

# Catalan, language of Europe

... es tornaven  
... S'ajeiien a terra sota els  
... de fulles damunt i esperaven  
... Qu' en baixava una cridaven:  
... que la f... sempre queia damunt d  
... idar més bé. Respiraven amb amb delíc  
... drit i arrencaven els bolets de les soques.  
... a que aquell món d'om... nques r  
... pre. El papà i la m... Ma  
... an la Maria es car...  
... anviessin: la casa  
... les flors... i en B  
... gulla i nom és rol  
... a és ofegant als  
... sovint, s'adormia  
... del plàtan a la p:  
... fornaven arrapan  
... untes dels peus c  
... t era fosc. La mols...  
... fulles que feien ven...  
... 'trava pedres i gairebe...  
... asopega  
... estabornides els tallava la cua amb un fill  
... es despertava i es trobava sol, patia. Sab  
... ntanes. Se n'anava a mirar l'aigua; el l  
... tot de gairell, s'anava podrint. A la  
... ren de color de foc, jugaven a en  
... els arbres, es posaven gra  
... caiguessin

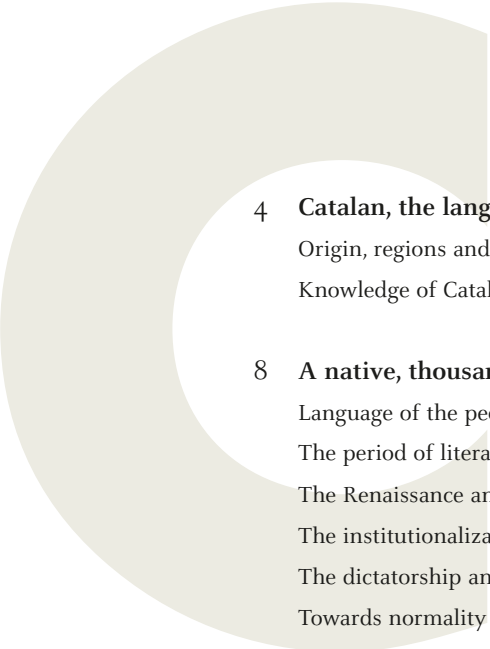


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# Catalan, the language of thirteen million Europeans

## Origin, regions and population

**T**he Catalan language, from the Romance languages group, was formed between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries on both sides of the Pyrenees, in the territories of the Carolingian Empire that formed the counties of the Spanish March. In the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, it spread southwards and eastwards with the land conquests of the Catalan Aragonese Crown, and the linguistic border was established at the end of Jaume 1st's reign.

The Catalan language is spoken in an area of 68,000 km<sup>2</sup>, in which 13,529,127 people live. It is currently divided into seven territories distributed between four states: Andorra, Spain (where most of its population and surface area is located), France and Italy.

As with most languages, there are several geographical varieties of Catalan: north-western, Valencian, central, northern or Roussillon, and Balearic, as well as the dialect of Alghero in Sardinia. In the Balearic Islands, the popular name of the Catalan spoken there often refers to each of the islands (Majorcan, Menorcan, Ibizan and Formenteran); in the Comunitat Valenciana, the popular name was included in the Statute of Autonomy of 1982: Valencian.

