

ADULT EDUCATION AND OER 2015 COUNTRY UPDATE: SPAIN

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Spain is one of the larger Member States with a population of 47 million. Responsibility for education is largely devolved to the 19 'autonomies', the 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities.

The education system in Spain is organised into mainstream education and Enseñanzas de Régimen Especial (specialised education). Primary education (6 to 12) and compulsory secondary education (12 to 16) correspond to basic education, which consists of ten years of free and compulsory schooling for all pupils. Mainstream education comprises:

- Pre-primary education (Educación Infantil): it is the first stage in the education system and it is non-compulsory. It is divided into two stages: the first one, up to the age of 3, and the second, from 3 to 6 years of age.
- Primary education (Educación Primaria): it is the first compulsory stage of the system. It covers six years of instruction, divided into three two-year cycles. It is normally completed between the ages of 6 and 12.
- Secondary education is comprised of compulsory secondary and post-compulsory secondary. The former – Educación Secundaria Obligatoria (ESO) – is divided into four courses and is ordinarily completed from the ages of 12 to 16. Successful students are awarded a Secondary Education Certificate, which is necessary for entering further optional education, either Bachillerato for their University or Formación Profesional (Vocational Studies).
- Secondary education also includes artistic professional Music and Dance education, intermediate professional Sports and Plastic Arts and Design education, which belong to 'enseñanzas de régimen especial'. This also covers language education. This provision, although not regarded as part of secondary education, belongs to enseñanzas de régimen especial, which may be started at the age of 16 or 14 if the language to be studied is different from the one studied during ESO. Enseñanzas de régimen especial are non-compulsory and structured into different levels and degrees leading to different qualifications and certificates.
- Post-compulsory secondary education includes two options: the two-year Bachillerato (from 16 to 18), and intermediate vocational training (Ciclos formativos), the duration of which varies between one and a half or two years.
- Vocational training is also possible after ESO or after the Bachillerato. There are two different types of programmes: Middle Grade Training Cycles (Ciclos Formativos de Grado Medio), which have the ESO diploma as a requirement, and Superior-level Training Cycles (Ciclos Formativos de grado Superior), which have the Bachillerato as the principal entrance requirement. After completion of the Superior-level Training Cycle, students are entitled to direct entrance to a range of related University degrees.
- University education: Once students have finished their Bachillerato, they can take their University Entrance Exam (Pruebas de Acceso a la Universidad), popularly called Selectividad which differs greatly from region to region. University in Spain is organised into three cycles, namely Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate, with variable duration and a minimum required number of ECTS credits.

- Although there is a national Ministry of Education, much of the organisation and management of pre-university education is devolved to the 17 regions (Comunidades Autónomas).

The Spanish language is the official language in every autonomous community but six, which also have other official languages:

1. Catalonia (Catalan and Occitan)
2. Valencian Community (Catalan, also called Valencian there)
3. Balearic Islands (Catalan)
4. Galicia (Galician)
5. Basque Country (Basque).

The 2013 ***Act on the Improvement of the Quality of Education***¹ introduces significant changes in the educational provision of Bachillerato and, especially, vocational training. The reforms of vocational training provision include:

- The creation of the new cycles of basic vocational training: these new cycles, which can be taken by students aged 15-17 will start to be implemented in the 2014/15 academic year.
- The development by the education authorities of dual vocational training in the education system.

1 Adult education in Spain

Adult education and training covers different types of provision offered by the education and employment authorities, provided by a variety of institutions. Classroom-based education leading to the award of official degrees of the education system is provided in ordinary schools or specific schools for adults. Adult education and training is aimed at people aged over 18, though there are exceptions for workers aged over 16 who cannot attend a normal school for whatever reason, or high performance athletes.

Adult education is divided into two strands: second chance education and basic skills and is organised regionally by the Comunidades Autónomas. The largest numbers of second chance learners are aged 45-50, whilst the peak for basic skills learners is in the age range 20-25. Numbers have been affected by the continuing recession; an exception is in the Comunidad de Aragón, which has continued to promote adult learning strongly.

Most professional adult retraining is conducted through universities. Training courses normally lead to the award of *Título Propio*.² Such awards are not regulated and do not carry official recognition outside the awarding institution. Other vocational retraining is often conducted by private training organisations; there is state funding for some of this and Trade Unions often provide support.

In addition, there are a number of repositories, providing resources related to schooling: training for teachers and school professionals and resources for pupils and their parents. These are organised at a national level.

¹ http://www.spanishreforms.com/document-legislation/-/asset_publisher/I3dIXOACv5oU/content/organic-law-on-the-improvement-of-the-quality-of-education-lomce-;jsessionid=EAE55E2B130E2928BD06BB38904F5C32?_101_INSTANCE_I3dIXOACv5oU_commitment=1.+GROWTH+AND+COMPETITIVENESS

² http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C3%ADtulo_propio

Spain is no different from many other EU countries in being slow to recognise and accredit informal and prior learning and the seven barriers described on the EPALE website³ remain largely problematic.

2 Copyright in Spain

Copyright law in Spain is summarised in the **Royal Legislative Decree of April 12, 1996**.⁴ It is similar to the law in many other EU countries, with provisions for IPR and authors' moral rights. Any work which can be seen or heard may be reproduced, distributed and publicly communicated for the purpose of, and only to the extent necessary for, providing information thereof in the context of reporting on current events.

