

	<p>International Geographical Union / Union Géographique Internationale Spanish Committee / Comité Espagnol / Comité Español</p> <p>President / Président</p> <p>Dra. Carmen Delgado Viñas Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles Albasanz, 26-28 28037 – Madrid info@age-geografia.es</p>	<p>Vice-President / Vice-Président</p> <p>Dr. Juan Velarde Fuertes Real Sociedad Geográfica C/ General Ibáñez de Ibero, 3 28003 – Madrid secretaria@realsociedadgeografica.com</p>
---	--	--

Report of the Spanish Committee of the International Geographical Union

In the period between the Cologne Congress in 2012 and the Beijing Congress to be held in 2016, the Spanish Committee of the IGU has carried out the work necessary to accomplish its assigned tasks of promotion and dissemination. To this end, the Spanish Committee has leveraged the websites and newsletters of each of the associations affiliated with the Committee, and has held regular meetings to coordinate the Spanish Contribution to the IGU Congress in Beijing.

The resulting publication, entitled “Crisis, globalization and social and regional imbalances in Spain”, comprises 20 chapters written by 40 Spanish geographers, and is organised into 6 sections as follows: 1. Environment and natural resources; 2. Landscape, territorial heritage and local development; 3. Rural spaces and development; 4. The socio-spatial and demographic effects of the crisis; 5. Innovation and new technologies for research and Education in geography; and 6. City and territory. Planning and government.

The Spanish Contribution to the IGU Beijing Congress provides an overview of Spanish geographical research on the spatial and social consequences of globalisation, the impact of the present crisis and the intensification of regional imbalances and the socio-economic inequalities this is generating. Another of the works that provides an overview of the field of Spanish geography is “La investigación geográfica en España (1990-2012)” [Geographical research in Spain (1990-2012)], Lasanta, T., y Martín Vide, J. (coord.), Association of Spanish Geographers; Pyrenean Institute of Ecology and The Centre for Human and Social Sciences of Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). 2013, 512pp. (http://www.age-geografia.es/site/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Investigacion_Geogr.pdf).

This report describes the research that has been conducted at Spanish university geography departments and Spanish National Research Council centres with geographers on their staff, and which represents a considerable contribution to the literature.

It should be noted that the Spanish Committee includes the Association of Spanish Geographers (<http://www.age-geografia.es/site/>), which has held the presidency of the same, the Royal Geographical Society of Spain (<http://www.realsociedadgeografica.com/es/site/index.asp>), the Spanish National Geographic Institute (<http://www.ign.es/ign/main/index.do>), the Spanish Army Geographic Centre (<http://www.ejercito.mde.es/unidades/Madrid/ceget/>), the Spanish National Research Council Institute of Economics and Geography (<http://iegd.csic.es/>) and the Catalan Geographic Society (<http://scg.iec.cat/>). The result of their work reflects the situation of the field of geography in Spain, over the period indicated (2012-2014).

During this time, **the Association of Spanish Geographers (AGE)** has organised numerous research forums, creating a space for exchange between Spanish and overseas professionals. Specifically, the Association has carried out the following activities:

1. The organisation of two national conferences (in Palma de Mallorca, October 2013, and Zaragoza, October 2015), two Iberian congresses (in Santiago de Compostela, November 2012, and Guimaraes, November 2014) and thirty specific symposia, two for each of the fifteen thematic Working Groups that comprise the Association (<http://www.age-geografia.es/site/category/congresos-age/>). The Iberian congresses were organised in collaboration with the Portuguese Association of Geographers (Associação Portuguesa de Geógrafos- <http://www.apgeo.pt/>), reflecting the good relations between Spanish and Portuguese geographers.
2. Publication of the proceedings corresponding to each of these meetings (<http://www.age-geografia.es/site/publicaciones-no-periodicas/>), which indicate the main areas of work and scientific advances of the Spanish community.
3. In relation to scientific dissemination of geography, the Bulletin of the Association of Spanish Geographers (<http://www.age-geografia.es/ojs/index.php/bage>) is considered Spain's best journal and is listed in the 2015 Journal Citation Report (JCR), where it is ranked 71 with an impact factor of 0.345.
4. Along with scientific dissemination of geography, the Association of Spanish Geographers has contributed to knowledge transfer through awards programs. Each year, the Association presents photography awards to secondary education students and teachers and university students. In addition, it has created the Manuel de Terán and Jesús García Fernández prizes, awarded to the best doctoral theses and unpublished works by young researchers, respectively, and the Roser Majoral Moliné prize awarded to papers by established researchers published in prestigious non-Spanish geographic journals.
5. Furthermore, in recent years the Association of Spanish Geographers has promoted the internationalisation of Spanish geography through collaboration with the IGU and