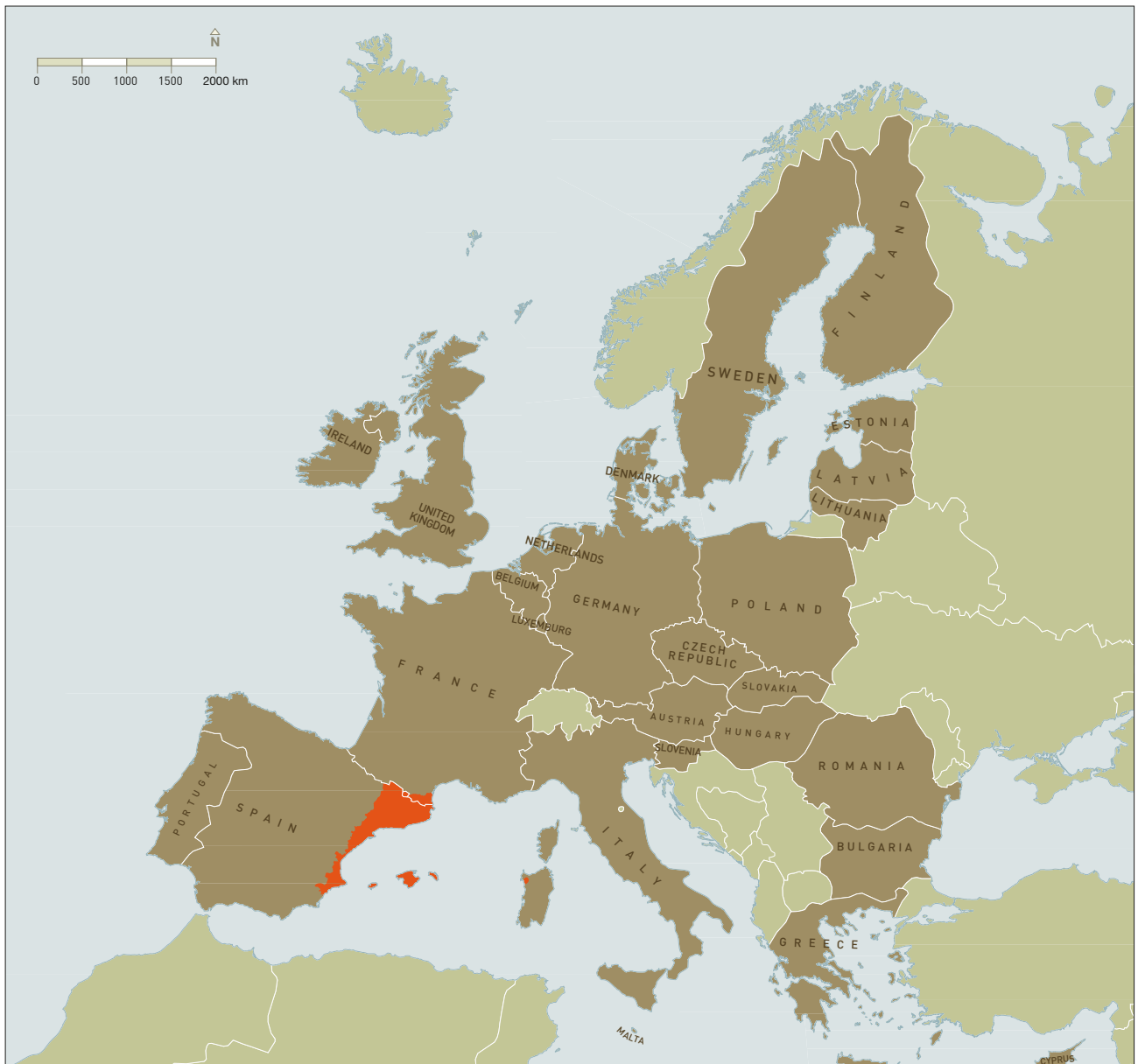
**Table 1. Distribution of the Catalan language in the land and population**

REGION	STATE	SURFACE (km <sup>2</sup> )	POPULATION
Andorra	Andorra	468	78.549
Catalonia	Spain	31.895	7.134.697
Balearic Island	Spain	5.014	1.001.062
Comunitat Valenciana	Spain	23.291	4.806.908
Franja de Ponent (Aragon)	Spain	3.672	45.357
North Catalonia (France)	France	4.166	422.297
Alghero (Sardinia)	Italy	224	40.257
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>68.730</b>	<b>13.529.127</b>

SOURCE: Catalonia: Catalonia Institute of Statistics (Idescat) 2006; Balearic Islands, Comunitat Valenciana, Franja de Ponent: National Institute of Statistics (INE) 2006; North Catalonia: National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) 2005; Alghero: National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) 2005; Andorra: Government of Andorra 2005.



## Europe and the Catalan-speaking regions



## Knowledge of Catalan

**K**nowledge of the Catalan language in the regions where it is an official language is inconsistent, due to the diversity of historical and political events. The renewals of censuses and electoral rolls of 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001 were used to obtain information about the degree of linguistic knowledge. Likewise, during 2003 and 2004 surveys were carried out in all the regions to find out both the degree of knowledge of the languages and how they were used. Thanks to these surveys we know that, altogether, the estimated number of people able to speak Catalan is 9,118,882, and the number of those who can understand it is 11,011,168. In addition, outside the regions where Catalan is spoken there are, spread around the world, more than 200,000 people who use Catalan at home.

**Table 2. Percentages of the population who can speak and understand Catalan**

REGION TOTAL	POPULATION	CAN SPEAK CATALAN	UNDERSTAND CATALAN
Andorra	78.549	78,9%	96,0%
Catalonia	7.134.697	84,7%	97,4%
Balearic Islands	1.001.062	74,6%	93,1%
Comunitat Valenciana	4.806.908	53,0%	75,9%
Franja de Ponent (Aragó)	45.357	88,8%	98,5%
North Catalonia (France)	422.297	37,1%	65,3%
Alghero (Sardinia)	40.257	61,3%	90,1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13.529.127</b>	<b>9.118.882</b>	<b>11.011.168</b>

SOURCE: Statistics of linguistic customs (EUL). Catalonia, 2003. Balearic Islands, North Catalonia, Andorra, Alghero and Franja de Aragón, 2004. Surveys carried out on the population aged 15 and over. The absolute data of “being able to speak and understand Catalan” are estimated for the population aged 2 and over. Data for the Comunitat Valenciana: Board of Education and Sports. Generalitat Valenciana, 2004. The percentages have been summarized as *Quite well and Perfectly*.

