



Youth Wiki national description

Youth policies in Spain

2021

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Spain

Youth Policy in Spain

The Spanish Constitution ([Constitución Española de 1978](#)) states that “public authorities will promote conditions for the free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development” in its article 48, therefore, public authorities must develop youth policies as it has been done for the last forty years. However, the Constitution does not include a section stating youth policies and so, in order to address this lack of specific assignment, the different Autonomous Regions assumed exclusive responsibility in their own Statutes.

In this way there is no General Government Administration Youth Comprehensive Law but a variety of different plans seeking to coordinate political performances. In February 2017, the Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality announced the [preparation of the Second Action Plan of the Youth Strategy 2017-2020](#). The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) is currently in force, approved by the Council of Ministers on the 12th of September 2014. This Strategy goes together with the first Action Plan 2014-2016 ([Plan de Acción 2014-2016](#)) and the Second Action Plan 2017-2020, establishing axes of action, goals, measures and budget for this period. Besides these Plans, there is an [ordinary budget for the Youth Promotion and Services](#) from the Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare.

Although most of the actions related to youth are carried out through the Autonomous Regions and local bodies, on a national scale the decision-taking structure is related to the Spanish Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud \(INJUVE\)](#)) and the Youth Interministerial Commission. Coordination of the authorities with the associative youth movement is made through the Spanish Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España](#)).

1. YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

According to the [Spanish National Statistical Institute](#) (INE) data, Spain has an estimated population of 47.329.981 people [\[i\]](#) in 2020, of those 7.296.779 are youth, roughly the 15,41%.

Of these people, Spanish policies and public organisations consider those between 15 and 29 years of age as *youth*.

Youth population	Population	% of the total population	% Young population
Total	7.296.779	15,41%	100%
Male	3.731.744	7,88%	51,14%
Female	3.565.035	7,53%	48,86%

Source: National Statistical Institute 2020 (retrieved 01/01/2020)

[\[i\]](#) See [Population figures and Demographic Censuses](#)

1.1 Target population of youth policy

Although there is no such thing as a definition of the concept for youth in the different documents belonging to the General Government Administration, the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) considers that youth would include those between 15 and 29 years of age.

Regardless of this matter, some of the indicators developed in order to study youth would be related to those between 25 and 29 years of age (precisely the indicators linked to emancipation). The age gap of 25 and 29 years is used to study certain phenomena related to youth but not the whole youth population that comprises the population between 15 to 29 years.

1.2 National youth law

Existence of a National Youth Law

There is not a national youth law made by the General Government Administration. However, there are laws about youth in 12 of the 17 Autonomous Regions, as follows:

- 1) Law 8/2002 ([Ley 8/2002, de 27 de noviembre de 2002](#)), related to Youth from the Madrid Autonomous Region.
 - 2) Law 11/2002 ([Ley 11/2002, de 10 de julio de 2002](#)), related to Youth from the Castile and Leon Region.
 - 3) Law 7/2005 ([Ley 7/2005, de 30 de junio de 2005](#)), related to Youth from the Rioja Autonomous Region.
 - 4) Law 10/2006 ([Ley 10/2006, de 26 de julio de 2006](#)), related to Youth from the Balearic Islands Autonomous Region.
 - 5) Law 6/2007 ([Ley 6/2007, de 4 de abril de 2007](#)), related to Youth from the Murcia Autonomous Region.
 - 6) Law 7/2007 ([Ley 7/2007, de 13 de abril de 2007](#)), related to Youth from the Canary Islands Autonomous Region.
 - 7) Law 33/2010 ([Ley 33/2010, de 1 de octubre de 2010](#)), related to Youth policies from Catalonia.
 - 8) Statutory law 11/2011 ([Ley Foral 11/2011, de 1 de abril de 2011](#)), related to Youth from the Navarra Statutory Autonomous Region.
 - 9) Law 6/2012 ([Ley 6/2012, de 19 de junio de 2012](#)), related to Youth from the Galicia Autonomous Region.
 - 10) Law 6/2015 ([Ley 6/2015, de 25 de marzo de 2015](#)), related to Youth from the Aragon Autonomous Region.
 - 11) Law 15/2017 ([Ley 15/2017, de 10 de noviembre de 2017](#)), related to Integral Youth Policies from the Valencia Autonomous Region.
 - 12) Law 06/2019 ([Ley 6/2019, de 29 de marzo de 2019](#)), related to Youth Participation and Promotion from the Asturias Autonomous Region.
- Although the Basque Country has not yet approved a Youth Law it has already proposed a Draft Bill on 2018.
- 13) Draft Bill for a Basque Country Youth Law ([Propuesta de Anteproyecto de Ley Vasca de Juventud 2018](#))

Scope and contents

Even though there is not a Youth Comprehensive Law, from the General Government Administration, the different laws of the eleven cited Autonomous Regions can be examined in general terms of scope and contents with one example, due to the similarities between the youth laws of the different Autonomous Regions.

The Law 11/2002 related to Youth from the Castile and Leon Region sets the scope in the following topics: employment, housing, education, social services, sports, health, consume, environment, agricultural medium and society of information. The aim of the law is to promote the training and information of the youth, the cultural promotion, the leisure activities, youth tourism, juvenile premises and the youth card. It also tackles the legislative aspects of the associative world and the financing features of the services and activities provided by the Regional Government.

Revisions/updates

There is not a Comprehensive Youth Law as such, and therefore there have been no revisions of the same.

1.3 National youth strategy

Existence of a National Youth Strategy

The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) is currently in force, approved by the Council of Ministers on the 12th of September 2014. This plan is the result of the activities of the Interministerial Commission for Youth and the Youth Institute. It covers two different Action Plans: the first Action Plan encompassed the years 2014 to 2016 and the second Action Plan currently includes the year 2017 to the year 2020. However, the second Action Plan has not been presented and approved by the Interministerial Commission for Youth yet. The Strategy (as well as its drafting process) entails an assessment on the situation and opinions of youth and an analysis on youth tendencies towards year 2020, an analysis of the policies and actions related to youth in the last few years, as well as the background information, which make up the basis for the Strategy.

The Strategy is therefore divided into three parts:

First, an analysis of the policies and actions related to youth in the last few years, which make up the background information of the Strategy.

Second, the axis and goals of action are established: education and training; employment and entrepreneurship; housing; health and equality; participation, voluntary and inclusion work, as well as institutional cooperation.

Third, a series of youth indicators are developed in order to be used as a reference for the follow-up and assessment of the Strategy. These indicators can be split into general, emancipation, education, employment, health, social engagement and social networks areas.

Scope and contents

Youth Strategy 2020

It is an interministerial initiative promoted by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)), through the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)) consistent with the [Europe 2020 targets](#). All Ministries have taken part in the definition and contents of the Strategy through the Interministerial Commission for Youth.

The target group of the strategy is the Spanish population between 16 to 29.

The main goal is to become a reference for the youth policies developed in Spain and to favour policies and services for youth that have an impact in areas such as employment,

participation, youth associationism, voluntary programmes, leisure and free time, healthy life habits, prevention, values for coexistence, etc.

It also encourages collaboration concerning youth between the different Ministries and other administrations such as Autonomous Regions, local authorities and provinces. The Youth Strategy will also imply cooperation between all the actors related to youth issues, including associations.

The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) is implemented through Action Plans including actions related to youth from the different Ministries. Thus, an assessment mechanism to quantify the success of the Plan has been established. Also to grant the positive implementation of the strategy consultation activities are carried with the youth population and youth organizations, the main dialogue process with the youth population are the EU Youth Conferences ([Conferencias de Juventud de la UE](#)).

Axes of action

The 2020 Strategy ([Estrategia 2020](#)) establishes six Axes of Action. Its goals are also defined.

1) AXIS 1 Education and training. Goals

- Improving the Spanish Education System quality in order to raise employability and entrepreneurship.
- Encouraging the non-formal training system.
- Identifying and encouraging new niches and sources of employment through training.

2) AXIS 2 Employment and entrepreneurship. Goals

- Encouraging the establishment of youth employment opportunities
 - Encouraging the entry of youth in the labour market.
 - Increasing the number of self-employed youth as well as the number of companies established by people under 30 years of age.
- Encouraging the entrepreneurial culture.
- Promoting the implementation of a youth guarantee system.

3) AXIS 3 Housing. Goals

- Raising the youth emancipation figures.

4) AXIS 4 Health, leisure and sports. Goals

- Promoting actions taken in order to encourage healthy life habits.
- Reducing the use of drugs and narcotic substances.
- Fighting any kind of violence or discrimination.

5) AXIS 5 Participation, voluntary work, inclusion and equality. Goals

- Improving channels and tools to raise the participation and voluntary work of associated and not associated youth, especially those linked to ICT.
- Fighting against social exclusion of the most disadvantaged groups of youth population.
- Promoting equality.

6) AXIS 6 Institutional Cooperation. Goals

- Encouraging cooperation between public administrations, national and international bodies and youth entities which may have an impact on youth, through the following areas of youth cooperation:

Youth Indicators

The youth indicators pointed in the Strategy are the following:

General

- Young people in present-day society
- Youth population in the last few years
- Youth studying/working

Emancipation

- Emancipation figures
- Financially independent youth between 25 and 29 years of age
- Physically emancipated youth between 25 and 29 years of age
- Emancipation on the basis of renting a property

Education

- Early education and training dropout rate
- Completion of secondary school studies rate
- Completion of further education studies rate

Employment

- Unemployment rate
- Employment rate
- Activity rate
- Temporary employment rate
- Employed youth with a permanent contract of employment
- Self-employed

Health

- Age-specific mortality rate
- Deaths due to external causes
- Deaths due to road traffic accidents
- Deaths due to suicide
- Tobacco use
- Alcohol use
- Cannabis use
- Use of condoms in sexual relationships
- Physical exercising amongst young people

Social engagement

- Associative membership rate

Social networks

- Presence in social networks
- Participation in social networks

Responsible authority for the implementation of the Youth Strategy

The Strategy refers to those actions related to youth taken or to be taken by the General Government Administration, through the different departments. This Strategy was conceived by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda.

The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) is implemented through Action Plans including actions related to youth from the different Ministries. Thus, an assessment mechanism to quantify the success of the Plan has been established.

At the end of each year, the Youth Institute will produce a report on the follow-up of the actions taken, which shall be used as the basis, in order to partially assess each Action Plan and to encourage the development of new measures.

Revisions and updates

Assessment and review of Strategy 2020 shall be carried out by virtue of the different Action Plans through the Youth Interministerial Commission:

- Action Plan 2014-2016
- Action Plan 2017-2020

Originally, the Strategy established three Action Plans, however the number and length of the Action Plans has been reduced to two action plans, as mentioned above, one for the period 2014 to 2016 and another that comprehends between 2017 to 2020, as the [National Reform Plans](#) establish.

From this annual report, the Youth Interministerial Commission shall decide the inclusion of new actions proposed by the different Ministries.

Furthermore, in 2018, the European Commission presented the EU Youth Strategy for the 2019-2027 period, considered now the framework for EU in youth policy cooperation, which contains the main goals every state member must pursue by using their policy instruments and actions at national and local levels.

1.4 Youth policy decision-making

Structure of Decision-making

According to Article 48 of the 1978 Spanish Constitution ([Constitución Española de 1978](#)) "*Public authorities will promote conditions for the free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development*". Therefore, public authorities must develop youth policies as it has been done for the last forty years.

Spain is a decentralised country; besides the Central Government (the General Government Administration being its administrative apparatus), there are two other political-administrative levels: On the one hand, 17 Autonomous Regions and two Autonomous Cities (Ceuta and Melilla); they all rely on an Autonomous Government, an Autonomous Administration, a directly elected Autonomous Parliament and, above all, a referential policy framework set by the Statute of Autonomy approved from 1979 onwards. Last, on a third level, Local Authorities and Provinces (another regional division) should be taken into account, as these are also empowered [\[i\]](#).

This complexity structures its distribution of power through Title VIII of the Spanish Constitution. Moreover, a system of competences is established: some can be taken on by the Autonomous Regions ([art. 148, CE](#)); others belong exclusively to the Government ([art. 149, CE](#)).

The Spanish Constitution does not include a paragraph stating youth policies and so, in order to address this lack of specific assignment, the different Autonomous Regions

assumed exclusive responsibility in their own Statutes. Although this structure has remained so, it does not mean that the State cannot make laws on this matter^[ii].

Although most of the actions related to youth are carried out through the Autonomous Regions and local bodies, on a national scale the decision-taking structure is related to two bodies explained further down: the [Spanish Youth Institute](#) (INJUVE) and the Youth Interministerial Commission.

On an Autonomous Region scale, these competences are stated in the different Autonomy Statutes. The youth organisations of the Autonomous Regions are the main institutional actors at this level.

On a national scale, decisions are made by the Government through the Interministerial Commission presided by the Minister of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda. The vice-presidency of the Commission is held by the General Director of the Youth Institute, as the vocals that represent the Departments of this institution. The secretary post is occupied by a public worker of the Youth Institute by request of the General Director and the Commission President. It is foreseen that a vocal post will be held by the Presidency of the Youth Council of Spain.

It is enforced by the Youth Institute, in coordination with the Autonomous Regions and local entities (town halls and provincial councils), in this case through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces.

Coordination of the authorities with the associative youth movement is made through the [Spanish Youth Council](#) (Consejo de la Juventud de España). This organisation was created by Law 18/1983, November the 16th ([Ley 18/1983, de 16 de noviembre](#)) as a plural platform made out of youth entities for the exchange of ideas. Its main purpose is to participate in the design of policies that, directly or indirectly, affect youth, responding to the problems of this group. Therefore, it is an advisory body, although the definition of its real current role remains unclear.

Main Themes

The main themes can be found in [Strategy 2020](#): education and training; employment and entrepreneurship; housing; health and prevention; participation, voluntary services, inclusion and equality; and institutional cooperation between the different administrations of the Spanish State. The document explaining the Strategy 2020 is one of the two official papers describing the choice of themes, the other is a document of the Minister Council ([Consejo de Ministros](#)).

The National Agency for Youth

The [Youth Institute](#) is the public body, currently attached to the [Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda](#), working as the Spanish National Agency for Youth. Created in 1977 by virtue of Royal Decree 1119/1977 ([Real Decreto 1119/1977](#)), of 20th of May; however, its purposes and current structure were approved in 2005 by Royal Decree 486/2005 ([Real Decreto 486 /2005](#)), of 4th of May.

Amongst its targets are: “the promotion of equal opportunities for all youth regardless of gender; to encourage the free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development of Spain; and to encourage the cooperation with other ministerial departments as well as with other public administrations”. In all, its main purpose is the promotion of public actions which favour youth.

Its role of coordination of youth policies both with the State Administration as well as with the Autonomous Regions and local authorities (in this case through the Spanish Federation of Provinces and Municipalities ([Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias](#))) is crucial.

Article 3 of Royal Decree 486/2005 ([Real Decreto 486 /2005](#)) of 4th of May states that, in order to comply with its purposes, the Youth Institute is empowered to develop, within the field of the national competences in this matter, the following tasks:

- a) The development of cooperation with the Public Administrations in all matters related to youth.
- b) The encouragement of communication, exchanges and mobility of Spanish youth, both in Spain and abroad.
- c) The analysis and research into the reality affecting youth.
- d) To promote the participation of the Spanish Youth Council and of youth in general in the design, enforcement, follow-up and assessment of the Government youth policies.
- e) The encouragement of territorial cooperation in the development of youth policies.
- f) Rendering any other services suitable for the achievement of its specific goals.

The budget of the Youth Institute is made of the funding given by the General Government Administration, the European funds from the European Commission obtained through the Youth in Action Program and the Erasmus+ Youth program. The rest of the budget is acquired as a result of the services provided in the Youth Eurolatinamerican Center and the sale of publications. The accountability labours are taken by the General Intervention of the State Administration (Intervención General de la Administración del Estado) through the Delegate Intervention from the Youth Institute. The budget in the year 2018 was of 32,961,440 €. With respect to the previous year 2017 INJUVE has experienced an increase of 6,54% in its budget.

Policy monitoring and evaluation

The General Budget Law, in its article 72 ([Ley General Presupuestaria 47/2003](#)), makes the Ministry of Finance responsible to “continuous evaluation of the policies to achieve the strategic objectives”. The Royal Decree 769/2017 of 28th July 2017 ([Real Decreto 769/2017 del 28 de julio](#)) dissolved the AEVAL, the previous public organization used to make evaluations and control expenditures, and all its functions were transferred to the Institute for Evaluation of Public Policies and General Direction of the Public Governance ([Instituto para la Evaluación de Políticas Públicas y de la Dirección General de Gobernanza Pública](#)). Although the Royal Decree is no longer in power, the Institute for Evaluation of Public Policies still has its functions, as established in the article 6.5a) of the [Royal Decree 863/2018, of 13th of July 2018](#).

The monitoring and evaluation of the Youth policy is been carried out, as noted above, through the review of [Strategy 2020](#). It has been carried out by virtue of the different Action Plans through the Youth Interministerial Commission:

- Action Plan 2014-2016
- Action Plan 2016-2018
- Action Plan 2018-2020

At the end of each year, the Youth Institute produces a report on the follow-up of the actions taken, which shall be used as the basis, in order to partially asses each Action Plan and to encourage the development of new measures. From this annual report, the Youth Interministerial Commission shall decide the inclusion of new actions proposed by the different Ministries. The indicators are the ones can be seen in the Strategy 2020 document.

All measures related to youth employment and entrepreneurship are subject to follow-up and assessment by virtue of the assemblage of an Inter-Ministerial Follow-up Commission and a Working Group made out of social partners. The Commission and the Working Group shall take into account data and results provided by two different sets of indicators: (1) Output and result indicators; a control and follow-up of the number of measures taken, of the budget assigned to the measure and of the number of beneficiaries of each measure is carried out. (2) Impact indicators: parameters such as youth employment rate, early school drop-out rate, the percentage of youth with an involuntary part-time work contract, or the percentage of youth at risk of social exclusion, among others, are considered.

For the correct follow-up of the degree of advance of these measures, a procedure for the collection and treatment of data is established. By virtue of this procedure, each one of the entities responsible for each action shall provide the necessary information annually, which shall be subject to statistical aggregation and processing by the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy ([Ministerio de Trabajo y Economía Social](#)), Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration ([Ministerio de Inclusión, Seguridad Social y Migraciones](#)).

The follow-up reports shall be referred to the Inter-Ministerial Follow-up Commission that shall analyse the degree of advance of each one of the initiatives and, where relevant, the degree of deviation from the established goals.

The Tripartite Commission on Youth Employment ([Comisión Tripartita para el Empleo Joven](#)) is an analysing, debate and assessment body for public policies concerning youth employment. It is made out of business and trade union organisations as well as the Public Administration.

[i] From the Basque Statute of Autonomy, the first one, established in 1979; until the Statute of Autonomy of Castile and Leon, the last one, established in 1983 (Comas Arnau, 2007, page 66)

[ii] Organic Laws are those laws constitutionally needed to legislate over certain matters. For the Spanish Legal System, the relationship between organic laws and ordinary laws is not hierarchical; it is a relationship according to the subject ([artículo 81.1 CE](#)). They also require a further consensus in order to be approved, the overall majority in the National Parliament).

1.5 Cross-sectoral approach with other ministries

Mechanisms and actors

Youth Interministerial Commission

It is a specific cooperation body between the Ministries as well as of promotion of youth policies, in charge of monitoring situations and problems affecting youth and proposing programmes and measures to the Government in order to solve them. In other words, it is a cooperation and relation body with the ensemble of Ministries in order to promote youth policies. Therefore, it is an instrument that allows putting together interministerial plans and other actions addressed to youth, as well as maintaining a joint vision on the Government actions that, developed by the different Ministries, have an impact upon youth.

Its structure is made up by the following members:

- Chairperson: the legal person from the Ministry.
- First Vice-chairperson: First Vice-chairperson: Secretary of State for Social Rights and 2030 Agenda.
- Second Vice-chairperson: the legal person from the General Direction of the Injuve.
- Spokespersons: A representative ranking as Director-General of the ministerial departments from the General Government Administration and the Chairman of the Youth Council
- Secretary: a civil servant of the Youth Institute (the General Government Administration Youth National Agency).

The purposes of this body are:

1. Proposing public policies to the Government
2. The study of the problems affecting youth
3. Coordination of the ministerial actions concerning youth
4. Monitoring the initiatives of the Spanish Youth Council

5. Enforcement of the initiatives
6. Other tasks assigned by the Government

The full Interministerial Commission shall meet at least twice a year, and shall be assisted in its functioning by the Youth Institute in order to carry out its abovementioned purposes.

On a General Government Administration scale, the body for the coordination and follow-up of the youth public policies is the Youth Interministerial Commission. This commission was established by Royal Decree 1923/2008 ([Real Decreto 1923/2008](#)) of 21st of November 2008. This body is currently attached to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda (under the Secretary of State for Social Rights).

Youth Institute (taking part in other collegiate bodies of the General Government Administration)

Given the cross-cutting nature of its duties, the Youth Institute participates in different collegiate bodies belonging to the General Government Administration as well as in other administrations whose work scope has an impact on youth.

Inter-territorial Council of Youth

The Youth Interregional Council ([Consejo Interterritorial de Juventud](#)) was established on the 18th of October 2007. Its purpose is to strengthen cooperation between the Autonomous Regions and the State, as well as between Autonomous Regions, concerning all matters to do with youth public policies.

1.6 Evidence-based youth policy

Political Commitment to Evidence-Based Youth Policy

The [Youth Strategy 2020](#) establishes indicators from which the [Youth policy](#) can be assessed.

Cooperation between policy-making and research

The [Youth Institute](#) (INJUVE) has the purpose of carrying out the “analysis and research of youth reality”. In this respect, the Youth Observatory ([Observatorio de la Juventud](#)) expects to be a technical body of analysis and assessment of the situation of youth in our country and of support for the design of initiatives, youth programmes and policies. The main purposes of the Observatory are:

- To serve as a participation channel for youth living in Spain, by means of expressing their opinions on those aspects that may have an impact upon their lives.
- To study youth reality, as well as the transformations in youth population.
- To contribute to the guidance and updating of the youth policies, as well as of actions taken by public administrations and society, addressed to youth.
- To analyse the image of youth in the media and to propose measures in order to improve it.

In order to achieve these goals, the Observatory of Youth carries out the following activities:

1. Statistics on youth
2. Opinion polls
3. Studies and research
4. Youth Studies Journals
5. Documentary records and Youth Library

The [Youth Institute](#) has been developing, for the last few years, a series of *opinion polls*, on a quarterly basis, with the purpose of gathering updated data on the opinion and situation of youth, concerning the different aspects which have an impact on their life.

These Polls are a fast and extensive complement of the Youth in Spain Report and of the in-depth studies about group subjects. The INJUVE technical services deal with the questionnaire design, the statistical results, the data analysis and the making of a basic report of each poll, broadcasted through its website both in Spanish and in English.

Concerning the *studies and research* carried out by the [INJUVE](#), analysing youth reality is their main goal, with the purpose of contributing to a greater knowledge applied to issues and phenomena which may have an impact on youth population and putting them at the disposal of educators, professionals, youth associations, media and politicians with responsibilities working in this field. Likewise, it is expected that they work as a basic diagnose for the starting up or updating of action programmes addressed to youth.

Both the opinion polls and the studies and research are divided into the following areas:

- Demography and general information
- Values, attitudes and participation
- Family, partnership and gender equality
- Training, employment and housing
- Economy, consumption and life styles
- Health and sexuality
- Leisure and free time
- Info-technology

The so called Youth in Spain Report (*Informe Juventud en España*) elaborated every four years is specially worth mentioning amongst the studies.

The *Youth Studies Journal* (*Revista de Estudios de Juventud*) of INJUVE is a very useful publication in order to get to know the problems and worries of youth, to think about them and, above all, to try to find solutions. This publication has been issued ever since 1979 and deals, as a monographic, with subjects of interest related to life, habits and needs of youth. It is published in paper and ever since no. 57 also in full text digital format, broadcasted through the [INJUVE website](#).

Issues dealt with in the journal are, amongst other, participation, immigration, Europe and youth, urban cults, youth sexuality or violence. The journal areas of study are divided into the abovementioned following fields.

The *documentary records and the Youth Library* (*Biblioteca de la Juventud*). Documentary works carried out can be split into the following fields:

- Creation and maintenance of documentary records.
- Circulation of documentary products.
- Documental attention.
- Library management.

The programme of the Observatory of Youth is developed in collaboration with researchers, universities, companies and specialised entities, both public and private.

The Young Researchers Award ([Certamen de Jóvenes Investigadores](#)), organised by the [Youth Institute](#) and the University Policy Office from the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional](#)), encourages, research amongst youth of ages between 15 and 20 through the awarding of prizes related to works carried out on basic or applied research, or prototypes linked to any of the fields of the Secondary Education, A Levels and Vocational Training curriculum.

In its 29th edition, it relies on the collaboration from the [Spanish National Research Council \(CSIC\)](#), the [Universidad Politécnica de Madrid](#), the [Universidad de Málaga](#), the Spanish Royal Society of Physics ([Real Sociedad Española de Física](#)), the Computer Scientific

Society of Spain ([Sociedad Científica Informática de España](#)) and the ONCE Foundation ([Fundación ONCE](#)).

The awards include, amongst others, a Special Prize of the Young Researchers Conference of 5,000 €, eight first prizes of 4,000 € each, 10 second prizes of 3,000 € each, 9 third prizes of 2,000 € each and ten secondary awards of 1,000 € each.

National Statistics and available data sources

The Observatory of Youth maintains a statistical database with the purpose of knowing the situation and evolution of youth population at all times. In order to do so, the following publications are issued:

- *Youth in numbers (Juventud en Cifras)*. Ongoing updating of a statistical compendium on youth population, in a national and regional level. It systematically collects statistical and polls information on youth, in order to get a view as complete and quick as possible on the features of this age group. Research, selection and creation of the basic indicators on youth which make part of these bulletins are the main tasks developed: population, family background, personal relationships, economy, occupations, health, leisure and free time, values and attitudes.
- Youth in the [Labour Force Survey](#). By means of the micro-data obtained from the National Statistical Office, results tables for the age group from 16 to 24 years of age and for 25 to 29 years of age can be drawn up. Information for each of the Regions and Autonomous Cities is also offered. Bulletin "Youth in Labour Force Survey" (*Jóvenes en la Encuesta de Población Activa*), is an example of the former, carried out by the [INJUVE](#). Is a quarterly record at a national level.
- Bulletin "Youth and Unemployment" (*Boletín Jóvenes y Paro Registrado*). Data offered on a monthly basis by the National Institute of Employment, under the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy ([Ministerio de Trabajo y Economía Social](#)). 24 bulletins are released (two a month) on youth figures with data offered by the State Employment Public Service ([Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal](#)).

Other data source, obtained from national databases, mainly from the [National Statistical Office](#):

- Population
 - [Population figures and Demographic Censuses](#) (recorded every ten years at a national level)
 - [Municipal Register](#) (annual record at a municipal level)
 - [Population projections](#) (annual record at a national level)
 - [Marital status, Active Population Survey](#) (quarterly record at a national level)
 - [Demographic phenomena](#)(annual record at a national level)
- Economy
 - [Household budget survey](#) (annual record at a national level)
 - [Living conditions survey](#) (annual record at a national level)
- Education
 - [Education in the Labour Force Survey](#) (quarterly record at a national level)
 - [Education Statistics from the Ministry of Education](#) (annual record at a national level)
 - [Survey on Adult Population Involvement in Learning Activities](#) (recorded every five years at national level)

- Employment
 - [Labour Force Survey](#) (quarterly record at a national level)
 - Public Service of Labour ([Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal](#)) Ministry of Labour and Social Economy (monthly record at a national level)
- Health
 - [National Health Service](#) (recorded every four years at a national level)
 - [Demographic phenomena](#) (annual record at a national level)
 - [Death statistics](#) (annual record at a national level)
 - [Hospital Morbidity Survey](#) (annual record at a national level)
 - National Registry of HIV ([Registro Nacional de casos de VIH/SIDA](#)) Ministry of Health (annual record at a national level)
 - National Drugs Plan ([Plan Nacional sobre Drogas](#)). Household Survey on Drug Abuse in Spain (EDADES). Ministry of Health (recorded every two years at a national level)
 - Traffic accident yearbook ([Anuario de accidentes de la Dirección General de Tráfico](#)) (annual record at a national level)
 - Voluntary interruptions of pregnancy ([Interrupciones voluntarias del embarazo](#)). Ministry of Health (annual record at a national level)
- Example of statistics in the Autonomous Regions
 - Labour Insertion Observatory of the Youth ([Observatorio de inserción laboral de los jóvenes](#)).
 - [Valencian Institute of Economic](#) (recorded every three years at a national level).

Budgetary Allocations supporting research in the youth field

The scientific research funding programme “National Programme for Research Aimed at the Challenges of Society of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities” ([Retos de I+D+i, del Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades](#)), encourages positive aspects regarding youth and evidence-based policy making as it is aimed to offer scientific knowledge to solve the future challenges of the Spanish society, described briefly in the title of the program and in the section Challenges and Social Innovations.

1.7 Funding youth policy

How Youth policy is funded

On a national scale the Youth Strategy 2020 establishes several actions plans, the last one to be implemented was the Action Plan 2014-2016 ([Plan de Acción 2014-2016](#)), which established a budget of 2.9 thousand million euros in 211 measures in the different Axes of Action of the Strategy . From this amount, over 90% of the budget was been allocated to youth employment and entrepreneurship support. This is a specific budget focused in the first Action Plan.

Besides these Plans, there is an ordinary budget for the *Youth Promotion and Services* (*Promoción y Servicios de la Juventud*), from the [Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda](#) of 32,9 million euros (Spanish National Budget 2018 – [Presupuestos Generales del Estado 2018](#)). With an increase in the budget of 6.54% compared with the previous year 2017, that was funded with 30.9 million euros.

Nevertheless, on 28 October 2020, the [Draft State Budget for 2021](#) was presented to the Cortes Generales and its adoption is still to be voted in the following weeks, so the budget that will be assigned to the promotion of youth policies in Spain remains unknown.

What is funded?

For Axis no.1 Education and training, 573,877,850€.

For Axis no.2 Employment and Entrepreneurship a budget of 2,344,092,044.80€.

For Axis no.3 Housing 0€.

For Axis no.4 Prevention and Health, a budget of 1,840,648€.

For Axis no.5 Participation, voluntary work, inclusion and equal opportunities, a budget of 22,363,826.4€.

Financial accountability

The General Budget Law ([Ley General Presupuestaria 47/2003](#)), is the legal framework which regulates all the financing for the Ministries and Public organizations in order to implement public policies and public services. These policies should follow the Law of Budgetary Stability and Financial Sustainability ([Ley Orgánica 2/2012 de 27 de abril de 2012](#)). With regard to the rules for granting subsidies, the General Law of Grants is followed ([Ley 38/2003 de 17 de noviembre](#)).

Additionally, all public action is under the surveillance of the [Court of Auditors](#), higher control body of the Spanish Public Administration. This organization depends on the Spanish Parliament. Most of the budgetary and financial supervision activities are done through a public audit. As a result of the inspection, the number of infractions, abuses or irregular practices will be taken in to account as well as the supposedly responsible personnel of the faults.

Although is the only institution at a national level that monitors the Public Administration, at a regional autonomous level the Regional Organisms of External Control ([Órganos de Control Externo Autonómicos \(OCEX\)](#)) perform the same functions.

Use of EU Funds

In the year 2017, Spanish Administration participates of the following funds according to [European Budget](#):

- Erasmus + funded with 174,6M€. Is the European program of the EU that supports the training, sports, education and youth efforts for the period 2014-2020.
- Youth Employment Initiative with a budget of 28,3M (2016, no data available for 2017) € designed to support young people who are not in employment, training or education in regions with an unemployment rate above 25%.

Creative Europe Program with a financial support of 7,3 M€ focused in emerging creators and artists in an Europe-wide program.

1.8 Cross-border cooperation

International cooperation

At the multilateral level, the biggest cooperation concerning youth is carried out with the Ibero-American countries.

Ibero-American Summits

The annual meetings (from 1991) of the Heads of State and Government are the annual meetings of the 22 countries inside the Organization of Ibero-American States ([Organización de Estados Iberoamericanos](#)). They deal with a wide variety of topics, including youth policies. At the end of October 2016, the Youth Ibero-American Agreement

was signed between member countries. The compromise is a political-institutional initiative to form an alliance between different sectors and actors with the purpose of improving the development of public policies of youth and the protection of youth.

Although, country youth agencies have launched a linking strategy called the Youth Pact 2030 ([PACTO JUVENTUD 2030](#)).

Youth International Agency for Ibero-America

Regarding this aspect, Spain belongs to the Ibero-American Youth International Organization ([OIJ](#)), along with other 22 countries.

It is an inter-governmental organisation comprising the youth ministries of the Ibero-American Community countries; its main goal is the inclusion and integration of all youth, through the public policies for youth.

Relaunched in 2012, it finds its origin in the Ibero-American Youth Organisation launched in 1992. It is based in Madrid.

Council of Europe

Participation in the [European Steering Committee for Youth](#) (CDEJ) that creates an space of cooperation between the responsible personnel of the bodies focused in youth matters and the representatives of ministries with youth competences. The CDEJ was set to boost cooperation between governments in the youth area. Also the committee offers a framework to compare the different youth policies of the participants.

Besides all these international agreements, it has to be taken into account that the Autonomous Regions also carry out cooperation and external actions. Like the participation of the Youth Institute of Extremadura ([Instituto de la Juventud de Extremadura](#)) in the Eurodesk program with a local information office. Or the participation of the Andalusian Youth Institute ([Instituto Andaluz de la Juventud](#)) in European programs like the Eures or the Europass.

1.9 Current debates and reforms

In Spain, these are the main debates:

The debates from the Youth Strategy 2020 involve different scopes like the European perspective of the youth policies; the youth from the point of view of the administrations; the emancipation challenges; equality policies; participation, volunteering and cooperation; lifestyles, leisure and free time; culture, youth creation and ICT; youth in Spain, values and principles.

Through the scope of the Congress of Deputies the political debates regarding the Strategy 2020 took place exclusively in the X Legislature (2011-2016). The discussion took place around two written questions to the Government and one non legislative proposal from the Socialist Parliamentary Group. The first question focused in the need to maintain Spain in line with the ideas of the Strategy on sustainable and inclusive growth. The second question was done in order to know the status of the National Social Report required by the European Commission in the framework of the Strategy 2020. Finally, the Non-legislative proposal was launched to guarantee the accomplishment of the objectives of the Strategy on social inclusion and fight against poverty.

The youth situation is another debate in the Congress of Deputies in the XII Legislature (2016-present).

The Popular Party (PP) Parliamentary Group based on the importance of the youth for the future of the country, and following the main lines of the Youth Strategy of the European Union, made a Non-legislative proposal to introduce a youth perspective in all the public policies, and an analysis of the youth impact.

The Socialist Parliamentary Group (party that currently governs together with the Unidos Podemos party, forming the first coalition government in the history of Spain) requested the creation of a Sub-commission in the Committee on the Rights of Children and Adolescents about the Youth in Spain, based in the risks that the youth faces, like higher poverty rates and difficulties to enter the labor market.

Concerning the work of the committees the Federal Parliamentary Group Unidos Podemos-En Comú Podem-En Marea, the Socialist Parliamentary Group and Citizens (Ciudadanos) Parliamentary Group inquired the appearance of experts, authorities, members of the Government and civil servants in different Committees, to speak about youth on gender equality, the main problems of the youth population on the labour sphere, the access to housing, youth poverty, youth disability, European plans on youth, education.

- [Youth Work](#), especially in those fields where young people work with other youth.
- Mutual recognition of professional skills between countries for non-formal education; specially the [European Skills Passport](#).

There are also a series of debates on youth identities and the capacity of participation of youth in the social domain [\[i\]](#). The deep transformations brought about by the digital technological revolution, have become a decisive influence in the way young people are building their identity, subjectivities, relationships and participation; strongly linked to the different means of training. From an approach, the new forms of identity which seem to combine concepts that thanks to the mass-media and ICT new spaces representing the way into conceptions in terms of cosmopolitanism, are analysed; also the studies about *Millennials* and *Generation Z* [\[ii\]](#).

[\[i\]](#) See more on [Youth Work](#).

[\[ii\]](#) See numbers [Youth Journal 108](#), [109](#), [110](#), [111](#) and [114](#).

2. VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

The major development of voluntary work in Spain happened during the 90's. The voluntary organizations increased exponentially and so did their institutionalization and professionalization which meant the creation of platforms and federations at the State and regional level. 1996 meant the creation of the first [State Law 6/1996](#) with the purpose of promoting and facilitating the participation of society on volunteer actions within public or private non-profit organizations. Since then, almost all Autonomous Regions have developed their own legislations.

[Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda](#) is responsible for the government and promotion of volunteering on a state scale. Several platforms have been designed in order to supply information and to serve as guidance for volunteering associations as well as for volunteers themselves. A new Volunteer State Law 45/2015 ([Ley 45/2015 de Voluntariado](#)) was approved in 2015, making access to volunteering easier for a wider sector of the population

According to the report "The Volunteer action in 2018" ([La acción voluntaria en 2018](#)) produced by the Spanish Volunteering Platform, 40.6 % of the Spanish population over 14 years of age collaborates in some way with NGO and 6.2 % are volunteers (data from October 2018). The highest percentage of volunteers is between 25 and 54 years of age. 12.1% of youth within this age group state that they belong to some volunteering organisation. In case of youth volunteering (between 14 and 24), there has been a decrease from 9.6% in 2014 to 6.9% in 2017 and 4.5% in 2018. And the highest volunteering percentage is found in social volunteering, both for men and women.

2.1 General context

Historical developments

The current concept of volunteering in Spain was created at the time of the Democratic regime instauration in 1978, given that, until then, volunteering had a charitable connotation, away from the current standards and the new social awareness of solidarity and integration.

From its origin volunteering was treated, for various reasons, with reservations and caution by the political power, social action professionals, trade unions, etc.

During the early years of Democracy, the development of voluntary entities was scarce and poor. Many of social movement's leaders became professional politicians and the aims and objectives of those movements seemed to have been somehow achieved. The newly created Democracy was born with a strong welfare and statist aspiration, denying or giving residual work to voluntary organizations (Casado, 1992).

The 80's were of key importance in the development of volunteering in Spain, when voluntary activities especially focused on social volunteering were promoted and coordinated "from above". In 1981, the General Directorate of Social Action created a working group on "Volunteering in Social Action" with representatives from the Administration and different voluntary organizations. In 1986 the Spanish Volunteer Platform ([Plataforma de Voluntariado de España, PVE](#)) is created with the aim of promoting volunteering and gather together the various organizations from the local and regional scope to establish common channels of thought and action. This organization has become the reference of systematization and coordination of voluntary action in Spain.

The major development of voluntary work happened during the 90's. The voluntary organizations increased exponentially and so did their institutionalization and professionalization which meant an increase in the professionals and volunteers and the creation of platforms and federations at the State and regional level (Aranguren, 2001). As stated in the introduction, 1996 meant the creation of the first State Law 6/1996 with the purpose of promoting and facilitate the participation of society on volunteer actions within public or private non-profit organizations ([Ley Estatal del Voluntariado 6/1996](#)). Since then almost all Autonomous Regions have developed their own legislations recognizing the importance of voluntary activities as an expression of social participation in the political, economical and cultural development of Democracies.

According to the [Sociological Research Centre \(CIS\)](#) study "Attitudes of youth in Spain towards participation and volunteering" ([Actitudes de la juventud en España hacia la participación y el voluntariado](#)) in 2014 25.1% of youth population in Spain, between 15 and 29 years of age, carries or have carried out volunteering activities regularly.

On a European scale, Spain is the sixth country in the EU concerning volunteer participation, taking into account the increase of social awareness in society that has taken place in the last few years.

Although it does not rely on an old tradition, youth volunteering in Spain has exceeded the 25.1% mark of young respondents registered in 2014 according to the CIS ([2014](#)) to reach 27% of youth respondents in 2017 according to the [Flash Eurobarometer 455](#).

Table1. Belonging and Participation of the population higher than 18 years

Nº Barometer	B. 3114 2015	B.3156 2016	B. 3195 2017
Cultural or leisure group	9,6	9,3	8,7

Sport group	8,9	8,8	8,4
Social or Human Rights support group	5,4	6,7	4,2*
Other volunteer organization	5,2	6,3	7,4
Youth or student organization	1,4	1,8	1,3

Source: CIS Barometre, [3114](#), [3156](#), [3195](#).

*In the Barometer of 2017 there was a change of answer: "Social and Human Rights support group split up as "Ecologist groups" and "Pacifist, Human Rights and fair trade support groups".

Main concepts

Volunteering is vague concept subject to social and cultural evolution within different geographical scopes permanently. According to the Law 45/2015 of Volunteering ([Ley 45/2015, del 14 de octubre de 2015](#)) the concept of volunteering is defined as the ensemble of general interest activities developed by people as long as they meet the requirements of solidarity, willingness, free-of-charge and involvement with the volunteering entity and with a volunteering programme.

The Law 45/2015 also classifies voluntary work according to different action areas: social, international cooperation, environmental, cultural, sport, educational, socio-sanitary, communitarian, civil protection and emergency volunteering.

Other definitions of volunteering come from the Spanish Volunteer Platform ([Plataforma de Voluntariado de España](#)) that has produced the following definition of volunteer work: "That organised activity developed within a non-profit organisation by people who, out of altruism and solidarity, participate with people and social reality, facing situations of violation, deprivation or lack of rights or opportunities in order to achieve a better quality of life and a greater cohesion and social justice as an expression of organised active citizenship".

The concept of volunteer organisations as such does not exist, but they are included in the NGOs (Non-profit Organisations) and are part of the so-called Third Sector. The new Law 45/2015 on Volunteering ([Ley 45/2015 de Voluntariado](#)) has extended the definition and so volunteering reaches now new fields.

2.2 Administration and governance of youth volunteering

Governance

Main actors

The Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)) is responsible for the government and promotion of volunteering on a state scale. Several platforms have been designed in order to supply information and to serve as guidance for volunteering associations as well as for volunteers themselves.

General distribution of responsibilities

Within the Ministry the superior body competent for the "Promotion of social services and support of the cooperation with the non-governmental organisations, support of social volunteering, in the scope of competences constitutionally assigned to the State" is the

Secretary of State for Social Rights ([Secretaría de Estado de Derechos Sociales](#)). At the same time, within the structure of the Directorate-General of Adolescents and Childhood Rights, Directorate-General of Familiar Diversity and Social Rights is the governing body assuming direct management of these policies.

In a regional autonomic level 8 of the 17 autonomous regions in Spain use their own official volunteering platforms.

Although there are other non-governmental actors within the different volunteering fields in Spain with different visions and aims, there are observatories, platforms and networks from the intervening actors. Some examples of volunteering organisations are the following:

- Spanish Volunteering Platform ([Plataforma del Voluntariado de España](#)).
- European Antipoverty Network ([EAPN España](#)).
- Third Sector Observatory ([Observatorio del Tercer Sector](#)).
- Make it Happen Foundation ([Fundación HAZLOPOSIBLE](#)).
- Platform of the NGO of Social Action ([Plataforma de ONG de Acción Social](#)).
- Institute for the Quality of the NGOs ([Instituto para la calidad de las ONG](#)).

Cross-sectoral cooperation

According to the [Law 45/2015](#) an Interministerial Commission of Volunteering is foreseen with the aim to coordinate the ministries with competences in volunteering.

Also at a national level, the existence of the State Council of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Action ([Consejo Estatal de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Acción Social](#)) is worth mentioning. It is an advisory Body, attached to the General Government Administration through the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, which becomes a meeting point for dialogue and participation in the association movement concerning the elaboration of social policies. The [Royal Decree 235/2005](#) establishes its nature, goals, composition and functioning. It enables also the cooperation and coordination with the different bodies of the General Government Administration, European Commission and other countries.

Within the youth volunteering scope, it is the task of the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)) to encourage youth associationism, and by so doing to support youth volunteering. The cross-sectoral cooperation between the governmental bodies is made through the participation of the Youth Institute in the Interministerial Commission for Youth ([Comisión Interministerial para al Juventud](#)).

2.3 National strategy on youth volunteering

Existence of a National Strategy

With respect to youth volunteering there is not a standalone strategy to tackle youth volunteering.

There is no specific state legislation for youth volunteering, however, general regulation has been produced. As from 2015 there is a new Volunteer State Law 45/2015 ([Ley 45/2015, de 14 de octubre, de Voluntariado](#)) regulating state competences and offering companies, universities or Public Administrations the possibility of becoming a target audience for volunteers as well. The only mention to the youth population in the current law refers to the population under 18 years when it alludes to the needed permissions given by their tutors.

Stand-alone law

The law establishes a Volunteering Statute for volunteering entities and volunteers who participate or carry out volunteering programmes of state or supra-autonomic scope developed in Spain or abroad. This agreement is considered as the instrument of definition and regulation of relationships between volunteers and the volunteering entity.

Other relevant aspects to be pointed out from the Volunteer Law 45/2015 are the followings:

- The rights of people benefiting from the volunteering activities are regulated.
- Its article 14 accounts for rights and responsibilities of the volunteering entities.
- The minimum age to become a volunteer is now 12.
- The law establishes the scopes of volunteering actions: social, international of development cooperation, environmental, cultural, sports, of leisure and free time, communal and of civil protection.
- Public Administrations as well as companies shall favour measures so that employed workers or public employees may carry out their volunteering activities.
- New forms of volunteering.

When dealing with regulations on youth volunteering in Spain, the singularity of the territorial organisation has to be taken into account. Spain is conceived as a State of Autonomies, so that the specific features of youth volunteers shall be dealt with what autonomies have specifically legislated for youth volunteering.

Other official documents containing guidelines on youth volunteering

Apart from the laws already mentioned, there are other official documents with contents addressed to volunteering, regardless of the age of volunteers.

When taking on the requirements for the establishment of an entity whose purpose is volunteering, special attention shall be placed on the Law 43/2015 of the Third Sector of Social Action ([Ley 43/2015, del Tercer Sector de Acción Social](#)) that came into force the 11th of October of 2015. This Law regulates entities belonging to the Third Sector of Social Action, as it reinforces their capacity as a spokesperson before the General Government Administration in all the matters concerning social public policies and defines measures of promotion that the public powers may be able to adopt for their own benefit.

Youth Strategy 2020

The specific goals for youth are included in the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)), which works as a reference framework for youth policies in Spain, with a timeframe going between the year 2014 to 2020. This Strategy, which amongst other dimensions relies on volunteering, is also a forward planning tool of the existing tendencies for the near future, and was approved by the Council of Ministers on 12th of September 2014 product of an interministerial initiative promoted by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda. It incorporates an analysis framed within the breakdown of 6 goals and youth tendencies towards year 2020.

Scope and contents

Each [Strategy](#) counts on an Action Plan in order to achieve the desired goals. The action plans related to the compliance with the Youth Strategy 2020 are the following:

- Action Plan 2014-2016: Budgets for 2014-2016 and mid-term evaluation in 2017.
- Action Plan 2016-2020: Budgets for 2017-2020.

The action plans encourage both actions directly addressed to the promotion and support of volunteering and solidarity practice and those pursuing the consolidation of the volunteering movement, through the strengthening of NGO.

The Action Plan 2014-2016 places volunteering within the strategic axis no. 5, "Participation, Volunteering, Inclusion and Equality". The main goals are:

- Encouraging voluntary activity of youth especially that linked to ICT.
- Fighting social exclusion from the least-favoured sectors of youth population
- Fighting any type of violence or discrimination
- Promoting equal opportunities

Actions in this matter are the following:

- Management of the programme of the European Volunteering Service.
- Fighting the exclusion of disabled people, socio-sanitary programmes, of employment and social inclusion.
- Measures for equal opportunities and gender equality Promotion, of education for vulnerable groups, of corporate volunteering, of support for teachers and social workers in charge of minors, with legal measures funded by means of the personal income tax system (IRPF).

Responsible authority

The responsible authority is the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda. Each Autonomous Region has also its own authority, developing plans and strategies for action volunteering exclusively within its own territorial scope.

Revisions/ Updates

The National Reform Program of the Kingdom of Spain for the year 2019 ([Programa Nacional de Reformas Reino de España 2019](#)) announces the endorsement of the Action Plan 2019-2022. With the development of actions from the Action Plan scheduled for the next 12 months.

2.4 Youth volunteering at national level

National Programme for Youth Volunteering

There is no national programme for youth volunteering, which is a general, nationwide programme, organised, funded and monitored by the State.

The Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda promotes specific projects of youth volunteering. Moreover, the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)) offers specific programmes and information for youth volunteers nationwide.

The main volunteer program of the INJUVE is the International Volunteer Fields ([Campos de Voluntariado Internacional](#)) an ongoing program since 2012 that offers the opportunity of participating in volunteer projects in different countries. Aimed at young Spanish citizens between 18 and 30 years.

Other programs of the Ministry of Culture and Sports include [FormARTE](#), with the objective of promoting the training of specialists in artistic matters, cultural management, archives, conservation and restoration, museology and librarianship, and [CULTUREX](#), focused in practical formation on cultural management for the Spanish youth in cultural institutions abroad.

The Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge ([Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico](#)) has developed its own volunteering projects. The Volunteer Program in [National Parks \(Programa de Voluntariado en Parques Naturales\)](#) is one of them with the objective of providing funding for the NGOs responsible for the volunteering activities. Also the Volunteer Program in Rivers ([Programa de Voluntariado en Ríos](#)) whose purpose is to increase the social participation in the

conservation and improvement of the ecologic situation of the rivers in the watersheds managed by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge.

Funding

As there is no national programme for youth volunteering, all information regarding this population group is included in the national programme coordinating all generic volunteering.

Due to the existence of state and autonomic programmes, it is difficult to make estimations for all volunteering activities undertaken. Moreover, also those organisations carrying out youth volunteering programmes receive financial aid both from the State and from the Autonomy, and this is the reason why we have to consider each Spanish public administration separately.

Financial aid for the development of volunteering projects comes mainly from the General Government Administration, Autonomic Administrations and local Entities.

In the national scope, there are several financial aid lines specially addressed to promoting youth associationism and volunteering.

First of all, financial aid for maintenance, functioning and equipment of youth associations, youth organisations and entities providing services to youth has to be mentioned.

Besides, within the scope of the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda financial fund from the IRPF ([Personal Income Tax System](#)) assignment of tax has to be mentioned. It may be applied for by any entity considered to be an Entity from the Third Sector.

The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development ([AECID](#)), under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation ([Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación](#)) offers funding programmes for volunteering entities, not only for the development of cooperation programmes in the field (abroad) but also for works carried out within their own headquarters as well as in projects development. With a budget in grants of 19,341,737.02 € to NGOs projects and 121M € for the period going between 2018-2021 destined to cooperation agreements of NGOs.

The Ministry of Culture and Sports ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) also offers financial aid for cultural volunteering in different Museums and activities related to Cultural and Historical Heritage.

As the grants in the [FormARTE](#) program funded with 557,500 €, from the budget of the Ministry of Culture and Sports, for the year 2019. Also the [CULTUREX](#) grants endowed with a budget of 159,190 € for 2019, from the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

Likewise, the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge ([Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico](#)) also offers financial aid for environmental volunteering both within the state scope and in the Autonomous Regions.

At national level this ministry operates two programs of volunteering. The first initiative is the volunteer program in [National Parks](#). A program equipped with a budget of 400,000 € in the year 2017, from the budget of the Autonomous Organization of National Parks ([Organismo Autónomo de Parques Naturales](#)) assigned at the Ministry for the Ecological Transition.

The other initiative is the Volunteer Program in Rivers ([Programa de Voluntariado en Ríos](#)) funded through the Biodiversity Foundation ([Fundación Biodiversidad](#)), a public sector foundation. The budget handled by this entity for the mentioned project was for the year 2019 of 3 million €, from the budget of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge.

Moreover, the network [Reducamar](#) provides an inventory of a wide range of volunteering and training programmes at a national and regional level and free access educational resources.

The Home Affairs Ministry ([Ministerio del Interior](#)) regulates volunteering activities concerning Civil Protection, developed mainly through provincial, regional and state networks, organised by volunteering groups; at a State level the National Association for Volunteer Groups ([ANAV](#)) is included in and promoted by the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Emergencies ([Dirección General de Protección Civil y Emergencias](#)), as well as the Civil Protection National School ([Escuela Nacional de Protección Civil](#)). All different levels of Civil Protection include, to a different extent, financially aided training, as well as equipment and financially aided resources for volunteering.

Characteristics of youth volunteering

In Spain there is not an official record of the level of participation of young people in volunteering apart from CIS Barometers, public opinion polls, that measures the participation and belonging to different associations, like volunteer associations.

According to the report "The Volunteer action in 2018" ([La acción voluntaria en 2018](#)) produced by the Spanish Volunteering Platform, 42.1 % of the Spanish population over 14 years of age collaborates in some way with NGO and 6.2 % are volunteers (data from October 2018). The highest percentage of volunteers is between 25 and 54 years of age. 12.1% of youth within this age group state that they belong to some volunteering organisation. In case of youth volunteering (between 14 and 24), there has been a decrease from 9.6% in 2014 to 4.9% in 2018. And the highest volunteering percentage is found in social volunteering, both for men and women.

The average volunteering figures show a participation of 8,5%. Student volunteers were the greatest youth group in 2016, with 14,1% of collaboration. However, there has been a drastic decrease in 2018, being only 5.2% of students engaged. Next in importance is the non-emancipated youth, with secondary school or university studies; people living on their own; and people with a high socioeconomic status.

As mentioned in the Volunteer Action 2017, the collaboration in NGOs is not located around the age group of 14 to 24 years, being the group with less participation in NGOs, as 73.3% of young people stated that they do not collaborate with a NGO in any form. However, participation by young people in NGOs tend to by volunteering, being the group age with more volunteers (6.9%).

