11.5% of Basque youths are currently involved in volunteer work

The participation of youth in voluntary service activities has increased in recent years

On occasion of the International Volunteer Day (5 December), the Basque Youth Observatory is publishing some data on the participation of Basque youth in volunteering activities.

In 2016, 11.5% of young people in the Basque Country aged 15 to 29 have claimed they are currently involved in volunteering activities. Another 19.1% say that, although they are currently not involved in this type of activity, they were in the past. Therefore, we can conclude that, in total, one out of every three young people in the Basque Country (30.6%) has some experience in volunteering.

If we analyse the evolution of the percentage of young people who are or have been involved in volunteering activities from 2008 to 2016, we see an increase in current involvement levels in volunteering activities and in the percentage of young people with experience (current or past) in this type of activity.
If we focus on those who are currently volunteering, we find that more girls do volunteer work than boys (15.1 % and 8.0 %, respectively). The intermediate age group (20-24) presents the highest number of young people who currently do volunteer work (15.1 %). In Bizkaia, the percentage of people currently involved in volunteering (15.3%) is somewhat higher than in Gipuzkoa and Álava (9.6 % and 8.8 %, respectively).

These data come from the "Basque Youth" series of studies that the Basque Youth Observatory conducts every four years. In this case, the 2016 edition (still under preparation), the study involves a survey of 1500 young people from the Basque Country aged 15 to 29 who have been asked about a range of topics.