



The Basque Education System

Overview

Basque Ministry of Education:

<http://www.hezkuntza.ejgv.euskadi.net/r43-2722/en>



Basque Institute for Research and Evaluation in Education:

<http://www.isei-ivei.net>

Basque Country



Politically divided into three different Administrations: (Two in Spain, one in France)

- Autonomous Community of the Basque Country
- Navarre
- French Basque Country

The Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

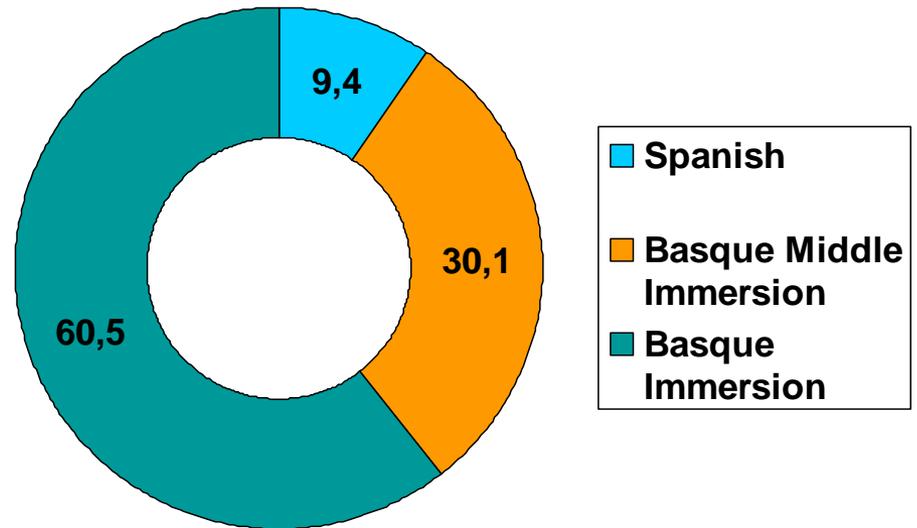
Euskadi-Basque Country	
Surface	7.234 Km²
Inhabitants	2.124.846 hab.
Density	293,7 inhabit/km²
Official Languages	Basque and Spanish
Capital	Vitoria-Gasteiz



The Basque Language

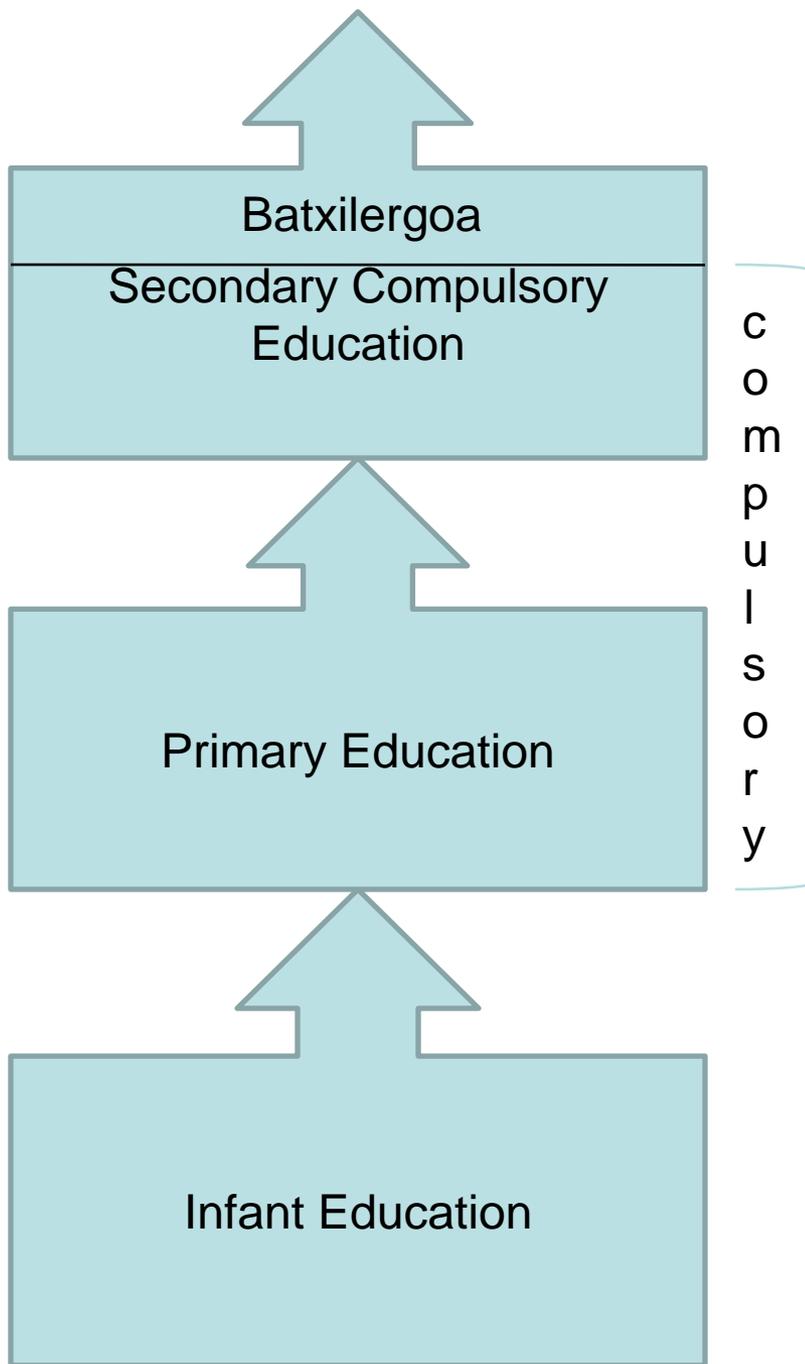
- Two families of languages, the Uralic and the Indo-European, are to be found in Europe, but Basque is not genetically linked to either, lacking ties to family or origin.
- Today, Basque is a lesser-used language in the Basque territories.
- But the Basque Education System is a powerful tool to spread the knowledge of the language.

