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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Information Document
on the implementation of the
Recommendations for Immediate Action
based on the 5th monitoring cycle**

**Submitted by Spain
on 4 February 2021**



REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN ITS RECOMMENDATION OF 11 DECEMBER 2019 ON THE APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES BY THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Rules governing languages in Spain

Article 3 of the Spanish Constitution recognizes that the wealth of the different language modalities of Spain is a cultural heritage which shall be the object of special respect and protection, while also setting forth that Castilian, or Spanish, is the official language of the State, and that all Spaniards have the duty to know it and the right to use it.

Moreover, this same article affirms that **the other Spanish languages shall also be official in the respective Autonomous Communities in accordance with their Statutes.**

Co-official languages are those recognized as such in the Statutes of Autonomy, and they are official in their respective territories:

- **Basque** in the Basque Country (article 6.1 of its Statute of Autonomy, approved by Organic Law 3/1979 of 18 December), and in the Basque-speaking zones of Navarre (article 9.2 of Organic Law 13/1982 of 10 August, on the Enhancement of the *Foral* [special civil law] Regime of Navarre).
- **Galician** in Galicia (article 5.1 of the Statute of Autonomy of Galicia, approved by Organic Law 1/1981 of 6 April).
- **Valencian** in the Valencian Community (article 6.1 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Valencian Community, approved by Organic Law 5/1982 of 1 July).
- **Catalan** in Catalonia (article 6.1 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia, approved by Organic Law 6/2006 of 19 July), and the Catalan language spoken in the Balearic Islands, in said islands (article 4.1 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Balearic Islands, approved by Organic Law 1/2007 of 28 February).
- The **Occitan** language, called **Aranese** in the Aran Valley, in Catalonia (article 6.5 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia, approved by Organic Law 6/2006 of 19 July).



These Statutes declare said languages official, together with Castilian, and recognize the right to use them. None of them imposes the duty to know them; said duty is reserved exclusively for Castilian in article 3.1 of the Constitution.

To make this policy effective, the General State Administration has an **inter-ministerial coordination body—the Council of Official Languages in the General State Administration**—responsible for analysing, promoting and coordinating the activity of the different Ministries as regards the use of the co-official languages, with the aim of better meeting the demands deriving from the existence of different official languages and from their recognition in the activity of the General State Administration, thus guaranteeing that citizens' rights are served as best possible.

Moreover, it should be borne in mind that certain Autonomous Communities' Statutes of Autonomy refer to the existence of **other languages (minority languages)** in their territories. These languages do not have the status of official languages; however, they are recognized and protected to different degrees, almost always limited to the specific territory in which they are spoken.

At times, these languages are mentioned expressly. Other times, reference is made to a generic linguistic plurality, and in other cases, to legislation regulating the language modalities found in the area. These include:

- **Asturian** or **Bable** and **Galician-Asturian**, in Asturias. Article 4 of the Statute of Autonomy of Asturias, and articles 1 and 2 of Act 1/1998 of 23 March, on the use and promotion of Bable/Asturian.
- **Catalan** in Aragon and **Aragonese** in Aragon. Article 7 of the Statute of Autonomy of Aragon, and Act 3/2013 of 9 May, on the use, protection and promotion of the languages and language modalities of Aragon. The specific names of these languages will be set forth in regulations; this note refers to their most common name.
- **Leonese** and **Galician** in Castile and León. Article 5 of the Statute of Autonomy of Castile and León.
- **Amazige** in Melilla. Article 5 of the Statute of Autonomy of the City of Melilla, which refers to the cultural and language plurality of Melilla's population.

The linguistic reality is that the following are also spoken, although they are not mentioned in legislation: **Darija** Arabic in Ceuta, **Fala** in Extremadura, and **Valencian** in the El Carche region of Murcia. Thus, article 7 of the Statute of Autonomy of Extremadura, in the Guiding Principles for Public Authorities, refers to fostering "the values of the people of Extremadura and the strengthening of their identity through research, development and dissemination of the social, historical, linguistic and cultural features of Extremadura in all their variety and extension, paying special attention to the rich heritage of the traditional lifestyles of villages." Moreover, Extremadura approved Decree 45/2001 of 20 March, which declared Fala an asset of cultural interest.



1.2. On the application of the provisions of the Charter

With its ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the Kingdom of Spain undertakes internationally to protect the regional languages spoken in its territory. The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages itself distinguishes between two levels of protection, which in Spain are applied as follows:

To those languages recognized as official in their respective Statutes of Autonomy (Basque Country, Catalonia, Balearic Islands, Galicia, Valencian Community and Navarre), the provisions of Part III are applied. For their part, to the languages traditionally spoken in other territories, and which are covered and protected by Statutes of Autonomy, the provisions of Part II shall be applied.

Thus, Spanish law—like the Charter—reflects two different levels of protection, which, in turn, correspond to cultural, geographic and linguistic differences, and, in general, to the different characteristics of the languages spoken throughout Spain. As noted previously—in points 7 and 8 of the report by the Experts on the Charter, and in the Recommendations approved by the Committee of Ministers—**the scope of application includes certain languages that are not afforded said protection in the Statutes of Autonomy and, therefore, regarding which Spain has not made any commitments.**

However, information on the situation of at least some of these languages has been included in all of the compliance reports, with the aim of providing the fullest possible information about the protection status of the different regional languages in Spain. The Spanish authorities are always ready and willing to collaborate with the Council of Europe, without this entailing amendment to the Charter's scope of application.

1.3. Methodology used in drafting this report

In order to draft this report, all of the Autonomous Communities that have co-official and/or minority languages were consulted; they were asked to collaborate with this International Organization in drafting a report detailing the response to the recommendations received, and to provide information about all the activities and public policies they have implemented since the last report. The different units of the Ministry of Territorial Policy and the Civil Service, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Education were also asked for information.

Therefore, the lack of certain information about several of these languages—a recurrent concern in the reports by the Committee of Experts, and one that is also expressed in Recommendation 5 of the Committee of Ministers—is due to the relevant Autonomous Communities not providing said information.



2. COMMENTS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1 – Amend the Organic Law on the Judiciary so as to ensure the use of the co-official languages in judicial proceedings at the request of one of the parties;

The Ministry of Justice of the Government of Spain is working towards giving impetus to this recommendation.

Currently, article 231 of the Organic Law on the Judiciary (LOPJ, its Spanish acronym) **already recognizes the right to choose the language(s) used in judicial proceedings, guaranteeing the right to effective legal protection set forth in article 24 of the Spanish Constitution.** However, an essential requirement for the application of this provision is that none of the parties opposes the choice of language on the grounds that, given their lack of knowledge of said language, this could entail a denial of due process, resulting in only partial compliance with article 9 of the Charter. The judicial authority is responsible for assessing whether or not denial of due process would occur. Therefore, the Government maintains the position that it is not necessary to amend the LOPJ to meet the demands of the Charter.

In this regard, the Ministry of Justice has recently approved two lines of action:

- **Analysis of the use of the co-official language other than Spanish.** To this end, in the first quarter of 2020, the Ministry of Justice contacted the authorities responsible for language policy in the different Autonomous Communities whose Statutes of Autonomy recognize co-official languages, asking them, firstly, for information regarding the effective use of the co-official languages in the justice administration, and, secondly, for proposals for improvement. This analysis is crucial to know the current situation in practice, and to study what measures may be implemented to ensure the proper use of co-official languages in the sphere of justice.
- **Inclusion of the co-official languages in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) project in the justice administration:** This project seeks to effectively assist judicial activity, enabling advanced judicial analysis, as well as providing citizens with channels of communications with the justice administration, in which the co-official languages will be one more element of communication. For example, the AI package will include, among other features, the automatic translation into the co-official languages of the documents contained in judicial dossiers. The project is aimed both at justice professionals and at the users of the public justice service.