In the distribution of this population group by sex. Even though the highest type of volunteering for both sexes is Social Volunteering, with 51.8% in general, there are still notable differences regarding gender based on stereotypes. For instance, men tend to volunteer more in Civil protection and sports volunteering, where the percentage of men is 82.1% and 66.3% respectively, while women's volunteering is higher in educational volunteering and socio-sanitary volunteering, where women made up the 66.2% and 70.6% in those areas.

Support to young volunteers

Institutional support for volunteers is included in Article 10 of volunteer's rights in the Law 45/2015 ([Ley 45/2015 del Voluntariado](#)). They rely on an insurance against the risk of accidents and illness directly linked to the volunteer action paid by the volunteering entity, and volunteers must be refunded all expenses incurred in when carrying on their activities.

The report the Social Action Third Sector: The Impact of the Crisis" ([El Tercer Sector de Acción Social en 2015: el Impacto de la Crisis](#), 2015) states that, insurance, which is compulsory, was taken into account in 2013 by 87.5% of the entities. In these last few years the insurance coverage has become steadier, but this has not reached the whole sector. This is, without a doubt, bad news, as this coverage is a compulsory feature. The expenses refund remains steady although it suffers a slight decrease of 2 points from 2010, as roughly seven out of ten entities take it into consideration. And finally, the volunteering commitment or engagement is implemented in 75% maintaining the figure steady with regard to 2010.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Quality in management and promotion of volunteering has to be linked to the own actions carried out by volunteers in associations. This action must be regulated by the very functioning regulations of the entities based in democratic principles, as well as complying with rights and responsibilities legally recognised (recognition, identification, information...) in the Law 45/2015. In the same law the public administrations compromise to support de volunteer organizations in the training of the volunteer to ensure its quality and accordance to the personal preferences of the volunteer. Finally, the Law 45/2015 establishes for the recipients of the voluntary action that those activities shall be developed according to programs that guarantee the quality of the performances of the volunteers.

Then there are sector specific tools. These are characterised by their specific scope on NGOs: on the one hand there is the standard "Quality NGO", promoted by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration ([Ministerio de Inclusión, Seguridad Social y Migraciones](#)) and oriented towards Social Action NGOs; on the other, quality standards for humanitarian organisations: [Proyecto Esfera](#) and [Compas Qualité](#); and last [UNE 165011](#) granting the necessary requirements for an ethical management. There are also ad-hoc tools for NGDO. This standard type is specific for the qualification process as NGDO elaborated by [AECID](#).

Target groups

The mentioned Spanish law does not establish volunteering target groups and, as explained earlier, general legislation is applied. However, all measures, opportunities, exceptional nature matters, benefits, supports and rights foreseen in the applicable Spanish Legal System in force are to be applied to youth volunteering. Being "young and volunteer" is not incompatible with other activities carried out within the law, except for specific incompatibilities previewed in legislation.

The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) developed through Action Plans also offers target groups explained in the axes of the project. The time frame of the project went from the year 2014 to the year 2020 and in 2018 was extended until 2027 by the European Commission. Since the [Draft State Budget](#) for 2021 was presented to the Cortes Generales on October 2020 and its adoption was approved in December, the activities, plans and actions carried out by the Injuve have a [new budget](#) assigned for the year 2021.

2.5 Cross-border mobility programmes

EU programmes

The European Union manages youth volunteering through its main youth programme launched in 2014, [Erasmus+](#). This programme has launched a series of initiatives amongst which the European Volunteer Service ([Servicio Voluntario Europeo \(SVE\)](#)) stands out. The target group of the program is the people between 17 to 30 years. At the end of the service the volunteer will obtain a certificate proving the participation and describing the developed project, the Youthpass.

Another EU volunteer program in which Spain participates is the [European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations \(EUAV\)](#). The institutions included in the EUAV in Spain are, at a national level, the Spanish Agency for the International Development Cooperation (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)) and, at a regional autonomic level, the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation ([Agencia Catalana de Cooperación al Desarrollo](#)). The participants in this projects need to be 18 years or older, EU citizens or long-term residents in a member state.

In Spain, there is mainly a National Agency for the management of the youth programme [Erasmus+](#), called Spanish Service for the Internationalization of the Education ([Servicio Español Para la Internacionalización de la Educación \(SEPIE\)](#)). An institution dependant on

the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities ([Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades](#)).

In Spain, the Spanish National Agency ([Agencia Nacional Española](#)), belonging to the [INJUVE](#), is in charge of the youth chapter management from the [Erasmus+](#) Programme. The Spanish National Agency is dependant to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda.

Other Programmes

The Youth Exchange Program of the Youth Hostelling Network ([Programa de Intercambios Juveniles de la Red Española de Albergues Juveniles \(REAJ\)](#)) is another Spanish programme for youth volunteering. It is aimed at youth between 18 and 30 years of age from all Autonomous Regions so they can live an experience in an international frame by means of staying in youth hostels abroad (United Kingdom, Germany, Slovenia, Croatia or Portugal, amongst others) with the purpose of improving their knowledge of management in youth hostels. The duration of the programme is between 2 weeks and 3 months per participant. This program covers through the destination hostel the accommodation over the duration of stay and at least half of the pension. At the end of the program the organizers will ease to the participants an evaluation form in order to identify improvements.

The development of the International Voluntary Service ([Servicio de Voluntariado Internacional \(SVI\)](#)) also has to be mentioned, managed by the [INJUVE](#) in collaboration with the Autonomous Regions, gives the opportunity, through its Programme Campos de Trabajo (Work Fields), both to Spanish living abroad and to foreigners living in Spain, between 18 and 30 years of age, to participate in volunteering projects for approximately fifteen days in different countries around the world. The organizations involved in the interchange integrated in the [Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations](#) comprehend the following countries: Germany, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, South Korea, Scotland, United States, Estonia, Philippines, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iceland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Taiwan, Japan, Turkey and Ukraine. The intermediary status of the INJUVE means that the state does not cover any of the expenses of the participants.

Legal framework applying to foreign volunteers

For all volunteers, regardless of their nationality, both the Law 45/2015 ([Ley 45/2015, de 14 de octubre, del Voluntariado](#)) and the autonomous regulations mentioned earlier are to be applied.

Legal provisions concerning immigration matters are also to be applied. Both the Organic Law 4/2000 on the rights of foreigners in Spain and their social integration ([Ley Orgánica 4/2000, sobre derechos y libertades de los extranjeros en España y su integración social](#)) and its regulation approved by Royal Decree 557/2011 ([Real Decreto 557/2011, de 20 de abril](#)).

For citizens from a State which is not a member of the EU or the EEA it is compulsory to be in possession of the Authorization of stay for studies, pupil's mobility, internships or voluntary services ([Autorización de estancia por estudios, movilidad de alumnos, prácticas no laborales o servicios de voluntariado](#)) regulated by Article 37 of the Royal Decree 557/2011. Whereby a national visa is required, as well as complete passport. It is also mandatory to have the necessary financial means to live during the period of the volunteering together with medical assurance. If the volunteer is a minor, authorization by the legal tutors is needed. The arrangement with the volunteer organization and liability insurance are also compulsory. And finally in case the service exceeds the six months a medical certification and a criminal record must be provided.

2.6 Raising awareness about youth volunteering opportunities

Information providers

There is a number of entities which offer accessible information regarding volunteering opportunities in Spain. They are mainly the Spanish Agency of International Development Cooperation ([Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo](#)), the European Commission Representation in Spain ([Representación en España de la Comisión Europea](#)), or the Spanish Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)). There are also Foundations which offer information such as the [Fundación Vicente Ferrer](#), complete information can be found at a national level in the website of [Plataforma de Voluntariado](#) or of the [Asociación Española de Fundaciones](#) and other entities such as Red Cross ([Cruz Roja](#)) or [Unicef](#) which already offer specific information on privately run volunteering.

Besides, many web platforms offer volunteers the possibility of getting close to the volunteering offers. They may also approach the Spanish or regional volunteering platforms, as well as volunteering networks within the Universities.

With regard to the Autonomous Regions, a number of volunteering official platforms are listed below:

- Infoyouth Platform of the Madrid Autonomous Region ([Plataforma Inforjoven de la Comunidad de Madrid](#)).
- Volunteer Portal of the Madrid Autonomous Region ([Portal de Voluntariado de la Comunidad de Madrid](#)).
- Volunteer Platforms of the Madrid Autonomous Region ([Plataformas de Voluntariado de la Comunidad de Madrid](#)).
- Volunteer Portal of the Murcia Autonomous Region ([Portal de Voluntariado de Murcia](#)).
- Volunteer Portal of the Andalusia Autonomous Region ([Portal de Voluntariado de Andalucía](#)).
- Andalusian Platform of Volunteering ([Plataforma Andaluza del Voluntariado](#)).
- Volunteering Platform of the Aragon Autonomous Region ([Plataforma De Voluntariado De Aragón](#)).
- Social Volunteering Platform of the Valencia Autonomous Region ([Plataforma De Voluntariat Social de la Comunitat Valenciana](#)).
- Volunteer Platform of the Extremadura Autonomous Region ([Plataforma Del Voluntariado De Extremadura](#)).
- Volunteering Platform of the Baleary Islands Autonomous Region ([Plataforma Del Voluntariat De Les Illes Balears](#)).
- The Federation Platform of the Volunteer Entities of the Canary Islands ([Federación Plataforma de Entidades de Voluntariado de Canarias](#)).

Key initiatives

Many initiatives can be found in the [Erasmus+ INJUVE](#) website or directly in the [Youth Volunteering](#) document from the INJUVE, besides the projects under the [European Youth Portal](#).

The INJUVE produced the following dissemination activities in the year 2019 regarding volunteering:

- The 19th edition of the Youth and Development University ([Universidad de Juventud y Desarrollo](#)), took place in Malaga, Spain, the week of the 15th to 22nd of september 2019. The theme was “promoting peaceful and inclusive societies” and more than 200

participants took part in this event which aimed at providing tools to young people to promote participation and inclusion.

- After multiple working meetings since 2015, [in october 2018](#), an agreement between El Instituto de la Juventud (Injuve) , The [Don Bosco Confederation](#), the [Didania Federation](#) and [ASDE Scouts Spain](#) was officially adopted and has lay the groundwork for the implementation of the programme Reconoce. This programme aims at officially crediting capacities acquired from volunteering Work to improve employment opportunities for the youth.
- In the news section of web page of the [INJUVE's website](#) several dissemination events are announced in the news sections, including, like the International Volunteer Day and the sustainability day in Madrid (may 2019) , are mentioned.

There are other initiatives at an autonomic and local level which may look at programmes and activities of national scope, for instance, the [Fundación Esplai](#), as well as many others. That foundation created in the year 2000 the program [Voluntariado.net](#), that is ongoing. With the aim to give information, visibility, offering advice and resources to the volunteer.

At “university volunteering” level of Spanish universities, apart from the information placed in each one of the university websites, the links and news offered in the section “[volunteering](#)” of the university support system [Universia](#) website is very useful.

2.7 Skills recognition

Policy Framework

When recognising competences in the field of youth volunteering there is, on the part of the National Administration, no Plan or official Programme recognising volunteers’ abilities, as it is down to each organisation to recognise them.

As for the possibility of recognition of abilities, article 24 of Law 45/2015 allows volunteering entities to recognise and validate voluntary provision of services by means of a certificate issued by the volunteering entity where work has been carried out, at any time when the volunteer may ask for it or upon expiry of the volunteering period. It has to reflect, as a minimum, besides personal and identification details of the volunteer and of the volunteering entity, the date of enrolment in the entity and the duration of it, description of the tasks carried out or roles assumed as well as the place where the activity was carried out.

Existing arrangements

Along with this possibility of recognition, the Confederation of Youth Centres Don Bosco ([Confederación de Centros Juveniles Don Bosco](#)) in collaboration with the [Didania Federation](#), [ASDE Scouts de España](#) and the [INJUVE](#) have encouraged a new online tool for the recognition of acquired competences through volunteering action. This tool is included in the Recognise Project ([Proyecto Reconoce](#)) and the application is to be done through its website.

Along with this, volunteers may also have their volunteering activities recognised using ECTS credits, which depend on each University procedure (paragraph 2.4, “[support to young volunteers](#)”).

2.8 Current debates and reforms

The analysis of the situation of volunteering in Spain ([La Acción Voluntaria 2018](#)) is the most updated document on the current situation of volunteering in Spain and its possible debates and reforms.

The volunteer work at a political level, in the XII Legislature (2016-5th march 2019) of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, entailed the development of four Propositions Not of

Law aimed to promote volunteering and to further develop the Law 45/2015 on volunteering. The parliamentary groups involved in the mentioned initiatives were: The Mixed Parliamentary Group through the deputies of the Union of the Navarrese People (Unión del Pueblo Navarro), the Socialist Parliamentary Group (PSOE) and the Popular Party (PP) Parliamentary Group.

The last Proposition Not of Law ([Proposición no de Ley por la que se insta al Gobierno a desarrollar la Ley 45/2015, de 14 de octubre, de Voluntariado. \(161/003159\)](#)), from the PP Parliamentary Group in the Congress focuses in the growing importance of the volunteering movement, the sixth of Europe in participation. The significance of this movements makes necessary to develop the regulation of execution of the Law 45/2015, the development of the Statute of collaborating entities of the General State Administration and the program of impulse and inventory of entities of the Third Sector of Social Action.

In a similar tone one of the members of the Congress, from the Mixed Parliamentary Group a member of the Democratic Party (Partit Demòcrata), used the written questions mechanism to enquire the Government about the development of the aforementioned law. Finally, a petition for appearance to the Commission of Health and Social Services, from the PP Parliamentary Group, was made to request a representative from the Volunteering Platform to present proposals in the field of the Third Social and Volunteering Sector of Spain.

Other parliamentary activities regarding European programs of volunteering include a written question to the Government, from a member of the Mixed Parliamentary Group from the Democratic Party, about the measures taken by the government to benefit the youth in the start up of the European Solidarity Corps.

3. EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The main agent in the design and implementation of youth employment and entrepreneurship policies is the [Ministry of Labour and Social Economy](#), the highest public authority in charge of coordinating relevant actors and responsible for the establishment and control of the Youth Guarantee System ([Sistema de Garantía Juvenil](#)). At sub-national level, and taking into account their main role in youth policy, the Autonomous Regions take a fundamental role in the projection, definition, implementation and management of public action concerning youth employment and entrepreneurship. Both in the administration and management of actions related to youth employment and entrepreneurship, and in the implementation of the Youth Guarantee System, the Autonomous Regions shall involve the competent departments related to Employment, Education, Social Affairs and Youth.

In the first semester of 2017, the Spanish Government presented the National Reform Plan 2017 ([Programa Nacional de Reformas 2017](#)) aiming at promoting employment. The document presents the renewal of the Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020 ([estrategia para la activación del Empleo 2017-2020](#)).

This strategy was approved the 15th of December of 2017 and it is mainly funded by the Spanish Government budget, but it also has funds from the vocational training for employment contribution; and the national unemployment contribution.

Its main objectives are:

- To improve employability of young people focusing on those who are the most at risk of job insecurity.
- To promote the re-entry of the long term unemployed in the labour market.
- To put in place training programmes tailored to the skills required in the current productive system.

- Modernization of the National Employment System.
- Establishing a framework to improve activation policies considering to a bigger extent sectoral and local dimension.

In addition the new National Reform Plan approved in 2019 ([Plan Nacional de Reformas 2019](#)), emphasizes the Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020 and drives measures in order to guarantee the laboral insertion of youth employment.

Following the lines of action and objectives stipulated by the aforementioned Strategy for Employment Activation and given the critical situation of youth employment in Spain, an Action Plan for Youth employment ([Plan de Choque por el Empleo Joven 2019-2021](#)) was devised and agreed upon by multiple stake holders including youth organizations, the Autonomous Communities, the workers unions and business organizations.

This action plan was approved by the Council of Ministers of Spain on December 2018 and it aims to tackle youth unemployment and job insecurity. It comprises 50 measures and is structured around 6 thematic axis (career guidance, education, job opportunities, equal access to employment and improvement of the institutional framework).

The plan has been considered a significant advancement in the field of youth policy as it sets as one of its main goals to establish a legal framework for traineeship and apprenticeships, more over it is estimated to cost 2 million euros, and to create a network of 3000 career counsellors.

3.1 General context

Labour market situation in the country

The situation of employment in Spain is still affected by the sharp drop in economic activity from 2008 following the financial crisis at European and global level. Within this context, public policies designed by different administrations concerning employment emphasise entrepreneurial scope as well as the development of skills as a key factor for the development of the labour market and the promotion of employment. In spite of this, it can be observed a trend of job recovery from 2014.

Legislation on labour matters in Spain is produced by the State, the exclusive agent for labour market regulation according to the Article 149.1.7 of the Spanish Constitution ([Constitución Española](#)). In this regard, Law 3/2012, of 6 July, on urgent measures for the reform of the market ([Ley 3/2012, de 6 de julio](#)) set the basis in order to favour employability of workers, the promotion of permanent contracts of employment and other measures.

The Spanish National Statistical Institute ([INE](#)) is the national body in charge of gathering data on labour market trends and their impact on the population. The INE is responsible for the Labour Force Survey ([Encuesta de Población Activa, EPA](#)). The financial crisis has had an intense impact upon the labour market in Spain. Latest data from the [EPA](#) for the fourth quarter of 2020 shows an unemployment figure of 3,719,800 people, or 16.13% of the active population, numbers directly affected by the pandemic situation.

During 2020 the Spanish economy experienced an important breakdown, the number of unemployed has risen 1,51% and the evolution of young people's figures in the labor market present one of the lowest rates of employment in the European Union According to the data presented by INE unemployment of young people (16 to 24 years) has increased to a 39.9% from 2019 to the first semester of 2021.

According to the 2019 report Youth and Labour Market Report ([Informe Jóvenes y Mercado de Trabajo 2019](#)) the unemployment rate for young people between the ages of 16 and 24 stands at 33.5%, 3.0 points lower than one year ago. This is more than 18 points below the maximum reached in the first quarter of 2013. For young people up to 29 years, it drops to 28.2% (-3.4 points lower than in the fourth quarter of 2016). In the last year the

number of young people under 25 years of age unemployed has fallen by 55,700 people, at an annual rate of -9.1%. Among young people aged up to 29, a fall of 110,200 accumulates, at a rate of -9.8%. In the fourth quarter of 2017, 1,014,400 young people under 30 are unemployed, according to the EPA. Among young people, the incidence of long-term unemployment according to the duration of unemployment is 27.2% of the total of unemployed young people aged 16 to 24, compared to 45.7% of adults.

The same report presents a total of 39,138 training and formation contracts for this year, representing 1,357 more, or 3.6%, compared to those registered the previous year (37,781). Gender equality has been strengthened in the use of this modality, in 2017, women absorb 52.3% of the total number of new hires, compared to 43.3% in 2011 or 31.8% in 2007. On the other hand internship contracts were 92,609, with an increase of 6.4%, 5,544 more contracts, with respect to registered in 2016 (87,065). In 2017 there was a slight rise in training and apprenticeship contracts, after the containment observed in 2016, although at levels much lower than those reached in previous years. On the bright side, internship contracts raised a 6.4% in 2017 in comparison with 2016 (Youth and Labour Market Report, 2018: p.20). Lastly, during 2017 the registrations in the Special Regime for Autonomous Workers (self-employment) of those under 30 registered a decrease of -7.7%, representing young people up to 30 years of age, representing 8.1% of the total number of self-employed affiliates.

As said, this outlook has dramatically changed since the start of the pandemic in 2020. The youth unemployment rate in Spain for young people aged 15 to 24 years, according to [Eurostat](#), remains well above the EU average at 39.9% compared to 14.8% in the EU-27.

In this sense, the youth unemployment rate is still approximately twice the general unemployment rate of the whole working age population, as it was before the beginning of the crisis. This is a situation very similar to that of the EU average and disparate from that of some of the countries. The number of youth unemployed is much higher than the number of general unemployment rate, as is the case in Italy or, to a lesser extent, France compared to Germany, where the general and youth unemployment rates are closer although since 2016 they tend to be separated, being, at the same time, relatively more casualties. As for the so-called youth unemployment ratio, i.e. the incidence of unemployment on the whole of the young population is significantly lower and has tended to decrease since 2013: in the first quarter of 2020 the incidence is 11.4% among young people aged 16 to 24, falling by 0.9 point per year, and 13.3% among those up to 29 years of age. This situation is due to the high level of inactivity among very young people, which remains very high after the increase experienced during the crisis, linked to the extension of the periods of study. In this sense, at the moment most young people are in education, especially in the age range of 16 to 19 years (less than a fifth, about 13%, are on the labour market), this situation is reversed for those aged 25-29, where the majority, about 83%, are in the labour market (among those aged 20-24, almost half of young people are in the labour force, 52%).

Among unemployed youth, the predominant level of education is low. Almost the half of the young people up to 24 years of age who are unemployed, 49.1%, have this level of education (43.3% among young people up to 29 years of age) and only 16.9% have high education (28.1% among young people up to 29 years of age). This situation maintains the line observed since the third quarter of 2016.

The incidence of unemployment is lower for higher education levels, which have an unemployment rate of more than 20 pp below those with a low educational level: 21.7% compared to 42.3% among young people up to 24 years of age (17.2% compared to 35.2% for young people up to 29 years of age). In the first quarter of 2020. These differences are accentuated, as a result of the greater increase in unemployment experienced this quarter among young people with a low level of education. As for the long-term unemployment rate (LTU) among young people, in first quarter of 2020 has increased 0.5 pp over the previous quarter among young people up to the age of 24, at 6.2%, down by 0.1 pp among young people up to 29 years old, at 5.1%. In any case, the

downward trend, as these rates are below the recorded in previous years. The rate of long-term unemployment tends to converge between men and young women: among those up to 24 years old, it is 6.1% and 6.3%, respectively, and among young people up to the age of 29 the rates drop to 5.5% for men and 5.0% for women.

Of the total of 1,159,500 LTUs in the first quarter of 2020, 91,000, or 7.9%, were young people under 25. The incidence of LTU among young people is traditionally lower than in adults and is declining at a faster rate: 18.7% of unemployed young people aged 16 to 24 have been unemployed for a year or more, compared to 35.1% in adults.

The Europe 2020 Strategy includes the objective of reducing the early school dropout rate among the population aged 18 to 24 years to 10% in the EU-28 by 2020. In the case of Spain, the goal is to reduce it to 15% in 2020, with an intermediate target of 23% in 2015, already reached in 2014. The percentage of people aged 18 to 24 years who did not continue their education after completing the first stage of secondary education was 18.2% in 2017, keeping the downward trend since 2008, year in which it reached its maximum with 31.7%, according to data from Eurostat.

In 2019, according to the latest available data from Eurostat, this trend continued and was reduced to 17.3%, 0.6 points lower than the dropout rate reached in 2018. In the EU this rate stood at 10.3%.

Main concepts

The workforce in Spain is defined as people of 16 years of age or over who, during the reference week (previous to that when the survey was carried out), were involved in the production of goods and services or were available and in the condition to join such production. They are subdivided into employed and unemployed people.

Employed persons are people of 16 years of age or over who, during the reference week, have worked for at least one hour in exchange for payment, either money or in kind, or those who, having a job, have been temporarily out of the same due to illness, holiday, etc.

The unemployed are people of 16 years of age and over who, during the reference week, have been out of work, available to work and actively searching for employment. People who have already found a job but are still waiting to start working are also considered to be unemployed as long as they meet the first two conditions.

The long-time unemployed are people who have been out of work for over a year.

The inactive are people of 16 years of age or over not included in any of the previous categories.

Discouraged workers are people who do not have a job and are looking for a job as they believe they will not find it, whether they have or have not looked for it before, although they are available for work.

'*Ninis*' are young people of up to 25 years of age who do not work or study, or follow any type of training either. This is the Spanish equivalent to the NEET category (not in employment, education or training).

3.2 Administration and governance

Governance

According to the article 48 of the 1978 [Spanish Constitution](#) 'Youth Policy' is understood as the ensemble of measures and goals assigned by public powers to promote the conditions of free and effective participation of youth in political, social, economic and cultural development.

State legal exclusivity concerning employment implies that the Autonomous Regions or sub-national units count on competences of mere enforcement of the national regulations.

This includes the elaboration of internal documentation in order to organise necessary services, regulation of the functional competence of execution itself, as well as all the actions needed for the set-up of regulations for the system of work relations, besides the power to impose sanctions.

Legal competence concerning employment is exclusively with the State, with planning and execution of employment policies carried out within sub-national administrations, always in coordination with the State Administration.

According to the Employment Law ([RDL 3/2015](#), de 23 de octubre, por el que se aprueba el texto refundido de la Ley de Empleo), employment policy and, specifically, youth employment policies, are defined as the ensemble of decisions adopted by the State and the Autonomous Regions addressed towards the promotion of employment. The Employment Law regulates regional employment services and the State Public Employment Service ([SEPE](#)).

The Autonomous Regions may establish and develop their own employment policies as long as they do not contradict or oppose national policies or have an impact on labour legislation, which is the exclusive competence of the State.

Concerning financial aid towards employment, the Autonomous Regions establish specific incentives for the recruitment of youth. As these incentives frequently consist of financial aid for companies in the recruitment of youth, problems of overlapping occasionally arise. The solution has come from the constitutional doctrine concerning financial aid, Legal Foundation no.8 of the STC of the [Constitutional Court 13/1992](#) of 6 February, from which the scope delimitation between State and Autonomous Regions has been established.

Main actors:

The main agent in the design and implementation of youth employment and entrepreneurship policies is the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy, the highest public authority in charge of coordinating relevant actors and responsible for the establishment and control of the Youth Guarantee system ([Sistema de Garantía Juvenil](#)).

General distribution of responsibilities:

Within the General Government Administration, the National Coordinator for Youth Guarantee and the Directorate-General of Self-employment, Social Economy and Social Responsibility of companies, are in charge of the implementation of the [Youth Employment Initiative](#) (YEI) and responsible for the administration of the [European Social Fund](#) in Spain, which are also relevant, and at a national level, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional](#)), the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy ([Ministerio de Trabajo y Economía Social](#)) and the Ministry of Finance ([Ministerio de Hacienda](#)), are in charge of channelling local entities.

At sub-national level, taking into account their main role in youth policy, the Autonomous Regions take a fundamental role in the projection, definition, implementation and management of public action concerning youth employment and entrepreneurship. Both in the administration and management of actions related to youth employment and entrepreneurship, and in the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, the Autonomous Regions shall involve the competent departments related to Employment, Education, Social Affairs and Youth.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

In general terms, cooperation between administrations concerning Youth Policies has been subject to specific development in the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)); all ministries have participated in its definition through the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Youth, under the former Secretariat of State of Social Services from the Ministry of Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda.

One of the specific axes developed in the strategy establishes cooperation mechanisms between Public Administrations, bodies and agencies involved in the definition of

programmes of action in any policy related to youth. The actors involved are the Inter-Ministerial Commission itself, the Inter-Territorial Youth Council, the Spanish Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España](#)) and the Commission on Sports, Youth and Leisure of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces ([Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias](#)).

The highest level instrument for cooperation and coordination between Administrations concerning youth employment and entrepreneurship is the General Council of the National Employment System, along with the Employment and Social Affairs Conference, both belonging to the National Employment System ([Sistema Nacional de Empleo](#)). The Spanish National Employment System is the ensemble of structures, measures and actions needed to promote and develop employment policy, made out of the SEPE, State Public Employment Service, and the regional public employment services.

The tools created are the annual work programme of the National Employment System, the execution plans of the [Employment European Strategy](#), and the [information system of the Public Employment Services](#).

Collaboration between the State Administration and Regional Administrations concerning youth employment and entrepreneurship becomes specially relevant in the National Plan for the Implementation of Youth Guarantee ([Plan Nacional de Implantación de la Garantía Juvenil](#)), which assigns Autonomous Regions a crucial role in the implementation and management of the dispositions contained in the plan, meaning that the application of the Youth Guarantee in Spain retains a regional and local focus.

With the purpose of guaranteeing its implementation throughout the country, a mechanism of coordination between administrations placed within the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy ([Ministerio de Trabajo y Economía Social](#)), with the Employment and Social Affairs Conference, has been established.

Social agents also participate in the implementation and in the preliminary outline of employment and entrepreneurship measures for youth. They are mainly business organisations (Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations ([CEOE](#)) and Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium Enterprises ([CEPYME](#))), trade unions (Workers General Union ([UGT](#)) and Workers Commissions ([CCOO](#))), organisations of young entrepreneurs (Spanish Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs ([CEAJE](#))), the Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud](#)), as advisory body, and youth associations.

In the design and development processes, the most representative organisations within social economy (such as the [Spanish Confederation of Social Economy Business, CEPES](#)), self-employment (National Federation of Self-Employees [ATA](#), National Federation of Self-Employees ([CEAT](#)) or Union of Associations of Self-Employees and Entrepreneurs [UATAE](#)), and equal opportunities also intervene; the latter normally within the regional scope.

3.3 Skills forecasting

Forecasting system(s)

The Article 2 of the Employment Law ([RDL 3/2015](#)) establishes, among the main purposes of employment policy, the reassessment and adaptation of workers' professional skills to the requirements of the labour market, as well as the preventive approach and the anticipation of change which is of crucial importance for employment policies.

The development of skills has been subject to studies in the Employment and Labour Issues Sectorial Conference. The Spanish Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020 ([Estrategia Española para la Activación del Empleo 2017-2020](#)), foreseen in the articles 9 and 10 of the Employment Law is the result of the works of the conference, as well as the Annual Plan of Employment Policy 2018 ([PAPE](#)), foreseen in the articles 9 and 11 of the abovementioned law.

The Vocational Training System for Employment ([Sistema de Formación Profesional para el Empleo](#)) is regulated by Law 30/2015 of 9 September on Vocational Training System for Employment ([Ley 30/2015](#)) within the labour scope. The system is governed by the principle of anticipation to the requirements and changes of the productive model.

The State Foundation for Employment Training ([FUNDAE](#)), is another key actor in the updating and forecasting of professional skills. It is one of the bodies comprising the organisational structure and institutional participation of the Vocational Training System for Employment ([Sistema de Formación Profesional para el Empleo](#)). Thus, the Occupation Observatory of the Public State Employment Service ([Observatorio de las Ocupaciones del Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal](#)), as a technical unit of the Public State Employment Service, analyses the situation and trends in the labour market, groups of interest within the market and their transformations.

In the first semester of 2019, the Spanish Government presented the National Reform Plan 2019 ([Programa Nacional de Reformas 2019](#)), where the main measures focused on job promotion. Also, the document contemplates the renewal of the mentioned strategy, Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020.

Skills development

Spanish legislation understands the ensemble of knowledge and capacities which allow for the exercise of the professional activity according to the production and employment demands as professional skills. Adaptation of the education system to the requirements of the production system is carried out according to the dispositions of [Organic Law 5/2002](#) of 19 June on qualifications and vocational training.

Once the occupations with better perspectives have been analysed, Axis 2 of the Spanish Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020 ([Estrategia Española de Activación para el Empleo 2017-2020](#)) establishes training as one of the structural objectives, in order to facilitate employability and skills improvement.

In order to comply with this, and having the [Law 5/2002 on Qualifications and Vocational Training](#) as the regulatory base, the National System for Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training is established. [The National Catalogue for Professional Qualifications](#) is made out from the [National System for Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training which is the main](#) instrument of the System to adapt vocational training to the productive system demands, which allows for a development of skills.

As skills can be obtained by vocational training as well as professional experience, or by other means of non-formal training, the National Catalogue for Professional Qualifications integrates the different systems of vocational training and allows people to have their skills recognised whether or not they are in possession of an official title.

The body in charge of the elaboration of the Catalogue is the National Institute of Qualifications ([INCUAL](#)), keeping the Catalogue of Qualifications updated, as well as the Modular Catalogue of VET. The INCUAL has its own [Professional Observatory](#), which offers information on the professions offered by the labour market.

In Spain today, regulated Vocational Training and Employment Training coexist, both as part of the Vocational Training System for Employment. Regulated vocational training is made out of a series of training cycles through which the titles of Technician or Higher Technician are obtained. They constitute the initial Vocational Training, and this is done in the educational administration centres. The titles referred to as Vocational Training are detailed by the [Ministry of Education and Vocational Training](#).

On its own behalf, Training for Employment has the purpose of favouring training throughout workers' lives regardless of occupational situation or unemployment. It is achieved through occupational vocational training courses and ongoing vocational training, in order to obtain the Professional Skills Certificates ([Certificados de Profesionalidad](#)). The State Public Service of Employment ([SEPE](#)) publishes the National Repertoire of Professional Skills Certificates ([Repertorio Nacional de Certificados de Profesionalidad](#)).

The National Reference Centres ([Centros de Referencia Nacional, CRN](#)), which is an ensemble of innovation and experimentation centres related to Vocational Training working as a single institution, specialise in the different production sectors implemented in every CCAA.

Non-formal training in Spain is regulated by means of the Collective Agreement on Education and Non-Formal Training (Resolución de 12 de abril de 2011, de la Dirección General de Trabajo, por la que se registra y publica el VII [Convenio colectivo de enseñanza y formación no reglada](#)), and is enforced according to the following:

- [Organic Law 5/2002](#) of 19 June, on qualifications and vocational training.
- [Royal Decree 1224/2009](#) of 17 July, on recognition of professional skills gained by work experience.

The procedure allows for the achievement of an official certificate from which, later, a Professional Certificate or a Vocational Training Title may be obtained; to this end, the INCUAL is the competence body; however, it is the task of the Autonomous Regions to organise the calls and their management.

3.4 Career guidance and counselling

Career guidance and counselling services

Following the [2013 Recommendation](#), and with the purpose of guaranteeing young people access to training or employment within a defined maximum period from which they can access the labour market, the [Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020](#) contains, among other measures, the provision of professional advising. The advice and job counselling services are part of the Portfolio of Common Services of the National Employment System ([Cartera Común de Servicios del Sistema Nacional de Empleo](#)). The Portfolio is approved by Royal Decree 7/2015, of 16 January, by which the Portfolio of Common Services of the National Employment System was created ([Real Decreto 7/2015](#)). The Decree established the services to be provided by all Employment Public Services.

The job counselling services, conceived as a right of unemployed people, are provided in-person through the employment public offices or the collaborating entities of the Employment Public Services. Counselling is also offered remotely through the Employment Website ([Portal de Empleo](#)), and through the technical resources provided.

The services users are:

- youth not in employment or education
- young people who have prematurely dropped out of the educational system, attracted by employment offers in sectors that no longer offer enough opportunities
- trained youth lacking experience
- inexperienced and poorly trained young people
- long-term unemployed youth
- young people on unemployment benefits but wishing to have a job
- young entrepreneurs bidding to join the labour market on their own account.

The counselling and advice services carry out an individual diagnosis and the elaboration of a profile, the design of a personalised itinerary for employment, follow-up of user activities, help with CV layout, technological advice and help with electronic means of accessing employment and additional information on the labour market and measures and services offered by the employment public services, among others.

The Portfolio of Common Services of the National Employment System provides for the creation of an [institutional monitoring group](#), which met the first time in March 2017.

The National Plan for the Implementation of the Youth Guarantee ([Plan Nacional de Implantación de la Garantía Juvenil en España](#)) establishes actions in respect to professional counselling, work information and guidance in order to find a job. This plan has been funded by the European Union ([Youth Guarantee](#)). The counselling and guidance programmes for youth are implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy and by the Autonomous Regions, and are operationalised within the Employment and Social Affairs Sectorial Conference, regulated by the [Royal Decree 1722/07](#).

Funding

Funding for the services included in the Portfolio of Common Services of the National Employment System are regulated in article 14 of Royal Decree 7/2015 ([Real Decreto 7/2015](#)). The employment counselling and advice services, as offered mainly at sub-national level, are funded, generally, through the budget of the Autonomous Regions. Eventually, some services may be funded by the European Social Fund or other EU funds.

Quality assurance

Article 16 of Royal Decree 7/2015, of 16 January, by which the Portfolio of Common Services of the National Employment System is approved, establishes the implementation of some of the quality management systems, such as the [EFQM Model](#), and the Assessment, Learning and Improvement Models ([Modelos de Evaluación, Aprendizaje y Mejora. EVAM](#)).

The [Spanish Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020](#) already establishes certain 'impact indicators' to determine the efficacy of the objectives, and therefore, quality. In order to control quality and to assess the counselling services at sub-national level ([nivel sub-nacional](#)), indicators related to two types of goals are established: strategic goals and operational participatory goals.

3.5 Traineeships and apprenticeships

Official guidelines on traineeships and apprenticeships

Within the measures established in the [Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment 2013-2016](#), we find the set-up of the traineeship contract, with the aim of allowing young people who have finished their training period to enjoy a first working experience linked to their field of study. The incentive for this type of contract is a reduction of up to 50 per cent in the Social Security business quota for statutory contributions for contracts signed with young people under 30 years of age.

Non-work traineeships in companies are regulated by Royal Decree 1543/2011, of 31 October, legislating on non-working traineeships within companies ([Real Decreto 1543/2011](#)). The legal framework is provided by Royal Decree 1493/2011 on terms and conditions of inclusion within the General Social Security System of people participating in training programmes ([Real Decreto 1493/2011](#)).

The contractual framework for work activity in traineeship and apprenticeship is found in the Guide of Contracts of the Spanish Public Employment Service ([Guía de Contratos del Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal](#)), regulating the Traineeship Contract as well as the Contract for Training and Apprenticeship. The traineeship contract includes the possibility of turning grants and non-working traineeships within companies into labour relationships. In such a case, the reduction of the Social Security quota for statutory contributions increases to 75 per cent.

The National Plan for the Implementation of the Youth Guarantee, within the measures to improve employability in Spain, includes non-work traineeships in companies for youth between 18 and 25 years of age with a university degree, or completed Vocation Training or a professional skills certificate. In August 2018, the Spanish Government approved a [salary bonus](#) for young people under 30 years old in order to promote their access to the

labour market and reduce job instability. This bonus will be co-funded with money out of the European Social Fund as part of the European [Youth Guarantee](#) scheme. The requisites in order to be eligible for this salary supplement are the registration in the Youth Guarantee System ([Sistema de Garantía Juvenil](#)) and having low educational qualifications, and will increase the wages of the formation contracts ([contrato para la formación y el aprendizaje](#)).

Promoting traineeships and apprenticeships

The offer for traineeships and apprenticeships is one of the measures included in the Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment. This means that any actor may participate in the development of this measure, as the strategy is an open tool to promote participation. The promotion of traineeships and apprenticeships is mainly at sub-national level, with the Autonomous Regions, local administrations and education agencies the main actors.

Currently, the measure number 18 of the Action Plan for Youth Employment ([Plan de choque por el empleo Joven](#)) envisions the promotion of training programmes which require a hiring commitment from the contractor. The training programmes might take place in a local public entity possessing a hiring agreement with a private business or they might be carried out directly by a private business.

Recognition of learning outcomes

In the [SEPE](#), it is found the Recognition of acquired professional competences ([Reconocimiento de las Competencias Profesionales Adquiridas](#)) which informs about the recognition procedure of achieved professional skills, regulated in the Royal Decree 1224/2009 ([Real Decreto 1224/2009](#)). As established in the article 14 of the above-mentioned Decree, the procedure consists of 3 stages: assistance, evaluation process and accreditation and registration of the professional competence. This procedure can only accredit professional skills recognised in the National Catalogue for Professional Qualifications ([Catálogo Nacional de Cualificaciones Profesionales](#)) and has the effects of a “partial recognition [...] with purpose of completing the formation that would lead on the obtention of the corresponding diploma” (art. 19 of the Royal Decree 1224/2009).

Funding

Concerning funding, a distinction must be made between communitarian sources on the one hand and national origin sources in the other. In order to support the establishment of a youth guarantee system, Spain uses European funds dedicated to the Youth Employment Initiative, including the traineeship and apprenticeship period training. Once the budgetary allocation of the [YEI](#) for Spain is determined, 50 per cent of the IEJ is managed by the Autonomous Regions, and 50 per cent by the State Administration. According to this distribution, funding for traineeship and apprenticeship periods in Spain is shared equally at 50 per cent between the national and the sub-national administrations.

National funding is at the expense of the General State Budget ([Presupuestos Generales del Estado](#)) for actions programmed by the State Administration, and at the expense of the Autonomous Regions for those actions developed by regional administrations. Some measures such as the reduction of the Social Security quota for traineeship contracts are funded at national level, thus not being possible to co-fund it via the European Social Fund.

Quality assurance

As established in Royal Decree 1543/2011, of 31 October, legislating on non-working traineeships within companies ([Real Decreto 1453/2011](#)), a company shall present a programme with the contents and training for traineeship, term and mechanisms of assessment to the public employment service. When the traineeship is carried out within a programme developed by the administration, the specific mechanisms of supervision and control of the traineeship are established by the body launching and supervising it. In

this case, there are mechanisms established at a sub-national level, given the greater activity of the regional administrations in this regard.

Different examples at sub-national level include:

- Basque Employment Service ([Lanbide, Servicio Vasco de Empleo](#))
- Employment Institute of Aragon ([Instituto Aragonés de Empleo](#))
- Employment Service from the Canary Islands ([Servicio Canario de Empleo](#))
- Employment Service from Cantabria ([Servicio Cantabro de Empleo](#))
- Employment Service from Navarra ([Servicio Navarro de Empleo](#))

3.6 Integration of young people in the labour market

Youth employment measures

As stated in the Introduction of this chapter ([Employment & Entrepreneurship](#)), concerning Youth Employment, the current flagship programme is The Action Plan for Youth employment ([Plan de Choque por el Empleo Joven 2019-2021](#)). In respect to the youth integration in the labour market, the focus of this action plan involving 50 measures is training, counseling and generally favoring the creation of networks in the field of youth work and entrepreneurship.

The Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment collects the promotion measures for youth employment in a catalogue of measures in line with the goals of the Youth Guarantee. These measures are also included in Strategic Axis no.2 on Employment and Entrepreneurship in the [Youth Strategy 2020](#) and their respective Action Plans (see section 1.3).

Measures related to youth employment are taken in Spain by the State Administration, but also to a great extent by the Autonomous Regions. These measures in general, and particularly those related to youth matters, are included in the Annual Employment Policy Plan ([Plan Anual de Políticas de Empleo, PAPE](#)).

There are also other bodies developing plans for the promotion of youth employment, such as the Chambers of Commerce.

Flexicurity measures focusing on young people

The Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment includes the First Youth Employment Contract initiative. Aimed at people under 30 years of age, it is a temporary contract type, a choice related to the lack of work experience of the recruited person. The strategy also includes a part-time contract linked to training. In general terms, the management of personalised individual itineraries is introduced in the Spanish Strategy for Employment Activation 2017-2020 ([Estrategia Española para la Activación del Empleo 2017-2020](#)). The National Plan for the Implementation of the Youth Guarantee ([Plan Nacional de Implantación de la Garantía Juvenil](#)) is drawn up from the perspective of adaptation to the different youth profiles in order to respond to the different needs. At the same time, the [Ministry of Labour and Social Economy](#) establishes agreements with organisations from civil society for the establishment of personalised insertion itineraries for unemplyed youth.

Reconciliation of private and working life for young people

Flexibility and equal opportunities in access to the labour market are included as goals of Employment and Entrepreneurship in the Youth Strategy. In this, flexibility is defined among other purposes to favour conciliation, and includes measures developed in points 5.3.8 and 5.3.9 on Flexibility and Equal Opportunities.

The strategy includes relatively new formulas such as part-time employment, the adoption of flexible timetables which allow for reconciliation with family life among young professionals, or teleworking. Thus, and with the purpose of promoting gender equality in accessing the labour market and professional development, the strategy establishes measures such as the development of career plans addressed to young women with different degrees of responsibility within their companies, and the encouragement of the recruitment of women in production sectors with a low representation of women.

Funding of existing schemes/initiatives

The [Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment](#) has provided a funding framework characterised by the combination of European and national funds. At the same time, sub-national administrations joining the initiatives of the strategy shall contribute towards funding from their own budgetary lines. Companies or private entities participating in any of the programmed measures shall also provide funding. In order to check the source of the funds, as well as their amount with specific data, see section 6.1 of the aforementioned Strategy on "Budget".

Quality assurance

Measures and programmes implemented in Spain related to youth employment are subject to control and assessment as stated in the [Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment](#), in its chapter 8 on Follow-up and Assessment. In order to monitor and evaluate the Strategy an Inter-ministerial Committee and a Working Group are established, whose members will be the social partners. They will use and analyse the results provided by implementation and outcome indicators and impact indicators.

The Action Plan for Youth employment ([Plan de Choque por el Empleo Joven 2019-2021](#)), also adopts a cross sectoral approach to quality assurance. Indeed, it is the result of the output of evaluations and assessments undertaken regarding both previous and current policy and programme results such as the [Garantía Juvenil System](#), and the measures in place to encourage hiring and entrepreneurship ([guía dinámica de ayudas e incentivos](#)). Quality assurance is also an ongoing key aspect of the programme that will shape and reshape the specific actions corresponding with the 21 proposed measures as the permanent commission will provide reports to an evaluation commission that will gather 18 months after the beginning of the plan (approximately at the beginning of 2020).

3.7 Cross-border mobility in employment, entrepreneurship and vocational opportunities

Programmes and schemes for cross-border mobility

Besides participation at national level in European programmes such as [Erasmus+](#) (which includes a specific programme in the scope of cross-border mobility called [Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs](#)) and [Your first EURES job](#), Spain has launched a number of specific programmes relating to the cross-border mobility of young people:

The Youth Programme ([Programa Jóvenes](#)) is an international mobility programme promoted and funded by the Secretariat of State for Migration, and it is conceived to encourage the social and work integration of Spanish youth living abroad who are under 35 years of age. It includes specific programmes of training and traineeship within companies, professional specialisation and entrepreneurship, as well as of foreign language improvement.

At a national level, not only the Public Administration, but also other bodies launch youth cross-border mobility programmes. Such is the case of the Chambers of Commerce and their Youth Mobility Plan ([Plan de Movilidad](#)).

Also at a sub-national level there are programmes promoting cross-border mobility among youth: [Programa TLN Mobilicat](#) (Catalonia) or Programa [Emprendejuven+](#) (Castile and Leon).

Legal framework

Companies participating in youth cross-border mobility programmes are obliged to respect national law related to employment and social protection matters, and to guarantee protection and suitable benefits (such as social security, health and accident insurance) both for workers and for people carrying out mobile traineeship or apprenticeship programmes. In addition, they have to guarantee payment and provide a written contract stating professional goals (or of vocational training), duration of the contractual relationship, working hours, rights and responsibilities, payment and dispositions concerning social security.

In the case of cross-border mobility of youth from the European Union, they shall ask for a registration certificate ([certificado de registro](#)) to cover periods of over three months. In the case of youth from other countries, they shall ask for an authorisation of temporary residence and work as employees for a determined period of time and for training and professional traineeship purposes ([autorización de residencia temporal y trabajo por cuenta ajena de duración determinada para la formación y prácticas profesionales](#)). In all cases, foreign residents have the right to access social security benefits and services in the same manner as Spanish citizens according to the Article 14 and 25 of Organic Law 2/2009, of 11 December on rights and freedom of foreigners in Spain and their social integration ([Ley Orgánica 2/2009](#)).

The type of basic contract is the traineeship one, addressed to those under 30 years of age or those in possession of a university degree, intermediate or higher vocational training diploma, or similar qualifications, or a certificate of professional skills for those who have finished their studies in less than five years (seven in case of workers who have some type of disability). Workers under this type of contract rely on the protection of the social security affiliation: the right to pay contribution for the months at work, health coverage and social security (Comisiones Obreras, 2015).

3.8 Development of entrepreneurship competence

Policy Framework

Research on the situation and opinions of youth in Spain shows a low level of motivation for entrepreneurship among Spanish youth ([Youth Strategy 2020](#)). This is the reason why the National Plan for the Implementation of the Youth Guarantee ([Plan Nacional de Implantación de la Garantía Juvenil en España](#)), among other measures to improve employability, introduces entrepreneurship into training programmes for employment.

Concerning education for entrepreneurship, there is no national strategy as such, it has been developed at sub-national level, with the Autonomous Regions proving to be very active.

The regulations framework for the development of entrepreneurship as attaining competence is established by the Organic Law for Education 2/2006 ([Ley Orgánica de Educación 2/2006](#)) and the amendments to the same established in the Organic Law for Quality Improvement of Education ([Ley Orgánica para la Mejora de la Calidad Educativa 8/2013 LOMCE](#)) introducing the entrepreneurial sense of initiative, along with the development of contents related to entrepreneurship in the training curriculum and syllabus.

The study [Entrepreneurship Education at School in Europe 2016](#) of the European Network [Eurydice](#) offers detailed information about the state of education for entrepreneurship in each country, including data related to Spain. The report is based on information supplied

by national units: in the case of Spain, the Spanish Network on Information of Education, Red Española de Información sobre Educación ([Eurydice España – REDIE](#)).

Formal learning

Although the [LOMCE](#) establishes the framework and general orientation, education is a regional competence, thus making the Autonomous Regions in charge of introducing subjects into the training curriculum, including education for entrepreneurship. The report 'Entrepreneurship Education in the Spanish education system, 2015' (['La educación para el emprendimiento en el sistema educativo español. Año 2015'](#)) drawn up by the Red Española de Información sobre Educación ([Eurydice España – REDIE](#)) presents a detailed analysis of the introduction of entrepreneurship education in the training curricula of the Autonomous Regions.

For the introduction and development of entrepreneurship as a learning subject, there are agreements of the Administration which introduce entrepreneurship into the curricula of expert institutions in the matter. Such is the case of the Programa YPD ([Young Potential Development](#)) and the [Proyecto Think Big Jóvenes de la Fundación Telefónica](#).

It is very interesting for a comparative approach the publication [Entrepreneurship Education at School in Europe](#). This report was published in February 2016. It has detailed information on strategies, curricula and learning outcomes, and also covers new themes such as funding schemes and teacher education. The information comes from 33 countries, all members of the [Eurydice Network](#).

Non-formal and informal learning

The Law on support of the Entrepreneurship and its Internationalisation 14/2013 ([Ley 14/2013](#)), recognises the 'mini-company' or students company (Miniempresa o empresa de estudiantes) as a pedagogical tool and establishes its features. The report 'Entrepreneurship Education in the Spanish education system, 2015' compiles education activities and programmes for entrepreneurship using alternative approaches.

In order to encourage social entrepreneurship amongst youth, there are initiatives such as the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Labs ([Laboratorios de emprendimiento social juvenil](#)), organised by the National Network for Social Entrepreneurship ([Red CreActiva, Red estatal para el emprendimiento social](#)) with the aim of encouraging the development of entrepreneurial skills for the benefit of the community.

In order to recognise skills gained through volunteering, the Recognition Project ([Proyecto Reconoce](#)) has the main purpose of organising a national network of organisations promoting the recognition of skills and abilities gained through volunteering action aiming at the improvement of youth employability. The Project relies on collaboration with the [Spanish Youth Institute](#).

When recognising entrepreneurship skills, a tool of recognition of learning in both non-formal and informal, such as [EU Youth pass](#), is used. Another tool is the [European Skills Passport](#), as well as [Europass](#), which is useful for setting up an electronic portfolio of qualifications and skills.

Educators support in entrepreneurship education

Policies and initiatives of support for the development of professional skills of teachers concerning education for entrepreneurship are specifically developed within the scope of the CCAA.

The report Entrepreneurship Education in the Spanish education system, 2015 presents a detailed account of measures related to basic training and the ongoing training of teachers with a list of courses addressed to teachers: awareness-raising events, online follow-up of the implementation processes within the classroom, guidelines for the implementation of education for entrepreneurship, development of teaching materials for implementation,

teacher networks for the exchange of ideas and good practice in education for entrepreneurship or support from the education centres.

3.9 Start-up funding for young entrepreneurs

Access to information

The General Secretariat of Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises, belonging to the [Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade](#), has a search engine for aid and incentives for the creation of companies ([buscador de ayudas e incentivos a la creación de empresas](#)). Thereby, the National Innovation Enterprise ([Empresa Nacional de Innovación, ENISA](#)) informs about funding lines for young entrepreneurs within the innovation sectors, application requirements and funding terms.

The Business Information and Network Creation Centre ([Centro de Información y Red de creación de empresas \(CIRCE\)](#)) establishes the Helpdesks for Entrepreneurs ([Puntos de Atención al Emprendedor, PAE](#)), with the purpose of informing, advising and setting-up the administrative procedure for the business creation.

Access to capital

The [Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment](#) establishes a series of initiatives in order to favour business creation: getting the seed capital fund, microcredits, *business angels* and shareholders loans, the social economy encouragement and collective entrepreneurship.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Economy has developed an Action Plan for Youth Employment (2019-2021) ([Plan de choque por el empleo joven 2019-2021](#)) where a strategy for entrepreneurship for youth is specifically framed. The main objectives of this strategy are to support the organizations in the following key areas:

- Social economy
- Start ups and business incubators
- Intersectoral organizations of self-employed workers

The Youth Institute ([Injuve](#)), developed in 2013 with national reach the Microcredit Programme for Youth ([Programa de Microcréditos para Jóvenes](#)), offering funds in the form of microcredits for young entrepreneurs up to 35 years of age, allowing for the concession of loans without any type of guarantee. The programme is currently waiting for renewal.

Within the regional scope there are many financial aid programmes for young entrepreneurs:

- Innovative Programme from Andalucía ([Programa Innovativa de la Junta de Andalucía](#)).
- Programmes and support entities for the creation of enterprises by the Canary Islands Government ([Programas y entidades de apoyo a la creación de empresas del Gobierno de Canarias](#)).
- Entrepreneurs Programme from the Aragon Government [Programa de Emprendedores del Gobierno de Aragón](#).
- Asturian microcredit programme for youth sponsored by INJUVE ([Microcréditos INJUVE para jóvenes](#)).

