



Review of policies and current situation in Spain and Ourense Province

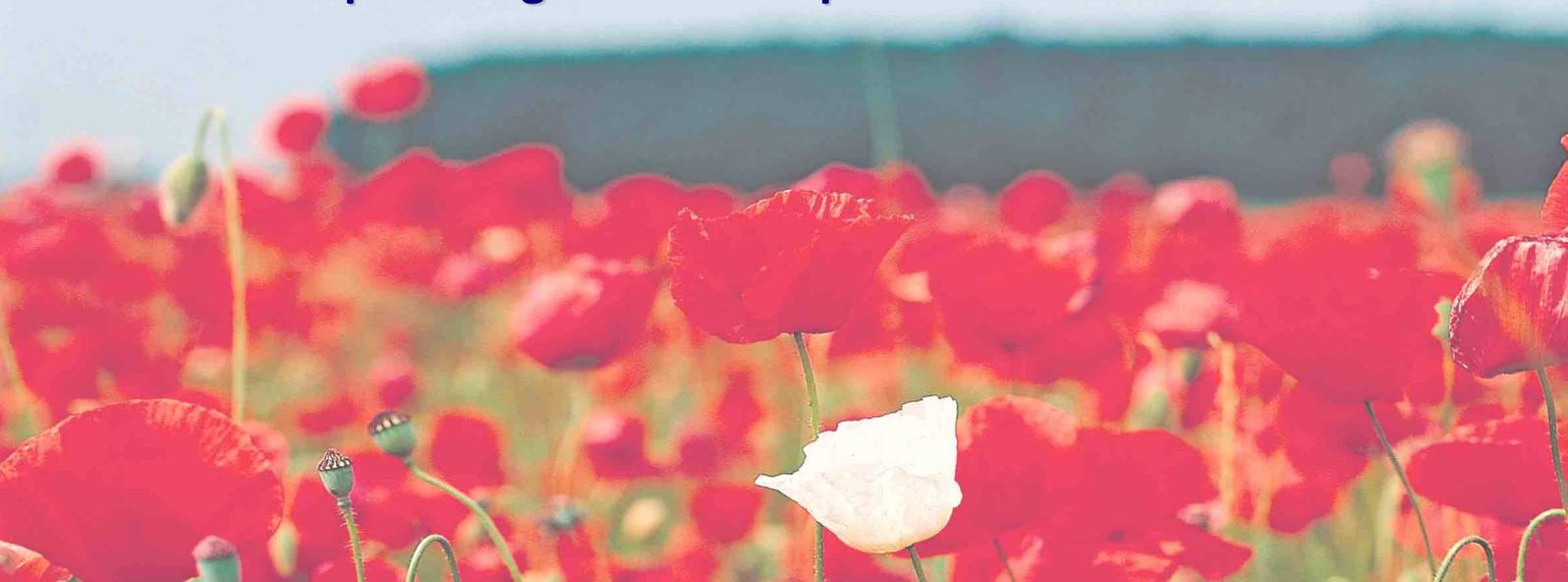
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1. POLICY ON NATURAL AREAS IN SPAIN

Map of Spain and Galicia region (Ourense Province)



Source: European Commission <http://europa.eu/abc/maps/>

1.2 THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION OF SPAIN AND GALICIA GOVERNING THE FUNCTIONING OF NATURAL AREAS

We have tried to gather the most relevant policies as far as natural parks, natural areas and SMEs development are concerned. There are more, but most of them are similar and would have brought poor contribution to the project. These are:

- 1 Galician cultural heritage law (Galicia)
- 2 Protection of the St James ways (Spain)
- 3 Nature conservation law (Galicia)
- 4 Forestry promotion and forest planning (Galicia)
- 5 Sustainable rural development law (Spain)
- 6 Natural heritage and biodiversity law (Spain)
- 7 Protection of the landscape of Galicia: (Galicia)

8 Natural resources regulation plan of “Baixa Limia” natural park (Galicia)

9 Financial support to increase cooperative actions in order to develop new products and new technologies in food stuff, agri and forest field (Galicia)

10 Financial support for investment in transformation and commercialization of agri products (Galicia)

Brief description

1 Galician cultural heritage law: it considers tangible and intangible assets that are important to preserve galician cultural identity. The aims of the law are the preservation, protection, improvement and dissemination of the assets. It also considers the investigation and transmission to future generations.

2 Protection of the St James Ways: it looks for the demarcation, conservation and regulation of uses of the trail.

3 Nature conservation law: wants to set up the rules for the protection, conservation and improvement of natural resources; the suitable management of natural areas and wild flora and fauna. The dissemination and preservation for future generations are also included.

