

A personal
perspective

SPANISH WELFARE SYSTEM OVERVIEW



CIF BALTIC
PROGRAM 2014



What I will be speaking about?

OVERVIEW OF SPANISH WELFARE SYSTEM

Brief summary

Federal or multilevel system

Main social challenges

ABOUT MY JOB: COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

Context

Daily responsibilities

Basic social services

Spain's fast facts

Population of Spain: around 47M

Capital City: Madrid

State Organization: 17 regions called Autonomous Communities

Foreign people: over 5,5M (Rumania, Morocco, Ecuador)

Official languages: 4 (Spanish, Catalan, Basque and Galician)

Democracy: 1978

Year of EU entry: 1986

Euro: 1999

More than 20% of GDP
> tourist sector.

Debt to GDP: 93,9% (2013)

Unemployment 26% (6M)

Over 3,5M empty houses



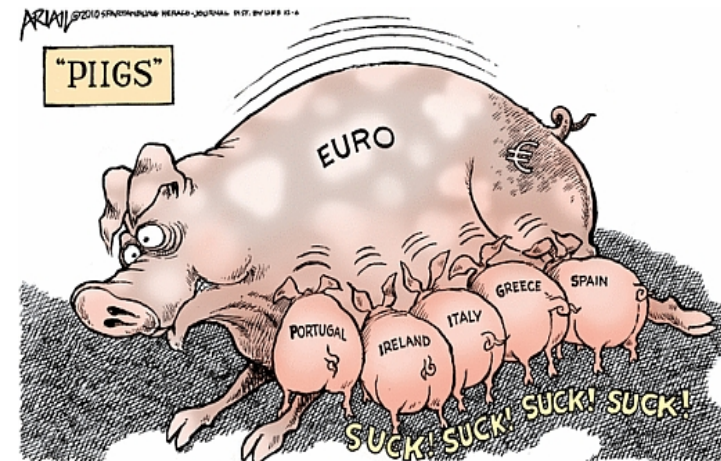
Spain Welfare State (1/2)

Welfare State, concept of government in which **the state plays a key role** in the protection and promotion of the economic and social well-being of its citizens.

MEDITERRANEAN MODEL OF THE WELFARE STATE

Spain share a similar overall structure of their welfare system with others Southern European states. Institutional design organised around:

- A bismarkian (contribution) model in pensions, unemployment and labour market policies;
- An universal model in education and health care;
- A residual model in social assistance, social care & family support.



Spain Welfare State (2/2)

PILLAR	RIGHT	INSTITUTIONAL LANDMARKS
EDUCATION	Right to basic and compulsory education (6-16 years) (later 0-3 too).	Education Law 85 and 90
HEALTH CARE	Universal access to the national health system	NHS Law 1986
INCOME TRANSFERS	Income from pension and unemployment Subsidies to people in need	Social Security Law 1967 Non-contribution incomes 1990 Minimum Income Schemes Regional Laws 90s
SOCIAL SERVICES	Decentralized access to basic social services network Rights to care for dependent Universal access to social services	1st generation social services regional law 80s Law promoting autonomy and care for dependent 2006 2nd generation social services law 2003-2008

Spain multilevel Welfare system

STATE LEVEL

- Create laws and regulations.
- General policies and directives.
- Financing % of total budget.
- Some responsibilities are only state ones (social security, pensions, unemployment benefits, ...)

REGIONAL LEVEL

- 17 regions (“states”)
- Create regional laws and regulations.
- Develop sectorial responsibilities in their regions.
- Also covers financing.
- Planning resources and services.
- Share responsibilities in health care and education, complementary to state regulation.
- Social services responsibility.



LOCAL LEVEL

- Access door to social protection.
- Create local regulation in specific areas.
- Proximity and high level of knowledge of people’s needs.



