

Spain

Recent policy developments

- The Commission for the Reform of Public Administrations (CORA) process was launched by the Council of Ministers on 26 October 2012. The focus is administrative streamlining, simplification of legislation and procedures, and avoiding duplication between central state and autonomous communities (AC). The CORA also proposes a code of best practices to rationalise public expenditure and increase the efficiency of public services by optimising the use of new technologies.
- The CORA proposals focus on duplications between the central government and the ACs. Of the 217 proposals presented in the reform, 118 relate to eliminating duplications: at the national level and between national and sub-national levels.
- The Law on the Streamlining and Sustainability of Local Governments (December 2013) aims at streamlining the services offered by the local public sector and increasing the responsibilities granted to provinces. As a result, provinces could be in charge of co-ordinating specific municipal minimum services to municipalities under 20 000 inhabitants. Local councils will be under an obligation to publish the cost of each public service. They will then determine whether services should be joint or concentrated under the umbrella of the provincial council, if the council can offer them under better conditions at an effectively lower cost. This reform is in line with the central authorities' aim of reaching a sufficient size for service provision, ultimately generating savings.

Government structure	Municipal-level governments	Intermediate-level governments	Regional or state-level governments
Quasi-federation	8 117	50 ¹	17

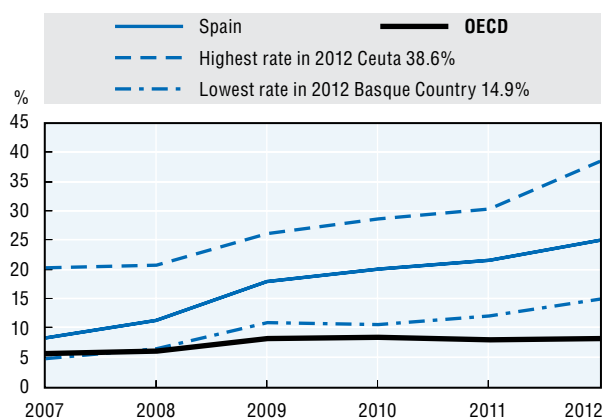
Regional development policy	
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Finance and Public Administrations
Regional development framework	No explicit framework beyond EU Structural Funds; regional development is a main competency of the regions (autonomous communities).

Urban development policy	
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Public Works and Transport and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment
Urban policy framework or strategy	In Spain's Urban and Local Sustainability Strategy, the focus is on: the urban and territorial development dimension; urban planning instruments; accessibility, mobility and transport; urban governance; housing; climate change.

Rural development policy	
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment
Rural policy framework or strategy	Law on Sustainable Development of Rural Areas from 2007 created a multi-sectoral and place-based rural policy in Spain based on four pillars: support of territorial agriculture, promotion of economic activity in rural areas, infrastructure investment and environmental planning.

1. Excluding the two autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla

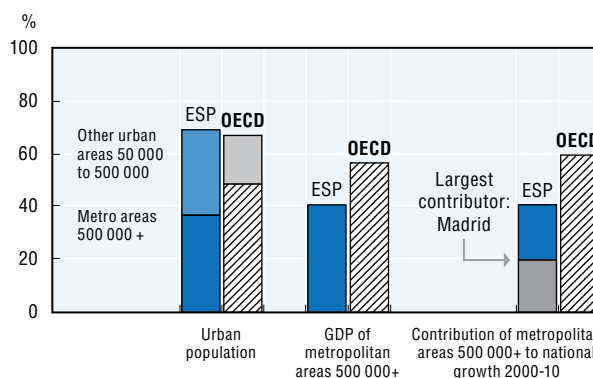
Regional disparities in unemployment trends



In recent years, the unemployment rate has soared in Spanish regions, reaching almost 40% in Ceuta. The youth unemployment rate exceeded 70% in the same region.

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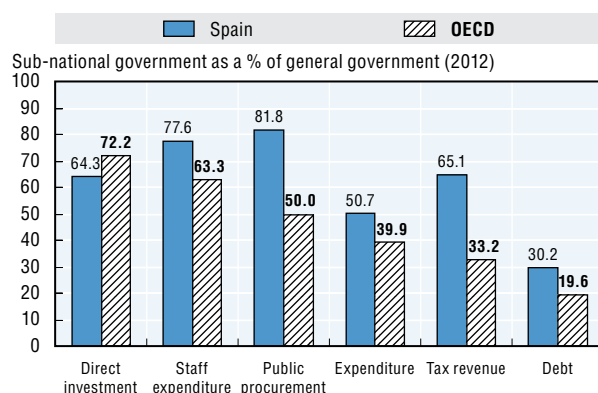
The importance of urban areas



In Spain, 69% of the population lives in cities of different sizes. The share of population in metropolitan areas (urban areas with more than 500 000 inhabitants) is 37%, compared to 49% in the OECD area.

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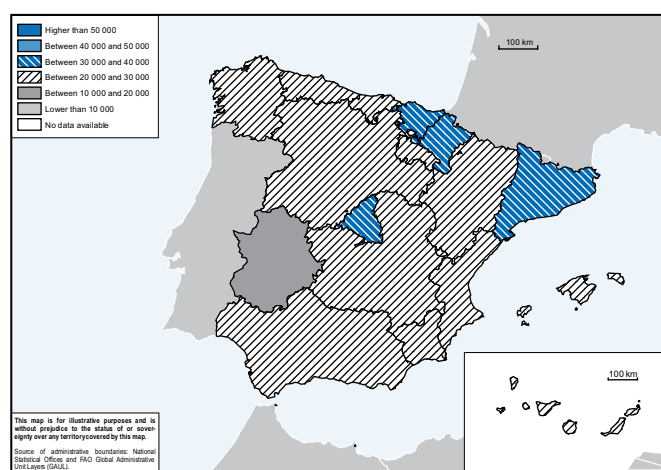
The role of sub-national governments in public finance



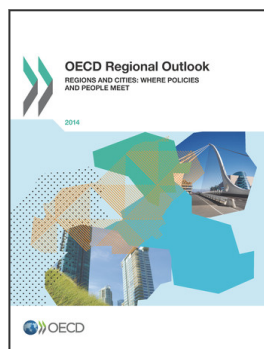
Health and general public services are the two largest spending items for SNGs in Spain: together they represent 48% of sub-national expenditure, compared to 32% in the OECD area.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933108814>

Regional differences in GDP per capita levels



Spain had the 9th lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita in OECD countries in 2010. Between 2000 and 2010, regional growth rates were above the OECD average and varied from +3% annually in Murcia to +1.5% in Melilla.



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