2 – Improve the use of the co-official languages in State administration in the Autonomous Communities;

2.1. Introduction

The Delegations and Sub-Delegations of the central Government provide translation services for all types of documents upon request at their different units. The types of documents most often translated include administrative forms, electoral documents, information leaflets, and civil protection documents.

In 2017, 3,150 documents were translated in the Autonomous Communities that have co-official languages, and in 2018 the total of number of translations was 2,845. Translation services are provided on demand, and this is why the numbers vary from year to year. But the average number of translations has been constant—approximately 3,000—since 2013.

Service charters are the instruments through which the General State Administration bodies, organizations and entities inform citizens and users of the services entrusted to them, of citizens' rights with regard to said services, and of the quality commitments undertaken in the provision of the services. As regards the State Administration throughout Spanish territory, all of the Delegations and Sub-Delegations of the central Government have published their **service charters, and in those Autonomous Communities with co-official languages, bilingual versions have been published.**

In the period since the last report sent to the Council of Europe, the importance of certain co-official languages has been effectively conveyed in trade union negotiations. In this regard, the Agreement on the application of additional funds set forth in the Second Agreement for the improvement of public employment and working conditions, signed on 4 March 2019, made it possible to fund part of the wage increase of the lowest paid non-civil-service staff and to improve the supplement for staff providing services to citizens, among other measures.

This Agreement is relevant to the improved protection of co-official languages because it includes a specific provision to recognize knowledge of co-official languages. Thus, **starting in 2020, employees of the General State Administration whose jobs involve providing services to citizens and who have the required certificate in Basque, Catalan or Galician, will receive a pay raise¹.**

2.2. Diagnostic Report

¹ http://www.seat.mpr.gob.es/dam/es/portal/funcionpublica/funcion-publica/dialogo-social/acuerdos/Acuerdos-suscritos-con-las-organizaciones-sindicales/2019/04_03_19_Acuerdo_Fondos_Adicionales_2018_2020.pdf.pdf



The **Council of Official Languages in the General State Administration** is the inter-ministerial collegiate body **responsible for analysing, promoting and coordinating the activity of the General State Administration as regards the use of the Autonomous Communities' co-official languages, with the aim of better serving citizens' language rights.** It was created by Royal Decree 905/2007 of 6 July.

The **Office of Official Languages**, created pursuant to article 8 of the aforementioned Royal Decree, is a “permanent unit to assist and support the Council”, and is dedicated to “studying, promoting, advising, planning and verifying the use of the official languages, both in the General State Administration’s central services and in its units throughout Spain.”

The Council of Official Languages was constituted in January 2008, and has held five meetings since then. The first three meetings were held in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. In 2011, a meeting was organized but ultimately not held, and activity did not resume until May 2017. The Council’s latest meeting was held on 3 December 2018, in Bilbao, coinciding with the Day of the Basque Language, thus initiating what is expected to become a tradition of delocalizing the meetings of administrative bodies.

At its fourth meeting, which was held on 9 May 2017, **the Office of Official Languages was given the mandate to draft a Diagnostic Report**, the preliminary outcomes of which were presented at the latest meeting of the Council of Official Languages, held in December 2018 in Bilbao.

This Diagnostic Report was published in December 2019 on the website of the Ministry of Territorial Policy and the Civil Service.² The report is highly detailed, uses a very thorough methodology, and **analyses the situation of the co-official languages to verify the degree of compliance with the obligations imposed by the prevailing international and national standards.**

The diagnosis focused on the functions of the General State Administration, both in its central services and in its units throughout Spain; therefore, it does not assess measures implemented by the Autonomous Communities themselves within the scope of their authority.

To collect the information, questionnaires were sent out, and a total of 225 fact sheets were received from different Ministries and Organizations; this data was exploited and analysed. In the end, 48 units of the 17 Ministries existing at that time were analysed, as were 86 attached or dependent Organizations. All of the Ministries sent information in both categories. Moreover, specific questionnaires were sent to the Delegations and Sub-Delegations of the central Government in 11 Autonomous Communities with regional languages; these units sent back 27 fact sheets.

All of the data collected in this study correspond to 31 December 2018.

² <https://www.mptfp.gob.es/dam/es/portal/politica-territorial/autonomica/Lenguas-cooficiales/Consejo-de-Lenguas-Cooficiales/Informes/INFORME-DIAGNOSTICO-LENGUAS-2019.pdf.pdf>



The next meeting of the Council of Official Languages is expected to use the Diagnostic Report as the basis for approving the conclusions drawn from it and the recommendations which will serve to define the principal actions to carry out in this regard, while at the same time taking into consideration the outcomes of the latest diagnostic report by the Council of Europe, with the aim of submitting a full report in 2023 with significant improvements with regard to the previous period.

2.3. Training in co-official languages

One of the greatest efforts made in the latest period analysed—from 2017 to 2020—has been that made by the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP) to improve and increase the scope of training in co-official languages for employees of the central administration throughout Spain, as well as for employees of the regional and local administrations.

Given that in the previous period the outcomes regarding training in co-official languages were not very satisfactory, INAP started to explore other formulas in 2017, also in response to demands made by the Valencian Community and by the Basque Country. The signing of collaboration and co-funding agreements with the Autonomous Communities has been hindered by a climate of economic austerity, budget rollovers, and greater political tension.

Since 2018, INAP has been developing the online distance model, improving the functionalities of the platforms available for this kind of training, and offering such training to all public employees of the General State Administration. All of this has been funded entirely by INAP, whose budget for such purposes was substantially increased. To this end, a procurement procedure was carried out, and the contract was awarded to Spain's National University for Distance Education (UNED), a university under the aegis of the General State Administration's central services. UNED has specialized in distance learning for decades and is a trailblazing national centre of reference for this type of training.

The 150-hour courses are in line with the provisions of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), and cover levels A1 to C1 of the different co-official languages; they focus on developing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in said languages.

The courses are open to all public employees of the General State Administration, whether civil servants, non-civil-service staff or statutory staff, regardless of the territory in which they are posted; no previous knowledge of the language is necessary. Of particular interest is the fact that these courses are open to anyone wishing to take them; they are not limited to those working in Autonomous Communities with co-official languages. This is proof of the Spanish Government's commitment to the protection of these languages.

This model, reflected in the 2018 call for applications for the year 2019, has **three major advantages:**

- **It expands the objectives and, simultaneously, the number of target recipients.** Together with the objective of strengthening the language skills of the General State Administration staff posted in Autonomous Communities with different co-official languages,



another objective is making the learning of and skills-development in Spain's different co-official languages available to all of the public employees of the General State Administration, regardless of their place of work. The objectives thus sought are to:

- Ensure that citizens are served in the language of their choice by the staff of the General State Administration units located in the Autonomous Communities with more than one co-official language, and to make it possible for said service to be provided by staff seconded temporarily to those Autonomous Communities (especially law enforcement bodies) and by staff located in the central services.
 - Facilitate the geographic mobility of public employees, through the accreditation of their knowledge of co-official languages, which can be assessed as a specific merit in the corresponding mobility procedures, or simply as skills and capacities that enable these employees to provide better service to citizens.
 - Promote knowledge of co-official languages throughout Spain, because our country's language diversity is the shared heritage of all Spaniards.
- **It makes it possible to respond to the entire demand identified**, offering 2,955 course places.
 - **It increases the number of people trained and the hours of training given**. Moreover, it is more flexible in terms of individual learning, and more efficient in the use of resources.

