



HURBILTZEN [Regulations]

Araba, Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa, Lapurdi, Nafarroa –Garaia and Behea- and Zuberoa:
together we form a nation.

Euskal Herria is a nation comprising seven historical territories that share very common characteristics while also having their own ones, forged over centuries of history. One of the main aims of UDALBIDE is to foster links among citizens and among these territories.

With an open-minded, respectful and participatory spirit. With an approach which is fully consistent with the process of European Union (EU) integration, by removing borders and constructing bonds of solidarity and mutual awareness. We share values which are common to any European citizen (democracy, peace, freedom and respect for human rights), and also share characteristics that define us as a people: Euskera, among other things. That is why we defend relations among our municipalities and their citizens via the HURBILTZEN programme.

The structure of this initiative is founded on these regulations:

Article 1. Objectives

- a) To set a vast twinning programme in motion that may involve the largest possible number of municipalities and citizens from Euskal Herria in order to strengthen knowledge, contact and exchange of ideas, programmes and products.
- b) To be the driving force behind projects involving collaboration and cooperation among municipal institutions and among the economic, social and cultural agents of each municipality.
- c) To strengthen the image that all we Basques are of the same nation.

Article 2. Leading players

- a) The leading players in this initiative are the citizens, via the activities they carry out in their daily life in the course of their professional, cultural, economic and leisure activity, both individually and in an organized manner (company, association, etc.).
- b) Twinning with cities/municipalities from other countries outside Euskal Herria is also included within this initiative, above all in those where there are

communities belonging to the Basque Diaspora or with whom there exist historical, cultural or economic relations.

Article 3. Participants

a) The aim, as far as possible, is for all twinning to include a municipality from Pays Basque-Iparralde (the North Basque Country), another from the Autonomous Region of Navarre and another from the Autonomous Region of the Basque Country.

b) HURBILTZEN also includes already-existing twinning and facilitates their development within the framework of this initiative.

c) To select the participant municipalities and the degree of supervision, the following is taken into consideration: availability and willingness in order for the twinning to materialize, the proven effect of the actions to be carried out, the number of citizens involved in each of these actions and the number of issues that may favour the development of the philosophy behind the HURBILTZEN programme.

Article 4. Content of the twinning projects

a) Initiatives must indicate the areas and courses of action, the activities envisaged, the budget estimated and their duration and continuity. The aim is that there should be full collaboration among town halls and citizens, starting from the leading role played by the twinning committees.

b) Collaboration is promoted around the following areas:

- **Municipal management**
 - Euskera (Euskera services provided by town halls, *Euskaltegi* Basque language schools, linguistic immersion, etc.)
- **Education (schools, students and teachers)**
- **Fairs of local products**
- **Environment, sustainable development**
- **Tourism and leisure**
- **Economic development and business**
- **Culture (song, music, theatre, dance, film, museums and plastic arts, etc.)**
- **Gastronomy and farm products**
- **Handicrafts**
- **Sports**
- **Traditions**
- **Senior citizens**

Special emphasis is given to the participation of youth in all facets: language, sports, employment, free time and folklore, etc.

Article 5. Agreement with UDALBILDE and Twinning Declaration

a) HURBILTZEN fosters free collaboration of an organized and continuous nature. To this end, an agreement is signed during the initial phase with UDALBIDE (Annex 1), in which the municipalities involved express their willingness to successfully establish already-developed contacts with a view to fostering exchange and collaboration via shared projects.

b) Once the municipalities involved in a twinning have expressed interest themselves, they shall then organize the Twinning Committee, decide on the preferred areas of collaboration, the common working projects for the current year and the budget to be set aside for such purpose.

c) During a second phase from the time of signing the agreement and within a maximum period of two years, the relevant town halls shall draft, approve and sign the Twinning Declaration, which shall be the statute governing relations between the twinned localities, in accordance with that provided for in article 4 of these regulations.

Article 6. The Twinning Committees

a) A Twinning Committee shall try to be set up in each municipality – the larger the better and comprising representatives from town halls, members of different local associations or groups and residents from each locality who wish to participate on an individual basis.

b) The purpose of this committee is to discuss, programme and develop the common projects that are being carried out by the twinned localities.

Article 7. Consultancy provided by HURBILTZEN

a) HURBILTZEN provides consultancy services to the town halls that take part in this programme.

b) Consultancy consists of:

- Providing information for the purpose of setting up twinning
- Approving and formulating new proposals for already-existing twinning agreements
- Providing advice on a permanent basis to participant town halls
- Administering additional sources of funding (regional governments, the European Union and private companies, etc)

Article 8. Responsibilities and commitments of participant town halls

UDALBILDE finances part of the expenditure incurred in developing the actions taken by twinned municipalities within the framework of the HURBILTZEN programme. That is why participant town halls must be clear as to their commitments contained in the programme and the responsibilities they take on:

a) The setting-up of a twinning involves specific work - a facet to add to the programme of actions to be carried out by the town hall. There must be the necessary willingness to work and become involved.

b) Twinning must be present in the courses of action taken by the locality and town hall in the interests of its citizens.

c) The benefit sought by each municipality must complement the benefit of others. It must serve the purpose of learning and teaching.

d) Participation in twinning programmes will be for a continuous period of time.

e) Each town hall must obtain the participation of the population and the social forces existing in the locality.

Article 9. Funding

a) Expenditure incurred at the start of the programme. UDALBIDE undertakes to fund a percentage of expenditure incurred by each town hall that decides to take part in the HURBILTZEN programme, on signing of the agreement referred to in article 5.a.

b) Expenditure incurred for ordinary projects. Costs incurred for each project by each of the twinned town halls, for which purpose the issue being dealt with in that project may be taken into consideration, together with its duration and the degree of participation and social involvement in it.

c) Expenditure incurred for extraordinary projects. Interested municipalities shall submit the projects they deem appropriate to UDALBIDE together with the relevant request for funding. This shall then be studied and dealt with accordingly.

e) HURBILTZEN techniques shall provide those town halls that take part in this twinning programme with a consultancy service for the application and processing of other public and private grants: regional governments, European Union Twinning Programme, European Union Youth Programme, foundations and private companies.

Article 10. Terms and conditions for accessing UDALBIDE grants

a) All town halls that wish to obtain financial aid from UDALBIDE via the HURBILTZEN programme must comply with the following terms and conditions:

Have already made contact and

Have signed the Agreement of Collaboration with UDALBIDE

b) Those projects that have been approved by the Twinning Committee and by UDALBIDE and whose expenditure is duly justified shall be eligible for grants. Those projects carried out by the twinned municipalities shall be funded according to the budgetary availability via the HURBILTZEN programme.

Those projects eligible for grants shall be submitted via an agreement that UDALBIDE shall draw up for such purpose at the beginning of each year.