The Resources Guide for Young Entrepreneurs ([Guía de recursos para jóvenes emprendedores](#)) is especially useful. Prepared for the application [Emprendemos](#), it offers an ensemble of instruments and resources made available to both public and private institutions, at national, regional and local levels. The Guide is published by the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)) along with the Secretariat of State of Social Services and Equality ([Secretaría de Estado de Servicios Sociales](#)). The Action Plan for Youth Employment (2019-

2021) ([Plan de choque por el empleo joven 2019-2021](#)) foresees the creation of a programme for employment and entrepreneurship aimed to youth (ORIENTAJOVEN) with the creation of 3.000 guidance desks.

Likewise, within the programming period of the European Social Fund 2014-2020, there are funding instruments such as microcredits. Through the [Employment and Social Innovation Programme \(EaSI\)](#), the [European Progress Microfinance Facility](#) establishes [national suppliers of microcredits](#).

3.10 Promotion of entrepreneurship culture

Special events and activities

As stated in Axis no.2 "Employment and Entrepreneurship", one of the main objectives of the [Youth Strategy 2020](#) is to encourage entrepreneurship culture.

Among the national activities for the promotion of entrepreneurship culture it is worth mentioning the National Contest of Young Entrepreneurs ([Certamen Nacional de Jóvenes Emprendedores](#)). Organised by the Youth Institute, young entrepreneurs less than 35 years of age with entrepreneurial projects may participate.

In order to provide young people wishing to become entrepreneurs with information on funding, financial aid, advising as well as resources for training and employability, the Youth Institute has developed the application [Emprendemos](#), an App made for digital pads and smartphones including a large quantity of audio-visual material.

To promote the entrepreneurship spirit of university students, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade has developed the University Entrepreneurship Programme ([Programa de Emprendimiento Universitario](#)). It is aimed at university students and designed to bolster the idea of the set-up of a company as an attractive alternative to becoming an employee. Information on resources, procedures, or an analysis of entrepreneurial attitudes, among other things, is offered.

The Autonomous Regions also launch programmes and actions to promote entrepreneurship culture:

- [Programa para el Fomento de la Cultura Emprendedora del Principado de Asturias](#) (Program to promote entrepreneurship culture of the Principality of Asturias)
- [Programas educativos para fomentar el emprendimiento y el autoempleo en todos los ciclos del sistema educativo de la Junta de Andalucía](#) (Educational programs to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment in all levels of the educational system of the Regional Government of Andalusia)

Networks and partnerships

The Action Plan for Youth employment ([Plan de Choque por el Empleo Joven 2019-2021](#)) currently in force specifically addresses entrepreneurship in one of its 6 axis. One of the objectives evoked within this axis is to encourage agreements between public entities depending on the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy and autonomous regions , such as The National Employment Public Service ([SEPE](#)) and self-employed and social economy organizations from a wide spectrum of activity sectors. The aim being to put in place activities that will strengthen professional networks and thus increase protection against the market instabilities.

[Red Emprendia](#), a network of universities promoting innovation and entrepreneurship comprised of the most relevant universities from Ibero-America, offers different services and launches programmes and actions among which, the promotion of academic entrepreneurship, identifying and supporting technologically based business from the results of research developed within public Spanish universities, are prominent.

3.11 Current debates and reforms

Debates related to employment and youth entrepreneurship in Spain are mainly based on the unemployment issue. For example, in the current legislature, the Congress of Deputies the Citizen's Parliamentary Group launched a Proposition Not of Law to reform the employment policies and to create a salary supplement for the disadvantaged youth, which was successfully approved in 2018. Another parliamentary group, the Socialist Parliamentary Group, also launched a motion to guarantee the employability of young people, the quality of their hiring and their working conditions. Even more, the Action Plan for Youth Employment has been developed for a three year period ([Plan de choque por el empleo joven 2019-2021](#)) to face the youth employment challenges.

The debate shows a disparity of approaches between the concept of youth unemployment as a consequence of the economic and financial crisis, and another broader perspective pointing towards economic and social planning.

Some analysis points to the need to emphasise policies on youth who have not reached a high level of training, taking into account that the highest rates of youth unemployment are found in the age group between 16 and 24 years of age, that is, young people who drop out early from the training cycle. This leads us to the age issue, the establishment of a closed age range delimiting what is understood as youth, a concept which expands to ever older age in developed societies.

Another debate is related to the need to establish youth employment policies with an emphasis on gender and aimed to vulnerable populations, understanding that this is crucial in order to address different problems of labour market integration and consolidation.

Finally, debates about the current Spanish labour market focus on two main problems, which are the [short-term contracts](#) and job instability and the minimum wage. These problems have been tackled by the salary bonus, mentioned in point 3.5, and the increase of the minimum wage; however, these measures, specially the second one, are still being [discussed](#) and judged by the public opinion.

The *Youth worker* element is another initiative projected to be developed in the Spanish employment and youth entrepreneurship system. It entails the introduction of personnel specialised in orientation and implementation of measures related to youth employment from different bodies and institutions. In fact, 3000 youth workers will take part of the ORIENTAJOVEN programme.

All these issues are further accentuated by the emergence of the SARS-Cov-2 Virus in late 2019-2020, leaving a scenery where thousands of people have lost their job and many businesses have had to close. This crisis has had an even greater impact on young people, studies show that 43.9% of Spanish young workers are currently unemployed.

4. SOCIAL INCLUSION

The highest authorities responsible for developing inclusive policies for young people are the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)) and the Inter-Ministerial Youth Commission, which promote their activities in close collaboration with the Youth Institute. NGOs participate through the State Council of Social Action for Non-Governmental Organizations ([Consejo Estatal de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Acción Social](#)).

There is no legislation or regulation at state level for social inclusion in Spain, let alone for the social inclusion of youth. There are rights, disseminated in different regulations, related to ensuring inclusion in Spanish society and the exercise of full citizenship. An example of this is the Spanish Constitution ([Constitución Española](#)), where the right to decent

employment and housing is guaranteed (Article [35](#) and [47](#)), as is universal access to the health system (Article [43](#)).

Currently, the 2019-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion ([Estrategia Nacional de prevención y lucha contra la pobreza 2019-2023](#)) is the frame of reference in terms of operational objectives, measures and axes of action for the inclusion of society as a whole in Spain. Although it is not a policy exclusively aimed at young people, the National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion includes specific measures for the youth in terms of employment, education, housing, health, dependency and disability.

4.1 General context

Main challenges to social inclusion

The main challenges to achieve greater inclusion of the resident youth population in Spain, according to the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)), are:

- to reduce youth unemployment while ensuring quality, more stable and better paid employment, as well as guaranteeing access to other resources such as housing, culture, etc.
- to improve the average level of education and to reduce early school leaving and to reintegrate young people who abandoned their studies early
- to guarantee access to housing for an earlier emancipation
- to improve the channels of social, cultural and political participation for greater social cohesion.

The 2019-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion ([Estrategia Nacional de Prevención y Lucha contra la Pobreza y Exclusión Social](#)) has three areas of action of particular relevance for the inclusion of young people:

- **Employment:** persistently high rates of youth unemployment in Spain point towards the need to establish specific action programmes for young people, especially when the absence of employment is the main cause of exclusion in other areas (health, housing, etc.). In this sense, some of the actions outlined in The National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion are addressed.
- **Education:** the main challenges in education are the fight against early school-leaving, the improvement of the general educational level, which is below the European average, the promotion of vocational training and the search for educational alternatives of interest to encourage the return of adults who left their studies prematurely. There is a further development on this topic in [chapter 2.5.1](#).
- **Housing:** In the years of economic prosperity, constant rises in the price of housing created accessibility problems for groups such as young people and families with limited resources. There is a further development on this topic in the [chapter 2.5.3](#).

In the area of **health**, since the 2020 Youth Strategy ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)), establishes that socio-health and employment programmes for people at risk of exclusion (Axis 5, action 21) must be developed.

The National Action Plan sees young people as a particularly vulnerable group and therefore the target of specific inclusive interventions beyond those already mentioned in terms of employment and education.

Currently the main issues under discussion regarding the social inclusion of young people are:

- The need to approve the new National Action Plan 2017-2020 which, in February 2017, announced by the former Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality.

- The need to design the 2017-2020 Action Plan, corresponding to the 2020 Youth Strategy, for which it is necessary to approve the state budgets for 2016-2017.

Beyond the updating of the plans for inclusion, there is no prospect in the future for a development of legislation related to the social inclusion of young people.

As new challenges, while deepening the objectives already proposed in the plans, some points to consider are:

- The inclusion of disadvantaged young people in the information society and communication to avoid social gaps that lead to economic gaps
- Integration, cohesion and social and democratic participation. Channelling the political, social and cultural participation of youth
- Meeting the demographic challenge. Reverting the aging trend of the population pyramid in Spain and favour the increase of the birth rate among young Spaniards
- Strengthen the European identity of young Spaniards and their democratic spirit.

Main concepts

Poverty and social exclusion: the reverse of inclusion

Poverty: Following the definition of the [European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion](#), poverty is defined as symptom of lack and of scarcity of resources to meet needs that society regards as basic. It is measured from the following indicators:

1. The poverty risk rate (once social transfers are taken into account),
2. The [material deprivation index](#) and
3. The percentage of people living in [households with a very low labour intensity](#).

Social exclusion: the process of loss of integration or participation of people in society and in the different economic, political and social spheres. It is the lack of resources for an active and effective social participation.

Social exclusion therefore implies difficulties in some or all of these three areas:

1. Economic: employment, income, deprivation
2. Political, citizenship exercise: political rights, education, health, housing
3. Social relations: isolation, anomie.

Inclusion

The [European Union framework](#) has defined **social inclusion** as 'a process that ensures that those at risk of poverty and social exclusion increase the opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life, as well as enjoy living and welfare conditions that they consider normal in the society in which they live'.

It is also possible to find other definitions by organizations working in the field, such as [Doctors of the World](#). For them, social inclusion refers to "social integration, social harmony and social justice, conditions that are contingent upon the implementation and enforcement of measures designed to ensure that all members of a society have an equal opportunity to participate in every facet of its social life (economic, legal, political or cultural as well as others)".

Active inclusion: Following the European Commission [definition](#), it refers to the search for overcoming strategies focused only on partial aspects of the problem of exclusion and poverty, such as those addressed exclusively to the labour market, or those based only on welfare policies.

According to the [Social Inclusion Guidelines](#) from the The Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)), active inclusion seeks to articulate policies combining labour insertion with social support, especially to disadvantaged groups through the maintenance of levels of social protection that allow the development of a dignified life and greater social and economic cohesion.

Strategies, Plans and policies of action

The 2019-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Currently, as mentioned above, besides the broader Youth Strategy 2020, there is one main Action Plan for the social inclusion in the Spanish State:

The 2019-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion ([Estrategia Nacional de Prevención y Lucha contra la Pobreza y Exclusión Social](#)) is the frame of reference in terms of operational objectives, measures and axes of action for the inclusion of society as a whole in Spain. Although it is not an exclusive policy document for young people, the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2013-2016 includes specific measures for the youth in terms of employment and education.

In February 2017, the former Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality announced the [preparation of the Second Action Plan of the Youth Strategy 2017-2020](#).

European Strategy 2020: A growth strategy developed by the European Union in 2010 with the main objectives to be fulfilled by the year 2020. In the inclusion section, its main task is to reduce the rates of poverty and social exclusion.

Youth Strategy 2020, which remains the reference strategy for youth policies is divided into six priority axes: 1) education and training, 2) employment and entrepreneurship, 3) housing, 4) prevention and health, 5) participation, voluntary inclusion and equality, and 6) institutional cooperation. The Strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers on September 12, 2014 ([Consejo de Ministros el 12 septiembre de 2014](#)). It is an inter-ministerial initiative promoted by the The Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)) through the Institute of Youth ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)).

Originally, the Strategy ought to be implemented from three biannual Action Plans: I) 2014-2016 Action Plan currently in force, stipulated in the 2014 and 2015 budgets; II) the 2016-2018 Action Plan stipulated in the 2016 and 2017 budgets; and III) the 2018-2020 Action Plan, stipulated in the 2018 and 2019 budgets. However, it was changed to only two Action Plans, after the end of the first one (2014-2016): I) Action Plan 2014-2016 and Action Plan 2017-2020.

Statistical Sources and Inclusion Indicators

Statistical sources containing data on inclusion are:

- at European level, [Income and Living Conditions](#) (EU-SILC), of Eurostat
- at the national level, the [Living Conditions Survey](#), of the Spanish Statistical Office ([INE](#)).

[The Living Conditions Survey](#) (LCS): a survey conducted annually since 2004 by the Spanish National Statistical Institute. It is the main source of statistical information on inclusion in Spain. Its purpose is to measure and compare income distribution and social exclusion. It is equivalent to the [European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions](#) (EU-SILC), of Eurostat.

The main indicator used by these surveys, harmonized at the European level, is the Poverty Risk Rate, better known as [AROPE Rate](#) (At Risk of Poverty and/or Exclusion Rate). According to the latest available data (2016), the AROPE Rate among young people aged between 16 and 29 years old in Spain is 38.1% for females and 37.1% for males.

The below table illustrates trends from 2006 up to the point of the latest available data (2018), showing a considerable year-on-year gradual increase and a negative correlation between the risk of poverty by gender.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Males	20.4	19.4	21.0	22.0	26.4	28.8	33.2	33.9
Females	21.7	24.4	24.7	25.2	29.1	32.0	33.9	32.2
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016
Males	36.8	39.1	37.1	33.2	30.5	36.8	39.1	37.1
Females	36.0	37.2	38.1	36.5	37.2	36.0	37.2	38.1

Source: [Income and Living Conditions](#). Eurostat, 2020

Poverty risk rate or AROPE Rate is the main indicator of poverty and exclusion. Statistically, the population that is in any of the three situations defined below is considered to be at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion:

1. People living with [low income](#) (60% of the average of the equivalent income or per unit of consumption).
2. People who suffer [severe material deprivation](#)
3. People living in [households with low work intensity](#) (under 20%).

In 2019, the latest data available, the AROPE Rate among Spanish youth (16-29 years old) was 31.7%. The series since the indicator was measured in 2010 is as follows:

UNIT: Percentage of total population | AGE: From 16 to 29 years |

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
EU 28					27.0	28.2	29.4
Spain	21.0	21.8	22.8	23.6	27.8	30.4	33.5
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
EU 28	29.4	29.7	29.1	28.8	27.3	26.2	25.5
Spain	33.0	36.4	38.2	37.6	34.8	33.8	31.7

Source: [Income and Living Conditions](#). Eurostat, 2020

4.2 Administration and governance

Governance

There is no legislation or regulation at state level for social inclusion in Spain, let alone for the social inclusion of youth. There are rights, disseminated in different regulations, related to ensuring inclusion in Spanish society and the exercise of full citizenship. An example of this is the Spanish Constitution ([Constitución Española](#)), where the right to decent employment and housing is guaranteed (Article [35](#) and [47](#)), as is universal access to the health system (Article [43](#)).

Main actors:

The highest authorities responsible for developing inclusive policies for young people are the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)) and the Inter-Ministerial Youth Commission, which promote their activities in close collaboration with the Youth Institute.

The allocation of the inclusion portfolio to the ministry mentioned above is regulated through [The Royal Decree 139/2020 of 28 January](#) establishing the basic organisational structure of ministerial departments.

General distribution of responsibilities:

As regards the 2020 Youth Strategy and the 2014-2016 Action Plan, the agencies responsible for its approval were the Inter-Ministerial Youth Commission and the Council of Ministers, respectively.

NGOs participate through the State Council of Social Action for Non-Governmental Organizations ([Consejo Estatal de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Acción Social](#)), defined as a consultative body and a meeting point for dialogue and participation of associative movements in the elaboration of social policies. It is regulated by the [Royal Decree 235/2005](#) and its present composition was established by the [Resolution of November 18, 2011](#), (the organizations that comprise it can be found in Annex I of the document).

Among other matters, this council produces documents such as the Third Sector of Social Action Proposals for a Strategy of Social Inclusion in Spain towards 2020 ([Propuestas del Tercer Sector de Acción Social para una Estrategia de Inclusión Social 2020 en España](#)).

Cross-sectorial cooperation

Governance in the field of inclusion arises from an inter-governmental perspective. The Social Inclusion Network 2017-2020 ([Red de Inclusión Social 2017-2020](#), RIS) tackled the former need for effective coordination between the institutional actors involved and the correct distribution and distribution of competencies among the different organs and levels of the State Administration: Ministries, Autonomous Regions Administration and Local Administration as well as from the involvement of the third sector of social action.

The [Social Inclusion Network](#), financed and promoted by the European Social Fund, provides a space for dialogue and information exchange between actors involved in social inclusion, coordinated by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda. It is composed by representatives of public administrations of all levels involved in social inclusion policies, from European to local levels, as well as NGOs that participate in the implementation of these policies and the most representative labour unions.

Its main objective is the establishment of means of cooperation and information exchange between the public administrations and social inclusion entities. However, in its [2017-2020 Working Plan](#), other complementary objectives are set, such as increasing its role and impact in implementing change within the members, becoming a benchmark in analysing poverty and social inclusion and promoting studies around these matters, and extending active participation of regional bodies in inclusive affairs.

There is also a growing interest in incorporating private sector entities and increasing public-private collaboration, giving importance and relevance to the role of companies through Corporate Social Responsibility actions.

4.3 Strategy for the social inclusion of young people**Existence of a National Strategy on social inclusion**

The National Strategy for the inclusion of young people is embodied in the 2020 Youth Strategy ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) and developed in the resulting Action Plans. In any

case, it is not an inclusion strategy exclusively, but inclusion is one of its strategic axes, namely number 5.

The 2020 Youth Strategy ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) was approved by the Council of Ministers on September 12, 2014 ([Consejo de Ministros el 12 septiembre de 2014](#)) and its implementation was originally contemplated through three successive Action Plans: the 2014-2016 Action Plan ([Plan de Acción 2014-2016](#)) currently in force pending approval of Action Plan 2017-2020, the 2016-2018 Action Plan and the 2018-2020 Action Plan. However, this changed after the conclusion of the 2014-2016 Action Plan, as explained in chapter 4.1.

The 2019-2023 National Strategy national strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion ([Estrategia Nacional de Prevención y Lucha contra la Pobreza y Exclusión Social](#)), is the other reference in the configuration of a State Strategy for inclusion. These Inclusion Plans have been developing since 2001 with a biannual character.

Scope and contents

The 2019-2023 National Strategy national strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion ([Estrategia Nacional de Prevención y Lucha contra la Pobreza y Exclusión Social](#)) indicate three areas of action of particular relevance for the inclusion of young people:

1. **Employment:** persistently high rates of youth unemployment in Spain point towards the need to establish specific action programmes for young people, especially when the absence of employment is the main cause of exclusion in other areas (health, housing, etc.). In this sense, some of the actions outlined in the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion and the Action Plan are addressed.
2. **Education:** the main challenges in education are the fight against early school-leaving, the improvement of the general educational level, which is below the European average, the promotion of vocational training and the search for educational alternatives of interest to encourage the return of adults who left their studies prematurely.
3. **Housing:** In the years of economic prosperity, constant rises in the price of housing created accessibility problems for groups such as young people and families with limited resources.

However, in the same Plan there are no objectives and action measures exclusively aimed at young people regarding access to housing. It should be understood, therefore, that young people are subject to the same measures of action as the rest of society in this matter, as long as they meet the income criteria indicated. However, they do have the programme [Eurodesk](#), an information and career guidance service on housing opportunities in Europe.

In the area of **health**, since the 2020 Youth Strategy ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)), the development of socio-health and employment programmes for people at risk of exclusion (Axis 5, action 21) is mentioned.

The National Action Plan sees young people as a particularly vulnerable group and therefore the target of specific inclusive interventions beyond those already mentioned in terms of employment and education.

The groups identified in the NAPincl as the 'most vulnerable' and therefore the target for specific actions are:

1. homeless people,
2. persons with disabilities,
3. older people,
4. dependent people,
5. immigrants and persons applying for and benefiting from international protection,
6. female victims of gender-based violence,

7. the Roma community,
8. victims of discrimination according to racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation or gender identity,
9. addicts (drugs, alcohol, gambling, etc.) and
10. prisoners or ex-prisoners.

For their part, the 2020 Youth Strategy and the 2014-2016 Action Plan do not substantially differ from the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2013-2016 in terms of inclusive objectives and measures. However, both point out with particular emphasis two groups of young people whom they consider to be particularly vulnerable: young people with disabilities and Roma youth, for whom it has concrete measures:

- labour, sports, health and communication activities related to the disabled (Axis 5, action 26)
- health education programmes and socio-labour and educational insertion for the Roma population (Axis 5, action 22)
- actions related to people with hearing impairment (Axis 5, action 24)
- programmes for students with disabilities in institutes and schools (Axis 5, action 28)
- social integration of young people with disabilities (Axis 5, action 34)

Responsible authority

2020 Youth Strategy and 2014-2016 Action Plan

The highest authority responsible for the approval and implementation of the strategy is the Inter-Ministerial Youth Commission. At a second level, the Youth Institute (INJUVE) is responsible for an annual follow-up that will be reflected in a report.

National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion 2019-2023

The highest authority responsible for the preparation, implementation and follow-up of the 2019-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion is the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda.

Within the ministry, the Secretariat of State for Social Rights (Secretaría de Estado de Derechos Sociales), together with the General Directorate of Services for the Families and Children (Dirección General de Servicios para las Familias y la Infancia), are the main bodies responsible for the preparation, coordination and follow-up of the plan, as established in the [Royal Decree 2/2020](#)

The General Administration of the State (Administración General del Estado), Regional Administrations, Local Administration through the Federación Estatal de Municipios y Provincias (State Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, FEMP), NGOs and the Economic and Social Council (Consejo Económico y Social, CES) also participate in the elaboration and execution of the [2019-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion](#).

Revisions/Updates

National Action Plans for Social Inclusion

Since 2001, these have been the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion approved in chronological order: [I PNAin: 2001-2003](#), [II PNAin: 2003-2005](#), [III PNAin: 2005-2006](#), [IV PNAin: 2006-2008](#), [V PNAin: 2008-2010](#) and [VI PNAin: 2013-2016](#).

The most important change in the National Action Plan in terms of youth inclusion is that young people, since the V NAPincl, have ceased to be codified as a particularly vulnerable group. In addition, there are no major changes in the inclusivity strategy.

As regards the items dedicated to inclusion, as indicated in the document, *The 10 years of the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion in the Kingdom of Spain* ([Los 10 años de](#)

[los Planes Nacionales de Acción para la Inclusión Social en el Reino de España](#)): 'Measures to combat social exclusion of young people and promote their inclusion, occupy the fourth place by level of resources, and more than 9 600 million Euros have been invested in them, or 3.41% of the total budgeted for in the plans. However, they have experienced the greatest increase of resources in the period of validity of the National Action Plan, and its endowment in this time has multiplied by more than 17'.

2020 Youth Strategy and its Action Plans

Since the 2014-2016 Action Plan is the first in the framework of the 2020 Youth Strategy, and the Action Plan 2017-2020 has not been approved and released yet, it is currently not possible to make comparisons with previous plans.

4.4 Inclusive programmes for young people

Programmes for vulnerable young people

Erasmus+ in Spain: Youth Programme

The National Spanish Agency ([Agencia Nacional Española](#), ANE) is the institution in charge of coordinating the programme for youth in Spain, under the European Commission Erasmus+ programme. The ANE is composed of the Spanish Youth Institute, the youth organisations of the Spanish autonomous regions and cities and the Spanish Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España](#), CJE).

The programme runs from 2014 to 2020, and replaced the Youth in Action Programme ([Programa Juventud en Acción](#)), implemented in Spain between 2007 and 2013. Its main [objectives](#) include improving the skills and abilities of young people, promoting participation in European democratic life and promoting active citizenship and social integration.

Although the agency coordinating the programme is the National Spanish Agency, the programme involves different entities and individuals, such as non-profit organisations, non-governmental organisations, public bodies, educational institutions and foundations.

For the year 2018, the [actions related to the programme](#) have to do with:

- Mobility projects for young people (Youth Exchanges and Volunteering) and youth workers;
- Great events of the European Voluntary Service;
- Strategic Partnerships;
- Capacity Building in the field of youth;
- Meetings between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth.

There is no official data or statistics on the participation of young people in this programme.

Projects for vulnerable young people within Erasmus+:

In Spain, there are plenty of projects that support young people in a vulnerable situation with financial aid. Below, some Erasmus+ [EU](#) projects are given as examples.

Inclusive project for young people with disabilities of [Fundación Once](#):

The project, called Inclusive Campus Network ([Red de Campus Inclusivos](#)), is implemented since 2015 between the Universities of Granada, Lisbon and Antwerp. It aims to encourage the access of students with disabilities to the university and international mobility. The participants are young persons with some type of disability who are studying at higher education level or baccalaureate so that they can live the university experience in one-week stays on the campus of one of the three participating universities.

There are no official data and statistics on the participation of young people in this programme.

JovEU Project:

The [Proyecto JovEU](#) is a project led by the [European Anti-Poverty Network in Spain](#). It is aimed at young people between 18 and 30 years old in a situation of social vulnerability, with the intention of being active participants in the Spanish democratic life. The project proposes cooperation between young people and policy makers in the decision-making process of the joint development of youth policies.

The project started in December 2015 and finished at the end of 2016. Although there is no official data, the project expects to have the direct participation of at least 114 young people in a situation of social vulnerability and the indirect participation of 380 young people through programmed consultation activities, such as surveys and interviews designed *ad hoc*.

Intervention Programme with the Young Adults of the Spanish Correctional Administration:

The Intervention with the Young Adults Programme ([Programa de intervención con jóvenes](#)) in Spanish prisons is a programme aimed at young people aged 18 to 25 who are in Spanish prisons, whose task is to implement educational programmes aimed at curbing the development of a criminal career and achieving the social integration of prisoners after their release.

The programme is part of the so-called Treatment programmes ([Programas de tratamiento](#)) implemented by the Correctional Institution since 2005.

There is no official data or statistics on youth participation in this programme.

🔗 Find other examples [here](#).

Funding

Projects within the Erasmus+

The funding received from projects for young people in a situation of vulnerability within the Erasmus+ programme is allocated according to the type of project submitted, its objectives and the priorities as set by the Erasmus+ agency itself. The funding comes from the European Commission.

Although it is not possible to differentiate the amounts allocated for projects relating to vulnerable young people for [2018](#), the total amount of subsidies granted by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda to entities, associations and youngsters that participated in the Erasmus+ project was 12 Million euros, which was more compared to the 10,382 Million euros in [2017](#). This increase can be explained due to the interest of the European Commission in funding projects dedicated to social inclusion.

Intervention Programme with Young Adults of the Spanish Correctional Administration:

There is no specific breakdown of funding for the Intervention Programme specifically for young people, but rather figures for the totality of the programme. During 2015, a total of 34,000 Euros was budgeted. There is still no data on the budget allocated for 2018. Once published, it can be consulted in the [Portal de transparencia](#) of the Government of Spain.

As mentioned in previous chapters, the [Draft State Budget for 2021](#) was presented to the Cortes Generales on October 2020, but it has not been approved so far, what means that the budget assigned to these programmes will not be public until later in time.

Quality assurance

Evaluation system for the projects integrated into Erasmus+

In the [Erasmus+](#) project guide, the quality assurance system applied by the organisation is detailed to ensure the quality of the projects, both in terms of financial control and quality in design, evaluation at different stages and the dissemination of the results.

For the evaluation of the impact of the projects, for example, Erasmus+ establishes indicators such as 'facts and figures related to the website of the project organizers (updates, visits, consultations, referrals); number of meetings with the main participants; number of participants involved in the discussions and briefings (workshops, seminars, peer reviews); production and circulation of products; media coverage (articles in the specialised press, press releases, interviews, etc.); impact on the regional, national and EU policy measures'.

Intervention Programme with the Young Adults of the Spanish Correctional Administration

No public data are available on the impact evaluation of this programme.

4.5 Initiatives promoting social inclusion and raising awareness

Intercultural awareness

Youth exchanges within Erasmus+

In the framework of the European Erasmus+ programme, the Youth Institute (INJUVE) has been developing an [exchange programme](#) among young people between 13 and 30 years old residents in the countries participating in the project. In order to participate, the projects must include data related to: preparation (practical arrangements, selection of participants, implementation of agreements with partners and youth); the implementation of mobility activities; and monitoring (evaluation of activities, formal recognition of volunteer learning during the activity, dissemination and use of the project results).

Spanish Youth Council and PorCausa Foundation: "Broken Dreams" Campaign

[Broken Dreams](#) (Sueños Rotos) is a research and journalism project on the current situation of the young Spanish population between 16 and 30 years, affected by the consequences of the economic crisis and the lack of institutional responses to reverse it. Created and conducted by the PorCausa Foundation, it has the intention of raising awareness about the effects of the crisis, disseminating the results of the research carried out by the campaign.

No hate:

The [Youth Institute](#) is the entity in charge of promoting the European campaign against internet intolerance in Spain, [No Hate](#), whose aim is to mobilize citizens to debate, to act in defence of human rights and fight against any form of intolerance on the internet. It emerged in 2013 as a programme to promote actions against intolerance. In its official portal, there is a [toolset](#) for trainers and educators who work with these subjects.

Training programme of the Spanish Youth Council:

The Training programme of the Spanish Youth Council ([Programa de formación del Consejo de la Juventud de España](#)) is an annual programme developed by the Council aimed at training people and entities dedicated to lines of work associated with youth issues, such as migration, the promotion of political participation and youth poverty. The programme is comprised of training actions whose design is based on the strategic lines of work of the Council and the training needs detected in the participating entities. All the proposed training is 100% subsidized by the Spanish Youth Council.

Young people's rights

COMPASS Manual

The [Compass Manual](#) was edited in 2015 by the [Youth Institute](#) (INJUVE). It is a manual for those who work with young people in the field of education. It presents proposals for the promotion of democratic citizenship and the promotion of a culture of defence of human rights among young people. It has training material for educators and educational activities, both formal and non-formal. It was created by the Council of Europe within the Youth in Human Rights Education Programme and edited by the Youth Institute.

Key initiatives to safeguard democracy and prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism

The fight against terrorism and radicalization is a matter for the state, at national, [European](#) and international levels. The promotion of democracy and the prevention of radicalization in young people is one of the main measures carried out at different levels of government.

Among these measures, the strategic plan for the fight against terrorism in Spain ([Plan estratégico para la lucha contra el terrorismo en España](#)) stands out, as it distinguishes young people as one of the principal groups likely to be recruited and radicalized. In this sense, Spain is at the forefront of the implementation of the measures contained in the [2178 Resolution](#) of the United Nations Security Council.

It is also worth mentioning the approval of the [2715 Disposal](#) within the educational curriculum of Muslim religion classes for students of Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) and Baccalaureate (Bachillerato). This disposal aims at educating students in order to prevent terrorist violence.

At the level of democratic promotion in Spanish youth, the Spanish Youth Council has developed a Teaching Guide of Education for Participation ([Guía didáctica de educación para la participación](#)) aimed at promoting the association and informing non-associate young people between the ages of 14 and 22 about the possibilities of participating in the Spanish youth movement and fully exercise their citizenship.

4.6 Access to quality services

Housing

In relation to access to housing, in Spain there has been specific support for young people, such as the Basic Emancipation Income ([Renta Básica de Emancipación](#)) implemented by the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, but it was suspended and replaced in 2012.

In its place, there is currently the Housing Assistance Programme ([Programa de ayudas al alquiler de vivienda](#)), aimed at facilitating access and permanence in rental housing to sectors of the population with limited economic means, among them young people in a situation of vulnerability. Access to said aid is granted to individuals who are over 18 years old, covering up to 40% of the annual rent for 12 months, extendable for successive periods of 12 months, until the end of the plan. In order to receive the aid, it is also required that the rent of the house equals to or is below 600 euros per month. For their part, the Autonomous Regions establish their own housing aid schemes.

Plan Estatal de vivienda (2018-2021)

Starting in 2018, the central government has created the [Action Plan on Housing \(2018-2021\)](#), which will be developed by the different Autonomous Regions. Within this plan there is a housing program to help young people up to 35 years rent or purchase a house. The amount of this rental aid will be up to 50% of the monthly rent, for rentals between 600

and 900 € / month, for a maximum of 3 years. The aid for the acquisition of housing will be up to €10,800 with the limit of 20% of the purchase price. The requirements are:

- Young people up to 35 years old.
- Income less than ~22,365 Euros per year.
- For rents equal to or less than € 600 / month (up to € 900 in justified cases).
- That the house is the habitual and permanent residence during the period of support.
- Not already owning a house.

Social services

Catalogue of reference of social services:

The Catalogue of reference of social services ([Catálogo de Referencia de Servicios Sociales](#)) is a reference guide developed by the Spanish State through the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)), which aims to guarantee access to social services for all the citizens of Spain. It is a guide for the general population, but in its catalogue of services we find a section of social services specialized in assisting young people at risk of social exclusion.

Information, orientation, counselling and diagnostic services are provided through direct or derivative contact. For these actions, the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda has developed a programme of action that has different services, including the guardianship of minors, whose objective is to guarantee the minor a normalised context for his/her personal development. It also promotes compliance with judicial measures for children under 18 and over 14 years old, through the services of implementing measures imposed by juvenile judges on offenders, such as socio-educational tasks or reintegration programmes.

Telephone services against bullying

This a [telephone number](#) created by the former Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to combat bullying. It was launched on 1 November 2016 and is intended primarily for students, although parents, guardians, teachers, management teams and the staff of educational centres will also be assisted.

The calls are answered by qualified university personnel in the field of psychology, but are also part of the larger care team formed also by social workers, lawyers and sociologists, who will provide the care that the child needs. Calls are anonymous, confidential and free. It operates every day of the year, 24 hours a day.

Campaign "Cut in time. Abuse does not arrive suddenly"

"Cut in time. Abuse does not arrive suddenly" ([Corta a tiempo. El maltrato no llega de repente](#)) is an awareness campaign against gender-based abuse, launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda. Its target is young people by addressing the early detection and recognition of abusive action towards women, such as controlling behaviour, isolation, disrespect and physical abuse, in order to prevent them and avoiding normalization and justification.

The Government of Spain had already initiated similar campaigns in recent years to tackle this problem, for example, the "[Hay Salida Campaign](#)" in 2015 and 2012, as well as other efforts in the same direction, such as the introduction in 1997 of the fully state-funded women's helpline ([016](#)).

Health care

2013-2016 Action Plan on Drugs

The 2013-2016 Action Plan on Drugs ([Plan de acción sobre drogas 2013-2016](#)) is an action plan linked to proposals that are promoted in the same direction as the European level. Its goal is the prevention of drug use, and the assistance and social reintegration of

addicted people. Despite being a plan that is not entirely aimed at young people, it has specific actions designed for them, such as the Prevention Plan for drug addiction and addiction in the hotel sector or the Prevention Plan for retail traffic in school and leisure areas.

2018-2020 Action Plan on Addictions

The Action Plan on Addictions 2018-2020 ([Plan de acción sobre adicciones 2018-2020](#)) defines the action which will take place from 2018 to 2020 to tackle the problem of addictions, which is a concept broader than “regular” drugs, as it also includes other problems such as ludopathy and addictive use of internet. Its end goal is the creation of a more healthy, informed and save society, and will take 36 actions to fulfil its three main goals: 1) To delay the consumption of drugs and the access to potentially addictive behaviour; 2) To reduce this consumption and behaviour; and 3) To diminish the damage associated to them. Although the plan is not focused entirely on youngsters, some of the measures are indeed directed to young people and legal minors, especially the actions taken concerning prevention, protection and information, as they are regarded as particularly vulnerable.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, certain activities have been established to follow the success of the plan, as well as indicators related to those organized actions.

Furthermore, in 2017, after studying the results of the first Action Plan on Drugs (2013-2016), the same Commission in charge of the Plan and the Minister Council approved the National Strategy on Drugs 2017-2024 with the objective of reducing and preventing drug abuse in Spain by the year 2024.

Financial services

INJUVE-MicroBank microcredit program for young entrepreneurs:

The purpose of the INJUVE-MicroBank Programme ([Programa INJUVE-Microbank](#)) is to finance projects for entrepreneurs from 16 to 35 years old to start a business or who have started one in a period of less than three years previously, without the need for guarantees. The loan offers a maximum of 95% of the total cost of the project, a maximum loan amount of 25000 Euros, a repayment term of six years and a fixed interest rate of 6.25% over the life of the loan. It has no commissions. The microcredit programme is managed by the autonomous communities that agree to their adherence to the convention.

Quality assurance

Some of the measures for accessing services have defined systems for quality control. This is the case of the Social Services Reference Catalogue (Catálogo de referencia de servicios sociales) and the 2013-2016 Action Plan on Drugs (Plan de acción sobre drogas 2013-2016).

In the case of the Social Services Reference Catalogue (Catálogo de referencia de servicios sociales), quality control is practiced by the National Institute for Evaluation of Public Policies (Instituto para la Evaluación de Políticas Públicas), which is currently a subdirectorate of the Secretary of State for Territorial Policy and Public Function ([Secretaría de Estado de Política Territorial y Función Pública](#)). In addition, adherence to the European Quality Framework has been carried out, which establishes guidelines such as the availability of services, accessibility, continuity, that are oriented to good results and are comprehensive, affordable and people-centred.

Regarding the action plans on drugs and the National Strategy, each programme is assigned a rating system for assessment in each Autonomous Community, in addition to a defined monitoring system for each of the actions. Expert questionnaires have been developed for the design of the plan as a measure for quality control. In the case of sections for young people, the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)) has been the entity in charge of

answering the questionnaires. It seeks to detect priority actions for the prevention and reduction of risks and damages associated with drug use by young people.

4.7 Youth work to foster social inclusion

Policy/legal framework

The Spanish State has designed a package of measures for the promotion of social inclusion through youth work, defined in the Spanish National Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan ([Plan de implementación del Sistema Nacional de Garantía Juvenil de España](#)) and the Operational Programme for Youth Employment ([Programa Operativo de Empleo Juvenil](#)). Both appeared in 2013 and were designed for the 2014-2020 period.

They are aimed at young people between the ages of 16 and 25 year old (or under 30 in the case of persons with a degree of disability equal or superior to 33%) and their objective is the promotion of employment for the promotion of social inclusion, against poverty and any form of discrimination. The action plans are intended for young unemployed people who are not integrated into education or training systems.

Main inclusive Youth-Work programmes and target groups

Youth Guarantee from the Ministry of Labour, Migrations and Social Security

Garantía Juvenil ([Youth Guarantee](#)) is an initiative framed within the 2020 National Youth Strategy oriented towards reducing high levels of unemployment and to facilitate the labour insertion of young people. Those over 16 and under 30 years old who are legally unemployed and have completed their studies may participate. Once enrolled, they can access job offers, continuing education system, training courses and business practices.

This program grants special attention to ensuring access to vocational education and training programs to youth with disabilities and/or at risk of social exclusion through both ordinary jobs and protected jobs.

Some examples of this programs are the actions carried out by the ONCE Foundation specifically aimed at young people with disabilities like the program [Inserta](#) and the job platform [Portalento](#).

Recently, Royal Decree-Law 2/2021 of 26 January on the reinforcement and consolidation of social measures in defence of employment has been published, according to which, in terms of the Youth Guarantee, two new features stand out:

Registration is facilitated for unaccompanied foreign minors (commonly known as MENAs) who can prove that they are unaccompanied. The Temporary Employment Regulation Files (ERTE) that affect young people who are registered in the Youth Guarantee will be considered measures that contribute to maintaining the employment of these people, for the purposes of the European Social Fund.

Chavós Nebó Youth Network

The Chavos Nebo Youth Network ([Red Juvenil Chavós Nebó](#)) is a network of youth information services run by the Roma Secretariat Foundation ([Fundación Secretariado Gitano](#)) in collaboration with the Youth Institute (INJUVE). This network provides services to Roma youth in Spanish territory through state coordination of activities carried out at the local or regional level. The objectives of the network are the promotion of interculturalism and networking with other entities, explicitly oriented to cultural specificity and the promotion of Roma youth.

At the head of the services are young Roma who act as a reference for other young people of the same ethnic group. They are located in socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods that have a high Roma population. Among their [programmes](#) are those of employment, social inclusion and education.

Youth and inclusion

Youth and Inclusion ([Jóvenes e inclusión](#)) is a network of organisations working to improve social inclusion, emancipation and autonomy of young people at risk or social difficulties. Its objective is to develop and disseminate tools and good practices to increase the effectiveness of the various intervention programmes.

In 2016, they started up two programmes: 1) the socio-labour insertion program *Starting Life Projects* ([Emprendiendo Proyectos de Vida](#)), whose objective is the improvement of access to the labour market and wherein the young people involved are an active part of the labour and social training process; 2) the educational intervention programme *Learning to Be* ([Aprendiendo a Ser](#)) oriented towards the improvement of educational processes.

Youth work providers in the field of social inclusion for young people

As a summary, below are some examples of organizations and NGOs working in the field of youth social inclusion:

Organisation name	Target population
Youth Red Cross) Cruz Roja Juventud (Consortium of entities for social inclusion) CEFIS (Training and Social Intervention Institute) Instituto de Formación e Intervención Social (Immigrant support network (Red de apoyo social al inmigrante , Rasinet Intercultural Cazalla Associaton) Asociación Cazalla Intercultural (Association The Key) Asociación La Llave The Candil Collective) Colectivo El Candil The Phone of Hope) Teléfono de la Esperanza Spanish Afro-Aid Associatio) Asociación Afro Aid España European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless) FEANTSA España NGO Solidarity) Ong Solidarios Association Adapted Space) Areadaptada European Anti Poverty Network) EAPN Social Services and Social Work Institute) .Instituto de Trabajo Social y de Servicios Sociales NGO America Spain Solidarity and Cooperation) ONG AESCO (Social Defense Association Be-Human) Asociación Defensa Social Be-Human	Vulnerable people in general
Movement Against Intolerance) Movimiento contra la intolerancia (State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Trans and Bisexuals) FELGTB (Spanish LGBT youth confederation) COLEGAS (Triangle Youth Foundation) Fundación Triángulo Juventud (Women and Sexual Diversity
Immigrant Youth Association) AJI- ATIME (Migran
National Confederation of the Deaf Persons) CJS- CNSE Spanish Confederation of People with Physical and Organic Disabilities) COCEMFE Progressive Youth Unit of ONCE) Juventudes de Unidad Progresista de la ONCE Confederation of Don Bosco Youth Centers of Spain) Confederación Don Bosco Federation of Christian Entities dedicated to free time activities DIDANIA Spanish Youth Organization) Organización Juvenil Española ,OJE	People with disabilities

Roma Secretariat Foundation) [Fundacion Secretariado Gitano](#)(

Roma people

Source: [European Youth Portal](#) and [Informa Joven](#)

Public funding to training organizations comes primarily from the EU and its programmes:

- [Employment and Social Innovation 2014-2020](#)
- [Erasmus + 2014-2020](#)
- [Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020](#)
- [Justice programme 2014-2020](#)
- [Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme 2014-2020 \(REC\)](#)
- [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020 \(AMIF\)](#)

Training and support for youth workers engaged in social inclusion programmes

Reconoce Project (see also chapter 2.7 and 3.8)

With the support of the Youth Institute, the Reconoce Project ([Proyecto Reconoce](#)) is a project led by the Don Bosco Confederation ([Confederación de Centros Juveniles Don Bosco](#)) in collaboration with the Didania Federation ([Federación Didania](#)) and [ASDE Scouts of Spain](#). Its aims are to enhance the experience of volunteering in order to raise awareness among the business community and civil society about skills acquired by volunteering and to improve the employability of young people. Among its lines of action are: the implementation of a system of non-formal accreditation of voluntary action and the organisation of dialogue forums with administrations to implement official recognition of volunteer professional competencies.

Financial support

In the following table we can find the amounts and main financial sources of support to the youth organisations for programmes of social inclusion. Lastly, an example of a private funding programme is shown. The latter is residual compared to public funding.

Type of activities financed	Origin of funding	Program and amount of funding
The development of employment policies and social protection of vulnerable groups	Public– European Social Fund (ESF) - EU	Employment and Social Innovation 2014-2020: € 919,469,000
To receive volunteers from other countries, exchange knowledge with youth organisations from other countries, promote projects for improvement and the development of training of social professionals	Public – European Social Fund (ESF) - EU	Erasmus + 2014-2020: 14,774.52mill€
To encourage participation of vulnerable groups in defining European policies and initiatives	Public – European Social Fund (ESF) - EU	Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020: € 185,468,000

To ensure access to justice for groups with third-sector entities of social action work (intellectual disability, victims of gender-based violence, drug addicts ...)	Public – European Social Fund (ESF) - EU	Justice programme 2014-2020: € 377,604,000
Protection of the most vulnerable groups	Public – European Social Fund (ESF) - EU	Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme 2014-2020 (REC): € 439,473,000
Improvement of socio-labour integration of migrants, management of interculturality, etc.	Public – European Social Fund (ESF) - EU	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020 (AMIF): € 385,000,000
To provide material assistance to the most needy. Assistance consists of food, clothing and other products for personal use, such as shoes, soap or shampoo. It must be accompanied by measures of social inclusion, such as guidance and support to remove these people from poverty.	Public – European Social Fund (ESF) - EU	Fondo de Ayuda Europea para los Más Necesitados (FEAD) 3.8billions€
Funding of 75% of the project for organisations presenting social and / or educational projects in the following lines of action: 1) Social harmony, mediation and diversity managing, 2) Social participation and enhancing of communities, 3) School success and family involvement in the educational process, 4) Preventing different forms of violence, 5) Promoting healthy habits and preventing addiction.	Private – Obra Social La Caixa	Proyecto Interculturalism & Social Cohesion € 75,000

Source: [Guía de Financiación Europea Programas Sociales 2014-2020](#)

Quality assurance

In the case of the [Youth Guarantee](#), the monitoring and evaluation of all actions and programmes within the plan is an intrinsic measure, both to be taken into account in the development of future plans and to ensure the efficient use of resources. The development of an information and management system is proposed to identify the beneficiaries of the plan, the resources used and the fulfilment of each of the action plans. For the evaluation of the plan, the Youth Guarantee system follows, among other things, the common assessment standards and indicators such as the ratio of youth unemployment rate to the general unemployment rate, the rate of young people who neither study nor work ([NEET](#)) and the percentage of long-term unemployed youth.

The Chavos Nebo Youth Network is part of the [Roma Secretariat Foundation](#) and as such, the actions contained in the project are evaluated following according the Foundation

[statutes](#). Thus, the development of the youth network is controlled by a computerised tool for monitoring the intervention called *Program Portal*, which provides access to information on programme interventions, participation results and beneficiaries. As regards budget control, since the Foundation's projects are funded both by the [European Social Fund](#) as well as by the Spanish Government, there is systematic monitoring of the application of expenditure by these public institutions.

In the case of Youth and Inclusion ([Jóvenes e inclusión](#)), there is no public material on the evaluation processes of the programmes developed by the institution.

4.8 Current debates and reforms

Currently the main issue under discussion regarding the social inclusion of young people is the need to design a 2017-2020 Action Plan, corresponding to the 2020 Youth Strategy.

At a parliamentary level in the Congress of Deputies during the XII legislature, the Popular Parliamentary Group requested the appearance of the representative of the Association of Youth and Social Inclusion (Asociación de Jóvenes e Inclusión Social) before the Committee on the Rights of Children and Adolescents to present proposals and suggestions to favour the inclusion of the youth at risk.

Beyond the updating of the plans for inclusion and the abovementioned parliamentary activity, there is no prospect in the future for the development of legislation related to the social inclusion of young people. The new National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion has kept this approach too.

As new challenges, while deepening the objectives already proposed in the plans, some points to consider are: · The inclusion of disadvantaged young people in the information society and communication to avoid social gaps that lead to economic gaps · Integration, cohesion and social and democratic participation. Channelling the political, social and cultural participation of youth · Meeting the demographic challenge. Reverting the aging trend of the population pyramid in Spain and favour the increase of the birth rate among young Spaniards · Strengthen the European identity of young Spaniards and their democratic spirit.

5. PARTICIPATION

The Youth Report in Spain 2020 ([Informe Juventud en España 2020](#)) from the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)) pointed out that the average participation rate of under-30s in different elections is 70%. According to the Sociological Research Institute (CIS) this participation is greater in general elections, followed by local and regional elections.

The Spanish Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España, CJE](#)) is the organization responsible for promoting the participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development of the State in a global environment. With the purpose of adapting the policies to the needs of those they are aimed towards, and following the Structured Dialogue ([Dialogo Estructurado](#)), an initiative launched by the European Union, the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda guarantees that representatives for youth and youth organisations actively participate in the design and application of policies and action plans for youth Employment and entrepreneurship.

Chapter 5.10 points at current debates and reforms in recent years such as the possibility of lowering the barrier of the legal age to 16 years old, so as to match it with the age of criminal adulthood or the impact of social movements on participation.

5.1 General context

Main concepts

The Kingdom of Spain is divided into 17 Autonomous Regions and two Autonomous Cities, which enjoy a high degree of self-government. Spain is a Constitutional Monarchy ruled by the [Constitution of 1978](#) (CE in short). Its institutional structure follows the parliamentary model (Article 1.3CE), to which is added the existence of a Constitutional Court separate from the structure of the Administration of Justice. The territorial structure is typical of complex or federal territorial systems. Although at no time does the Constitution refer to the Spanish State as a federal state, the right to autonomy of the nationalities and regions of Spain is granted by the article 2.

The Head of State is hereditary, currently King Philip VI, occupied by the descendants of the Bourbon family, with patrilineal preference (Article 57CE). The current Head of State is King Philip VI. The Head of State has no effective political powers and all acts must be countersigned by the respective representatives of the different powers of the State (Article 64CE).

Executive power rests within the government, which is a body with collegial responsibility, composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, if any, and an indeterminate number of Ministers (Article 98 CE) that has varied throughout legislatures; between a maximum of 23 and a minimum of 15. In recent legislatures there has been a tendency to balance the executive on gender grounds, but there is no specific action aimed at the incorporation of young ministers. The government is the head of the Public Administration and directs and designs national and international policy (Article 97 CE).

The structure of the Administration of Justice is pyramidal and hierarchical, with the Supreme Court of Justice being at the top. This body is divided into different Chambers specialized by the type of matters that they attend. The members of the Supreme Court accede to it by merits at the end of their professional career, which is the reason why their average age is relatively high. Access to the judicial career is by public examination and the average age of people who pass it and become judges is 30 years.

The Spanish Parliament has the given name of [Cortes Generales](#). It is characterized by being an asymmetric two-chamber parliament (Ruiz Martínez, 2012). The Lower Chamber or [Congreso de los Diputados](#), has responsibility for almost all the totality of legislative functions and is, in any case, the final arbiter in cases of conflict with the Upper Chamber, called [Senado](#). In addition, the position of the President of the Government (Chief of the Executive) is voted only by the Congress of Deputies, without any participation of the Senate (Article 99 CE). The Senate is the chamber of territorial representation (Article 69.1 CE) although, in practice, it does not carry out any work as such.

Institutions of representative democracy

The Congress of Deputies houses a total of 350 deputies, who are elected in 52 electoral districts, which correspond to the provinces into which Spain is divided. Citizens vote via direct universal suffrage on closed and blocked lists, and the distribution of seats is done using a proportional distribution method based on the d'Hondt method (Article 68 CE and Organic Law of Electoral Regime ([LOREG](#))). The proportionality in the distribution ratio of the seats among the population is not exact and favours circumscriptions with lower populations.

The Senate has a variable number of members, although the average is around 260 senators, and they are chosen by means of a double procedure (Article 69 CE). On the one hand, a total of 208 senators are elected by direct universal suffrage by citizens, distributed into 59 electoral districts: the 47 peninsular provinces, the two cities of Ceuta and Melilla and ten insular territorial groups. The Spanish people vote through a majority system to a restricted number of senators that varies between one and three depending on the size of the constituency (Article 69.3-4 CE).

On the other hand, the parliaments of the Autonomous Regions (Comunidades Autónomas) elect one senator for each Autonomous Region plus one additional senator per million inhabitants of the respective Autonomous Region. Each Autonomous Region can decide the election formula of its respective senators.

The Congress of Deputies directly elects the President of the Government, in a first session by absolute majority or a later one by simple majority. Once the President of the government has been elected he chooses his Vice-Presidents and Ministers and forms his government without any obligation to give explanations to the lower chamber. In principle, any Spanish person over 18 years of age may hold the position of Vice-President or Minister although a person under 30 years old has never held the office of President, Vice-President or Minister. Very exceptionally, persons under 30 years old have held the position of Secretary of State (a position just below that of Minister, but not directly belonging to the Government (López, Ortega and Castillo, 2010).

The Autonomous Regions are each governed by their own Statute of Self-Government. All replicate the structure of the division of powers of the Central State. Each has its own Parliament, Government and Higher Court of Justice. The autonomous parliaments are in practice a replica of the Congress of Deputies: their functions and their internal organization are similar to those of the Lower Chamber. The Governments and Autonomous Administrations are structured and behave similarly to the Central Government. Meanwhile, the High Courts of Justice of the Autonomous Communities are the highest places in which to understand issues related to autonomic powers.

Each autonomous parliament retains full legislative powers. The autonomous parliaments are all one-chamber and their size depends on the population of each Autonomous Community, ranging from the 33 deputies of the parliament of La Rioja to the 135 of the parliament of Catalonia. The autonomous parliaments each receive their own name, according to the historical tradition and language of each territory and its members are elected by a proportional system of direct election similar to that of the Congress of Deputies, although in some territories there are small differences.

The third level of self-government in Spain is made up of local entities, which are of two types: municipal and supra-municipal. The first are the smaller territorial units with autonomous government capacity. In Spain there are more than 8,100 municipalities and their size varies from 3 inhabitants to the more than 3,100,000 inhabitants of the municipality of Madrid according to the National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, [INE](#)).