## The regions where Catalan is spoken



# A native, thousand year old voice

## Language of the people, culture and the Government

The first texts written in Catalan that we currently know of are parts of the Catalan version of the *Forum Iudicum* and the sermon book *Les Homilies d'Organyà*, both from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Catalan underwent a considerable expansion as the language of creation and government (Cancelleria Reial) between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the time when the Catalan Aragonese crown extended its reign towards the Mediterranean, in Sicily, Sardinia, Naples, up to and including Athens. Amongst the universally-known literary works of this period we can highlight those by Ramon Llull, contemporary of



*Les Homilies d'Organyà* (12<sup>th</sup> century), the first Catalan literary document; it is kept in the Biblioteca Nacional de Catalunya



Title page of the *Llibre del Consolat de Mar*, compilation of sea and trade laws written in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and translated into several languages

Dante, the four *Cròniques* (that by Jaume I or *Llibre dels fets*, that by Bernat Desclot, that by Ramon Muntaner and that by Pere el Cerimoniós), the works by Francesc Eiximenis, Anselm Turmeda, Bernat Metge, Ausiàs Marc and *Tirant lo Blanc*, considered the first modern novel in western literature. The great legal texts of this time were also in Catalan, like the *Furs de València*, the *Costums de Tortosa*, the *Usatges* and the *Llibre del Consolat de Mar*, sea trade law code that applied to the whole of the Mediterranean until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The relationship with Italy meant that one of the first known translations of the *Divine Comedy* was the Catalan one by Andreu Febrer, who also translated great works of literature of the time into Catalan, such as the *Decameron*.



*Tirant lo Blanc*, by the writer Joanot Martorell (Gandia, 1413/1415-1468), is the main work of the Golden Age of the Catalan arts



Ramon Llull (Palma de Mallorca 1232-1316), first great writer in the Catalan language, is the author of the works *Llibre d'Evast e Blanquerna* and *Llibre d'Amic e Amat*

## The period of literary decadence

**A**lthough the Catalan language had early access to printing, as shown by the fact that in 1474 the first book printed in Catalan had already appeared (*Les trobes en llaors de la Verge Maria*), in the Renaissance and Baroque centuries it underwent a period of decadence, with regard to educated literature. Despite this it was kept as the language of legislation and Government, and as the popular language. From this period we can point out the work of Josep Vicenç Garcia and Francesc Fontanella in Catalonia, Joan Ramis in Menorca, and Lluís Galiana in Valencia.



Title page of the Constitutions and other laws of Catalonia (1704), summary in Catalan of the current laws of the Principality shortly before the loss of free

After the War of Els Segadors (1640-1659), the lands in northern Catalonia were ceded to the French crown and, immediately, Catalan was prohibited in education and official use. In the War for the Succession to the crown of Spain (1704-1714), the regions of the ancient crown of Aragon took the side of Archduke Carles and fought alongside the allied powers. Because of this, after the defeat of Almansa (1707) and the taking of Barcelona (1714) and Majorca (1715), the Catalan-speaking regions lost their own institutions and Catalan was excluded from legislation and Government of Justice and town affairs, teaching and notarial and business documentation.

## **The Renaissance and the recovery of the language**

**C**oinciding with the Romanticism and Nationalism movements throughout Europe, the Catalan language experienced a rich literary Renaissance, the start of which is symbolically positioned with the publication of the ode *La Pàtria* (1833) by Bonaventura Carles Aribau, and which continued with the poetical, theatrical and narrative production by many authors from Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and the País Valencià.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this movement gave us universally-known works of great popular success like those by Jacint Verdaguer, author of the epic poems *L'Atlàntida* and *Canigó*; Àngel Guimerà, who achieved literary success in national theatre with works like *Terra Baixa*; Narcís Oller, author of very modern novels, like *La febre d'or*. Santiago Rusiñol, Joan Maragall, Ignasi Iglésias, Víctor Català, Miquel Costa i Llobera, Joan Alcover, Joan Salvat-Papasseit, who incorporated

*El pi de Formentor*, poem by the Majorcan author Miquel Costa i Llobera, which became a symbol of love and the land.

In 1881 the first newspaper written in Catalan, *La Renaixença* (1881-1905) appeared.



## *El pi de Formentor*

*Electus ut cedri*

Mon cor estima un arbre! Més vell que l'olivera,  
més poderós que el roure, més verd que el taronger,  
conserva de ses fulles l'eterna primavera,  
i lluita amb les ventades que atupen la ribera,  
com un gegant guerrer.