The data of the 2018 call for applications show that **the new model has been a success**:

- **The budget allocated (€433,944) has been the largest since 2009**, exceeding the total allocated in the six preceding years.
- **The number of places offered and the number of students enrolled (2,602) were also the highest since 2009**, constituting an exponential increase with regard to the preceding period. Furthermore, more places were offered **in every language**.
- **The average time of training has increased**, with an offer of 150 hours per co-official language.
- **It has shown that there is an interest in learning these languages throughout Spain**. Indeed—except in the case of Valencian, where only 25% of applicants resided outside the Valencian Community—for the other languages approximately 40% of the applications were from people residing in Autonomous Communities with official languages other than that applied for. In all cases, the Community of Madrid ranks second in number of applications, which is in line with its presence in the central services. This shows that there is an interest in learning these languages throughout Spain.
- **Most of the applications come from organizations that provide direct service to citizens**. Although there are differences between languages, most of the applications—up to 61% of them—come from staff with positions in very specific areas: Labour and Social



Security (21.5%), Interior (17.3%), Public Administrations / Territorial Policy (12.2%), National Tax Agency (10%). Especially noteworthy is the number of applications from the Ministry of the Interior, which shows that the staff working in law enforcement bodies are interested in mastering Spain's co-official languages.

Moreover, as a result of the evaluation of the training activities, and in a framework of continuous improvement, several needs for improvement have been identified. Despite the high demand, and the extensive coverage attained, the success rate was lower than expected—only 30.32%. Even so, 821 people finished their courses, which is a much higher number than that of preceding years.

The high dropout rate can partly be explained by the fact that the UNED online learning model did not meet the expectations of most of the participants, who expressed a preference for a more interactive system with greater tutor input, as shown in the satisfaction survey, in which the global score was lower than 5 out of 10.

Therefore, since late 2019 work has been underway to **adjust the model**. This work involves:

- Identifying all the available learning resources, seeking collaboration with different public institutions, especially those of the Autonomous Communities, so that they may transfer to INAP, using the appropriate formulas, content that will enable INAP to offer on its own online training platform all the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for all the co-official languages. This will enable INAP to become a reference and provide support to other language teaching institutions in Spain, such as Instituto Cervantes, and will provide the model with greater stability and quality, because its content will not depend on annual agreements or contracts.
- Hiring or designating tutors in accordance with quality standards that respond to the levels required by INAP and by the competent institutions of the Autonomous Communities.

These adjustments entail a significant investment in terms of time and efforts of all kinds. The intention is to be able to make a new call for applications before the end of 2020, implementing the first training activities in this new format in 2021.

Data and statistics on training in co-official languages through the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP).

STATISTICAL DATA

The data in all the tables come from INAP reports and from the internal files of its Deputy Directorate for Learning.



Table 1. Budget allocated by INAP to each co-official language (in euros)

LANGUAGE	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018-2019*
Catalan	100,937	127,143	122,805	32,118	29,689	23,105	26,605	18,046	0	179,500
Basque	69,791	58,855	53,029	23,998	35,384	29,534	33,894	26,961	29,429	79,500
Galician	45,150	29,500	27,500	24,675	19,600	0	0	0	0	84,944
Valencian	75,705	96,478	88,760	27,450	21,000	21,000	21,000	0	16,065	90,000
TOTAL	291,583	311,976	292,094	108,241	105,673	75,619	81,499	45,007	45,494	433,944

*The procurement procedure was carried out in the fiscal year 2018, but implementation began in 2019. In 2017, only the Government Delegations in the Basque Country and in the Valencian Community informed INAP of their training needs in the area of co-official languages.

SOURCE. Prepared by INAP using the data available in its internal reports and in the internal files of the Deputy Directorate for Learning.



Table 2. Public employees of the General State Administration enrolled by language

LANGUAGE	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Catalan	461	693	552	323	263	237	260	139	0	-	975
Basque	79	74	64	65	37	57	97	45	45	-	530
Galician	250	260	200	240	194	0	0	0	0	-	571
Valencian	800	914	800	359	301	311	357	0	130	-	526
TOTAL	1,590	1,941	1,000	987	795	605	714	184	175	-	2,602

* Although the call for applications and the selection process corresponding to 2019 was carried out in 2018, the data have been included in 2019 because under the new model the academic year coincides with the fiscal year, thus facilitating cost analysis. Noteworthy here is the increase in the number of places offered with regard to preceding years, which made it possible to meet the entire demand.

SOURCE. Prepared by INAP using the data available in its internal reports and in the internal files of the Deputy Directorate for Learning.



3 – Remove the limitations to the teaching of Galician in Galicia and Valencian/Catalan in Valencia;

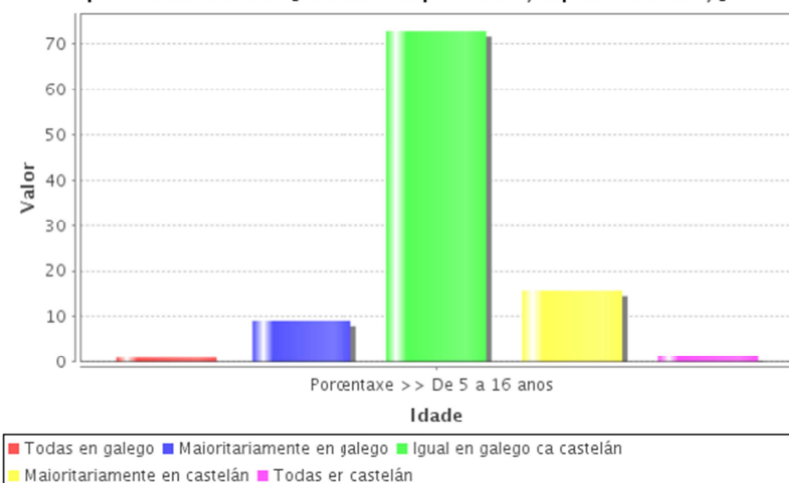
The Galician educational system is governed by Decree 79/2010 of 20 May, on multilingualism in non-university education in Galicia. In this Autonomous Community, therefore, the education system is fully bilingual, i.e. in the classroom, both Galician and Castilian are used as instruments for teaching. The bilingual model prevailing in Galicia since 2010 is called the combination of languages, and it consists of a single line of education; separating students into schools or classrooms on the grounds of language is expressly forbidden pursuant to article 13.2 of Act 3/1983, on language normalization.

In this model, the Galician language is awarded the privilege of being the vehicular language of teaching, and Galician and Castilian are used in teaching subjects, in equal percentages. Pursuant to the principles governing this model, in Galicia the languages are distributed according to percentages, so it is not possible to implement the language immersion model.

Therefore, it can be affirmed that **there are no limitations to the teaching of Galician in Galicia; the system used is the bilingual education system**, which, moreover, is endorsed by many scientific studies, as well as by the outcomes achieved. Thus, the implementation of this language teaching model in Galicia is responsible for most of the **positive data shown in sociolinguistic studies about the population’s acquisition of the Galician language in all of the skills**: listening, reading, speaking and writing.

In this regard, we can quote the data published in 2019, but referring to 2018, from the structural Household Survey conducted by the Galician Institute of Statistics (IGE)—which were not available when the Fifth Report was drafted. Some of these data speak for themselves, such as those referring to “People studying in Galicia according to the language in which they are taught, by age” (5 to 16-year-olds)”:

Persoas que estudan en Galicia segundo a lingua na que reciben as clases por idade. Galicia [Filtros: Tempo=2018 ; Espazo=Galicia ;]



People studying in Galicia according to the language in which they are taught, by age. Galicia [Filters: Time period = 2018; Region = Galicia]