- The Basque language in the Education System today: more than the 90% of the students enrolled in Basque Immersion Programmes



Education: Main features

- Full responsibility in Education.
- 330.000 students (2005) (except university levels)
- Multilingual:
 - Official languages: Basque and Spanish (mainly Basque immersion)
 - Main foreign language: English (starting at the age of 4)
- Preschool: %100 of the students at school at the age of 3, 90% at 2.
- 45% of the curriculum decided in the Basque Country
- Compulsory Education: 6 to 16 years old.

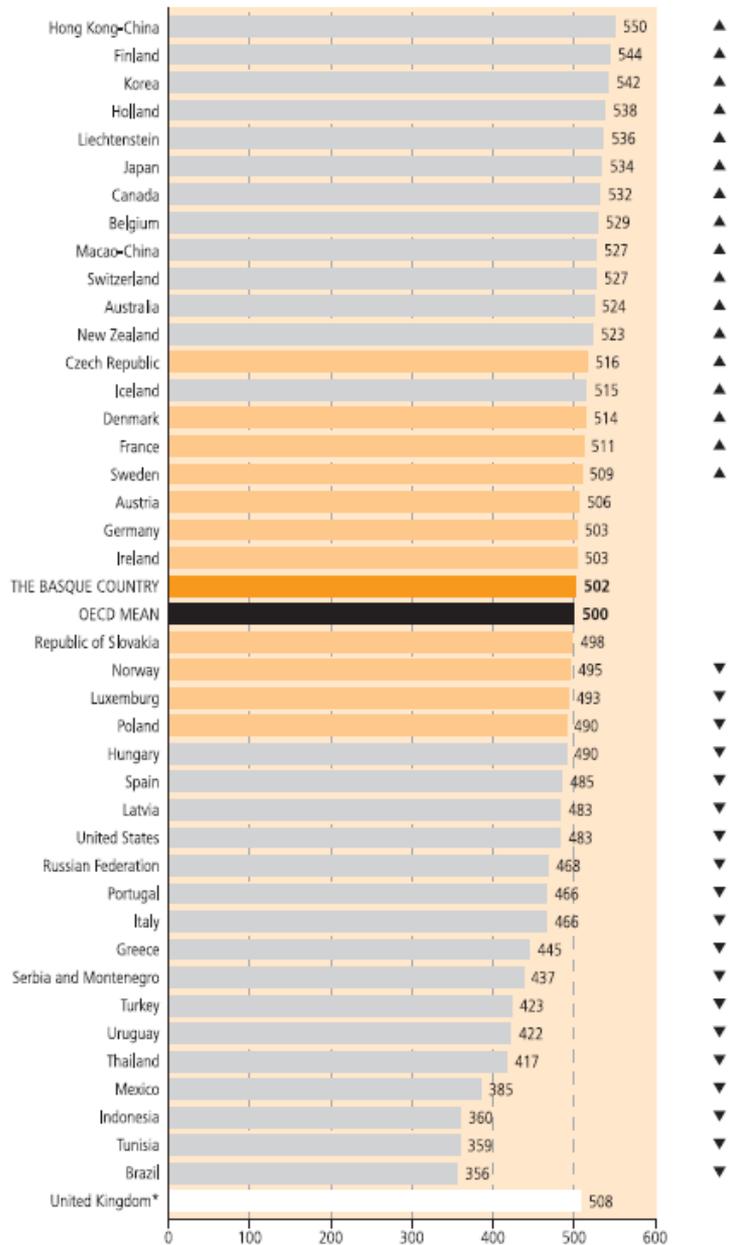


The Basque education System guarantees the provision of compulsory education free of charge from ages 6 to 16. It is a bilingual system in Basque and Spanish, the two official languages.

Education is structured on three levels: Primary (up to age 12), Secondary (up to 16) and Further Education/ Vocational Training, extending subsequently to university, polytechnic and higher vocational training college studies. In December 2002 a decree was passed regulating early-learning canter for children up to the age of 3.

There are four universities in the Basque Country, with a total of 28 faculties or colleges, 3 higher technical colleges and 11 university colleges. The publicly-run University of the Basque Country (EHU-UPV) provides higher education in a range of areas, including Medicine, Science, Fine Arts, Journalism, Economics and Industrial Engineering.

