

ICIP 2022 Survey

Coexistence and cohesion in Catalonia

March 2023

Objectives

- Assess the perceptions and attitudes of coexistence in Catalonia, interpersonal trust and the degree of cohesion in Catalan society.
- Detect the degree of ideological and emotional polarization in Catalonia.
- Identify the main risks and threats to society.
- Obtain the opinion of society regarding current issues in the context of the war in Ukraine, such as military spending or the resettlement of refugees.
- Compare the evolution of the data with previous surveys published by ICIP (2018, 2020 and 2021) and with European surveys.

Executive summary

COEXISTENCE AND SOCIAL TRUST

- The assessment of coexistence in Catalonia (6.3 out of 10) and at the municipality/neighborhood level (6.6) remains at a similar level to 2021 and slightly lower than in 2018 and 2020.
- The main problem of coexistence is, by far, antisocial behavior, especially in cities.
- The perception that there are quite a few or many problems of coexistence in the immediate environment has increased considerably in the last four years.
- Citizens tend to trust other people and the level of trust is similar to the European average. However, the number of people who are very distrustful of others and who perceive that their culture or way of life is under threat is growing.
- A majority of the population (68%) believes that an effort should be made to speak to everyone, regardless of their ideas.

Executive summary

IDEOLOGICAL POLARIZATION

- The perception of the polarization of society remains generally stable, at the same level as in 2020.
- The perception of polarization increases regarding all the debate issues analyzed, especially language. The Catalan pro-independence movement continues to be the most polarizing issue.

EMOTIONAL POLARIZATION

- Values remain stable. Respect continues to be the predominant emotion towards those who think differently. Sadness and fear increase somewhat, and trust decreases slightly.

Executive summary

COHESION

- A majority considers that living among people from different backgrounds enriches society. Nevertheless, 24% believe that Catalonia has become a worse place to live because of immigration.
- Catalonia is among the leading countries of Europe in terms of tolerance towards refugees, homosexuals and bisexuals and, to a lesser extent, transsexuals.
- Almost 90% of the people surveyed consider that human rights are important to create a just society and that institutions must strive to guarantee them.
- 43% of the people surveyed believe that there are human rights violations in Catalonia, while 21% somewhat or strongly agree that there aren't.

Executive summary

MAIN RISKS AND THREATS

- Economic crises are perceived as the main risk and/or threat to society. Furthermore, over 70% of the people surveyed also consider the deterioration of democracy, climate change, disinformation, the increase in inequality and the rise of the extreme right as high or very high risks.
- The growing influence of Russia in the world and increases in military spending are perceived as the main risks to the country's security.

USE OF VIOLENCE

- Predisposition to violence to defend one's country or ideas is low (15%). However, it is higher in the case of defense of one's family (64%).
- There is slightly more willingness to use violence to defend the environment than to defend one's country or ideas.

Executive summary

CURRENT SITUATION ANALYSIS

RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

- There is a willingness to take in and assist people from Ukraine and Syria. The willingness to take in refugees from Ukraine is higher than the willingness to take in those from Syria.

MILITARY SPENDING

- A majority (62%) believes that the military and defense budget is too high and only 5% believes that too little is spent on defense.
- Half of the people surveyed also believe that the increase in military spending poses a high or very high risk to their security.