Value

Percentage >> From 5 to 16 years old

Age

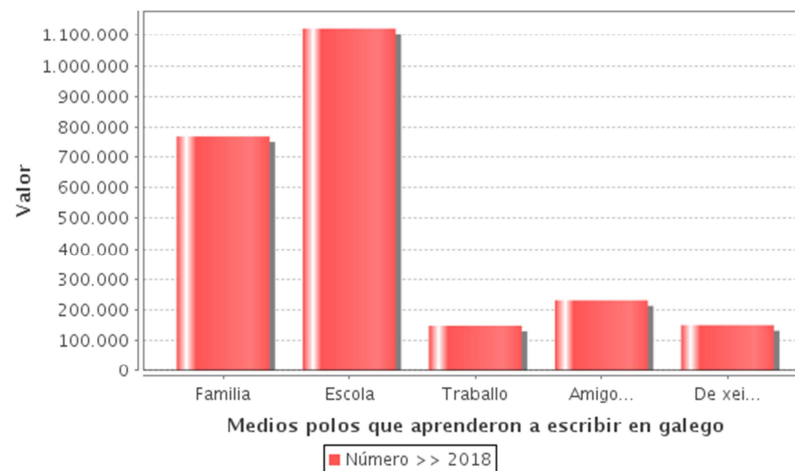
Entirely in Galician; Mostly in Galician; Galician and Castilian equally; Mostly in Castilian; Entirely in Castilian

Source:

[http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=9584&R=1\[0:1:2:3:4\]&C=2\[0\];0\[0\]&F=&S=3:2018;998:12&SCF=](http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=9584&R=1[0:1:2:3:4]&C=2[0];0[0]&F=&S=3:2018;998:12&SCF=)

Just as significant are the data on “People who can write a lot or quite a lot in Galician according to how they learned to write in Galician” (population aged 5 or older): 1,123,151 people stated that they had learned at school, a great many more than those who had learned elsewhere, such as at home or at work.

Persoas que saben escribir moito ou bastante en galego segundo os medios polos que aprenderon a escribir en galego. Galicia [Filtros: Espazo=Galicia ;]



People who can write a lot or quite a lot in Galician according to how they learned to write in Galician. Galicia [Filters: Region = Galicia]

Value

Family School Work Friends Self-taught

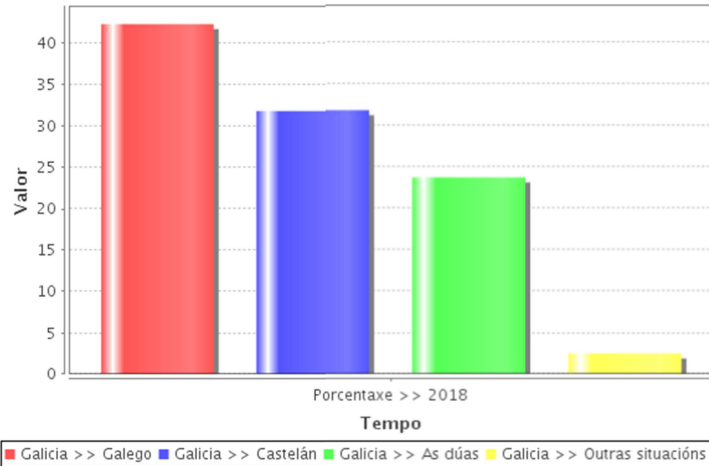
How they learned to write in Galician

Number >> 2018

Source:

[https://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=3189&R=0\[51:50:52:53:54\]&C=1\[1\];2\[2018\]&F=&S=998:12&SCF=](https://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=3189&R=0[51:50:52:53:54]&C=1[1];2[2018]&F=&S=998:12&SCF=)

Persoas segundo a lingua na que aprenderon a falar. Galicia e provincias



Survey population according to the language they learned to speak in. Galicia and Galician-speaking provinces outside Galicia

Value

Percentage >> 2018

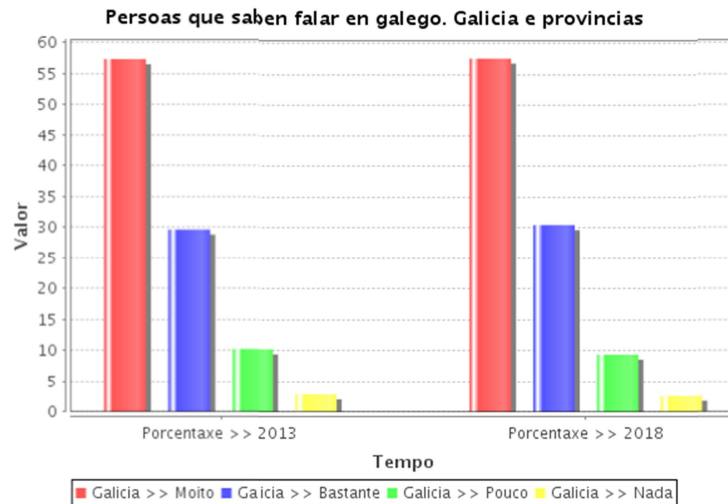
Time period

Galicia >> Galician Galicia Castilian Galicia Both languages Galicia Other situations

Source:

<http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/servlet/jfreetabgraf;jsessionid=3B22915304E74416719642922AD04080?paxina=001&c=0206004&TIPO=1&W=600&H=400&L=1&nn=1590668390635&gnp=0>

Lastly, it must be said that the bilingual education system implemented in Galicia is not unrelated to the increase in the number of people who claim to be able to speak Galician in 2018 as compared with the 2013 survey.



People who can speak Galician. Galicia and Galician-speaking provinces outside Galicia Value

Percentage >> 2013 Percentage >> 2018

Time period

Galicia >> A lot Galicia Quite a lot Galicia Little Galicia None at all

Source:

<http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/servlet/jfreetabgraf;jsessionid=B4F6243E71F8025A13035BDFC3F6268B?paxina=001&c=0206004&TIPO=1&W=600&H=400&L=1&nn=1591004566521&gnp=0>

The following table shows the percentages from both surveys:

	2013	2018
A lot	57.31	57.59
Quite a lot	29.62	30.46
lot Little	10.23	9.38
None at all	2.84	2.57

Source:

[http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=2938&R=9912\[12\];0\[0:1:2:3\]&C=1\[0\];2\[2013:2018\]&F=&S=&SCF=](http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=2938&R=9912[12];0[0:1:2:3]&C=1[0];2[2013:2018]&F=&S=&SCF=)

As the table shows, in the group of people who claim be able to speak Galician a lot or quite a lot, there has been an increase of +1.12% (2013: 86.93% vs. 2018: 88.05%).

The percentage of people who say they are able to speak a little Galician or none at all is lower than 12%; this is attributable to the immigrant population and to their descendants, who did not go to school in Galicia.



These data can be generalized to the other skills, and the results are positive in all of them: people who say they are able to understand, read and write a lot or quite a lot in Galician³.

³ [http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=2946&R=9912\[12\];3\[2013:2018\];1\[0:1:2:3\]&C=2\[0\]:0\[0:1\]&F=&S=&SCF=](http://www.ige.eu/igebdt/esqv.jsp?ruta=verTabla.jsp?OP=1&B=1&M=&COD=2946&R=9912[12];3[2013:2018];1[0:1:2:3]&C=2[0]:0[0:1]&F=&S=&SCF=)



4 – Include the names of Part II languages in the Statutes of Autonomy of the Autonomous Communities where these languages are spoken in those cases where they are not yet included;

As noted in the introduction, just as the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages recognizes different types of regional languages, so, too, does Spanish law. On the one hand are the co-official languages, which are recognized in the corresponding Statutes of Autonomy, and whose level of protection corresponds to Part III of the Charter. On the other hand are **those languages which are granted protection as a cultural asset in the Statutes of Autonomy, and which fall under Part II of the Charter**. A third group of languages may be mentioned, **which are not granted recognition in the Statutes of Autonomy and regarding which Spain has not made any commitments**.

To conclude, the Statutes of Autonomy currently recognize those languages that have been granted protection as cultural assets and fall under Part II of the Charter. As for those languages not included in the Statutes of Autonomy due to their characteristics, their insufficient codification, their number of speakers, or to other considerations, no commitments have been made in their regard by Spain.

In the case of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, its Statute of Autonomy envisages the existence of languages belonging to the region but it refers to implementing legislation for their specification. Amending its Statute of Autonomy pursuant to the Constitution requires an initiative by the Parliament of Aragon and approval by a two-thirds majority; subsequently, it must be ratified by the Spanish National Parliament as an Organic Law. Regarding this issue, the Government of the Autonomous Community of Aragon has asserted that given the parliamentary session and the declaration of the State of Emergency in March 2020, there has not been enough time since the Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of 2011 to carry out this procedure.