EUROGEO, and by signing agreements with overseas institutions such as the Russian Geographical Society, the National Geographic Society of Kazakhstan, the Interprofessional Association of Land Use Planning (FUNDICOT) and the French National Committee of Geography.

The **Royal Geographical Society of Spain (RSG)** is a founder member of IGU formally established in 1922 although before that time RSG had participated in their activities, nowadays it goes through the Spanish IGU Committee. The main objective of the RSG of Spain is to promote the advancement and dissemination of geographical knowledge in all its branches and in all its applications to social, political and economic matters. To achieve this goal the main activities of the RSG from 2012 to 2016 have been:

1. Promoting the study of geographical problems at around 40 conferences by relevant Professors, Teachers, Politicians, Professionals and Technicians.
2. Initiating, supporting and assisting with geographical research, both nationally and internationally, through the organization of congresses, conferences, courses and publications. Now it is involved in the organization of the EUROGEO 2016 conference.
3. Promoting and spreading the teaching of geography in all instances, whether public or private, through academic activities, visits to places of geographical interest and fieldwork research. Participating in several European projects and networks such as digitalearth.eu: [geomedia in schools \(d-e.eu\)](http://geomedia.in.schools.d-e.eu) (510010-LLP-1-2010-1-AT-COMENIUS-CNW) (2010-2013) and currently on [School on Cloud: connecting education to the Cloud for digital citizenship](http://School on Cloud) (543221-LLP-1-2013-1-GR-KA3-KA3NW) (2013-2016).
4. Facilitating the collection and dissemination of all kinds of documents and materials from geographical research and teaching initiatives.
5. Cooperating and coordinating international research projects and meetings, in particular with the International Geographical Union and its various actions.

The Society is has been publishing a journal, *Boletín de la Real Sociedad Geográfica*, since its creation in 1876. It is published annually, although the last edition was covered two years ago. The 2016 edition is now in press.

As a Research Institute of the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**, the Institute of Economics, Geography and Demography is a multidisciplinary organisation with researchers from diverse disciplines including geography, economics, agricultural engineering, sociology and demography. Its purpose is to conduct theoretical and applied research through its two departments, the Department of Population and the Department of Applied Economics and Geography.

The 2014-2017 Action Plan identified 7 research groups: Multiscale Geographic Analysis of Global Change; Sustainable Regional Development (DTS); Spatial, Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Human Mobility (DIMHU); Demographic Dynamics and Ageing (GIE-CSIC); Agricultural and Food Economics; and Transborder Human Mobility between East and West, in the European geopolitical context.

Some of the projects carried out within these research areas in recent years include the following: “Monitoring water and carbon flows in Mediterranean pasture ecosystems using remote sensing” (MINECO); “SOSTPARK. Analysis of the sustainability of protected areas in Spain. Implications for comprehensive sustainability of the territory” (MINECO); “The Longitudinal Study Ageing in Spain (ELES Project)” (MINECO); “LONGPOP. Methodologies and Data mining techniques for the analysis of Big Data based on Longitudinal Population and Epidemiological Registers” (UE); “ENCAGE-CM. Active Ageing, Quality of Life and Gender” (CM y FSE); “Migration from Eastern Europe in the geopolitical context of borders. Circulatory mobility and return” (MINECO); “TEMPER-Temporary versus Permanent Migration” (UE) and “Socio-regional effects of the economic crisis in Spanish urban areas: public policies and resilience strategies” (MINECO).

The Institute’s researchers are responsible for two laboratories: the Ageing Network (<http://envejecimiento.csic.es/>) and Environmental Spectral Radiometry and Remote Sensing (<http://investigacion.cchs.csic.es/espectroradiometria/>), as well as a unit associated with the Department of Geography at the University of Alcalá, GEOLAB. In addition, researchers at the Institute of Economics, Geography and Demography are also members of the editorial team of *“Estudios Geográficos”*, a biannual journal on geographical studies that has been published by the Spanish National Research Council since 1940.