4 Forestry promotion and forest planning: ensuring the persistence of the woodlands through a sustainable forestry management; the improvement of forests with local varieties and the recovery of burnt areas; and the obtaining high quality forests to allow wood transformation industries and complementary uses.

5 Sustainable rural development law: the basic aim of this law is the description of measures to achieve a sustainable development in rural areas through the cooperation of the public administrations. Its general aims are economic social and environmental at the same time.

6 Natural heritage and biodiversity law: set up legal regulations for the conservation, sustainable use, improvement and restoration of the natural heritage and biodiversity as part of the duty of conservation and the right of enjoyment of a good quality environment.

7 Protection of the landscape of Galicia: protection, management and planning of landscape in order to preserve all the elements that creates it. The landscape has a general interest for the Galician community because go beyond the cultural, environmental, social and economic fields.

8 Natural resources regulation plan of “Baixa Limia” natural park: to establish a management tool that can help to achieve the objectives of conservation and planning of “Baixa Limia” natural park.

9 Financial support to increase cooperative actions in order to develop new products and new technologies in food stuff, agri and forest field: including the modernization of facilities, machinery purchase and new equipments including software purchase.

10 Financial support for investment in transformation and commercialization of agri products: modernization of facilities, purchase of machinery and equipment including software.

1.2 THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES OF NATURAL AREAS

The nature conservation law defines a protected natural area as one that has elements or natural systems valuable in any way due to nature evolution or due to human action. It sets up several designations for natural areas. These are:

1 Natural Reserve: its aim is the protection of ecosystems, communities or biological elements that deserve an especial protection due to its fragility, rarity, importance or peculiarity.

2 Natural or National Park: areas very few distorted by human action. These are beautiful areas with representative ecosystems that enclose flora, fauna or geomorphology singularities and have educational, ecological, scientific or aesthetic values that deserve a special conservation.

3 Natural monument: areas or natural elements, mainly formations with a special singularity, rarity or beauty that deserve a special protection. It also includes geological formations and paleontology sites.

4 Protected Wetlands: surfaces covered by water, natural or artificial, temporary or permanent that are important from a national or international point of view in conservation of natural resources.

5 Protected Landscape: areas with aesthetic, cultural or special values, or areas with a harmonious relation between man and environment that deserve special protection.

6 Area of special protection of natural values: areas that need to be preserved because of its natural, cultural, scientific, educational or scenic interest and don't have another kind of protection.

7 Natural area of local interest: councils can ask for the creation of natural areas of local interest in its municipality. The management will be made by the council and this doesn't mean neither they will be included in the protected areas catalogue nor they will receive money for this purpose.

8 Private area of natural interest: institutions or private owners with areas of special natural interest can ask for the creation of this figure. This doesn't mean neither they will be included in the protected areas catalogue nor they will get money.

The list above includes the designation of protected natural areas set up by the Galician legislation that includes more protected figures than the Spanish law. Apart from this, we have to mention protection figures at European level included in Natura 2000.

How it relates to other administrative structures (hierarchy of responsibility)?

Department of Rural Environment (Government of Galicia)

Subsection of Nature conservation

Nature Conservation Service

Manager of the park

How is it governed?

The most important form of natural protection figure is the natural park. It depends on the Nature Conservation Service within the Rural Environment Department of the Government of Galicia. There can be collaboration with the government of Ourense and with the town councils of the park.

Each natural park has its own management equipment: Manager, Technicians, Watchmen and a conservation squad. They have their own budget and self government to carry out the everyday activities of conservation and management, though the main guidelines are taken at a higher level. Some of their activities are to keep clean and in good conditions the areas allowed to visitors, rest areas, paths and those that can be interesting from a touristic point of view in order to make the park more appealing for visitors.

Is there a link to the legislation in 2.2 above?

The main legal documents for the natural park management are the “natural resources regulation plan” and “use and management plan”. They are specific for each park. We have made the analysis of the natural resources regulation plan for the most important natural park in Ourense: Baixa Limia-Xurés. This is a cross border park and is one of the best as far as management and development is concerned.