5 – Clarify the situation of Arabic/Darija in Ceuta, Caló as a non-territorial language of Spain, Extremeño in Extremadura and Portuguese in Castile and León.

5.1. Caló: A non-territorial language

Caló is a non-territorial language and, therefore, does not fall under the commitments ratified by Spain in relation to the Charter and thus falls outside the scope of application of the Charter.

5.2. Languages in Extremadura

As regards Extremadura, this Autonomous Community has provided the following information about its minority languages:

A fala. This language was declared an **Asset of Cultural Interest** in Decree 45/2001 of 20 March, as a “living language existing in the Xálama Valley, and more specifically in the towns of San Martín de Trevejo, Eljas and Valverde del Fresno” (Official Journal of Extremadura [DOE] number 36, 27 March 2001). Said declaration was promoted, according to the Decree, to “promote” and “intensify” knowledge of this “living language” for its “knowledge both in its historical dimension and in its current dimension”. The Decree gives a brief description of this Intangible Cultural Asset, stating that: 1) from the historical point of view, “A Fala” is related to the diversity of peninsular romance dialects; and 2) “A Fala” has different varieties in each of the towns where it is spoken (“Lagarteiru”, “Mañegu” and “Valderdeiru”). The Decree also alludes to an important issue related to the dynamism of this Intangible Cultural Heritage: “A Fala” belongs to the inhabitants of these three towns, and it must be they who say how they wish to use it, to what extent and with what limitations.

Extremeño. In early 2020, the Body for Monitoring and Coordinating Extremeño and its Culture (OSCEC, its Spanish acronym) submitted to the Extremadura regional Department of Culture, Tourism and Sport documentation supporting Extremeño’s claim as a language deserving to be declared an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC, its Spanish acronym). The proposal submitted is being studied by the technical services of the Department of Culture, Tourism and Sport of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura. As part of this process, different specialists are being consulted, so as to draft reports in this regard.

Oliventino Portuguese: In March 2009, the Association “Além Guadiana” of Olivenza requested that the Extremadura regional Department of Culture, Tourism and Sport declare “Oliventino Portuguese” an Asset of Cultural Interest (BIC). In 2012, the Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage informed the Association that the dossier initiated following the request had been closed, due to the “time elapsed without this Directorate receiving news that the Association wished to move forward with its request”. However, in 2014 the Association took up the issue once again, and submitted several reports, stating that compilation works and studies



were being conducted by the Town Council of Olivenza and by the Association itself. The proposal submitted is being studied by the technical services of the Department of Culture, Tourism and Sport of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura. As part of this process, different specialists are being consulted, so as to draft reports in this regard.

5.3. Castile and León

As for the Portuguese language in Castile and León, the Government of that Autonomous Community has submitted information about the actions carried out in recent years in this regard. The following is a brief account of the activity carried out. This information will be expanded upon in Spain's next monitoring report:

The libraries of Salamanca and Zamora, due to their geographic proximity to the Portuguese border, are those which contribute most actively to promoting the Portuguese language. Specifically, the "Casa de las Conchas" Public Library of Salamanca has been contributing actively to the promotion of Portuguese for several years. The geographical proximity and presence of the University of Salamanca and of the Official School of Languages have naturally helped foster closer ties with the Portuguese community and with those interested in the Portuguese language. In addition to permanently enriching their library holdings with titles in Portuguese and about Portuguese and Brazilian culture, they have also carried out other programmes and actions, such as:

2017

- Meeting with Luiz Coronel (Brazil): Lecture and reading of poems, with the participation of Antonio Maura, on 20 January.
- Language workshop: A weekly Portuguese-language workshop, held from January to May and from October to December.
- Lecture on Brazilian literature by Ana María Machado, on 26 October.
- "De un lado a otro. Miradas contemporáneas VII" [From one side to the other. Contemporary gazes 7]. For the seventh consecutive year, the Library presented a programme focusing on contemporary artistic and cultural expressions from Spain and Portugal. Activities included lectures, readings and performances, aimed at favouring the exchange of ideas and experiences between emerging writers and artists, cultural agents and the general public on both sides of the border.
- Poe-margen [Poe-margin]: First Spanish-Portuguese Literary Meeting. A literary event created to bring the literature of Spain and Portugal closer together, and to propose open reflection on the limits and intersections between words and arts. The programme falls under the EU's 1234REDES project, within the Programme Interreg V-A Spain-Portugal (POCTEP) 2014-2020, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- The Sixth Meeting of Unclassifiable Publishers (29 September to 5 November) included the exhibition "Samizdat. A publication by Sofía Gonçalves and Marco Balesteros".



2018

- Language workshop: A weekly Portuguese-language workshop.
- In December, a new Book Club in Portuguese was launched, which has met once a month since then.
- "De un lado a otro. Miradas contemporáneas VIII". [From one side to the other. Contemporary gazes 8]. For the eighth consecutive year, the Library presented a programme focusing on contemporary artistic and cultural expressions from Spain and Portugal. Activities included lectures, readings and performances, aimed at favouring the exchange of ideas and experiences between emerging writers and artists, cultural agents and the general public on both sides of the border.

2019

- Language workshop: A weekly Portuguese-language workshop, held from January to May and from October to December.
- Book Club in Portuguese, meeting monthly from January to May and from September to December.
- Concert by Brazilian singer-songwriters Pitu and Edimundo, on 10 October.
- "De un lado a otro Miradas contemporáneas IX" [From one side to the other. Contemporary gazes 9]: Meetings with authors, performances, lectures.

2020

- Language workshop: A weekly Portuguese-language workshop, held from January to May and from October to December.
- Book Club in Portuguese, meeting monthly from January to May and from September to December.

In the province of Zamora, the promotion of the Portuguese language has been a habitual activity for several years now. In addition to permanently enriching their library holdings with titles in Portuguese and about Portuguese culture, other programmes and actions carried out in Zamora include:

- In 2019, the municipal public libraries of certain towns in the province of Zamora joined the "Portugal Cuenta" [Portugal Tells Stories that Count] project: an encounter with Portuguese culture, which held its fourth edition that year, from 20 to 24 May 2019. The objective of this cross-border initiative is to promote the reading of Portuguese authors in Spanish from an early age, and it is aimed at children aged 3 to 9. The activity benefited approximately 200 schoolchildren.



- In the academic year 2019/2020, the Official School of Languages and the Public Library of Zamora launched a Book Club in Portuguese, which meets monthly.

3. CONCLUSION

The Office of Official Languages reiterates the Spanish authorities' commitment to protecting and promoting the co-official languages in the framework of compliance with the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, engaging in permanent dialogue with the authorities of the Autonomous Communities that have co-official languages, as well as with the other Autonomous Communities that have minority languages with different levels of protection.

Madrid, July 2020



REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN ITS DECISION OF 11 DECEMBER 2019 REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES BY THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN

ANNEX

I. INTRODUCTION

1. *Background*

At the end of July 2020, the Government of Spain submitted to the Council of Europe the Report on the Recommendations made by said Council's Committee of Ministers and adopted in its Decision of 11 December 2019 regarding the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The report was subsequently translated into English and the translated version was finally submitted in August 2020.

Following the clarification provided by the Council of Europe regarding the actions Spain must provide account of in this interim report so as to comply with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the August 2020 report was extended to encompass comments on the recommendations set forth in Chapter II of the Report on the Recommendations made by the Committee of Ministers.

Both texts, the Report and this Annex, provide a response to the **recommendations for immediate action** set forth in the Report of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in response to the Fifth Compliance Report submitted by Spain, covering the 2014-2016 period.