NO NOS VAMOS, NOS ECHAN

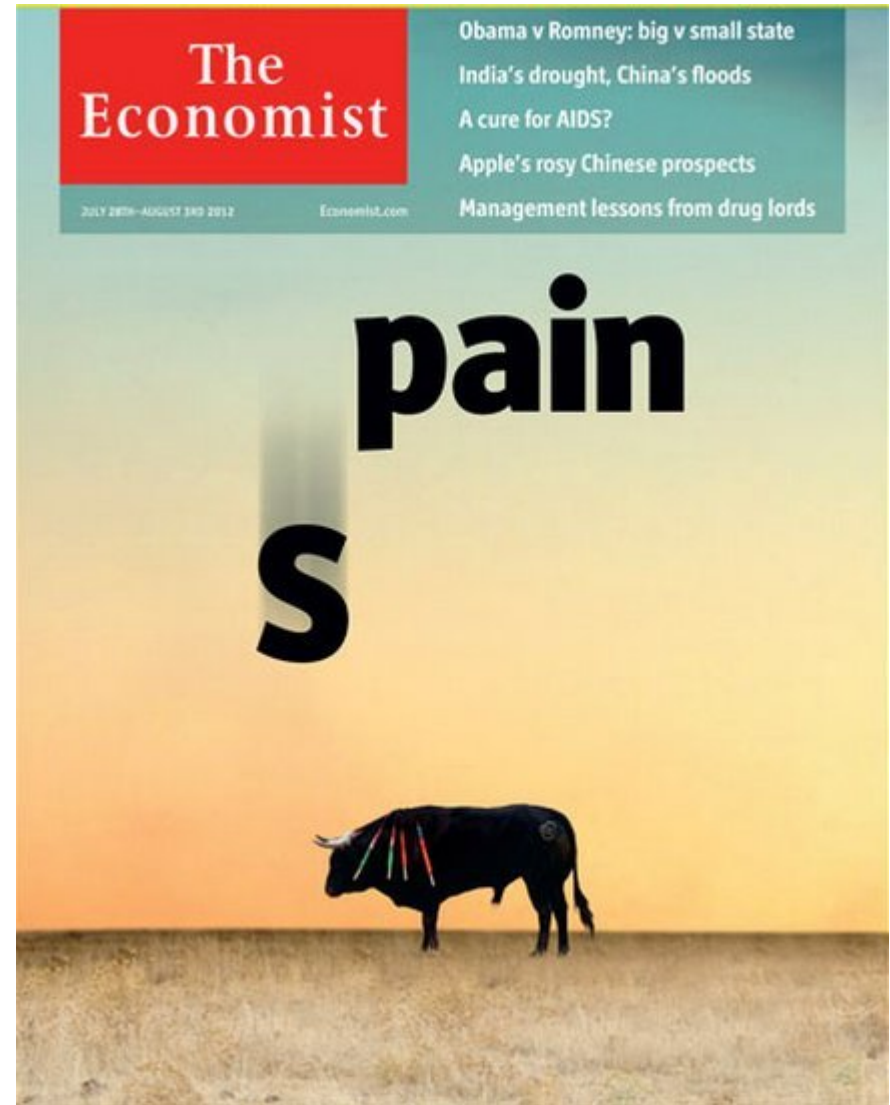
WE DON'T GO OFF, THEY THROW US OUT



Main social challenges (1/3)

UNEMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

- 6M unemployed people.
- 50% unempl. among young.
- High % workforce with low education (0 without).
- Housing problems, around 200.000 evictions in last 5 years. Families underpressure from mortgages.
- Emigration of 200.000 young people, searching for better opportunities elsewhere (2013).
- food problems in families suffering from social exclusion.
- 20% poverty people (reword, confusing) with a high impact on children > 5M (0,5 without any income).



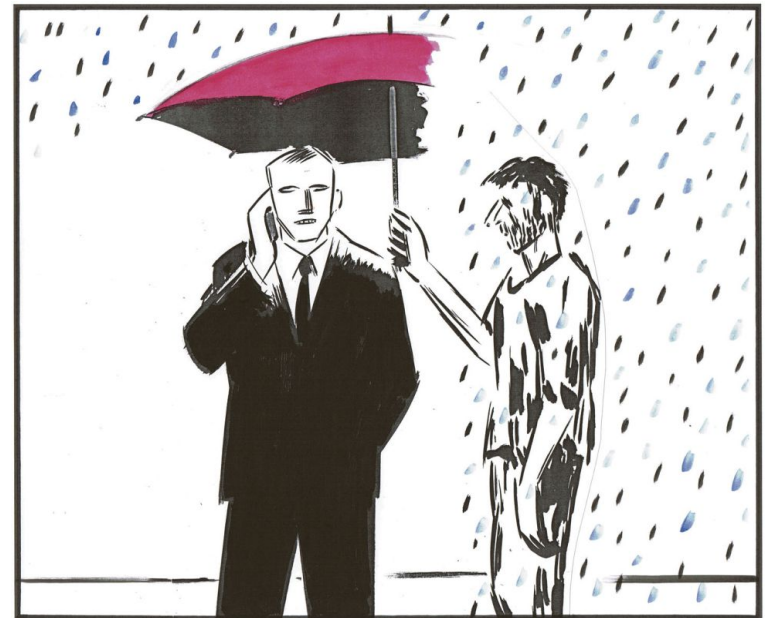
Main social challenges (2/3)

PRINCIPAL ANSWER FROM OUR WELFARE STATE RETRENCHMENT (COST-CUTTING)

Institutional reforms and drastic budget cuts:

- health care,
 - education,
 - social care,
 - pensions,
 - unemployment benefits,
 - minimum income schemes
- (along 6 years of crisis period)

**> The objective of policy reform
has become budget balance.**



Main social challenges (3/3)

TO UNDERSTAND WHY NO LARGER SOCIAL CONFLICT

The large recession has led to retrenchment but not to a reconfiguration of welfare policies, leading a paradigmatic change of the welfare state.