Figure 1. Mean results for Mathematics, in participating countries



Pisa 2003 results Maths comparison

BASQUE COUNTRY: 502
OECD: 500
SPAIN: 485

Significant differences at 95%:

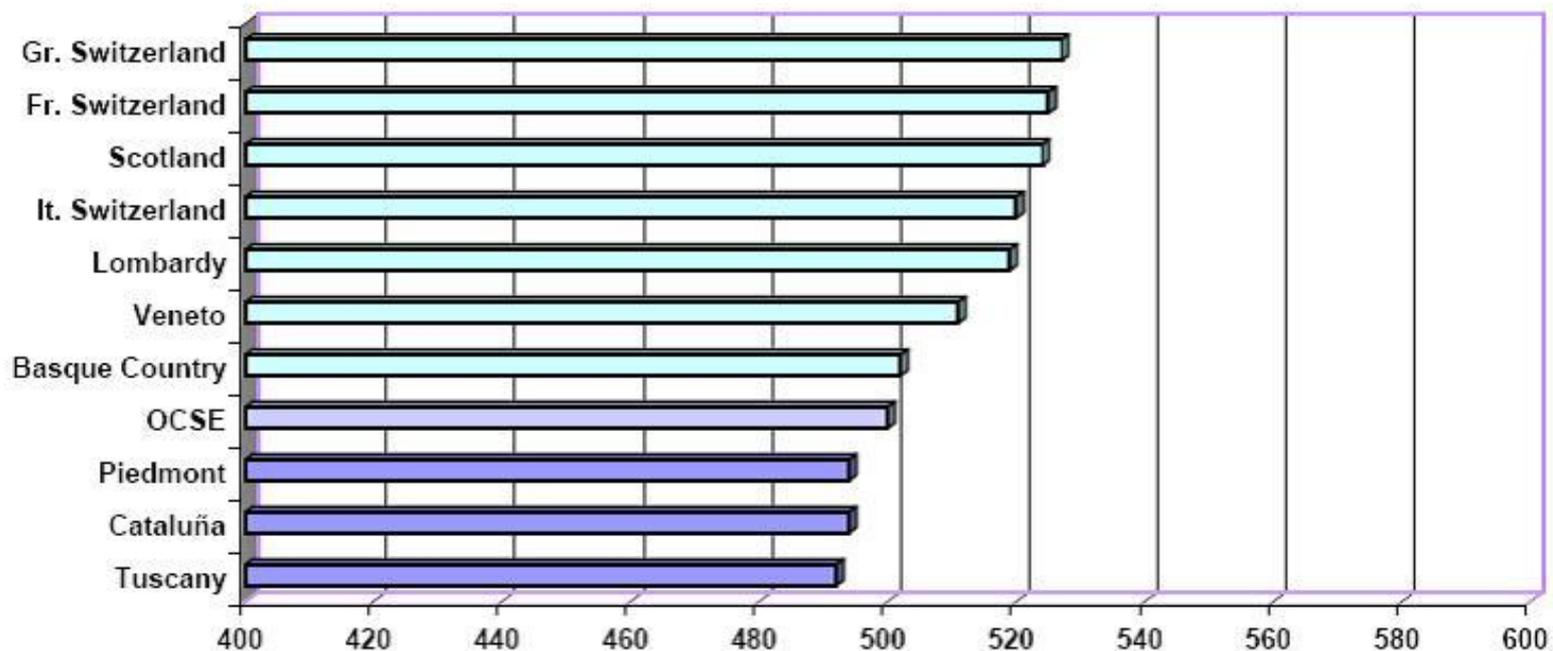
- ▲ significantly higher score than the OECD mean
- ▼ significantly lower score than the OECD mean
- significant difference with regard to the mean score for the Basque Country

* The response rate for the United Kingdom is too low to make comparison with other countries.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENTS

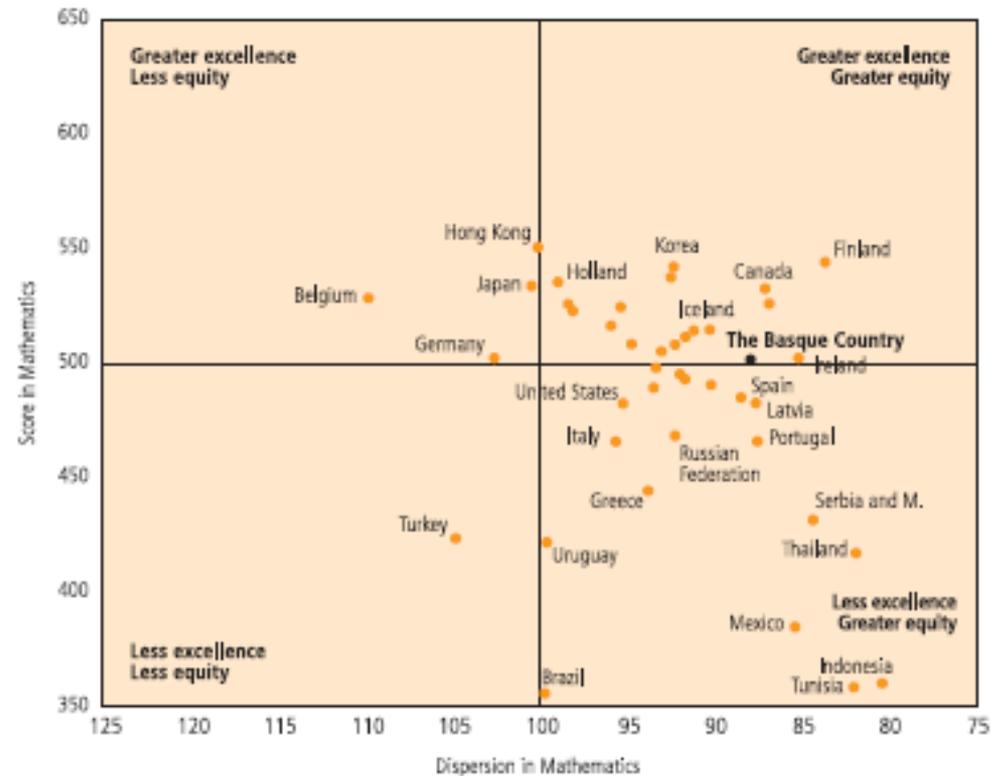
PISA 2003, MATHS-COMPARISON

Chart 1: Average Score in Maths among 15 year-old students in some Italian and European Regions



THE BASQUE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN PISA 2003

- Our achievement is, in most subjects, on the mean of the OECD.
- The Basque Education System is equitable, but lacks excellence
- Scientific literacy, degree of excellence and male student performance are just some of the aspects to be improved in the Basque Education System



SOCIO ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDENTS- PISA 2003 INDEX

Canada	0,5
Finland	0,2
Germany	0,2
OCDE	0,0
Basque Country	-0,1
Ireland	-0,1
Italy	-0,1
Greece	-0,2
Spain	-0,3

Exhibit 1.1: Distribution of Mathematics Achievement

TIMSS 2003 SCORES:

BASQUE COUNTRY 487
INTERNATIONAL: 467



Countries	Years of Schooling*	Average Age	Mathematics Achievement Distribution	Average Scale Score	Human Development Index**
Singapore	8	14.3		605 (3.6) ●	0.884
♣ Korea, Rep. of	8	14.6		589 (2.2) ●	0.879
† Hong Kong, SAR	8	14.4		586 (3.3) ●	0.889
Chinese Taipei	8	14.2		585 (4.6) ●	–
Japan	8	14.4		570 (2.1) ●	0.932
Belgium (Flemish)	8	14.1		537 (2.8) ●	0.937
† Netherlands	8	14.3		536 (3.8) ●	0.938
Estonia	8	15.2		531 (3.0) ●	0.833
Hungary	8	14.5		529 (3.2) ●	0.837
Malaysia	8	14.3		508 (4.1) ●	0.790
Latvia	8	15.0		508 (3.2) ●	0.811
Russian Federation	7 or 8	14.2		508 (3.7) ●	0.779
Slovak Republic	8	14.3		508 (3.3) ●	0.836
Australia	8 or 9	13.9		505 (4.6) ●	0.939
‡ United States	8	14.2		504 (3.3) ●	0.937
¹ Lithuania	8	14.9		502 (2.5) ●	0.824
Sweden	8	14.9		499 (2.6) ●	0.941
† Scotland	9	13.7		498 (3.7) ●	0.930
² Israel	8	14.0		496 (3.4) ●	0.905
New Zealand	8.5 - 9.5	14.1		494 (5.3) ●	0.917
Slovenia	7 or 8	13.8		493 (2.2) ●	0.881
Italy	8	13.9		484 (3.2) ●	0.916
Armenia	8	14.9		478 (3.0) ●	0.729
¹ Serbia	8	14.9		477 (2.6) ●	–
Bulgaria	8	14.9		476 (4.3) ●	0.795
Romania	8	15.0		475 (4.8) ●	0.773
International Avg.	8	14.5		467 (0.5)	–
Norway	7	13.8		461 (2.5) ☹	0.944
Moldova, Rep. of	8	14.9		460 (4.0) ●	0.700
Cyprus	8	13.8		459 (1.7) ☹	0.891
² Macedonia, Rep. of	8	14.6		435 (3.5) ☹	0.784
Lebanon	8	14.6		433 (3.1) ☹	0.752
Jordan	8	13.9		424 (4.1) ☹	0.743
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	8	14.4		411 (2.4) ☹	0.719
¹ Indonesia	8	14.5		411 (4.8) ☹	0.682
Tunisia	8	14.8		410 (2.2) ☹	0.740
Egypt	8	14.4		406 (3.5) ☹	0.648
Bahrain	8	14.1		401 (1.7) ☹	0.839
Palestinian Nat'l Auth.	8	14.1		390 (3.1) ☹	0.731
Chile	8	14.2		387 (3.3) ☹	0.831
¹ ‡ Morocco	8	15.2		387 (2.5) ☹	0.606
Philippines	8	14.8		378 (5.2) ☹	0.751
Botswana	8	15.1		366 (2.6) ☹	0.614
Saudi Arabia	8	14.1		332 (4.6) ☹	0.769
Ghana	8	15.5		276 (4.7) ☹	0.567
South Africa	8	15.1		264 (5.5) ☹	0.684
‡ England	9	14.3		498 (4.7) ●	0.930
Benchmarking Participants					
Basque Country, Spain	8	14.1		487 (2.7) ●	–
Indiana State, US	8	14.5		508 (5.2) ●	–
Ontario Province, Can.	8	13.8		521 (3.1) ●	–
Quebec Province, Can.	8	14.2		543 (3.0) ●	–

