

Català

Language policy



Normalization campaigns



Sant Pau's Library
(Barcelona.
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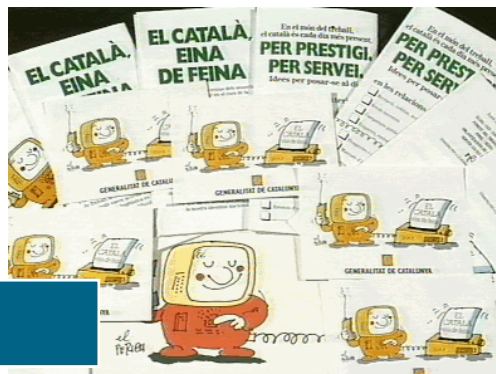
Statute of Autonomy

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Urban population





Statute of Autonomy

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Normalization campaign

The object of the linguistic policy that is enforced in Catalonia has been to transform the region into a place where Catalan usage is regarded as normal in all public spheres.

The progress achieved through linguistic normalization is one of the main concerns of the Regional Government of Catalonia since it was re-established in 1977, preceding the Spanish Constitution in 1978, which officially recognizes linguistic plurality in all of the regions in Spain.



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General Directorate of Linguistic Policy

Linguistic Normalization Law

Article 3 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia declares that Catalan is the official language of Catalonia and in section 3.3, establishes that "the Regional Government is to guarantee the normal and official use of the two languages, adopting the measures that are necessary to create awareness and foster the suitable conditions for achieving full equality in reference to the rights and obligations of the citizens of Catalonia".



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Statute of Autonomy

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Expolangues Paris

Therefore, after the 1980 elections to the Parliament of Catalonia, the Catalan government created, in June of that year, the General Directorate of Linguistic Policy (DGPL), which forms part of the Department of Culture in the Regional Government of Catalonia.

The objective of the DGPL is to implement the linguistic legislation derived from article 3 in the Statute of Autonomy and to foster the application of the linguistic policy that is established by the Government.

The first task of the DGPL was to initiate a campaign for collective awareness of the language problem and to reach a consensus with all political powers in the task of linguistic normalization.

The DGPL focuses on three language aspects:

- Corpus: to increase the knowledge and diffusion of the language (Language Advisory Service)
- Status: to foster the social and official use of the language (Linguistic Normalization Service)
- Research: to study the social-linguistic situation of the language (Institute of Catalan Sociolinguistics)



In 1983 the Parliament of Catalonia unanimously passed the *Llei de Normalització Lingüística a Catalunya* (Normalization Law for Catalonia) (Law 7/1983, April 18th). The law stems from the acknowledgment in the Statute of Autonomy of the Catalan language as the natural language of Catalonia and makes reference to the precarious situation that existed at that time, the causes thereof and the establishment of linguistic normalization as a right of the citizens of Catalonia.

The law insures the official use of both languages, Spanish and Catalan, as a guarantee that all citizens can participate in public life. Catalan is declared as the language of the Government Administration and of the regional administrations within Catalonia, local Administrations and other public entities that are dependent of the Regional Government.

The main objective is the teaching and gaining of knowledge of both of the official languages and Catalan is designated as the local language of instruction in all levels of education.

As well, the institutions will be responsible for implementing normalization in Catalonia.

Therefore, the Law provides the framework for linguistic policy: the willingness for political consensus, with the participation of all institutions and collectives in Catalonia; the objective to convince and not to impose; the need to avoid any linguistic conflict; the application of territorial criteria with the utilization of Catalan as the natural language of the institutions; respect for personal opinions and the creation of contexts that aid in defining and achieving a policy of linguistic normalization.





