

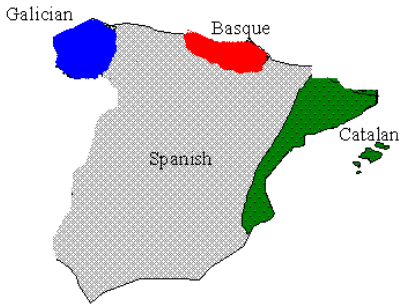
## Plain language in Spain

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## Languages in Spain



## Modern phases of plain language in Spain

- 1940-1975: under dictatorship
  - ♦ Not plain syntax, vocabulary, documents, idioms...
  - ♦ Written only in Spanish
- 1980-1990: first steps
  - ♦ Establishment of public language services
  - ♦ Publication of specialized journals on administrative language
- Since 1990: main development
  - ♦ Style manuals at all levels, training courses, tools for writing and translation.
  - ♦ Expansion to any kind of written text.

## The concept of plain language

- Proposed in a 'linguistic normalization' process.
- To create a register that satisfies citizens' communicative needs in a democratic community:
  - ♦ Allowing people to express any idea in any of the 4 official languages
  - ♦ Creating a modern, 'correct', authentic and respectful language
  - ♦ Improving citizens' ability to read and write

## Campaigns

- In Basque, Catalan, Galician and Spanish.
- Education level:
  - ♦ Primary, secondary, university
  - ♦ Improving citizens' to read and write clear
- Institutional sector:
  - ♦ Governments and local administrations
  - ♦ Including legislative drafting and judicial writing
- Private sector:
  - ♦ Banks, publishing houses, etc.
  - ♦ Writing training, publishing style manuals, dictionaries, etc.

### Results: tools for writing and translation



Llengua i ús



Administrazioa  
Euskaraz



Boletín de  
Administración e  
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### What remains to do

- To extend plain language to Spanish language.
- To maintain writing training, specially at professional level.
- To continue developing tools for writing and translation.
- To persuade that plain language:
  - ♦ Do not implies a lost of accuracy.
  - ♦ Do not implies that everyone can understand us.
  - ♦ Avoids unnecessary complexity.