No guaita per ses fulles la flor enamorada;  
no va la fontanella ses ombres a besar;  
mes Déu ungi d'aroma sa testa consagrada  
i li donà per trone l'esquerpa serralada,  
per font l'immensa mar.

Quan lluny, damunt les ones, renaix la llum divina,  
no canta per ses branques l'aucell que encativam;  
el crit sublim escolta de l'àguila marina,  
o del voltor qui passa sent l'ala gegantina  
remoure son fullam.

Del llim d'aquesta terra sa vida no sustenta;  
revinclu per les roques sa poderosa rel,  
té pluges i rosades i vents i llum ardenta,  
i, com un vell profeta, rep vida i s'alimenta  
de les amors del cel.

Arbre sublim! Del geni n'és ell la viva imatge:  
domina les muntanyes i aguaita l'infinit;  
per ell la terra és dura, mes besa son ramatge  
el cel qui l'enamora, i té el llamp y l'oratge  
per glòria y per delit.

Oh! sí: que quan a lloure bramulen les ventades  
i sembla entre l'escuma que tombi el seu penyal,  
llavors ell riu i canta més fort que les onades,  
i vencedor espolsa damunt les nuvolades  
sa cabellera real.

Arbre, mon cor t'enveja. Sobre la terra impura,  
com a penyora santa duré jo el teu record.  
Lluitar constant i vèncer, reinar sobre l'altura  
i alimentar-se i viure de cel i de llum pura...  
oh vida! oh noble sort!

Amunt, ànima forta! Traspassa la boirada  
i arrela dins l'altura com l'arbre dels penyals.  
Veuràs caure a les plantes la mar del món irada,  
i les cançons tranquiles 'niran per la ventada  
com l'au dels temporals.



the use of calligrams, Josep Sebastià Pons and Bartomeu Rosselló Pòrcel are some of the most popular authors of the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At the same time, studies of the language began, and dictionaries were created (like those by Pere Labèrnia, Pere Antoni Figuera, Josep Escrig and Marià Aguiló), treatises on barbarisms and spelling (like those by the Majorcans Antoni Cervera and Joan Josep Amengual or Josep Balari from Barcelona), which were the immediate precursors to the modern standardization which began at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At the same time, Catalan was introduced into the newspaper press throughout the land, nationally as well as locally and regionally, with newspapers like *La Renaixença*, *El Poble Català*, *La Veu de Catalunya* and, later, *La Publicitat* and *El Matí*, and magazines like *La Ignorància*, *El Mole*, *L'Avenç*, amongst others.

## The institutionalization of Catalan

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in Catalonia the *catalanisme politic* demanded the teaching of the Catalan language and its use in the Government. From the local power institutions which were in control and, in particular, from the Community of Catalonia, Enric Prat de la Riba gave great institutional support to Catalan with the creation of the Institute of Catalan Studies (1907) and its Philology Department, the first president of which was the Majorcan Mn. Antoni M. Alcover, the creator of the First International Convention of the Catalan Language (1906) and of the *Diccionari català-valencià-balear* (1926-1962), the first work of Catalan lexicography. The support of Prat de la Riba and of the Institute enabled the institutionalization of the task carried out by Pompeu Fabra between 1913 and 1930 (spelling rules, grammar, dictionaries), with which Catalan was given a unified and modern standard.

The Republican Constitution of 1931 and the Statute of Autonomy of 1932 enabled Catalonia to recover the Generalitat, which declared Catalan the official language and carried out an active support policy for its teaching. The Balearic Islands and the Valencian lands, on the other hand, did not manage to have their autonomous statutes passed.

### **The dictatorship and the persecution of the language**

Between 1939 and 1975, during the dictatorship following the Civil War (1936-1939), the persecution of Catalan was intense and systematic, particularly during the



Mn. Antoni M. Alcover (Santa Cirga, 1862 - Palma de Mallorca, 1932), one of the most representative figures with regard to the recovery of the language at the beginning of the 20th century



Pompeu Fabra i Poch (Gràcia, 1868 - Prada de Conflent, 1948), creator and main instigator of spelling and grammatical standardization of the Catalan language

1940s and 1950s. Franco's regime prohibited the use of the Catalan language in education, in the publishing of books, newspapers and magazines, and the transmission of telegrams and telephone conversations in Catalan. That is to say, both in public use and in some strictly private use. There was no alternative but to show films in Castilian and theatre could only be performed in that language. It was also the only language that could be used in radio and television broadcasts. Administrative, notarial, legal and business documentation was exclusively in Castilian and any produced in Catalan was considered legally null and void. Road and business signs, advertising and, in general, the entire exterior image of the country was in Castilian.