Linguistic Normalization Law

The linguistic policy that the Regional Government has undertaken can be broken down into two well-defined stages:

a) 1980's- The focus was on the diffusion of Catalan knowledge. Efforts were made in three basic sectors:

- Teaching: the generalization of language knowledge among young students and adults
- Public Administration: normalisation of Catalan usage in the various administrations.
- Media: the creation of a modern and competitive audiovisual media in the Catalan language.

b) 1990's - The focus was on the extension of the social usage of the language. Efforts were made to make Catalan the normal instrument of expression, not only at an official level, but also in society in general. This task can be broken down into four main strategies:

- Sociolinguistics research: This is materialized in the volumes *Estudis i propostes per a la difusió de la llengua catalana* (Studies and proposals for the diffusion of Catalan).
- Legal doctrine: This involves the regulation of linguistic rights in specific spheres, as well as the streamlining and development of the notion of a local language.
- Administrative analysis: the optimization of the extension of linguistic service networks.
- The creation of the *Consell Social de la Llengua Catalana* (Catalan Social Council): in representation of the principal civic institutions in order to foster normalization in all scopes of life.





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Pompeu Fabra

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Language advisory

Spreading proficiency in Catalan

Specialized language and terminology



Language policy

Corpus

Introduction



Language advisory

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Specialized language and terminology

Dictionaries

This section outlines the three basic functions of linguistic policy:

- Language advisory, for both public and private entities
- Spreading proficiency in Catalan: the elaboration of plans and programs for adult language courses, the preparation of didactic materials and the convocation of examinations.
- The elaboration and diffusion of specialized language and terminology

Stand Expolangues
Paris



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Language advisory



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Specialized language and terminology

Initially, the Language Advisory Service was responsible for responding to linguistic consultation (oral and written, including the revision of short texts). In the 1990's, this organism was responsible for advising the various linguistic services that had been set up. A series of specialized organisms were created for covering specific subjects in various sectors. The Consortium for Linguistic Normalization was created in 1988 as an autonomous entity with a network of services throughout Catalan region for promoting Catalan usage in all sectors of society and in all social activities.

Since 1993, linguistic counseling is also available in through the *Telèfon lingüístic* (Linguistic telephone), a service that has been designed as an automatic problem solver that has minimal staff requirements.



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Spreading proficiency in Catalan



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As regards the spreading proficiency in Catalan among the adult population, the DGPL coordinates, sponsors and supports adult language courses that are organized by civic and cultural entities in Catalonia. At present, the majority of the courses are organized by the Linguistic Normalization Consortium. The Linguistic Counseling Service is in charge of drawing up plans and outlines for the courses and to provide teacher training. In addition, the Permanent Catalan Commission, ascribed to this Service and devoted to tasks initiated in 1934 as a result of the *Tribunal Permanent de Català* (Permanent Catalan Board), is the organism responsible for granting the qualification certificates of Catalan knowledge to the citizens that pass the corresponding examinations. These examinations include general language knowledge tests at various levels and specialized courses. Between 1981 and late 1993, the Permanent Catalan Committee has had 150,000 inscriptions at all levels; of these, over 50,000 students have obtained the corresponding certificate.

Since 1988, self-learning courses are available in special centres.

Since 1990, there is also a *Certificat Internacional de Català* (International Catalan Certificate), for the study abroad program and corresponding certification. Between 1990 and 1993, there were almost 700 inscriptions, of which 600 passed their examinations.

With respect to the elaboration and diffusion of materials, in 1982, the DGPL created the multi.-media course *Digui, digui...* (Hello, Hello...), which is for Catalan teaching at a basic level. This course formed a part of the pilot project, Modern Languages Project of the European Council, and since 1984, it has been widely distributed in classrooms, as well as by radio stations and television channels. There is also a *Curs de Català per a estrangers* (Catalan course for foreigners) and a self-learning package in English, French and German versions.

