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Transversal perspective in the National Atlas of Spain

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Abstract:

The National Atlas of Spain (ANE) is made up of 24 topics, grouped into 9 parts. This thematic structure is the result of the joint analysis and study of the ANEXXI Network (scientific and academic network) and the multidisciplinary team of professionals and cartographers of the National Geographic Institute (IGN). Although it is a solid structure, which can sometimes be considered rigid, the exhaustive study of current information and the new lines of research in the academic field make it necessary to include new subjects.

The ANE is under continuous revision. In the updating that is being carried out, new contents are being introduced in each topic and more modern and current approaches are made to the subjects dealt with, while maintaining variables already represented in previous editions. The aim is to update it without being a total revolution. For each of the 24 topics there is a different scientific team made up of different groups of professors from Spanish universities. Because there are topics that may overlap, sometimes there are variables that may want to be represented in two different topics, because they are of great interest in both, in which case the IGN cartographic drafting team coordinates communication between the teams of scientific collaborators to find solutions such as, for example, changing the focus of the study for the content. The study of same-sex couples is a clear case: in the Demography topic a 'same-sex marriages' map formed in 'nuptiality and marital status' epigraph while in the 'households and forms of cohabitation' from the Society topic it was given another approach with the map 'same-sex couples'.

As mentioned above, there are topic in ANE that are transversal. As technology, society and trends advance, transversality is a way of being able to study a particular phenomenon. Thanks to our register of graphic resources, we can add marks that point to this transversality and thus give fluidity to our rigid thematic structure.

A relevant example is given after the formulation of the III Plan for effective equality between men and women (2022-2025) by the Spanish Ministry of Equality, which has included the National Atlas of Spain as a key tool for formulating strategies for equity and equality.

In the last version of 'Spain on maps. A geographical synthesis' only included a section on "Women" in the theme of Society and a small section on Gender Violence in the theme of 'Defence, Security and Justice'. Two key changes have now been made: the gender variable is addressed whenever relevant and official data is available, and importantly, it is always recorded with the resource in our content management tool (DefineANE). In addition, records from previous editions are considered, and there will be certain resources that will generate very useful time series for the study over time by providing an evolution of the phenomenon rather than a snapshot of the current moment.

This working criterion will allow for the future compilation of gender-sensitive resources from our database and will form a monographic atlas on equality that aims to become an innovative tool for decision-making on inclusion and social sustainability.

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