2. *Additional information*

This Annex provides information that was not included in the version submitted in July 2020. In order to obtain supplementary information, the administrations of the pertinent Autonomous Communities, as well as all of the ministries, irrespective of their territorial structure, were once again asked to collaborate. All the information gathered was organized and systematized to prepare the July report and this Annex. Those regional administrations that did not submit any data in the spring of 2020 were asked once again to provide the information requested, should they deem it appropriate to do so.



Specifically, drawing on the data collected at November 2020, this Annex broadens the response to encompass those aspects from the complete list set forth in Chapter II of the July report that were not commented on therein.

II. COMMENTS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Improve the use of the co-official languages in State administration in the Autonomous Communities*

1.1. Use of co-official languages in Government Delegations in Spain's Autonomous Communities

The Government Delegations comprise the territorial services of the General State Administration in each Autonomous Community. In September 2020 the Government Delegations of Galicia, the Basque Country, Navarre, Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and Valencia completed a form in which they were asked about the use of the co-official languages in their territorial spheres. The following results are based on the data they each provided.

The key issues assessed were:

1. **Translation of documents and forms available to the public.** In this case, only those forms and documents made available by the Government Delegation were taken into consideration.
2. **Guarantee of citizens' rights to address the Delegation in any of the territory's co-official languages**, and to obtain a response in the language of their choice. Both oral and written communications were considered.
3. **Resources available to the Delegation** to guarantee citizens' language rights, assessed according to the Delegation's own perspective.

The assessment reflected in the tables below considers the percentage of implementation and the level of expansion of the co-official languages, with a breakdown by Autonomous Community.

While it was noted that there is room for improvement by the institutions as regards certain specific aspects, in no case has there been a direct failure to respect citizens' language rights, and thus the activity can be considered, at least, sufficient. It was also observed that in a good number of cases, above all as regards the translation of documents available to the public, the efforts made are considered satisfactory in all of the Autonomous Communities. Adopting an overall view, it can be agreed that the use of co-official languages is widely spread in the Government delegations and the linguistic rights are mostly fulfilled.



BASQUE COUNTRY	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

NAVARRRE	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

VALENCIA	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					



GALICIA	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to citizens					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

CATALONIA	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

BALEARIC ISLANDS	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					



GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS	Highly insufficient	Insufficient	Improvable	Acceptable	Satisfactory
Translation of documents available to the public					
The guarantee that citizens will be answered in the co-official language of their choice in their dealings with the Government Delegation					
The resources available to guarantee citizens' language rights are considered sufficient by the Government Delegation					

Moreover, it is important to bear in mind that two of the languages are only co-official in part of the territory of the Autonomous Community, or one of the Autonomous Communities, in which they are spoken, pursuant to the respective Statutes of Autonomy thereof: one of these is Basque, which is co-official in only a part of the Foral Community of Navarre, and the other is Aranese or Occitan, which is only co-official in part of the territory of Catalonia (the Aran Valley) More specifically, the Government Sub-delegation in Lleida reports that it makes use of Aranese on social networks and in certain institutional communications.

1.2 Translation of web pages and of documentation accessible to the public

As regards the translation into co-official languages of documentation made available to the public, the Government Delegations and Sub-Delegations provide translations of all kinds of documents through different services and departments. The most frequently translated documents are administrative forms, electoral documents, informative pamphlets and civil protection documents.

Consequently, most of the peripheral units and services located in Autonomous Communities with more than one official language affirm that the documentation accessible to the public can generally be found in both languages. Most forms, pamphlets and other documents are available in the co-official language This also extends to signage, which is generally bilingual.

An assessment was made of the web pages most used by the public in these territories—including those providing information as well as those for carrying out bureaucratic procedures—considering frequency of use, number of users, number of visits and importance of the procedures carried out. This analysis confirmed that information was available in the co-official languages. A review of the following websites and web pages is included by way of example:



- **Tax Agency** (<https://www.agenciatributaria.es/>): the website has been translated into Catalan, Galician and Valencian (the Tax Agency does not apply in the Basque Country or Navarre). Said translation was only found at the initial menu level and in certain cases, in dynamic content.
- **National Social Security Institute** (<http://www.seg-social.es/>): the website has been translated into Catalan, Galician, Basque and Valencian. It does not reach all navigation levels in all cases.
- **Public State Employment Service** (<https://www.sepe.es/>): the information on this website is available in Catalan, Galician and Basque.
- **General Mutual Insurance Scheme for State Civil Servants** (<https://www.muface.es/>): this website has been translated into Catalan, Galician, Basque and Valencian.
- **General Mutual Insurance Scheme for the Judiciary** (<https://www.mugeju.es/>): this website has been translated into Catalan, Galician, Basque and Valencian.

2. Make education available in Valencian at all levels of education in Comunitat Valenciana

Since the 1980s, the Valencian education system has promoted the use of Valencian in education through language immersion methodologies, among other approaches. The legislation on this matter approved since Spain submitted its Fifth Report includes **Act 4/2018 of 21 February, of the regional administration of Valencia, which regulates and promotes multilingualism in the Valencian education system**. Of particular note, among the provisions contained therein, are:

- **Article 4**, which asserts that the Multilingual and Inter-Cultural Education Programme (PEPLI) has the following aims: "To ensure that students within the education system achieve a level of multilingual competence that entails ... oral and written proficiency in the two official languages, and attaining a functional command of one or more foreign languages..."
- **Article 6.3**, which stipulates that: "The minimum time allocated to curricular content in each of the official languages, during compulsory education as a whole, must amount to 25% of actual teaching hours. Each official language must be taught, as a subject, in that same language and, at the same time, each official language must also be used to teach at least one other core or similar, non-language subject on the curriculum."

Act 4/2018 is the prevailing law regulating language programmes in non-university education and provides that all schools must apply the Multilingual and Inter-Cultural Education Programme (PEPLI). This programme has already been implemented in the Early Years and Primary stages of education, while the previous language programmes listed below continue to be applied in Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO), Non-Compulsory Secondary Education (*Bachillerato*) and Adult Education (FPA):

- Education programme in Valencian/Catalan (PEV); and



- Programme for the gradual incorporation of Valencian/Catalan (PIP), until the implementation of the PEPLI as of the academic year 2021-2022.

The characteristics of this programme, specifically as regards the number of teaching hours imparted in each language on the curriculum, are determined by national rather than regional legislation. Thus, additional provision 38 of Organic Law 8/2013 of 9 December, on improving the quality of education (LOMCE) stipulates that:

...the education administrations must guarantee the right of students to receive their education in the two official languages, and must plan the courses offered pursuant to the following criteria:

[...] b) The education administrations may design and implement systems guaranteeing that non-language subjects are taught in Castilian and the co-official language in each cycle and school year of compulsory education, with a view to ensuring that students master both official languages, and without prejudice to the possibility of including foreign languages.

The education administrations must determine the reasonable proportion of Castilian and of the co-official language in these systems, and may do so in a heterogeneous manner in their territory, depending on the concurrent circumstances.

The proportion of hours set forth in Act 4/2018 was determined in response to the ruling of Section 4 of the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court, on appeal 2549/2014: "the minimum usage of Castilian as a teaching language in the school year and classroom of the appellant's child shall be set at 25% of actual teaching hours; said official language must be taught, as a subject, in that same language and, at the same time, it must also be used to teach at least one other core or similar, non-language subject on the curriculum."

The Valencian education administration has placed particular emphasis on an enrichment model for all students within the Valencian education system, with common multilingual aims and a pedagogical management framework (School Language Project) at schools, where the concepts of inclusion, equity and non-segregation on socio-linguistic grounds are not merely a statement of good intentions, but rather a path to collective excellence. Therefore, monolingual and bilingual approaches must be abandoned in favour of defining an educational scenario that is appropriate to the current multilingual social reality.