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Specialized language and terminology



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With respect to the elaboration and diffusion of specialized language and terminology, the Terminology Center TERMCAT was founded as a result of an agreement between the *Institut d'Estudis Catalans* (Catalan Studies Institute), as the linguistic authority, and the Department of Culture of the Regional Government, which provided the support of the Administration. Some of the initial tasks of this center were the definition of a methodology for terminological research, the training of specialists and the design of terminological data bases. In 1994, due to an increase in its activities, the organizational structure of TERMCAT was remodeled and it became a consortium. As well as the mentioned initiatives, it is also responsible for overseeing the research and publication of specialized language dictionaries, such as, for example, the collection of Olympic sports dictionaries prepared for the celebration of the XXV Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992.





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Public Administration

Private sector and social relations

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Mass media

As well as the normalisation of the linguistic corpus, a linguistic policy is required for the promotion of Catalan usage in society and in all scopes of life.

In this sense, the Linguistic Normalisation Service of the General Directorate for Language Policy is responsible for normalising Catalan usage in both public administrations and private entities and, in general, in all social relations. It is also in charge of advising citizens and entities on official language use, legislation and linguistic rights of the citizens.

The media has a very important role in the normalisation of language usage. In 1983, the Catalan Radio and Television Corporation created *TV/3-Televisió de Catalunya* and two radio stations: *Catalunya Ràdio* and *Ràdio Associació de Catalunya*. Later, this Corporation created three new stations: *Catalunya Música* and *Catalunya Informació*, as well as a second television channel: Canal 33. All of these media transmit their programs entirely in Catalan.



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Private sector and social relations

Normalization campaigns

Public administration

Within the scope of the regional Administration, in 1983 and by decree (Decree 396/1983) the *Comissió per a la Normalització Lingüística* (Linguistic Normalization Commission) was formed and was made responsible for the normalization of Catalan usage in the regional Administration. The *Comissió Assessora de Llenguatge Administratiu* (Administrative Language Consulting Commission), which is dependent on the aforementioned commission and on the General Directorate of Linguistic Policy, is operative in the normalization of the corpus. The *Xarxa Tècnica per a la Normalització Lingüística* (Linguistic Normalization Technical Network), also created by decree (Decree 4/1986) and made up of technical representatives for linguistic normalization in each of the departments of the Regional Government. The purpose of this network, which is also dependent on the aforementioned commission and the General Directorate of Linguistic Policy, is to implement the provisions set forth by the Normalization Commission and to propose actions that foster Catalan usage within the framework of each of the departments, and in this manner, assist the DGPL in the coordination of the linguistic policy of the agencies of the Regional Government.

Since 1983, local Administrations have been signing collaboration agreements with Town Halls for the creation of the infrastructure and technical support required for the *Centres de Normalització* (Normalization Centers) and *Serveis Municipals de Català* (Catalan Municipal Services), which are responsible for the normalization campaigns for Catalan usage in Town Halls and for offering a proof reading service. Later, these two entities were incorporated to the Linguistic Normalization Consortium and currently, after receiving an explicit approval in 1992, form a part of the regional network of normalization centers.



With respect to private entities and social relations in general, the Linguistic Normalization Service of the DGPL is in charge of fostering and promoting the linguistic normalization program, preparing specific campaigns and promoting attitudes through grants and other measures that contribute to Catalan usage.

Since 1983, the DGPL has been involved in a series of activities dedicated to the implementation of Catalan usage in public services.

Since 1989, linguistic services have been set up in some of the representative organisms in the business and associative sectors, such as labor unions, sports federations and professional associations.

A series of collaboration agreements have been made with various entities. In 1992, for example, conventions were established with RENFE national railways for the normalization of Catalan usage in the media and communication services of this company in Catalonia; also with the Chamber of Commerce, Consumption, Industry and Shipping in Barcelona to normalize its organisms and communications systems, and with (UGT) trade union to achieve linguistic normalization in the hotel and restaurant sector.



A large number of normalization campaigns have been launched in practically all of the sectors. Some of these campaigns have been promoted by the General Directorate of Linguistic Policy itself and by other collaborating public and private agencies.

