

# Galego

## Sociolinguistic status



Spanish is more commonly used in the cities than in rural areas



Galician is widely accepted in its native land

**Galician language nowadays**

**Linguistic capacity**

**Use**

**Attitudes**

**Sociolinguistic areas**

**Means of communication**

- Català
- Euskara
- Cymraeg
- Elsässisch



Linguistic capacity	Attitudes	Means of communication
Use	Sociolinguistic areas	

## Sociolinguistic status

### Galician language nowadays

Galician language continues to be the most usual language in Galicia

Galician language is the only one which presents a majority applicability on its territory of all the languages in the state multilingual setting. Inquiries made in the last years show that most of galician population speak galician language. In spite of the historical reality, Galicia inhabitants knew how to keep alive their language. The rural world kept, in general, galician monolingualism; the city presents a more Spanish view but the prestige and favourable attitudes towards galician language are increasing progressively.

The Galician Sociolinguistic Map (MSG) elaboration since 1991, nowadays allows to have some updated data of our linguistic situation which are going to help the planning of acting in the galician language use spreading.



## Sociolinguistic status

## Linguistic capacity



Galician language nowadays

Attitudes

Means of communication

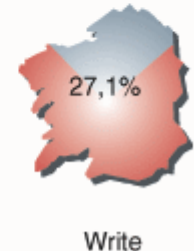
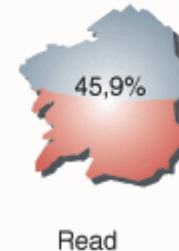
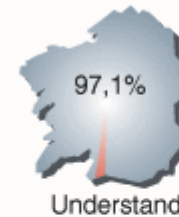
Use

Sociolinguistic areas

The linguistic competence level general data let see that being galician language one of the minority languages in Europe, it has a privileged situation and a very suitable context in order to achieve good results developing a linguistic planning for the recovering of the full normality of the language.

97,1% of the population understand galician language in an effective way; when the authors of the MSG speak about "real" understanding, the figures increase to 99,9%. We also have a high oral competence independently from intergenerational differences. According to reading and writing, data are more varied and the age and studies level play a more important role, being younger generations who better control the language.

### Levels of knowledge of the Galician Language



## Sociolinguistic status

## Use



Galician language nowadays

Attitudes

Means of communication

Linguistic capacity

Sociolinguistic areas

Galician language is, according to the Map data, the initial language of most galician population. But, we can see an intergenerational falling although the younger generations are also the ones who have a bigger capacity level for written and read use.

As the usual language it is still the prevailing language in Galicia (68,6%) and only 10,8% people use exclusively Spanish. Bilingualism is the most usual practice and inside it we find "a marked preference for galician language".

First language



- 62,4% galician
- 25,6% castilian
- 11,4% Bilingual
- Other

## Sociolinguistic status

## Attitudes



Galician language nowadays

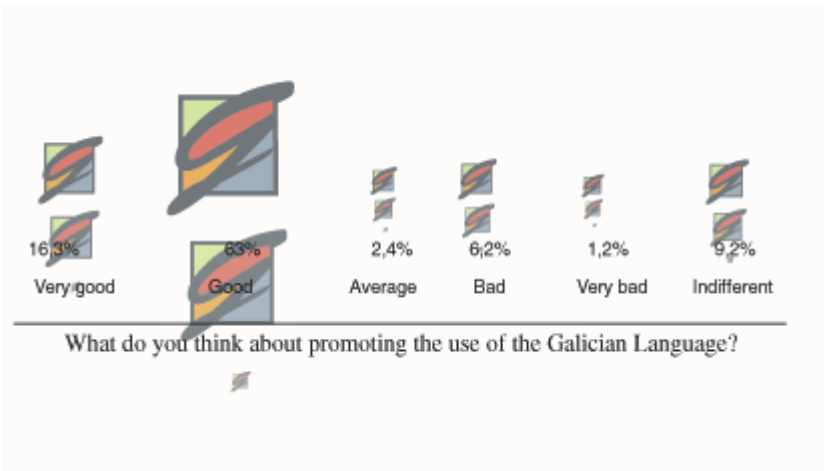
Use

Means of communication

Linguistic capacity

Sociolinguistic areas

The 3rd volume of the Sociolinguistic Map, which concentrates on language attitudes in Galicia, has some very interesting data, especially those for the county of Ferrol-As Pontes, in the north of the region. This area is a zone, placed in the province of A Coruña which includes different variables and it extends to urban and rural ambit, coast and inside; it is agricultural, marine and industrial, so then it can be the indicator of other similar areas. Data respect the teaching language preference of parents for their children reach the 55% in favour of galician language as the ruling language if education. These MSG advances showed that 80% of population are favourable to galician language use promotion.



## Sociolinguistic status

## Sociolinguistic areas



Galician language nowadays

Use

Means of communication

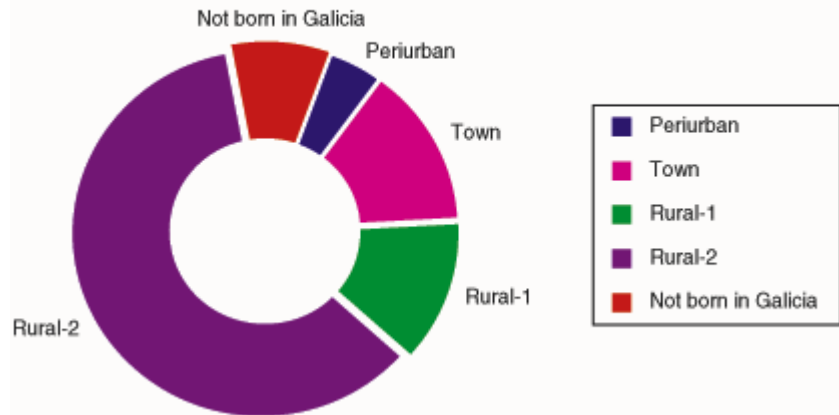
Linguistic capacity

Attitudes

Galicia presents a great variety according to the habitat. The population disperses in a lot of population nuclei and villages which are still the residence place for most galician people. According to the census data in 1991 (which included a linguistic questionnaire) the greatest level of galician language use mainly happens in the rural world which includes 2/3 of total population.

The Sociolinguistic Map shows that the language of Galicians under the age of 25 varies depending of their place of residence: the less urban the young person's place of residence, the more that person is convinced that the language of the people of Galicia is only and exclusively Galician.

Population and habitat backgrounds



## Sociolinguistic status

## Means of communication



Galician language nowadays

Use

sociolinguistic areas

Linguistic capacity

Attitudes

Galician language is getting consolidated little by little as a prestige language of the means of communication. The creation in 1984 of the Galician Radio and TV Company was determinant and supposed one of the most prestigious elements for the language, also favouring its incorporation in private radio stations.

In written press we have, since 1994 a newspaper totally written in galician language. In specialized magazines and periodical publishing we find a wide number of publications in galician language which include the most varied areas (religion, economy, nature, pedagogy, etc.).

A recent study published by the Galician Culture Department shows, at the same time, the advantage of advertising in galician language, which is noticed by public as nearer and it improves its attitude towards the product. This report opens the way to increase the number of companies which use galician language in their advertising.

The arrival of new technologies brought a new challenge which starts to have its fruits with the edition of CD-ROMS and the creation of the first software in galician language or the outstanding use of the language in networks like Internet, where most of galician entities provide information in our language.



The creation of CRTVG (Galician Radio Television Company) brought one of the most important achievements in the prestige of the language.