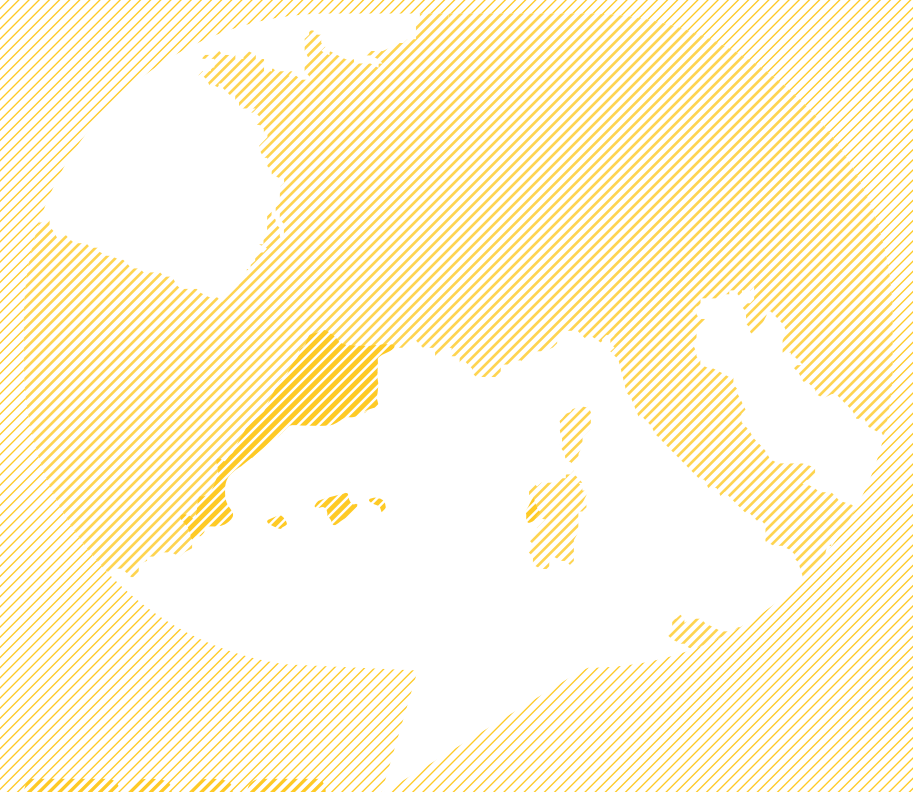


PLATA  
FORMA  
PER LA  
LLENGUA

L'ONG del català



# THE CATALAN LANGUAGE



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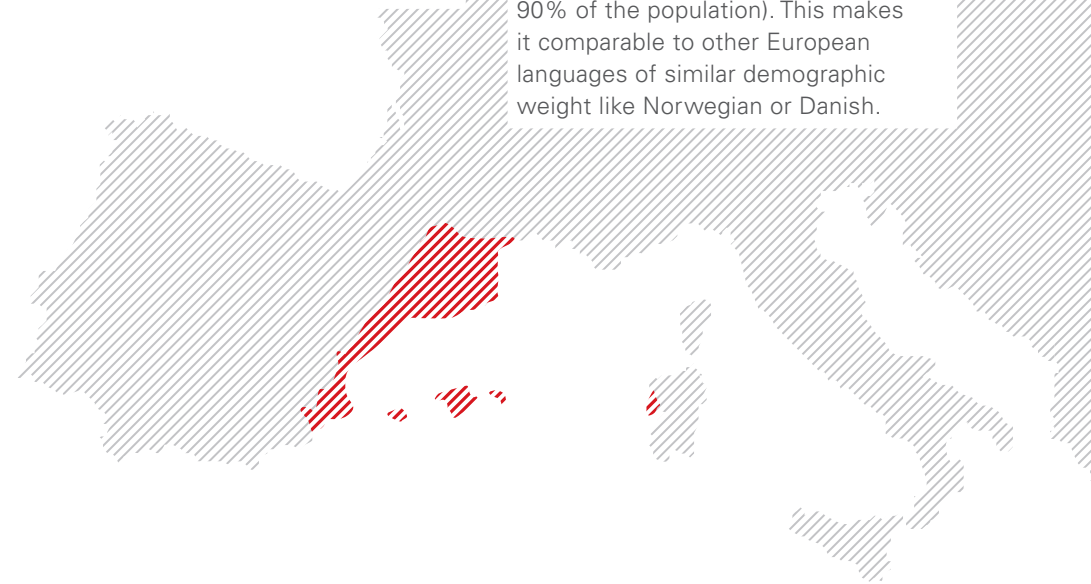


