



European
Commission

THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE CITIES MONITOR

Country fact sheet: SPAIN



<https://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/cultural-creative-cities-monitor>

The **Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor** is a new tool to **benchmark the performance** of European cities compared to their peers using both quantitative and qualitative data. It provides a common evidence base at city level that helps decision-makers learn from each other and inspires fit-for-purpose policies to boost economic growth and job creation, foster social development and citizens' well-being, and strengthen resilience. This year's first edition covers **168 cities in 30 countries, selected from about 1000 cities** in Eurostat's Urban Audit on the basis of their **verifiable engagement** in promoting **culture** and **creativity**. Being included in the Monitor is thus in itself an acknowledgement of the importance these cities attach to culture and creativity.




The Monitor's quantitative information is captured in **29 indicators**. These are grouped into **9 dimensions** reflecting **3 major facets** of cities' cultural, social and economic vitality: **'Cultural Vibrancy'**, **'Creative Economy'** and **'Enabling Environment'**. In addition, qualitative evidence helps illustrate what cities are good at.


Selected cities



- Eight European Capitals of Culture Winners: Madrid, Salamanca, San Sebastián-Donostia and Santiago de Compostela - shortlisted: Burgos, Cordova, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Zaragoza
- Four UNESCO Creative Cities: Barcelona, Bilbao, Granada and Seville
- Two cities hosting at least two international cultural festivals: Lleida and Valencia

Key findings

 **Barcelona** scores best on **'Cultural Vibrancy'** (5th in the XXL group of 21 ranked cities) due to its performance on Cultural Venues & Facilities (3rd). Barcelona is known for pursuing a creative city model. The local Culture Institute, the development agency Barcelona Activa and its innovation district 22@, amongst others, support cultural creation and creative entrepreneurship.

 **Valencia** ranks 22nd on **'Cultural Vibrancy'** in the XL group of 34 ranked cities thanks to its position on Cultural Participation & Attractiveness (18th). The City Council is committed to supporting emerging creators by making the most of Valencia's local assets. For example, Valencia has one of the largest spaces of contemporary

creation in Spain (Las Naves), a creative business incubator, the Valencia School of Art and College of Design, and the Valencia CREA award for young creators.

Bilbao records the best result on 'Cultural Vibrancy' (12th in the L group of 36 ranked cities) thanks to its competitive position on Cultural Participation & Attractiveness (7th). A culture-led local development strategy helped the city overcome the economic crisis of the 1970s. The cultural and creative sectors are supported through different programmes such as the annual Design Week.

Granada does best on 'Cultural Vibrancy' (9th in the S-M group of 64 ranked cities) thanks to its performance on Cultural Venues & Facilities (8th). Granada was the first Spanish-speaking UNESCO Creative City of Literature. In fact, its public and private institutions, publishing houses and network of bookshops provide a varied programme of activities such as the International Poetry Festival - the most important poetry festival in Spain.

Population group	Sub-indices		
	1. Cultural Vibrancy	2. Creative Economy	3. Enabling Environment
XXL Barcelona			
Madrid			
XL Valencia			
Zaragoza			
L Bilbao			
Las Palmas			
S-M Granada			
Santiago de Compostela			

Scores: Top 33% Middle 33% Bottom 33%

Note: Cities are ordered by Cultural and Creative Cities (C3) Index score within each population group. The Index is obtained by aggregating weighted scores of sub-indices as designed by experts in the field. The [C3 online platform](#) allows customising the weights, inserting your own data and comparing cities.

Did you know that...?

Madrid is home not only to big art museums and music venues, but also to a vibrant self-organised cultural life. Over the past few years, collective venues which provide space for cultural production, such as the Patio Maravillas, have sprung up in the city.



Patio Maravillas. Credit: Leonardo under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 licence

Zaragoza hosts the Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe-labelled festival Trayectos - Danza en Paisajes Urbanos, which presents contemporary dance to citizens. Zaragoza was among the six cities shortlisted in Spain to become a European Capital of Culture in 2016.

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is known for the Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival. Las Palmas was among the six cities shortlisted in Spain to become a European Capital of Culture in 2016 for its focus on local assets and positive attitude towards diversity.

Santiago de Compostela was a European Capital of Culture in 2000. The title not only enabled the city to attract more visitors, but also helped to consolidate the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Galicia and the art foundation dedicated to the Surrealist painter Eugenio Granell.