In education, museums, libraries and similar public or cultural institutions may make reproductions of works for the purposes of research (article 37). 'Fragments' of written, sound or audiovisual works or 'isolated' plastic, photographic, figurative or analogous works may be included in another original work for the purposes of teaching or research (finés docentes o de investigación) if the following conditions are met (article 32): the source work has been published; it is included for citation or for analysis, commentary or critical judgment; it is included with a citation of the source and the name of the author; it is only included to the extent justified by the purposes of teaching or research. There is no specific mention of CC or open licensing; a project was established in 2009 to clarify the copyright laws for digital learning environments,⁵ which provides resources and guidance regarding the rights that affect the activities practised in virtual education. It also specifies which current copyright laws can form barriers to eLearning aims and present possible solutions to some of these problems.

3 OER in adult education in Spain

The two main distance learning and open universities – **UNED**⁶ and **UOC**⁷ – offer a wide range of courses for adults with many of these as 'open' courses requiring no prior qualifications.⁸ These OCW courses use OER and UNED currently has a dedicated staff post for OER development, but this has not led to as much progress as might have been expected.

There are several OER initiatives providing resources for adults. **CeDeC** (Centro Nacional de Desarrollo Curricular en Sistemas no Proprietarios) is a portal promoted by the Ministry of Education,⁹ largely targeted at schools, to facilitate access to the education community to different resources and learning materials freely available, and thus promote the implementation of ICT, but available for general adult use. The portal of the National Institute of Educational Technology and Teacher Training (**INTEF**)¹⁰ also provides open educational resources on its website in various categories and for different audiences: teachers, school pupils, young people and parents. It also hosts the EDA project for adult education, based in Extremadura,¹¹ which includes a range of OER in its course resources.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/blog/7-challenges-validating-non-formal-and-informal-learning-europe>

⁴ https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-1996-8930

⁵ <http://www.ugr.es/~derechosdeautor/index.html>

⁶ http://portal.uned.es/portal/page?_pageid=93,25451830&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

⁷ <http://www.uoc.edu/portal/ca/index.html>

⁸ See the OCW courses at UNED at <http://ocw.innova.uned.es/ocwuniversia>

⁹ See <http://oermap.org/policy/cedec/>

¹⁰ <http://educalab.es/intef/introduccion>

¹¹ <http://eda.educarex.es/portaleda/oferta.html>

There is a wide range of initiatives aimed primarily at education professionals and providing OER. The Ministry of Education for schools has launched the **Post Platform**, a repository of educational materials and digital resources Open (OER) for schools in Spain, in collaboration with **Red.es**,¹² **EducaRecursos**¹³ and the Ministries of Education of the Autonomous Communities to provide free access for teachers and students of pre-university studies: educational content is organised according to the different stages of education. At the regional level, the Autonomous Communities have also joined such initiatives, by providing the educational community with platforms and free resources to improve teaching and facilitate the introduction of ICT in schools. In Catalonia, the Education Department of the Government has developed **Merli**¹⁴ which has two reference portals, the first one as a showcase of technological innovation and the use of ICT in the classroom and the second as a catalogue of educational materials for teachers and students. There are similar initiatives in Andalusia,¹⁵ Madrid,¹⁶ Aragón¹⁷ (which has its own Moodle site), Asturias¹⁸ and almost all the other autonomous communities, both in mainland Spain and the island groups.

Agrega¹⁹ started out as a national repository for resources (including many OER) for schools and the school curriculum, but there are currently plans to extend this to other educational sectors, including vocational training and upskilling.

Beyond these initiatives there is not a great deal of visibility of OER for adult education courses and this is at least partly due to the reluctance of teachers and trainers to embrace the opportunities they can offer.²⁰ There are a number of MOOCs currently running in Spain; the Open Education Europa scoreboard lists seven – three in Business subjects, two in the STEM area and one each in humanities and social sciences²¹ – though POERUP recorded that 31 universities have offered them and at least 30 universities offer courses using OCW (Open Courseware).²²

4 Quality for OER in Spain

Many adult education courses do not lead to regulated and recognised qualifications and there is no central system for quality assurance of OER. Quality procedures (in so far as they exist) are managed by providers and institutions. There are no national procedures or systems for quality assurance of OER.

¹² <http://www.red.es/redes/quienes-somos>

¹³ <http://imedayo.blogspot.co.uk/>

¹⁴ <http://www.xtec.cat/web/recursos/recursos>

¹⁵ <http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/educacion/portaaverroes>

¹⁶ <http://www.educa2.madrid.org/educamadrid/>

¹⁷ <http://www.catedu.es/webcatedu/>

¹⁸ <http://www.educastur.es/>

¹⁹ <http://agrega.educacion.es/visualizadorcontenidos2/Portada/Portada.do;jsessionid=D6FB106EE37C477F2BFC5EB0ABBD0C92>

²⁰ <http://research.unir.net/2015/03/12/hay-que-cambiar-la-mentalidad-de-los-profesores-para-que-usen-los-recursos-educativos-abiertos/>

²¹ http://openeducationeuropa.eu/en/open_education_scoreboard

²² <http://poerup.referata.com/wiki/Spain>