## CATALAN, A EUROPEAN LANGUAGE

Catalan is spoken in four European states (Spain, France, Andorra and Italy). In Spain, it is spoken in Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, virtually all over Valencia, in the eastern strip of Aragon and also in the Carxe area of Murcia. It is also the only official language of the small Pyrenean state of Andorra and it is the historic language of most of the Pyrénées-Orientales departments in France, also called Northern Catalonia. Catalan is also spoken in the city of l'Alghero, on the island of Sardinia (Italy).

## TEN MILLION PEOPLE SPEAK CATALAN

According to estimations of linguistic use in the Catalan-speaking regions, over 10 million people speak Catalan. This number represents 72.5% of the population (adults and children over 2 years old) of the Catalan-speaking territories (Catalonia, the Region of Valencia, the Balearic Islands, Eastern Aragon, Andorra, Northern Catalonia and the city of Alghero in Sardinia). The overall linguistic area of Catalan language is home to nearly 14 million people and more than 12 million people understand it (more than 90% of the population). This makes it comparable to other European languages of similar demographic weight like Norwegian or Danish.





# SOCIO-LINGUISTIC STATUS

## CATALAN HAS A POSITIVE INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION

According to the Poll on Linguistic Uses in 2013, there is a positive intergenerational transmission of the language, i.e., the percentage of people that pass the language down to their children is higher than the percentage of people that speak it on a daily basis. This demonstrates the usefulness and attractiveness of speaking Catalan.

## MOST FOREIGN RESIDENTS UNDERSTAND CATALAN

According to the 2011 Population Census, 82.1% of foreigners living in Catalonia understand Catalan. This represents an increase of 21% on the previous Census, in which only 61.1% of this population group declared any knowledge of the language. It should be noted that this increase has taken place concurrently with the growth of the foreign population: almost one million foreigners have taken up residence in Catalonia since the year 2000.

## CATALAN IS USED SUBSTANTIALLY BY LOCALS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE

Overall, Catalan is the usual language of communication for 43% of the population and most of the rest of the population can also speak the language and uses it frequently. This is especially valuable if we take into account that Catalonia has received a lot of immigration coming from the rest of the Spanish State during the 20th Century, meaning that the migrant population has learnt Catalan.

40% of European residents in Catalonia speak Catalan. According to the 2011 Population Census, 130,594 out of 323,255 European residents in Catalonia (both EU and non-EU) state that they can speak Catalan, which amounts to 40.4% of immigrants from this area. The percentage of Europeans that speak Catalan is higher than groups from other continents, such as Latin Americans (36.2%) and Africans (35.2%).



## CATALAN IS NOT A MINORITY LANGUAGE

Catalan is the 14th most spoken language in the European Union among 15-34 year-olds, which places it above EU official languages such as Danish, Finnish, Slovakian, Croatian, Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Slovenian, Maltese, Irish, or even languages spoken by immigrants from outside Europe, such as Turkish or Arabic. Surprisingly, Catalan is the 7th most-learned language among young Europeans, just behind other more widely-spoken languages such as English, French, German, Spanish, Russian and Italian, and ahead of languages such as Dutch, Portuguese, Czech or Polish.

## EU LANGUAGES BY NUMBER OF SPEAKERS





## CATALAN DOES NOT HAVE OFFICIAL STATUS IN SPAIN

Article 3.1 of the Spanish Constitution defines Spanish as the State's only official language. Moreover, the same article establishes that speaking Spanish is compulsory in Spanish territory. The mandate of speaking a language does not exist in other European Constitutions, with the exception of Bulgaria. Catalan can only be officially recognized in territories where it is the native tongue and the respective self-rule regulations have established it as official, whereas Spanish is compulsory everywhere, regardless of the volition of the Autonomous Regions and of whether it is the Region's native tongue.

