Findings: ELE Report on the Basque Language

German Rigau (HiTZ Centre, University of the Basque Country)
german.rigau@ehu.eus

08-11-2022 STOA Workshop Towards full digital language equality in a multilingual European Union
http://european-language-equality.eu
Basque

- Source: ELE D1.4 Report on the Basque Language
- Basque is spoken by 28.4% (751,500)
- 93.2% in Spain, 6.8% in France
- Co-official in Basque Autonomous Community and northern Navarre
- Non-Indo-European language, latin script
- Five main spoken dialects, one standard since 1968
- The standard is used in almost all formal contexts: school, university, public administration, official web pages, newspapers, radio and television.
- Basque digital condition remains **vulnerable**
Basque Language Technology

- organized ecosystem for language industry
- Few alternatives for some basic LT tools and services
- Missing advanced LT tools for Basque
  - information extraction and retrieval
  - language generation and summarisation
  - human-computer interaction
- a significant gap remains in terms of (public) data:
  - speech, multimodal
  - domain-specific data
- lack of sufficient resources:
  - access to GPU-based HPC
  - LT experts
Language Technology Strategies in Spain

• Plan for the Advancement of Language Technology (2015-2020)

• Spain’s recovery and resilience plan (2022-2025)
  • Strategic projects for economic recovery and transformation (PERTE)
  • New Language Economy (\(1.1B \text{€}\))
    • AI, translation, education, cultural dissemination, audiovisual production, research and science.
  • New national LT Plan (2022-2025)
    • AINA (CAT) 13.5M€ (2021-2026)
    • Nós (GAL) 15.5M€ (2022-2025)
    • GAITU (EUS) 5M€ (2021-2024)

• Basque digital health would benefit from more ambitious and coordinated LT strategies at the European, national and regional levels.
Eskerrik asko
Thank you

German Rigau (HiTZ Centre, UPV/EHU)
german.rigau@ehu.eus

08-11-2022 STOA Workshop Towards full digital language equality in a multilingual European Union
http://european-language-equality.eu