Examples:

year	campaign	scope
1983/84	publication of NL Law	legislative
1985	" <i>Català a l'escola</i> " "Catalan in the school"	teaching
1986	restaurant dictionary	restaurants
1987	lettering	commerce
1988	labeling, lettering	food sector
1989	cultural and historical reality	tourism
1990	" <i>Català sobre rodes</i> " "Catalan on wheels"	automotive
1991	" <i>Català, eina de feina</i> " "Catalan, a job tool"	labour sector
1992	" <i>Vídeos en Català</i> ", "Videos in Catalan"	audio-visual
1993	" <i>Doblatge pel·lícules en Català</i> " "Catalan film dubbing"	film industry
1994	" <i>Posa't el Català en pantalla</i> " "Put Catalan on the screen"	computers

Language policy



General Plan for Linguistic Normalization



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Street signs

The Social Council for the Catalan Language, as a management organ of the new consensus among the most representative institutions in Catalan society, has declared, since it was founded, that it is necessary to elaborate a linguistic normalization plan for the formulation of strategies in the different sectors of linguistic policy intervention. This intention is specified in the *Pla General de Normalització Lingüística* (General Plan for Linguistic Normalization), formally approved by the Regional Government of Catalonia on March 7th, 1995, as a synthesis of the tasks set by the General Directorate of Linguistic Policy since 1983 for the promotion of Catalan.

The General Plan for Linguistic Normalization (PGNL) has two objectives:

the first objective is from a collective perspective:

"To achieve the habitual use of Catalan by public and private institutions in all public scopes, exercised freely and without subordination, in all activities in Catalonia."

The other is from an individual standpoint:

"To attain full respect for the linguistic rights of the citizens of Catalonia in the exercise of public, professional, cultural, social or leisure activities, taking into consideration that the public authorities are responsible for protecting and defending said rights, without infringing the collective right of the Catalan linguistic community to use the language of the region."

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General Plan for Linguistic Normalization



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Motor industry

Programs according to sector

The General Plan for Linguistic Normalization is applied, as specifically outlined in the policy of the Regional Government, in the following fields:

1. Public administration

The two scopes of action are the local and regional administrations, on one hand, and the peripheral state and justice administrations on the other.

Local and regional administrations: The consolidation of generalized Catalan usage as the natural language, that is, the transformation of Catalan into the habitual language of expression, both in administrative functions and in personal communication between the Administration and citizens.

State and justice administrations: To respect the right of the citizens to be informed and dealt with in either of the two official languages. The multilingual nature of Spain is implicitly contained in this objective.

The Plan avails of the legal framework that makes it possible to be applied in all scopes of public language usage, since Catalan is the natural language, and to regulate the protection of linguistic rights in all sectors.



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General Plan for Linguistic Normalization

Programs according to sector



Objectives

Projection and support programs

2. Education and youth

Education: The consolidation of Catalan as the natural language, both as a habitual teaching vehicle that conforms to the current legislation and in non-academic activities. As well as its usage in the classroom, the Plan establishes that the educational system must promote a favorable attitude towards the public use of the language. Thus, the plan regulates standards of competence and linguistic attitudes in the teaching staff. Within the specific framework of secondary education, the Plan provides for the elaboration and publication of Catalan teaching resources in order to favor its academic and professional use.

Youth: Based on the fact that Catalan language competence is high among young people, the Plan proposes the evaluation of Catalan language knowledge in youth job-creation schemes and to generalize its usage in youth culture (both in spontaneous interpersonal relations and in industrialized products).

3. Media:

This includes newspaper, television, radio and cultural industries.

Newspapers: To guarantee a rich supply of information in Catalan, complete and varied, as well as quantitatively and qualitatively competitive, supported by specific measures that foster and promote the presence of Catalan in daily and non-daily newspapers, as well as in children's and sports publications.

TV and radio: Try to get a bigger Catalan programs offer in the private canals.