There is widespread disappointment among the citizenry (or general population) regarding the solutions offered by the current system. This has led to various citizen based **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS** and protests offering their own alternative solutions

Also for to understand how the country is not destroyed yet, it must emphasize the important role of the **FAMILY** and **3rd SOCIAL SECTOR** as the last **safety net**.

Also there is a significant percentage of **black economy**.



In brief, what is my job?

- County administration
- Basic social services coordinator
- Management and technical support to 15 small municipalities (120.000p)

This is Barcelona city...



1,6 million population (Barcelona Metropolitan Area is over 4,5 million)

And this is Baix Llobregat county...



Over 800.000 population.
15 cities
(from 25.000 to 85.000 people)
and 15 towns
(from 1.700 to 17.000 people)

Collbató



Cervelló



Vallirana



El Papiol

My agency, a county administration (1/2)

Administration umbrella of the municipalities of this county, with different goals and services:

- tourist promotion
- agricultural park management
- employment promotion
- youth development
- cemetery management
- gender policies
- e-administration development
- social services

It's called: **Consell Comarcal del Baix Llobregat** = Baix Llobregat County Council



My agency, a county administration (2/2)

Overview of Social Services Department

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graph TD; A[Overview of Social Services Department] --> B[Basic Social Services]; A --> C[Childcare welfare]; A --> D[Transportation for people with disabilities];
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Basic Social Services

- 15 municipalities (120.000 people).
- Management and coordination of the social services offices in 15 towns, with around 80 professionals.

Childcare welfare

- 30 municipalities (0,8M people).
- Intervention to children vulnerable to social risk.
- 6 teams with 45 professionals.

Transportation for people with disabilities

- 30 municipalities (0,8M people).
- Transport management to different typology of centers (educational, social, work).

My specific responsibilities (1/2)

- Management: coordinating, advising, orienting, organizing, providing technical support, planning and evaluating services. > **How we can work better and provide excellent care.**
- Support is provided to the 15 municipalities of less than 20.000 inhabitants of the county of Baix Llobregat (total population 120.000).

My specific responsibilities (2/2)

- Examples of daily tasks or projects:
 - Organization and provision of home care service.
 - Development of new law for long-term care.
 - Implementation of a new software to manage the social interventions.
 - Internal team organization.
 - Human resources.
 - Strategic planning.
 - Occasional support of interviews



Social Welfare in small towns (1/4)

- ▶ **1st tier** (like family doctor), are access to the welfare system.
- ▶ **Territorial organization**, based in municipalities (>20p) o counties (mun.<20p).
- ▶ **Decentralizing** the services warranties a more direct access.
- ▶ **Adaptable, community-based and preventive nature, promoting people's self-reliance.**
- ▶ 15 basic social services (1 each town) and 1 support center (Baix Llobregat county). Professional teams are integrated by social workers and support staff (care workers and administrative).

Social Welfare in small towns (2/4)

▶ **UNIVERSAL ACCESS:** 1st level is focused in all citizenship. Include profiles as chronic poverty, health problems, addictions, etc. Since the crisis, we assist common citizen profiles.

▶ **Assist citizens** in (for example):

- Advice on housing and rent-payment mortgages (in certain situations).
- Payment supply: electricity, water, gas, etc.. Costs (or provide) of food, school supplies, clothes, etc..
- Labor and employment resources.
- Grants to schools and nurseries.
- Day home services for children.
- Provide homecare.
- Gender counselling.
- Work with specialized resources: mental health, women, etc.

2007
over
9.000
people
assisted



2013
around
20.000
people
assisted.



Social Welfare in small towns (3/4)

- ▶ The most commonly used **methodology is the systemic** ones (also eclectic intervention, depending on team and situation).
- ▶ **Individual and family focus.**
- ▶ **Community work** is very significant in a small town.
- ▶ We work with few resources but professionals have high innovation and creation skills. Social work in small places requires **adaptation and creativity. Multifaceted and preventive approach.**



Social Welfare in small towns (4/4)



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION
TĀNAN TĀHELEPANU
PALDIES PAR UZMANĪBU
AČIŪ UŽ DĒMESĪ
GRACIAS POR TU ATENCIÓN
DANKE FÜR IHRE AUFMERKSAMKEIT
СПАСИБО ЗА ВНИМАНИЕ

**WE'LL KEEP
ON FIGHTING!**



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