

Valencian Region

General introduction

Comunitat Valenciana, official name of Valencian Region, is one of the 17 regions, or Autonomous Communities according to Spanish constitution's territorial organization, of Spain. It comprises three provinces, from North to South: Castellón, Valencia and Alicante. The capital of the region is the City of Valencia, that hosts among others the seat of Generalitat, the Regional Government, and also the regional Parliament. There are two official languages, Spanish and Valenciano.

Valencian Region's history goes back for many centuries, and at the time of the first great Western civilizations its economy was very directly related to trade with Mediterranean countries. After XIIIth century, the Kingdom of Valencia, as part of the Kingdom of Aragón, was a cornerstone in the development of Europe through its contribution to the culture and the economy, in fact the XIVth century was known as the Golden Valencian Century, also for writers in Valenciano. All this economical, commercial and cultural impact has been reinforced since the forging of Spain as one of the first modern States in the XVIth century and strengthened over the last century to the present.

Valencian region has a population of 5 million inhabitants, which represents around 10% of the Spanish population. The city of Valencia and its metropolitan area is the third largest in Spain, with over 1,5 million inhabitants. The region's contribution to GDP of Spain is also about 10%. In 2016, the Regional Government will manage a total budget of 17.155,8 million euro. The Region of Valencia has an extension of 23.255 km², and borders the Mediterranean sea with 524 kms of coast, enjoying a very mild climate throughout the year.



Economy and Entrepreneurship

The region is pioneer in terms of business, tourism, culture, ideas, innovation, research and educational activities.

In order to enhance its good geographic situation as one of the main mediterranean ways to Europe, an important net of transport infrastructures has been developed, including the mediterranean highway by the sea, from the frontier with France down by Barcelona and ending in Algeciras; three main roads to Madrid, Zaragoza and Alicante through inland; a dense railway net, of which Madrid connection by quick train has to be highlighted; three international airports and five passenger and goods harbours (Sagunto, Valencia, Gandia, Denia and Alicante).

One of its main economic sectors is tourism, accounting around 22 million visitors yearly, that support a boosting services sector, also as important economic activities agriculture it is to be highlighted, with oranges as better known production, and industry, including automobile (Ford factory started production in 1976, nurturing a rich providers' industry), tiles (one of the biggest producers in the world), furniture, toys, textile and shoes. The region's economy is highly dedicated to exports.

There are 14 universities, both public and private, with more than 100.000 students on each school year. These universities have signed agreements with around 17.000 companies in order to promote work experience, thus yearly more than 36.000 students benefit from them.

Valencian Region is one of the leading regions at generating and attracting entrepreneurship in Spain, and it has achieved a top entrepreneur ecosystem. More than 100 entities are involved in valencian entrepreneur ecosystem, among which 6 accelerators, 4 European centers for innovative companies, 5 science parks, 7 entities of specific support for social economy, more than 10 collaborative spaces for work and many public institutions that coordinate and articulate the ecosystem through its different dimensions.

All these spaces allow getting support, working, networking, establishing collaborations or exchanging experiences in order to transform ideas into products or viable services.