Cultural industries: The plan includes provisions for guaranteeing a balanced presence of the language in the film, theater, editorial, recording and video industries, as well as in the publicity and computer fields.





Public administration

Objectives

Projection and support programs

4. Socioeconomic, associative and health sectors:

Social-economic sector: The Plan, in conformance with the regulations stipulated in the Statute of Consumers, strives to support measures defined therein to assure that Catalan truly becomes the habitually used language in public and private companies; in businesses, it is to be used in both personal and written communication with the public or with suppliers and among staff members. At the same time, the growing need for accrediting Catalan knowledge in the workplace implies that Catalan should be included in staff training programs and therefore convince the adult population of the importance of obtaining the corresponding certification.

With respect to public companies, the Plan focuses on adapting them to the multilingual reality of Spain and fostering linguistic training and assuring that Catalan knowledge and its usage among staff members be a requirement for obtaining job posts, as well as for promotion and transfers.

In addition, the participation of business and labor union organizations and professional trade associations is essential in the processes of linguistic normalization in order to achieve the habitual usage of Catalan in labor relations and in the exercise of all professions.

Associative sector: The Plan guarantees the normal use of Catalan in all types of social institutions, civic, cultural, leisure and sports associations and entities, in particular in large scale entities. In the case of recent immigrants, their full linguistic incorporation to Catalan language, culture and society is facilitated.

Health sector: To consolidate the normalized usage of Catalan in all public services, including the pharmaceutical industry.



Language policy

General Plan for Linguistic Normalization

Projection and support programs



Objectives

Programs according to sector

Territorial coordination:

The Plan coordinates the General Directorate for Linguistic Policy, the various departments of the regional Government, the Linguistic Normalization Consortium and the linguistic sector services. It also strives to strengthen contacts and agreements for collaboration among official and non-official institutions, and coordinates the regional government with respect to linguistic normalization matters throughout the Catalanian region. Efforts are also made to keep the other Spanish regions informed of local state of affairs in the media and through public institutions.

International projection:

The promotion of measures to increase Catalan knowledge abroad, the acceptance of multilingual societies and direct participation in the institutions of the European Union that are dedicated to language issues.

Diffusion of the standard:

Efforts for the standardization and functional specialization of the language, assuring the maximum availability of linguistic criteria and models, by means of a plan approved by the Catalan Studies Institute and other institutions, as well as consolidating standards for specialized language and its diffusion.

Sociolinguistic research:

The Plan coordinates sociolinguistic research and provides for the diffusion of compiled data for its consideration in the drawing up normalization programs.

Language policy

Linguistic policy
in other Catalan-
speaking territories



Community of Valencia

Balearic Islands

Andorra and Eastern Aragón

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The Albufera of Valencia
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Ibiza's harbour
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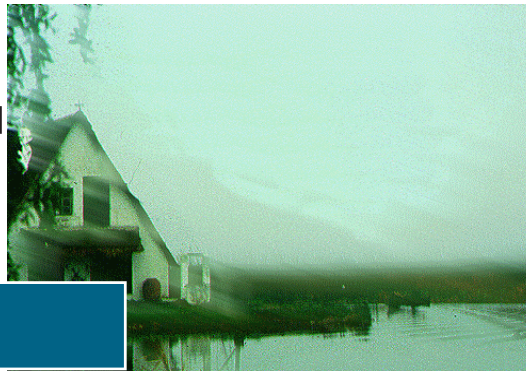
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Community of Valencia



Balearic Islands

Andorra and Eastern Aragon

Southeastern France and Alghero

The Community of Valencia, also known as the Valencia Region, is located on the eastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula. The Catalan which is spoken in this area is popularly called *Valencian*. The official use of this name has raised doubts as to the unity of the Catalan language, despite the fact that since 1932, *Valencian* is written according to the rules set by the Catalan Studies Institute, although there are certain morphological and syntactic regional differences.