In the second third of the 20th century, Catalan arts included universally known authors: Llorenç Villalonga, author of *Mort de dama*; Josep Pla, whose complete work is a portrait of his world and his times, and Mercè Rodoreda, author of *La plaça del Diamant*

During the decade of the 1950s and 1960s, the strong immigration from the rest of Spain —at some times when none of the regions of the Catalan language had educational resources or democratic freedoms— was left without many opportunities to know and learn the Catalan language, beyond some voluntary and semi-clandestine initiatives.

In spite of everything, the Catalan language was maintained as the language spoken at home, both in Catalonia and in the Balearic Islands, as in the rest of the Catalan-speaking regions. At that time many writers taught in the previous era, some of them from exile, like Josep Carner, Carles Riba, Josep Maria de Sagarra, Josep Vicenç Foix, Josep Pla, Salvador Espriu, Mercè Rodoreda, Pere Calders, Joan Fuster, Vicent Andrés Estellés and Llorenç Villalonga, wrote very important works.

## Towards normality

With the death of the dictator (1975) and once democratic freedoms had been recovered, the 1978 Constitution recognized linguistic plurality and established that Spanish languages other than Castilian could be official in accordance with the statutes of autonomy. The statutes of Catalonia (1979) and of the Balearic Islands (1983) recognised Catalan as the native language of these territories and declared it an official language together with Castilian, as well as making it that of the Comunitat Valenciana (1982), with the legal name of Valencian. In the same way, the Constitution of Andorra (1993) established Catalan as the official language of the State.

The Franco dictatorship subjected the Catalan language to political and cultural persecution to impose Castilian.



Under the protection of the statutes, the autonomous parliaments of Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and the Comunitat Valenciana approved laws supporting the Catalan language, which introduced it into schools, the government and institutional communication methods.

Communication media was also established, amongst which we can highlight, due to their high degree of popular acceptance, TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio in Catalonia and Canal 9 in Valencia, and a large number of local radio and television stations throughout the three regions. Catalan continued to regain presence in the press, so that currently 25% of the general information press is in Catalan.

Publishing in the Catalan language has reached very high quotas in terms of the number of titles published, which has increased steadily every year. In 2004, for example, 8,016 titles were published in the Catalan language, with a total of twenty and a half million copies.

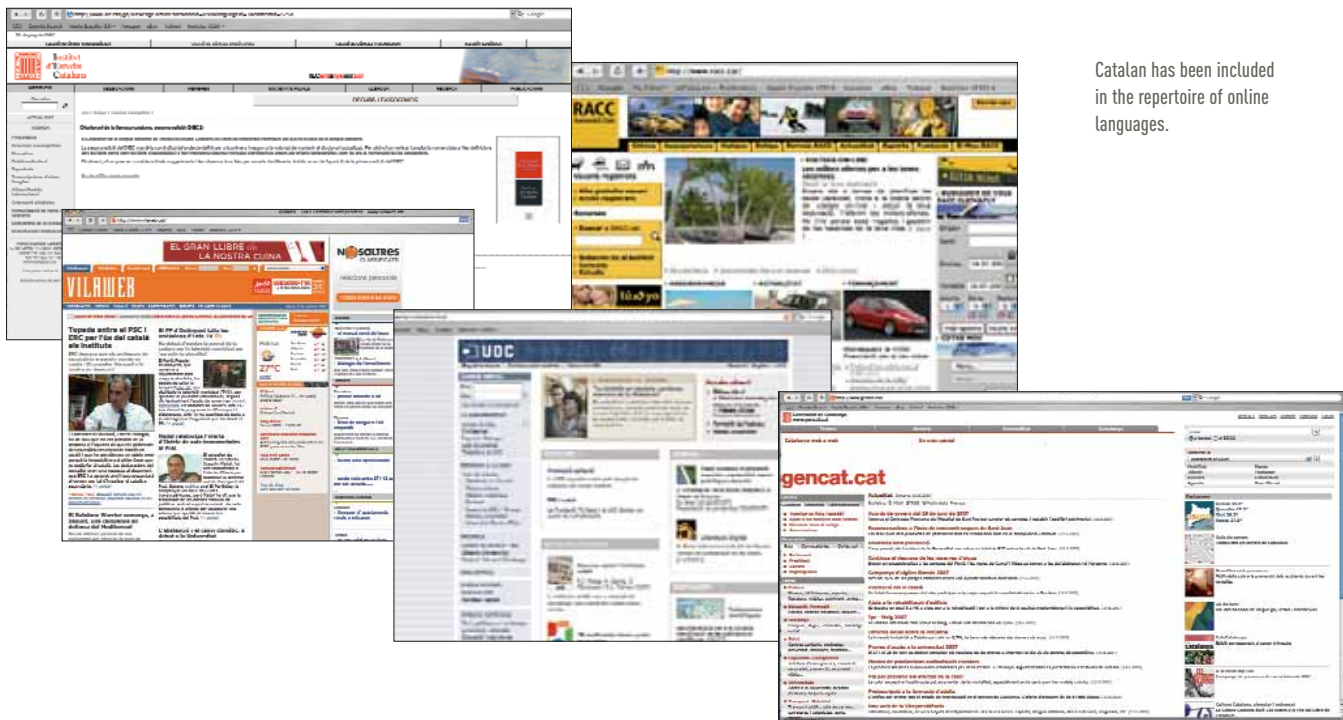


In the year 2005 there were 10 daily newspapers in Catalan with a joint print run of 175,000 copies daily.

