

Development Support for Rural Areas - EU4US

The Crafts situation and legislation in Spain

The term crafts is usually applied to people who are occupied in small scale production of goods. To be considered a craft, the work requires a particular kind of skill and it lies somewhere between art – talent – and science – knowledge. Crafts can be a service or the production, transformation or repair of goods. The result is something unique. It cannot be industrialized nor the result of a mechanical series.

In Spain the crafts sector is considered so important that it is protected in the Spanish Constitution (article.130.1). It comes under the Directorate General fro SME policy of the Spanish Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Trade.

The Spanish Crafts Sector Legislation

There is a law which governs the craft sector in Spain. As Spain is divided into 17 autonomous regions, each with its own legislation, the crafts sector is also regulated at regional level. There are 19 laws, one corresponds to each autonomous community, whereas the Basque Country has three provincial laws. There are similarities in the legislations and in the definition of some terms, but each and every autonomous community defines for itself what is a craft and who is a craftsman.

The Crafts Sector in the Principality of Asturias is regulated by Decree 88/94 of the 5 December 1994. The decree regulates the peculiarities of the sector and the role of crafts in cultural, social and economic development, its connection with the identity and traditions of the people and the desirability of ensuring continuity of the various craft activities

In the Principality of Asturias as well as in some other autonomous communities the Crafts Sector has been classified into specific lists, known as “Craftsmen Lists”. In many autonomous regions the law regulates registration in these lists. In the Principality Registration of companies and workshops is voluntary. However registration is essential to access funding or to certify quality craftsmanship and the geographical origin of products.

In the Principality activities related to crafts are classified as follows:

Group A: artistic or creative craft

Group B: Crafts of traditional, historical or anthropological interest.

Group c: Handicraft production of consumer goods other than food

Group D : Craft services

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Each group may be subdivided into subgroups and these activities and crafts make up the Directory of Trades and Craft Activities.

The aims of these measures are:

- To ensure the protection of local crafts,
- To preserve and promote the crafts sector,
- To establish a framework to regulate the types of craftsmanship and companies,
- To catalog the occupations and status of artisans and master craftsmen as well as the quality and identification of Asturian artisan products.

The Registry consists of the following books:

A: Craft Businesses and workshops.

B: Charter of Master Craftsman.

C: Traditional areas of interest.

D: Artisan workshops of interest

In Spain the autonomous communities are the representative bodies of the craft sector. They have adopted different ways to promote and develop the sector. Many communities have even set out specific action plans and programs. They have also developed a standard which declares craft in “Zones, Districts or Areas of Craftsmanship Interest” and which regulates training activities among others.

Spanish crafts constitute a tourist attraction of great importance. In Spain crafts produce objects and works of exceptional quality which are in demand with consumers, who are becoming more and more critical and selective.

The Spanish Foundation for Innovation in Crafts is a national public foundation created in 1981, for the promotion, professionalisation and success of small crafts enterprises within the framework of State public policies for SMEs. Its mission is to position Spain as the best place to create, see, buy and collect CRAFTS.

Features of Employment in Crafts

- Gender: 86% male workers, 14% women
- Age : 14% over 55 years old , 13% young workers
- Education: 23% have basic education
- 66% : have secondary education
- 11%: have third level education
- Type of employment: 73,7% employed by enterprises - 23,3% self employed.

Craft Enterprises employ 194.000 craft workers, 48.8% in micro enterprises, 51.2% in small enterprises, 23,3% are self-employed (freelance, small trader, cooperative member)

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Employment in the Craft sector per Region

Employment in the crafts sector has remained quite stable over the past ten years. According the figures of Abay, crafts employ around 194.000 workers. Half of craft enterprises employ less than 10 workers. In Cataluña, Comunidad Valenciana, Madrid, Andalucía, the percentage of total employment in the sector is 61%, whereas Castilla La Mancha, Murcia, Basque Country, Balearic Islands, Castilla Leon, Aragon Make up 3.1 and 6.7% of employment.

Gross Value Added of the Sector

Taking the average productivity of micro enterprises in the different sectors in crafts, the GVA for the whole sector as been estimated in 4.000 millions of Euros annually. This figure represents 0.4% of the national GDP and 2.6% of the industrial GDP

Spanish Crafts Businesses	61.657	100%
Ceramics	3.364	5.5%
Vegetable fibers	1.774	2.9%
Musical instruments	83	0.1%
Jewelry	7.446	12.1%
Textile	6.537	10.6%
Marble, stone, plaster	1.745	2.8%
Metal	457	0.7%
Wooden furniture	24.879	40.4%
Wooden objects	1.255	2.0%
Leather	4.045	6.6%
Glass	2.257	3.7%
Several	7.815	12.7%

The geographical distribution of craft enterprises

More than 64% of craft enterprises are located in Catalonia, Andalusia, Valencian Community and Madrid, 5.5% are in Galicia,, 4.8% are to be found in Castile and León and 4,7% in Castile La Mancha.

Fundación Española para la innovación para la artesanía. Fundesarte, considers the craft enterprises must innovate in their designs and by using information and communications technologies (ICT) to survive in the market. Crafts must adapt to changes in the market.



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The craft sector can be revitalized by promoting an image of quality and prestige; by building reputation; by fostering a new culture of sustainability and by promoting social responsibility. Spanish crafts must be made more visible on the international market. To achieve this aim the creation of a “trademark” strategy is required to promote Spanish crafts abroad as is the integration of the crafts sector in the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce internationalization plans.

Fundesarte aims to foster a comprehensive tourist offer in Spain that includes crafts as an added value, traditional popular crafts as part of circuits that relate landscape and material culture, recovering a rural vision of our past. Quality tourists seek authenticity, tradition, nature. Crafts and quality tourism (cultural, rural) satisfy the same types of need.

Source:

REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF CRAFTSMANSHIP IN EUROPE
CR@FTSMAN PROJECT - ES/09/LLP-LdV/TOI/149072
Fundación Española para la innovación para la artesanía.