In conformance with the Statute of Autonomy of Valencia, *Valencian* and Spanish are the two official languages of the region. In 1983, the Regional Parliament passed the *Llei d'Us i Ensenyament de Valencia* (*Valencian Usage and Teaching Law*), which is currently in force. The law divides the zone into two parts based on the language that is used traditionally in the various counties of Valencia (23 are Catalan and 11 are Spanish-speaking) and establishes that in Catalan-speaking counties, both Catalan and Spanish are obligatory subjects in the curriculum of all educational levels other than university.



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Community of Valencia



Balearic Islands

Andorra and Eastern Aragon

Southeastern France and Alghero

In 1990, the Valencia government approved the *Pla Triennal per a la promoció de l'ús del valencià a la Comunitat Valenciana* (Triennial Plan for the promotion of Valencian usage in the Community of Valencia), which has the following objectives:

- 1 Official usage: To increase knowledge and usage of the *Valencian* language in the Public Administration.
- 2 Social usage: To promote the usage of the *Valencian* language in socioeconomic sectors, among youth and media/culture.
- 3 Studies: To analyse the socioeconomic situation in official and non-official scopes.

The *Bloc de Progrés Jaume I* (James I Progress block) and the *Federació Escola Valenciana* are groups which politically advocate that the Government of Valencia and society assume the process of linguistic normalisation as something that is irreversible and that transcends ideologies.



Language policy

Linguistic policy in other Catalan-speaking territories



Community of Valencia

Andorra and Eastern Aragon

Southeastern France and Alghero

Naveta dels Tudons
(Menorca, Balearic Islands)

Balearic Islands

The Statute of Autonomy of the Balearic islands (1983) declares Catalan as the "natural language of the Balearic Islands" and as the official language, along with Spanish. Linguistic normalisation has become an objective of the regional administration and "island modes of Catalan" are analysed and protected, while not posing a threat to Catalan unity.

The general objectives of the *Llei de Normalització Lingüística a les Illes Balears* (Linguistic Normalisation Law for the Balearic Islands) (1986) are as follows:

1. To effectively foster the progressive and habitual usage of the Catalan language in the Administration.
2. To guarantee the knowledge and usage of Catalan as a teaching instrument.
3. To promote Catalan usage in all media.
4. To create social awareness of the importance of the knowledge and usage of Catalan.

Catalan is an obligatory language course in all schools, including adult education. Approximately 60% of the students receive at least part of their teaching in Catalan.

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Linguistic policy in other Catalan-speaking territories

Andorra and Eastern Aragón



Community of Valencia

Balearic Islands

Southeastern France and Alghero

Casa de la Vall
(Andorra)

Andorra:

Andorra is an independent state that is officially called the Principality of Andorra and is a parliamentary co-principality. The co-princes, an institution dating back to the old *Pareatges* (a pro indiviso dominion with the bishop of Urgell and Count of Foix over the valleys of Andorra) and continues to exist today, exclusively with the bishop of Urgel and the president of the French republic.

The official language is Catalan (article 2.1. of the recently approved Constitution of the Principality of Andorra: April 28th, 1993). The Government of Andorra incorporates a Linguistic Policy Service that is dependent on the Ministry of Social and Cultural Affairs.

According to a recent survey commissioned by the Andorra Administration (October 1995), Catalan is the language of expression of the majority of the citizens (72%) use Catalan in their contacts with the Administration.



Language policy

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Andorra and Eastern Aragón



Community of Valencia

Balearic Islands

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Aragón stripe

Aragón Oriental:

The Catalan-speaking population in Aragon is over 50,000 inhabitants. The Statute of Autonomy of Aragon lacks provisions for the official status of Catalan, although it establishes that “the diverse linguistic modes that are present in Aragon are to be protected as elements that form a part of its cultural heritage.”

The University of Zaragoza, in a *Sociological Study of Eastern Aragon* (1995), acknowledges the Catalan nature of the languages spoken in some counties of eastern Aragon. The fact that Catalan lacks official status in Aragon is uncommon within the framework of corresponding linguistic policy in other regions.