## 21st century: new networks

According to a study carried out in 2005 on the presence of Catalan on the Internet, which uses the search engine Google as its source of information, Catalan occupies 26<sup>th</sup> place in a classification of languages by absolute number of existing web pages, and 19<sup>th</sup> place in a classification according to the number of web pages per speaker. At the beginning of 2006, with authorization from the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), the domain .cat was created on the Internet, dedicated to public or private users who use Catalan on the network.

With regard to the projection of Catalan abroad, the 2006-07 academic year sees 162 universities teaching Catalan around the world (for further information: <http://www.llull.cat>) and 116 Catalan communities abroad (for further information: <http://www.cce.cat>).



Catalan has been included in the repertoire of online languages.

## Catalan, a unique case in Europe

**C**atalan has some of the characteristics of the so-called minority languages, such as the practical inexistence of monolingual people and, therefore, bilingual population, the fact that the territories of its linguistic region belong to far larger states where the majority speak a different language, or the lack of presence in some sectors of social life.

Nevertheless, Catalan cannot be considered a minority language since it is different to these languages for several reasons that place it amongst the European languages of average demography:

- **Because of its legal status.** It is official in one sovereign state (Andorra) and, alongside Castilian, in three Spanish autonomous communities, which gives it an important presence in Public Affairs and its mandatory teaching in the education system.
- **Because of its demography.** The number of people who speak Catalan is greater than that of those who speak Finnish or Danish, and equal to those who speak Swedish or Czech in Europe.
- **Because of its sociolinguistic situation.** It has not been abandoned by its speakers (except in exceptional assumptions) and is usually passed down from generation to generation. More than 90% of the citizens of Andorra, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands and 75% of those in the País Valencià understand it. In addition, people who move to these regions have traditionally tried to learn it and use it in public and private communication. It is far from the figures of less than a quarter of the population knowing the languages, for example, in Occitania or in Brittany.



- **Because of its linguistic tools.** It is a fully encrypted, standardized language with a total academic and citizen consensus has a recognized linguistic authority, and its linguistic resources and studies on grammar, lexicography, etymology, dialectology, terminology, history of the language and names, are comparable to those of the great Latin languages. It has a standardized dictionary (that of the Institute of Catalan Studies) and a large number of published dictionaries, as well as bilingual dictionaries for the most widely spoken languages in the world, such as English, Castilian, French, German, Russian and Chinese. In addition, Catalan has a notable capacity for creation and spreading of neologisms of all types, and an organized system for its standardisation (Termcat Centre of Terminology: <http://www.termcat.cat>), as well as a Commission of Place Names, which is the advice, consultation and proposal board in terms of official setting of place names in Catalonia (<http://www.gencat.cat/toponimia>).





## Catalan in the European Union

In the European Union, the languages decided on unanimously by the Council are official. There are currently twenty three: German (Germany, Luxembourg and Austria), English (United Kingdom and Ireland), Bulgarian, Danish, Spanish, Slovakian, Slovenian, Estonian, Finnish, French (France, Luxembourg and Belgium), Irish Gaelic, Greek (Greece and Cyprus), Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Dutch (Netherlands and Belgium), Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Swedish (Sweden and Finland) and Czech.

All of the official languages are also working languages. Because they are official languages, the treaties and all the community regulations are published in them. Because they are working languages, all internal documents and procedures are published in them, and sessions of membership boards have simultaneous translation into them.

Two of the Union's member states have more than one official language in their territory: Ireland (English and Irish Gaelic) and Luxembourg (Luxembourgian, French and German). Only Ireland has requested that its language be official in European institutions. There are two more states that have official languages in just part of their territory that are already official in the Union because they are also the languages of another state; Belgium (French, Dutch and German) and Finland (Finnish and Swedish).

The Spanish State, which has four official languages, only requested that Castilian should have the status of an official language of the European Union. However, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2004 the president of the Spanish Government delivered to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union the translation of the European Constitution in the languages of the state which are also official outside its territories, that is to say, Catalan (with the name of Catalan, as this language is officially called in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, and Valencian, the official name that it has in the Comunitat Valenciana), Galician and Basque.

