

New printed edition of the National Atlas of Spain.

Part VI. Social services and facilities

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Abstract:

The National Atlas of Spain is constantly updating its topics. The thematic structure comprises 24 chapters grouped into 9 parts. Each section is available in printed book format, and the latest edition is dedicated to Social Services and Facilities. To ensure the well-being and quality of life of the population, it is important to meet basic needs such as health, education, social care and culture, encompassing both services and physical spaces. These are the key issues relating to the European welfare model, which we analyse in this thematic section.

To provide an overview of the situation in Spain regarding social services and facilities, three themes were defined, corresponding to: “Chapter 14. Education, science, culture and sport”; “Chapter 15. Health and social policies”; and “Chapter 16. Defence, home affairs and justice”.

In this edition, as well as in the update of other themes on which work has been ongoing since 2022, a double-page spread is included at the start to contextualise the national situation within the European framework. Furthermore, wherever possible, the gender variable is included in the data sources where official data is available, thereby providing a transversely integrated view for the gender equality indicator.

More specifically, Chapter 14 analyses the development of education in Spain, looking at schools, pupils and teachers. It highlights the importance of higher education due to its role in training, research and knowledge transfer examining the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation. It addresses cultural habits from a regional perspective and the value of Spain’s cultural heritage, also including sport as an element linked to society, education and health.

Chapter 15 has two perspectives: “Health and Social Policies”, which explains the concept of the National Health System in Spain using various maps of healthcare facilities, but also addresses other factors affecting people’s health, such as accessibility, various health determinants and even mental health. The subject of social policies examines the elements and public regulations associated with significant matters such as housing, social and employment protection, and their impact on major vulnerable population groups: the elderly, children and youth, women, etc.

Finally, “Defence, home affairs and justice”, outlines the structure, organisation, facilities and personnel of both the Armed Forces and the state security forces, whilst also analysing trends in crime and the state of the prison system. The topic on Justice presents the structure of the Spanish justice system, its personnel and activity, as well as analysing the geographical distribution of the courts.

Transforming topics of such importance to society, into a geographical and thematic overview is essential for understanding reality and the pursuit of equality and social cohesion.

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References

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Participantes: <http://www.ign.es/resources/ane/participantes.pdf>