

INTRODUCTION

Dear readers and friends,

I am pleased to be able to send you the second issue of the Newsletter of the Catalan Observatory at the London School of Economics for the academic year 2010-2011.

The Catalan Observatory is a research centre within the London School of Economics, forming part of the LSE European Institute. The centre was created as the result of an agreement signed in June 2009 by the Patronat Catalunya Món and the London School of Economics, which was subsequently complemented by a series of bilateral agreements between the LSE and other bodies which include Mediaproductión SL, Abertis Infraestructuras SA, the Foment del Treball Nacional, the Mancomunitat de Municipis de Barcelona, the Societat Econòmica Barcelonesa d'Amics del País and l'Obra Social La Caixa.

In the academic year 2010-2011 the Observatory at the London School of Economics has begun its second year of operation, producing highly encouraging results, and in which the project has fulfilled the tasks and objectives that collectively we had agreed for it. The individuals and bodies involved in the scheme continue to set the highest ambitions for it, aware as we are that to invest our efforts in the international projection of Catalonia and the promotion of academic studies that place it in the European context are tasks that are not only useful and interesting, but also profoundly necessary. In this regard I invite you, as I did in the previous newsletters, to visit the Observatory's webpage www.lse.ac.uk/catalanobservatory, where we make every effort to make fully and consistently accessible all the documents and conclusions that our programme of events has produced and will continue to produce in the future.

The Newsletter is sent to you twice every academic year, and this one follows our usual structure. In it you will find on the one hand a summary of the most recent activities organized by the Observatory, and on the other current information on our academic priorities and the themes that we have chosen to highlight during the past semester. Throughout the newsletter you will also find news updates regarding topics covered in previous editions of the Newsletter.

It only remains for me to hope that you find reading this Newsletter rewarding, and to send you our very best wishes for the summer promptly arriving,

Paul Preston

Chair of the Catalan Observatory at LSE

With the collaboration of



Abertis Infraestructuras S.A. • Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona, "la Caixa"
Foment del Treball Nacional • Mancomunitat de Municipis de l'Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona
Mediaproductión S.L. • Societat Econòmica Barcelonesa d'Amics del País

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This issue:

Introduction by Professor Paul Preston

Review of Recent Events

*Seminar on The Spectre of Civil War in Spain's Transition to Democracy and the case of Catalonia.
The Vision of the British Press*



Seminar on The International Significance of Catalan Culture?



Seminar on Catalonia at the Crossroads



News Review for the first Semester of 2011

Report on the debate on 'Paradiplomacy' at Chatham House

News updates on topics covered in previous editions of the Newsletter

News in Brief

Recommended Links

Forthcoming Events

Visit our website www.lse.ac.uk/catalanobservatory for the Michaelmas term events programme.

Seminar on 'The Spectre of Civil War in Spain's Transition to Democracy and the case of Catalonia. The Vision of the British Press'

Jaume Guillamet, 3 February 2011, Catalan Observatory

On 3 February, the Catalan Observatory heard a seminar paper on 'The Spectre of Civil War in Spain's Transition to Democracy and the case of Catalonia. The Vision of the British Press', delivered by Professor Jaume Guillamet of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Chairing the event was the Chair of the Catalan Observatory at the LSE, Professor Paul Preston.

The presentation by Professor Guillamet served to bring into relief the way in which the British press analysed the period of democratic transition in Spain, and more specifically the vision that it had of the question of relations between the different territories within Spain in the mid-1970s.



