

COUNTRY PROFILES

Spain

The research into literature on Spain's approach to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude towards cooperation with other European countries. This is demonstrated particularly in Spain's role in the Barcelona Process. However, Spain also enjoys its role as an interlocutor between EU Member States and other Spanish-speaking countries; particularly those with which it is involved through the Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (Estados Iberoamericanos para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura -OEI).

It is important to note that Spain consists of seventeen autonomous communities, of which seven have their own languages. These communities enjoy autonomy in issues relating to their own regional culture and some have their own international cultural cooperation units (such as COPEC in Catalonia).

M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

At state level, the body responsible for international cultural cooperation is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y cooperación – MAE). The Ministry claims to promote and support the diffusion of Spanish contemporary arts and culture in more than a hundred countries, spread throughout all continents. It also provides grants and support for foreign students and professionals wishing to study in Spain. It is responsible for the Instituto Cervantes, the mission of which is to teach and promote Spanish studies and to organise cultural activities mostly in collaboration with other agencies or host countries and to provide access to Spanish reading materials.

M i n i s t r y o f C u l t u r e

Among the three sub-directorates of the Ministry of Culture, one is specifically dedicated to international cultural cooperation (Subdirección General de Cooperación Cultural Internacional) and there is now a closer cooperation between the two ministries.

S t a t e C o r p o r a t i o n f o r C u l t u r a l O v e r s e a s A c t i o n

The Spain's State Corporation for Overseas Cultural Action is a public institution, set up on 15 December 2000 as the result of a government agreement, for the organisation of international exhibitions and related activities.

It is promoted by the State and its aim is to carry out cultural projects of public interest, collaborating in all cases with international bodies and institutions.

P o l i c y f o c u s

Policy is focussed on the following aims:

- Participate in forums and international organisations, including the European Union, in the area of culture and in subjects related to culture;
- Organise activities that promote Spanish culture abroad and the cultures of other countries in Spain;
- Organise and manage the training and technical assistance in Spain of foreigners whose professional activity is developing in any cultural field.

G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Spain is an international cultural player with focus on the EU Member States and non-EU neighbouring countries, particularly those situated in the Mediterranean. This is also reflected in the fact that it houses Institutos Cervantes in thirteen EU Member States and has signed 18 cultural agreements with EU countries²⁴. Further, one can see that the same applies for neighbouring non-EU countries²⁵.

Spain also boasts a number of events each year in support of the Euro-Mediterranean cause, the most notable of which was the Barcelona Forum which resulted in the Barcelona Process for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the field of culture and more recently the hosting of the Euro-Mediterranean congress in Barcelona (November, 2005).

In addition to its focus on a "wider Europe" Spain has a particular interest in Latin America especially for trade links in the audio-visual sector.

It maintains its cultural contacts with the USA, certain Asian countries, such as India, South Korea and Japan, and its former colony the Philippines²⁶.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g

□ Barbier Frinault et Associes and Ernst & Young France Consultancy, Study of the External Cooperation of the European Union and its Member States in culture and audiovisual sectors. Summary,

E-Doc Link: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/avpolicy/stat/2002/5770_barbier/58-02-summary_en.pdf

The study presents and analyses external cooperation in the culture and audiovisual sectors of a number of states (including Spain) and the European institutions with third countries. New Member States and candidate countries for European Union membership are excluded from the category of "third" countries.

Fundación Interarts, (2005) Las Relaciones Culturales Internacionales: el marco institucional en España,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/documentos/229.asp> Spain

A detailed report regarding international cultural cooperation giving information about central administration, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Secretary of State to the European Union, Secretary of State for cultural cooperation, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), Institute Cervantes, Fundación Carolina, Casa de América y Casa Asia, State Society for exterior cultural action (SEACEX), Ministry of Culture, Sub-secretary for Culture, General Direction for Fine Arts and Cultural Goods, General Direction for books, archives and Libraries, General Direction for Cooperation and Cultural Communication, Museo Nacional del Prado, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, National Library, Instituto Nacional de las Artes Escénicas y de la Música (INAEM), Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales (ICAA), Sociedad Estatal de Conmemoraciones Culturales (SECC), Ministerio de Industria, Turismo y Comercio, Instituto Español de Comercio Exterior (ICEX), Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales, Autonomous Communities, Structures, Government departments, Autonomous organisations, Case studies, International organisations, Local administration etc...

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Cultura en el exterior - Relaciones Culturales y Científicas, E-Doc Link: <http://www.mae.es/>

This is the official website of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Spain. It provides copies of all bilateral cultural agreements that have been signed. A power point presentation also gives more information about the Ministries policies and objectives. This website is only available in Spanish.

Ministry of Culture, (2005) Subdirección General de Cooperación Cultural Internacional,

E-Doc Link: http://www.mcu.es/jsp/plantilla_wai.jsp?id=22&area=cooperacion

Official website of the Ministry of Culture, formed in 2000. This website gives fairly limited information but does give directions and brief details of the unit for international cultural cooperation.

Sociedad Estatal para la Accion Cultural Exterior, (2000) Agreement through which Spain's directorate-general for public assets is entrusted with the adoption of measures with regard to the SEACEX,

E-Doc Link: http://www.seacex.com/i_indexflash.htm

Spain's overseas cultural action is conceived as a major undertaking involving the reflection on and diffusion of our country's collective memory along two major axes of activity. On the one hand, there is the mission to reflect the wealth and complexity of the history we share with other peoples, especially in Europe and America. On the other hand, our cultural action must provide the means to drive our current relations with those countries into the future...

□ Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional - AECl, (2005) España - acción cultural exterior,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.aeci.es/Default.htm>

Official website of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation - section on cultural cooperation. Provides background information and a mission statement.

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte (2003)

Comisión Nacional Española de Cooperación con la UNESCO,

E-Doc Link: <http://www.aeci.es/unesco/c1.htm>

Official website of the Spanish National Commission to UNESCO, celebrating more than fifty years membership of UNESCO.

Real Institut Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos, (2004) La política cultural en España,

E-Doc Link: <http://profiles.culturalpolicies.net/down/spain-ol.pdf>

Preliminary report available in Spanish for the Compendium of cultural policies: Outlines in chapter 2.4 Spain's international cultural cooperation. It identifies the main actors involved: Ministry for Culture, Ministry of External Affairs, the Technical Secretary General of the Ministry for Education and Science, Instituto Cervantes, La Sociedad Estatal para la Acción Cultural Exterior (SEACEX), Fundación Caralina, Casa de América de Madrid, Casa de Asia de Barcelona. It mentioned also the significant work of the autonomous governments in external cultural affairs. The autonomous government of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya) created the Consorcio Catalán de promoción Exterior de la Cultura (COPEC)....

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports - Spain,

E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1national_reports3.pdf

This gives a very good description in English of the main Spanish provisions for external cooperation. It also goes on to explain documents, legislation and agreements relevant to Spanish cultural cooperation.

SEACEX, (2004) Balance of activities 2000 - 2004 (in Spanish only),

E-Doc Link: http://www.seacex.com/i_indexflash.htm

An overview of the programme of SEACEX and the exhibitions that it has organised during the four-year period. Nineteen exhibitions were organised during the 2000-2004 period and have been exhibited in thirty-one cities in sixteen different countries.