The self-governing body of the municipalities is called the Town Hall (*Ayuntamiento*). It is chosen by a proportional system of direct voting similar to that of the Congress of Deputies, by means of which a certain number of Councillors is selected that varies between three and 57 depending on the size of the population of each municipality (with the exception of those who have a small population and decide to govern in an assemblage way through an institution known as Open Council). The Councillors, in turn, choose between them by majority vote to the Mayor (*Alcalde*), who heads the City Council. In cases where no councillor obtains an absolute majority of votes, the councillor who heads the most voted list is automatically proclaimed Mayor.

A second group consists of territories of historical origin, known by the name of provinces, and their governing body is the Provincial Council. These bodies are composed of an assembly elected indirectly between and by the councillors of the municipalities that make up the province. Among them they choose the president of the Council. In the insular territories, there are no provincial councils but rather City Halls (called *Cabildos*) in the Canary Islands and *Consells* in the Balearic Islands. Each island has one of these institutions, chosen and functioning in a similar way to a provincial council.

At all territorial levels voting is a right but not an obligation. Therefore, electoral abstention is not punishable by law. The exercise of the right to vote is regulated by the Organic Law of Electoral Regime (Ley Orgánica de Régimen Electoral, [LOREG](#)), and it is possible to

exercise it either in person or remotely by mail. In the first case, it is carried out in polling stations where physical ballot papers are held in closed envelopes. Only in recent years has there been the possibility of voting through electronic procedures in computers enabled for this purpose in polling stations. It is also possible to vote in advance through the state postal service, which is responsible for collecting and depositing in each polling station. Spaniards who reside officially abroad can also vote in the corresponding consulates.

5.2 Youth participation in representative democracy

Young people as voters

In Spain, adulthood is fixed at 18 years (art 12 CE). Any Spaniard of legal age can exercise their right to active and passive suffrage under normal conditions. There is no restriction of being able to vote or to be a candidate for any public office of direct election other than to have reached the age of 18 (articles 2 and 6 of the Organic Law of Electoral Regime) and, if that is the case, not be convicted by a court of law of a temporary suspension of the right to vote.

This rule extends to all electoral processes in Spain, including any type of referendum. Therefore, any Spaniard can exercise their right to vote and be a candidate for public office once he or she has reached the age of 18. Unless a judicial sentence establishes so, all citizens can exercise their right to active and passive suffrage under the same legal conditions.

In addition, this rule applies in the same way to legal residents who does not have Spanish nationality but have resided in the country for a set amount of time and have registered in the electoral census in local elections and European elections. This is the case for citizens of the European Union and Third Country nationals with whom there is an international agreement of reciprocity with the Kingdom of Spain (Bolivia, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Ecuador, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago).

The rules are similar for processes of direct democracy. In Spain these processes only produce legal effects when they are carried out in the manner of a binding referendum and can affect the whole of the State to an Autonomous Region, depending on the subject which they deal with.

There are other types of citizen consultations of a more advisory or informative nature that have been carried out at regional level and at local level. In the latter case, some municipalities have extended the right to vote to citizens under 18 years of age, for example in Catalunya, where the minimum age for participating in processes of public participation (*procesos de participación ciudadana*) is 16 years old, as declared in the article 41 of the [Law 10/2014, of 26 September](#).

There is no legislation specifically designed to promote or encourage the participation of young people in electoral processes or direct participation.

For historical reasons, the Spanish legislation on the exercise of the vote is as a guarantor, protecting to the maximum the right of secret ballot. Consequently, it is impossible to know exactly the distribution of electoral participation by age or by any other criterion. Only aggregate participation/abstention results are made public, without any distinction being made among voters.

Participation data according to age is based on analysis of secondary data and therefore merely indicative. Such breakdowns are drawn from post-election polls conducted by the Sociological Research Institute (Centro de Investigación Sociológica, [CIS](#)) and estimate participation rates among respondents. Generally, it can be established that voter turnout is greater in general elections, followed by local and regional elections (when they occur at the same time) and European elections, with, frequently, the lowest turnout.

The Youth Report in Spain 2016 ([Informe Juventud en España 2016](#)) from the Youth Institute (Instituto de la Juventud, [INJUVE](#)) pointed out that the average participation rate of under-30s in different elections is 70%.

Young people as political representatives

There is no legislation specifically aimed at the situation of young people as members of political parties. In that sense, they are governed by the Political Parties Act ([Ley Orgánica de Partidos Políticos](#)), which treats all members of the parties equally, regardless of their age, and by the parties' own statutes. However, specific provisions on gender equality have been introduced in many political parties.

Most major parties have organically dependent youth organizations, which organize their internal management through their own statutes. The age limit for membership of these organizations and for their management positions is variable, sometimes exceeding an upper age limit 30 years old, and has been adapted to internal problems outside general rules.

Two main organizations are linked to the two main political parties in Spain. The Popular Party (Partido Popular, [PP](#)) has an organization known as [Nuevas Generaciones](#) (New Generations), which has more than 55,000 members, and the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (Partido Socialista Obrero Español, [PSOE](#)) has a youth section called Socialist Spanish Youth ([Juventudes Socialistas de España](#)), with more than 20,000 members.

There are no positive discrimination measures aimed at securing elected positions for youth at any level of government or representative state, regional or local institution. Any citizen with the right to vote can exercise this both as a voter and as a candidate from the day he/she turns 18 years old.

The average age of deputies in Congress is 47.7 years of age in the current legislature, very similar to the average age of voters in Spain, 48 years old. But only 11 of the 350 deputies had not yet reached the age of 30 at the time of their election. By political party, the youngest deputies are from [Podemos](#), with an average of 42 years old, followed by [Ciudadanos](#), with 45. The party with the highest average age is the Nationalist Basque Party (Partido Nacionalista Vasco, [PNV](#)), at 57 years of age, followed by Popular Party and Republican Left of Catalonia (Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya, [ERC](#)), at 52 years old; PSOE stays close with 49 years of age.

There is no direct reservation of any specific functions relating to political representatives under the 30 years old in any parliamentary body.

5.3 Youth representation bodies

Youth parliament

In the Chartered Community of Navarre there is the [Youth Parliament of Navarre](#), a pioneering participation project for young people that was created by the Youth Council of Navarre and the Parliament of Navarre.

It works in the following way: 30 representatives are elected through elections in which any young person between 14 and 30 years of age residing in the Chartered Community of Navarre can vote. In order to take decisions, the Youth Parliament meets in plenary session at least once a month to deal with different issues:

- Proposals, which when approved are automatically transferred to the Parliament of Navarre
- Statements or opinions, for the opinion of the Youth Parliament of Navarre
- Ordinary discussions, which may evolve into a proposal, or an opinion

The Youth Parliament of Navarre uses the methodology of the Structured Dialogue making it possible to use an instrument of co-decision between the Parliament of Navarre and the youth of the region using a totally different format to that of the Structured Dialogue Cycle.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

In Spain, the organization responsible for promoting the participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development of the State in a global environment is the Spanish Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España, CJE](#)). Its objective is to transfer the proposals, claims and complaints that arise within the Council to the Administration, social agents and the media in order to respond to the problems, concerns and aspirations of youth, with a view to improving their quality of life.

The Spanish Youth Council has a General Assembly that gathers together representatives of all the member entities every two years to establish lines of action for reviewing the work carried out during the period between Assemblies, approval of the economic balance and the budget, study and discussion of documents prepared by the Specialized Commissions and the election of members of the Permanent Commission.

The Executive Assembly is the body responsible for developing the agreements of the Assembly. It meets on an ordinary basis twice a year and on an extraordinary basis when requested by a third of the member entities or at the proposal of the Permanent Commission.

The Permanent Commission is the body responsible for executing the agreements of the General Assembly and of the Executive Assembly, assuming the representation of the Council. Among its functions, it is worth mentioning its work in tandem with the Specialized Commissions and the working groups established by the Assembly, as well as the representation of the Spanish Youth Council in the institutions and organizations with which they maintain or initiate relations. The Permanent Commission is composed of nine youth representatives from various entities of the Council. All members of the Permanent Commission must be under 31 years of age when taking office.

The six Specialized Commissions (Socio-economics, Participation and Associative Promotion, Integral Education, Rights and Equal Opportunities, External Relations and Institutional Development and International Relations) are responsible for preparing the documents and proposals for concrete actions that serve as the basis for the decisions of the Council.

The CJE is an autonomous agency attached to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, and it is financed by the State budgets. [The budget for 2021](#) of around 45 million Euros.

Higher education student union(s)

In Spain the existence of student unions is not regarded by law as separate from that of other type of associations, which is the reason why its juridical situation is similar to any other union organisation that acts in defence of certain collective interests. However, there are various dedicated associations that are responsible for student representation and organization.

The Coordinator of Representatives of Students of Public Universities ([Coordinadora de Representantes de Estudiantes de Universidades Públicas, CREUP](#)), is the main association of this type. It brings together 21 student organizations representing public universities. Through its members, it represents more than 900,000 students, constituting a forum for discussion between representatives. The main regulation on which it bases its activities is the Statute of the University Student ([Estatuto del Estudiante Universitario](#)).

The Coordinator of Representatives works for the defence of the rights of university students, promoting their participation in decision-making, as well as being the main link between students and academic decision-making bodies such as the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities ([Conferencia de Rectores de Universidades Españolas, CRUE](#)), the

University Network of Student Affairs ([Red Universitaria de Asuntos Estudiantiles \(RUNAE\)](#)), the Universia Foundation ([Fundación Universia](#)) or the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities

The funding of student organizations is carried out through different types of public aid granted by the different administrations in all the territorial areas.

School student union(s)

The Student Union ([Sindicato de Estudiantes](#)) is the student organization in charge of the representation and defence of students of secondary education, baccalaureate, professional training and university; both public and private or concerted centres. Founded in 1986, it maintains a representation in the School Council of the State ([Consejo Escolar del Estado](#)) with three out of eight student delegates.

Its legal situation is completely informal, since a student union is not regulated. However, this organization bases its existence on the modification made by the First Final Provision in the Organic Law 2/2006, of May 3, on Education ([Ley Orgánica 2/2006, de 3 de mayo, de Educación](#))) and the article 7 of the Organic Law 8/1985 ([Ley Orgánica 8/1985](#)), which established the freedom of associations as a students' right. It has a State Executive Commission and various local [structures](#). Their demands are centred on improving the quality of public education, recognizing the right to strike of middle school students, defending the secularity of education and abolishing university entrance examinations.

As in the case of university student organizations, financing is made through different types of public aid.

Other bodies

There are no other organisations that can be highlighted because of their limited capacity to act and support citizens.

5.4 Young people's participation in policy-making

Formal Mechanisms of Consultation

In Spain there is a type of consultation called Structured Dialogue ([Dialogo Estructurado](#)), an initiative launched by the European, with the purpose of serving as a forum for joint reflection on priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field. This initiative involves regular consultation with young people and youth organisations at all levels in EU countries. It also promotes dialogue between youth representatives and policymakers at youth conferences organised by the Member States holding the Presidency of the EU during European Youth Week.

With the purpose of adapting the policies to the needs of those they are aimed towards, the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)) guarantees that representatives for youth and youth organisations actively participate in the design and application of policies and action plans for youth Employment and entrepreneurship.

The European Youth Strategy establishes Structured Dialogue between youth and people responsible for youth policies within the member states, which entails the development of regular enquiries with youth and their representatives in advisory bodies and youth organisations at all levels. In Spain this structured dialogue takes place within the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Youth (Comisión Interministerial para la Juventud); special attention to proposals and initiatives made by the Youth Council of Spain are among its tasks.

The Spanish Youth Council is the main body advising public officials on the process of elaborating policies related to youth. It binds together a total of 76 youth entities and it is

made out of the Autonomous Regions Youth Councils as well as the national youth organisations.

The Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment 2013-2016 is the result of these mechanisms of participation, enquiry and dialogue with social partners and youth. This strategy includes 100 measures, with the final purpose of making access for youth to the labour market easier by means of recruitment or self-employment.

[Structured Dialogue](#), focuses on a general theme (established by Council of Youth Ministers) during each of its 18-month work cycles. The working method is one of conducting a consultation between young people and youth organisations in each of the Member States.

These States are the ones who organise and guarantee the participatory process of the national working groups, in which, among others, the following are included:

- Representatives of the Youth Ministries (representatives of the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda – [Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#))
- National youth councils (representatives of the Spanish Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España](#)) and the Institute of Youth ([Instituto de la Juventud](#))).
- Local and regional youth councils,
- Youth organizations,
- Young people from different fields,
- Youth researchers.

In regards to the possibility of participation of youth volunteers in the process of elaboration and design of the strategy or the public policies referred to volunteering, one single process was opened in year 2012 making collaboration with NGOs of social action possible through a questionnaire designed *ad hoc*.

Actors

The main collective actors representing young people are those covered in previous sections. There are no other institutional actors other than those already mentioned.

Specifically targeted public policies for youth are carried out at two different levels, as discussed in chapter one. The general coordination of information for analysing and designing such policies takes place from the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)). But competences in the field of youth are in the hands of the Autonomous Communities and the respective councils that understand this matter are the ones in charge of carrying out the greater part of the implantation, monitoring and evaluation of public youth policies.

The Youth Institute is the central government body responsible for youth policies at the state level in 1977. Therefore, it maintains the status of national reference point in dialogue with the other ministerial departments and economic and social agents, with the autonomous communities, municipalities and youth associations. Moreover, the Youth Institute has guaranteed its presence at state level through its lines of research, materials, information, national and European programmes, international resources, examples of good practice and pilot initiatives.

Information on the extent of youth participation

The participants must be young people between the ages of 13 and 30 years old, resident in the countries involved in the project, with 60 spaces available per country. Spain is governed in this area by the [Resolution](#) of the EU Council on the format of political participation of young people in democratic life.

Outcomes

Recommendations are proposed by each country at a European Conference with representatives of all national consultations together with those responsible for governmental affairs in the youth field. After this stage, the results of the [Structured Dialogue](#) are made available to the European Commission to develop measures to improve various aspects of Youth Policy in the European Union.

Large-scale initiatives for dialogue or debate between public institutions and young people

In Spain, the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, [CJE](#)) is the agency responsible for dialogue with public authorities and state institutions, in addition to participating in the design of policies that directly or indirectly affect young people and the presentation of alternatives to the problems of this group. Initiatives for dialogue between public administrations and young Spanish people find their interlocutor in the associations integrated in the CJE.

5.5 National strategy to increase youth participation

Existence of a national strategy to increase young people's political and civil society participation

In Spain, the National Strategy to increase the political participation of Spanish youth is contained within the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)), whose reference period refers to the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#). This Strategy, approved in September 2014, covers the different actions of different ministerial departments that affect young people in education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, health, leisure and sports, participation, volunteering, coexistence and inclusion, as stated in previous chapters (see 1.3).

The action plans of the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) which cover the period 2014-2020, are public policy programmes that contain a wide range of legislative actions that may affect different types of ministerial laws and regulations, depending on their objectives.

Scope and contents

The objectives of the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) with regard to the political participation of young people are raised in Strategic Axis 5, responsible for developing the points regarding participation, volunteering, inclusion and equality. In this respect, the objectives to be achieved are summarized in the following points:

- Strengthening the channels and tools to increase the participation and voluntary work of young associates and non-partners, especially those linked to ICT.
- Fighting against social exclusion among the most disadvantaged sectors of the youth population.
- Promotion of equality.

In the framework of promotion of participation, measures to finance the structure and maintenance of youth and third sector entities stand out. This objective is also linked to the granting of the Youth Institute General Scheme Grants, those destined for youth associations or entities that provide services to the youth, as a result of the call for IRPF grants.

The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Youth Commission (Comisión Interministerial para la Juventud), which is chaired by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda](#)

2030). All Ministries, as well as the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, [CJE](#)), have participated in the preparation of the Action Plan.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

Given the complexity of territorial division of power in Spain, the authorities responsible for the implementation of the Strategy are multiple, either directly or subsidiarily. On one hand, at state level we have the Youth Institute (INJUVE), which coordinates the activity, and the different ministries that are affected by the measures implemented. On the other, at the regional level, we have the different autonomous youth agencies and ministries obliged to implement the actions contained in the Strategy's design.

Finally, municipalities are also obliged to coordinate within the framework of intergovernmental relations, completing the implementation of the Strategy at all territorial levels. They are considered especially important because they are the territorial level closest to the citizen. Given the wide variety in size and resources of the different municipalities, the larger ones will develop their own activities and provide their own services. But the smaller ones resort to seeking the provision of services in higher entities, such as provincial councils, including the insular councils called *Cabildos* (in Canary Islands) and *Consells* (in Balearic Islands).

Revisions/Updates

At the end of each year, it is the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)) who carries out a follow-up report on the actions performed, which serves as a basis for partially evaluating each Action Plan and stimulates the development of new measures. From this annual report, the Inter-Ministerial Youth Commission ([Comisión Interministerial para la Juventud](#)) will determine the incorporation of new actions proposed by the different Ministries.

In addition to these annual reports, the [INJUVE](#) releases numerous publications and reports with a large academic and scientific base that serve to improve the redesign of new public policy programmes in the youth field. Equally important are the reports and evaluations carried out by the various autonomous agencies for youth.

The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) is in force and pending review and updating.

5.6 Supporting youth organisations

Legal/policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations

In Spain, the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, [CJE](#)) has been the public institutional platform in charge of fostering the participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development of the State in a global environment since its creation in 1983. It is also responsible for promoting intergovernmental cooperation and coordination between the Central State and the Autonomous Communities in the promotion of youth associations.

Associationism is a fundamental right, recognized in the Spanish Constitution ([Constitución Española](#)) in Article 22 ([Artículo 22](#)). It is recognised legally by the Organic Law 1/2002, of 22 March, regulating the Right of Association ([Ley Orgánica 1/2002, de 22 de marzo, reguladora del Derecho de Asociación](#)) and the Royal Decree 1497/2003 of November 28, which approves the Regulation of the National Registry of Associations and its relationships with the other registries of associations ([Real Decreto 1497/2003, de 28 de noviembre](#)). In the specific case of youth associationism, it has also been under the Decree 397/1988, of April 22, regulating the registration of Youth Associations ([Real Decreto 397/1988, de 22 de abril, por el que se regula la inscripción registral de Asociaciones juveniles](#)). However, because of the constitutional nature of the Autonomous State and the division

of powers, each Autonomous Community can develop its own rules regarding youth associations.

Public financial support

With regard to the programmes, the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) brings together in its Strategic Axis 5 on Participation, Volunteering, Inclusion and Equality, the objective of enhancing the channels and tools to increase the participation and voluntary work of young associates and non-associates, especially those linked to ICT. For Strategic Axis 5, a budget of € 11,147,798.21 has been earmarked in 2014 and € 11,216,028.21 in 2015, as set out in the Strategy itself, as developed in chapter 1.7.

The Youth Institute (INJUVE) calls for the granting of subsidies for the maintenance, operation and equipping of youth associations, youth organisations and for those entities that provide services to youth at state level. At sub-state level, the Autonomous regions have their own agencies for youth, while, at local level, the council of youth are the ones in charge of granting public aid for those same objectives.

Initiatives to increase the diversity of participants

The actions carried out by the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, [CJE](#)) include offering spaces for reflection, joint work, training, dialogue with public authorities and State institutions, and carrying out the systematisation of the experience of the organised youth movement, opening new channels and channels of action.

In this way, the Spanish Youth Council establishes as a general objective of any youth association the construction of citizenship, linked to the will of change and social transformation that accompanies the associative movement from its beginnings. In recent years it has made great effort to support and assist in the coordination of the activities carried out by a group of associations focused on the struggle to achieve the social inclusion of marginalised groups.

The Spanish Youth Council stands out for having among its objectives the promotion of the association of immigrant youth, favouring the creation of associations and generating the necessary mechanisms for integration in existing associations. To this end, it carries out the Citizenship and Immigration Meetings ([Encuentros de Ciudadanía e Inmigración](#)), a space for reflection about the migratory reality and the possibilities that the youth organisations have to favour integration and intercultural coexistence.

5.7 “Learning to participate” through formal, non-formal and informal learning

Policy Framework

In Spain there is no national strategy that has as its sole objective the development of the social and civic competences of Spanish youth, but rather in the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)). Also, in the Organic Law 8/2013, of December 9 for the improvement of educational quality (Ley Orgánica 8/2013, de 9 de diciembre para la mejora de la calidad educativa, [LOMCE](#)), measures are included aimed at the development of these competences in young people in a transversal way.

Formal learning

The [LOMCE](#) has the subject 'Social and Civic Values', directed towards courses in primary education, and 'Ethical Values' directed at secondary education courses. The [LOMCE](#) gives parents the possibility to choose between this subject and the subject of Religion to complete the civic formation of the student. Both subjects are two hours a week in school timetables.

Among the objectives set out in the basic curriculum of primary education ([Currículo básico de la Educación Primaria](#)) in reference to civic values, the following stand out:

1. To know and appreciate the values and norms of coexistence, and learning to act in accordance with them, preparing for the active exercise of citizenship and respect for human rights, as well as the pluralism of democratic society (7.a).
2. To know, understand and respect different cultures and differences between people, equal rights and opportunities for men and women and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities (7.d).
3. To develop their affective capacities in all areas of personality and in their relationships with others, as well as an attitude contrary to violence, prejudices of any kind and sexist stereotypes (7.m).
4. To encourage highway education and attitudes of respect that promote the prevention of traffic accidents (7.n).

Non-formal and informal learning

The structures for non-regulated learning aimed at youth are very underdeveloped in Spain. They focus on activities related to sports and the arts or religion. The Spanish Youth Council acts as a collector of information related to all these activities.

With regard to the participation of students in participatory structures, the Organic Law 8/2013 ([LOMCE](#)) in article 62 leaves the prerogative to favour the participation of students in the operation of centres, through its group and course delegates, as well as with their representatives in the School Council within educational Administrations.

Despite the lack of a specific policy dedicated to this issue at national level that encourages youth participation, there are formal and informal relationships between the various agencies that act in the youth field, both at state and local levels, to promote this participation whose ultimate objective is the creation of a participatory youth culture in the heart of Spanish society.

There are some informal proposals to promote the learning of social and civic competences in Spain. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation ([Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación](#)) carries out the 2015 Ideas to Change the World (2015 [Ideas para cambiar el mundo](#)) campaign, an initiative of the Federation of workers of public services ([FeSP-UGT](#)), with the funding of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development ([AECID](#)), which aims to approach in a dynamic and participatory manner the Developmental Education for students at the levels of elementary, primary and secondary.

At the local level, various populations (such as Madrid) promote the activity of a Municipal Children's Plenary, which promotes the learning of patterns of democratic coexistence among the youngest.

Quality assurance/quality guidelines for non-formal learning

There are no measures in this regard in the absence of a reference programme or strategy.

Educators' support

Currently there are no official initiatives in this regard, only some university manuals on the subject and some private blogs led by teachers to teachers with advice on education and plans proposals.

5.8 Raising political awareness among young people

Information providers / counselling structures

The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional](#)) is the responsible public authority in matters of awareness and participation of Spanish youth in politics. It performs its function through the Organic Law 8/2013 ([LOMCE](#)).

This Organic Law contains the [Recommendation \(2002\) 12 of the Committee of Ministers of the Europe Council to Member States on Education for Democratic Citizenship](#), of October 16, 2002, which calls on the governments of the Member States to make education for democratic citizenship a priority objective of education policy and its reforms, favouring and supporting all those initiatives that promote education for democratic citizenship between Member States.

In this sense, the preparation of students for the exercise of citizenship and for active participation in economic, social and cultural life, with a critical and responsible attitude and adaptability to the changing situations of the information society is considered one of the objectives of the Spanish Educational System.

In its mission, The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional](#)) through the Organic Law 8/1985, of July 3, regulating the Right to Education ([Ley Orgánica 8/1985, de 3 de julio, reguladora del Derecho a la Educación](#)) has developed mechanisms guaranteeing the participation of parents, teachers and students in the control and management of educational centres through the school councils.

The School Council is the collegiate governing body of schools. It represents all sectors of the educational community: faculty, students, families and administration personnel and services. All of them participate in making relevant decisions, such as the school's educational remit, the criteria for admission of students or the annual general programme.

There are also various organizations dedicated to youth such as the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)), attached to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)), and the Spanish Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España, CJE](#)).

Youth-targeted information campaigns about democratic rights and democratic values

The Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, [CJE](#)) launched in 2011, on the occasion of the holding of the regional and municipal elections of May 22, the campaign "I know why" ("[Yoséporque \(Yoséxq\)](#)") in social networks, in order to promote the civic participation of young people and to foment reflection on the attitude that they take before the electoral event. Aimed at young people between 18 and 30 years old, it aimed to reduce the degree of political apathy among Spanish youth.

In February 2014, the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, [CJE](#)), taking as a reference point the proposals approved by the [European Youth Forum](#) at its November 2013 assembly, gathered in a [report](#) the new proposals that the youth organization members of the Council ratified in their executive assembly to present to the different political parties participating in the European elections of 2014.

These proposals call for a new European pact in which youth participation is improved. It defends the increase in the number of young candidates in national and European political parties, including representatives elected by the European Youth Forum in the delegations of the European Union. Participation is encouraged by promoting youth associations and lowering the voting age in the European Parliament elections to 16, among other demands.

The [Structured Dialogue](#) initiative has also addressed the issue of the political participation of young Europeans in their V cycle of work, advocating in their [conclusions](#) for greater involvement of all institutional actors to make this happen.

Promoting the intercultural dialogue among young people

With regard to promoting dialogue between young people, both the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)) and the Youth Council ([CJE](#)) have launched various initiatives to promote the political participation of young people. To achieve this, they have focused on the associative field, a cornerstone of social participation among Spanish youth. The efforts of

both agencies are found in this area, putting the focus on young migrants and their problems before associationism.

Promoting transparent and youth-tailored public communication

In Spain there is a law on transparency, the Law 19/2013, of December 9, relating to access to public information and good governance ([Ley 19/2013](#)), which specifies what information must be published by Public Administrations for the knowledge of citizens, how citizens can ask for information from Administrations and what the rules of Good Governance are that must be respected by public officials.

In order to increase the transparency of the Government's actions, the Spanish Government Transparency Portal ([Portal de la Transparencia del Gobierno de España](#)) was created. It is a platform dependent on the Ministry of the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Democratic Memory ([Ministerio de Presidencia, Relaciones con las Cortes y Memoria Democrática](#)), through which there is access to all information whose knowledge is relevant to ensuring transparency in institutional activity related to the operation and control of public action.

Both the Law and the Portal are of a general nature. There is no additional provision exclusively affecting the field of youth.

5.9 E-participation

In 2014, a project of multilateral cooperation in youth policy for debate, knowledge and the promotion of e-participation in political and social life by young people was presented to society through the Internet, new media and digital networks. It was framed in the YOUTH PART in which the Institute of Youth ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)) is the agency in charge of the development of the measures in our country. This project presented a [guide](#) with the necessary measures to develop a youth e-participation plan.

The [No Hate](#) Campaign, convened by the Council of Europe in 2014 against hate speech on the Internet, aims to mobilize citizens, especially young people, to debate, act together in defence of human rights and fight against any form of intolerance on the Internet. In Spain, the Campaign is in charge of the Institute of Youth ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)) as an agency of the General State Administration specialized in youth and in promoting youth participation.

The Youth Secretariat of Workers' Commissioners ([Secretaría de Juventud de Comisiones Obreras, CCOO](#)), together with the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, [CJE](#)), launched in 2004 a [campaign](#) on social networks to promote youth affiliation and participation in class unions aimed at tackling job scarcity. This campaign under the motto 'Let no one fool you! Work for what's fair!' is intended to be a wake-up call to Spanish youth to encourage young people to participate in a wide range of consultation and decision-making spaces in union organizations and encourage them to join in daily union action.

The [campaign](#) of 2016, under the hashtag #DoNotResignYourselfOrganise (#NoTeResignesOrganízate), aims to draw the attention of young people to the phenomenon of precarious work, while urging them to combat resignation around this phenomenon by organizing unions to defend their rights.

The [European Youth Forum](#), the platform of youth organizations in Europe, has as its mission the promotion of the participation of European youth and the improvement of the living conditions of young people in society. To this end, it establishes a [work plan](#) of a bi-annual nature with the objectives to be covered during said period.

In the area of participation, it stands out in its commitment to support the development of political participation among young Europeans, calling for [campaigns](#) to lower the legal age to vote to 16 or promoting [respect](#) for fundamental freedoms and human rights

through various activities and campaigns in social networks in collaboration with the Europe Council.

5.10 Current debates and reforms

In recent years, debate has opened up on the possibility of lowering the barrier of the legal age to 16 years old, so as to match it with the age of criminal adulthood. However, this is a debate that has not produced any kind of legislative initiative so far and does not appear clearly in the agendas of the main political parties, with the exception of some independent parties that find strong support among the young people of this age group.

The [15-M movement](#) has also had certain effects on the participation of young people in the political sphere. Since its inception, there has been an increase in the participation of young people in political activity, especially on social networks, from where the movement originated in the first place. This activity has been often criticised for not complying with the law, which has opened the debate on the need to enact new laws that prevent the criminal use of social networks. Some online activity by youngsters even resulted in detention and trials under the so-called Araña Operation ([Operación Araña](#)), as it was considered acts of exaltation of terrorism.

On 21 October 2020, the Senate rejected a reform of the electoral law proposed by ERC to lower the voting age to 16, which was rejected by 224 votes to 26, with 13 abstentions. The broad majority of the PSOE, PP and Citizens' Party prevented the bill from being considered, and it was only supported by 26 senators from EH Bildu, JxCAT and the Confederal Left group.

6. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Since the re-establishment of the Spanish Democracy, education policy has been crucial for the Spaniards as it is seen as the most effective tool for progress and formation of citizen. However, it has been in a constant debate too, as it has focused heavily in the structure of the education system imposing the views of the government in charge, making long-term trends – like high dropout rates - difficult to change.

The economic crisis and its impact on the Spanish production system has shown the need to influence education and skills training in the workforce. For this reason, it has become crucial to draft training routes that respond to the current needs of the country, to raise awareness of the importance of staying longer in training, and to ensure the development of young people and their potential as citizens.

The public policies that Spain plans and implements in education and training the youth, try to consider the need for training in new skills and to cope with the new digital scene. With Spain being a decentralized State, the educational powers are exerted mainly by the Autonomous Regions, while the State Administration coordinates and oversees educational policies.

6.1 General context

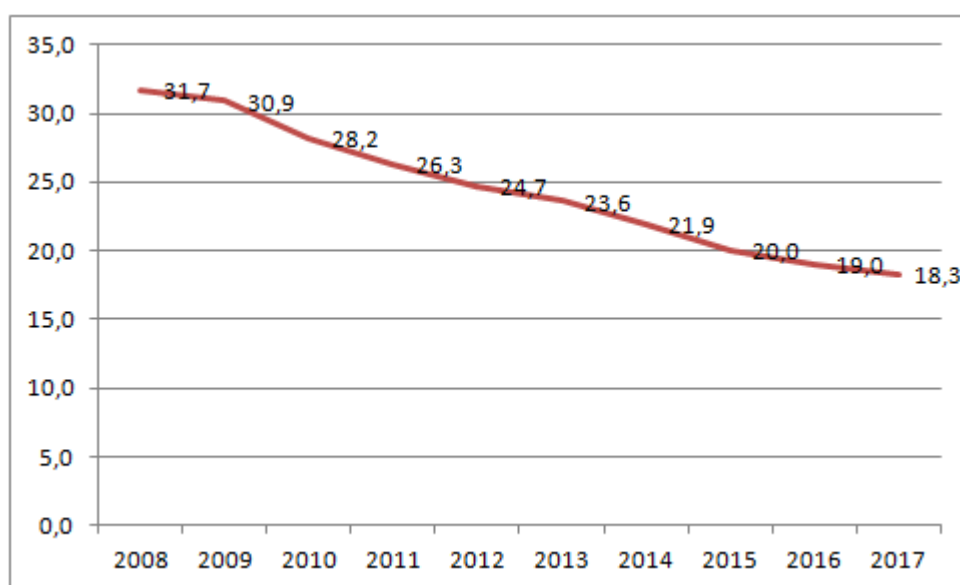
Main trends in young people's participation in education and training

After a period in which the participation of young people in education leading to higher education gradually declined, from the year 2009 onwards the percentage of the population between 25 and 29 years that reaches higher education has experienced an increase - as a result of the scarce labour demand in activities of low formative qualification requirements, such as the construction and tertiary activities.

This rate increased from 38% of young people in the aforementioned age range in 2009 to 42.1% in 2016. Among them, 12.6% have higher non-University education, while the remaining 29.4% have obtained some type of University degree or equivalent[1].

According to the National Statistical Institute from 2008, the year in which a peak of 31.7% was reached, the [school dropout rate](#) of those aged 18 to 24 -has declined significantly to 17.9% in 2018, which is still a high ratio considering that the average of the EU-28 is 10.6%[2]. The highest rates of school dropouts in 2018 are amongst foreign young people, either from another EU country (34.5%) or non-EU country (35.4%), while it remains 15.3% amongst those with Spanish nationality. [By sex](#) males are also more present with 21.8% while females are 14.5%. The Autonomous Regions ([Comunidades Autónomas \(CC.AA\)](#)) with a lower degree of economic development and those with a greater weight of the tertiary sector and tourism, are those that show [School Dropout Rates \(SDR\) above the national average](#). This is the case of the Balearic Islands, Melilla, Andalucía, Murcia or Castilla-La Mancha .

Graph 1 Early school dropout



Source: National Statistical Institute INE base

According to this same source ([Instituto Nacional de Estadística, INE](#)), [3] in 2018 up to 32.6% of young people between 18 and 24 do not have an education or only reach primary or secondary education-whether completed or unfinished- as the highest level of education. In the same age range, 50.4% of young people have a baccalaureate or medium-grade VET studies. Meanwhile, 17.1% have completed higher-grade VET or University studies (BA, Master, PhD).

Among young people from 25 to 34 years old, the percentage of people with lower education (0-2 ISCED) lowers to 32.3%, those with medium education (ISCED 3-4) lower to 23.4%, while those with higher education (ISCED 5-8) rise to 44.3%.

With regard to the international mobility of young people immersed in training and educational processes, the Survey on International Student Mobility ([Encuesta sobre Movilidad Internacional de los Estudiantes](#)) that collects data from 2014, shows how 6.7% of people between 18 and 34 years have moved to a foreign country at some point in their training period to perform part of their studies there. Meanwhile, more than one million of those young people, 11.9% of the total, have done language courses abroad [4].

In the academic year [2017/18](#), in Spain there was a total of 668,769 students with specific needs for educational support, which is 8.3% of the total. By type of studies, it is the Basic Vocational Training ([Formación Profesional Básica](#)) that gives a greater percentage of this

type of students with respect to the total (10.9%), followed by Vocational Training (VT) ([Formación Profesional FP](#)) of medium grade (2.4%), and Baccalaureate ([Bachillerato](#)) (1.3%). On the other hand, up to 17.1% of students from other training programs have specific needs for educational support. Finally, in Compulsory Secondary Education (CSE) ([Educación Secundaria Obligatoria \(ESO\)](#)) the figures reach 8.3% of the students[5].

The most numerous groups of students with specific educational support needs are, on the one hand, those whose special needs derive from some type of disability (auditory, motor, visual, intellectual, pervasive developmental disorders, serious behavior/personality disorders, or many impairments), and especially those encompassed in other categories (students with slow development, disorders in the development of language and communication, learning disorders, serious ignorance of the language of instruction, or situation of socio-educational disadvantage). Alongside these two main categories are the other groups of students, the smaller group (students with high intellectual capacities, and students with late integration into the Spanish educational system). The attention of all these special needs forms the category of inclusive education in the Spanish educational system, regulated by Ministerial Order[6].

Organisation of the education and training system

The Spanish educational system is structured in different levels of teaching: Children´s Education (*ISCED 0*) ([Educación Infantil](#)), Primary Education (*ISCED 1*) ([Educación Primaria](#)), Compulsory Secondary Education (CSE) (*ISCED 2*), Baccalaureate (*ISCED 3*), Vocational Training (*ISCED 4 and 5*), University Studies ([Enseñanzas Universitarias](#)) (*ISCED 6, 7 and 8*), as well as Adult education ([Formación de adultos](#))[7], and Specialised Education Systems [Enseñanzas de Régimen Especial](#)[8].

Compulsory formal education in Spain starts with 6 years and ends at 16, after completing the Compulsory Secondary Education (CSE) studies. As far as the educational cycles for the young population are concerned, the baccalaureate is between the ages of 16 and 18 while university education begins at 18[9]. Specialised Education is accessed from the age of 18 in the case of sports education, there being no age limit on the rest (artistic education, language studies, and adult training or lifelong learning).

Vocational Training comprises a set of educational cycles that constitute basic vocational training, medium-grade vocational training and higher grade vocational training. Basic vocational training can be started between the ages of 15 and 17, being necessary to have exceeded the first cycle of CSE[10], while to access the medium grade vocational training it is necessary to be in possession of graduate degree in CSE (Compulsory Secondary Education)[11]. To enter the highest grade of vocational training, a Baccalaureate is required. Basic vocational training leads to the basic Professional title, which allows access to medium-grade vocational training[12]. For its part, the completion of the medium grade vocational training leads to the degree of Technician and the higher degree to the higher technician, indicating in both cases the specialty.

About the University, after the adaptation to the European Space of Higher Education ([Espacio Europeo de Educación Superior](#)), university education is divided into three cycles: Degree, Master, and Doctorate. Meanwhile, specialised education has their own organisation[13].

Main concepts

Educational cycle (Ciclo educativo): Set of lessons, of modular nature and variable duration, in which the Vocational Training in the Educational System and some of the Specialised Education (artistic education and sports education) is organised.

Technician Degree (Grado técnico): Professional qualification obtained after successfully completing Vocational Training and some Specialised Education. Although its main objective is qualification for the working world, both qualifications enable the continuation of other studies. The Technician degree allows access to the Baccalaureate or higher Vocational Training after having passed a specific training course, and the Senior

Technician enables study at degree courses related to the studies of Vocational Training courses.

Professional module (Módulo profesional): It is the minimum unit of contents that are creditable in Vocational Training, whose satisfactory evaluation leads to obtaining the Vocational Training qualifications in the Educational System and to the Professional Certificates.

Professional Qualification (Cualificación profesional): Set of professional competencies with relevance in the employment that can be acquired through modular training or other types of training, as well as through work experience, as set in the Organic Law 5/2002 on Qualifications and Vocational training (Ley Orgánica 5/2002, de 19 de junio, de las Cualificaciones y de la Formación Profesional).

Curriculum (Currículo): Based on the definition made in the Education Law ([Ley Orgánica 2/2006, de 3 de mayo, de Educación](#)), it is a set of objectives, basic competencies, contents, pedagogical methods and evaluation criteria.

[1] Labour Force Survey ([Encuesta de Población Activa](#)), National Statistics Institute ([Instituto Nacional de Estadística \(INE\)](#)).

[2] Quality of Life Indicators ([Indicadores de Calidad de Vida](#)), National Statistics Institute ([Instituto Nacional de Estadística \(INE\)](#)).

[3] The Survey on the participation of the adult population in learning activities (EADE), is the implantation in Spain of the European project AdultEducationSurvey, coordinated by Eurostat. The objective of the survey is to learn about the training and learning activities carried out by the adult population in learning throughout life. The survey provides national and regional results, with tables on participation in learning activities, their difficulties, the search for information on learning possibilities, language and computer skills, and cultural participation.

[4] The survey on international student mobility, carried out for the first time in 2014, is part of a pilot research project of the European Union which aims to evaluate the international mobility of young people, for reasons of studying or training, in the different stages of formal education, from the first stage of secondary education to doctoral studies.

[5] [Non-university education. Student body with specific need for educational support. Academic year 2015-2016.](#)

[6] [Ministerial Order EDU/849/2010, of 18 March, for the regulation of the education for students needing educational support.](#)

[7] [LEARN website, Lifelong learning.](#)

[8] This denomination includes Language education, Sports education, and Artistic education, including Music, Dance, Dramatic Art, plastic arts and design, and restoration of cultural property.

[9] Those students born in a month after the start of the academic year start University at the age of 17.

[10] Exceptionally it can be accessed after having taken Second course of CSE.

[11] From the academic year 2016/2017 you can access these with the new Basic Professional Title ([Título Profesional Básico](#)).

[12] Completing the basic vocational training gives a level of qualification 1 ([Nivel de Cualificación 1](#)).

[13] About the organization and structure of the Spanish educational system, seeing the provisions of [Eurydice](#).

6.2 Administration and governance

Governance

- Main actors: From the Spanish Constitution of 1978 ([Constitución Española de 1978](#)), a decentralized state is set up in which education is one of the powers transferred to the regional level on the basis of a scheme of powers shared between the national administration, through the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional](#)), and the administrations of the Autonomous Regions, through their ministries or departments of education.
- General distribution of responsibilities: The ministry implements the general guidelines defined by the Government in the field of education and regulates the basic aspects of the educational system such as the organisation of the different training levels, as well as its objectives, principles and legal framework. For its part, the Autonomous Communities develop the state standards and exercise full powers in the management of the educational system in their territorial area of action[1]. The definition of the contents and subjects to impart are defined only in part by the ministry, with the Autonomous Communities having a special role in the determination of the contents[2]. Local administrations can offer additional education and training activities to the provisions of the official curricula of the education system[3]. Finally, the educational centers have limited autonomy in the elaboration of their educational projects, and practically total autonomy in terms of the pedagogy, the economic management of their resources, and the establishment of their organization and operating rules[4].

Cross-sectorial cooperation

The guidelines of the national educational policies are discussed and decided at the Sectoral Conference of Education ([Conferencia Sectorial de Educación](#)) comprising the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training whose head serves as President, and the 17 Autonomous Regions, represented by their Education Counselors[5]. The Conference is structured into 6 thematic committees coordinated by the General Education Commission. These commissions function as bodies of permanent cooperation and the general directors responsible for the different subjects participate in their respective autonomous regions[6].

For its part, the [State School Council](#) is the participation body of the sectors most directly related to the educational sector[7]. Its scope of action is national and develops consultative and advisory works for the Government on all issues related to the education system[8]. The Council integrates the Autonomous School Boards ([Consejos Escolares Autonómicos](#)).

With regard to the University as part of the educational system, the Council of Universities, a dependent body of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, is an instrument for academic coordination, cooperation, consultation and proposal in university matters of the different Spanish universities. It is formed by the Minister of Education, who chairs it, and by the rectors of the universities as spokespeople. They amount to five chair people appointed by the Minister according to their relevance in the university sector. Also in the university sphere, the Conference of Spanish Universities Rectors ([Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas \(CRUE\)](#)), the main interlocutor of the universities with the government, has a special role. The CRUE oversees the regulatory developments affecting higher education, it promotes relations with the productive and social fabric, and promotes institutional relations between universities, both Spanish and foreign.

In terms of vocational training, the Regional Councils for vocational training are consultative and advisory boards for vocational training. To that end, they issue opinions and guidelines regarding VT design and programming, they coordinate with the School Council of the region as well as the University Council, they define their participation in the National System of Qualifications and Professional Training ([Sistema Nacional de Cualificaciones y Formación Profesional](#)), and they draw up VT's plans[9]. With regard to

the Higher Artistic Teachings, the Board of Governors for Higher Arts Studies ([Consejo Superior de Enseñanzas Artísticas \(CSEA\)](#)), is an advisory body of the state administration which articulates the participation of the sectors related to the artistic teachings, it advises the Government and proposals are made for the development of the artistic teachings.

Moreover, the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education ([SEPIE](#)), dependent from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, is in charge of the management, dissemination, promotion, and impact studies of the Erasmus Program+ (2014-2020) in the field of Education and Training. At the institutional level, the SEPIE collaborates with the regional governments and universities, highlighting its direct link with the Offices of International Relations (ORIs), with which student networks maintain a continuous cooperation.

[1] [Eurydice: Administration and Governance at Central and/or Regional Level.](#)

[2] The subject of debate is, as we will see in point 6.10 of this Chapter on current Debates and reforms.

[3] The training curricula are developed cooperatively between the Ministry and the Departments of education of the regions through the cross-sectional cooperation bodies.

[4] [Eurydice: Administration and Governance at Local and/or Institutional Level.](#)

[5] The educational powers in the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla are assumed by the Ministry as a whole.

[6] On certain occasions, the Minister organises rounds of meetings held with the Counselors individually, but no decisions are made in them.

[7] For their operation see: [Functioning & organization of the State School Council.](#)

[8] The State School Board was created in 1985 through the [Organic Law regulating the right to education.](#)

[9] See examples of Regional Councils for vocational training: [Community of Madrid Council for Vocational Training](#), and [INCUAM \(Institute of Qualifications of the region of Murcia\)](#).

6.3 Preventing early leaving from education and training (ELET)

National strategy

The first of the national initiatives in Early School Leaving (ELET), is the Organic Law 8/2013, December 9th, for the improvement of educational quality (LOMCE) ([Ley Orgánica 8/2013, de 9 de diciembre, para la mejora de la calidad educativa, LOMCE](#)), in which it introduces the new [Basic Vocational Training\[1\]](#), whose first year of implantation was the school year 2014-2015[2]. Basic VT has been conceived as an alternative way for high school students to be eligible for a medium-grade education. With the aim of achieving a greater integration of the youth in the educational system, the Government promulgated, in 2015 a Royal Decree so that those students who during the school years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 obtain a degree of basic VT acquire the degree of CSE (Compulsory Secondary Education) ([Educación Secundaria Obligatoria \(ESO\)](#)) without the need to pass the external test.

In order to agree with the training agents and the institutions a specific program of actions, the Plan for the Reduction of ELET ([Plan para la Reducción del AET](#)) is being carried out, during the period 2014-2020. The Plan aims to respond to one of the strategic objectives set out in the [Strategic framework-Education & Training 2020](#). The Plan establishes the priority strategic lines in which the territorial action plans and participating institutions should be focused, either wholly or partially.

The Plan for the Reduction of ELET focuses on young people between the ages of 18 and 24, and the measures carried out in the framework of this programme, and more recently within the framework of the LOMCE, can be categorised as prevention, intervention and compensation measures. However, this programme does not cover all activities and all forms of collaboration between the Ministry and the Autonomous Regions in this area, and also counts with an assessment mechanism in order to evaluate the success of the followed strategy (Eurydice Report, 2014:53).

However, since a new educational law has been approved in November 2020, called LOMLOE (Ley de Orgánica de Mejora de la LOE) and will probably come into force in 2021, it is very likely that some issues related to ELET in Spain may suffer some changes. For instance, this law eliminates optative subjects in CSE so all students study the same contents until they are 16, unifying the national level of the high schoolers and postponing important irreversible career choices until they are more mature. Furthermore, this law also introduces the teacher's opinion as the main criteria when it comes to the possibility of repeating grades, when, with the LOMCE, it only depended on the grades obtained by the student. The hope is that this will help reduce the ELET as students feel more motivated and their effort and not only their grades are taken into account.

The National Program of Reforms of Spain 2019 ([Programa Nacional de Reformas de España 2019, PNR](#)) establishes in its Objective 4 on education, actions directed to the reduction of the AET. The main measures introduced in the PNR are, in addition to the abovementioned [Plan](#), the gradual implantation of the Education Law in the different stages of the educational system, as well as the the Royal Decree 293/2016, 15th of July, which establishes the thresholds of income and family patrimony and the amounts of the scholarships and grants to study for the academic year 2019-2020 ([Real Decreto 430/2019, de 12 de julio](#)) [3]

For its part, the Educational Support Project ([Proyecto Apoyo Educativo](#)), by the National Center of Innovation and Educational Research ([Centro Nacional de Innovación e Investigación Educativa, CNIIE](#)), coordinates the special educational attention to those students who present special education needs so they can achieve the maximum possible development of their personal capacities and, in any case, the Objectives established in general for all students.. These needs can be specific learning difficulties, high intellectual capacities, late entry into the educational system or personal conditions.

Formal education: main policy measures on ELET

The development of the Education Law [LOMCE](#) has led to introducing, starting from the academic year 2017-2018, the implantation of the new itineraries of 3rd and 4th academic years of Compulsory Secondary Education, which implies to unfold several subjects; A measure that contributes to the reduction and prevention of ELET, by reducing the number of students per teacher and allowing a more personalized teaching style which manages to reduce the number of students who repeat a year, one of the problems leading to the ELET. The Autonomous Regions develop their own action plans in the field of ELET [4] and are being especially active in supporting government measures in the area of ELET [5]. In turn, those Autonomous Regions that have achieved greater progress in the fight against ELET are those in which there has been a greater implementation of the Initial Professional Qualification Programs (IPPP) ([Programas de Cualificación Profesional Inicial \(PCPI\)](#)), precursors of the basic VT.

Second-Chance Programs are included in the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan in Spain ([Plan de Implantación de la Garantía Juvenil en España](#)), integrated into The Strategy Of Entrepreneurship And Young Employment ([Estrategia de Emprendimiento y Empleo Joven](#)). They are intended for 16-25-year-olds with special difficulties in joining the labour market as a result of early leaving of studies and are inserted among the measures aimed at improving employability within the aforementioned Plan [6]. In March 2016, the Spanish Association of Second Chance Schools (E2O) ([Asociación Española de Escuelas de Segunda Oportunidad \(e2o\)](#)) was created, which brings together the main

Second-Chance Schools through their respective foundations to coordinate efforts and share experiences.[7]

Addressing ELET through non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

Regarding measures to prevent ELET through informal and non-formal education, the Eurydice report (2014:60) states that Spanish students receive educational support outside the classroom from members of the teaching staff, boosting learning and school performance, thereby improving students' social integration. However, measures as concrete as these have not been implemented by top-level authorities, as its functions are more general, in order to frame the education system. In fact, specific actions have been carried out by sub-national and local entities, as they have also educational competences preventing ELET, such as "monitoring the fulfillment of the compulsory education" (art. 25.2n of the [Law 7/1985](#)), in the case of the local bodies.

Here are various examples of projects from a sub-national level:

- Castilla La-Mancha – Plan for the Educational Success and ELET Prevention ([Plan de Éxito Educativo y Prevención del Abandono Escolar Temprano](#)): This regional plan will be composed of 6 different plans to tackle ELET, which will start progressively from November 2018 onwards. The initial budget will be of 14M, 4 given by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training through the [Inter-regional Compensation Funds](#), and the other 10 will be sponsored by the [European Social Fund](#) (ESF). One of the six different programmes, [Participa-S](#), tackles the problem of early leaving through non-formal and informal education. It funds Associations of Mother and Fathers of Students (AMPAS), local city councils and other NGOs to strengthen basic competences and language skills of the students outside school hours. Moreover, the programme Actualiza-T which will work on the education from another point of view, as it will further educate the teachers of the different centers to prevent ELET.

- Catalonia – "New Opportunities" Programme (Programa "[Nuevas Oportunidades](#)"): This programme is targeted at young people, from 16 years old to 24 years, who do not own any degree. The programme offers a flexible schedule for the youngsters who seek to enter the labour market or want a formation in basic and transversal competences. The [results of Nuevas Oportunidades in the years 2015-2017](#) were very positive, as 263 youngsters found a job and 861 returned to the education system, out of the almost 3,000 participants.

- Region of Murcia – Strategy for the Educational Success 2020 ([Estrategia para el Éxito Educativo. Objetivo 2020](#)): This strategy aims to tackle ELET and scholar absenteeism by implementing over 50 measures in all cycles of compulsory education (ISCED 0-2). The intervention measures offer alternative education and promoting vocational training, as well as innovative actions such as peer tutoring and the creation of mobile apps to give personalized orientation to the youngsters. Through this strategy, the Region of Murcia reduced ELET rate in 4% in 2017, and continues to decrease the figure in 2018.

Cross-sector coordination and monitoring of ELET interventions

Within the framework of the Plan for the reduction of ELET, the Autonomous Regions inform all the activities in progress and, together with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, they carry out the monitoring and evaluation of the program. The Sectoral Education Conference ([Conferencia Sectorial de Educación](#)) and the Spanish working Group "ET 2020" ([Grupo de trabajo español "ET 2020"](#)) are responsible for overseeing actions related to early school dropout[8].

The set of measures in the field of ELET co-financed by the [European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#) together with the Ministry of Territorial Policy and Public Function[9], will be evaluated as thematic Evaluation within the [Strategic Plan of Programming](#) of the ESF 2014-2020[10].

[1\] Training curriculum of basic VT.](#)

[2] Royal Decree 127/2014, 28th of February, which regulates specific aspects of the Basic Vocational Training of the teaching of vocational training of the educational system, fourteen basic professional titles are approved, their basic curricula are fixed and it modifies the Royal Decree 1850/2009, 4th of December, on issue of academic and professional titles corresponding to the teachings established in the Organic Law 2/2006, 3rd of May, of Education. ([Real Decreto 127/2014, de 28 de febrero](#)).

[3] It has scholarships and grants to the study of annual periodicity aimed at eliminating obstacles of socioeconomic order to allow a continuation of study for those young people with capacities and interest in the studies, furthermore to encourage and to promote the effort of obtaining satisfactory academic results.

[4] Regional Plan for the Prevention of Absenteeism and Dropout in the autonomous region of Cantabria ([Plan Regional de Prevención del Absentismo y el Abandono Escolar en la Comunidad Autónoma de Cantabria](#)).

[5] The Autonomous Communities participate in the Elaboration Of The National Program Of Reforms of Spain 2019 ([Programa Nacional de Reformas de España 2019](#)), suggesting measures of reform and details on future actions envisaged in the framework of their competencies.

[6] Page 26 of the Youth guarantee implementation Plan in Spain ([Plan de Implantación de la Garantía Juvenil en España](#)).