Prof. Guillamet and Prof. Paul Preston

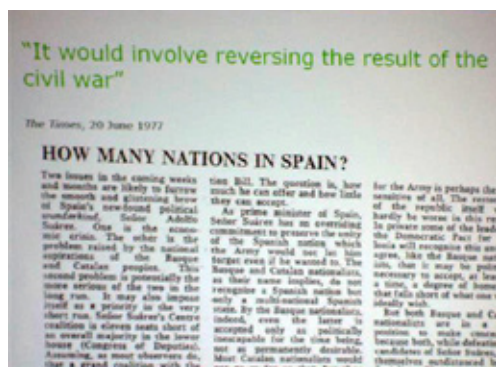
The speaker began by analysing the reading that was made from abroad of the Transition in Spain. In this regard, the press material presented during the talk illustrated the fact that, in the British press, there was a real fear that a Spanish 'Civil War' would be repeated. The editorials of newspapers such as *The Guardian* or *The Times* during the first months of the Transition were pessimistic, and warned of the risk of violent conflict between the different ideological tendencies, democratic and Francoist. The combination of events such as the murders of Civil Guards at the hands of ETA and the illegal sentences imposed on members of the extreme-leftist group FRAP were seen by *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Financial Times* as causes for 'alarm' and 'concern'.

During the first years of the Democratic Transition freedom of the press in Spain was still only a half-reality, and the study of British newspapers allows us to gain a unique vision of events that were rarely approached with objectivity by the Spanish press. One of the topics that was comparatively most significant was that of the restructuring of the territories of the state. In 1977 the British newspapers considered the solution given by the *Estado de las Autonomías* or 'State of Autonomous Communities' a system that would be satisfactory in the short and medium term, and which responded to the aspirations of a country that was opening up to democracy. Equally, the British papers *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *The Financial Times* unanimously considered the rehabilitation of the Generalitat of Catalonia to be a historic and optimistic event.

Professor Guillamet concluded by drawing a comparison between this 'unanimous' vision of 1977 and the disagreements among the British newspapers in their treatment of the new Catalan autonomy statute of 2007. Regarding this, he presented a series of British editorials that did not differ greatly in their approach from the way in which reform of the statute has been dealt with journalistically in Spain. Guillamet's



The Times, 30 September 1977, Editorial titled 'Autonomy for Catalonia'.



The Times, 20 June 1977, Editorial titled 'How many Nations in Spain?'

conclusion is that over the subsequent years of enjoyment of freedom of expression, from a journalistic and academic point of view, Spain has attained the same status as any other European country, and that at the same time the British press has lost the sense of distance that by comparison it once derived from its position as representative of a democratic system. Curiously, Professor Guillaumet did not fail to point out that with regard to the territorial structure of Spain today the vision given by British newspapers is, over 30 years later, the same as it was at the beginning of the Transition: warnings about a fractured Spain, with an uncertain future.

Jaume Guillaumet is a historian and Professor of Journalism and Audiovisual Communication at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) in Barcelona. He has a doctorate in History from the Universitat de Barcelona, and has been Dean of Studies in Journalism and Head of the Department of Journalism and Audiovisual Communication at the UPF. He is the author of the books *Història del Periodisme* and *Els orígens de la premsa a Catalunya*, and was Deputy-Editor of the newspaper *Avui*, 1980-1982, and Head of Press Relations at the Ajuntament de Barcelona (Barcelona City Council), 1986-1990.

Links of interest:

- Department of Journalism and Audiovisual Communication, UPF**
- Grup de Recerca en Periodisme, UPF**
- Nota de premsa dell Patronat Catalunya Món**

Seminar on 'The International Significance of Catalan Culture?'

Vicenç Villatoro, 26 May 2011, Catalan Observatory

On 26 May the Catalan Observatory organized a seminar on 'The International Significance of Catalan Culture?', with a paper by the recently-appointed Director of the Institut Ramon Llull, Vicenç Villatoro. The event was chaired by Professor Paul Preston.

The Director of the Institut Ramon Llull presented a cross-section of the elements that for him identify Catalan culture and which have made it a point of reference among the cultures of Europe. He structured his talk around three principal characteristics, which he enumerated to an audience made up of diplomats, representatives of British public bodies, students and journalists.



Vicenç Villatoro and Paul Preston

The first of these characteristics is the 'intermixing of modernity and tradition, of innovation and tradition'. For the speaker, the wish always to be among the cultural vanguard is one of the basic features without which one cannot understand the cultural output of Catalonia during the 20th century. Catalan artists have above all attempted to be 'modern' and to offer a vision that, in contrast to those of other cultures, seeks to be oriented towards the future, and not tied to the past. In this regard Villatoro considers that the work of artists such as Miró, Tàpies or Barceló reflect this commitment to the aesthetic demands of international contemporary culture, while at the same time these are also artists who transmit a strong sense of rootedness in a particular landscape and a specific socio-political context such as that of Catalonia. He also asserted that Catalan culture is not a culture that is complacent, self-satisfied or lazy-minded, but one that seeks to compete within the most demanding aesthetic parameters of the international stage.