The **Spanish National Geographic Institute** is responsible for planning and managing geographical instruments and infrastructures in Spain (<http://www.ign.es/ign/main/index.do>). In addition to its work on the National Cartographic Plan, the production, updating and use of national topographic and cartographic resources and the conservation of historical collections, in recent years the Institute has promoted knowledge transfer through its webpage and by means of exhibitions held in its headquarters in Madrid and Murcia.

The Institute’s most important projects include the National Atlas of Spain Information System (SIANE in its Spanish acronym), which provides technical support for the production and publication of the National Atlas of Spain (ANE), as well as other products and services offered by the Institute’s Department of Thematic Cartography and the

National Atlas (<http://www.ign.es/ane/bane/>). The Association of Spanish Geographers has collaborated with the Institute in this enormous task. In addition, the Spanish National Geographic Institute plays an important role in producing teaching materials for primary and secondary education students, an activity in which the Association of Spanish Geographers again participates.

The primary function of the **Spanish Army Geographic Centre (CEGET)** is to produce the geospatial information required by military users in order to plan and conduct operations and exercises in Spain and abroad, in accordance with the provisions of the 2013-2016 Cartographic Plan of the Armed Forces and in coordination with the 2013-2016 Spanish National Cartographic Plan. Specifically, in order to produce geospatial information for areas of the world where Spanish units are deployed, the Spanish Army Geographic Centre participates in the Multinational Geospatial Co-production Programme (MGCP), a multinational project launched in 2006 under the leadership of the United States and involving 26 nations, including Spain, which joined from the outset with the status of lead nation.

The Spanish Army Geographic Centre has also continued to support the Borders Commission of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in maintaining land borders with France and Portugal. This support is embodied in participation in the meetings of International Border Commissions with the abovementioned countries and annual fieldwork campaigns on these borders in coordination with the French National Geographic Institute and the Geospatial Information Centre of the Portuguese Army, respectively.

On 22 September 2014, the Spanish Army Geographic Centre celebrated its 75th anniversary. Several activities were organised to mark this occasion, including a series of conferences held at the Gómez Pardo Foundation in Madrid on various aspects of geospatial information (history, production, European regulations, support for operations and borders) and an exhibition on the history of the Spanish Army Geographic Centre and its work over these 75 years, held at the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) School of Mining Engineering. In addition, under the title “Cartography, science and art in the service of all”, historical cartography exhibitions have been held at the Conference Centre in Madrid, the Palace of the Captaincy General in Zaragoza, the Seu Vella Cathedral in Lleida and the Provincial Government Palace in Almería.

The **Catalan Geographic Society (CGS)** is one of the affiliated societies of the Institute of Catalan Studies (member of the International Union of Academies) and member of

EUGEO, the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe. In June 2016, the CGS has 456 members; ten of which are honorary. IN only four years the Society has increase its membership over a 10%. The last honorary members are Josefina Gomez Mendoza; emeritus full professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM), and Jaime Miranda Canals, director of the Institute of Cartography and Geology of Catalonia.

In the last four years, the CGS organized 59 academic sessions, usually in Barcelona, with 88 speakers, 20 of which from outside the Catalan speaking region. It has also organized 11 courses or colloquia; 23 fieldtrips 6 of which outside Catalonia.

The Society has also a series of publications. The Journal *Treballs de la Societat Catalana de Geografia* publishes two issues per year. The volumes 73 to 80 appeared during the period 2012-2016. The CGS has also two different book collections, with four books published in the same period. The CGS organizes an annual prize competition for the best research papers of university students or recent graduates, and another for high school students. During the last four years the prize has been granted to nine university students and three high schools students.

The CGS has two websites, *l'Obrador Obert* (<http://scg.iec.cat/>), with over 18000 visits during the last year and the most recent *Recursos per a l'Ensenyament de la Geografia* (<http://ensenyament-geografia.espais.iec.cat/>), to provide teaching resources in geography with over 10000 visits. It also has Twitter with more than 1100 followers and a facebook page with 850.