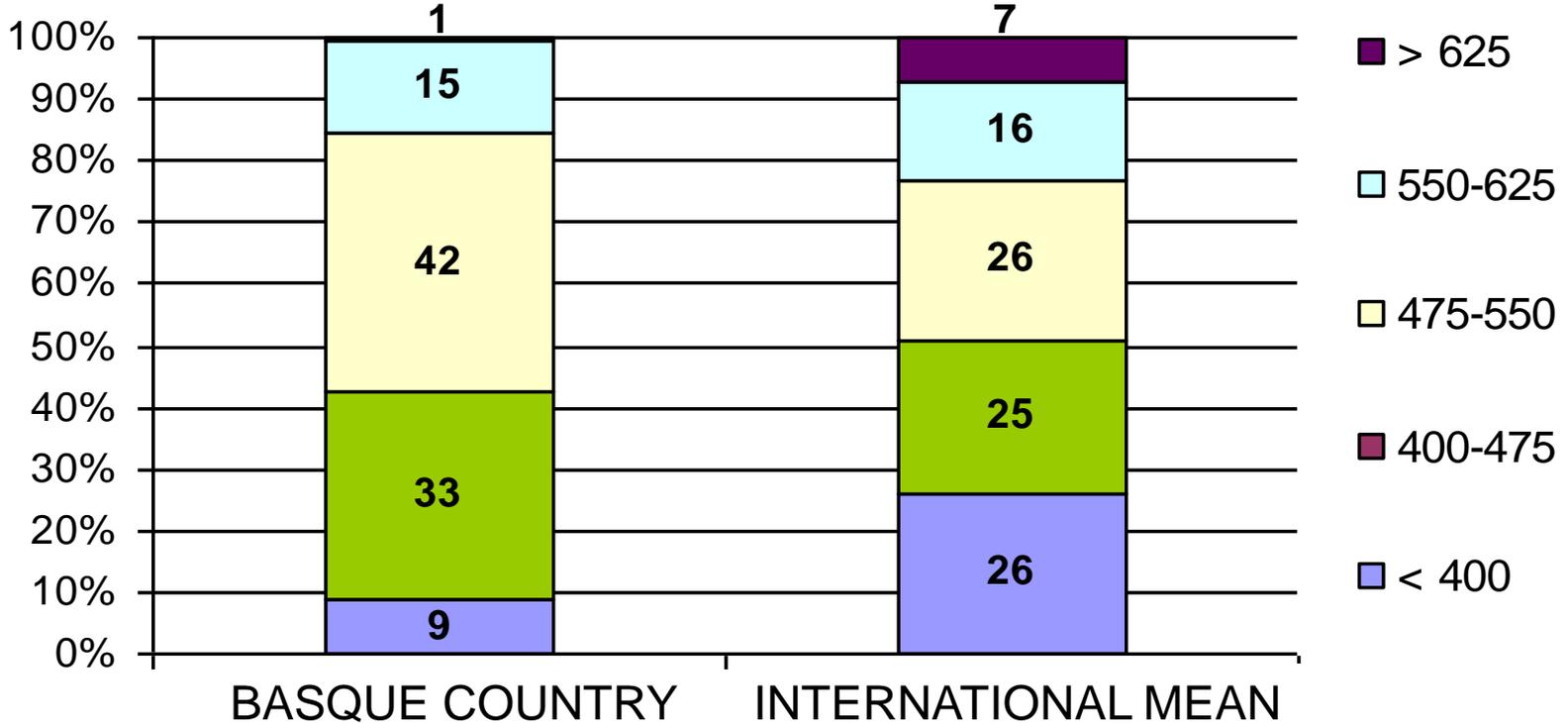
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800

Percentiles of Performance
5th 25th 75th 95th
95% Confidence Interval for Average (±2SE)

● Country average significantly higher than international average
☹ Country average significantly lower than international average

