE (Association of Basque Language Translators, Proofreaders and Interpreters) recently translated into English with Support from Etxepare. The site serves as a hub, facilitating connections among writers, editors, agents, translators, and publishers, both in the Basque Country and abroad.

The tool also incorporates a download system enabling Etxepare to gather data on users and the samples they have downloaded. This data can be used to offer personalised information and perform targeted actions.



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