Highlight activity that is good and why (e.g. partnerships working, management plans, autonomy of activity)

Although the main activity that can be enjoyed in natural parks is hiking, they are also seeking for the improvement of the tourist offer through the increase of the quality offer and getting as many quality labels or recognitions as possible. At this respect some natural parks elaborate action plans to get this aim. As an example we can take a look at the Baixa Limia-Xurés action plan. It has seven main points :

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1. To improve the quality of the tourist offer: It is important to know the characteristics and the needs of the visitors. The achievement of quality labels and the creation of an specific offer for group of people.
2. Awareness programs: through education and information of people (mainly students). Marketing and responsible promotion are also important.
3. Training: in development and sustainable tourism for the park technicians as well as for tourist businessman.
4. To improve the quality life of the local people: exchange of experiences with local people and programs that can ease the access to information and good practices.
5. Protection of natural, cultural and historical heritage: making an inventory of the tourist resources, a study of flora, fauna, landscape and architecture. Elaboration of maps and guides.
6. Economic and social development: promotion of agrifood and handcraft products.
7. Tourism control: register the number of visitors and the level of satisfaction. Determine and respect the capacity of visitors of the park. Promotion of public parks and the creation of a tourist centre with shop of souvenirs and products of the area and restaurant.

2. POLICY ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMES DEVELOPMENT IN SPAIN AND OURENSE PROVINCE

2.1 JUDICIAL FORMS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT IN SPAIN

1 Public Limited Company: a society whose members have a stockholding in the share capital (shares). The shares can be different from one another due to its different value or the privileges that can provide (for example the payment of dividends). The shareholders don't have to be responsible with their personal assets to pay the society debts.

2 Limited company: is a kind of society in which the responsibility is limited to the capital provided and therefore, in case of debts nobody has to be responsible with its personal assets. Members have a kind of shares that don't have any value and have to be transferred by public document.

3 Civil society: this society is a contract in which two or more people join money or assets in order to share the benefits.

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4 Cooperative: is an association of people who has joined voluntarily to create a democratic organization whose management will be carried in a way agreed by the partners. Its aim is to face their needs, their economic, social and cultural aspirations using the company as a tool to get it.

5 Agri-Transformation society: it has economic and social aims. It is set up for production, transformation and commercialization of farming and forestry products, for promotion and rural development, for the improvement of the rural environment and for and to meet common needs.

2.2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SPAIN

The average age of the Spanish people is 40,2 years, being 38,8 years for men and 41,6 for women. The ageing rate for Spain is lower than in Galicia and Ourense (showed below) and it is 84. Furthermore, the population of the country is increasing.

The average household income in Spain is 2202 €, this is higher than the average in Ourense. Here we can underline that a great number of households are made up of couples without children.

The unemployment rate in Spain is 20%, being similar in men and women (20% for each).

The number of businesses in Spain is 3,35 million, being slightly lower than the previous year (2008) and a 52,7% of the companies don't have any employees. As far as the size of the companies are concerned, the majority are micro business (94,1%), followed by SMSs (5,8%) and larger companies represent 0,1%. Tourism is very important for Spanish economy because contribute with the 10,5% of the gross domestic product.

The importance of the economic sectors taking into account the number of employees is the following: 71,1% of the workers are in the services sector, a 14,7% are in the industrial sector, a 10,0% are in the building sector and finally a 4,2% of the labor force of Spain are dedicated to agriculture.

Statistics say that the amount of money needed to set up a business is around 40.000 €. A great majority of business, the 80%, fail in the first 5 years. This percentage of failure goes to a 90% of failure in the first 10 years. The average age of the entrepreneur in Spain is 37 years and it is decreasing. Most of the entrepreneurs are men (61%) and women the remaining 39%. At this respect, Galicia is in the tail end of Spain in entrepreneurship.

In 2007 around 410.975 business started its activity while 322.528 closed definitely. We don't have more current data, but we can say that in the last two years the evaluation is negative, we mean more closures than openings. This data can give us an idea of the number of business set up in a year. The time required to start a business is around 50 days and is one of the highest in Europe.

The successful business, or at least those that are running more than 5 years have some characteristics in common. These businesses make a great use of new technologies in order to get trustworthy information on time that help them to make important decisions. This saves money and time. ITCs are more and more

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important today. Mobile phone and e-mail are the most useful electronic tools for entrepreneurs. An interesting website and the possibility of making dealings through it are also very appealing and handy for clients. Social networks are very useful to get information from friends or trustworthy people about every day work or purchases.

Another important characteristic is that they are up to date with the innovations of their sector of activity through digital newspapers and specialized magazines mainly and in this way, training is very important to be updated.

Some advices given by entrepreneurs for those who want to set up a business are that a good business has to solve a problem or satisfy a necessity. You have to be totally convinced about your idea and have a strong willpower. Furthermore, the fact that we are in a global society makes internationalization very convenient for the survival of a business. But the most important of all is to enjoy what you are doing.