Later, the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs presented, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004, the formal request for recognition in the EU of all the official languages of the Spanish State. As a result of this petition, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2005 the Council of Ministers passed some conclusions that recognized the possibility of using official languages other than Castilian in the European institutions. In accordance with these conclusions, during 2005 and 2006 the Spanish Government signed administrative agreements with several institutions in the European Union (Council of Ministers, Committee of the Regions, European Commission, Economic and Social Committee, European Parliament and European Ombudsman), which recognize a restricted limited use of Catalan, Basque and Galician. Basically, these agreements mean that the citizens can write to these institutions in their own language, that they can be directly involved verbally in the Committee of the Regions and the Council of Ministers, and that they can have certain acts published in the Official Journal of the European Union translated (for further information, <http://www.infoeuropa.org/catalunya/o3.asp>).

In addition, in the European Union office located in Barcelona, Catalan can be used as a language of relationship with the European institutions, in accordance with the European Parliament Resolution of 11<sup>th</sup> December 1990.

## **Catalan is the ninth language of the European Union**

**I**n comparison with the twenty-three official languages of the European Union, the regions of the Union where Catalan is official (Catalonia, Balearic Islands and Comunitat Valenciana) have a larger population than the regions in which eight of the previously mentioned languages are official.

If we just take into consideration the number of people who can effectively speak it, Catalan is more widely spoken in Europe than Portuguese, Czech, Hungarian, Swedish, Bulgarian, Danish, Slovakian, Finnish, Irish Gaelic, Lithuanian, Latvian, Slovenian, Estonian and Maltese.

**Table 3. Catalan and the official languages of the EU**

LANGUAGE	TOTAL POPULATION	LANGUAGE	TOTAL POPULATION	LANGUAGE	TOTAL POPULATION
German	91.163.420	<b>Catalan</b>	<b>13.529.127</b>	Danish	5.427.459
French	67.778.671	Greek	11.891.619	Slovakian	5.389.180
English	64.602.119	Portuguese	10.569.592	Finnish	5.255.580
Italian	58.751.711	Czech	10.251.079	Lithuanian	3.403.284
Spanish	43.758.250	Hungarian	10.076.581	Latvian	2.294.590
Polish	38.157.055	Swedish	9.338.523	Slovenian	2.003.358
Dutch	23.431.210	Bulgarian	7.718.750	Estonian	1.344.684
Romanian	21.565.199	Irish Gaelic	5.933.419	Maltese	404.346

SOURCES: Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/>) (2006), Statistics Belgium (<http://www.statbel.fgov.be>) and Swedish in Finland

The following table gives details of:

The name of the official language and the state or states where it has this status.

The population of the state or states where this language is official expressed in millions of inhabitants (M).

## Catalan and the official languages of the EU



### Number of speakers

- over 25 million
- from 10 to 25 million
- from 5 to 10 million
- less than 5 million

## Catalan in multilingual Spain

### **41% of the Spanish population live in regions with more than one official language**

In Spain there are 18.4 million people living in regions with more than one official language. This represents 41.3% of the total population of the State, which includes the regions of the autonomous communities of Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, the Comunitat Valenciana, Galicia, the Basque Country and Navarra (see table 3).

It is also necessary to highlight two other regions, with 2.3 million inhabitants, where in addition to Castilian other languages are spoken which have not achieved official status in their respective autonomous statutes. These are Aragon (where Castilian, Catalan and Aragonese are spoken, in different parts of the region) and Asturias, where Asturian is spoken.

### **29% of the Spanish population live in regions where Catalan is an official language**

Two out of every three people who live in the regions with more than one official language, that is to say, 12.9 million, live in the three regions where Catalan, with this name or the name Valenciana, is the official language, which represents 29% of the Spanish population. That is to say, one in every three citizens of the Spanish State.

With more than 41% of citizens living in regions with a language other than Castilian, Spain is, after Belgium and Luxembourg, the European Union member state where the phenomenon of multilingualism holds most importance, in such a way that far from being an anecdotal fact, it almost constitutes an essential part in the State.

For this reason, article 3 of the Constitution, after declaring that “Castilian is the official Spanish language of the State” and that, as the official language, “all Spanish people have the duty to know it and the right to use it”, determines that “the other Spanish languages will also be official in the respective autonomous communities in accordance with their statutes”. On the other hand, the same article says, “the wealth of different linguistic types in Spain is a cultural heritage which will be the object of special protection and respect”.

