Young people are decreasing in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

In the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country there are 62 youths for each 100 people aged 65 and over

On occasion of the World Population Day on July 11, the Basque Youth Observatory is presenting some data about the evolution of the demographic structure in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. According to these data, the amount of young people in the Basque population is progressively decreasing.

The Youth index shows the percentage of people aged 15 to 29 that there is in a society. In the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country this index has decreased without stopping since 2000: it was 22.2 % in 2000 and it is 13.2 % in 2015.

Youth index has decreased among men and among women. In 2015 it is 13.8 % for men and 12.6 % for women.

There is no significant difference between provinces, but 2015 it’s the first time that Alava isn’t the province with the highest youth index; this time the highest datum is been registered in Gipuzkoa (in Alava Youth index is 13.4 % and in Gipuzkoa 13.5 %). Bizkaia’s Youth index is the lowest in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country; the percentage of people aged 15 to 29 is only 12.9 % of the population of Bizkaia.

In Spain, the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country is the second autonomous community with the lowest Youth index. Only Asturias has a lower index than the Basque Country (it’s 12.3 % in Asturias). The highest indicators
have been registered in Ceuta and Melilla, where young people are the 20% of the population, and in Andalucía, Extremadura and the Canary Islands, where the index is 17%. However, in all of the communities young people are decreasing year after year.

If we compare the Basque index with those that have been registered in the 28 countries of the European Union, we can see that the Basque index is the lowest one. The median of the index of the 28 states in the European Union (EU28) is 17.5%.

The small amount of young people in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country shows us that our population is an aged one. If we compare the amount of youths aged 15 to 29 and the amount of elderly people (65 years and over), we can see that there are 62.5 youths for each 100 people aged 65 and over.
The evolution of this indicator has been very striking: in 2000 there were 129.2 young people for each 100 elderly people, and 15 years later the proportion has decreased to 62.5.

Bizkaia is the province with the lowest ratio of youths (59.8 for each 100 elderly people) and Alava is the province with the highest one (68.9). In Gipuzkoa the proportion is 64.1 young people for 100 elderly people.

These data can be consulted in the Youth statistics of the website of the Basque Youth Observatory. There, it’s possible to consult them by sex, age groups and province.