## THE LEGAL SITUATION OF CATALAN IS ANOMALOUS WITH REGARD TO OTHER LANGUAGES WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF SPEAKERS

Spain is the only democratic State that does not recognize a language spoken by more than 10% of its citizens. These languages enjoy, in all democratic countries without exception, full official recognition in the State where they are spoken, so the language is fully recognized both internally and externally and is treated with equality in relation to the other languages of the State. Such is the case of Canada, Belgium, Finland, etc. Furthermore, within the European Union, all languages comparable to Catalan are official languages of the European institutions. This makes Catalan the only exception. The other languages comparable to Catalan are fully recognized in all the walks of life of their speakers: advertising, product labeling, the media, justice, language availability, etc.

## CATALAN CANNOT BE USED IN THE SPANISH PARLIAMENT

As a consequence of its non-official status at State level, Catalan cannot be used in the Spanish Parliament, making the latter the only Parliament in the European Union that does not allow the use of a language spoken as much as Catalan is. Besides, Spanish is the only language of the documents and the services offered by Embassies and Consulates.

## THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF A SOLUTION FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE LANGUAGE AT STATE LEVEL

The four main parties in Spain, PP (Popular Party), PSOE (Socialists), Ciudadanos (Liberals) and Podemos (Radical Left) agree on their refusal to modify Article 3.1 of the Spanish Constitution, which says: "Castilian is the official Spanish language of the State. All Spaniards have the duty to know it and the right to use it".

## THE LEVEL OF LEGAL IMPOSITION OF SPANISH IS NOTABLE FOR COMPANIES

According to a study commissioned by the Plataforma per la Llengua in 2014, there are 340 rules forcing companies to use Spanish, while only 24 rules establish the obligation to use Catalan, i.e., 93.41% of the legal obligations for companies in Catalonia impose the use of Spanish, amounting to 14 times more provisions in favor of Spanish. On the other hand, 161 laws make Spanish obligatory in labeling in Catalonia and only 2 laws do so for Catalan. The Spanish state reinforces the current legal inequality between Spanish and Catalan by approving new laws every year that require the use of Spanish on various products that can be found in Catalonia. Furthermore, Article 15.2 of the Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council states that States have the possibility of labeling products in the European Union languages, which excludes Catalan.

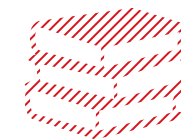
## THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FAVORS SPANISH OVER CATALAN IN MULTIPLE AREAS

Linguistic legislation related to Catalan is scarce. In fact, compared to other languages with a similar demographic weight, Catalan is the most unprotected language in Europe. As has already been said, it is not official in the Spanish State (only in some regions where it is the original language) or in the European Union. Several State laws impose the duty of knowing Spanish language and restrict or nullify the duty to know Catalan, especially for public servants working for the Spanish Administration in Catalonia. Moreover, there are other rules that impose the exclusive use of Spanish in different areas, such as labeling, official documents, etc. In the Catalan-speaking territories, Spanish and French are the only languages imposed by law.





# CULTURAL PROJECTION



## CATALAN HAS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL WEIGHT

Catalan literature is important and has been recognized since the Middle Ages by virtue of the work of authors of the stature of Ramon Llull and Joanot Martorell. With regard to publishing, over 10,000 books are published in Catalan every year. Furthermore, Catalan is the 22nd most-translated language in the world, with a greater number of translations into other languages than others with similar demographics (for example, Greek). Similarly, Catalan occupies the 26th position in terms of translations from other languages.

## 161 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD TEACH CATALAN

A total of 161 universities taught language and culture studies outside Catalonia through the Ramon Llull Institute during the 2013-14 academic year. The countries with the greatest offer are France and the United Kingdom, each one offering Catalan Studies at 22 universities. Germany and Italy are not far behind, with 20 and 13, respectively. In Spain, despite being home to 95% of Catalan speakers, Catalan is only taught at ten universities outside its native area. As for the remaining European countries, Catalan can be studied at three Czech universities, two universities in each part of Ireland, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Poland and Russia. Finally, Portugal, Holland, Switzerland, Serbia, Romania, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania and Estonia all have one university associated with Catalan studies.

## CATALAN HAS BEEN THE LANGUAGE OF IMPORTANT WORLDWIDE PERSONALITIES

Catalan is the language of important personalities whose work has had a worldwide impact: architects such as Antoni Gaudí; painters such as Salvador Dalí, Joan Miró, Antoni Tàpies and Miquel Barceló; musicians such as Pau Casals and Josep Carreras; chefs, including Ferran Adrià or the Roca brothers; and scientists, namely Valentí Fuster, Joan Massaguer, Anna Veiga and Josep Baselga. Moreover, several sport celebrities are native Catalan speakers, such as Pep Guardiola, Rafael Nadal, Gerard Piqué or the Gasol brothers.