[7] Second-Chance Schools operate within the framework of formal education and usually act locally in the form of foundations, participating in programs financed by local, regional and national administration. See example in: [Second-chance schools in Gijón \(Principado de Asturias\)](#)

[8] From the meetings of the Working Group comes the Spanish report on the European and Spanish educational objectives of the Education and Training Strategy 2020. ([Informe español sobre los Objetivos educativos europeos y españoles de la Estrategia Educación y Formación 2020](#)).

[9] Included in ESF Programmes such as the Operational Programme For Employment, Training And Education, ([Programa Operativo de Empleo, Formación y Educación](#)) whose actions focus on the prevention of AET.

[10] Pages 50-52, description of the evaluation to be carried out, with data on the evaluating department, programs of the FSE to evaluate, evaluation criteria and methodologies employed.

6.4 Validation of non-formal and informal learning

Arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning

The validation or recognition of skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning is carried out, in practice, at the sub-national level, being the Autonomous Regions who make the calls ([convocatorias](#)) of the processes of validation or recognition. In any case, the whole process of recognition must conform to those set forth in Royal Decree 1224/2009, 17th of July, of recognition of the professional skills acquired by work experience ([Real Decreto 1224/2009, de 17 de julio](#)). The procedure consists of three phases: advice, evaluation, and accreditation and registration [1]. The definition of the whole process, followed the opinion and advice of the General Council of Vocational Training ([Consejo General de Formación Profesional](#))[2].

In the OECD National Report On Recognition Of Non-Formal And Informal Learning In Spain ([Informe Nacional de la OCDE relativo a España sobre Reconocimiento de aprendizajes no formales e informales](#)), this validation of learning is included among the measures of

innovation in social matters [3]. In Spain, the young population is considered a disadvantaged group in employment policies; for that reason, Organic Law 5/2002, 19th of June, on Qualifications And Vocational Training ([Ley Orgánica 5/2002, de 19 de junio, de las Cualificaciones y de la Formación Profesional](#)), in article 12 establishes that public Administrations, in particular local Administration, in the field of their respective competencies, shall adapt the training offerings to the specific needs of young people with academic failure. These offers "should encourage the acquisition of capacities in a lifelong learning process and, in addition to including modules associated with the National Catalogue Of Professional Qualifications ([Catálogo Nacional de Cualificaciones Profesionales](#)), they may incorporate appropriate modules for the adaptation to specific needs of the target group".

Also, the Royal Decree 562/2017, 2nd of June, regulating the conditions for obtaining graduate degrees in Compulsory Secondary Education And Baccaulaureate ([Real Decreto 562/2017, de 2 de junio](#)), establishes that "it is up to the educational Administrations to establish the procedures for the recognition of the training of Spanish educational system that the students accredit and the valuation of the knowledge and previous experiences acquired through non-formal education, in order to proceed to their orientation and affiliation to a level determined within each of the fields of knowledge". Therefore, it is up to the Autonomous Communities to establish the equivalences of non-formal and informal education with the stages of the educational system, which allows young people who have experienced ELS to reintegrate into the system.

With regard to the development of specific programmes in the field of recognition of non-formal and informal learning in young people, there are initiatives such as the Recognize Project ([Proyecto Reconoce](#)) for recognizing competencies and skills, obtained through voluntary action that improve the employability of young people[4]. On the other hand, in February 2017, the Interterritorial Youth Council, formed by the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud \(INJUVE\)](#)) and the youth organizations of the Autonomous Communities, has agreed on the implementation of a specific recognition system for non-formal and informal learning in the sphere of Youth in Spain[5].

Information and guidance

The main source of information and guidance at the national level in everything related to VT and the validation of competencies ([validación de competencias](#)) is the portal [TodoFP](#). It reports the phases of the process of validation, it provides access to the certification tool ([Acredita](#)), where the young person, through a guided process, is informed about which competencies are susceptible of accreditation as well as the qualifications that they could obtain, once the accreditation process has been completed, with only a series of suggested professional modules[6]. Also the Public Service of State Employment ([Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal \(SEPE\)](#)), offers information, guidance and orientation in the [recognition of competencies](#), additionally publicity of the procedures convened by the Autonomous Communities ([publicidad de los procedimientos convocados por las CCAA](#)).

The promotion of the validation of non-formal and informal learning is carried out by the Autonomous Regions that often publicise the opportunities and processes of accreditation through the websites of their respective departments of Education and Employment [7]. It is therefore at the regional and local level where we find some initiatives of promotion and publicity of the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

Quality assurance

The evaluation of the quality of the accreditation procedure of knowledge acquired by work experiences and non-formal or informal learning, is governed by the Royal Decree 1224/2009, 17th of July, for recognition of the professional competencies acquired by work experience ([Real Decreto 1224/2009, de 17 de julio, de reconocimiento de las competencias profesionales adquiridas por experiencia laboral](#)), which makes quality the very beginning of the validation procedure. The first additional provision is devoted entirely to Quality Management, establishing that the competent administrations must be equipped

with quality management systems to ensure that the objectives are achieved and that the purposes and principles established in the Royal Decree are fulfilled.

Article 30 of the Decree states that the General Administration of the State, in collaboration with the Autonomous Regions, and after consulting the General Council of Vocational Training ([Consejo General de Formación Profesional](#)), will develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to check the quality, efficiency and impact of the accreditation procedure. This quality assessment includes a number of mechanisms aimed at ensuring transparency and conformity with the procedures established in the law[8].

[1] For more detail on the reality of recognition of non-formal and informal learning in Spain, see: Data report collected on the process of recognition of skills acquired by work experience ([Programa Operativo de Empleo, Formación y Educación](#)).

[2] Information on the Recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal channels in Spain can be found in the description relating to Spain in the Operational Program for Employment, Training and Education ([Programa Operativo de Empleo, Formación y Educación](#)).

[3] When determining the level of the educational system in which young people are assigned they are asked to recognise their non-formal and informal learning, not only do they take into account prior learning or the results of the tests of knowledge, but , through an interview, the personal circumstances of young people are also valued, which are considered for validation.

[4] The Recognition Project has the momentum ([impulso](#)) of the Institute of Youth (INJUVE).

[5] INJUVE, green lights the recognition of non-formal learning ([INJUVE, luz verde al reconocimiento del aprendizaje no formal](#)).

[6] See the [Modular Catalogue of Professional Training](#).

[7] See the [Directory Website for accreditation of the Autonomous Communities](#).

[8] See point 5 in the Procedural Manual ([Manual de Procedimiento](#)).

6.5 Cross-border learning mobility

Policy framework

The mobility of young people during their training is a priority for the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación, y Formación Profesional](#)) and is present from the very conception of the Spanish educational system. For this reason, the Organic Law of Education ([Ley Orgánica de Educación](#)) includes in its preamble the need to increase mobility and exchanges in order to open the Spanish educational system abroad.

In the concrete field of higher university education, the Organic Law of Universities ([Ley Orgánica de Universidades](#)) establishes the student mobility as one of the objectives to pursue in the University, as well as the right to recognition of knowledge and skills acquired abroad. With regard to Vocational Training, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training is responsible for promoting mobility in learning with specific programmes for young people.

Therefore, the central administration, through its ministerial departments of “Education”, “Labour” and “Universities” ([Educación, Trabajo y Universidades](#)), the Autonomous Regions[1], and the educational and training centres are responsible for promoting mobility by shaping programs and support. In this regard, it is necessary to point out the relevance of the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education ([Servicio Español para la Internacionalización de la Educación, SEPIE](#)), responsible for managing the public calls for a large part of the mobility programmes[2].

Main cross-border mobility programmes for students in formal education

In the field of higher education, Spain has specific programs and agreements for student mobility, which must be added to the EU's own plans. Among them, the main one is the Erasmus+ program[3] ([Programa Erasmus+](#)). The Erasmus+ is formed by [different mobility programmes](#) whose financing is managed by the [SEPIE](#) through their calls ([Convocatorias](#)), which is added to the support of the [Ministry of Education and Vocational Training](#) for Spanish students who participate in the mobility programs included in Erasmus+, and other complementary support arranged by the Autonomous Regions ([ayudas complementarias dispuestas por las CCAA para los programas Erasmus+](#)). The Erasmus+ program also includes Professional Training in Erasmus+ [4] ([Formación Profesional en Erasmus+](#)). In Spain, the institutions designated as National Agencies for the management of the Programme are the Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education ([Servicio Español para la Internacionalización de la Educación, SEPIE](#)) and the Spanish National Agency ([Agencia Nacional Española, ANE](#)), formed of the Spanish Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)), the Youth Council of Spain ([Consejo de la Juventud de España \(CJE\)](#)), and the youth organizations of the Autonomous Regions.

For their part, the Autonomous Regions offer regional programmes for cross-border mobility ([Ayudas autonómicas a la movilidad internacional de los estudiantes y el profesorado por Comunidad Autónoma](#)). Those young people who carry out doctoral studies, research, or are conducting a university teaching career can enjoy the aid available by the State Mobility Subprogramme ([Subprograma Estatal de Movilidad](#)), from the Ministry of Science and Innovation ([Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación](#)) and the Ministry of Universities ([Ministerio de Universidades](#)). In the management of the Subprogramme two stay modalities are distinguished, of which modality B or "Stay of mobility abroad José Castillejo" ("[Estancia de Movilidad en el extranjero José Castillejo](#)") is the modality applicable to young doctors[5], who could go abroad for 3 to 6 months.

Other administrations and institutions, including Universities[6], reach Mobility Agreements and establish Mobility Programs[7] for students and young teaching staff.

Promoting mobility in the context of non-formal learning, and of youth work

[Erasmus+](#) also focuses on non-formal and informal learning. The activities of the Programme dedicated specifically to the field of non-formal and informal education are developed through the Erasmus + Programme Youth in Action ([Programa Erasmus+ La juventud en acción](#)), or chapter of Youth of the Erasmus + Programme, which includes: labour mobility actions for youth, youth exchanges, and the European Voluntary Service ([Servicio Voluntario Europeo](#)). The actions of the Programme are managed by the [INJUVE](#), as a National Agency, and is structured in three key actions ([acciones clave](#)) that, in addition to the actions mentioned, include strategic partnerships in the field of education, training and youth, for the exchange of good practices, and a structured dialogue (youth dialogue in the new Youth Strategy 2019-2027) to encourage the exchange of youth and decision-makers in the field of youth.

The Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, through the General Secretariat of Migrations ([Secretaría General de Migraciones](#)), has in place International Mobility Programmes for Young People ([Programas de Movilidad Internacional para Jóvenes](#)). This Youth Programme establishes specific actions of training and practices in companies, specialization and entrepreneurship, as well as the improvement of foreign languages for young Spaniards under 35 years and residents abroad, with the aim of facilitate their work and social integration outside Spain. To this end, Spain subscribes to different Youth Mobility Agreements[8] and international educational programs with other countries.

The Program for Young Professionals ([Programa para Jóvenes Profesionales](#)), of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation ([Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación](#)) establishes a system of selection of highly

qualified young people with an excellent level of knowledge of foreign languages to promote the creation of an international career within some International Organizations. The Public Service of State Employment ([Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal \(SEPE\)](#)) also manages the EURES Mobility Aids ([Ayudas a la movilidad EURES](#)) for learning projects within the framework of the EURES network ([Red EURES](#)). Local administrations also offer advice on international mobility, and mobility programs in non-formal and informal areas such as volunteering[9].

Quality assurance

While some of the mobility initiatives are assessed, there is no general assessment with pre-established guidelines for the evaluation of mobility policies. The projects developed within the framework of the EURES Network of the SEPE are subject to external evaluation and the participants of the programs send satisfaction questionnaires with the programme. In any case, the Spanish Administration, through the former Department of Employment, has been working since 2015, and together with the regional administrations, in a protocol for assessing the quality of services within the framework of the Common Services Portfolio of the National Employment System ([Cartera Común de Servicios del Sistema Nacional de Empleo](#)). In it, and with regard to the management of European instruments for the promotion of mobility in VT and learning, the protocol will establish objectives and criteria for assessing the quality of the proposed services, one of the indicators of quality being the satisfaction of the users of the mobility programmes.

The SEPIE, is in charge of the evaluation and quality control ([evaluación y control](#)) in regard to the decentralized actions of the [Erasmus+ Programme](#)[11]. In this regard, the SEPIE has held a conference on the evaluation of the quality of the Erasmus + Charter ([Jornadas de evaluación de la calidad de la Carta Erasmus+](#)). In addition, a Panel of evaluators and project experts from the Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus +, the Spanish university system's internationalization programs and other initiatives is expected to be formed[12] ([Panel de evaluadores y expertos de proyectos del programa de aprendizaje permanente, Erasmus+, los programas de internacionalización del sistema universitario español y otras iniciativas](#)). Finally, the Youth Institute, publishes an evaluation handbook for youth policies, plans, programmes and activities ([Manual de evaluación para políticas, planes, programas y actividades de juventud](#)), as a guide for professional evaluations in the specific field of youth policies.

[1] The Autonomous Communities, competent in educational matters, are fully active in the field of mobility, coordinating with the central Administration the definition and implementation of their policies and programmes through the Sectoral Conference on Education ([Conferencia Sectorial de Educación](#)).

[2] For more detailed information you can consult the [Mobility Scoreboard](#) of the European Commission.

[3] [Erasmus +](#) is the European Union's programme in the field of education, training, Youth and Sport. On 1st of January 2014 it replaced the Lifelong Learning Programme (Youth in Action and the EU's international higher education programmes with third countries). It covers the period 2014-2020, with programs and actions for mobility, as well as for European and international educational cooperation.

[4] For a better understanding of Erasmus + Professional Training, see [calls for vocational Training Mobility](#).

[5] The financing of the State Subprogramme for mobility is run by the Ministry of Universities, through the General Secretariat of Universities ([Estancias de movilidad en el extranjero "José Castillejo" para jóvenes doctores](#)).

[6] See Example: Mobility agreement at the University of Alicante ([Acuerdo de Movilidad en la Universidad de Alicante](#)).

[7] See Mobility Programmes of the UAM (Autonomous University of Madrid) ([Programas de Movilidad de la UAM \(Universidad Autónoma de Madrid\)](#)).

[8] See Example of a Mobility agreement for young people with Australia ([Acuerdo de movilidad para jóvenes con Australia](#)).

[9] See Example of Mobility program at the local level: volunteering abroad ([Voluntariado en el extranjero](#)).

[11] For its part, the Commission has made a Public Consultation on the Mid-term Evaluation of the Erasmus + Programme, ([Consulta Pública sobre la Evaluación intermedia del Programa Erasmus+](#)).

[12] To support the evaluation work of the National Agencies responsible for the management of the Erasmus + Programme, the Commission has developed a Guide for experts in quality assessment 2017 (Extract of information related to the field of youth). ([Guía para expertos en evaluación de la calidad 2017 \(Extracto de la información relacionada con el ámbito de la Juventud\)](#)).

6.6 Social inclusion through education and training

Educational support

The Organic Law of Education ([Ley Orgánica de Educación \(LOE\)](#)), of 2006, establishes in its Title II "Equity of Education" the obligation of public administrations responsible for educational policy and management to provide the necessary means for all pupils to reach their maximum personal, intellectual, social and emotional development. Although the [LOE](#) made reference to students "with special educational needs", the Organic Law for the Improvement Of The Educational Quality ([Ley Orgánica para la Mejora de la Calidad Educativa \(LOMCE\)](#)), of 2013, which updates the LOE modifying some of its parts, goes on to speak of students "with specific need for educational support". It also introduces as a novelty the inclusion of students with Attention Deficit And Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) within students with specific need for educational support.

The Education Law LOMCE therefore establishes three groups of students to which the measures and programs in the field of inclusion in Education are intended: the set of students of the educational system, students with specific need of educational support, and students in a situation of social exclusion [1]. Adhering to the parameters of Youth, the Transition to Adult Life Training Programs ([Programas de formación para la transición a la vida adulta](#)) [2] are intended for students who are 16 years-old who have completed Compulsory Basic Education in a Special Education Center and those who are advise to continue their formative process through this programme [3]. The LOMCE establishes the objectives and guidelines to be followed in terms of attention to diversity in CSE and baccalaureate ([Atención a la diversidad en ESO y Bachillerato](#)).

As far as Higher Education is concerned, the Organic Law of Universities ([Ley Orgánica de Universidades, LOU](#)) establishes the criteria for the designation of the recipient students of the scholarships and specific support aid [4]. For these students, there are different scholarships and other specific support measures [5]. For its part, VT is conceived as an instrument for the inclusion of young people by their ability to reintegrate into the educational system, especially for those young people with school performance problems and educational dropouts at an early age, along with other problems.

In the field of non-formal education, the Inclusion Plan for students with special educational needs [6] ([Plan de Inclusión del Alumnado con Necesidades Educativas Especiales](#) [7]), from the National Center for Innovation and Research Educational (([CNIIE](#))) is aimed at improving the educational attention to all students and, specifically, to the ones who present special educational needs.

For its part, the Autonomous Regions establish plans and strategies for attention to diversity and inclusive education ([planes y estrategias de atención a la diversidad y educación inclusiva](#)) that include measures and initiatives related to the youth as well. The Forum for Educational Inclusion of Students with Disabilities ([Foro para la Inclusión](#)

[Educativa del Alumnado con Discapacidad](#)), is an advisory collegiate body, conceived as a space for meeting, debate, proposal, promotion and monitoring the inclusion policies of students with disabilities in all lessons offered by the educational system.

Social cohesion and equal opportunities

The Strategic Plan for School Coexistence ([Plan Estratégico de Convivencia Escolar](#)) is aimed at preventing all kinds of harassment and school violence and is articulated in tone to seven fundamental points and includes different lines of action. It also establishes the mechanisms for evaluating the Plan. The portal of the Strategic Plan for School Coexistence ([Convivencia Escolar](#)), with a budget expense of 4 million euros, has a section on Training ([Formación](#)) with information and tools aimed at teachers and educational centers in matters of coexistence. Also aimed at the faculty is the "Relate Project" ([Proyecto Relaciona](#)), an initiative of the Institute for Women and Equal Opportunities ([Instituto de la Mujer e Igualdad Oportunidades \(IMIO\)](#)) funded by the different Autonomic Administrations and the European Social Fund, in collaboration with the regional administrations, to educate in values that allow us to achieve a more egalitarian society.

In addition, the Irene Programme ([Programa Irene](#)) for information, training, and prevention of sexual violence in young people and adolescents, it is part of a series of Education Projects of the Institute for Women and Equal Opportunities ([Proyectos de Educación del Instituto de la Mujer e Igualdad Oportunidades](#)), like the "Exchange Project" ([Proyecto Intercambia](#)) for equal opportunities. There are also awareness-raising and training activities in the field of education, such as the campaign Educating for Equality ([Educando en Igualdad](#)). On the other hand, the Autonomous communities implement their own plans of coexistence and attention to diversity ([Planes de convivencia y atención a la diversidad](#)).

Finally, there are initiatives such as the CNIIE's Coexistence, Innovation and Diversity Project, ([Proyecto Convivencia, Innovación y Diversidad](#)), whose objective is to coordinate the actions of attention to the diversity and interculturality for coexistence, with special attention to the gypsy population, the immigration, the social inclusion and the promotion of gender equality, to contribute to the construction of a global citizenship by forming citizens capable of knowing how to coexist democratically with others, to participate in the social, labor, cultural and political life of their world, trying to improve it.

[1] For more detailed information see the provisions in relation to Spain in Eurydice. Chapter 12. ([Eurydice. Capítulo 12](#)).

[2] Order from 22nd of March, 1999 regulating training programmes for the transition to adult life for pupils with special educational needs in schools in Special Education Centres. ([Eurydice. Capítulo 12. Orden de 22 de marzo de 1999 por la que se regulan los programas de formación para la transición a la vida adulta destinados a los alumnos con necesidades educativas especiales escolarizados en Centros de Educación Especial](#)).

[3] The choice of this modality requires the previous psycho-pedagogical evaluation carried out by the corresponding educational services and psycho-pedagogical orientation.

[4] Students with special needs or disabilities associated with disability, students with high intellectual capacities, students in socioeconomic disadvantage, as well as people with family burdens, victims of gender violence and victims of terrorism.

[5] See the provisions of this in [Eurydice. Chapter 12.5](#).

[6] The Plan is inserted in the Educational Support Project ([Proyecto Apoyo Educativo](#)) of the CNIIE.

[7] It is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, the Spanish Committee of Representatives of People with Disabilities (CERMI) ([Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad \(CERMI\)](#)), the State School Board ([Consejo Escolar del Estado](#)), the Sectoral Conference of Education ([Conferencia Sectorial de Educación](#)), the General conference on University Politics ([Conferencia](#)

[General de Política Universitaria](#)), University Student Council ([Consejo de Estudiantes Universitarios](#)) and the University.

6.7 Skills for innovation

Innovation in formal education

The Organic Law of Education ([Ley Orgánica de Educación, LOE](#)), establishes "advancement and promotion of research, experimentation and educational innovation" among the guiding principles of the education system[1], and establishes that the educational Administrations will promote research and innovation programmes[2]. It also recognizes the relevance of the teachers' work in the field of innovation, as well as the need to have means and incentives for educators [3]. Later the [LOE](#), the Organic Law for the Improvement of Education ([Ley Orgánica para la Mejora de la Educación, LOMCE](#)), introduces the curricula in Primary education, Compulsory Secondary Education, and Baccalaureate, and the curriculum in basic VT, where the key competencies are developed.

These Key Competencies ([Competencias Clave](#)) or skills for innovation, in the Spanish educational system, are listed and described through the order ECD/65/2015, 21st of January, ([Orden ECD/65/2015, de 21 de enero](#)). These are, in terms of innovation: Learning to learn, Social and civic skills, Sense of initiative and entrepreneurial spirit, and Cultural awareness and expressions[4]([Aprender a aprender](#), [Competencias sociales y cívicas](#), [Sentido de la iniciativa y espíritu emprendedor](#), and [Conciencia y expresiones culturales](#)). The article 5 of the abovementioned [Order](#) states that these competences must be integrated in the different curricular areas and they must be developed in all fields of education (formal, non-formal and informal) through all levels of teaching (ISCED 1 to 3) and long-life education.

The National Center for Innovation and Educational Research ([Centro Nacional de Innovación e Investigación Educativa \(CNIIE\)](#)), is the institution from where the main innovation projects ([Proyectos de innovación](#)) in national Education are implemented. The Autonomous Communities also legislate and define innovation projects in Education [5]. In all these regulatory provisions, both at the national level and at the sub-national level, the contents and pedagogical methods are established.

The Francisco Giner de los Rios Award for the improvement of educational quality ([Premio Francisco Giner de los Ríos a la mejora de la calidad educativa](#)), rewards the teaching work that contributes to develop the individual and social capacities of the students, that enable the personal, social and environmental knowledge, the development of their autonomy and the acquisition of coexistence values and skills that benefit in the development of instrumental learning, especially in the development of key competencies and skills that facilitate incorporation into the professional and social world.

Fostering innovation through non-formal and informal learning and youth work

Among the main programs and projects of educational innovation in the non-formal and informal field, is the Scientific Culture Project ([Proyecto Cultura Científica](#)) for the promotion of scientific culture and the development of analytical capacity of individuals. The project is managed by the National Center for Innovation and Educational Research ([Centro Nacional de Innovación e Investigación Educativa, CNIIE](#)) and has a budget of 90,000€.

The Leer.es Project ([Proyecto Leer.es](#)), whose desire is to convey to young people an enthusiasm for reading with it being understood as a positive transversal tool for their lives, is part of the Multi-literacies Project ([Proyecto Alfabetizaciones Múltiples](#)), which is described in point 6.8 *Media literacy and safe use of New media*, of this chapter.

Some Autonomous Regions, within the framework of non-formal education programs, develop key competencies development programs such as social and citizen skills, or

cultural and artistic competences [6], aimed at citizens from 16 years of age. For its part, the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud, INJUVE](#)), carries out numerous initiatives in the field of non-formal education, such as the Young Talent Programme ([Programa Talento Joven](#)), the Young Creation Programme ([Programa Creación Joven](#)) that offers grants between 3,500€ to 7,000€, or The National Young Entrepreneurs Contest ([Certamen Nacional Jóvenes Emprendedores](#)) provided with a budget of 200,000€ in the year 2019.

[1] Article 1 of the [LOE \(Organic Law of Education\)](#).

[2] Article 102 [LOE](#).

[3] Articles 104 and 105 [LOE](#).

[4] For further information on the subject addressed in this point 6.7 Skills for innovation, see the report of the European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice the development of key competencies in the school context in Europe: challenges and opportunities for policy in the matter (2012). ([El desarrollo de las competencias clave en el contexto escolar en Europa: desafíos y oportunidades para la política en la materia \(2012\)](#)).

[5] See Projects of educational innovation in Castilla-La Mancha, or Navarre ([Proyectos de innovación educativa en Castilla-La Mancha](#), o [Navarra](#)).

[6] [Programmes for the development of basic competencies in Castilla and León](#).

6.8 Media literacy and safe use of new media

National strategy

The first framework for the development of media literacy is the Organic Law of Education ([Ley Orgánica de Educación, LOE](#)), since much of the contents in the subject are included in the training curricula and are also present in the definition of the different basic competencies[1]. Subsequently, the [LOMCE](#) points out ICT (information and communication technologies) as one of the areas in which special impact is made, with a view to the transformation of the educational system[2], expressly introducing media literacy in different parts of the article[3]. The law includes among its principles, the importance of educating, through the educational system, the families and other institutions involved, autonomous people, critics, officials and with own thought in the current society marked by the emergence of the ICT and all that it entails in relation to learning.

These actions are also included in the new educational law LOMLOE approved in November 2020, specially after the 2020 events related to the emergence of the SARS-COV-2 virus have shown the importance of ICT for the economy and education.

After the entry into force by Royal Decree 1105/2014, 26th of December, establishing the basic curriculum of Compulsory Secondary Education and Baccalaureate ([Real Decreto 1105/2014, de 26 de diciembre, por el que se establece el currículo básico de la Educación Secundaria Obligatoria y del Bachillerato](#)), electronic literacy content, media literacy and innovative learning environments have been introduced in all the compulsory subjects of CSE courses, being able to choose between one and three specific subjects in the subject during the last years of the aforementioned educational cycle. For its part, in the two Baccalaureate academic years, these contents have the condition of specific subject to choose a minimum of one and a maximum of two, between an offer of subjects under the denomination "Information Technology I and II".

In September 2015, the White Book was presented for the design of University qualifications within the framework of the digital economy ([Libro Blanco para el diseño de las titulaciones universitarias en el marco de la Economía Digital](#)), developed by four different ministerial departments (Economy, Industry, Employment, and Education) with experts from the University sphere and the digital industry. The book establishes 41 professional profiles linked to the demand of specialists in the field of digital economy by

companies, and performs an analysis of the supply and demand for training, serving as a guide for public and private universities to generate more professional career qualifications.

The Information Literacy Working Group ([Grupo de Trabajo de Alfabetización Informacional](#)) [4], has developed the ALFIN/AMI Skills Integration Report in the education system: references, context and proposals ([Integración de las competencias ALFIN/AMI en el sistema educativo: referencias, contexto y propuestas](#)), in analysing the introduction of media literacy issues in the education system and proposes a Decalogue of urgent measures for literacy in media and information and its implementation in centres and classrooms. The National Institute of Educational Technologies and teacher training ([Instituto Nacional de Tecnologías Educativas y de Formación del Profesorado \(INTEF\)](#)) is the principle manager for introducing new technologies into the field of education. To improve the quality of education and integrate students and professors into the information society, it deals with the incorporation of technologies into the classrooms. The National Center for Curricular Development in free softwares ([CEDEC](#)) is also in charge of “drafting, elaborating, developing, cataloging and monitoring free digital content, which is targeted at specific educational collectives, that develop the curriculum of the education system”.

Media literacy and online safety through formal education

The INTEF, in collaboration with the Autonomous Regions, has developed the Digital Culture Plan in Schools ([Plan de Cultura Digital en la Escuela](#)) with different projects. INTEF also holds training aimed at the faculty in Teaching Digital Competence ([Competencia Digital Docente](#)), understanding that developing digital competence in the educational system requires teachers to have the necessary training in that competence. In this sense, the Common Framework for Teaching Digital Competence ([Marco Común de Competencia Digital Docente](#)) has been developed [5]. Finally, the Framework Agreement on School Connectivity ([Convenio Marco de Conectividad Escolar](#)), is another important initiative for the inclusion of ICT in the education system.

The Multi-Literacies Project ([Proyecto Alfabetizaciones Múltiples](#)), considers multi-literacy as an essential competency for life, empowering citizens to develop capacities for reflection, oral expression, critical thinking, and guarantees them full participation in digital society and knowledge. The Autonomous Regions also implement educational programs and media literacy projects, such as the educational technological platform [EducaMadrid](#). In the promotion of safe use of digital technologies, there are public-private collaboration initiatives such as the [EducaInternet](#) platform, aimed at students and teachers and promoted by the Office for Education, Youth and Sport of the Community of Madrid ([Consejería de Educación, Juventud y Deporte de la Comunidad de Madrid](#)), the national public entity [Red.es](#) for digital transformation, and a private entity.

Promoting media literacy and online safety through non-formal and informal learning

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism ([Ministerio de Industria, Comercio y Turismo](#)) launched, in 2014, the Activate Programme ([Programa Actívate](#)), result of an agreement with [Red.es](#), public entity dependent of the Ministry, together with the private initiative, for the training of young people in competencies that facilitate their employability. This online platform has three main foundations: first of all, formation through the offer of online courses in digital competences; secondly, the promotion of job seeking through an adequate CV or professional networking; and finally the promotion of entrepreneurship by facilitating tools to evaluate an idea for a new business or proving your managing skills.

More recently, in September 2017, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation ([Ministerio de Asuntos Económicos y Transformación Digital](#)), through the Secretary of State for Digitalization and Artificial Intelligen ([Secretaría de Estado de Digitalización e Inteligencia Artificial](#)) signed an agreement-framework for public-private collaboration with [Red. Es](#) and The National Institute of Cybersecurity of Spain ([Instituto](#)

[Nacional de Ciberseguridad de España \(INCIBE\)](#)), for the fulfillment of digital training actions and of training professionals in information technologies and digital economy^[6]. The INCIBE will count with a budget of 23.2M in 2018.

Raising awareness about the risks posed by new media

The Chaval.es Programme the network ([Programa Chaval.es en la Red](#)) of the entity [Red.es](#), informs, through educational and entertainment content, of the dangers which young people are exposed to in the digital medium, involving the parents in the awareness process. The program in cooperation with INCIBE and includes channels or hotlines for reporting cases of cyberbullying, *grooming*, *sexting*, and threats or hate crimes. With a similar content, but aimed at the hazards for kids, Safe Internet for Kids (Internet Segura for Kids ([IS4K](#))) has the goal of promoting a safe and responsible use of the Internet by teenagers.

The Project You decide on the Internet ([Proyecto Tú decides en Internet](#)), of the Spanish Agency for Data Protection ([Agencia Española de Protección de Datos](#)), is intended for young people and their parents and teachers to raise awareness about the importance of making good use of the Internet. It offers tools, teaching materials and information and guidance for parents and teachers on how to prevent dangers on the Internet without depriving young people of the potential of digital media.

For its part, the Screen Friends Initiative ([Iniciativa Pantallas Amigas](#)) promotes the safe use of new technologies in childhood and adolescence, with information activities and awareness about the inherent dangers in the digital environment. They put awareness and prevention campaigns in place in collaboration with multiple public institutions ([en colaboración con múltiples instituciones públicas](#)), between the national Administration, Universities, municipalities and Autonomous Communities. The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional](#)), through its portal of School Coexistence ([Convivencia Escolar](#)), it offers a list of links of interest related to cyber-bullying ([enlaces de interés relacionados con el ciberacoso](#)).

In the area of the Autonomous Regions we find initiatives such as the programme to use cyber-bullying prevention and safe use of ICT ([Programa uso prevención del ciberacoso y uso seguro de las TIC](#)), which aims to be a tool to help teachers and the rest of the educational community to know how to prevent and act against cases of Cyber-bullying among the students. Educational institutions also innovate with initiatives such as the [MyBullying](#) tool, an instrument developed by the Complutense University of Madrid ([Universidad Complutense de Madrid](#)) for the detention of bullying.

^[1] See inspiring principles of the law in its preamble, third principle concerning the "development of skills necessary for the knowledge society, ensuring access for all to information and communication technologies", p. 7.

^[2] "Information and Communication Technologies will also be a key tool in the training of teachers and in the learning of citizens throughout life, by enabling them to reconcile training with personal or work obligations and, they will also be in the process management." [LOMCE](#), Preamble, XI.

^[3] Art. 6 bis on Distribution of competencies; Art. 24 on the organization of the first cycle of Compulsory Secondary Education; Art. 25 about fourth-year organization of CSE; Art. 34 bis on the organization of first and second baccalaureate courses; and art. 111 BIS on ICT.

^[4] Joint Working Group attached to all Technical Cooperation commissions.

^[5] Developed within the Teaching Digital Competence Conference coordinated by INTEF, it describes in a standardized manner the digital competence of teachers in 5 areas (Information and Information Literacy, Communication and Collaboration, Creation of Digital Content, Security and Troubleshooting), 21 competencies and 6 competence levels (A1 – C2). It is based on the DigComp Framework 2.0 Digital Competence for Citizenship, in relation to the Digital Agenda 2020.

[6] See press release of former MINETAD. ([Nota de Prensa MINETAD](#)).

6.9 Awareness-raising about non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

Information providers / counselling structures

In the initial Plan of action of the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Plan de acción de la Estrategia Juventud 2020](#))[1], and as regards to the Axis of Education and Training, promoting non-formal and informal education was one of the main objectives of the Plan and was therefore among the main actions. In order to accomplish this goal, the main entity in charge of providing information related to non-formal and informal learning is the [Youth Institute \(INJUVE\)](#), affiliated to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)).

Moreover, INJUVE has also the responsibility of coordinating the Network of Youth Information Centers ([Red de Centros de Información Juvenil](#)) by setting its common objectives and collaborating with the different regional and local centers. Finally, the INJUVE has also created an [online search engine](#) in order to facilitate the contact of the youngsters with their nearest center of information.

In February 2017, the result of the Interterritorial Youth Council's meeting[2], announced the preparation of the second Plan of action of the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)); within the established priorities is the recognition of non-formal and informal education ([reconocimiento de la educación no formal](#)).

Awareness raising initiatives

As previously stated, promoting non-formal and informal learning and youth work is also one of the tasks of the [INJUVE](#) [3], which disseminates information and publications on youth work and non formal learning[4].

One of the main initiatives in order to raise awareness in this matter is the University of Youth and Development, which last annual edition took place in 2019 due to the pandemic situation. This event is hosted and organised by INJUVE and an affiliated entity, the Eurolatinamerican Center for Youth ([CEULA](#)), and supported by national and international actors, such as the [European Youth Forum](#). The goal of this activity is to give the participants the necessary tools for becoming active citizens by informal and non-formal learning methods.

The figure of the Youth worker in Spain is not as incipient as its recognition. Of great importance in the area of promoting non-formal and informal learning is derived from youth work and volunteering, some initiatives are trying to make their role known locally and regionally [5].

[1] Approved in September 2014 for the period 2014-2020.

[2] The Interterritorial Youth Council is composed of the General Director of the [INJUVE](#) and the directors of the Autonomous Communities' Youth Organizations.

[3] On youth and non-formal education in Spain, see: Monograph on non-formal education, Journal of Youth Studies of the Observatory of Youth in Spain (INJUVE). ([Monográfico sobre Educación no formal, Revista de Estudios de Juventud del Observatorio de la Juventud en España \(INJUVE\)](#)).

[4] Youth work and non-formal education in the field of European education ([El trabajador juvenil. El reconocimiento de competencias en el voluntariado](#)).

[5] [The youth worker. Recognition of skills in volunteering.](#)

6.10 Current debates and reforms

One of the constant debates in terms of Education and Training in Spain is the reduced legal validity of the system, with general education laws that are reformed or replaced in accordance with the political orientation of governments. Currently, there is a dialogue initiated between the Government, other political parties, the Autonomous Regions, and the education community, to reach a Pact for Education that would make possible to achieve normative stability of the Spanish educational system [1]. As a result of the collaboration between institutions the National Plan of Reforms 2019 [2] manifests the intention of the current government of reforming the Organic Law of Education ([Ley Orgánica de Educación, LOE](#)) and the intention of obtaining an educational framework that will not allow substantial changes in this matter depending only on the different governments agenda every four years. As an example, in Spain we can find 6 different educational laws in the last 20 years (LOGSE, LOPEG, LOCE, LOE, LOMCE and the recently approved LOMLOE).

The report concerning Spain, included in the Monitor of Education and Training 2019 ([Monitor de la Educación y la Formación 2019](#)), of the European Commission, points out that Spain is one of the countries with a higher percentage of year ELET (Early Leaving of Education or Training) compared with the EU mean. This report mentions the introduction of a new program, [PROEDUCAR](#), with the aim of reducing this problem. Also the National Plan of Reforms 2019 main education related goal is to reduce the ELET following the recommendations of the [2020 Objectives](#). This plan also states an intention to universalize education between 0 and 3 years.

The Annual Report On the state of the Education System (2019), ([Informe Anual sobre el Estado del Sistema Educativo \(2019\)](#)), prepared by the State School Board ([Consejo Escolar del Estado](#)), introduces, in chapter F, proposals for improvement, pointing out reforms and guidelines to increase the efficiency of educational investment, improve the quality and efficiency of education and training, or reinforce social cohesion.

[1] For further information, consult the section on ongoing reforms and political initiatives in the description concerning Spain in [RediE \(Eurydice Spain\)](#).

[2] See National Plan of Reforms (PNR) 2019 ([Plan Nacional de Reformas \(PNR\) 2019](#)).

7. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)) is in charge of the proposal and implementation of the Government's policy on health, planning and health care, and consumption, as well as in exercising the powers of the State General Administration to assure the citizens the Right to health protection. It also has the proposal and implementation of government policy on cohesion and social inclusion, family, protection of children and attention to dependent or disabled persons and equality, as well as the fight against all kinds of discrimination and the fight against gender-based violence. The Autonomous Regions ([Comunidades Autónomas](#)) that are responsible for legislative development and implementation in areas of health and hygiene, promotion, prevention and restoration of health; and hospital coordination in general, including Social Security. There is no strategy specifically focused on the youth group, they are considered as part of the general population towards which the strategy is addressed, specifically in objective number two devoted to "preventing mental illness, suicide and addictions in the general population."

The Ministry of Culture and Sport ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) is in charge of proposal and execution of the Government's policy on sports matters. The High Council of Sports ([Consejo Superior de Deportes \(CSD\)](#)) is the regulatory body of sport at the state level, dependent of the Ministry. As an autonomous body it has the functions of the General

Administration of the state in sports matters. In turn, the Autonomous Regions are in charge of coordinating with the local Administrations (municipalities, regions, etc.) in the promotion and diffusion of the physical culture and sport. The local Administrations are actively involved in the programming of the education, in the monitoring of the fulfillment of the compulsory schooling and in the coordination of the sports facilities. Each Autonomous Region has its own territorial body for the management and promotion of sport.

7.1 General context

Main trends in the health conditions of young people

[Report 2018 about Drug uses in Secondary education in Spain \(Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda\)](#)

This survey is conducted throughout the Spanish territories amongst secondary school students who between 14 and 18 years old: 35,369 students in total. It aims to study the situation and evolution of drug use, its age of onset and risks. The results, showed below, explain which drugs are more extended by measuring the percentage of consumption among school students.

- *Alcohol*: Is the most consumed drug, with 76.9% of young people aged 14 to 18 claiming to have consumed alcohol at some point; 75.6% in the last year and 67% in the last month. Finally, alcohol is also the drug that is consumed earlier, as it scored with the lowest average (15.1 years) when asked about the first time the student consumed it. This trend of consumption is stable when compared to previous periods.
- *Tobacco*: Is the second most extended drug, as 38.5% smoked tobacco at some point in their lives; 34.7% in the last year and 27.3% did it in the last 30 days of the year. When asked about the age when they first consumed tobacco, the average was 14.6 years old. In this case there shows a decrease in relation to previous years.
- *Cannabis*: Is the illegal drug more frequent, since 31.1% consumed cannabis at least once in life, 26.3% in the last year and 18.3% in the last month. The average age when used for the first time is 14.8 years, which has been the average on previous years as well. Overall, the results show a decrease in consumption in relation to previous years.
- *Cocaine*: 3.2% of the population aged 14 to 18 years has consumed cocaine; 2.5% in the last year and 1% in the last month. The average age of the first-time users is 15.1 years old. It shows a stabilization in the consumption after a downward trend indicated in 2004.

[Study Health Behaviour in School-aged Children \(HBSC\) Spain, 2018 \(España, 2018\)](#):

[World Health Organization](#) (WHO), a quadrennial global study. It is carried out in Spain with the support and financing of the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda. It gathers data of 40,495 young people between 11 and 18 years old, in 508 educational centers in Spain.

The following trends are detected in the study of the Spanish case:

- *Overweight and obesity*: 17.5% of adolescents are overweight or obese. 16% of young Spaniards claim to be dieting or doing other behavior to control their weight.
- *Physical activity*: Almost 20% of the teenagers surveyed conduct physical activities the 7 days of the week. There are differences between sexes boys tend to conduct physical activities the 7 days of the week more than girls, boys 25.8% and girls 14%.
- *Consumption of addictive substances*: 10.8% of the adolescent population in school admits to consuming tobacco. 7.6% stated that they consume alcohol weekly, this

percentage being much higher in advanced ages. Cannabis is the illegal drug that is consumed more often than others 15.3% of the boys and 10.1% of girls.

- *Injuries:* About 55.3% of young Spaniards during the academic year (2018) have suffered at least one injury that has required medical assistance. The age range that has been injured most is males between 11 and 12 years old.

Suicide Data of the National Statistics Institute (INE):

According to the latest data produced by the (INE 2018), suicide is the second most common cause of death (after traffic accidents) in young males between 15 and 29 years old and the third (after tumors and traffic accidents) in women of the same age range. Although the number of suicides has decreased in the last two decades, they have increased by a 0.9% in 2018.

Overweight and obesity according to the Study of Diet, Physical Activity, Child Development and Obesity (ALADINO) ([Estudio de Alimentación, Actividad física, Desarrollo Infantil y Obesidad \(ALADINO\)](#)):

In this edition of the [ALADINO Study \(2019\)](#), have participated more than 16,650 children from the ages 6 to 9 from all the Spanish Autonomous Communities. The main trends of the study indicate that 40.6% of children between 6 and 9 years are overweight or obese. One of the main factors highlights the presence of different technological devices in the house, dedicating more than three hours a day to their use. It is also observed in the study that 9 out of ten parents think their kids' weight is normal, which makes it difficult to solve this issue.

Youth Report in Spain 2016 (INJUVE) ([Informe Juventud en España 2016 \(INJUVE\)](#)):

In its 2016 edition, the report ([informe](#)) is based on a Youth Survey of 5,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 29 in Spain, in addition to the data from the [European Health Interview Survey \(EHIS\) in Spain 2014](#) done by the INE. The report shows that:

- *Nutrition:* 71% of young people are at a normal weight, with women being underweight and men being overweight. One in 4 young people between the ages of 16 and 29 are overweight or obese. The trend shows that having a higher-than-normal weight among young people is more common among men than women.
- *Rest and physical form:* 43% of young people sleep 8 hours a day, 33.7% around 7 hours, 14.1% less than 7 hours and 8.6% more than 8 hours. 52% of young people say they train physically several times a week, compared to 33% who do not exercise at all, or just occasionally. 43% of women do not do any sport at all or only occasionally, compared to 24% of males, females being more sedentary than males.
- *Sexual relations and education:* 86% of respondents to sexual matters affirmatively answer the question of having had complete sexual intercourse (penetrative), 4% incomplete, and 9% have not had sex of any kind. In relation to the use of contraceptive methods or prophylaxis during sexual intercourse, 85% replied that they had used some method in their last complete sexual relationship, the condom being the most used: 81% for men and 65% for women.

Main concepts

The [Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda](#) has as a conceptual framework reference to the health promotion glossary developed by the WHO in its constitution in 1984, as well as its subsequent reviews at the international Conferences on Health Promotion in Ottawa (1986) and Jakarta (1997). It is from this [glossary](#) that the normative definitions of the Ministry of Health emerge.

Health: "A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not only the absence of sickness or ailment (...) Health is a resource for everyday life, not the goal of life. It is a positive concept that emphasises social and personal resources as well as

physical aptitudes. There are certain prerequisites for health, such as peace, access to economic resources, food, housing, stable ecosystem and sustainable use of resources. It is a fundamental human right.

Health Promotion ([Promoción de la salud](#)): It is the process that allows people to increase control over their health to improve it. It considers both actions aimed at increasing the skills and capacities of people, as well as those aimed at changing the social, environmental and economic conditions that have an impact on the health determinants.

Health-oriented behavior: Behaviors that are deliberately adopted in order to promote or protect health and are distinguished from the risky behaviors which are those behaviors associated with greater susceptibility to a specific cause of ill health.

Lifestyle: It is a way of life that is based on identifiable patterns of behavior, determined by the interaction between individual personal characteristics, social interactions and socio-economic and environmental conditions of life.

Living conditions: It is the everyday environment of people, where they live, coexist, work, study, etc. These conditions of life are the product of social and economic circumstances, and of the physical environment, all of which can exert an impact on health, being largely out of the immediate control of the individual.

Quality of life: it is the perception of the individual about their position in life within the cultural context and the system of values in which they live and with respect to their goals, expectations, norms and concerns. It is a concept that encompasses physical health, the psychological state, the level of independence, social relationships, personal beliefs, and the relationship with the outstanding characteristics of the environment.

Physical activity: ([Actividad física](#)) Physical activity is any voluntary movement performed by muscles, which produces an extra energy expenditure that our body needs to maintain vital functions (breathing, blood circulation, etc.). Walking, transporting an object, playing football, dancing, cleaning the house, etc., are considered some of the main physical activities. Physical activity that is beneficial to health is that which is of moderate intensity, done daily or almost every day and with a minimum duration of 30 minutes per session.

Sedentary lifestyle: The term sedentarism-from the Latin *sedere*, which means to sit down-describes different types of activities that develop in a waking state and require low levels of energy expenditure. These activities include sitting while commuting, in the workplace, in the domestic environment, and during leisure time.

7.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Government Structure in the area of Health, Social Services and Equality in Spain

Main actors:

The Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)) is in charge of the proposal and implementation of the Government's policy on health, planning and health care, and consumption, as well as in exercising the powers of the State General Administration to assure the citizens the Right to health protection. It also has the proposal and implementation of government policy on cohesion and social inclusion, family, protection of children and attention to dependent or disabled persons and equality, as well as the fight against all kinds of discrimination and the fight against gender-based violence.

As part of the MSCBS, the Secretary of State for Social Rights ([Secretaría de Estado de Derechos Sociales](#)) is the superior body which is responsible for carrying out functions in the areas of social cohesion and inclusion, family, child protection and care for dependents or disabled people, as well as the protection of the youth.

Within Social Services and Equality is the General Management of Services for Family and Children ([Dirección General de Servicios para la Familia y la Infancia](#)), and its main functions are:

- The promotion, analysis, elaboration, coordination and follow-up of the programs of action in the field of social services of primary care, of social inclusion, of protection and promotion of families and childhood, and of prevention of the difficult situations or social conflict.
- Promoting cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the fields of social action programmes, social inclusion, gypsy population, families and children.
- The promotion and development of social volunteering; among others.

Within Social Services and Equality are also the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)) and the Spanish Youth Council ([CJE](#)).

General distribution of responsibilities:

For its part, it is the Autonomous Regions ([Comunidades Autónomas](#)) that are responsible for legislative development and implementation in areas of health and hygiene, promotion, prevention and restoration of health; and hospital coordination in general, including Social Security.

Structure of government in the field of sport and physical activity in Spain:

Main actors:

The Ministry of Culture and Sports ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) is in charge of proposal and execution of the Government's policy on sports matters.

The High Council of Sports ([Consejo Superior de Deportes \(CSD\)](#)) is the regulatory body of sport at the state level, dependent of the MEC. As an autonomous body it has the functions of the General Administration of the state in sports matters.

General distribution of responsibilities:

In relation to the organization of physical activity and school sports, at the state level the CSD has a coordinating role, focused on the "programming, technical direction and execution of the games and competitions of national or international nature", While it is the responsibility of the Autonomous Communities to "organize school competitions of a territorial, regional or local nature; to promote the creation of groups for the development of school sport and to manage the granting of aid to create and maintain teams and for sports activities in schools". In turn, the Autonomous Communities are in charge of coordinating with the local Administrations (municipalities, regions, etc.) in the promotion and diffusion of the physical culture and sport. The local Administrations are actively involved in the programming of the education, in the monitoring of the fulfillment of the compulsory schooling and in the coordination of the sports facilities.

Each Autonomous Region has its own territorial body for the management and promotion of sport.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

In the field of health, education and physical activity, the Spanish Government develops different plans and strategies through inter-ministerial collaboration. There are numerous cooperations, among them:

- Collaboration between Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Education and Sports in the Strategy for the Promotion of Health and Prevention in the National Health System ([Estrategia de Promoción de la Salud y Prevención \(EPSP\) en el Sistema Nacional de Salud](#)).

- Collaboration in the [Comprehensive Plan for Physical exercise and Sport](#) between the CSD and the Ministries, Autonomous Regions, local authorities and universities, as well as the participation of the private sector (further explanations in chapter 7.3).
- Agreement of the CSD, the Young Sport Foundation and the Food Foundation for the promotion of healthy lifestyles based on the promotion of physical activity and sport, and an adequate diet ([promoción de estilos de vida saludables basados en el fomento de la actividad física y el deporte, y una adecuada alimentación](#)).

7.3 Sport, youth fitness and physical activity

National strategy(ies)

Comprehensive Plan for Physical exercise and Sport in the realm of School Sports:

It is a comprehensive plan ([plan integral](#)) of the Spanish Government, implemented by the Superior Sports Council ([Consejo Superior de Deportes \(CSD\)](#)), subordinated to the Ministry of Culture and Sport ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) with the Autonomous Communities, local Authorities, universities and other ministerial bodies, in addition to the participation of the private sector. Envisaged for the period 2010-2020 for the purpose of promoting sports practice and physical activity in minors between the ages of 3 and 18, in relation to four fundamental principles in relation to these activities: 1) Relationship between physical-sporting activity and health, 2) sports practice and its relationship with education, 3) effective equality between women and men, and 4) sport as an element of social cohesion.

This Plan fosters the European initiatives proposed by the European Parliament in its [EU Physical Activity Guidelines](#), especially in the recommendations on working to get 3 hours of Physical Education a week in all compulsory education and advocating for 5 hours a week. Also, the Plan recommends changing Physical Education into a subject with presence throughout the post-compulsory stage of education.

Although the Plan has a series of indicators for its evaluation and monitoring, a document on the results of them is not available online. The indicators can also be consulted on page 41 of the [Plan](#). There, in terms of evaluation, 2 types of indicators are described: Type A, which will really measure the success of the Plan and directly affect the education centers, and Type B, which are hard to measure and considered less relevant. An example of an indicator of the A-group would be that a 100% of the students between 3 and 18 years get 3 hours weekly of physical education; and an example of the type B would be the number of project subscribed to the Plan.

Promoting and supporting sport and physical activity among young people

Basic Sport Support Plan 2020 (Plan 2020 de apoyo al Deporte Base):

It is led by the [Superior Sports Council](#) and has the collaboration of the [Youth Sport Foundation](#), the [Spanish Sports Federations](#) and the Autonomous Communities. It is a grassroots sport support plan whose main objective is to increase youth participation in sport.

It also aims to arouse the interest and economic support of the business sector for the so-called Grassroots Sport, by granting tax benefits to companies that make donations to carry out projects included in the Plan. The Young Sport Foundation is in charge of the preparation of the activities programme and actions in the execution of the plan, as well as the material realization of the acts and activities that derive from the execution of this programme, assuming the condition of recipient of the donations that are made for its execution.

In terms of execution of the Plan, the Order PRE/423/2016, of 28 March ([Órden PRE/423/2016](#)) created an interministerial body, dependent of the Superior Sports Council, to manage the budget and donations and to develop the specific activities, plans and programmes to meet the goals set in the Plan. However, there is no monitoring and evaluation system present.

Physical education in schools

In Spain, the legislative framework governing and guiding the Spanish educational system is formed by the Spanish Constitution of 1978 ([Constitución española de 1978](#)) and the laws that develop the principles and rights established in it: Organic Law 8/1985 ([Ley Orgánica 8/1985](#)), regulating the right to education, the Organic Law 5/2002 ([Ley Orgánica 5/2002](#)) of Qualifications and Vocational Training, and the Organic Law 2/2006 ([Ley Orgánica 2/2006](#)) of Education, modified by the Organic Law 8/2013 for the Improvement of the Educational Quality ([Ley Orgánica 8/2013 para la Mejora de la Calidad Educativa \(LOMCE\)](#)). Physical Education in schools is compulsory and their teaching is regulated by these laws.

The Law for the Improvement of the Educational Quality, also known as LOMCE, is the Law governing Education in Spain, whose main objective is the reduction of early abandonment in education and the improvement of educational outcomes according to international criteria. This Law is developed through [Royal Decree 1105/2014](#), which establishes the basic curriculum of Compulsory Secondary Education and Baccalaureate; and [Royal Decree 126/2014](#), which establishes the basic curriculum of Primary Education.

In this Law, Physical Education has the status of 'specific subject' and it is for that reason that the educational Administrations have the power to establish their contents, unlike the 'core subjects' (such as a Spanish language and literature or Mathematics), the content of which is established by the central government. In the same way, the timetable for the course of Physical Education is established by the educational Administrations. On the other hand, the LOMCE makes its teaching compulsory from primary education to the 1st year of Baccalaureate (the baccalaureate is part of the post-compulsory secondary education in Spain).

