Seven out of ten young people in the Basque Country support granting aid and housing to refugees

The refugee crisis is still front-page news. The referendum held on 2 October in Hungary is the latest chapter of an issue that is highlighting the difficulties that the arrival of refugees poses for Europe.

The Basque Youth Observatory has taken advantage of a new edition of the “Basque Youth” survey prepared in February and March 2016 to see to what extent young people support Basque institutions providing assistance and housing to refugees.

67.8% of Basque youths support granting aid and shelter to refugees. Women show a slightly higher level of support than young men do and the younger people display higher levels of support than people over the age of 25.

The origins of the young people also marked differences. Among those who were born abroad, support for such measures for refugees was almost ten percentage points higher than the average figures (77.2% compared to 67.8%).

The variables that had the greatest influence on the differences of opinion, however, were related to ideological issues and values; particularly young people’s opinions regarding the arrival of immigrants. 90.7% of people who believe we should allow the arrival of the highest possible number of immigrants support the measures in favour of refugees.

Other aspects, such as performing voluntary work or an interest in politics, also positively correlated with an attitude in favour of supporting the arrival of refugees.
The above data come from a survey conducted by the Basque Youth Observatory based on a representative sample of Basque youth aged 15 to 29. The sample consisted of 1500 young people (750 young men and 750 young women) who were interviewed on this and other issues in the first quarter of 2016. This data are an advance on the study that will be published next year under the title "Basque Youth 2016". This is the fifth edition in this series of analyses of the values, attitudes, opinions and behaviour of Basque youth under the age of 30 that the Basque Youth Observatory prepares every four years.