

The Land and Town Planning Law of the Basque Country, which came into effect in September 2006, established a maximum period of eight years for adapting all general plans and subsidiary rules on this matter in the autonomous region. In other words, according to those regulations, by 20 September 2014 all municipalities in the Autonomous Region of the Basque Country must have adapted their planning.

However, despite the efforts of local corporations, only 56 of the 251 municipalities in the autonomous region had met the deadline, while other 65 municipalities were still in the process of adapting their general plans and subsidiary rules to that Law. This was largely because the economic cost of drafting the urban planning instruments, lack of resources to pay for them and the lengthy planning review procedures were all an obstacle to meeting the legal deadline.

As a result, the legislator has decided through this Law to extend the adaptation period. Otherwise, Basque municipalities without a general plan or adapted subsidiary rules would find themselves in a situation of legal uncertainty with obsolete planning and outside the law too.

In short, this Law extends the deadline by seven additional years, with the total maximum time for adapting to the regulations being 15 years finally. This means that Basque municipalities that have not yet adapted their planning instruments have until the end of 2021 to do so.