Thanks to the *Mequinzenza Declaration*, made by 17 eastern Aragon mayors, in 1984-85, the teaching of Catalan was initiated in 10 municipalities. At present, Catalan teaching is available throughout the region.



Language policy

Linguistic policy in other Catalan-speaking territories

Southeastern France and Alghero



Community of Valencia

Balearic Islands

Andorra and Eastern Aragón

San Martí del Canigó
(French Catalonia)

Southeastern France (Department of the Eastern Pyrenees):

The Catalan variety spoken in France has been known as northern Catalan or Rousillonese. The area in which it is spoken in the southeastern area of France consists of seven counties that belong to the Department of the Eastern Pyrenees, with the exception of the Occitane County of Fenolleda.

In France, Catalan continues to be considered a regional language and lacks any type of specific legal statute. In spite of this, the region of Languedoc-Rousillon has created an official organism dedicated to the promotion of the language, as well as of Catalan and Occitane culture.

The Deixonne Law (1951) allowed the introduction of Catalan as an elective subject in secondary education (One hour per week). The Savary circular (1982) granted the possibility of three hours a week and acknowledged the role of Catalan as a teaching instrument in some subjects. At the post-secondary level, the University of Perpignan offers multi-disciplinary studies in Catalan (history, literature, economics, law, etc.).

Locally, the Town Hall of Perpignan has promoted Catalan language and culture by means of various initiatives, among which have been the creation in 1978 of the *Centre de Documentació i Animació de la Cultura Catalana* (Center for the Documentation and Promotion of Catalan Culture), which offers linguistic consulting services and organizes competitions. Despite these efforts, Catalan is never used in communication between the state and regional Administration and citizens. French is used in all public services.



Language policy

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Southeastern France and Alghero



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Alghero

This city is located on the island of Sardinia and has a population of 39,026 (1991 census). Article 6 of the Italian Constitution, which provides for the protection of minority languages in Italy, has never been applied in reference to Catalan, although a change in policy can be expected as a result of the new interpretation of Article 9 of the Constitution, which grants the State competence in matters of culture.

The Municipal Statute of Alghero (1991) established that one of the aims of the Town Hall is to protect, foster and diffuse the Catalan language and to financially aid cultural associations.

Nevertheless, Catalan in Alghero does not avail of a legal framework for its recuperation or for preventing its internal degradation as a result of its being phased out by the introduction of Italian. The only law in this respect is the Regional Law of October 7th, 1993, passed by the Regional Council of Sardinia with respect to the protection of culture and language in Sardinia, which makes reference to the preservation of language and culture on the island.



Language policy

The Linguistic Policy Act



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On December 30 1997 the Parliament of Catalonia enacted, with the support of over eighty percent of the members, the Act on Linguistic Policy (Act No. 1, of 7th January). The Act consolidates the policy that the Government of the Generalitat had undertaken in order to implement the 1983 Linguistic Normalisation Act in the fields of Public Authorities, education and the institution mass media, improves the regulation of several aspects of official language use (public commissioners of oaths, public registries, commercial documents, judicial proceedings) and, finally, creates a framework for the promotion of the use of Catalan in fields which had hitherto not had a specific legal regulation, such as the socio-economic world, the private mass media and a number of cultural industries.



Parliament of Catalonia



Language policy

The Linguistic Policy Act



Parliament of Catalonia
(Barcelona, Catalonia)

The 1983 Act basically dealt with the application of article 3, paragraph 3 of the Statute of Autonomy. The 1998 Act has a broader scope and aims to implement the whole of article 3 of the Statute. So as well as establishing the above mentioned measures, in the preliminary chapter it formulates the concepts of a people's "own language", which arises from article 3 paragraph 1 of the Statute, and that of official language and, therefore, that of dual official status, arising from paragraph 2 of the same article of the Statute.