**MEDIA**

**AND INTERNET**



### **CATALAN IS A LANGUAGE WITH A STRONG MEDIA PRESENCE**

There are more than 100 newspapers, both printed and digital, and more than 150 magazines published in Catalan. The most-watched TV station in Catalonia is TV3, which broadcasts entirely in Catalan. The two most listened-to radio stations, RAC1 and Catalunya Radio, also broadcast fully in Catalan.

### **FIVE OUT OF THE SIX MOST-USED SOCIAL NETWORKS IN SPAIN HAVE A CATALAN-LANGUAGE VERSION**

They are Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Google+ and Badoo. In 2012, Twitter launched their Catalan version and in 2013 Badoo, the London-based dating page with over 175 million users, started a Catalan-language page. Of the top 7 pages, only LinkedIn, the job-based network, does not yet have a Catalan version, thus demonstrating the viability and the need for a Catalan-language version of these sites.

### **SIX OUT OF TEN OF THE WORLD'S MOST VISITED WEBSITES HAVE A CATALAN LANGUAGE VERSION**

However, it must be noted that two of the top ten are Chinese-language websites such as Baidu and QQ. Even so, large multinational companies such as Google, YouTube, Facebook, Wikipedia, Twitter and Live have Catalan-language versions, thus demonstrating the viability and the need for the use of Catalan on these sites.

### **THE CATALAN WIKIPEDIA IS ONE OF THE TOP 20 VERSIONS IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF ARTICLES**

In November 2016 the Catalan version of Wikipedia reached 500,000 articles. Catalan is amongst the 20 top languages in the Wikipedia, but it should also be noted that more than 150,000 users have created articles and that in 2013 the Catalan Wikipedia beat the records for page visitors on several occasions.





# LANGUAGE RESILIENCE



## THE SPANISH STATE HAS ATTEMPTED TO ERADICATE CATALAN SEVERAL TIMES

The first significant attempt took place in 1714, just after the surrender of Barcelona in the War of the Spanish Succession. The promulgation of the “Nueva Planta” Decrees eliminated Catalan in the Public Administration, Courts and education. Moreover, all accounting ledgers belonging to merchants had to be written in Spanish from then on.

Although there have been many other attempts after the above date, the second and most ambitious operation to eradicate Catalan took place in 1939, after the end of the Spanish Civil War and in the wake of the rise to power of the dictator Francisco Franco. The prohibitions established since 1714 were followed by other measures: signage in Catalan was forbidden; fines were established for speaking Catalan in public, and rewards were offered for reporting people that did not comply with this prohibition; all books written in Catalan found in the public libraries of Catalonia by the Franco regime were burned; even cemeteries were prevented from having gravestones with inscriptions in Catalan. This process was part of a context of general repression of the Catalan national identity.

After the end of the dictatorship and the proclamation of the 1978 Constitution, the Spanish State has never fully acknowledged that serious attempts were made to eradicate the Catalan language between 1714 and 1975. Furthermore, in 2001 the former Head of State, King Juan Carlos I, actually said that “the language of Cervantes has not been a language of imposition, but one of encounter; no one has ever been forced to speak Spanish.”