Number of hours devoted to the subject of Physical Education in Spain:

According to the [Eurydice 2013](#) study, Spain is one of the countries in Europe that dedicates the fewest hours to Physical Education in Primary and Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO). On average, Spain imparts 53 hours of physical education annually in primary school and 35 hours in secondary school, approximately two hours per week in each autonomous community.

These statistics are different to the recommendations of the European Commission ([EC presented in its EU Physical Activity Guidelines \(2008\)](#)) where it is considered to be able to achieve important and favorable changes in health, it is necessary to do at least one hour of Physical Activity daily organized in the form of playground games or Physical Education classes. Teaching the subject in schools is an effective way to increase the levels of physical activity and improve the physical form. In addition, according to the EC's Guide to Physical Education in schools it is the most widespread source for the promotion of physical activity among young people.

Extra-curricular initiatives for sport in school:

The extracurricular activities are recognized by the aforementioned [LOMCE](#) as a right that the students have, which establishes that it corresponds to the central School Board "to participate in the implementation of the overall pedagogical line of the center and inform the guidelines for the programming and development of complementary school activities, extracurricular activities and school services" (art. 57h) of the [Organic Law 8/1985 of Education](#)), as well as "to approve, via proposal of the center holder, the contributions of the students' families to carry out extracurricular activities and the school services when

determined by the Educational Administrations" (art. 57i) of the [Organic Law 8/1985 of Education](#)).

The aforementioned Comprehensive Plan For Physical Activity And Sport In The Field Of School-Age Sports ([Plan Integral para la Actividad Física y el Deporte en el ámbito del Deporte en Edad Escolar](#)), on page 33, establishes the main axis of action "physical activity, sport, and education" and within it, emphasizes the need to "create in all centers the figure of the Coordinator (...) responsible for channeling the student's interests, managing and directing a plan of activities in the facilities of the center and outside of it, organizing reinforcement actions and motivational campaigns for students, coordinating all the human and material resources and keep track of the situation of the students of the center."

Perseus program (Programa Perseo), promotion of physical activity during break time and the lunch break:

The guide to an active and healthy school (2008) and the Perseus program and promoted by the [Spanish Agency of Consumption, Food Security and Nutrition](#) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, is a guide directed at the school managers, teachers, fathers and mothers, and technicians and those responsible for the regional administrations that aim to orient the development of physical and healthy activity of the students. One of its chapters is dedicated to the promotion of physical activity in the break time and lunch break.

The break time, as an integral part of the school day, influences the quality of school work and must be considered as a space for intellectual rest and physical movement, promoting motor activity, especially in the age of primary education. Among other recommendations the programme understands that recess must be at least 20 minutes; which should not replace Physical Education classes; that it is not a time of punishment or to do homework; whereas there is a need for safe and adequate facilities for all schoolchildren to be able to perform physical activity at the same time; and that adequate equipment is necessary to facilitate the practice of physical activity.

In addition, the program proposes physical activity during lunchtime, both for those at school during that time, and for those who are elsewhere before the school day. It also proposes organizing extracurricular activities in that time, which in Spain is usually between an hour and a half and two hours.

To encourage these proposals, Perseus has developed a diagnostic guide (which can be found on page 103 of the [Proposal](#) teachers, managers and technicians from schools in order to help identify the students' physical activity level at the center and give them ideas on how to encourage physical activity in break times and lunch hours.

Chapter 3 of the guide [Physical Activity And Health In Children And Adolescents](#) from Ministry of Consumer Affairs sets out a series of recommendations for children and adolescents to obtain health benefits. These recommendations are based on the recommended minimum levels. One of the highlights of the guide is that break time is one of the key spaces for children to perform the recommended activities, with daily activity sessions within the school that should try to be higher than one hour per day.

Resources for professionals for the promotion of physical activity in schools

GIVE ME 10 ([DAME 10](#)) (Active Breaks Through Exercise):

Give Me 10 is a didactic material ([material didáctico](#)) that proposes a series of physical activities of between a duration of 5 and 10 minutes designed to develop in the classroom, during school hours, by the teacher or specialist with no specific material, with the objective to reduce the time in sedentary attitude during the school day. They are physical activities with which at the same time they work curricular contents of all the areas of knowledge from 2nd cycle of infant education until the last year of primary school and first year of secondary school.

The programme consists of 87 activities in the different cycles of primary and infantile education. The guide to these activities is available in the same guide [on page 4](#), and can be given when the teacher considers it appropriate, depending on the content they are working on, the time of day or the state of attention of the students.

UDAs (Active Didactic Units); ([UDAs \(Unidades Didácticas Activas\)](#)):

It is a series of curricular materials ([materiales curriculares](#)) developed within the framework of the Strategy for Health Promotion and Prevention ([EPSP](#)) and they form part of actions for the educational environment in order to improve physical activity. Among its main proposals, it emphasizes the creation of a series of strategies and orientations for teachers of Physical Education, with the aim of increasing the physical activity during the classes. Among its main highlights are the strategies related to the efficiency in the organization of the classes, the improvement of the motivational and attitudinal aspects of the students; methodological aspects of class planning; the planning of active trips outside of the centre to promote physical activity in nature; among others.

These strategies are accompanied by practical examples to make it easier for teachers to implement them. For more information on the strategies, [page 6 of UDAs](#) can be consulted.

Physical Activity and Health from ages 3 to 6 years. Guide for teachers of Children's Education: ([Actividad Física y Salud de 3 a 6 años. Guía para docentes de Educación Infantil](#)):

It is another of the guides developed in the [EPSP](#) framework and is part of one of the actions selected to be carried out in the educational environment in order to improve the physical activity that this population performs in order to improve their health. It aims to be a theoretical and practical manual of support for the teachers of infantile education (students of 3 to 6 years) that imparts content related to motor skills as the first link in the promotion of physical activity and health in school.

According to the guide, the role of the teacher of children's education is crucial and the subject is efficient for learning basic motor skills in boys and girls. That is why the guide proposes methodologies for the promotion of motility, in addition to strategies for its development through games and motivations from the teacher to the students.

Collaboration and partnerships

Through Superior Sports Council ([CSD](#)), the Spanish State establishes collaborations for the promotion of sport and physical activity with associations, federations and foundations. Among the main ones are the Young Sport Foundation, the International School sport Federation ([Fundación Deporte Joven](#), and [International School Sport Federation](#)).

The Spanish State grants the Council the power to provide aid and subsidies to Sports Federations and other Sporting Entities and Associations, regulated in article 8 of Law 10/1990, 15th of October, regarding Sport ([Artículo 8 de la LEY 10/1990, de 15 de octubre, del Deporte](#)).

7.4 Healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition

National strategy(ies)

[The prevention and health promotion strategy of the Spanish NHS:](#)

The Strategy For Health Promotion And Prevention ([Estrategia de Promoción de la Salud y Prevención](#)) was launched in 2013 by the Interterritorial Council ([Consejo Interterritorial](#)) integrated by the General Government Administration and the Autonomous Regions. Proposes the progressive development of interventions aimed at gaining health and preventing disease, injury and disability. The ones responsible for carrying out the strategy are the professionals related to health as well as of the central and autonomous sanitary administrations.

The general objective is to promote the health and well-being of the population by promoting healthy environments and lifestyles and enhancing safety against injuries.

The strategic lines that are addressed are: empowerment of public health, coordination and territorial governance, equity in health, reorientation of health services, intersectoral health, health empowerment, healthy and safe environments, as well as community participation and action.

Although the strategy is aimed at the Spanish community in general, it is planned in areas of implementation and action, with those being under 15 being prioritised first of the population to carry out the actions of the plan.

In order to monitor the plan, there will be a biennial report, which consists of an evaluation and a monitoring record. It will contain an analysis and improvement measures, as well as a global evaluation, which will start after the completion of the 1st phase (2014-2020). For that purpose, general indicators to measure the impact in health and lifestyle have been established, besides evaluation criteria defined by the abovementioned indicators.

Strategy for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention (*Estrategia para la Nutrición, Actividad Física y Prevención de la Obesidad (NAOS)*):

In force since 2005, it is a health strategy framed in the policies of the international health agencies (WHO, the EU) and its main objective is to reverse the trend of the prevalence of obesity by promoting a healthy diet and the practice of physical activity. Although the strategy targets the entire population, it fundamentally prioritises; children, the youth and the most disadvantaged population groups, focusing on gender and avoiding inequalities in health. The responsible authority for the strategy is the Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition ([Agencia española de Consumo, Seguridad alimentaria y Nutrición \(AECOSAN\)](#)) dependant on the Ministry of Consumer Affairs ([Ministerio de Consumo](#)). It has as main strategic lines of action:

- *Health protection*: it proposes to facilitate access to a varied diet, balanced and moderate in terms of caloric consumption, of fats and sugars.
- *Prevention and promotion of health*: it tries to reduce the exposure of people to risk factors such as inadequate feeding, sedentariness and inactivity. *Following up, monitoring and evaluation*: created with the intention of controlling the prevalence of obesity and overweight, as well as its determinants.

Monitoring childhood obesity:

Spain is hosting the initiative promoted by the European Region of the WHO for the monitoring of childhood obesity, [WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative \(COSI\)](#), with the aim of developing a joint system to combat obesity in children. With the joint cooperation of the member countries, an improvement is pursued in the evaluation of the policies and measures implemented for the prevention and eradication of the patterns of overweight and obesity.

Within this initiative, three waves have been carried out in Spain ([2011](#), [2013](#) and [2015](#)) of the Study on Food, Physical activity, Child Development and Obesity ([Estudio de Alimentación, Actividad física, Desarrollo Infantil y Obesidad \(ALADINO\)](#)), which aims to gather information on the healthy habits of children between 6 and 9 years old, as well as information on their anthropometric measurements.

Encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition for young people

Promotion of Health and Prevention in childhood, Ministry of Health ([Promoción de la Salud y Prevención en la infancia, del MSCBS](#)); [Healthy lifestyles web of the Ministry](#):

- Map of content related to Children ([Mapa de contenidos relacionados con Menores](#)). This map of content aims to give information on healthy lifestyles for children under 5 years old.

- Youth-related content map ([Mapa de contenidos relacionados con Jóvenes](#)). The proposed content map also offers information on healthy lifestyles but with a target group of minors between 5 to 17 years old.

Guide promoting the healthy adaptation of our adolescents from the Ministry; Promotion of Health and Prevention in adolescence, MSCBS ([Guía Promoviendo la adaptación saludable de nuestros adolescentes](#)) [Promoción de la Salud y Prevención en la adolescencia](#)).

Health education and healthy lifestyles education in schools

The Organic Law for the Improvement of the Quality of Education ([LOMCE](#)), provides in its regulations the subject of Health Education, which is a cross-cutting subject. Each Autonomous Region can make use of this subject as it deems appropriate.

A study by the Spanish Association Against Cancer ([Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer](#)) in 2017 on the situation of health education in primary and secondary schools ([Situación de la educación para la salud en centros de primaria y secundaria](#)) shows that 43.5% of Spanish schools devote between 12 and 20 hours per year to Health Education, approximately one to two hours a month. As for the activities that are carried out most often in primary and secondary schools there is an emphasis on those related to physical activity and healthy eating; while safety and prevention of risks, injuries, and accidents are dedicated less time. From the teacher's and school director's perspective the results show that most of those interviewed agreed on the importance of health education, and point out two priorities: raise the parents' awareness about health education (87.1% of the respondents agreed) and train the teachers in this matter (73.8% agreed).

Since there is no single curriculum in the Spanish territory on Health Education, there is not a total similarity of the subject between the Autonomous Communities, although the areas usually taught in schools are associated with the physical activity and healthy eating; wellbeing and emotional health; affective-sexual education; safety and risk prevention of injuries and accidents; and education on drug addiction (alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs).

Health and sex education in Spain:

Sex education in Spain is not regulated at the national level and is relegated to the criterion of educational institutions. However, there are programmes developed by the city councils, Autonomous Communities and other institutions, such as the Sexual and reproductive health program ([Programa de salud sexual y reproductiva](#)) from the Madrid Health Department for the educational calendar 2018-2019, implemented in schools who voluntarily accept to adopt it.

The aim of this programme is to educate Young people, as well as other groups, such as persons from the LGBTI-community and with social vulnerabilities by divulging information about contraceptive methods, AIDS, Sexual orientation and organizing workshops around these sexual education.

Peer-to-peer education approaches

There is no online resources available on programs, projects and/or national strategies for peer education approaches. However, peer education and learning has worked in different educational settings. The Community of Extremadura, for example, has launched the "Peer Support" Programme Accompanying students" ([Programa "Ayuda entre iguales. Alumnos acompañantes"](#)) for primary and secondary education, with which it is proposed to involve the students in the process of teaching with the objective of preventing, detecting and solving conflicts of coexistence.

Another case is the proposal of [Youth 4 Youth](#), coordinated by [Mediterranean Institute of GenderStudies \(MIGS\)](#). It is a 2013 program about awareness, training and peer education in formal and non-formal education environments. It was developed in the framework of the transnational project Youth4Youth: reinforcing young people in the prevention of

gender-based violence through peer education, co-funded by the EC. The programme was carried out with the participation of young people from countries like Cyprus, Spain, Italy, Greece and Lithuania. Because of the programme, a [Youth4Youth](#) manual has been developed to promote its implementation in schools and youth centres.

The monitoring and evaluation process will depend on the centres that implement the project by feedbacks and questionnaires, proving the impact peer education really has on the knowledge of the students involved.

Collaboration and partnerships

Collaborations for the NAOS strategy:

The [NAOS strategy](#) works in a coordinated manner with the Ministries of Health of the Autonomous Communities through a technical working group, which is coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Education when addressing matters within their competence.

Raising awareness on healthy lifestyles and on factors affecting the health and well-being of young people

The main official information provider on healthy lifestyles is the [Ministry of Health Consumption and Social Welfare](#). The ministry through different websites, initiatives and institutions disseminates information on health promotion and prevention, like [Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition](#) (AECOSAN). Young people can access to information through the webpage of the Ministry, depending if they are in [childhood](#) or [adolescence](#).

Alcohol and youth campaigns ([Campañas sobre alcohol y jóvenes](#)):

The Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare has at the disposal of Spanish citizenship a [website](#) that aims to provide information about the consumption of alcohol in young people. Within it, it is possible to find several campaigns aimed at preventing the consumption of this substance:

- "Alcohol destroys you twice": To inform and alert parents of the dangers and consequences that alcohol consumption has on health.
- "Alcohol can take you away".
- To reduce youth consumption of alcohol and increase the perception of the risk it poses to health.

Nutrition and Physical Activity Campaigns ([Campañas de Nutrición y Actividad Física](#)):

The Spanish agency [AECOSAN](#) of Ministry of Health has developed a series of Nutrition and Physical Activity Campaigns:

- **Activate Movement:** 2014 campaign on the importance of acquiring healthy habits, aimed at adolescents aged 13 to 17. On its website [Movimiento Actíivate](#) they have audiovisual materials with information, links and resources for the promotion of physical activity and healthy eating.
- **Activilandia:** is a Virtual Theme Park focused on healthy eating, varied physical activity and active leisure, in addition to other healthy habits, aimed at children between 6 and 12 years, their parents or guardians.
- "Wake Up, Breakfast" ("[Despierta, desayuna](#)"): A communication campaign in 2006 whose objective was to promote in young people under the age of 13 the habit of having breakfast and understanding the importance of a full and balanced breakfast.

7.5 Mental health

National strategy(ies)

Youth Suicide Prevention Plan:

In Spain there is no National Plan for the prevention of suicide, which targets specifically young people, although its prevention and treatment is established in the Mental Health strategy of the National Health System 2009-2013 ([Estrategia en Salud Mental del Sistema Nacional de Salud 2009-2013](#)). While there is no strategy specifically focused on the youth group, they are considered as part of the general population towards which the strategy is addressed, specifically in objective number two devoted to "preventing mental illness, suicide and addictions in the general population."

This strategy is monitored by the Committee of Monitoring and Evaluation (Comité de Seguimiento y Evaluación), which was set up by the previous national strategy on mental illness in order to implement and evaluate it effectively. For the monitoring of Mental Health strategy of the National Health System 2009-2013, the committee will still be in charge and will use the indicators, described in the page 70 of the [strategy](#).

Promotion of Emotional Health and Wellbeing in the young

The Spanish interdisciplinary network for the PROMotion of mental health and EMotional well-being in the young (Red PROEM) gives a comprehensive argument for the prioritisation of emotional health and well-being in the adolescents. Their team have launched both a report and [roadmap](#) in English, Spanish and Catalan and a two-page document entitled as "[No future without emotionally healthy adolescents](#)". According to the WHO, adolescents have the right to grow up in the best environment possible to become healthy and responsible adults who will contribute to society and enjoy a happy and fulfilling life. Among all stages in life, adolescence is a particularly vulnerable period for developing mental health problems. In fact, it is estimated that 110 million young people suffer from emotional problems worldwide. However, these disorders are the least identified and undertreated mental health problems among this population, which places them at risk of developing related problems. PROEM Network report has detected limitations in health and emotional well-being in 7 main issues:

- Poor adolescent health and emotional well-being literacy
- Delay in the identification of mental health problems in schools and inadequate instruments
- Lack of resources and coordination among different stakeholders and regions
- Excessive medicalization of mental health and the associated costs
- Lack of health and emotional well-being policies coupled with an insufficient budget
- Lack of awareness towards certain vulnerable and social minority groups
- Increasing unhealthy lifestyles among youth and abusive use of ICTs

To cover this gap, four priorities have been consensued to address those issues:

- To build adolescent health and emotional well-being literacy
- To promote early detection in young people and effective, efficient and evidence-based psychotherapy interventions and best practices
- To develop an efficient network to improve early detection, early intervention and the evidence-based interventions for emotional and mental health problems in youth
- To increase the budget for research into preventing and treating mental health problems and promoting mental health and emotional well-being

Overall, the document stresses the need for developing and/or implementing early detection and evidence-based psychotherapy interventions in schools and health interventions designed to treat and/or prevent emotional disorders in the young by specialist mental health professionals or by school and health workers, previously trained by mental health providers (ie, psicólogos generales sanitarios).

This report and roadmap has also been cited at the document "Addressing the health needs of adolescents in Europe" approved by the Council of Europe in Feb 2016 and the White Paper launched by TREATme Action funded by EU.

Plans and strategies focused exclusively on the treatment of suicide are elaborated in sectorial plans of psychiatric assistance and programs in different Autonomous Communities. Among the most notable are the following:

[Codi Risc Suicidi \(Catalonia\):](#)

It is the Plan of the Community of Catalonia introduced in 2014, its main characteristic is the improvement in the early detection of suicidal tendencies in health centres and emergency telephone lines for the community (061) and attends to the patients at risk, with a prolonged follow-up. The plan has priority projects for adolescents, which implements a comprehensive care plan, an action protocol and assistance programs in the educational environment. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, point 7 of this plan creates a specific committee in charge, that will analyse periodically the impact using the established indicators.

[Protocol for the prevention and action against suicidal behaviors \(Navarra\) \(Protocolo de prevención y actuación ante conductas suicidas \(Navarra\)\):](#)

Being a protocol for all citizens, it proposes models of action focused on the prevention of suicide within the educational system. This protocol proposes a series of models of action adaptable to each one of the schools. Within it, the intervention is pursued in accordance with the plan of the centre itself; the reception, listening and attention to the protagonist and the people close to them, as quickly as possible; coordination with different professionals and responsible people; the offer of support to the people affectively close and close monitoring of the evolution of the person involved and/or the affected students. In terms of monitoring, the Interinstitutional Committee for the Coordination of Prevention and Attention for the Suicidal Behaviour was created, which will report the results annually in order to improve and evaluate the protocol.

7.6 Mechanisms of early detection and signposting of young people facing health risks

Policy framework

[Strategic Plan for School Coexistence \(Plan Estratégico de Convivencia Escolar\):](#)

It is a National Plan associated with the strategic framework for European cooperation in the field of education and training, promoted by the European Commission in May 2009.

It has been developed during the academic year 2015-2016, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training ([Ministerio de Educación and Formación Profesional](#)) and the National Center for Innovation and Educational Research ([Centro Nacional de Innovación e Investigación Educativa](#)) and representatives from the Autonomous Communities, in order to prevent any kind of harassment and school violence.

Its lines of action include:

- Observation and monitoring of coexistence in schools.
- Development of educational policies for the improvement of coexistence.
- Incorporation of Successful Educational Performances.
- Training of teachers and other agents of the educational community.
- Coordination and cooperation between administrations, entities and institutions.
- Prevention and control of violent incidents or harassment in schools and support for victims of violence and harassment.

Each line of action is related to fundamental objectives and axes associated with inclusive education, the participation of the educational community, the learning and coexistence,

the education of feelings and friendship, the preventive socialization of the Gender-related violence, among others.

For proper evaluation, each of the lines of action has a series of performance indicators. In turn, each indicator is associated with both a data collection technique and the source from which the data is derived. The plan also has complementary evaluation strategies that aim to evaluate the different aspects of the plan, such as publications associated with it.

Although the plan proposes a process of continuous evaluation of the indicators of execution, an evaluation in the middle of the period of implementation of the plan and in the completion thereof, there is no data available online on its results.

Stakeholders

Key players in the strategic Plan for school coexistence:

Within the framework of the Strategic Plan for School Coexistence, a number of key agents are established for the detection and treatment of school violence and cyber-bullying in minors. These key agents are the family of students (especially parents), teachers and other members of school institutions.

Guidance to stakeholders

This Strategic Plan of School Coexistence has developed a series of guides oriented towards the principal agents responsible for the detection and treatment of school violence and cyber-bullying, so that they can provide support to the victims and their family. Among the main guides are:

- Teach them to be legal on the Internet (Guide for family and teachers). ([Enséñales a ser legales en internet \(Guía para familiares y profesores\)](#))
- Guide to the Internet (for parents and teachers). ([Guía Guíales en internet \(para padres y profesores\)](#))
- S.O.S Guide against cyber-bullying. Parents. ([Guía S.O.S contra el Ciberbullying. Padres.](#))
- Bullying. Guide for parents. ([Acoso Escolar. Guía para padres y madres](#))

This plan teaches teacher training courses to deepen the axes of the plan.

In addition, through this Plan, the School Coexistence ([Convivencia Escolar](#)) website and other reference links ([otros enlaces de referencia](#)) are launched as educational tools in the school for teachers, students, and families. It offers materials and protocols of action, awareness seminars, plans of school coexistence, among other resources.

Other measures implemented is the creation of a figure of reference responsible for the coexistence in each center that, supported by a mixed commission (teachers, other professionals of the center, students and families) relative to the coexistence in the center, has the responsibility to sensitize the community to its involvement in the area of coexistence and to ensure compliance with protocol for the detection and intervention in cases of violence and harassment at the centre level.

Target groups

As described in the [school's Coexistence Plan](#), the main objectives are "to ensure the inclusion of all students in schools and to broaden and strengthen the participation of families and the community at school". Within schools, the Plan is aimed at pre-school, primary, Compulsory Secondary Education, Vocational Training and Baccalaureate education.

Funding

The budget for the implementation of the Coexistence Plan comes from the allocations of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, in addition to the allowances provided by other public administrations and entities participating in the plan. Although an exact amount cannot be established, the Plan document "estimates a minimum amount of 4 million euros to implement the measures".

7.7 Making health facilities more youth friendly

Since the programmes mentioned in this chapter are directed at the young community, many of the proposals aim to implement methods for such programmes to be more accessible to the aforementioned community.

It is worth mentioning the cases of programmes such as [PERSEUS](#), since one of its strategies of prevention of sedentariness and diffusion of activities includes the use of resources for mobile devices and the Internet, as a way of publishing games and information on healthy physical activity. The evaluation depends of the centres that decide to implement this programme, which are key for the further developing of more specific activities in the frame of PERSEUS.

Also, the web [Activilandia](#), which constitutes part of the Strategy for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention ([NAOS](#)), is a Virtual Theme Park focused on children between 6 and 12 years old. With its audiovisual contents in the form of games, videos and music, it specifically pursues a healthy, varied, less calorie and balanced diet; the reduction of sedentariness by promoting the practice of habitual or regular physical activity and the promotion of health.

7.8 Current debates and reforms

Throughout the chapter, different strategies and plans developed by the Spanish Government have been mentioned in relation to the education, health, welfare and physical activity of young Spaniards. There are discrepancies between the different actors and sectors involved in how these measures have been developed, their role in practice and their results. A recent example is the [6-days-strike](#) called between April and May 2018 by the school teachers with the support of the students and families of the Community of Madrid around the external evaluations after the baccalaureate (so-called *reválidas*) imposed by the Organic Law for the Improvement of the Educational Quality, which finally did not take place.

Debates around the LOMCE and the education system:

Organic Law 8/2013 for the Improvement of the Educational Quality ([LOMCE](#)) has an influence on the role of Physical Education in schools, as well as in Health and Sexual Education. With regard to these subjects, the current debates question the Law for not establishing a normative framework that grants these subjects greater presence in the curricula of Spanish schools, as well as a greater presence of the national government when implementing them in the educational plans. These subjects lose a fundamental role in education as they are not addressed explicitly, and professionals propose reforms to improve the quality of their teaching.

As a result of those debates, the Ley de Modificación de la LOE (LOMLOE), approved on November 2020 as the new Educational Law at a national level in Spain, has introduced new subjects in schools and high schools that will try to educate and help youth in matters such as civil rights, history of democracy and sexual-affective education.

As a reform of the education system in general, there is a Project for Quality Physical Education in Spain ([Proyecto para una Educación Física de calidad en España](#)) developed by the College of Professionals in Physical Education and Sports ([Colegio de Profesionales](#)

[de la Educación Física y del Deporte](#)), where law reforms are proposed. The interest behind this proposed project is to further improve the quality of physical education, giving the Ministries involved a better output of their policies through this plan.

Also, on Education for Health and Sexual Education there are also proposals for reforms. Some perspectives of the debates and the positions of different associations, foundations of Sexology ([fundaciones de Sexología](#)), and Health Education are available. The Sexpol foundation, for example, in this topic advocates for the introduction of sexual education in primary and secondary education.

Towards a national Plan for the prevention of suicide:

There is a position among the associations of professionals of the Mental Health world who demand for the creation of a national Plan in Spain to prevent suicide. This position is supported by some political representatives, of the political party Union of Navarrese People (UPN), who have submitted a non-law proposition presented in 2017 ([Proposición No de Ley presentada en el 2017](#)), by which the National Commission of Health and Social Services of the Congress of Deputies urges the Government of Spain to "develop, in the Six-month term, a National Suicide Prevention Plan.

Parliamentary interventions:

At a political parliamentary level in the Congress of Deputies of Spain the Confederal Parliamentary Group of Unidos Podemos-En Comú Podem-En Marea made a Proposition Not of Law formalizing the demands about Health and Well-being of the Santander Manifest ([Manifiesto de Santander](#)) agreed in the IV State Encounter of Child and Adolescent Participation Councils. Also the Mixed Commission for the Study of the Problem of Drugs asked Mr. Raimundo Parreño Martínez, Social Welfare Technician of the Municipality of Portugalete, to inform about the study report "Minors Without Alcohol" ([Menores Sin Alcohol](#)).

8. CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

The Ministry of Culture and Sport ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) (until 2018, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport) is responsible for establishing, promoting and disseminating the different cultural policies and programmes in the country. The Culture Plan 2020 ([Plan Cultura 2020](#)), developed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport in March 2017, is an instrument whose main objective is to make culture a State policy in a period of three years from 2017 to 2020. This Plan aims to promote a high quality cultural offer, to update the legal framework for the protection of culture, to promote social partnership for culture, to promote Spanish culture abroad and to promote creative activity for cultural creation and innovation in a stable medium with greater visibility for its agents. It also aims at modernising the award system granted by the Ministry. It also promotes the participation of Spanish cultural professionals in the European Union's financing instruments for cultural industries and supports the international mobility of artists and cultural professionals.

One of the main aspects of the Culture Plan 2020 is to organize and promote cooperation among the General Administration of the State, the Autonomous Regions, Autonomous Cities, Ministries, institutions and other agents who play a role in creating the social, political and legal context that guarantees access to culture, artistic creation, protection of cultural heritage and the development of cultural industries with freedom.

8.1 General context

Main trends in young people's creativity and cultural participation

The Spanish Constitution of 1978 ([Constitución de 1978](#)) establishes in its article 44.1 that "the public authorities will promote and protect access to culture, to which everyone has the right." According to the article 46, Spanish citizens are also obliged to preserve their historical and cultural heritage and any attacks on it might be penalized by criminal law.

According to the survey of cultural habits and practices in Spain 2018-2019 carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Sport ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) young people have the highest cultural participation rates in virtually all cultural fields: they visited more museums and monuments, attended more stage and musical shows, read more, went to libraries more often and engaged in more active cultural practices compared to older citizens. This very high participation rate is inversely correlated with age. Also the educational level is one of the most decisive variables for cultural participation, with those with higher educational attainment being significantly more likely to engage in cultural activities.

Additionally one of the issues hindering youth access to culture are the costs associated with participating in cultural activities. Given that the resources available to the youth are scarce, going to the theatre, exhibition or a concert implies expenditure not affordable for all income groups. Thus, for many young people, some cultural practices require particular level of commitment.

Main concepts

Cultural heritage: The cultural heritage is no longer limited to monuments and collections of objects that are part of the material cultural heritage. Nowadays, it also includes oral traditions, performing arts, social customs, rituals, festive acts, knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, and knowledge and techniques linked to traditional crafts that are part of the intangible cultural heritage.

Access to culture: As previously mentioned, access to culture is unambiguously endorsed by the Spanish Constitution in the [article 44.1](#), where it is conceptualised as a universal right. It is also one of the main components of the Ministry of Culture and Sport Cultural Plan 2020 ([Plan Cultura 2020](#)). In fact, universal access to culture is mentioned directly in the first and third objectives of the plan and integrated in its strategy 3.7: "[Improvement of social access to cultural heritage](#)".

Although a strong emphasis is given by public authorities in the field of education and culture to the notion of cultural access, it is less present in a wide-range of other policies. Moreover, in Spain, the frequency of participation in cultural or sport activities is five points lower than the EU average (source: [Eurostat](#)). Nevertheless, it is important to note that among young people (aged between 16 and 29) said participation increases significantly and is only two points below the European average.

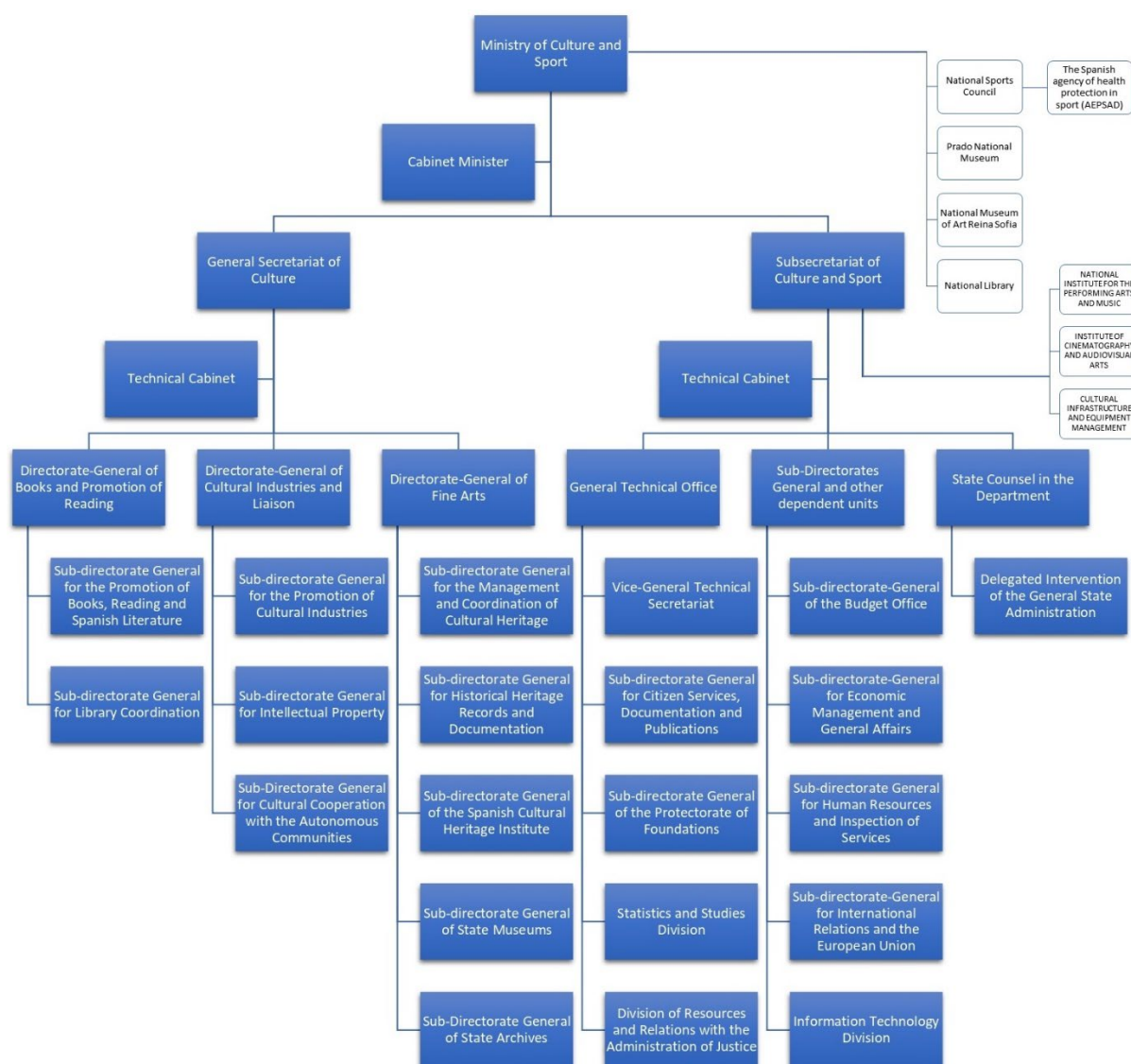
8.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors:

The Ministry of Culture and Sport ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) through the Department of Culture is responsible for establishing, promoting and disseminating the different cultural policies and programmes in the country, following the specific guidelines that correspond to each instance listed in the chart below.

General distribution of responsibilities:



Source: [Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport 2020](#).

Non-public actors:

The [Spanish Youth Council](#) is a plural platform made out of youth entities for the exchange of ideas.

The [Workers' Commissions](#), since the 1970s, has become the largest trade union in Spain. The [General Worker's Union](#) of Spain is one of the two major trade unions in Spain, founded in 1888. It is aimed at protecting the general interest of workers regardless of their labour situation (employed or unemployed) or the kind of contract they have (permanent or temporary).

Cross-sectorial cooperation

The Youth Strategy 2020 ([Estrategia Juventud 2020](#)) represents a strategy based on the recommendations of the European Union's E2020 and promoted by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#)), which has been responsible for involving all Ministries through the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the Youth.

8.3 National strategy on creativity and culture for young people

The recognition gathered in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([ICESCR](#)), developed in 1966 and incorporated in Spain in 1977, placed special emphasis on the right to culture, by requiring the signatory States to extend cultural participation to all citizens. The profile of those who participate in culture the most is usually linked to those with high education and to the youth. Public authorities are required to promote effectively and efficiently the social, political, economic and cultural conditions that allow young people to develop fully, including granting access to participation in culture.

Existence of a national strategy

Culture Plan 2020

The Culture Plan 2020 ([El Plan Cultura 2020](#)), developed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) in March 2017, is the successor of the General Strategic Plan 2012-2015 ([Plan Estratégico General 2012-2015](#)) and it is an instrument whose main objective is to make culture a State policy in a period of three years, from 2017 to 2020. The document details the general objectives, strategies, and projects aimed at involving citizens in cultural activities.

Scope and contents

Objectives and strategies

- To promote a quality cultural offer. Aims at promoting quality projects by modernising the equipment and technology in cultural management. This strategy aims at: improving the access to financing of cultural industries, applying better legal criteria to adequately value the copyrights; modernising cultural assets, protecting historical heritage and promoting the allocation of additional human and technological resources; reforming the National Institute of Performing Arts and Music ([Instituto Nacional de las Artes Escénicas y de la Música](#) [INAEM]) in charge of national policies related to the performing arts; strengthening public policies in support of the performing arts and music sectors with special attention to the most vulnerable areas; stimulating the technological development and diffusion of the Spanish audiovisual sector; supporting the dynamic role of the Spanish film library ([Filmoteca Española](#)); optimising human and material resources of the [Museo del Prado](#) and to clearly sketch its lines of work; promoting the critical knowledge of the public about modern and contemporary art, as well as reinforcing human and material resources of the [Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía](#); and facilitating the access to Spanish bibliographic and documentary heritage.
- To update the legal framework for the protection of culture. The intention is to redefine the regulatory scope according to the ever-changing sociocultural reality. The strategies are: to improve the taxation of culture and to reinforce the legal framework, as well as the resources and actions for the protection of intellectual property rights; to adopt new legal forms for the management of cultural heritage and artistic creation; to attract and facilitate filming in Spain; to promote transparent funding for cinema; to update the legal framework of the legal repository of publications.
- To promote social partnership for culture. The strategies are: to establish a joint commitment between civil society and public administrations; to make culture a decentralized political and social priority; to revitalize and support cultural patronage; to launch awareness-raising actions on the legal supply of cultural content and the defence of intellectual property; to reach an agreement with cultural agents to encourage reading; to reinforce cultural cooperation with the Autonomous Communities; to promote new tools for the protection of and access to cultural heritage; to preserve and disseminate musical and choreographic heritage; to contribute to

education and social inclusion through the performing arts; to create tools for visibility, diagnostics and monitoring of the performing arts; to promote an interest in cinematography with education in Spain; and to foster cultural patronage.

- Extending Spanish culture abroad. This objective requires the following actions: promoting the Spanish multicultural wealth abroad, with the help of public and private agents; promoting the Spanish offer of cultural tourism; completing the implementation of the Collective rights management directive; establishing inter-institutional instruments on the internalisation of culture; strengthening the international cooperation to make the richness of cultural heritage more visible; promoting collaboration in cultural heritage protection and research; promoting the internalization of the Spanish performing arts and music; consolidating the diffusion of Spanish cinema in the world; increasing the internalization of Spanish film archives; converting the National Library of Spain ([Biblioteca Nacional de España](#)) into a centre of reference in international Hispanism.
- Promoting creative activity for cultural creation and innovation in a stable medium and with greater visibility for its agents. Modernising the award system of the Ministry of Culture and Sport. Promoting the participation of Spanish cultural professionals in the European Union's financing instruments for cultural industries and to support the international mobility of artists and cultural professionals.

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

One of the main aspects of the Culture Plan 2020 is to organize and promote cooperation among the General Administration of the State, the Autonomous Regions, Autonomous Cities, Ministries, institutions and other agents who play a role in creating the social, political and legal context that guarantees access to culture, artistic creation, protection of cultural heritage and the development of cultural industries with freedom.

The Culture Plan 2020 is disaggregated into the Annual Operative Plans, in which each plan gathers the projects in execution, the activities involved, the results or concrete effects expected and the indicators or factors that measure the evolution and results of each project. The authorities responsible for each project included in the strategy are listed in the Annual Operative Plans, and they shall elaborate a report each year. The objective of this report is to supervise each Operative Plan and to achieve an integrated information depository. All the reports will follow the transparency principle of public availability.

Projects for young people within the Culture Plan 2020

Project	Objective
Opening of a space in the web of the film library (Filmoteca Española) for young people.	To make the film industry activities known to the younger audience.
Establishment of a project of investment with quotas for audiovisual production on new platforms.	To involve film and audiovisual production in new platforms, including special measures for young people and new filmmakers.
Implementation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training, an awareness plan for the school children regarding the need to respect intellectual property in the environment of new technologies.	To reduce the infringement of Intellectual Property by younger segments of the population.
Development of the program "Tobacco Quarry" (" Tabacalera Cantera ")	To facilitate the professionalisation of young people.

Source: [The 2020 Culture Plan](#). Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport 2019.

Revisions/updates

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport carried out strategic planning with the aim of fulfilling the constitutional mandate to guarantee access to culture during the years 2012-2015. The main objectives of the General Strategic Plan 2012-2015 vary from the Culture Plan 2020. In both plans, the modification of the Law of Cultural Patronage and the international promotion of Spain's brand through culture is highlighted. The new plan is more refined with its objectives for the digitalisation of culture.

Spanish cultural policies, similarly to the ones of other European countries, are influenced by the globalisation process and growing international interdependence. Undoubtedly, the first half of the twentieth century meant an advance in the definition of public cultural goods and services, recovering collective memory and heritage by setting the foundations for the structural guidelines of the institutionalised culture. Later changes were made leading to an expansion of cultural industries' markets and to the information society and digitalization. However, due to Francoism, the introduction of these changes suffered delays. During the democratic period (from 1978) there has not been much resonance of political proposals for the pact on culture as national policy. The most recent proposal is the one from March 2019 made by the Socialist Party (PSOE) offering a national pact to preserve and develop culture.

8.4 Promoting culture and cultural participation

Reducing obstacles to young people's access to culture

Grant extension for artistic and language studies 2018

Call for grants for the extension of artistic and language studies ([Ayudas ampliación estudios artísticos e idiomas 2018, Comunidad de Madrid](#)) for 2018. Aid was granted to cover the costs of registration, enrollment, transportation, accommodation, maintenance, local transportation, accident insurance, expendable materials necessary for the development of activities for those younger than 34 years old. The total budget was 169,960 €.

Disseminating information on cultural opportunities

Young Talent Programme

The INJUVE Young Talent Programme ([Programa Talento Joven](#)) promotes the talent of young people in different fields: employability and entrepreneurship, training, research, culture and sport, digital transformation, participation, Internationalization. The idea is to support young people (under 30 years old) involved in diverse projects with high social impact.

Acción Cultural Española (AC/E) Is a agency that orchestrates public support for the promotion of culture, both in Spain and overseas. Their aims include promoting Spain's rich and plural artistic legacy and fostering the internationalisation of its most contemporary creative and culture sector.

Spain is Culture ([España es Cultura](#))

Spain's cultural offer.

Knowledge of cultural heritage amongst young people

The Institute of Cultural Heritage of Spain ([Instituto de Patrimonio Cultural de España](#)), has a national preventive conservation Plan that includes cultural tourism as an element of social cohesion and integrational cultural communication. Following the results of the Youth Report in Spain (2016) ([Informe Juventud en España 2016](#)) the leisure activity preferred by the youth is to travel, since 95% say they prefer it to other activities, and the favorite tourist destination is France. Similarly, the relationship between youth and cultural heritage constitutes a sector with many opportunities. The Spanish Government

has been taking advantage of them since the '80s when the Schools Workshops ([Escuelas Taller](#)) project was established, teaching young people, between 16 and 25 years old, the great value of the Spanish heritage.

8.5 Developing cultural and creative competences

Acquiring cultural and creative competences through education and training

For more information on formal education, please consult Chapter 6. Education and Training, section 8: [Media literacy and safe use of new media](#).

Non formal learning projects:

INJUVES grants for the Young creation

These grants are part of the Youth Creation Programme ([Creación Joven](#)) of the Spanish Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud \(INJUVE\)](#)). It makes an annual national call to promote the professionalisation of young artists. The beneficiaries can belong to the music, visual arts, literary, design, comic and illustration sectors. The projects submitted should opt for one of these four types of aid:

- Production of work with freedom of format and technique (18-30 years); up to 3,500€.
- Mobility expenses for the production of works, tours, residencies and mobility of the artists at the national and international level (18-30 years) up to 3,500€.
- Entrepreneurship for young creators in emerging spaces of creation (18-35 years) up to 7,000€.
- Sala Amadís of the Institute of the Youth: curatorship of exhibitions, workshops or other activities of emergent creation to develop in group or collective (18-35 years) 7,000€.

INJUVE 2021 Creation Programme

A new call was launched in 2021 for the INJUVE 2021 Creation Programme ([Ayudas Injuve para la Creación Joven 2021](#)) which began in 2011.

These grants are aimed at young creators up to 30 or 35 years of age (depending on the line of action) for projects to be developed during the year 2022 in areas such as visual, performing, musical, literary, design, comic and illustration arts.

The projects submitted must be included in one of these four lines of action:

1. Production of work: artistic projects with freedom of format and technique (18 to 30 years old), up to €5,000.
2. Mobility of work produced and/or mobility of creators in specialised spaces, tours or residencies (except for regulated studies) at national and international level (18 to 30 years old), up to €5,000.
3. Entrepreneurship for young creation: development of cultural entrepreneurship projects whose purpose is to initiate an activity or maintain a recently created activity at national or international level (18 to 35 years old), up to €10,000.
4. Sala Amadís of the Instituto de la Juventud: curating exhibitions, programming workshops or other emerging creation activities to be carried out in groups or collectives (18 to 35 years old), up to €7,000.

Grant action and cultural promotion ([Ayudas acción y promoción cultural](#)) The call is announced on a yearly basis. It was announced in April 2019 and had a budget with a maximum amount of €1.4 million. It was available on the website of the Spanish Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud \(INJUVE\)](#)) and its resolution was issued by the Ministry of Culture and Sport ([Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte](#)) and published in the Official State Gazette ([BOE](#)). The objective of the subsidy for action and cultural promotion ([Ayudas](#)

[acción y promoción cultural 2019](#)) is to modernize and promote the cultural sector by means of:

- Activities that contribute to the production, dissemination of contents and cultural services using new technologies as a tool.
- Increasing the professionalisation of cultural and creative industries and their capacity to create jobs, enhancing the formation and integration of sectoral associations and networks within the cultural sector.
- Stimulating the participation of the private sector and promoting cultural patronage.
- Promoting the internationalisation of Spanish culture and its inclusion in European networks of cultural offer, improving the links between the Autonomous Communities, to promote the active participation of citizens in the cultural processes and to strengthen Spain as a cultural tourist destination.

The beneficiaries are individuals with Spanish nationality, or that of any Member State of the European Union or of the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement. Legal entities can participate as long as they are non-profit and have a fiscal domicile in Spain.

Specialised training for professionals in the education, culture and youth fields

Training offer in cultural industries

- CULTUREX Scholarships ([Becas CULTUREX](#)) for practical training and specialization in cultural management at cultural institutions abroad. This scholarship programme is for nine months of practical training in cultural management for young professionals abroad to internationalise the cultural management and cultural exchange. There are three ways to do this. a) commercial offices, b) cultural institutions, c) Spanish consulates and embassies. The beneficiaries are Spanish citizens over the age of 18 and under 35, with strong knowledge of the English language and/or of the language of the requested destination country. The procedure is public and begins with the publication of the call in Official State Gazette ([Boletín Oficial del Estado \(BOE\)](#)).

Meeting with Young Creators, in the Month of Emergent Design

The meeting is aimed at young students, teachers and the general public interested in the grants of [INJUVE](#)'s Young Creation. [INJUVE](#)'s Young Creation. Other activities include participating for the first time in the Month of Emergent Design ([Mes del Diseño Emergente](#)), in which the outstanding students of the main schools of fashion design show their designs in the showcases of the Museum of Costume ([Museo del Traje](#)), and in which the beneficiaries of Young Creators grant exhibit their creative experiences as well as the challenges of their professional field.

Providing quality access to creative environments

Culture Resident

The Consortium of Museums in the Valencian Community ([Consorti de Museus de la Comunitat Valenciana](#)) launched a Residency Programme for artistic creators. There are four openings to present unpublished proposals or people who are in the process of research in order to promote their production. The main idea is to endow the creators with resources, space, time and backing for the creation of their projects. The initiative is linked to contemporary artistic creation that aims at experimentation and innovation in the present visual, scenic, musical, literary or audiovisual fields. At least two of the four selected projects must correspond to people who are rooted in the Valencian Community. The approved projects began their residences of two to four months in the year 2018 and had a monthly financial allowance that covers production expenses, travel allowance for the trip and lodging.

8.6 Developing entrepreneurial skills through culture

Entrepreneurial School Awards

The Princess of Girona Foundation ([Fundación Princesa de Girona](#)) announces awards for entrepreneurial schools open to Spanish educational centers focused on the development of young talent and innovation. The programme to Educate Entrepreneurial Talent ([Educar al Talento Emprendedor](#)) of the Fundación Princesa de Girona aims to teach how to undertake entrepreneurship projects as a pillar of education.

Developing entrepreneurial skills through cultural activities

InnGames

In 2014 the Youth Institute conducted the [InnGames](#) meeting to promote the culture of entrepreneurship, employability and innovation in video games, applications and digital interactive products. This program facilitates training and access to new professional environments in the digital field. The program was supported by the majority of companies in the national and international gaming industry, companies developing applications and public companies working in the digital sector. All of them worked on two objectives: 1) To propose new training routes within the National Vocational Training subsystem and 2) to consolidate a permanent working agenda in collaboration with the industry, the educational sector and public institutions involved.

Support young entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sectors

National Youth Award

The Youth National Prizes ([Los Premios Nacionales de Juventud](#)) arise from the need to recognize the work of those young people, under the age of thirty, whose entrepreneurial work in the field of employment, inter-cultural communication, volunteering or exercise against discrimination makes it worthy of such recognition (economic endowment of 3,000€ of a total of 12,000€ that come out of INJUVE's expenses budget).

8.7 Fostering the creative use of new technologies

Young people in Spain have gone from representing a third of the population to being less than a fourth part of the population, with unemployment rate that doubled during the recent economic crises, while their qualification increased as university students numbers grow, as well as the importance of Information Technologies and Communication (ICT) and the Internet ([Fumero, 2016](#)).

However, there are still two main areas where digital divide is still in place in Spain: socioeconomic and generational. The first concerns the lack of access to the network and the second to the distance in digital skills that increasingly separates Western adolescents from their parents and educators.

New technologies in support of creativity and innovation

The traditional editorial, discographic and film industries have undergone a serious transformation in recent decades after the rise of digitalisation. [Puwerty](#), for example, is a festival which began in 2017 and consists of a multidisciplinary project of the [Casa Encendida](#) with specific programming aimed at young people between 12 and 26 years old.

The name of the festival is a mixture of the words power and puberty. The idea is to include workshops on youth identity, a debate between young people working in the creative industries and live music. Moreover, in previous editions, one of the ramifications of the festival was the "Inbox" ([Bandeja de Entrada](#)) call for projects which seeks to promote and disseminate artistic creation among young people who innovate with their

format. The selected project is granted with 500€ for production and staging in the next edition of the festival.

Facilitating access to culture through new technologies

The Digital Agenda for Spain ([Agenda Digital para España](#)) follows the guidelines of the [Digital Single Market Strategy](#) for Europe from 2015 to 2020 incorporating its objectives for the economic, social and digital culture development. It is a response to the need of extending the accessibility to ICT of Spaniards, raising awareness of copyright laws and to digitise the cultural heritage. This agenda contained 106 specific objectives derived from the six main axis in which the promotion of digital skills is highlighted. This strategy intends to promote investigation, development, and innovation in the emerging technologies and the formation of new ICT professionals and digital literacy and inclusion. In relation to these objectives, in 2015 the Smart Cities ([Ciudades Inteligentes](#)) plan funded with 188.35 M€ and the Plan of Impulse of Technologies of Language ([Plan de Impulso de las Tecnologías del Lenguaje](#)) with a budget of 89,142,000€ were approved.

Young Technology Appropriation And Communication

In Gijón more than 200 people, mostly 18 to 35 year olds, representatives of youth associations and youth councils meet to attend and conduct seminars and workshops at the Cabueños Encounters ([Los Encuentros de Cabueños 2019](#)). The main theme is the communication and the use that youth and organizations make of traditional media, social networks and ICT in general.

8.8 Synergies and partnerships

Synergies between public policies and programmes

Within the 2020 Culture Plan ([Plan Cultura 2020](#)) there is an initiative to promote a social partnership by strengthening the link between public policies and the programmes that derive from them to:

- Boost the cultural patronage with the approval of the [Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation](#) of a law of cultural patronage and the creation of the Unit of Culture and Patronage.
- To reach, together with cultural agents, a greater promotion of reading by fostering the Observatory of Reading and the Book, to start a new Plan for the Promotion of Reading and the creation of Reading Clubs with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training;
- To promote civic culture in Spain by celebrating the encounter of culture and citizenship that serves as a space for reflection, collaboration and networking work in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities and local authorities;
- To promote new tools for the dissemination and protection of cultural heritage, as well as to improve its accessibility by strengthening existing National Cultural Heritage Plans and strengthening the Social Museums ([Museos + Sociales](#)) programme;
- To preserve and to disseminate musical and choreographic heritage. To contribute to the education and social inclusion from the performing arts through an audiovisual platform called Danzamedia, to have a tool of work and study of the Spanish dance.

Partnerships between the culture and creative sectors, youth organisations and youth workers

International working fields

The Spanish Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud \(INJUVE\)](#)) through the Alliance of European Voluntary Organizations ([Alianza de Organizaciones de Voluntariado Europeo](#)) and the Autonomous Communities offers 710 places, distributed in 31 countries within the

Programme Fields Of Work, in which Spaniards between 18 and 30 years old carry out volunteer projects for 15 days. The programme aims at enhancing intercultural learning, personal development and reinforcement of cooperative values.

Petit Palaces Hotel Award

The [Petit Palace Hotels](#) participated with [Boreal Projects](#) in the ArtSevilla-International Meeting of Contemporary Art 2017 ([ArtSevilla-Encuentro Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo 2017](#)). 10 artists under 35 years old exhibited at the hotel in Seville from 26 to 31 October, as well as in the international emerging [Hybrid Art Fair](#) in Madrid.

Mulafest

[Mulafest](#) is an art fair in its sixth edition held during the summer in Madrid. It is devoted to tattooing, music, sexuality, eroticism and urban art. It also counts for the first time with the participation of [INJUVE](#), in an illustration contest that celebrates its fourth year, and whose main prize amounts to 1,000 euros in the categories of comics and graphic novels.

