

CATALAN IN A MULTILINGUAL SPAIN

41% of Spanish citizens live in territories with two official languages

In Spain, there are 16.3 million people who live in territories with more than one official language. This represents 41% of the total population of the State. These territories are the autonomous communities of Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, the Community of Valencia, Galicia, the Basque Country and Navarra (see table 6).

Added to this, there are two more territories with 2.3 million inhabitants where languages different from Castilian are spoken but they are not officially recognised in their respective statutes of autonomy. They are Aragon (where Catalan and Aragonese are spoken) and Asturias (where Asturian is spoken). In Catalonia, in addition to Catalan, the Statute recognises Aranese, a variant of Occitan and spoken in the Aran Valley, where it has official status.

27.5% of Spanish citizens live in territories where Catalan is the official language

Two out of every three of these people, that is, 10.8 million, live in the three territories where Catalan has official status, under this name or under the name of Valencian. This represents 27.5% of the Spanish population. That is, one in every three citizens of the Spanish State.

With more than 46% of citizens living in territories with a different language other than Castilian, Spain is, after Belgium and Luxembourg, the state where multilingualism has most importance within the European Union, to a degree that, far from being something anecdotal, it almost represents the essential feature of the State.

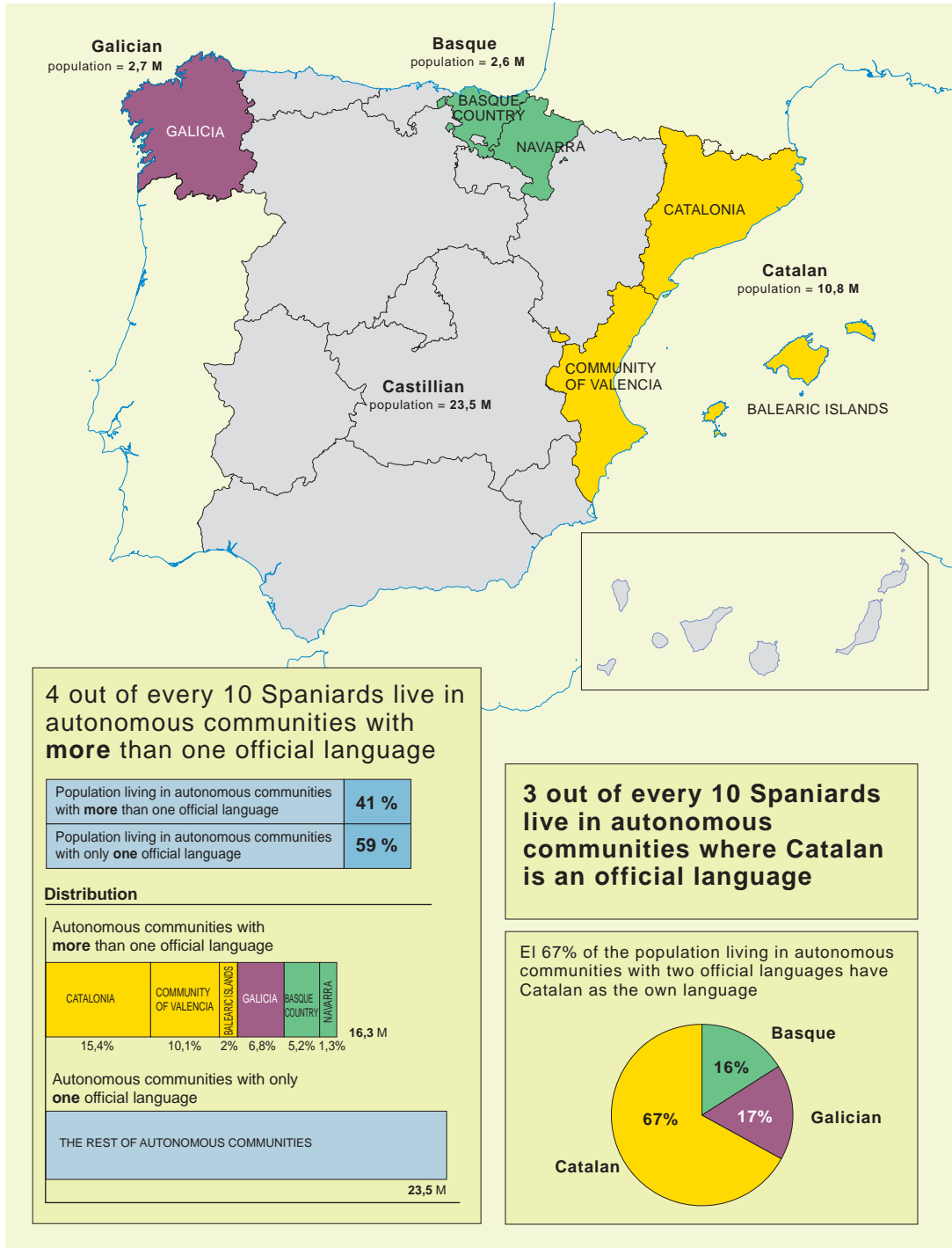
Because of this, article 3 of the Spanish Constitution, after stating that *"Castilian is the official Spanish language of the State"* and as the official language, *"All Spaniards have the duty to know it and have the right to use it"*, it goes on to declare, *"The other Spanish languages shall also be official in their respective autonomous communities in accordance with their statutes"*. Furthermore, the same article states that, *"The wealth of the different language variations of Spain is a cultural heritage which shall be the object of special respect and protection"*.

Table 6. Autonomous communities with more than one official language

AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY	POPULATION	% OVER SPAIN
Catalonia	6,147,610	15.4
Balearic Islands	796,483	2.0
Community of Valencia	4,023,441	10.1
Galicia	2,724,544	6.8
Basque Country	2,098,628	5.3
Navarra	530,819	1.3
TOTAL	16,321,525	40.9

SOURCE: INE*, 1998.

* Spanish National Institute of Statistics

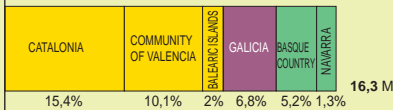


4 out of every 10 Spaniards live in autonomous communities with **more** than one official language

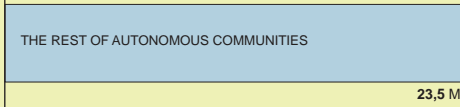
Population living in autonomous communities with more than one official language	41 %
Population living in autonomous communities with only one official language	59 %

Distribution

Autonomous communities with **more** than one official language

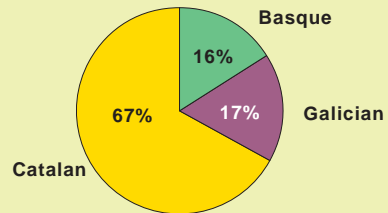


Autonomous communities with only **one** official language



3 out of every 10 Spaniards live in autonomous communities where Catalan is an official language

El 67% of the population living in autonomous communities with two official languages have Catalan as the own language



Catalan in the Spanish State

SOURCE: INE.