On the other side, the most important barriers in the starting of a business is to get money for the initial investments, the bureaucracy to comply with the regulations, the unknown of the competition and the judicial form of the business chosen.

2.3 ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN OURENSE

The total number of business in Galicia is 205.906. The 11,6% of this business are in Ourense (23.985) and the majority of them don't have employees (51%). The 95,8% of the total number of business are micro business, the 4,1% are SMSs and the 0,1% are larger companies.

The most important economic activity is service sector which cover the 60,3% of the workers, followed by the industrial sector with a 15,6% of the labor force. The following sector is the building sector with a 13,3% of the workers, and finally, the less important economic sector is farming with a 10,8% of the workers. At this respect we must stress that the public sector employs the 26% of the workers. Another important for people to get incomes are pensions, taking into account the number of elderly people.

The majority of businesses are located in the capital city and surroundings. As far as the industrial companies are concerned, most of them are related to the transformation of internal resources (slate and agrifood). The investment in industry is one of the lowest inside Galicia and qualified employments in manufacture and the ones related to innovation are scarce.

The average household income in Ourense is 1.752 €, while in Galicia is 2.026 €. The 33,1% of the households' incomes are below 1.000 €. We have to underline that an important number of households are made up by one person households (27%).

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The unemployment rate in Ourense is 16,6% and it is not very different from Galicia's rate (15,5%), being higher in women (18,8%) than in men (14,7%).

The average age of the population of Ourense is 48,3 years (46,6 for men and 50,0 for women), while in Galicia is 44,6 years. The ageing rate, this is the number of people of more than 65 years divided by the ones under 20 years in 209 while in Galicia is 136. The province population is decreasing at a rate of 0,25% a year.

There are two main methods for measuring businesses registrations and closures. We have the Register of Businesses. This is a public institution that provides some information of natural or juristic persons. Entrepreneurs are forced to give some essential information to this register.

The second one and more accurate is through the Tax Office, because businesses are force to declare VAT quarterly.

| Sector | No of businesses |
|--|------------------|
| Mining industry (extraction) | 108 |
| Drink and food industry | 584 |
| Textile industry | 25 |
| Tailoring and fur industry | 135 |
| Leather and tan industry | 10 |
| Cork and timber industry | 286 |
| Paper industry | 1 |
| Edition and graphic arts | 85 |
| Chemistry industry | 27 |
| Rubber and plastic products manufacture | 32 |
| Mineral products manufacture (non metallic) | 242 |
| Metallurgy | 14 |
| Metallic products manufacture (except machinery and equipments) | 372 |
| Machinery and mechanical equipment construction industry | 63 |
| Office machines and computing manufacture | 8 |
| Electrical material and machinery equipment | 19 |
| Electronic material, tv, radio and equipments appliances manufacture | 3 |
| Precision, optics, clockmaker instruments manufacture | 44 |
| Motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers manufacture | 28 |
| Other transport material manufacture | 3 |
| Furniture manufacture | 215 |
| Recycling | 1 |
| Production and distribution of electricity, gas, steam and hot water | 122 |
| Collection, purification and distribution of water | 2 |
| Construction | 4301 |
| Motor vehicles sale and repair | 930 |
| Wholesale trading (no motor vehicles) | 1603 |
| Retail trade (no motor vehicles) | 4941 |
| Bars, restaurants, hotels | 2755 |
| Ground transportation and pipe transportation | 1365 |
| Maritime or internal navigation | 1 |
| Travel agencies and activities related to travelling | 150 |

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| | |
|---|------|
| Telecommunications | 52 |
| Financial services (except insurances and pensions) | 373 |
| Insurance and pension plans | 36 |
| Auxiliary financial services | 541 |
| State agent's activities | 1097 |
| Machinery and equipment renting | 130 |
| Computing activities | 117 |
| Research and development | 75 |
| Other business activities | 2452 |
| Education | 459 |
| Health and veterinarian activities | 768 |
| Public cleaning up activities | 64 |
| Partnership activities | 180 |
| Leisure, cultural and sports activities | 415 |
| Personal services and other activities | 848 |

The businesses related to tourism are about 3.600 being most of them bars, restaurants and those related to accommodation. Within these businesses related to tourism, we can underline some that are more specialized in tourism as spas, one ski resort, rural accommodation for tourism, state owned hotel and few related to adventure travel.

The number of employed people in Ourense is 131.400 people and we have 133.690 households. We can divide households by the number of persons who sustained them. Households sustained by one person represent the 40%. Households sustained by two persons represent the 43%. Households sustained by three persons represent 12,5%.