From the fact that Catalan is Catalonia's "own language" the Linguistic Policy Act derives legal consequences for collective references such as Catalonia's own institutions, territory, culture and society. This is why Catalan, as the people's "own language", is the language of all of Catalonia's institutions, in particular, the administration of the Generalitat, local authorities and public corporations, institutional mass media and the education system. These are the fields in which the Act lays down the normal - that is, the generalized and ordinary - use of Catalan.

As laid down in the Act, Catalan, as Catalonia's "own language", is also the language preferentially used by the other institutions of Catalonia (commissioners of oaths, registries, the State authorities, religious confessions, strictly private institutions which have a public interest, trades unions...) and also, in general, by companies and organisations which offer their services to the public in the territory of Catalonia. Finally, the concept of a people's "own language" also affects the citizens, among whom proficiency in the language and its use are to be encouraged, as well as the written press, radio stations and television channels, publishing production, the performing arts, song, cinema and in general the dissemination of culture, computing, linguistic engineering, advertising, and labour, professional, sporting, collective and leisure activities.



Language policy

The Linguistic Policy Act



Parliament of Catalonia
(Barcelona, Catalonia)

Whereas the concept of a people's "own language" is based upon the principle of territoriality and has a clearly collective reference, the concept of official language, applied to Catalan and to Spanish, is based upon the principle of personality. It guarantees all citizens their subjective rights, which are proclaimed explicitly in the Act, to learn both languages and to be able to use them freely in all their public and private dealings, with full legal validity and effectiveness.

The Act on Linguistic Policy adds new instruments to the policy pursued for the past twenty years. The objectives are still to make it possible for everyone in Catalonia to know both official languages and to be able to freely choose which they want to use in all fields, and that all social activity be undertaken in Catalan, the country's own language, in conditions of non-subordination.

Since the new Act came into force, it has been implemented at various levels of activity. On the one hand an important task of dissemination has been carried out. In this context it is worth noting that three editions of the Act have been published in Catalan and that it has also been published in Spanish, English and French.

Another instrument of implementation has been in the form of cooperation agreements, signed with large companies or industrial associations for the implementation of the Act on Linguistic Policy, in which they accept the commitment to adapt to the terms of the Act in periods shorter than those laid down in the transitory provisions of the Act, and in some cases adopting some of the measures regarded as voluntary in the text.



Language policy

The Linguistic Policy Act



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Special mention should be made of the regulatory development of the Act on Linguistic Policy, consisted of the following five decrees which have been published in the first ten months:

- *Decree 36/1998, dated 4th February, on measures for the implementation of the Act.* It ensures the necessary implication and coordination of all the departments of the Generalitat as regards language policy, it establishes the Technical Commission of Language Policy, and grants a number of responsibilities to the Directorate General for Language Policy. It also reorganises the network of specialists working in the Departments of the Generalitat.
- *Decree 204/1998, dated 30th July, on the use of the Catalan language in notarial documents.* It guarantees citizens the right to choose the language of notarial documents and regulates several technical aspects to make it possible. With this in mind it sets up mechanisms for cooperation between the notaries public and banks as regards mortgages.
- *Decree 298/1998, dated 30th July, which regulates the accreditation of linguistic correction of names and family names.* In accordance with article 19 of the Act it simplifies the procedure to be followed by citizens who may wish to correct the spelling of their names and family names to Catalan spelling rules.



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- *Decree 237/1998, dated 8th September, on measures for promoting films dubbed and subtitled in Catalan.* The implementation of this decree will bring about a very important change in the presence of Catalan in cinemas, which is less than 2% at present: within the space of three years it will be at least 20%.
- *Decree 269/1998, dated 21st October, on the legal procedures for granting licences to commercial stations for radio services on frequency modulation.* It regulates the full procedures for granting licences and, among other matters, linguistic and musical quotas laid down in article 26 of the Act.