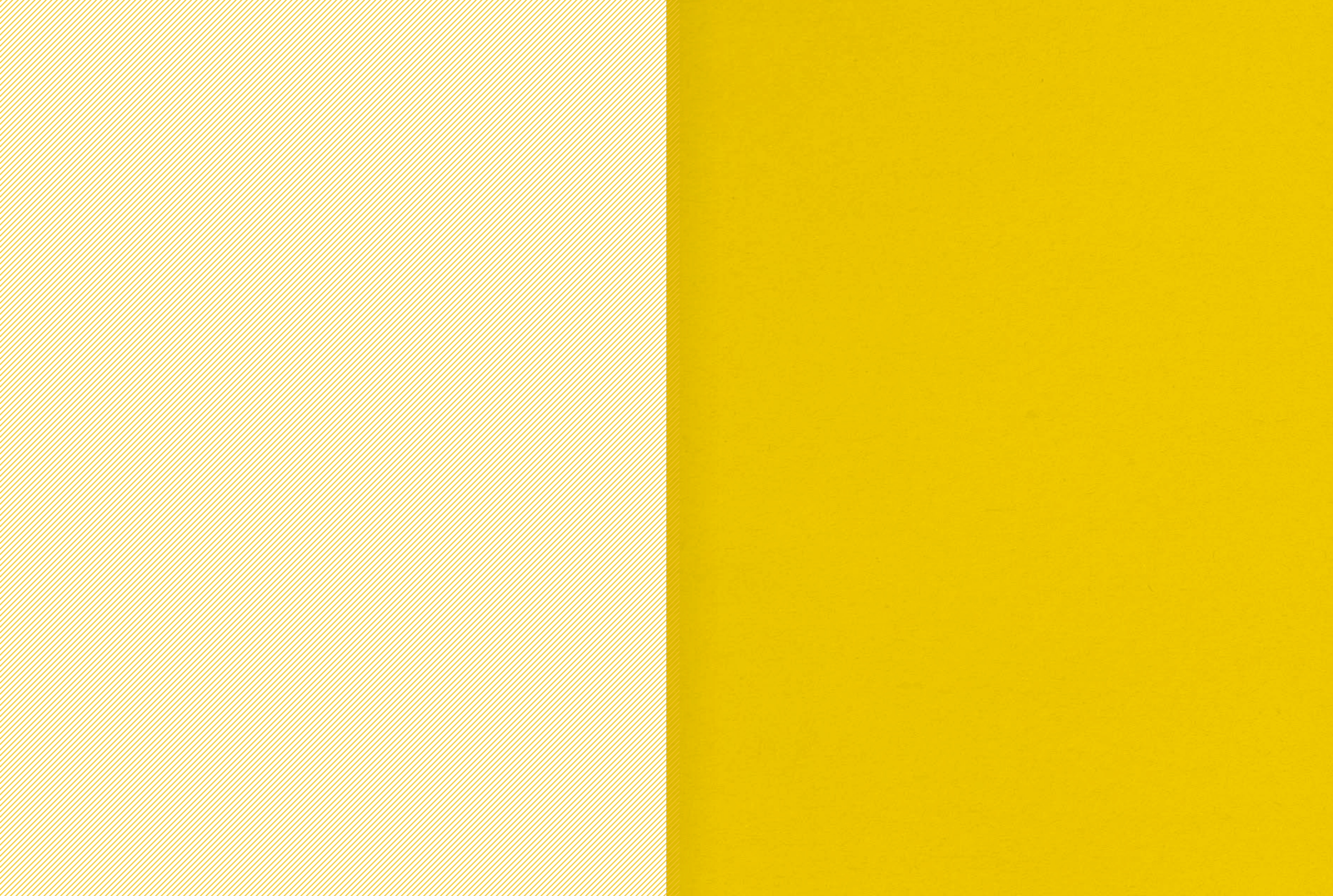
## **BASIC FACTS ABOUT CATALAN**

- 10 million speakers
- About 13.5 million people understand Catalan
- 94.3% of people in Catalonia understand Catalan and 80.4% speak it.
- Spoken in four States: Spain, France, Andorra and Italy.
- 14th most widely spoken language in the EU.
- 6 out of the 10 most visited websites in the world have Catalan versions.
- 24th most used language on Twitter.
- 17th most used language on Wikipedia.
- 7th most studied language in the European Union.
- 22nd most translated language in the world.
- 161 universities throughout the world teach Catalan.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Some inscriptions show that Catalan can be distinguished from Vulgar Latin during the 9th Century.
- Catalan was spoken in the coastal zone of Algeria, under French domination, during the second half of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th Century. Called Patuet, it was spoken by immigrant communities from Alacant, Perpignan and above all Minorca, with over 100,000 speakers.
- The Book of the Consulate of the Sea is a compendium of maritime law that governed trade in the Mediterranean for centuries. Of Catalan origin, it was translated into many languages and served as the basis for current international maritime law.
- The worldwide famous architect Antoni Gaudí was arrested on September 11th 1924 for speaking Catalan to a police officer.
- English has words loaned from Catalan, such as barracks, paper or aubergine.
- Catalan was spoken in Florida until the beginning of the 20th Century thanks to a colony of immigrants from the island of Minorca that settled there in the 18th Century.







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