

### the citizenship

Spain which is located in the Southwest of Europe, has borders with France and Portugal. It is rich country composed of several important regions like Catalonia, Valencia... After a month of mobility in Spain, in Catalonia, more precisely in Castelldefels, we discovered a lot of things about the Spanish culture and of course, also about the Catalan culture. Indeed, we visited different cities, distinct monuments, we learnt more about the History of Spain and we could find differences with France. Furthermore, we learnt more about a foreign language: the Spanish! Thanks to this experience and these discoveries, we also saw many things about the citizenship in Spain. Therefore, now, we ask ourselves to what extent, this quote "Being a world's citizen means speaking for the survival of humanity" from Alfred de Musset, allows us to say that being a Spanish's citizen is also being a World's citizen? However, even if the survival of humanity includes several topics, we will only focus on the planet's question. At the beginning, we will analyse what is a Spanish citizen. Then, we will see the same thing with an European citizen.

Finally, we will study what is it to be a Green citizen, in other words, a citizen of the World.

First, to be a Spanish citizen bringing many values and a culture very diversified. In Spain, we can say that the population of the same city is united and gathered. In fact, in Spain, the 6<sup>th</sup> December is the 1348 Constitution's Day. That's why it is a bank holiday in all the country. However, it is celebrated in different manners according to the regions. For example, in Catalonia, people organise a medieval party because of an historical tradition. Indeed, more precisely in Barceloneta, for four days from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> December, a big market takes place in the city's center. We can find food, clothes, flowers, knight's equipments for children... In addition, there also are lots of parades and shows about the Middle Ages and the combats between the knights every day. To conclude, it is <sup>an</sup> important event which puts people in touch, and which creates once again the city's History. There is also a convivial atmosphere. It also allows to remember the customs and the traditions of the time.

Then, to obtain a rich and varied culture, Spain must thank to the different and several populations who are lived on its territory. For instance, in Toledo, there are always, nowadays, three different religions which live together: the Jews, the Muslims and the Catholics. That's why this city is also called "the city of three cultures" or "the city of tolerance". The population whose the religion is maybe

different, is unite! In fact, there are not different parts for each culture, everybody mixed. This is what makes Toledo so beautiful and magical. The urban structure of Toledo comes from the Muslim culture. Nevertheless, inside, we can find mosques, synagogues, cathedrals... There is the Sephardic Museum which recounts the Jew's History and which is situated in the 'El Tránsito's' synagogue. There is also the 'Virre - Marie's' cathedral which is huge and we can visit. That's why the Spanish culture was formed from many different cultures of the whole world.

Catalonia which is a region of Spain, tries to increase the wealth of the world. Since 2014, it wants to be independent. In fact, Catalan is already spoken everywhere in this region. Whether it be with family, friends, in the shopping center or even, at school, everybody speaks Catalan. Moreover, even the schoolbooks are in this language. Catalan which is the mixing of French, Italian and Spanish, is judged like an official language in Catalonia. What is more, a capital has already been named in this region, it is Barcelona. Besides a flag already exists too, it is yellow with red vertical stripes. Also, on the football club's blazon in Barcelona, we can see this flag. It shows that is very important for Catalans to obtain their independence. Moreover, recently, the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Catalonia began a new process in order to announce that the Catalan Republic will be an independent state.

Afterwards, while being Spanish citizen, we are also an European citizen. What is more, being an European citizen means to enrich the World. In this way, we can say that a Spain's city is world famous. In fact, in 2023, Barcelona is classified like the second most beautiful city in Europe. In Barcelona, we can find everything we need, there are cafes, bars, restaurants, parks. These places are open both day and night, all the year, therefore there is a lot of life and many people in the streets the night. Furthermore, there is also a very important cultural Heritage since we can visit lots of museums, we can watch very different shows at theater and we can see many historical monuments. However, what makes it unique, it is its architecture. Indeed, eight monuments are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. There are the Sagrada Família which is the most impressive, the Parc Güell which is full of very colorful mosaics and of course, several houses like the Casa Batlló, the Casa Milà, the Casa Vicens... which add fantasy to this city. Without forget the sublime beach under the sun in Barcelona. That's why Barcelona is known to everyone!