The projected statistics on Primary school pupils included in the Multilingual and Inter-Cultural Education Programme (PEPLI) in the academic year 2019-2020, who receive more than 45% of their schooling in Valencian, as compared with the same number of students had they been kept in the Multilingual Programme for Teaching in Valencian (PPEV) (with the majority of subjects taught in Valencian), show a significant increase in favour of the PEPLI, given that the percentage of schools that exceed this 45% percentage of schooling received in Valencian, and which can be considered, therefore, to apply the optimal programme, has risen from 30% to almost 55%.

These projections suggest that, with the PEPLI, the use of Valencian as a teaching language will become more common. The gains in terms of quality must never be attributed to its



exclusive use as a teaching language in certain schools, but to the application of methodological approaches that guarantee that students become truly multilingual.

There is currently unanimous consensus regarding the most appropriate methodological and didactic approaches for teaching English in the Valencian education system. Everyone recognizes the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) approach and has long been familiar with the Integrated Language Approach (ILA) and Integrated Approach to Language and Content (IALC), all of which reflect the evolution of the tenets of language immersion.

Deferring the introduction of Castilian is a didactic practice adopted by some schools in earlier programmes and is chosen on the basis of students' socio-linguistic characteristics. To achieve the goals of the multilingual programme—with students who largely do not speak Valencian—the presence of Valencian must be strengthened at least at the lower levels, with particular emphasis on oral language and early reading and writing skills in this language.

For this reason, the current Valencian education system allows early language immersion methodologies to be applied in Early Years education at the discretion of each education community. In the academic year 2020-2021, there will be a total of 220 schools belonging to the regional administration of Valencia (21.5% of the total) with Early Years pupils included in a Valencian-language immersion scheme, within the multilingual and inter-cultural education programme applied.

3. Include the name of Catalan and Aragonese in the Statute of Autonomy of Aragon

The internal legal framework concerning languages in the Autonomous Community of Aragon is set forth in article 7 of its Statute of Autonomy, and in article 71.4 regarding matters exclusively under the authority of this Autonomous Community. Moreover, Act 3/2013 of 9 May regulates the use, protection and promotion of the languages and linguistic modalities native to Aragon, while **Act 3/1999 of 10 March refers to Aragonese cultural heritage**.

As indicated in the Fifth Report submitted by Spain, the Aragonese Act 3/1999 of 10 March, on Aragonese Cultural Heritage was amended by Act 2/2016 of 28 January, on Fiscal and Administrative Measures of the Autonomous Community of Aragon, providing that:

The Aragonese and Catalan of Aragon, including their dialectal varieties, are the languages and native linguistic modalities referred to in article 7 of the Statute of Autonomy of Aragon of 2007 and Act 3/2013 of 9 May, on the use, protection and promotion of the languages and linguistic modalities native to Aragon.

It is considered therefore that the languages belonging to Aragonese linguistic heritage are set forth in the regulations of the Autonomous Community and need not be recognized in the Statute of Autonomy, and therefore Aragonese is a language subject to protection as an element of cultural heritage, without there being any political or social will to make it a co-official language making it subject to the strengthened protection offered by the constitutional framework and national and international regulations.



4. Recognise Valencian as an expression of cultural wealth in the Region of Murcia. Take urgent measures to protect and promote Valencian in the Region of Murcia.

The Statute of Autonomy of the Region of Murcia does not recognize any co-official or minority languages; rather, Castilian is the only official language in that territory. Its regional organizational structure does not include a department or structure for managing this issue, nor are there any plans to this effect.

However, the El Carche area of the Region of Murcia has small communities of Valencian speakers, primarily as a result of migration from Alicante in the 19th century.

According to the information provided in the Fifth Report submitted by Spain, the Autonomous Community of Valencia has been promoting in the El Carche region of Murcia actions aimed at promoting the Valencian language in this territory through public subsidies.

This region maintains close collaboration with the Academy of the Valencian Language, through which the Universidad Popular de Yecla regularly organizes Valencian courses. In 2016, a major promotion initiative was carried out by the regional administration of Valencia and the town councils of Jumilla, Yecla and Abanilla aimed at promoting this language among their inhabitants, including: grants for signage in Valencian, Valencian courses, campaigns and voluntary language initiatives, language services for recent arrivals, cultural activities, municipal campaigns to raise awareness and promotion, and the creation and functioning of offices or services for the promotion of Valencian.

No updated information has been obtained on the actions which, as the case may be, have been adopted in recent years by the regional administrations. What is publicly known is that a number of initiatives were carried out in 2019 in line with the same promotion actions undertaken in the preceding years: Valencian courses, cultural events such as concerts, among others.

5. Develop a structured policy for the protection of the language on the territory where it is spoken (Eo-Navia region). Include the name of Galician-Asturian in the Statute of Autonomy of Asturias. Include the name of Asturian in the Statute of Autonomy of Asturias.

The Autonomous Community of the Principality of Asturias has a regulatory apparatus aimed at guaranteeing language protection, promotion and normalization actions in different aspects of Asturian social and cultural life.

Article 4 of the Statute of Autonomy of the Principality of Asturias approved by Organic Law 7/1981 of 30 December, provides that:



1. *Bable shall be protected. Its use, dissemination in the media and teaching shall be promoted, with full respect for all local variants, and its learning shall be voluntary.*
2. *Legislation of the Principality shall regulate the protection, use and promotion of Bable.*

This set of legal provisions enables progress to be made towards the social normalization of Asturian and Galician-Asturian. In addition to the Statute of Autonomy, Act 1/1998 of 23 March, on the Use and Promotion of Bable/Asturian, establishes a legal framework of protection both for Asturian and Galician-Asturian, providing for their use in the public administration, education, the media, print and audio-visual production, place-names and advisory bodies.

There exists, therefore, an active and exhaustive language policy in the framework of this Autonomous Community, despite the fact that neither Bable nor Galician-Asturian are recognized for the moment as co-official languages and that, therefore, they only enjoy a partial degree of protection pursuant to the provisions of the European Charter.

6. Take immediate action to protect Galician in Castile and León. Take resolute action to protect and promote Leonese in Castile and León, particularly in education.

Article 5 of the Statute of Autonomy of Castile and León, approved by Organic Law 14/2007 of 30 November reforming the Statute of Castile and León, reads:

Article 5. Castilian and the rest of the linguistic heritage of the Autonomous Community.

1. *Castilian forms part of the most valuable historical and cultural heritage of the Autonomous Community, and is used throughout the national territory and in many other States. The regional administration of Castile and León shall promote the correct use of Castilian in the educational, administrative and cultural spheres. Furthermore, it shall promote its teaching in the international sphere, especially in collaboration with the universities of the Autonomous Community, for which it may adopt the measures it deems appropriate.*
2. *Leonese shall enjoy specific protection by the institutions due to its particular value within the linguistic heritage of the Autonomous Community. Its protection, use and promotion shall be regulated.*
3. *The Galician language shall be respected and protected in the places in which it is habitually used.*

Actions are being undertaken in Castile and León to protect and promote minority languages, which largely consist in cultural initiatives in the provinces of Leon and Zamora, relating to Leonese and Portuguese respectively.

This Annex includes more detailed information than that submitted in this regard in July 2020, with a special focus on Leonese.

The **Public Library of León** has undertaken the following actions:

- The acquisition, conservation and dissemination of all publications, in any format, produced in Astur-Leonese, conserving a copy in the local section and placing another



copy in the lending section so that it is available to the users interested in learning this language. Thus, the library has at least two copies of each work published in Leonese.

- The publication in Leonese of *Relatos y poemas de La Caleyá*, a collection of the short stories and poems that have won awards from Asociación La Caleyá in the competitions held between 2011 and 2015. Eight hundred copies of this edition, the official presentation of which was held in the library itself, have been distributed free of charge.