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN TIMSS 2003

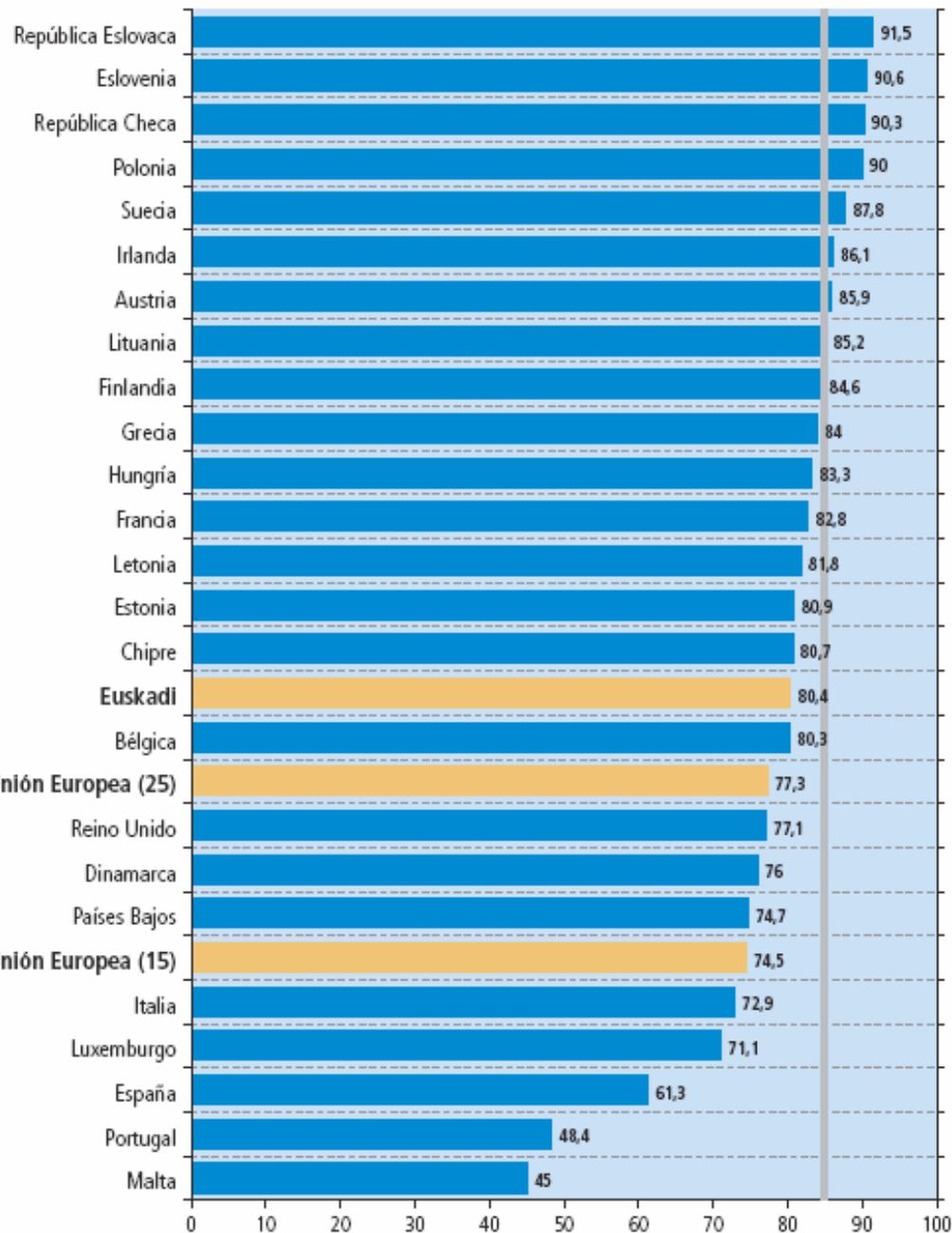
Figura 3. Porcentaje de alumnado en los niveles de TIMSS 2003