8.9 Enhancing social inclusion through culture

Fostering equality and young people involvement through cultural activities

Social Inclusion for the Gypsy People

In 2012 the National Strategy for Social Inclusion of the Gypsy People in Spain 2012-2020 ([Estrategia Nacional para la Inclusión Social de la Población Gitana en España 2012-2020](#)) was created to foster and promote the Gypsy culture. The funding of the strategy depends on the budget of programs aimed at the whole population, programs developed exclusively to the Gypsy population and the projects of the different Autonomous Regions. Similarly, the recognition, study and dissemination of Romani as the international language of the Gypsy people is sought. Institutional support is given to the Institute of Gypsy Culture ([Instituto de Cultura Gitana](#)) to promote the history and cultural heritage of the Gypsy people.

Performing Arts for Social inclusion

Intercultural Diversity is a model of social integration and it is part of the tools created for the inclusion of young people with less opportunities. It is organized by the NGO Asteroid Cultural Club and sponsored by [Erasmus+](#). It brought together more than 60 dancers from Romania, France and Spain. The collaboration between Romania and France was carried out thanks to two European NGOs: [SF. HARALAMBIE](#) and [MODE H EUROPE](#) of Romania and France, respectively. These NGOs did a flashmobi in the Plaza Cervantes in Alcalá de Henares to establish an intercultural dialogue and also have fun dancing.

Transce Cultural Programme from Radio Eterogenia declared of the municipal interest of Córdoba

The deliberative Council of the city of Córdoba declared on September 7th, 2017, that the radio program "Transce Cultural" of radio Eterogenia of the Spanish Cultural Center Cordoba was of cultural interest, for its valuable work in the field of diversity and the promotion of LGTBIQ rights in pursuit of a more respectful and inclusive society.

Combating discrimination and poverty through cultural activities

The Spanish Integral Strategy of Culture for all. Accessibility to Culture for people with disabilities.

The Spanish Integral Strategy of Culture for everybody. Accessibility to Culture for People with Disabilities ([Estrategia Integral de Cultura para todos. Accesibilidad a la Cultura para las personas con Discapacidad](#)) is an initiative aimed at improving the inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities to cultural spaces and activities. It aims to

normalize the promotion of services and integrative products directed towards people with disabilities in the dual scope of access to the enjoyment of culture as spectators and also to the exercise of artistic creation and development as cultural managers.

Objective 3.4 refers to promote the incorporation into the programmes of cultural spaces and actions attached to or dependent on the Ministry of Culture, aimed at children or young people, of activities that encourage or stimulate children and young people with disabilities to enjoy culture and participate in cultural and artistic creation.

8.10 Current debates and reforms

The latest initiative of interest brought to the parliamentary Commission of Culture is the [Statute of the Artist](#). This statute collects a series of proposals with the intention of improving the working conditions of the artist, in the broadest sense, referring not only to the artists in public spectacles but all those creators, interpreters and technicians without discriminating on their age or gender status.

Moreover, the 2019 V meeting of Culture and Citizenship ([V Encuentro Cultura y Ciudadanía](#)) is a meeting, which has been held since 2015 in [Matadero Madrid](#), among different cultural agents around the challenges posed by democratisation and access to culture, framed in the production-consumption dichotomy. One of the central themes is the understanding of new institutions. Another subject is how public space, citizenship, challenges and possibilities of cultural policies are built within the context of the new digital culture of the 21st century. In 2017, after continuous protests by the cultural agents, the Government lowered the added value taxation of live shows such as theatre, dance, opera, circus, etc. and in 2018 also the taxation on movie screenings was implemented.

At a parliamentary level, in the Culture Commission of the Congress of Deputies, the Government asked the State Secretary of Culture to appear in order to give information of the degree of execution of the Culture Plan 2020. Also the Socialist Parliamentary Group has raised a [legal initiative](#) in the Culture Commission on the implementation of various measures of the Culture Plan 2020.

9. YOUTH AND THE WORLD

According to the Youth Report (2020) ([Informe Juventud en España 2020](#)) the attitudes, values, and behaviors of young people are associated with the macro-social and political contexts such as the organisational and political networks of the groups in which they are inserted. In the area of global sustainability, Spain is part of various international treaties and has a Master Plan of Cooperation ([V Plan Director de la Cooperación Española 2018-2021](#)) that started in 2001 and its is currently in its V edition approved for its period 2018-2021. It recognizes the eradication of poverty, in all its dimensions, as a necessary condition for achieving sustainable development, eradicating inequality, hunger and pursuing social justice in regards to the four spheres of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#): persons, planet, prosperity and peace.

The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation ([Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo \(AECID\)](#)) is the Spanish cooperation management body oriented towards the fight against poverty and sustainable human development. The Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge ([Ministerio de Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico](#)), through the general secretariat of the environment) wants to promote a pro-environmental action between individuals and social groups, to achieve informed actions towards a sustainable society in the vital context of its citizens: home, work, school, leisure and community.

On 11 January 2021, the [Resolution of 30 December 2020](#), of the Directorate General for Environmental Quality and Assessment, was published in the Official State Gazette (BOE),

formulating the strategic environmental declaration of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. This plan is one of the Spanish Government's instruments for meeting the goals and objectives set by the European Union in relation to energy and climate policy. Some of the main objectives of this plan set for 2030 are: - 23% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to 1990. - 42% of renewables in the final use of energy. - 39.5% improvement in energy efficiency. - 74% of renewable energy in electricity generation.

The *Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy* ([Estrategia Española de Desarrollo Sostenible](#)) establishes actions for the achievement of a *sustainable consumption and production; sustainable construction; sustainable urban mobility; social sustainability and global sustainability*.

In recent years, climate change has increased its visibility in the media and the public agenda, mainly because the widespread increase in temperatures, natural disasters and environmental deterioration across the globe have highlighted the negative effects of climate change and the severe environmental problems. For example, the decrease in water resources, the regression of the coast, the loss of biodiversity and the increases in soil erosion processes.

9.1 General context

Main concepts

On October 14, 2015 in Spain a new [Volunteering Law 45/2015](#) came into force with the intention of adapting to the needs of 21st century volunteerism giving coverage to a voluntary without qualifiers and establishing the areas of voluntary actions such as environmental and social inclusion in each Autonomous Region through the intermediation of the National Center for Environmental Education ([CENEAM](#)) and the [European Youth Portal](#).

The following concepts are collected in the [Spanish Sustainable Development Strategy](#):

Sustainable consumption and production: analyzing how countries consume and produce goods and services and identifying how and why these patterns of production and consumption contribute to environmental degradation. Applying sustainable consumption and production requires a set of actions such as clean production, energy efficiency, responsible chemical management, a [sustainable public procurement](#) policy, eco-labelling (in tourist accommodation, or products like soaps, shampoo, detergents and Energy Star labels or categories such as "AAA" in appliances), sustainable lifestyles and education for sustainable consumption ([Code of Consumption of Catalonia](#)), fair Trade, recycling or donating, to name a few.

Sustainable construction: The collaboration of several professionals in the construction of sustainable buildings in cities that will help them to make a more responsible use of the energy resources of buildings and houses, as well as the optimization of the social and environmental use of the territory.

Sustainable urban mobility: making urban mobility more efficient and sustainable through public transport, gentle mobility (walking, biking, public space) and accessibility for disabled children, the elderly and young people.

Social sustainability: The Spanish effort to try to maintain a joint model of social welfare and economic growth through job creation, greater social cohesion and poverty eradication.

Global Sustainability: International cooperation for sustainable development. It consists of increasing official development assistance (ODA) to 0.5% of the gross national income in 2008 and 0.7% by 2012; increasing the effectiveness, coherence, and quality of the Spanish cooperation policy; integrating a multidimensional fight against poverty.

Youth interest in global issues

In this era of globalised modernity, there has been an increase in the identification of the local and the global at the same time. In the data extracted from the [Youth in Spain 2020 Report](#), on a scale of 0-10, young people identify themselves as belonging to their autonomous community with an average of 8 and as citizens of the world with 7.8. While they identify less with being Spanish (7.2) and being European (6.7).

In the eyes of the youth, environmental deterioration and the economic crises have become unbearable. Well-Being, peace and global security, human rights, cultural diversity, or gender are part of the wide range of interests of the Spanish youth, which points at a citizenship committed to its environment.

In the same report, the degree of interest (0-10) they have in different political issues is indicated. Among the top six, the classic problems such as work (8.6), education (8.5), security (8.2) and housing (8) stand out. Equality between men and women (8.2) and climate change (7.8) are also very important.

9.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Main actors:

The main actor at a national level of policy-making in international cooperation is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation ([Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación](#)).

General distribution of responsibilities:

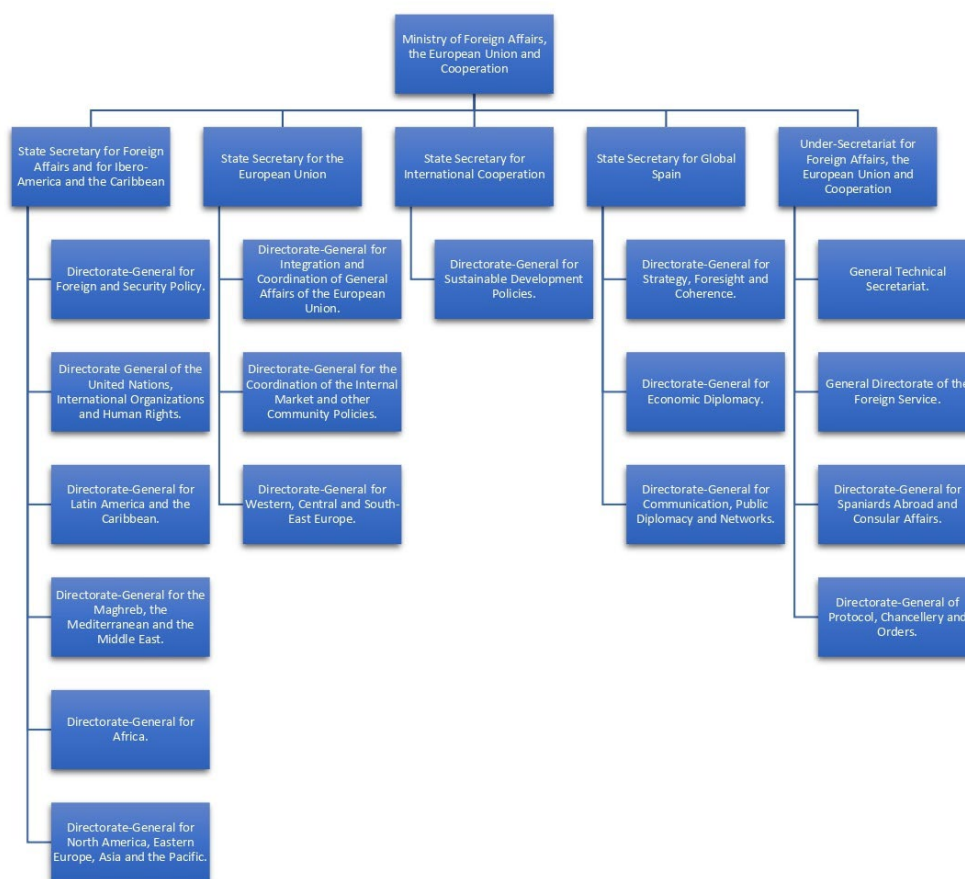


Chart 1. Own elaboration 2020. ([Royal Decree 644/2020](#))

Cross-sectorial cooperation

There are different strategies between the public policies and the programs of the bodies mentioned in the table above, all of them responsible for guiding young people towards projects of international cooperation and sustainable development as we will see in the following paragraphs. In this way, there is a synergy between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its secretariats and dependent directors with other ministries such as the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge ([Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico](#)), Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)), public universities, private initiative foundations and non-governmental organizations to bring young people closer to the issues of the global agenda.

9.3 Exchanges between young people and policy-makers on global issues

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the domestic level

Connecting Worlds

Is an OXFAM initiative that together with the Youth Institute seeks to establish Global citizenship as a model actively engaged in the search for a more equal and sustainable world. Each year the program chooses a different theme such as labor rights, climate change or poverty with educational proposals suitable for young people. The topic for the 2018-2019 edition of *Connecting Worlds* ([Conectando Mundos](#)) is extreme inequality, and its objectives are: to critically analyse the social rights system in our surroundings, as well as other situations of inequality, to establish the cause and consequences of those unequal situations, reject the inequalities at local level by guaranteeing an ethical standpoint based in justice and social equality, and finally, promote actions and behaviours that mean a better access to basic social rights. For six weeks each group accesses an *online* platform in which they are given follow-up and continuity in their activities. After that phase, the smaller pupils of secondary or primary school participate in face-to-face meetings in which they share their ideas and proposals.

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the international level

UN Volunteers for the COP23 conference

At the [UN Climate Change Conference](#), approximately 20,000 delegates from around the world will meet from 6 to 17 November in Bonn (2017) Germany to advance the Paris agreement. The UN seeks to recruit more than 650 volunteers over 18 years old in logistics tasks and to work on the development of green and sustainable projects, trainings and discussions such as those that will take place in *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Climate KIC-2017

The public-private Innovation network [Climate-Knowledge and Innovation Community, or Climate-KIC](#) feeds on youth awareness to seek sustainable solutions to everyday problems. During the summer it brought together 40 young people from all over the European continent for a 5-week trip in which they received intensive training from experts. For example, one group visited fruit growers in Bologna, Italy; the Business Innovation Center in Munich, Germany; finishing their trip in Helsinki, Finland.

The same network facilitates the creation of projects, start-ups, courses and meetings with international leaders.

Youth for Climate Action: Conference of Youth

The [COP25 climate change conference](#) was held in Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 15 December 2019, under the presidency of the Chilean government. It aimed to complete the rules for

the implementation of the Paris Agreement and address a range of other issues. In advance of COP25, the European Parliament tabled questions to the European Commission and the Council and adopted a resolution during the November II plenary session.

The next Youth4Climate conference will be held on 28-30 September in Italy 2021 under the title [youth4climate: Driving Ambition](#). The first two days will be dedicated to working groups, while the last day will feature a discussion between young delegates and the Ministers attending [pre-COP 26](#).

YOUTH CONFERENCE 2018 A resolution entitled "[EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#)" was signed at the [Youth Conference](#) in Vienna in 2018. It included the 11 youth goals:

1. Connecting the EU with young people, to regain their trust in the EU project and encourage their participation in it.
2. Equality of all genders, ending discrimination, especially against women, and guaranteeing the rights of all people, including non-binary and LGTBIQ+ people.
3. Inclusive societies, ensuring the integration of those at risk of poverty and social exclusion.
4. Information and constructive dialogue, with the aim of enabling access to reliable information and empowering young people to receive and disseminate critical and responsible messages.
5. Mental health and well-being, to break down the stigmatisation of mental health problems, promoting the social inclusion of young people.
6. Empower rural youth, given the continuing disparities in opportunities between urban and rural areas, by creating conditions to tap the potential of the latter.
7. Quality employment for all, reducing high rates of youth unemployment, abusive working conditions and discrimination in the workplace.
8. Quality learning, by improving ways of teaching and preparing young people for the challenges of an ever-changing life.
9. Space and participation for all, by strengthening the autonomy of young people and providing them with spaces in all areas of society.
10. A green and sustainable Europe, to act against climate change and constant environmental threats, ensuring sustainability in all areas.
11. European youth programmes and youth organisations, open to the European youth field.

9.4 Raising awareness about global issues

Formal, non-formal and informal learning

In line with the European Parliament recommendation [2006/962/EC](#) and from the Council on 18th December, 2006 on key competencies for lifelong learning, the [Royal Decree 1105/2014](#) establishes the basic curriculum of compulsory secondary education and Baccalaureate. These include knowledge in practice, a knowledge acquired through social practices, in formal and informal fields and non-formal areas. In baccalaureate, Earth and Environmental sciences it is part of the specific subjects, of which they can choose a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to set the minimum number of teaching hours corresponding to the set of basic subjects for the different years of Baccalaureate, which may not be less than 50% of the total hours of education established by each education authority. The possible extensions of class hours that may be established will not be taken into account.

Green in everyday life

[Green in everyday life](#) is an educational project aimed at reducing the impact of households on the environment, whose methodology (manual, outreach videos and various educational materials) is based on the national project [Green Homes](#). The initiative has international cooperation and with the economic support of the European Program of

Education, Training, Youth and Sport [Erasmus +](#) and the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge ([Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico](#)). This project has worked seven different organizations from Spain ([Asociación Columbares](#) and the National Center for Environmental Education ([CENEAM](#)), United Kingdom ([Insider Access](#)), Sweden ([Global Playground Stockholm](#)), Italy ([Consorzio ABN](#)), Morocco ([Bassin Guirr](#)) and Jordan ([East & West Center](#)).

OSCE Youth and Security Conference

After 10 years of the first Youth Forum promoted by the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#), in 2017, a new conference on Youth and Security ([Conferencia sobre Juventud y Seguridad](#)) was held in Malaga to assess the achievements from the decade and provide a space for dialogue between young representatives (18-29 years) and the actors responsible for promoting a culture of peace, prevention and conflict resolution, incorporating the safe use of ICT and promoting tolerance and respect for diversity within *online* platforms.

The international Forum was attended by young people from more than sixty OSCE member states and representatives from the field of safety and youth in their respective countries.

V Online Course on Volunteer Training of InteRed

The Workshop on Volunteer Training is an NGO initiative [InteRed](#) for those who want to deepen the causes of injustice at the global level and participate in the construction of a collective thinking with people interested in solidarity action.

The online volunteering course aims to bring the contents and work proposals closer to the virtual methodology. The course will offer the possibility of face-to-face accompaniment from the nearest InteRed office. It will take place from April 15, 2021 - May 30, 2021 and is aimed at people who seek social transformation, people who are volunteers and/or who want to prepare for it and people who have reached the age of 18.

University of Youth and Development

In Mollina, Málaga, more than 200 students gathered to take part in workshops that provide young people with alternative tools that reinforce inclusion and diversity. The conductive thread called "Connecting identities" with the intention of showing participants the need to build an individual identity, from mutual recognition of differences, and inserted into the context of global citizenship. The different work of the university days focused on its most recent edition in how the era of globalization is marked by population movements and crossed by multicultural profiles. Therefore, formal and non-formal education is seen in this space as an essential tool that aims to equip young people with the necessary tools learned in workshops whose themes range from civic education, active citizenship, refugee integration, the euro-Arab approach and the deconstruction of gender stereotypes.

This event is carried out annually from the initiative from the Youth Institute ([INJUVE](#)) in collaboration with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, and other international youth organizations which carried out the 17th University of Youth and Development ([Universidad de Juventud y Desarrollo](#)).

Young people against climate change

Young people against Global warming ([Jóvenes frente al Cambio Climático](#)) was a proposal (2012) focused on educational innovation *Young people seen by young people*, with a methodology and an innovative audiovisual format that allows the professional audiovisual co-production of students and poses an alternative to the traditional communication design. This is a research project of applied innovation, financed by the former Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and developed in the following educational centres and institutions:

- [IES Puerta Bonita de Madrid](#), as a focal point.

- [Institut Pere Martell](#), Tarragona.
- [IES Néstor Almendros](#), Seville.
- [IES Imaxe e Son](#), A. Coruña.
- MDCS research group Dialectic Mediation of Social Communication ([Mediación Dialéctica de Comunicación Social](#)), from the Complutense University of Madrid.

The idea is that the footprints of the impact of climate change are different in Tarragona, Seville, Galicia or Madrid, hence the responses of young people and the general population as well. Therefore, the importance in trying to collect the different voices and strategies through three different lines:

- A documentary for cinemas and television, the result of the cooperative work of more than 80 students and 15 professors from the different participating centres of Spain who are studying higher degrees in Communication, Image and Sound. It is a work developed by young people in order to educate others of the problem of global warming and to promote their commitment to mitigation.
- At the same time, the graphic design students have produced interactive content and development of the Web documentary in the Transmedia Narrative workshop with the intention of linking the various participating institutions and disseminating the information *online*.
- In the same way, the Complutense research group carried out various activities aimed at research on the communication of climate change. These were carried out through focus group on environmental issues, research days and discussions with experts in the field.

IDEATON X LOS ODS

The [Ideathons for the SDGs](#) are events open to the participation of Civil Society to offer citizen solutions and real actions to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and involve citizens in the 2030 Agenda. All this through participatory dynamics and the [Empodera.org](#) platform supported by the United Nations. The next ones will be held at the University of Oviedo (11/03 - 22/04), University of Almeria (16/03 - 20/04) and Polytechnic University of Madrid (25/03 - 11/05).

Spanish Strategy for Urban and Local Sustainability ([EESUL](#)) Training Plan

The training tool consists of a series of courses designed by the research team in environmental education and participation of the Autonomous University of Madrid in collaboration with the Urban Ecology Agency of Barcelona. The Training is included within the *Spanish Strategy for Urban and Local Sustainability* (Estrategia Española de Sostenibilidad Urbana y Local, [EESUL](#)), which is also implemented by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge to improve the ability and sustainability of the Spanish towns. The offer of the [courses](#) is remote, either in a blended or *online way*. The teaching load is 75 hours, of which 60 are by means of a tele-teaching platform and the remaining 15 hours are with teachers (face-to-face or through videoconferencing in real time or deferred).

Educator's support

Climántica

It is a two-year pedagogical project coordinated through the network of the educational group [Climántica](#) and IES Virxe do Mar, strategically allied with [Educo2Cean-STs](#) founded by the European Union to raise awareness through educational models about the challenge of global changes in the oceans, so it is part of the Erasmus + 2016 program with a budget of €249.000.

The purpose is to create a multilingual platform under the tutelage of a group of scientists from Spain (University of Vigo), Portugal ([Portuguese Association for Environmental Education](#)), IES Ribeira do Louro Pourriño and the National Agency for scientific and

Technological Culture), Great Britain (Marine Alliance for Science and Technology) and Poland (Caretakers of Environment International.) The resulting materials serve to create models of participation and community environmental education. The target population is 15-18-year-old, but resources can also be adapted for 12-14-year-old who will be able to present their work at a virtual youth congress. The teachers of these young people will be the ones who will receive the training to later guide them with their contributions.

Course of the European Council on Human Rights Education

The [North-South Centre](#) of the European Council convened youth workers, educators and youth policy leaders to three different online courses that have been being given: the [Human Rights Dimension](#) since 2009, the [Intercultural Dimension](#) since 2012, and the [Citizenship Dimension](#) since 2015 and due to their success they are still available.

Green homes

Green Homes ([Hogares verdes](#)) is an educational program aimed at families who are concerned about the environmental impact of their everyday habits and would like to have a more responsible management of their home: promoting the self-control of energy and water expenditure; introducing energy saving and economising measures; helping to make a more ethical and ecological purchase. The responsibility of the program is the *National Center for Environmental Education* ([CENEAM o Centro Nacional de Educación Ambiental](#)) who is in charge of coordinating numerous NGOs of different Autonomous Regions that together boost more than 1,000 households, thus constituting the network of Green Homes.

Terral

It is a project that aims to become aware of the socio-environmental problems of climate change in schools and to spread it beyond the educational community. The [Terral](#) project is part of a joint initiative between the Junta of Andalusia, the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. It aims to serve as an orientation between the actions of the teachers and offer suggestions, support resources for the design and completion of environmental education activities among those that emphasise: to raise awareness about climate change and to promote energy saving to effectively reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

There is a formative activity that is compulsory (no time periods are indicated) for the implementation of a plan to reduce emissions and voluntary activities: training workshops and *online* courses.

Youth-targeted information campaigns on global issues

Community #ForTheClimate

Community#ForTheClimate ([Comunidad#PorElClima](#)) is a platform with more than 4,000 videos, links, good practices in a toolbox created from November 4, 2016 that brings together diverse individuals and entities that act against climate change, acting actively to comply with the Paris Agreement. In March 2021, there are more than 20.500 members involved, from between citizens and private companies, NGOs and public administrations. They have more than 400 tools stored by topic to help you take action.

2017 Year of Sustainable Tourism

The UN has established the year 2017 as a [year of sustainable tourism for development](#) with the intention of pointing out the importance of the tourism sector in economic, social and environmental development, to catalyze positive actions that empower women and young people interested in that area.

HI Fund for Sustainability Award for REAJ

The *Spanish Youth Hostels Network* ([Red Española de Albergues Juveniles](#)) won the first prize in a competition from *Hostelling International* in which the associations of hostels in all countries compete for €12,000 to carry out sustainable projects.

Information providers

The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation ([Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, AECID](#)) is the first Spanish cooperation management body that is oriented towards the fight against poverty and sustainable human development.

In Spain, the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, through the White Book on environmental education ([Libro Blanco de Educación Ambiental](#)), wants to promote a pro-environmental action between individuals and social groups, to achieve informed actions towards a sustainable society in the vital context of its citizens: home, work, school, leisure and community.

The Euro-Latin American Youth Centre ([Euro-Latin American Youth Centre](#)) is a centre of national and International youth information resources and activities that depends on the Injuve for the rapprochement and youth cooperation between Latin America and Europe.

Key initiatives

Zero CO2

It allows to act against climate change by calculating CO2 emissions to achieve emission reductions (air, land, hotel stays, heating and sanitary hot water consumption, electricity consumption) and to promote the seal and ZeroCO2 ([CeroCO2](#)) label, as well as the verification of the carbon footprint for companies and citizens through a platform and collaborating with the "community for the climate" mentioned above.

European Solidarity Corps

The European Commission has created a new initiative aimed at encouraging the solidarity of young Europeans. This initiative, with its own legal base and budget, offers opportunities for young people to participate for a period of 2 to 12 months in solidarity activities, such as volunteering. This can also include a period of internships and jobs in areas related to solidarity, as well as in projects developed by themselves on their own initiative, which will have an important component of learning and will be good for their personal, educational and professional development.

In Spain the campaign was called *Your body is asking for it* ([Te lo Pide El Cuerpo](#)) for people between 18 and 30 years old, 17 year old can apply although they will not be able to carry out the specific activity until the age of 18. The actions of the European solidarity corp will be coherent and complementary with various policies and programs of the Union, in particular, but not exclusively, those relating to education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship (individual, social entrepreneurship), citizenship and democratic participation, the environment and the protection of nature, action for climate, prevention, preparation and recovery of disasters, agriculture and rural development, the supply of food and non-food products, health and well-being, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, the reception and integration of third-country nationals and territorial cooperation and cohesion.

For the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps, various types of activities are envisaged:

- Voluntary "volunteer placements" will provide young people with the opportunity to volunteer full-time between 2 and 12 months, both in EU countries and at the national level;
- The "placements" in the form of employment will provide young people with a contract of work in public or private entities that carry out their activities in the field of solidarity between 2 and 12 months, both at the national level and within the European Union;
- The "placements" in the form of internships, a period of internships in public or private entities that carry out their activities in the field of solidarity between 2 and 12 months, both at the national level and within the European Union;

- Solidarity projects: solidarity activities implemented by groups of five or more.
- *Networking* activities between the different entities participating in the program.

With a dedicated budget of over €1 000 millions for the period 2021-2027, the [new programme](#) offers opportunities for around 275 000 young people to contribute to tackling social and humanitarian challenges by volunteering or setting up their own solidarity projects. For the first year of action, more than €138 millions are available. From next year onwards, the programme will also enable young people to engage in humanitarian aid volunteering activities around the world, so that they can contribute to addressing humanitarian challenges in safe third countries and support EU aid activities in these countries.

The new European Solidarity Corps supports the EU's overall policy priorities and makes it easier for organisations and young people to engage with them. There is a particular focus on four aspects:

1. Promoting inclusion and diversity;
2. Greening projects and promoting environmentally responsible and sustainable behaviour among participants and participating organisations;
3. Supporting the digital transition through projects and activities that boost digital skills, foster digital literacy and improve understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology;
4. Enhancing young people's participation in democratic processes and civic engagement.

In addition to these four areas of intervention, the programme will have flexibility in adding annual priorities, in order to focus on urgent issues, such as health this year.

9.5 Green volunteering, production and consumption

Green volunteering

There is no national 'green' volunteer program dedicated for young people. However, there is a nationwide promotion for these types of environmental volunteer initiatives promoted by the Spanish State in conjunction with the Autonomous Regions. Many of these initiatives are directed towards the population who are of legal age and some others include the participation of minors as indicated in the [Volunteering Law 45/2015](#), that "children under 16 and over 12 may carry out voluntary action if they have the express authorisation of their parents, guardians or legal representatives.

For information about voluntary proposals of the Autonomous Regions, the directory of Environmental Volunteers of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge ([directorio de voluntariados medioambientales del Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico](#)) can be consulted.

Awareness and Volunteering Plan of the Autonomous Organism National Parks:

Its main objective is to contribute to environmental awareness through the development of projects and activities in the different spaces that compose the network of national parks, as well as in the farms and centers belonging to the national parks. Its main lines of action are:

- Monitoring and evaluation of the [National Parks Network](#).
- Involvement of social agents and participation of society.
- Improvement of scientific knowledge.
- Complementary activities to achieve the objectives of each of the national parks.

The main task of environmental volunteering is to facilitate awareness and the change of attitudes towards the environment as an environmental education tool; in addition to

offering a space that satisfies the demand for social participation in knowledge and intervention on the quality and conservation of the environment.

It is developed through two phases: the participation of NGOs as organizers of the different activities to be carried out, and the role of those who want to collaborate in environmental volunteering tasks.

People interested in participating should contact the NGO responsible for the development of the volunteer projects in national parks. Volunteering is for people over 18 years of age.

Volunteering at the Biodiversity Foundation:

The Biodiversity Foundation ([Fundación Biodiversidad](#)) is a public sector foundation belonging to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge created in 1998 to protect the natural capital and biodiversity of the Spanish territory. Although it does not have volunteer projects exclusively for young people, it has several volunteering strategies in which they can take part.

Among them, the program of beaches, rivers, volunteering and custody of the territory ([Playas, ríos, voluntariado y custodia del territorio](#)) is aimed at protecting and conserving the natural heritage and biodiversity of Spain through the execution of conservation projects and the canalization of grants and funds for the development of environmental initiatives. Within its objectives is also found the consolidation of a network of volunteers who are involved in the maintenance and improvement of these spaces of high natural value. During 2016, 93 actions were carried out by 42 collaborating entities for the project and about 5000 volunteers have participated in Spain.

Other volunteering promoted by [CENEAM](#):

In the area of environmental volunteering, there are different initiatives promoted by NGOs and foundations. From the National Center for Environmental Education (CENEAM), various types of volunteers from the sector are spread, which also participate in the National Parks Volunteer Program. Among the main highlights:

Spanish Ornithological Society, SEO/BirdLife:

The Spanish Ornithological Society ([SEO/Birdlife](#)) organizes numerous volunteering programs ([programas de voluntariado](#)) for birds and nature, such as the bird tracking program, "Wings on Water" program, National Parks Volunteering Program, Riet Vell Reserve Program, Popular census of Carraca, and the program of important areas for bird conservation. In 2019, the association has received grants from private companies and public institutions of which the balance of the amount charged directly to equity at the end of the financial year 2019 amounts to 2,923,592 and the amount recorded in the income statement amounts to 3,077,718 euros, of which 2,788,211 euros are recorded in grants charged to the surplus for the year and 289,507 euros in grants, donations and capital bequests transferred to the results for the year.

[World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\) Spain \(España\):](#)

In Spain, this international organization has volunteering programs whose main objective is to recover degraded areas, to help conserve the natural spaces, to educate the population on the importance of preserving them, to help restore habitats of endangered species and forest ecosystems of high ecological value. Some of its volunteering proposals are the summer camp in the Chinijo archipelago, the volunteer program in national parks and volunteering in the Montejo de la Vega refuge. The budget of WWF for the year 2019 was 7.125.088,12€, 5,190,581 in private contributions and €1,007,764 in public contributions. [Greenpeace Spain \(España\):](#)

Greenpeace volunteering is organized in local groups throughout the Spanish territory with the aim to carry out activities to spread their campaigns, collaborate in the work of the Organization and represent it at the regional level. Those who join as volunteers collaborate in these groups and commit to the principles of the organisation which are

independence and pacifism. Greenpeace is funded through donations and monthly fees, the budget in 2019 was 14.627.152€.

Green production and consumption

Spanish Circular Economy Strategy. "España Circular 2030"

At the public policy level, in June 2020 the Government approved the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy, called "[Spain Circular 2030](#)". This strategy is aligned with the objectives of the two EU circular economy action plans, "Closing the loop: an EU action plan for the circular economy" of 2015 and "A new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe" of 2020, as well as with the European Green Pact and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main objectives of this strategy are:

1. To reduce by 30% the national consumption of materials in relation to GDP, taking 2010 as a reference year.
2. Reduce waste generation by 15% compared to 2010.
3. Reduce food waste generation throughout the food chain: 50% reduction per capita at household and retail level and 20% reduction in the production and supply chains from 2020 onwards.
4. Increase reuse and preparation for reuse to 10% of municipal waste generated.
5. Improve water efficiency by 10%.
6. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to below 10 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

Programme "CENEAM with the school" ([Programa "CENEAM con la Escuela"](#)):

It is an initiative of National Center for Environmental Education (CENEAM) for Spanish educational centers, which offers the possibility of participating for free in its educational programs with the intention of bring to the students concepts related to the rational use of the natural resources through activities carried in schools and in natural environments.

Among the different programs, the CENEAM has the program "[the sustainable use of natural resources](#)":

Its main objective is to provide suggestions and resources for students to understand sustainable development, sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. With practical activities in a natural environment, it is intended for young people to come into contact with sustainable use of resources so that they can then apply what they have learned to their daily lives, for example, with consumption of water, the clothes they use, the paper they do not reuse, etc.

The main activity proposed is an educational visit of 4 hours in the Mountain of Valsaín (province of Segovia, Spain), as well as complementary activities in the classroom as classes on the fair use of resources, the efficient use of natural resources in daily life, and examples of unsustainable collection of renewable resources.

All the Spanish educational centres can participate. To do so, they must complete a participation form ([formulario de participación](#)) provided by Center.

Spanish Network of Cities STARS ([Red Española de Ciudades STARS](#)) ([Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools](#)):

[European Project STARS](#)' main objective is to increase the number of students that attend school using the bicycle in Europe, thus reducing the use of cars as the main mean of transportation. It is mainly aimed at secondary and high school students between 12 and 19 years old.

Taking into account STARS as a reference project, the General Directorate of Traffic (DGT) ([Dirección General de Tráfico \(DGT\)](#)), the National Center for Environmental Education ([CENEAM](#)) and the city Council of Madrid ([Ayuntamiento de Madrid](#)) have established a collaboration agreement to share and spread their educational materials and other human

resources and pedagogical activities aimed at facilitating the initiatives of the school path, with the creation of the Spanish Network of Cities.

In Spain, the city councils are responsible for the implementation of the project and in order to do so, they have to request it expressly with a series of steps to set out in the project, such as the fulfilment of commitments with sustainable mobility, the implementation of surveys on mobility, training for cyclists, conditioning of the environment for cyclists, conducting sustainable mobility campaigns in schools, among other major activities ([Guía STARS en España](#)).

For each city council, the project establishes a minimum participation of 6 schools or high schools per city of an average size, being able to associate municipalities that do not have the minimum of 6 schools. The implementation time is at least three years, although they advise in the program a duration of 5 years in total to consolidate the results. The funding for the implementation of the project in each municipality is on the account of the municipalities, taking into consideration both material and human resources.

School Agenda 21 in the Autonomous Regions:

The [School Agenda 21](#) is an international project based on the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (also known as the [Earth Summit](#)) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

The Declaration of this Summit invites the localities of the member countries of the organization to develop their own agenda. The School Agendas 21 pursues community participation, awareness and achievement of the sustainability goals of Agenda 21, guided by three program areas:

- Reorienting education towards sustainable development.
- Increased public awareness.
- Promotion of training.

In order to achieve these sustainable development goals, Agenda 21 are based on an environmental audit carried out by the participating locality, from which an environmental action plan and a follow-up plan are drawn up.

The role of schools and their students is essential for the development of the School Agenda 21, since they are responsible for developing a participatory process for the review of the educational approaches and practices, which leads to some actions of improvement in the environment.

In Spain there are numerous municipalities and Autonomous Regions participating in the School Agenda 21, and these agencies are responsible for financing sustainable programs around the agenda, as well as providing training materials, advice and research. Some of the projects around the School Agenda 21 in different locations in Spain are:

- [Basque Country](#).
- [City of Madrid](#).
- [City of Albacete](#).
- [City of Valencia](#).
- [City of Valladolid](#).
- [City of Vitoria](#).

9.6 Intercontinental youth work and development cooperation

Intercontinental youth work cooperation

Programs to support the presence of Spaniards in international organizations and the European Union:

There are a series of programs from the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development ([Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo \(AECID\)](#)) with which we seek the participation of Spaniards in different areas of cooperation, promotion of peace, sustainability, human rights, among other matters of similar importance.

United Nations Young Volunteers: ([Jóvenes Voluntarios de las Naciones Unidas](#)) AECID is associated with the [United Nations Volunteers \(UNV\)](#) program for the promotion of peace and development in more than 50 countries worldwide. Since the Agency collaborates actively with the United Nations Young Volunteers and in its last call (for the period of 2016), 13 young Spaniards were summoned to cover places as volunteers in sectors like Human Rights, climate change, sustainable development policies; and in different countries around the world like Ecuador, the Philippines, Gambia, Kenya and others.

Among the main requirements to be able to access the call, it is necessary to be between 23 and 29, with a full university degree and a high command of the English language (in addition to other languages spoken in the destination countries).

Program of Young Professional Officers: ([Programa de Oficiales Profesionales Jóvenes](#)) directed at young professionals under 32 years of age, who have a university degree and masters and who are interested in starting a professional career within the United Nations system. Priority areas of work are human rights and democratic participation, poverty alleviation, crisis prevention and reconstruction assistance, environmental and natural resources management, information and communication technology for development, HIV/AIDS, gender equality, population and development.

Young Professionals Program in European Union delegations: ([Programa de Jóvenes Profesionales en Delegaciones de la European Union \(JPD\)](#)): It aims to allow young professionals in the EU Member States to acquire first-hand experience on the work of the EU delegations accredited to third world countries and the main international organizations and a knowledge of their role in the implementation of the EU's foreign relations policy, including the common foreign and security policy, as well as deepening their knowledge of the framework of the EU in this area. The requirements are to be a university graduate with a postgraduate degree or equivalent in fields related to the delegations of the EU as the rule of law, justice, cooperation and development, among others. In addition, candidates should speak English, French, and other requirements such as prior professional experience, interest in delegations' tasks, etc.

European Voluntary Service

See Chapter 4. For the 2020 guide, consult [Erasmus + Program Guide](#).

Development cooperation activities

INJUVE Volunteering Fields Program: ([Programa Campos de Voluntariado del INJUVE](#)):

Through the so-called Fields of Volunteering, the Youth Institute (INJUVE) offers annually to young people between 18 and 30 years the possibility to volunteer in projects in different countries of the world. In 2019 the call offers 646 young Spaniards the chance to volunteer for 15 days during the months of July and August in 28 countries and 49 international organizations. The main objective of the program is to strengthen intercultural learning, personal development and the reinforcement of cooperative values.

The INJUVE coordinates the placements in international work fields with the Autonomous Regions through its youth agencies and foreign volunteer organizations participating in the program, although it is expected to stop exercising that competence in the near future.

The Autonomous Regions' Youth Cooperation Program:

Some Autonomous Regions are launching programs to promote the cooperation of young people in different sectors. Some of the existing programs are:

Asturian Youth Cooperation Program: ([Programa Juventud Asturiana Cooperante](#)):

Assembled by the Ministry of Presidency and Citizen Participation in the Principality of Asturias, its main objective is to involve the young people of Asturias ([Principado de Asturias](#)) in the reality of the cooperation and development, through professional training and improvement in the area of cooperation and development.

It offers a temporary stay in a cooperation project selected by the Asturian Agency for Cooperation Development. Young people between 22 and 31 years old, who are registered in the municipality of the Autonomous Community of the Principality of Asturias, at least 1 year prior to the publication of the call can participate. The budget of the program gathers 30,000€.

Extremadura Youth Cooperation Program: ([Programa Jóvenes Cooperantes Extremeñ@s](#)):

The Youth Institute of Extremadura ([Instituto de la Juventud de Extremadura](#), IJEX), in collaboration with the Extremadura Agency for International Cooperation for the development of the Council of Extremadura ([Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo de la Junta de Extremadura](#), AEXCID), carries out the program that aims to form and educate young people of Extremadura in international development cooperation. It is articulated through actions of awareness and of theoretical and practical training aimed at young people aged between 18 and 35. Through this program, the agency finances projects that allow the participation of young people in projects of international cooperation for development or the education for development that that is carried out out by organizations registered in the Register of Non-Governmental Organizations for development of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura. The highest amount given by each young member included in the training program to the entity is 10,000 euros.

9.7 Current debates and reforms

The main debates in relation to youth and global issues verse about climate change. In relation to this matter, in the framework of the Executive Assembly 2017 of the [Youth Council of Spain](#) has presented in 2017 the resolution "Youth for the Climate" ([Resolución "Juventud por el Clima"](#)), a text that request the Spanish Government to take more measures in the fight against climate change and to pass laws on energy transition and climate change. With this resolution, the Youth Council of Spain, as a representative of different Spanish youth associations, aims to be one of the relevant players in the fight against climate change in the country and an engine of influence to promote environmental protection policies in the young population.

The main points of discussion presented in the resolution include:

- Establishment of a zeroemissions target for 2050; far more ambitious than the goal established by the European Union
- Implementation of an energy transition plan to reduce the energy dependence of the exterior and to contemplate the objective of reaching a 100% renewable horizon.
- Boost a change of production model that affects relevant sectors in the field of emissions: energy, transport, forests and biodiversity, industry and commerce, agriculture and livestock, waste and urban planning.

- Promotion of responsible consumption and proximity trade as an instrument to counteract the ecological footprint.
- Boost of ecological agriculture and extensive cattle ranching to promote rural development.

The 4th edition of the Global Goals Jam, an international initiative promoted by the United Nations and the Digital Society School, was held on 18 and 19 September 2020. The call was addressed to young people between 18 and 30 years old from all over Spain to find concrete solutions to the challenges posed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

10. YOUTH WORK

This chapter will discuss the concept of youth work in Spain, beginning with its history in recent years and following the order of the sub-chapters. Attention will be given to the existing legislation, the existing job calls for youth workers, their skills and competencies and other relevant aspects. It will gather up-to-date information in a brief and concise manner for the reader to easily acquire comprehensive knowledge on the general situation of the youth workers in Spain.

Following the common concept of youth work in Europe, defined in [The Volume 6 of History of Youth Work in Europe](#) as: “actions directed towards young people regarding activities where they take part voluntarily, designed for supporting their personal and social development through non-formal and informal learning”, this chapter will assess whether it fits well the Spanish context. On top of the local idiosyncrasies, it will also describe the existing debates about youth work in Spain and the future perspectives of this group of workers.

10.1 General context

Historical developments

In Spain, youth work tradition has over 45 years of history, since the beginning of the democracy. Before, during Franco’s dictatorship (from 1939 to 1975), youth work was bounded to Catholic religion and the Church since both played a very important role at the time, specially in educational matters.

Once the dictatorship was over and Spain became a democracy, some youth work initiatives were born and can be found in [The Volume 6 of History of Youth Work in Europe](#), that develops a brief history on youth work in Spain. An example is the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)), founded in 1977 and restructured in 1985 to become a modern type of organization now attached to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio Derechos sociales y Agenda 2030](#)). Some years later, in 1983, they founded The Spanish Youth Council. Both initiatives were well driven in 1985, the International Year of Youth, considered a milestone for youth work because it was the year in which public youth policies took off.

Youth policies became standard practice in the 1990s. That decade set the consolidation of a network of youth organizations mainly funded by the public authorities, and it was also in that decade that educational work with young people began to develop as a result of the professionalization of social education and social services. However, given the 2008 economic recession and the resulting cuts in public funding, many youth associations and youth departments set up during the 1990s are now at risk of being disbanded as a result of lack of funds, thus weakening youth work in Spain.

National definition or understanding of Youth Work

Youth work is not officially recognized as a profession in Spain. The concept still lacks a clear definition in the Spanish context. This issue is also addressed in [The Volume 6 of History of Youth Work in Europe](#). Some youth work activities have involved a wide range of professionals (social workers, psychologists, sociologists, social educators and community development workers) whose employment conditions depend on the employer and the importance attached to youth work. These professionals usually work in the youth departments of the autonomous regions, local authority youth departments and provincial social services departments.

Additionally, some Spanish universities have offered postgraduate programmes focused on youth work and/or youth policy and research, but nowadays the offer master's degree specialized in youth work is very limited. The lack of official recognition and the high fees discourage future youth workers from enrolling. Many youth workers, particularly those working in a more local level, have acquired their skills in the voluntary sector, in NGOs devoted to education in leisure time, and trained in courses provided by these kinds of organizations.

10.2 Administration and governance of youth work

Youth policies -also those concerning youth work- are designed and implemented, mostly, at a regional level, as from the 1980s onwards. As it is stated in [Youth Policies in the Democratic Spain](#) "all the autonomous regions had already assumed their competences in the matter of youth in their respective Statutes of Autonomy that entered into force between 1979 (the Basque Country was the first) and 1983 (Castilla y León was the last one)". Thus, the central government has limited competences in this matter.

Governance

As said, Youth Policies and youth work takes place mainly at a regional level, usually through the regional youth institutes, regional youth councils and town halls, although the central administration retains limited competences and responsibilities in the field of youth work.

The main youth work public actors are:

- The Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda ([Ministerio Derechos sociales y Agenda 2030](#)).
- The Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud, INJUVE](#)).
- The Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud](#)).
- The Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces ([Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias](#)).
- The Andalusian Youth Institute ([Instituto de Juventud Andaluz](#)): This is an institution that depends on the Office of Equality, Social Policies and Conciliation ([Consejería de Igualdad, Políticas Sociales y Conciliación](#)). Its aim is to coordinate the youth policies in the eight provinces of the Andalusian Region. It has a number of provincial directorates responsible for the development of youth policies at a provincial level. Currently they deal with the sexual education of the youth ([educación sexual de los jóvenes](#)), the volunteer youth camps ([campos de voluntariado juvenil](#)) and the youth art programmes ([programas de arte joven](#)). In addition, they have developed a Strategic Youth Plan in Andalusia ([Plan Estratégico de la Juventud en Andalucía](#)), using participatory methods to involve the youth in its design.
- The Aragonese Youth Institute ([Instituto de Juventud de Aragón, IAJ](#)): It is an autonomous body of the Aragonese Government attached to the Citizenship and Social Rights Department ([Departamento de ciudadanía y derechos sociales](#)). The Aragonese Youth Institute develops, plans and coordinates the youth policies of the Aragonese

Government. Its plans entail youth health prevention and promotion plans ([planes para la prevención y fomento de la salud entre los jóvenes](#)) and youth courses and counseling in the housing and labour fields ([cursos y asesoría para jóvenes en materia de vivienda y empleo](#)), among a wide range of other activities.

- The Asturian Youth Institute ([Instituto Asturiano de la Juventud, IAJ](#)): This institute depends on the Presidential Council ([Consejo Presidencial](#)). Its main objective is to foster youth integration into the labour market, ensuring the equality of opportunities and enhancing youth participation in social, cultural and political life. Some examples are: Entrepreneurial microcredit youth plan ([microcréditos para jóvenes emprendedores](#)), network of youth hostels ([albergues juveniles](#)), and artistic and cultural creation calls ([convocatorias para la creación artística y cultural](#)).
- The Balearic Youth Institute ([Instituto Balear de la Juventud](#)): Its main objective is to coordinate and execute the regional policies in the youth and leisure fields. This institute is in charge of the emission of the youth card, designing policies to make youth mobility easier and planning of services and activities related with tourism and youth leisure, among other functions.
- In the Canary Islands Autonomous Region, the General Directorate of the Youth ([Dirección General de Juventud](#)) depends on the Office of Social Rights, Equality, Diversity and Youth of the regional Government. The main youth programs are: the vial educational programme ([plan de educación vial](#)), the programme for the support and creation of youth participative structures ([apoyo y la creación de estructuras de participación juvenil](#)) and the formative courses for youth workers ([cursos formativos para youth workers](#)).
- The General Directorate of the Youth of Cantabria ([Dirección General de Juventud de Cantabria](#)), is a body of the Cantabrian Government, dependent on the vice-presidency. Its main goal is to enhance programmes and services that enrich the coexistence and development of the Cantabrian youth. This institution promotes improvements for the youth in different fields, such as: employment, training, leisure and culture. Its programmes include Youth musical contests ([Certámenes de música para jóvenes](#)) and the promotion of youth associations ([Promoción del asociacionismo joven](#)).
- The General Directorate of the Youth and Sport ([Dirección General de Juventud y Deportes](#)), is responsible for the youth policies in Castilla La Mancha. Its main objective is to strengthen the personal autonomy and the quality of life of the youth. It is accountable to the Government of Castilla La Mancha. The main actions of this body are: the youth volunteer camps ([campos de voluntariado juvenil](#)), the promotion of health among the youth ([promoción de la salud entre los jóvenes](#)), or the youth leisure centres ([Escuelas de Animación Juvenil](#)).
- The Youth Institute of Castilla y León ([Instituto de la Juventud de Castilla y León](#)): It is the government body of Castilla y León responsible for the youth policies in the region. As in Andalusia, there are youth divisions in all the provinces responsible of the implementation of the youth policies of the regional government. Some of its programs are language courses ([cursos de idiomas](#)) and artistic and cultural courses ([formación artística y cultural y emprendimiento](#)). Finally, this regional youth institute offers grants for young entrepreneurs ([ayudas a jóvenes emprendedores](#)).
- Catalan Agency for the Youth ([Agencia Catalana de la Juventud, ACJ](#)): This is the official body in charge of executing the catalan youth programmes and managing the administration services in this field. The Catalan Agency for the Youth has an advisory function to the local entities. It cooperates with the Catalan General Directorate of the Youth ([Dirección general de la juventud de Cataluña](#)), ultimately dependent on the Government of this autonomous region. Some of its activities and programmes are related with the youth emancipation ([emancipación juvenil](#)) and with the participation of the youth in associations ([participación de los jóvenes](#) en asociaciones de distinto ámbito). The Catalan Observatory of the Youth ([Observatorio catalan de la juventud](#)) is

a useful tool for youth workers and researchers to improve their analyses of the situation of the youth in Catalonia.

- The Youth House of Ceuta ([La Casa de la Juventud de Ceuta](#)) is a youth meeting and participation center that provides information about topics concerning the youth. It is a public and free service. It depends on the Autonomous City of Ceuta. Its activities range from cultural and musical initiatives, such as [Jazzceuta](#), to the youth award programme ([programas de premios jóvenes](#)) in the fields of poetry, music or cinema.
- The Youth Institute of Extremadura ([Instituto de Juventud de Extremadura](#)): This regional entity was created in 2007 to serve as a hub for the youth and to coordinate the regional youth policies. Its main activities entail youth emancipation, leisure and health. The Youth Plan of Extremadura 2017-2020 ([Plan de Juventud de Extremadura 2017-2020](#)), includes several initiatives for the dynamization the youth through youth work.
- The General Directorate of the Youth, Participation and Volunteering of Galicia ([Dirección General de Juventud, Participación y Voluntariado of Galicia](#)) is the department of the regional Government whose main priority is to address the main requirements and concerns of the youth of Galicia. Among its activities, the young artist contests ([concursos para jóvenes creadores](#)) and summer camps for the youth ([campamentos de verano para jóvenes](#)) stand out. It is important to mention that the Law 6/2012 ([Ley 6/2012](#)), from the 19 of June, states that the Youth School of Galicia can train youth workers.
- The Youth Institute of La Rioja ([Instituto Riojano de la Juventud](#)) is in charge of the institutional offer related to leisure time, employment, training and participation of the youth of that region. Online courses for the training of the youth ([Cursos online para la formación de jóvenes](#)) and the youth art contests ([Muestra de arte joven](#)) are among the opportunities offered. In the article 41 of the 7/2005 Law ([Ley 7/2005](#)), through which the Youth Institute of La Rioja was created, youth workers are recognized as fundamental human resource for the implementation of youth policies.
- The autonomous city of Melilla has its own Youth Institute currently under construction.
- In the Region of Murcia, the General Directorate of the Youth ([Dirección General de Juventud](#)) assumes the competences related to the youth. This body aims to impulse, promote and develop youth policies in Murcia. It is dependent on the Office of Tourism, Youth and Sport ([Consejería de Turismo, Juventud y Deportes](#)). The Youth Institute of Murcia is to be created. Information related to youth can be found on the website ([portal web](#)) of the General Directorate. The Youth plan 2019-2023 of the Region of Murcia ([plan de Juventud de la Región de Murcia 2019-2023](#)) aims, among other proposals, to create a regional framework for youth workers.
- The Youth and Sport Institute of Navarra ([Instituto Navarro de Deporte y Juventud](#)), is a regional entity with competences in the field of sport and youth. This is another example of how Youth and Sport usually come together. One of the key initiatives regarding youth workers are the Youth Workers Promotion Conferences ([Jornadas de Promoción de Técnicos de Juventud](#)). The Government of Navarra has approved the III Youth Plan 2021-23, which will allocate 53,787,461 euros to a total of 140 actions aimed at young people in Navarra in 2021. The Plan works on four transversal axes that influence each of the proposed actions: participation and the construction of new strategies linked to it; social integration and diversity, from which the increasingly diverse and complex reality of young people is addressed; equality, which develops a transversal feminist vision to put an end to gender-related inequality and the recognition of all sexual diversity; and territorial cohesion, as a principle in the fight against youth depopulation in Navarra.
- The Valencian Youth Institute ([Institut Valencià de la Joventut](#)): It is an autonomous entity of the Government of the Valencian region. It is attached to the vice-presidency and the Office of Equality and Inclusive Policies ([Consejería de Igualdad y políticas](#)

[inclusivas](#)). It is in charge of coordinating the youth policies in the autonomous region of Valencia. Some of its activities are related with youth emancipation, training, leisure time and diversity. It also has training programmes for youth workers ([programas de formación de youth workers](#)). They have developed the Valencian Youth Strategy 2019-2023 ([Estratègia valenciana de joventut 2019-2023](#)) in which, among other things, it will contain specific measures to facilitate the emancipation of young people, both in terms of training and occupation, guidance and reconciliation of personal, family and work life, and housing and mobility; It will include actions from the fields of health, responsible consumption and access to educational leisure, through culture and sport; It will pay particular attention to groups with special difficulties: young people from rural areas, young people with functional diversity, young people with dependents, single-parent families, minorities, immigrants and young people who have had to move abroad for economic reasons.