In agreement with the Spanish Constitution, the autonomous statutes of Catalonia, passed in 1979 and replaced by a new legal text in 2006, the Balearic Islands and Valencia have declared the Catalan language official in their respective regions, with

**Table 4. Autonomous communities in which there is more than one official language**

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY	POPULATION	% OF SPAIN
Catalonia	7.134.697	16,0
Balearic Islands	1.001.062	2,2
Comunitat Valenciana	4.806.908	10,8
Galicia	2.767.524	6,2
Basque Country	2.133.684	4,8
Navarra	601.874	1,3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.445.749</b>	<b>41,3</b>

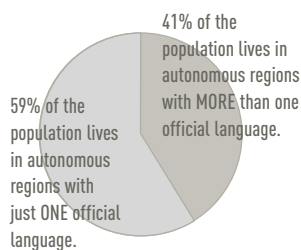
SOURCE: INE. 2006 Census.

Catalan in the Spanish State



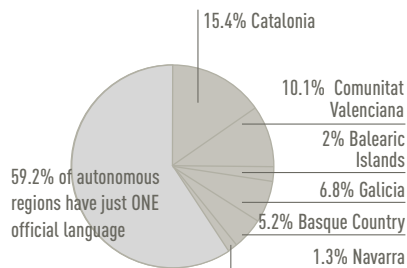
the statutory name of Valencian in the case of the Comunitat Valenciana, in such a way that, in this regional field, a situation of double official status has been created, in effect, of Catalan and Castilian. In Catalonia, there is a triple official status. According to the 2006 Statute, there are three official languages: Catalan, Castilian and the Aranese variety of the Occitan language. In addition, Catalan is the native language of Catalonia and the Aranese variety of the Occitan language is from the Val d'Aran. Knowledge of Catalan and Castilian constitute, simultaneously, a duty and a right of all the citizens of Catalonia, which the Government of the Generalitat and the administrations in Catalonia must guarantee.

**Four out of every ten Spaniards live in autonomous regions with MORE than one official language.**

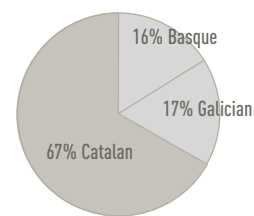


**Distribution**

40.8% autonomous regions with MORE than one official language.



**Three out of every ten Spaniards live in autonomous regions where Catalan is an official language.**



67% of the population that lives in autonomous regions with two official languages have Catalan as their own tongue.



# Occitan, language of Val d'Aran

## Val d'Aran and Catalonia

**T**he language Occitan, also called Aranese in the Val d'Aran, is the native language of the Val d'Aran, where it has been spoken since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. This region, 620 km<sup>2</sup>, was integrated into Catalonia in 1175 by the Treaty of l'Emparança and changed hands several times during the 13<sup>th</sup> century until in 1313 the people of Val d'Aran decided by popular vote to remain connected to the Catalan Aragonese Crown, and Jaume 2<sup>nd</sup> awarded them a set of privileges called *Era Querimònia*, the real magna carta of Aran. In 1411, the Val d'Aran was integrated into Catalonia through a pact.

## Occitan, the native and official language of Val d'Aran

**T**he 2006 Statute of Catalonia recognizes the Occitan language, called Aranese in the Val d'Aran, as the native language of this region and considers it official in Catalonia. In accordance with this, Occitan is taught in Val d'Aran at all levels of mandatory education and is also used as the teaching language in all educational centres. Likewise, the General Council of Aran and the town councils of Aran normally use Occitan in their internal documentation and in communications with the citizens of Aran.

## Val d'Aran

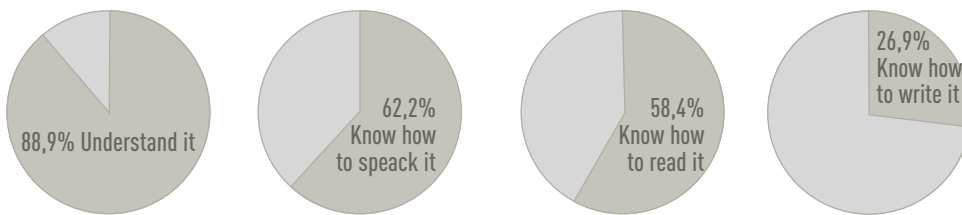


## Val d'Aran, the only region of Occitania where the native language is recognized and official

**B**ecause of all of this, the Val d'Aran is the only territory throughout the linguistic region of Occitania where Occitan enjoys official recognition and institutional protection. Consequently, it is also the region where the Occitan language is most alive and known by the population.

In 2001, 7938 people lived in the Val d'Aran, 89% of whom understood Occitan and 62% knew how to speak it. Furthermore, 58% of the population declared that they knew how to read Occitan and 27% knew how to write it.

**Knowledge of Aranese in the population of Val D'Aran aged 2 or over in 2001. Percentages.**



SOURCE: Prepared with information supplied by Idescat.

[www.gencat.cat/llengua](http://www.gencat.cat/llengua)



Generalitat  
de Catalunya