EUROPE 2010 INDICATORS AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY THE LISBON OBJECTIVES



Gráfica 2. Finalización de la Secundaria Post-Obligatoria. UE. Año 2005

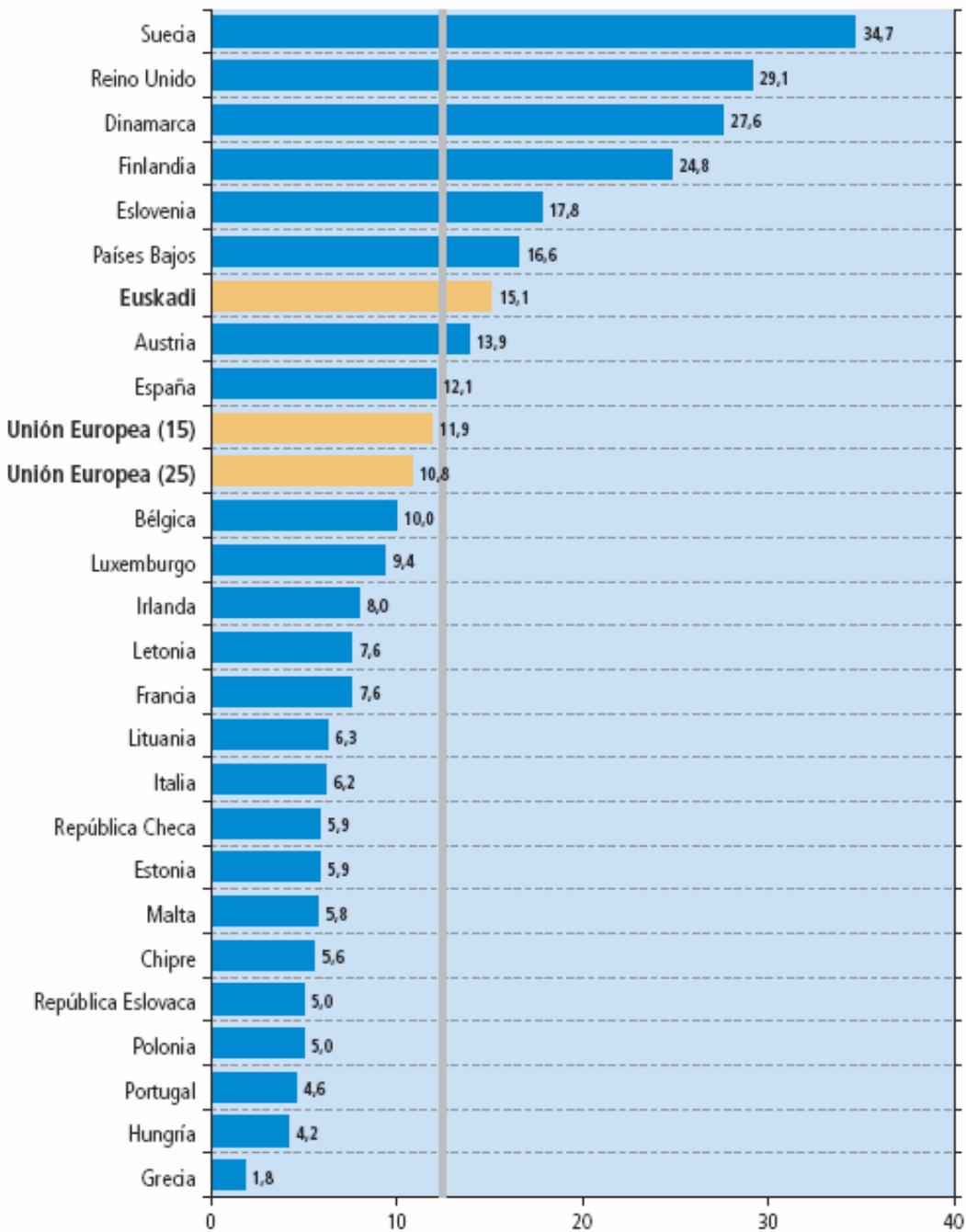


PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS FINISHING POST-COMPULSORY SECONDARY EDUCATION 2005

BASQUE COUNTRY: 80.4

SPAIN: 61.3

Gráfica 7. Participación en el aprendizaje permanente. UE. Año 2005

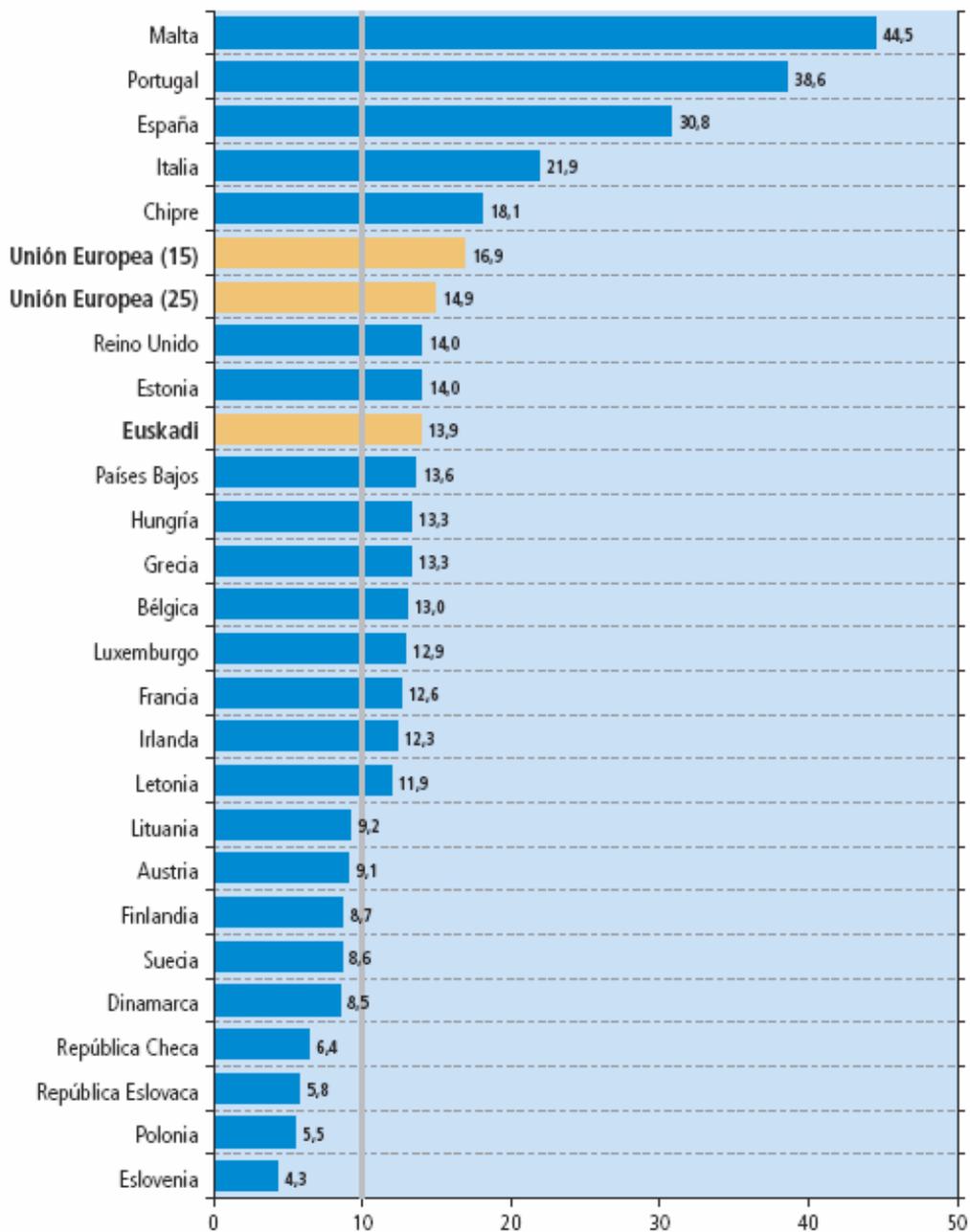


PARTICIPATION IN LIFELONG LEARNING 2005

BASQUE COUNTRY: 15.1

SPAIN: 12.1

Gráfica 9. Abandono escolar prematuro. UE. Año 2005

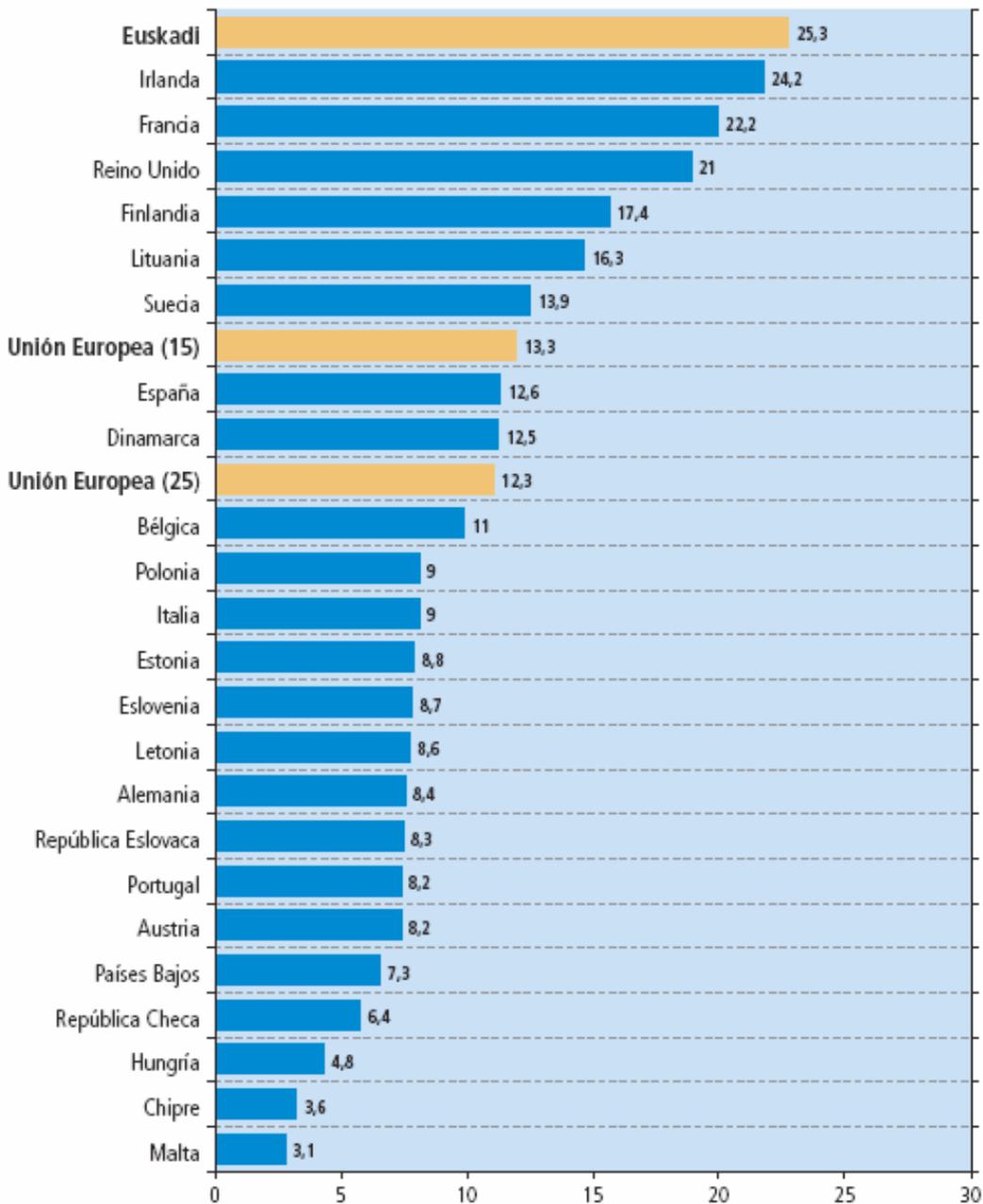


EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS RATE 2005

BASQUE COUNTRY: 13.9

SPAIN: 30.8

Gráfica 5. Graduados en Ciencia y Tecnología. UE. Año 2003



MATEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES 2005

BASQUE COUNTRY: 25.3

SPAIN: 12.6



	Total
Alemania	22,3
Austria	20,7
Bélgica	17,9
Dinamarca	16,5
España	21,1
Euskadi	17,1
Finlandia	5,7
Francia	17,5
Grecia	25,3
Holanda	11,5
Hungría	20,5
Irlanda	11,0
Italia	23,9
Luxemburgo	22,7
Media OCDE	19,0
Polonia	16,8
Portugal	21,9
Reino Unido	14,9
República Checa	19,3
República Eslovaca	24,9
Suecia	13,3

KEY COMPETENCIES: PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT THE LEVEL 1 OR BELOW OF READING IN PISA 2003

BASQUE COUNTRY: 17.1

SPAIN: 21.1