Non-public:

In Spain there are different NGOs and associations supporting the social and personal development of the youth through non formal or informal learning. Some of them are the following:

- Association for the Youth Training and Intercultural Activities ([Asociación para la Formación y Actividades Interculturales para la Juventud](#)): This NGO created in 1999 is linked with the [Economic and Social Council of the United Nations](#) through the International Cultural Youth Exchange ([Federación ICYE](#)). Its main objective is to promote the development of the youth and the volunteer work, through activities of social interest. These activities promote youth training, cultural exchange and international mobility.
- Anar Foundation ([Fundación Anar](#)) is an NGO devoted to the support of children and adolescents at risk of social exclusion. It was created in 1970 and it works in Spain and South America. Its values are based on the [Convention on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations](#).
- FAD Foundation ([Fundación FAD](#)): The FAD Foundation intends to enhance the social development of the youth. This organization aims to achieve this goal through education and the development of critical thinking, to prevent the youth from risky behaviours. It works under the Objectives of Sustainable Development of the United Nations, therefore contributes substantially to the development of the youth and social justice.
- Exit Foundation ([Fundación Exit](#)): It was created in 2000 in Spain. It works with young people at risk of social exclusion. This organization intends to prevent the early school dropout ensuring a better integration in the labour market.
- YMCA ([Asociación YMCA](#)): created in 1980, it is a non-profit, non-denominational and non-political organisation, run by volunteers, which aims to improve society through the integral development of young people, creating opportunities, reducing their vulnerability and strengthening their environment.

Cross-sectoral cooperation

Political decision making related with youth work is done mostly at the regional level. Nevertheless, some regional governments outsource their competences to the local ones. Therefore, this sectoral cooperation happens between these two levels. Some of the most important institutions involved are:

Interministerial Committee for the Youth ([La comisión interministerial para la juventud](#)).

This commission was created by the Royal Decree 658/1986 ([Real Decreto 658/1986](#)). In 1989 it changed its name to the Interministerial Commission for the Youth and the Childhood. Some of the functions of the commission were also modified.

In 2008, following the Royal Decree 1923/2008 ([Real Decreto 1923/2008](#)), some of the ministerial departments were restructured and the commission was again renamed to the Interministerial Commission for the Youth. From that moment, the functions related with the childhood, were transferred to the Observatory of the Childhood.

Originally attached to the Ministry of Culture, in 2008, this commission became part of the Ministry of Equality, now extinct. It was chaired by the Minister of Equality. From then on, its functions, composition and operation were regulated by the ministry. The General Director of the Youth Institute served as vice-president. The members-at-large represented the different departments. An official from the Youth Institute, named by the Commission President, served as the secretary. Additionally, the Chair of the Spain Council of the Youth was also named member-at-large. The last meeting of this commission took place in 2010 in the form of a [plenary session](#).

Inter-regional Council of the Youth ([El Consejo Interterritorial de la Juventud](#))

The Inter-regional Council of the Youth promotes dialogue and cooperation among the youth institutes of the Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla for the development of joint actions on the youth.

This council, organized by the INJUVE, meets twice per year and the representatives of the Autonomous Communities and the FEMP ([Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias](#)) also take part in it. The first Inter-regional Council of Youth took place in March 2018 in Granada and all the Regional Communities' General Directors of the Youth assisted. The aim of this meeting was to evaluate the existing youth policies in order to improve them for the benefit of the youth.

Among the different topics addressed during that meeting of the Council an original and innovative programme related to a course that will be given to youth organizations and youth workers under the framework of the National Strategy against radicalisation of youth is worth mentioning. This course will take place in the Euro-Latin-American Centre of the Youth, CEULAJ ([Centro Eurolatinoamericano de la Juventud](#)) and youth workers will perform a key role.

During that meeting, protocols and programmes to prevent youth radicalization were assessed with the Interior Ministry and the Autonomous Communities. In addition, Autonomous Communities' participation in the Youth Talent ([Talento Joven](#)) programme was discussed. Furthermore, the situation and perspectives for the launching of a recognition system of non-formal youth training was also raised as an important issue.

The last meeting of the Council took place in October 2020 in Madrid, the capital of Spain. The main topic was the Shock Plan for Young Employment 2019-2021 (Plan de Choque de Empleo Joven 2019-2021) and the RED SIJ-INJUVE programme for youth vulnerability (Programa de atención a jóvenes vulnerables).

10.3 Support to youth work

The decentralization of government in Spain makes youth competences a regional responsibility. Usually the regional youth institutes are the institutions that develop support policies for youth work that are carried out by public and private organizations, such as town halls or NGOs. However, the Action Plan of the Youth Strategy 2020 ([Plan de Acción de la Estrategia de Juventud 2020](#)) was created with the unifying intention of offering a common national strategy on youth policies and youth work for the autonomous regions and town halls of Spain.

Policy/legal framework

At a more detailed level, the Action Plan of Youth Strategy 2020 was designed to enhance coordination between youth departments of the administration and the educative centers (schools, faculties, etc.) to funnel job opportunities and routes of training. Youth workers

will benefit from this plan as they are the human resources needed to implement these youth policies and to foster job opportunities among youth.

Among the main objectives of the Action Plan of Youth Strategy 2020 (Plan de Acción de la Estrategia de Juventud 2020) are the promotion of healthy habits, the encouragement to volunteer among the youth, the commitment to eradicate any form of discrimination and by extension to promote equality. These tasks are mostly competence of youth workers who will play a key role in their execution.

Following what was stated in the introduction, the functions that the youth workers carry out vary depending on the Autonomous Community due to the Spanish multilevel governance framework. However, some of these functions are similar both at the regional and local levels. Taking this into account, what follows is a list of basic and shared youth worker functions (taken from different regional and local calls related to youth work):

- To coordinate with other organizations (national, regional and local) and with the rest of youth workers to design, implement and evaluate youth plans as well as information campaigns and youth leisure programmes for the youth;
- To facilitate information and advice about activities, resources, services and programmes which can be of interest for the youth;
- To dynamize the youth (through associations and volunteering);
- To support local youth councils and youth associations;
- To coordinate and design activities related to educational leisure;
- To run awareness campaigns and education in values;
- To detect and disseminate good practices among the youth at a local level;
- To evaluate the actions carried out.

Action Plan for Youth Employment (2019-2021)

Although many actions have been carried by the central government and the autonomous communities during the last years, improving the opportunities for training and employment for young people in Spain is still a big challenge. That is why, in 2018, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security developed the [Action Plan for Youth Employment](#) (2019-2021).

With a 2.000€ million budget and a large range of different programmes, this action plan's main goals are:

- Reduce young unemployment rate to 23.5%
- Increase activity rate to 73.5%
- Reduce the current gender gap by 20%
- 15% more permanent contracts each year
- Train at least:
 - 43% (100.000) unemployed registered young people with no Compulsory Secondary Education qualification in key skills in Spanish and Mathematics
 - 30% of young people in language skills
 - 225,000 young people in digital skills
 - 25% (40.000) of young people in strategic sectors skills

To achieve these goals, the plan is based on 8 objectives for young people:

- Create a top-quality framework for employment and dignified work
- Be the main actors of their own qualification and labor market insertion process

- Increase their qualifications and employability by acquiring more professional skills
- Be part of a new economic model based on social sustainability, productivity and added value
- Provide adequate and individualized assistance from the Public Employment Services
- Avoid horizontal segregation and the gender wage gap
- Fight despair among those who give up job search and hope of finding it
- Provide special assistance to specific vulnerable group

Funding

The Action Plan of Youth Strategy 2020 (Plan de Acción de la Estrategia de Juventud 2020) had been allocated with a budget of 2.9M euros and included 211 actions. More than 90% of the budget was assigned to enhance employment and entrepreneurship among the 6.2 million of Spanish youth between 15 to 29 years old (13,33% of the total population).

To carry out these employment and entrepreneurship objectives youth workers are a fundamental part of the plan since they are responsible for executing the actions the plan entails.

Regarding European funds assigned to youth workers, the [Youth Dialogue Project](#) should be mentioned. As stated in section 10.4, the Youth Dialogue Project's main objective is to promote youth activities in the democratic process. Additionally, it aims to encourage the discussion about priorities and topics of the EU Strategy for the Youth and its many dialogue mechanisms. These dialogue mechanisms pivot around schedules and priorities of the various groups that form the Youth Dialogue. The goal is to promote debates among the youth, youth workers and political decision-makers to provide policy recommendations that can be used for better legislation.

Another initiative is the [Erasmus + Programme Guide](#), an EU's programme that supports education, training, youth and sport in Europe by providing opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, and gain [experience](#). As it is indicated in the Erasmus + Programme Guide, the maximum amount that can be received by each project is 50.000 euros. Erasmus+ also has a programme of [Network and Training](#). This programme promotes professional growth of youth workers through networking and training abroad thanks to the exchange programmes.

To be a part of the Erasmus+ programme as a youth worker the organization of the candidate must be registered in some of the youth mobility programmes of the EU. Once the requirements are met, the EU offers grants for mobility and for the costs of the activities carried out during the exchange experience. These mobility grants vary on the distance the youth workers must travel (between 20 and 1500€). Additionally, there is aid for organizational support of up to 1100€ per participant.

Finally, we should mention the Youth Guarantee [initiative](#), a commitment by all members states to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 years receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship and traineeship. All EU countries committed to the implementation of the Youth Guarantee in a Council Recommendation in April 2013.

So far, these initiatives have helped to improve the lives of millions of young Europeans by providing them with educational, training and employment support.

Cooperation

As it was indicated at the beginning of this section, cooperation between different organizations related to youth work depends on the legal regional framework. Usually the regions, specifically the regional youth institutes, work alongside town halls, local organizations, local youth associations (they can form youth federations), youth sections of other entities and groups responsible for the recruitment and training of youth workers.

In the case of INJUVE, almost all the initiatives and plans would not be possible without a network of collaborations with different organisms, entities and associations that work for the youth.

El Consejo de la Juventud de España, CJE.

INJUVE collaborates with the youth associations through the Youth Council of Spain (CJE). The CJE was created with the aim to arouse the participation of the youth at the political, cultural, social and economic levels in Spain.

The main objectives of the CJE are:

- To collaborate with social agents to achieve a global youth policy that can respond to the problems and concerns of the youth.
- To promote participation and youth associations.
- To channel the proposals of the youth to the administration and society.
- To conduct studies and research that unveils the true nature of youth reality.
- To represent Spanish youth in the international youth organizations.
- To provide services and support to the youth organizations.
- To provide the instruments that respond to the demands of the youth for the development of their individual and collective objectives.

Furthermore, the INJUVE has two bodies for dialogue between the youth and institutions:

The Governing Council of INJUVE:

It comprises representatives of youth associations and its main tasks are the management of the INJUVE, the promotion of participation and the monitoring of the youth policies. To do so, the associative network, represented through the CJE, is involved.

In the last [meeting of the Governing Council of the INJUVE](#) that took place in 2018, the former minister of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare, María Luisa Carcedo, highlighted the sensitivity and the commitment of the Government to the youth. She stated that: *"The Government is aware of the difficulties that the youth confront, and it is acting to solve them"*.

The meeting was also attended by the former Secretary of State of Social Services, Ana Isabel Lima; the general director of INJUVE, Ruth Carrasco, and the representatives of the Permanent Commission of the Youth Council of Spain ([Comisión Permanente del Consejo de la Juventud de España](#)).

One of the most significant topics addressed during the meeting was the change of legal nature of the CJE, now a public organization with private basis and with its own budget. It is a diverse platform of youth organizations with two objectives: discussing youth policies with the General State Administration and fostering the participation of the youth in the creation of public policies, among them the policies related to youth work.

This way, the Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare, through INJUVE, contributes with the fulfilment of article 48 of the Spanish Constitution that urges public authorities to promote the conditions for the free and effective participation of the youth at a political, social, cultural and economic level.

Carcedo also highlighted the Youth Employment Plan 2019-2021 ([Plan de Empleo Joven 2019-2021](#)) approved on 7th December 2018 by the Council of Ministers to reduce by 10 points the youth unemployment rate and job insecurity. The Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare ([Ministerio de Sanidad, Consumo y Bienestar Social](#)) will participate in the development of the plan through INJUVE.

Among the actions planned is the recruitment in the public employment services of 3000 labour counsellors. They will be responsible for giving advice to the youth in their job search, including the monitoring until integration into the labour market.

Alongside the recruitment of these counsellors another action planned is to give support to the Network of Services of Youth Information ([Red de Servicios de Información Juvenil](#)), coordinated by the Youth Institute. The incorporation of 110 youth workers to the local employment services is the most relevant support action of this initiative. The task of these youth workers will be to provide information about the plan to the youth.

Also the Youth Institute has evaluated the Recognize program ([Reconoce](#)), part of a collaborative effort of Don Bosco Confederacy of Youth Centres ([Confederación de Centros Juvéniles Don Bosco](#)), the Didiana Federation ([Federación Didiana](#)) and ASDE Scouts of Spain ([ASDE Scouts de España](#)). The main goal of the program is to create a system of recognition for the volunteer work. If recognized, this type of work could increase the opportunities of the volunteers in the labour market.

This emphasis in the development of the Recognize program has a major importance for youth workers, both in the recognition of their work, as well as in the process of establishing themselves as a professional group recognized at the national level. This can lead to locate youth workers in non-formal fields regardless of academic or job records, something beneficial for the development and establishment of youth workers in Spain.

La Comisión Tripartita para el Empleo Joven:

This commission gives advice to the Youth Institute in the field of youth employment through the participation of social agents.

A milestone for the cooperation efforts between youth workers was the National Meeting of Youth Workers 2019 ([Encuentro Estatal de Profesionales de Juventud 2019](#)) entitled "The Youth Policies That We Need: Concrete Proposals for the Political Manifestos". In this meeting, the youth workers debated their current situation and the future of this group in Spain. The general director of the Youth Institute, Ruth Carrasco, participated in this meeting, organized by the Youth Workers Association of the Valencian Region ([Asociación de Profesionales de Juventud de la Comunitat Valenciana, APJCV](#)) and the Valencian Youth Institute ([Instituto Valenciano de la Juventud, IVAJ](#)).

The intention of the organizers of this meeting was to gather youth workers from the different regions of Spain in order to contextualize the national policies on youth and analyse the varying profiles of youth workers in the national territory. The meeting allowed for the debate and the dissemination of good practices, and for the elaboration of concrete proposals and discuss policies at the national, regional and local levels.

Moreover, INJUVE and Esplai Foundation organized the 2020 Esplai Foundation Forum, which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was online. This year's theme is against xenophobia.

Regarding the NGOs cooperation on the youth the closing ceremony of the XVII Annual Meeting of Youth Red Cross ([Acto de clausura de la XVII Junta General de Cruz Roja Juventud](#)) should be underlined.

The General Council of Social Work ([Consejo General del Trabajo Social](#)) organized different meetings with the professional associations of social work. These meetings fostered the exchange of experiences and good practices between the participating professional associations and improved interprofessional cooperation to increase public awareness about these organizations.

10.4 Quality and innovation in youth work

Quality assurance

In Spain, since the approval of the 1978 Constitution, many competences were transferred to the Autonomous Communities by the Title VIII of the Territorial Organization of the State. Due to this, youth and education issues are not regulated by a national legal

framework that would allow for the existence of a general system of quality assurance for youth work.

This absence of national legislation has a profound effect on youth work programmes since there is no common standard nor quality measurement system that comprises all the territory. While most of the regional youth institutes share some requirements and standards for youth workers, each Autonomous Community or town hall establishes its own criteria depending on its needs producing high variability between programmes.

In order to ensure the quality of youth programmes and the abilities of youth workers they must pass some tests and meet some requirements. Usually the requirements are attached to a scoring system to access the job offered in the regional calls. As mentioned above, the score needed or even the specific competences of the call depend directly on the Autonomous Community or Town Hall. However, it is possible to find common requirements by comparing regional calls. The following list is not official, but it does offer a general overview:

1. Professional experience:

- Experience in public administration.
- Experience in private administration.
- Experience in self-employment.

2. Training:

- Academic degrees.
- Official degrees in fields related to the youth.

3. Languages:

- Community languages.
- Local Languages (Valencian, Catalanian, Basque...)

Research and evidence supporting Youth Work

Most of the studies on youth work have been carried out by the INJUVE with the aim to design more specific youth work plans.

Even though youth work in Spain lacks a legal framework, there are some studies on the youth that address the question of youth work. Within the Spanish academic field some examples of studies are:

- The study [Youth information management: search, selection and dissemination \(Gestión de información en el ámbito de la juventud: búsqueda, selección y difusión\)](#) assesses the experience of the Documentation Centre of the Youth Basque Observatory ([Centro de Documentación del Observatorio Vasco de la Juventud](#)). It also takes into account the great variety in type of sources and contents to programme and execute youth policies and that it is, precisely, the youth workers that execute these policies. This study shows where, what and how to find information, what tools can be used to keep informed and where to collect and disseminate that kind of information.
- A proposal of evaluation of youth public policies. The SIAPJoven: System of indicators to evaluate youth local policies ([Una propuesta de evaluación de las políticas públicas de juventud. El SIAPJoven: Sistema de indicadores para la evaluación de políticas municipales de juventud](#)) an evaluation tool for youth public policies at the local level was created. This proposal is useful for youth workers at the local level due to the fact that they are ultimately executing youth policies and evaluating their efficacy.
- In the study [Theoretical bases for socio-educational intervention of youth workers](#) the educational dimension of the youth policies as well as the pedagogical training of youth workers is emphasized. The aim of this study is to establish the intervention methods of youth workers based on different theoretical perspectives explained in the text.

Participative youth work

Structured Dialogue

Due to the absence of a national legal framework, the most important participative initiative takes place at the European level. The main consultation tool with the youth is the Structured Dialogue ([Diálogo estructurado](#)).

In Spain, this dialogue takes part between the following entities:

- Representatives of the Ministries (representatives of the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda – [Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030](#));
- National youth councils (representatives of the Spanish Youth Council [[Consejo de la Juventud de España](#)] and the Institute of Youth [[Instituto de la Juventud](#)]);
- Local and regional youth councils;
- Youth organizations;
- Young people from different fields;
- Youth researchers.

Structured Dialogue is a means of mutual communication between young people and decision-makers in order to implement the priorities of European youth policy cooperation and to make young people's voices heard in the European policy-shaping process.

It is a consultative process, implemented by the European Commission, that aims to increase cooperation with civil society and get first-hand input from young people. It is made up of one main event, the EU Youth Conference organized by the EU country currently holding the EU presidency.

Structured Dialogue is organized into 18-month work cycles. Each cycle focuses on a different thematic priority (set by the Council of Youth Ministers). The success of Structured Dialogue depends on the direct involvement of young people and youth organizations. During each 18-month work cycle, a national consultation of young people and youth organizations is conducted in every EU country.

Youth Dialogue

In the seventh round of Structured Dialogue, a new initiative called the Youth Dialogue ([Diálogo con la Juventud](#)) was articulated.

The aim of this programme follows the main objective of Structured Dialogue: to establish ways of participation for the youth, youth workers within youth institutions and political decision-makers in these fields.

The main actors within this strategy at a national level are:

- National Working Group (NWG): This group consists of members of the Youth Institute, the Youth Council of Spain and other national organizations. The task of this group is to coordinate and implement this programme at the national level.
- Youth Dialogue Embassies: These organizations are formed by the youth and their aim is to convey the concerns of youth to the local and regional political decision-makers. The embassies collaborate with the NWG and all existing youth institutions in the implementation of the programme. There is an embassy for each of the 17 Autonomous Communities.

Embassies have two key types of actors: ambassadors and agents. The ambassadors are responsible of dealing with the youth councils and with the general directorates for the youth. Each embassy has two members at most, selected considering gender equality. Agents play a supporting role for the ambassadors in developing their activities.

Associated and non-associated youth, local/regional/national organizations and councils will play a consulting role in the European Steering Committee for Youth.

Dialogue with Youth is a European Union initiative that promotes youth participation in political, social, economic and cultural development at all territorial levels, from local to European; and encourages debate between young people and decision-makers for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies that have an impact on youth. We are now in the 8th Cycle of Youth Dialogue - formerly Structured Dialogue - which will run from 15 July 2020 to 31 December 2021. It is framed under the title "Europe for Youth - Youth for Europe: space for democracy and participation" and the main theme is the creation of spaces for young people to actively participate in the decision-making process.

National Working Group

The National Working Group organises and coordinates the implementation of the Youth Dialogue at state level. It is led by the [Spanish Youth Council](#) and involves young people representing civil society and the [Spanish Youth Institute](#).

Smart youth work: youth work in the digital world

In Spain, there are different programmes related to the implementation of digital technologies in youth work, as it is also mentioned in the sub-chapter [6.8](#).

During the 1990-decade, new technologies such as internet started to develop quickly and began to have a big impact on people's lives. Under these circumstances, in 2001, the Government of Spain created a strategic initiative to promote these new information technologies and bring them on to the economy, institutional relations and people's day to day life: the Action Plan Info XXI (Plan de Acción Info XXI).

In 2002, as part of the Action Plan, and created by the Secretariat of State for the Digital Advancement ([Secretaría de Estado para el Avance Digital](#)) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation ([Ministerio de Asuntos Económicos y Transformación Digital](#)), the red.es initiative was born. Red.es is a public entity that develops initiatives to foster digital economy, innovation, entrepreneurship, support for SMEs and training for young professionals while advocating a more efficient use of the ICTs.

Under the [red.es](#) platform, two specific initiatives for young people were created: [chaval.es](#), with the objective of reducing the digital gap between parents, tutors, teachers and the youth.

Another relevant project is the Friendly Screens Initiative ([Iniciativa Pantallas Amigas](#)), as also mentioned in the sub-chapter [6.8](#). This programme "promotes the safe use of new technologies in childhood and adolescence, with information activities and raising awareness about the inherent dangers in the digital [environment](#)". They put awareness and prevention campaigns in place in collaboration with multiple public institutions, like the Central Administration, universities, municipalities and autonomous communities.

Finally, Secure Internet for Kids ([Internet Segura for Kids](#)) aimed at minors has the objective to promote the safe use of the internet and the ICTs. In this project there are four main axis:

- Training and sensibilization of minors, youth, families, teachers and youth workers in the safe use of the web through national programs and education campaigns;
- The creation of an online consulting service in order to confront the dangers of the network in various areas: harmful contacts, inappropriate behaviour and illegal content;
- Celebrate the Safe Internet Day ([Día de la Internet Segura en España](#));
- Diminish the available criminal content in the network, mainly child sexual abuse, with the support of law enforcement officials.

Secure Internet for Kids is supervised by the Secretariat of State for the Digital Advancement ([Secretaría de Estado para el Avance Digital, SEAD](#)) through the National Institute of Cybersecurity ([Instituto Nacional de Ciberseguridad, INCIBE](#)). This project is

part of the [Better Internet for Kids](#), European Plan, and BIK of the European network [INSAFE](#) of international cooperation.

These projects, although their target is wider than only youth workers, can still be a useful informative tool regarding ICTs and their dangers for the youth. These projects are examples of good practices that could be used by youth workers to promote a good use of digital tools and to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and the use of digital technologies for the training of youth.

Although these initiatives are carried out at a national level, the autonomous communities develop their own specific ones with a budget assigned for each of them, since they have competences in this matter. Most of the autonomous communities have developed different initiatives, specially during 2020 after the SARS-COVID19 sanitary emergency made it clear that digitalization is the leading way for a new economy and interpersonal relations.

10.5 Youth workers

Status in national legislation

As mentioned before, the concept of youth worker is not included in any specific legislation in Spain. What the term 'youth worker' stands for depends on the particular criteria made by the autonomous regions. However, there is some common ground in defining youth workers as those professionals working with youth. From the regional ambiguity of that concept a collection of common, and non-official, characteristics has been compiled from a sample of regional calls. The most common requirements to become a youth worker are:

- To have Spanish or European nationality.
- To be at least 16 years old.
- Any of the following degrees: social education, social work, psychology, pedagogy or teaching.
- Not having been dismissed from public service, through a disciplinary file, from the Public Administration service.

Education, training and skills recognition

Since there is a clear lack of legislation in Spain in this matter, there is no single official way to become a youth worker. As it is not recognized by the state as an official occupation there is no formation or university degrees designed specifically to give access to employment as a youth worker.

Mobility of youth workers

Currently there is no legislation dealing with the mobility of youth workers and, at the regional level there are no mobility programmes or grants. The closest initiative to a specific mobility programme for youth workers is the European Solidarity Corps ([Cuerpo Europeo de Solidaridad](#)). There is no need to have a completed degree to be part of the programme, however, it is not a national programme but an initiative of the European Union.

Another programme that includes youth workers as a specific group is the [Erasmus+](#) program. This programme includes mobility experiences with a duration ranging from 2 to 12 months. The aim is to allow youth workers to live new experiences away from their country of origin increasing their personal, professional and intercultural competences. The benefit of the programme also includes the entities that collaborate as they are obtaining in exchange new experiences and perspectives. Erasmus+ for youth workers can be a worker exchange or an individual experience for citizens that are not members of a volunteer organization.

Another European programme is EU Aid Volunteers. [EU Aid Volunteers](#) brings volunteers and organisations together from different countries, providing practical support to humanitarian aid projects and contributing to strengthening local capacity and resilience of disaster-affected communities.

10.6 Recognition and validation of skills acquired through youth work

The recognition of the abilities acquired through non-formal and informal learning is done at the regional level, as mentioned in the sub-chapter [6.9](#).

This process began at an institutional level with the Royal Decree 1224/2009, 17th of July 2009, of recognition of the professional skills acquired through work experience ([Real Decreto 1224/2009, de 17 de julio](#)).

In the first article of this decree, the requirements and procedures for the recognition and evaluation of the professional competences acquired through non-formal education or work experience are established. The effects of the evaluation and recognition are also included in this decree.

Existing arrangements

The degrees obtained by attendees of courses of non-formal or informal education taught by youth workers are not recognized officially at any level: national, regional or local. The only existing legislation is the above-mentioned Royal Decree 1224/2009.

This law establishes the requirements to benefit from the recognition of the competences acquired in non-formal education and labor. These requirements are related to age, work experience, education level and nationality.

This decree also mentions the creation of an Evaluation and Monitoring Plan to review the quality, efficiency and impact of these degrees. The plan is intended to be developed by the General State Administration, the autonomous regions and the General Council for the Vocational Training ([Consejo General de la Formación Profesional](#)). Data from the autonomous regions will be used by the General State Administration to develop the plan. Finally, an annual report is planned with possible improvements sent to the General Council for the Vocational Training.

Skills

There are not specific mechanisms to recognize the skills of youth workers at a national level.

10.7 Raising awareness about youth work

Information providers

The main provider of information about programmes related to youth work is the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)), as mentioned in the sub-chapter [6.9](#). All the information related to programmes and courses related to the youth can be found on the webpage of this institution.

The Youth Institute leads the Network of Youth Information Centers ([Red de Centros de Información Juvenil](#)) and its webpage search engine has useful information about these matters.

The main sources of information at the regional level are the webpages of the regional youth institutes or the general directorates, for those autonomous regions without specific institutions devoted to the youth:

- The Andalusian Youth Institute ([Instituto de Juventud Andaluz](#)).

- The Aragonese Youth Institute ([Instituto de Juventud de Aragón](#)).
- The Asturian Youth Institute ([Instituto Asturiano de la Juventud](#)).
- The Balearic Youth Institute ([Instituto Balear de la Juventud](#)).
- The Youth General Directorate of the Canary Islands ([Dirección General de Juventud de Canarias](#)).
- The Youth General Directorate of Cantabria ([Dirección General de Juventud de Cantabria](#)).
- The Directorate General of Youth and Sport of Castilla La Mancha ([Dirección General de Juventud y Deporte de Castilla la Mancha](#)).
- The Youth Institute of Castilla y León ([Instituto de la Juventud Castilla y León](#)).
- The Catalan Agency for the Youth ([Agencia Catalana de la Juventud](#)).
- The Youth House of Ceuta ([La Casa de la Juventud de Ceuta](#)).
- The Youth Institute of Extremadura ([Instituto de Juventud de Extremadura](#)).
- The Directorate General of Youth, Participation and Voluntary Work of Galicia ([Dirección General de Juventud, Participación y Voluntariado de Galicia](#)).
- The Youth Institute of La Rioja ([Instituto Riojano de la Juventud](#)).
- The Directorate General of Youth of Murcia ([Dirección General de Juventud de Murcia](#)).
- The Navarrese Youth Institute ([Instituto Navarro de la Juventud](#)).
- The Valencian Youth Institute ([Institut Valencià de la Joventut](#)).

Key initiatives

The promotion of youth work is one of the main responsibilities of the Youth Institute. It is a body responsible for raising awareness on the importance of youth work for the youth and for their families. The Youth Institute's [press department](#) helps in achieving this goal.

10.8 Current debates and reforms

Forthcoming policy developments

Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (Estrategia de Juventud 2019-2027)

In 2018, as a result of years of dialog and debates between governments, organizations, experts, and young European people, the European Union approved the Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy [2019-2027](#).

The Strategy is the UE's youth policy framework and it is based on youth cooperation, fostering youth participation in democratic life, supporting social and civil engagement and ensuring that young people have access to resources to take part in society. Moreover, the Strategy is focused on three key actions: engage, connect and empower young people from the Union.

As main outcome after the dialogs and the creation of the Youth Strategy, there are 11 goals that gather up the main challenges that the European Union must face regarding the [youth](#):

1. Connecting UE with youth
2. Equality for all genders
3. Inclusive societies
4. Information and constructive dialogue
5. Mental health and wellbeing

6. Moving rural youth forward
7. Quality employment for all
8. Quality learning
9. Space and participation for all
10. Sustainable green Europe
11. Youth organizations and european programmes

Therefore, for the 2019-2027 period, Spain´s Government and autonomous communities will have to develop policies and strategies under the Youth Strategy´s framework.

The [Digital Education Action Plan](#) (2021-2027) sets out the European Commission's vision for high quality, inclusive and accessible digital education in Europe. It is a call for greater cooperation at European level to:

- learn from the COVID-19 crisis, in the course of which technology is being used on an unprecedented scale for education and training purposes.
- bring education and training systems into line with the digital age.

Ongoing debates

One of the most important debates in the field of youth work is the creation of a common recognition system to identify youth work as an independent discipline. As the youth workers profiles tend to include formal and non-formal education, this recognition is a major priority, as, in the current situation, youth workers with non-formal education are disadvantaged when applying to official calls.

Laws dealing with non-formal education are almost non-existent in the legal Spanish framework. For the Inter-regional Youth Council ([Consejo Interterritorial de la Juventud](#)) this lack of legislation is one of the top priorities. The creation of this legal framework the field of youth work will grow in importance, establishing itself as a solid and united discipline in Spain and would allow the non-formally educated youth workers to participate in official calls at the regional and local levels.

The meeting of the 26th of June 2018 of the Recognize Network ([Red Reconoce](#)) was one of the first steps in this process. It was the third and final meeting to discuss the design of the expansion and implementation of the Non-formal and Volunteer Competence Recognition System in the Field of Youth ([Sistema de Reconocimiento de Competencias de la Educación No Formal y Voluntariado en el Ámbito de Juventud](#)). Among the signatories of this meeting were representatives of youth workers of the autonomous regions, the Youth Council ([Consejo de la Juventud de España](#)) and the Youth Institute ([Instituto de la Juventud](#)).

It is important to mention also the Network of Volunteer Entities Recognize (([La Red de Entidades de Voluntariado Reconoce](#)) promoted by the Don Bosco Confederacy of Youth Centres ([Confederación de Centros Juvéniles Don Bosco](#)), the Didiana Federation ([Federación Didiana](#)) and ASDE Scouts of Spain ([ASDE Scouts de España](#)). This network is in the result of an agreement with the autonomous regions to recognize the competences acquired through volunteer work. The intention of this initiative is to offer an online system for the youth organizations, volunteer entities and other public or private organizations to certify the competences the youth acquires performing volunteer activities so the future employability of the volunteers is improved by these experiences and the knowledge they have acquired .

Finally, it should be underlined that, given the differences among the autonomous regions, it is necessary to create a legal framework surrounding the concept of youth work itself and to clarify this ambiguity in a new nation-wide model. This new model should first define what youth work is, and it should also explicit its functions and give the youth workers a specific recognition for their work at a national level.

In this legal void and lack of recognition, social workers and social educators play a key role, but it is necessary to understand that the special needs of young people in Spain

demand a professionalization of youth workers in order to properly work on the social, economical and educational challenges that the youth must face, specially after the 2008 financial crisis and the SARS-COVID19 global crisis, since this group is one of the most affected ones, with one of the highest levels of unemployment and lack of opportunities in Europe.

GLOSSARY

Administración General del Estado (AGE)

The General State Administration is one of the Public Administrations of Spain characterized by its competence over the entire national territory, as opposed to the Autonomous and Local Administrations. It is composed of: the Central Organization (Government Commission, Council of Ministers, Delegated Commissions of the Government, Ministries, General Commission of Secretaries of State and Undersecretaries, Interministerial Commissions), the Peripheral Organization (Delegations of the Government in the Autonomous Regions, the Subdelegates of the Government in the Provinces and the Insular Directors of the General Administration of the State), and the Administration of the State Abroad (embassies and consulates). Its general regime is included in article 103 of the Spanish Constitution of 1978 and in Law 40/2015.

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, commonly known as AECID, is Spanish Cooperation's main management body, aimed at combating poverty and promoting sustainable human development. According to its Statute, the Agency was created to further the full exercise of development conceived as a fundamental human right, with the fight against poverty as part of the process for building this right.

Bachillerato

As defined by Eurydice, the Bachillerato is the general -or academic- branch in Upper Secondary Education. Students holding the 'Lower Compulsory Secondary Education certificate' gain access to this education level. Bachillerato comprises two academic years, it usually takes place when students are between 16 and 18. It comprises the following modalities: Arts, Sciences and Technology, and Humanities and Social Sciences. The students holding a positive qualification obtain the 'Bachillerato certificate'.

Catálogo de referencia de servicios sociales

The Catalogue of reference of social services is a reference guide developed by the Spanish Government through its Ministry, which aims to guarantee access to social services. Is is a guide for the general population, but it also provides information on social services specialized on assisting young people at risk of social exclusion.

Centro Nacional de Educación Ambiental (CENEAM)

The National Center for Environmental Education, commonly known as CENEAM, is a center of reference in environmental education that has been working since 1987 to promote the citizens' responsibility related to the environment. It is constituted as a resource center serving and supporting all those groups, public and private, that develop environmental education programs and activities.

Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS)

The Center for Sociological Research, commonly known as CIS, is a Spanish autonomous body that depends on the Ministry of the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Democratic Memory and whose purpose is the scientific study of Spanish society, usually through periodic surveys, on its own initiative.

Centro Eurolatinoamericano de Juventud (CEULAJ)

It is a centre for encounter and exchange of youth organizations and groups from Spain, Europe and Latin America. It belongs to the Youth Institute (INJUVE). Its actions are guided by the following three general principles: promoting equal opportunities among youth; promoting free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development of Spain; promoting collaboration with other ministerial departments and other public administrations, whose activities affect this sector of the population.

Comisión Interministerial para la Juventud

The Youth Interministerial Commission was established by Royal Decree 1923/2008 of 21st of November 2008. This body is currently attached to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda (under the Secretary of State of Social Affairs). It is a specific cooperation body between the Ministries as well as of promotion of youth policies, in charge of monitoring situations and problems affecting youth and proposing programmes and measures to the Government in order to solve them. In other words, it is a cooperation and relation body with the ensemble of Ministries in order to promote youth policies. Therefore, it is an instrument that enables to bring together interministerial plans and other actions addressed to youth, as well as maintaining a joint vision on the Government actions that, developed by the different Ministries, have an impact upon youth.

Comisión permanente del consejo de Juventud

The permanent commission is the body responsible for the execution of assembly's agreements, promoting coordination and communication between specialized commissions, and assuming the leadership of the Council and its representation. This body is formed by nine youth representatives of different entities of the CJE it meets once a month and it is renewed every two years. All members have to be under 31 years by the time they take office.

Comisión Tripartita para el Empleo Joven

Tripartite Commission on Youth Employment is a body for the analysis, debate and assessment of public policies concerning youth employment. It is made out of business and trade union organisations as well as the Public Administration.

Comisiones Obreras (CCOO)

The Workers' Commissions, since the 1970s, has become the largest trade union in Spain. It has more than one million members, competing with the Union General de Trabajadores (UGT) (historically affiliated with the Spanish Socialist Party, PSOE), and with the Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT), which is usually a distant third.

Comunidades Autónomas

Autonomous Regions are a central part in the decentralized territorial structure of Spain. The territorial structure is composed by the Central Government, 17 Autonomous Regions and two Autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla), and the Provincial and Local level. Autonomous Regions are ruled by their Statute of Autonomy which define its Autonomous Government, Administration, and an Autonomous Parliament.

Confederación Española de Asociaciones de Jóvenes Empresarios (CEAJE)

The Spanish Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs is the employer's representation of all the young entrepreneurs of Spain. It is a non-profit organization with an independent character, although integrated in different national and international institutions. The main goal is to fight for the interests of young entrepreneurs in order to motivate, guide, empower and channel business initiatives, and to facilitate the promotion of entrepreneurial culture and development.

Confederación Española de la Pequeña y Mediana Empresa (CEPYME)

The Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium Enterprises was founded on 1977. It is a confederal, intersectoral, national and professional organization, for the defense, representation and promotion of the interests of small and medium enterprises and the self-employed entrepreneur.

Confederación Española de Organizaciones Empresariales (CEOE)

The Spanish Confederation of Business Organizations was founded in 1977 and integrates two million companies and freelancers from all sectors of activity, which are linked to CEOE through more than 4,000 grassroots associations. The Confederation directly integrates 200 territorial and sectoral organizations at the autonomous and provincial levels. It is achieved so that the companies are represented by the double way of the sector to which they belong and by the territory in which they are located.

Consejo de la Juventud de España (CJE)

The Spanish Youth Council was created by Law 18/1983, November the 16th as a plural platform made out of youth entities for the exchange of ideas. Its main purpose is to participate in the design of policies that, directly or indirectly, affect youth, responding to the problems of this group. Therefore it is an advisory body, although the definition of its real current role remains unclear.

Consejo Escolar del Estado

The State School Council is the organ of participation of the sectors most directly related to the educational field. Its scope extends to the entire State. The Council also develops a consultative, advisory and proposal to the Government in relation to the different aspects of the education system.

Consejo Estatal de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Acción Social

The State Council of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Action is an advisory Body, attached to the General Government Administration through the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, which becomes a meeting point for dialogue and participation in the association movement concerning the elaboration of social policies.

Consejo Interterritorial de Juventud

The Youth Interregional Council was established on the 18th of October 2007. Its purpose is to strengthen cooperation between the Autonomous Regions and the State, as well as inbetween the Regions, concerning all matters to do with youth public policies.

Consejo Superior de Deportes (CSD)

The High Council of Sports is the regulatory body of sport at the state level, dependent of the Ministry of Culture and Sport. As an autonomous body it has the functions of the General Administration of the state in sports matters. Its resolutions can be appealed in contentious-administrative jurisdiction.

Encuesta de Población Activa (EPA)

According to the National Statistics Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística), the Labour Force Survey, commonly known as EPA, is a continuous investigation of quarterly periodicity directed to households. Its main objective is to obtain data on the population in relation to the labour market, and obtain figures on active population, unemployed and inactive people.

ESO

Compulsory Secondary Education (Educación Secundaria Obligatoria, ESO) as defined by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, is a compulsory and free educational stage that completes basic education. It consists of four academic courses that are usually carried out between 12 and 16 years of age.

Estatutos de Autonomía

Autonomy Statutes are the basic rules for the proper functioning of the Spanish Autonomous Regions adopted as Organic Laws. These laws establish competences and structures for decision-making in the Autonomous Regions.

Estrategia de Promoción de la Salud y Prevención

The Strategy for Health Promotion and Prevention was launched in 2013 and proposes the progressive development of interventions aimed at gaining health and preventing disease, injury and disability. The ones responsible for carrying out the strategy are the professionals related to health as well as of the central and autonomous sanitary administrations.

Estrategia Española para la Activación del Empleo

The Strategy for Employment Activation establishes the training needs making a difference between cross-cutting needs and sectoral needs, whether these are needs applicable to employment in general or applicable to precise sectors of the economic activity and the labour market.

Federación Estatal de Municipios y Provincias (FEMP)

The State Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, is the association of Local Entities with greater implantation as they represent more than 90% of the Spanish Local Governments. Its aim is to promote and defend the interests of local entities.

Fundación Biodiversidad

The Biodiversity Foundation is a public sector foundation belonging to the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge created in 1998 to protect the natural capital and biodiversity of the Spanish territory.

Fundación ONCE

The Once Foundation is aimed at carrying out job-training integration and employment programs for people with impairments and global accessibility, promoting the creation of environments, products and services that are globally accessible.

Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG)

The Roma Secretariat Foundation develops all kinds of actions that contribute to achieve the full citizenship of Roma people, improve their living conditions, promote equal treatment and prevent all forms of discrimination as well as the recognition of the cultural identity of the Roma community.

Fundación Tripartita

The Tripartite Foundation is a key actor in the updating and forecasting of professional skills. It is one of the bodies comprising the organisational structure and institutional participation of the Vocational Training System for Employment.

Garantía Juvenil

The Youth Guarantee is an initiative framed in the plan denominated as Strategy of Young Entrepreneurship and Employment of the Government of Spain, oriented towards reducing high levels of unemployment and to facilitate the labour insertion of young people.

Guía Didáctica de Educación para la Participación

The Teaching Guide of Education for Participation is aimed at promoting the association and informing non-associate young people between the ages of 14 and 22 about the possibilities of participating in the Spanish youth movement and in the full exercise of their citizenship.

Guía para una escuela activa y saludable y programa Perseus

The guide to an active and healthy school (2008) and the Perseus program is a guide directed at the school managers, teachers, fathers and mothers, technicians and those responsible for the regional administrations that aim at orienting the development of physical and healthy activity of the students.

Instituto de la Mujer

The Institute of Women, an independent organisation which is attached to the Ministry of Equality, seeks to promote the conditions that allow social gender equality and the full participation of women in political, cultural, economic and social life. Since its creation in October 1983, it has stood out for the initiatives and action it has taken to support the progress of Spanish women with regard to equal rights as promised in Article 14 of the Spanish Constitution. The mission of the Institute is to promote the equality of women and men in all areas of society, by means of well-run programmes, quality services and the cooperation of third parties.

Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE)

The Law assigns the National Statistics Institute, commonly known as INE, an important role in public statistic activity, expressly placing it in charge of large scale statistical operations (demographic and economic censuses, national accounts, demographic and social statistics, economic and social indicators, coordination and maintenance of company directories Electoral Census training...). Moreover, the law attributes the INE with the following functions: formulation of the National Statistics Plan with the collaboration of Ministerial Departments and the Bank of Spain; the proposal of common regulations on concepts, statistical units, classifications and codes; and relations on statistics with specialised International Institutions and in particular, with the European Union Statistics Office (EUROSTAT).

Instituto Nacional de las Cualificaciones (INCUAL)

According to the European Commission, the National System for Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training is the technical instrument, endowed with capacity and independence of criteria, which supports the General Council of Vocational training to achieve the objectives of the national system of qualifications and vocational training. It provides reliable and quality information on the field of professional education. It has the responsibility to define, develop and maintain the national catalogue of professional qualifications and the corresponding Modular catalogue of professional training.

Instituto Nacional de Tecnologías Educativas y Formación del Profesorado (INTEF)

The National Institute of Educational Technologies and Teacher Training is the principle manager for introducing new technologies into the field of education. To improve the quality of education and integrate students and professors into the information society, it deals with the incorporation of technologies into the classrooms.

Impuesto Sobre la Renta de las Personas Físicas (IRPF)

The Personal Income Tax System is a progressive tax paid by all residents of Spain according to their income.

Jóvenes e Inclusión

Youth and Inclusion is a network of organisations working to improve social inclusion, emancipation and autonomy of young people at risk or social conflict.

Ley Orgánica de Régimen Electoral General (LOREG)

The LOREG is an Organic Law that regulates the National, Local and European elections. It was approved in 1985 and modified in 2011.

Ley Orgánica para la Mejora de la Calidad Educativa (LOMCE)

The LOMCE or Organic Law for the Improvement of the Quality of Education was approved in the year 2013. The main objectives pursued by the reform were to reduce the early dropout rate of education, improve educational outcomes according to international criteria, improving employability, and stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit of the students. The reform was contested and aimed at increasing the autonomy of the centres, the reinforcement of the management capacity of the centres, the external evaluations of end-of-stage, the rationalization of the educational offer and the flexibilization of trajectories.

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation plans, directs, implements and assesses Spain's foreign policy and development cooperation policy, following the Government's guidelines and applying the principle of unity of external action. Promoting international, economic, cultural, security and scientific relations. It also cooperates in the elaboration and implementation of migratory policies in line with the international treaties of which Spain is a part.

Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional

The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training is responsible for setting out and implementing Government policy on professional training and non-university education. It also promotes cooperation and international relations in the field of education in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ministerio de Asuntos Económicos y Transformación Digital

This ministry is responsible for the proposal and execution of the Government's policy of economics and reforms for competitiveness improvement, industrial development, telecommunications and information society, develop of Digital Agenda as well as the support to business policies and the rest of responsibilities and power provided by the national legal system.

Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte

The Ministry of Culture and Sports [\[i1\]](#) is responsible for the promotion, protection and dissemination of the Spanish historical heritage, national museums, art, books, reading and literary creation, of cinematographic and audiovisual activities and of state books and libraries. Moreover, It is also responsible for the promotion and dissemination of culture in Spanish, as well as the promotion of cultural cooperation actions and, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, of international relations in the field of culture. Likewise, the Ministry of Culture and Sports is responsible for the proposal and execution of the Government's policy on sport

Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030

The Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 is responsible for proposing and implementing the Government's policy on social rights and social welfare, the family and its diversity, child protection, social cohesion and care for dependent or disabled persons, adolescents and young people, and animal protection.

The Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 is also responsible for proposing and implementing the Government's policy on promoting, monitoring and cooperating in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Ministerio de Sanidad

The Ministry of Health is responsible for proposing and executing the Government's policy on health, planning and healthcare, as well as exercising the powers of the General State Administration to ensure citizens' right to health protection.

Ministerio de Consumo

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs is responsible for proposing and implementing the Government's policy on consumer affairs, consumer protection and gambling.

Ministerio de Igualdad

The Ministry's work is structured around three main axes: survival policies, aimed at eradicating all forms of male violence that women suffer because they are women; policies for the redistribution of wealth, time and care, linked to a global transformation of our society in the areas of both employment and co-responsibility; and policies for caring for diversity, which ensure that ethno-racial origin or membership of the LGBT community is not a factor of discrimination.

'Nini'

It is the Spanish equivalent to the NEET, that is, youth up to 25 years of age not in employment, education or training. It is usually used as a derogatory term.

No hate

It is a campaign promoted by the Youth Institute (INJUVE) against internet intolerance in Spain whose aim is to mobilize citizens to debate, to act in defence of human rights and fight against any form of intolerance on the internet.

Observatorio de la Juventud

The Youth Observatory is a technical body of analysis and assessment of the situation of youth in our country and of support for the design of initiatives, youth programmes and policies.

Observatorio de las Ocupaciones del Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal

The Occupation Observatory of the Public State Employment Service, as a technical unit of the Public State Employment Service, analyses the situation and trends in the labour market, groups of interest within the market and their transformations.

Parlamento Joven de Navarra

Youth participation project in which topics of interest to young people are discussed and then sent to the Parliament of Navarre.

Plan Cultura 2020

The Culture Plan 2020, developed by the Ministry of Culture and Sports in March 2017, it is the successor to the General Strategic Plan 2012-2015 and is an instrument whose main objective is to make culture a State policy in a period of 3 Years, that is to say, from 2017 to 2020.

Plan de Acción sobre Drogas

The Action Plan on Drugs is an action plan linked to proposals that are promoted in the same direction as the European level. Its goal is the prevention of drug use, and the assistance and social reintegration of addicted people.

Plan de Inclusión del Alumnado con necesidades educativas especiales

The Inclusion Plan for students with special education needs, from the National Center for Educational Research and Innovation (CNIE) is aimed at improving the educational attention to all students and more specifically to the ones who present special educational needs.

Planes de Juventud

They are Interministerial Plans promoted by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda and approved by the Spanish Government. Its main objectives are to provide an answer to the demands of the youth. They provide the legal and political framework for the youth policies in Spain.

Plan Estatal de vivienda (2018-2021)

The Action Plan on Housing is an aid to young people for house renting or house purchasing. Young people up to 35 years old may be beneficiaries. The amount of this rental aid will be up to 50% of the monthly rent, for rentals between 600 and 900 € / month, for a maximum of 3 years. The aid for the acquisition of housing will be up to €10,800 with the limit of 20% of the purchase price.

Plan Estratégico de convivencia escolar

The strategic plan for school coexistence is aimed at preventing all kinds of harassment and school violence and is articulated in tune to seven fundamental points and includes different lines of action. It also establishes the mechanisms for evaluating the Plan.

Plan Estratégico Nacional de Lucha contra la Radicalización

The Strategic plan for the fight against terrorism in Spain is aimed, according to the Ministry of the Interior, at constituting an effective instrument for early detection and neutralization of outbreaks. It is focused on violent radicalism, acting on those communities, groups or individuals at risk or vulnerability.

Plan Nacional de Acción para la Inclusión Social del Reino de España (PNAIN)

The National Action Plan on Social Inclusion is a triennial plan which established the actions and reforms the Ministry and other relevant actors will take in order to assure social inclusion. According to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, the last National Action Plan on Social Inclusion (NAPincl 2013-2016) promotes the defence of the Welfare State, ensuring its sustainability and viability through the modernization of the social protection system within the framework of the objectives that the European Union has marked in its strategy Europe 2020 for and sustainable and integrative growth.

Plan Nacional de Implantación de la Garantía Juvenil

The National Plan for the Implementation of the Youth Guarantee establishes actions in respect to professional counselling, work information and guidance in order to find a job. This plan has been funded by the European Union.

Plataforma de Voluntariado de España (PVE)

The Spanish Volunteer Platform, commonly known as PVE, was created in 1986 with the aim of promoting volunteering and gather together the various organizations from the local and regional scope to establish common channels of thought and action. This organization has become the reference of systematization and coordination of voluntary action in Spain.

Portal de Transparencia

The Transparency Portal in accordance with the provisions of Law 19/2013 on Transparency, Access to Public Information and Good Governance, aims to expand and reinforce transparency, regulate and guarantee the right of access to information, and establish the obligations of good governance.

Real Decreto

A Royal Decree is a rule emanating from the Government, on behalf of the King of Spain, and by virtue of the powers prescribed in the Constitution.

Rector

A Rector is the highest authority of a University while the Dean is the highest authority of a faculty.

Renta Básica de Emancipación

The Basic Emancipation Income is, according to the Ministry of Development, a set of direct Central Government benefits, aimed at financially supporting payment for the rented accommodation that constitutes your habitual and permanent residence, under the

conditions and requirements established by Royal Decree 1472/2007. However, this measure was repealed on 2011.

Revista de Estudios de Juventud

The Youth Studies Journal of the Spanish Youth Institute is a useful publication in order to get to know the issues affecting the youth. This publication has been issued ever since 1979 and deals, as a monographic, with subjects of interest related to life, habits and needs of youth. It is published in paper and ever since no. 57 also in full text digital format, broadcasted through the INJUVE website.

Secretaria de Estado de Servicios Sociales

Within the inistry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, is the superior body competent for the "Promotion of social services and support of the cooperation with the non-governmental organisations, support of social volunteering, in the scope of competences constitutionally assigned to the State".

Servicio Español para la Internacionalización de la Educación (SEPIE)

The Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education, under the Ministry of Universities, acts as the National Agency for the management, dissemination, promotion and impact studies of the new Erasmus + program in the field of education and training (2014-2020) and of the Lifelong Learning Program (PAP) 2007-2013, in addition to other European educational initiatives and programs.

Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal (SEPE)

The National Employment Public Service is an autonomous body affiliated with the inistry of Work and Social Economy, which, together with the public employment services of the Autonomous Regions, forms the National Employment System. It is entrusted with the management, development and monitoring of the programs and measures of the employment policy.

Sistema Nacional de Empleo

The Spanish National Employment System is the ensemble of structures, measures and actions needed to promote and develop employment policy, made out of the SEPE, State Public Employment Service, and the regional public employment services.

Tribunal Constitucional

The Constitutional Court is the Spanish constitutional body that exercises the function of Supreme interpreter of the Constitution, independent in its role, and it is regulated in the "Title IX" of the 1978 Constitution— articles 159 to 165. In addition, it extends its jurisdiction to the entire Spanish territory

Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT)

The General Worker's Union of Spain is one of the two major trade unions in Spain, founded in 1888. It is aimed at protecting the general interest of workers regardless of their labour situation (employed or unemployed) or the kind of contract they have (permanent or temporary).

Volunteering Statute

This agreement is considered as the instrument of definition and regulation of relationships between volunteers and the volunteering entity.

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