The **events promoting Leonese** held in the past three years include concerts, conferences and the screening of films, such as:

- Concert by the traditional group Tarna, which has a repertoire based on traditional Leonese music.
- Recital of songs and texts in Astur-Leonese, with Rodrigo Martínez, Diego Gutiérrez and Alberto Flecha.
- Conference “Bruxas y meigas andan xuntas: oríxenes mitolóxicos de la bruxería en Llión” [Witches and sorceresses walk together: mythological origins of witchcraft in León], by Nicolás Bartolomé Pérez
- Screening of the film “Territoriu de bandolerus” [Bandit Country], by Néstor del Barco and José Ignacio Cobos.
- Round table on the promotion and conservation of Leonese, with the participation of the professors Enrique Soto, Ricardo Chao and José Ramón Morala, as well as the journalist Emilio Gancedo.
- Bibliographical exhibition of works published in Astur-Leonese and points of interest to promote lending.

Moreover, the Public Library of León collaborates with institutions and associations that, among other goals, seek to preserve and promote Leonese, such as the Professorship in Leonese Studies (CELe) and La Caleyá (Council of speakers and friends of Astur-Leonese).

The **Public Library of Zamora**, for its part, is the headquarters for and collaborates actively in organizing the Traditional Culture Seminars held annually by the Furmientu collective in February. Furmientu aims to preserve the linguistic heritage of the province of Zamora. For several years a highly diverse range of cultural and educational activities have been organized, such as talks, conferences, traditional culture seminars, the publication of a quarterly gazette, a traditional vocabulary contest, etc. Furmientu strives to raise the status and profile of the linguistic heritage of Zamora by inspiring Zamorans to take an interest in their culture and roots, but, above all, through a fundamental aspect of this legacy: their language.

The 15th edition, held from 10 to 17 February 2017, featured the following activities:

- "Aire, fuego y deseo" [Air, fire and desire], Leonese speakers. Juan Carlos García Hoyuelos, with the Leonese folk duo Tarna accompanying the speaker
- The names of the beam press in the Toro wine region. Juan Carlos González Ferrero
- Language and daily life in the province of Zamora in the 17th century. José Ramón Morala Rodríguez



The speakers at these events are people with accredited professional experience and deeply involved in the defence and promotion of minority languages: Juan Carlos García Hoyuelos (Basauri, Vizcaya). A poet and staunch defender of minority languages (especially Leonese, Aragonese and Ladino), he has published a number of literary works. The last of these is the collection of poems "Aire, fuego y deseo" [Air, Fire and Desire], the product of five years of intense work, which has been translated with the collaboration of over a hundred authors (his work has been translated into all the languages of the Peninsula). The poems it contains have also been interpreted by numerous musicians on the recording that accompanies the book. Juan Carlos González Ferrero (Toro, Zamora) was another speaker at the event. He holds a Doctorate in Hispanic Philology from the University of Salamanca. Lecturer of Language and Literature, tireless researcher and author of numerous works on the linguistic heritage of the province of Zamora. He recently finished his latest work, *La cultura de la vid y el vino en Toro* [Winegrowing culture in Toro], the product of several years of ethnographic-linguistic study, which will soon be published. The linguistic part has already been published under the title *Léxico vitivinícola tradicional de la D.O. Toro* [Lexicon of Traditional winegrowing culture in the Toro Designation of Origin region].

Another participant was José Ramón Morala (Palanquinos, León). José Ramón holds a Doctorate in Spanish Philology from the University of Oviedo. Professor of Spanish at the Department of Hispanic and Classical Philology of the University of León. Correspondent member of the Royal Spanish Academy and honorary member of the Academy of the Asturian Language. He has published or participated in the publication of innumerable linguistic works on medieval Leonese, toponymy, etc. For several years he has focused on publishing a body of unpublished notarial texts (*el Corlexin*), primarily including inventories of goods from the Spanish Golden Age, originating from the entire Hispanic world.

The 16th edition (2018) featured two activities held on 7 and 8 February:

- *Esbardu, vocabulariu lleonés ilustráu* [Bearcub, illustrated Leonese vocabulary book], by Ricardo Chao (historian and lecturer) and Ricardo Escobar (illustrator)
- Re-edition of "El habla de la Tierra de Aliste" [The language of the Aliste region] fifty years after its first publication. Importance of a key work for the study of Leonese. With a round table featuring: Juan Carlos González Ferrero (lecturer and researcher) and "Furmientu" members Alfredo Hernández Rodríguez and Pedro Gómez

7. Take immediate action to protect Amazigh in Melilla

In the City of Melilla, the two most widely spoken languages are Castilian and Amazigh, of Berber origin, and although the former is the only official language recognized in Organic Law 2/1995 of 13 March on the Statute of Autonomy, article 5.2. of this Organic Law provides that:

The institutions of the city of Melilla, within the framework of their authority, shall exercise their powers with the following basic objectives (...) h) Promoting and fostering the values of understanding, respect and appreciation of the cultural and linguistic plurality of the people of Melilla.



The Fifth Report submitted by Spain, which covers the period 2014-2016, indicated the goal of carrying out population censuses by ethnic group in order to construct an accurate map of Amazigh speakers by neighbourhood and district. It also revealed the need to promote teaching and training in this language: although practically half of the population speaks the Amazigh language, it is also true that a very high percentage does not know the grammar of or can write in their own language, and therefore the benefits of launching a course with university accreditation aimed at this sector of the population were very clear.

According to the information compiled by the Languages Office, the Institute of the Cultures of Melilla has offered online courses free of charge with the assistance of Spain's National Distance University (UNED). Didactic activities have also been organized by Casa Árabe in Madrid.

Lastly, the International Professorship for Amazigh Culture, under the aegis of the Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies (Granada), undertakes promotional activities in this sphere, such as exhibitions, courses, debate forums, screenings of films and documentaries, etc. Events held in the framework of the International Year of Indigenous Languages (2019), included:

- Programme of Amazigh writing workshops, exhibitions, theatre and collaboration in international congresses such as that held in June on "Nazari and Merini women in the Medieval Islamic Mediterranean (13th-15th century)".
- The Euro-Amazigh Forum, attended by experts and representatives from academia, science and associations. In 2019 the topic of the Euro-Amazigh Forum was "The Amazigh diaspora: Berbers in Europe".

III. FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Spain is invested in meeting the commitments adopted in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This task entails the joint and coordinated action of different territorial bodies, in particular of the State and of the regional administrations of the Autonomous Communities, given this country's high degree of decentralization.

The Languages Council, scheduled to meet in the spring of 2020, was forced to postpone its meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic, undertakes monitoring and reporting activities through the Languages Office, which recently updated the Diagnostic Report on the percentage of compliance with the use of co-official languages in the General State Administration (2019). Eventually the Languages Council took place on December 29th, the Sixth Meeting in its history and the first one implemented by telematics means, due to the pandemic situation. It had the participation of Ministries and other public institutions with relevance in this field. All Autonomous Communities with co-official languages were invited to take part on it.

The date of reference for the update of the content of this report is October 2020, and it reviews the situation of the co-official languages within the General State Administration. As a general conclusion of this update, it can be noted that in this area there is still a certain degree of heterogeneity between the different services and bodies under the aegis of the State. A remarkable progress has been made in the sphere of the Delegations and services located in



Autonomous Communities with co-official languages, and it can be concluded that the right of citizens to use the co-official languages is largely guaranteed. Further progress, however, is required in relation to central services of the ministries and bodies under their aegis.

Finally, the Spanish authorities are aware of the need to improve the degree of general awareness and sensitivity of the bodies of the General State Administration regarding co-official languages, as a lack of knowledge has been detected recurrently regarding the legal scheme thereof, as well as of the differences between official languages and minority languages. One possible line of action would be to improve communication in this regard. Part of this lack of knowledge derives from an absence of regulatory systematization regarding co-official languages at the State level, an aspect also referred to in the Diagnostic Report and on which no progress has been reported during this period. Systematization would enable the identification of the units responsible and the activities to be undertaken to protect the rights of users and promote the co-official languages.

Madrid, December 2020