Moreover, Spain, like most European countries is a North Atlantic Treaty Organization's member in order to keep peace in the World. In the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1982, Spain was inspired by its neighbors to join forces with Europe. In fact, France and Portugal have been part of it since the Washington Treaty's signing in 1949. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a military and political international organization whose goal is to guarantee the liberty and the security of all the members. This Organization also

allows to unite most European countries and the United States and Canada if there is a military problem in Europe or in the World. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the Atlantic Alliance, was founded during the Cold War by twelve countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the United States, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands. Nowadays, twenty-nine European countries, therefore thirty-one in the World are members of this Organization.

Likewise, Spain loves showing its talent with the rest of the World. For example, the famous spanish painter Salvador Dali who is well known in Europe and even in all over the World, created lots of beautiful works. Furthermore, he built himself his own museum, called the Dali Museum, in 1974. It is located in Figueras, in Catalonia, in the North of Spain. It is considered like his last work in which he arranged the spot of each of its one thousand and five hundred pieces. To show the importance of this museum and this artist, the Dali's tomb is situated in this museum. In addition, to illustrate this idea, there is also an other famous spanish painter who is Pablo Picasso. He carried out many works too. Four thousands and three hundred of them are displayed in the Picasso Museum which is located in Catalonia too, in Barcelona. Picasso is also well known in Europe and all over the World that's why there is an other Picasso Museum, in Paris, in France where five thousand works are exhibited.

To finish, to be an European citizen is also bound to be a World's citizen in other words, a Green citizen because it is an universal value. In fact, Spain is an ecological country which fight for the sustainable development as the huge city as the small city. Like, for instance in Castelldefels which is a green city. The population brings a lot of importance to sorting waste, there are many trees and parks in this city to create green spaces, there are also plenty of bikes in self-service, there is even a green school. The school called the Institut Josep Lluís Gert is a green school given that they protect nature, they use the sunlight in order to use as little electricity as possible, they organize projects to clean seaside, mountains parks. They have a vegetable garden, they employ recycled paper. Moreover, around a part of the Llobregat's river, a natural space was created by some activist for the sustainable development. The name of the park is Parc Mediterrani de la Tecnologia. The activists inserted animals like ducks and turtles and they planted full of different greeneries.

Even if the Spanish political regime is a constitutional monarchy, the King whose the name is Felipe VI, remains important for the Spanish. Furthermore, the King also struggles for the sustainable development. Indeed, for the annual ceremony of the European Environment Awards for Business, in 2020, it was Felipe VI who presided over the ceremony. This ceremony rewards the European ecologic business every year. The Spanish King opened this celebration with a speech and then, he gave the rewards to the correct businesses. Additionally, he unveiled the Fertiheria Ammonia and Green Fertilizer factory in

Puertollano which is the first in the sector in the World. The factory will reduce to zero its greenhouse gas emissions before 2035. It will be the first big plant nutrition company which will produce ammonia and plant nutrition solutions without greenhouse gas. This events show that the King invested and he wants to protect his country and our planet, the Earth.

In order to protect the World, most Spanish cities fight for the sustainable development. In addition, twice already, a Spanish city was named the European green Capital. Every year, since 2010, the certification label "European Green Capital" awarded to the European city which made actions for the sustainable development and which improve the live's quality of its citizens and visitors. In 2012, Vitoria which is located in the North of Spain, awarded this title. Its ecological transition was a success. It based this success on the nature, the agroecology development and the ecological public transports. Also, in 2024, it is Valencia, situated on the Mediterranean Coast, which was elected. It is this current European Green Capital! The city created and protected the several green spaces, it carried out lots of projects about the sustainable mobility, the good management of urban waste and the recovery of public spaces.

To conclude, being a Spanish citizen is not just about taking care of yourself, it is to live in community with many different people, like in Toledo, to organise events for the population in the same city such as the medieval party in Castelldefels or to create a new independent region as Catalonia.

It is also to open up to the outside world, first with Europe and be known as a beautiful, peaceful and cultural country. For instance, Barcelona which is an attractive city, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which keeps the peace or Salvador Dalí who is famous everywhere. Then, with the rest of the World, to protect our planet. Being a Green citizen is being a World citizen and it is everybody. It is an universal value. Everyone should fight like Spain for the sustainable development, in other words, to recycle all waste, to create and to protect the green spaces, to reduce the greenhouse gas of the companies... That is why being a Spanish citizen is also being a World citizen. Spain struggles for the survival of humanity! Now, we can ask if France is as far ahead in its fight for the sustainable development as Spain?