

WHO IS LEADING?

- Several civil society organizations are pushing politicians to hold a referendum on self-determination despite the Spanish government's rejection of such an action.
- 1.6 million people participated in a 480-km (300mi) human chain in support of Catalan independence in September 2013. The previous year, 1.5 million people demonstrated in Barcelona in support of a new Catalan state in Europe.



WHY ARE WE TELLING YOU ALL OF THIS?

Upon returning to your country, we would appreciate if you would share our situation with people around you. Catalans just want to vote. It is only about democracy.

Òmnium Cultural is an independent organisation founded in 1961 with over 38,000 members. Its main aims are to promote social cohesion, culture and the Catalan language.

Have a good stay in Catalonia!



What's going on in Catalonia?



www.omnium.cat/whats-going-catalonia

#Catalanswanttovote



ÒMNIUM
LLENGUA CULTURA PAÍS



BARCELONA, THE CATALAN CAPITAL

- Welcome to Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, a nation of 7.5 million inhabitants.
Catalan economy is modern, strong and based on industry:
 - GDP per capita = 26,600€ (EU27 average is 24,500€ and UK is 27,500€)
 - Top contributor to Spanish exports (25%)
- Catalonia has a distinctive culture and history. Well-known figures include Gaudí, Dalí, Miró, Tàpies, Pau Casals, Mercè Rodoreda and Ferran Adrià. It is also the home of the world-famous FC Barcelona football team.
- Catalan is the official language along with Spanish. It is the language used at school, public media, university, business, etc. The main mobile phone companies have included it in their operating system interfaces.
 - 9th most spoken language in the EU
 - 19th most used language on Twitter
 - .cat domain was the first cultural one in the world

CATALANS WANT TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 9, 2014 ABOUT THEIR INDEPENDENCE

- Catalonia is nowadays part of Spain, but 80% of Catalans want to vote to decide their political future: to be or not to be an independent state. Spanish Government does not allow them to do so.
- Catalans have had their own Parliament and Government for centuries, in spite of wars and political and cultural repression. The country recovered its institutions after Franco's dictatorship (1939-1975) and exercises self-government as an autonomous community since 1977.
- Despite repeated attempts throughout history to repress or destroy it, Catalan national identity, language, and culture are alive, constantly enriched with new citizens from all over the world. 37% of population was born abroad.
- Two-thirds of the Catalan Parliament are working to organize a referendum on November 9. Unlike the case of UK with Scotland, or Canada with Quebec, the Spanish Government does not allow Catalans to vote on this issue.



BUT, WHY NOW?



- Spanish ruling parties try to build a homogenous country without respecting diversity, plurinationality and settled self-government and agreements. This is clear in education or fiscal policies.
- Spain's system of sharing tax revenues among the 17 regions shortchanges Catalonia by about €16 billion annually. That amounts to more than €2,000 per inhabitant (around 8% of Catalonia's output, while in Germany this is limited to 4% between Länder).
- The turning point was the Spanish Constitutional Court's rejection in 2010 of the new agreement on self-government, ratified in a referendum in 2006. One million people marched on July 10, 2010 in Barcelona calling for national self-determination.
- According to last opinion surveys, 60% of Catalans are in favour of independence.