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ikastolenelkartea

## Where

**Ikastolen Elkartea - Euskal Herriko Ikastolak Europar Koopertiba Elkartea**

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## About

### *WHAT IS AN IKASTOLA?*

An Ikastola is a particular **type of school** that exists in both **Spanish and French Basque Country**. Most ikastolas are organised under the regime of cooperative, and their main goal is to teach entirely in Basque language. Even though the origins of this particular type of school can be traced back to the beginning of the 20th century, the current ikastolas were first created in the 1960s. Since then, they have been officially recognised by the public authorities and expanded to all the Basque Country. Nowadays those in the Spanish Basque Country receive some forms of financial support from the public authorities.

The ikastolas produce their own pedagogical materials and work in cooperation with the other ikastolas of the Basque Country. Nowadays **50,400 children** study in the different ikastolas, taught by **4,300 teachers**.

### *WHAT IS IKASTOLEN ELKARTEA?*

The ikastolak, up to **103** distributed in the different territories that compose the Basque Country both in Spain and France, are regrouped under a single organisation, officially called Euskal Herriko Ikastolak Europar Kooperatiba Elkartea (which translates as “Ikastolas of the Basque Country European Cooperative Association”), and more usually known as “Ikastolen Elkartea”. This organisation adopts the form of the European Cooperative, which allows it to cover all the ikastolas of the whole Basque Country, both in France and Spain.

All the ikastolas are partners of this organisation, even though only those ikastolas of the Spanish Basque Country (76 out of the 103) are actually cooperatives. It was the second European Cooperative Society registered in the European Union, and it is the only Basque social organisation that has got supranational administrative recognition.