Mr. Josep Suárez, new Head of the Delegation of the Generalitat in the United Kingdom

The Director of the IRL then argued that the second of the characteristics of Catalan culture is its 'linguistic' basis. For Villatoro, the fact that the founding fathers of the *Renaixença* or 19th-century Catalan cultural revival decided that the trait that would define Catalan culture was the language (rather than blood, place of birth, or the nationality of one's ancestors) was a strategy of decisive importance in determining the place that is occupied by Catalan culture today. For him this element is fundamental to an understanding of how the culture of a country that had a feeble birth rate at the beginning of the 20th century could have eventually consolidated itself and become accepted by the greater part of the population that currently lives in Catalonia. On this point he quoted the figures given by the Catalan demographer Anna Cabré, which indicate

that 60.3% of the current population are descended directly or indirectly from waves of migration. In this context, Villatoro remarked upon the monumental integrational capacity of Catalan culture in absorbing such a high percentage of people arriving from outside Catalonia. For him the linguistic foundation of Catalan culture has precisely been the key to its success.



Audience at the seminar, first right Amb. of Spain Mr. Carles Casajuana

The third of the characteristics indicated during the talk is that, according to Vicenç Villatoro, the internationalization of Catalan culture is disconnected from the political debate on the organization of the different realities within the Spanish state. For the speaker, Catalan culture and its promotion can be presented by themselves, over and above the various organizational and territorial models that anyone might have in mind for the Iberian peninsula: 'If one believes that it is worthwhile to preserve a diversity of cultures, beyond independence, federalism, the unitary state or the State of Autonomous Regions, this is already sufficient to defend Catalan culture and its international promotion'.



Audience at the seminar, far right, Prof. Manuel Cienfuegos. In front, Prof. Montserrat Guibernau

Finally, once he had outlined these three 'specific' elements which he believes define Catalan culture, he concluded with a reflection on what Catalan culture could contribute to contemporary debates. He insisted that Catalan culture is one that is closely bound to modernity, social integration and the disinterested (politically speaking) defense of cultural diversity. In this regard the speaker considered that the Catalan example is one of the greatest interest for an understanding of some of the challenges faced by culture in a context of growing globalization.

Vicenç Villatoro is a writer and journalist. He was Director-General of the Catalan broadcasting service, the Corporació Catalana de Ràdio i Televisió (2002–2004), and Director-General of Cultural Promotion for the Generalitat de Catalunya (1997–2000). As a journalist he has worked for the *Diari de Terrassa*, *El Correo Catalán*, *Avui* and Catalan television, TV3. As a writer he has published over a dozen novels, among them *Evangelí gris*, *Memòria del traïdor*, *La claror de juliol*, *Hotel Europa* and *La ciutat del fum*. He has won the Sant Jordi, Sant Joan, Ciutat de Barcelona, Ciutat de Palma, Prudenci Bertrana and Documenta literary prizes, and in 2004 won the Carlemany prize with the novel *La derrota de l'àngel*. In 2010 he was also awarded the Premi Ramon Llull for *Tenim un nom*.

Links of interest:

- [Talk by Vicenç Villatoro](#) (in English)
- [Presentation and summary of the seminar \(Catalan Observatory\)](#)
- [Institut Ramon Llull website](#)
- [Nota de premsa del Patronat Catalunya Món](#)

Seminar on 'Catalonia at the Crossroads'

Salvador Giner, 16 June 2011, Catalan Observatory



Prof. Salvador Giner

On 16 June the Catalan Observatory held a seminar on 'Catalonia at the Crossroads', led by the President of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC), Professor Salvador Giner. The meeting was chaired by Professor Paul Preston.

Professor Giner began his talk by putting forward the three characteristic features that for him have marked the evolution of Catalan society during the last 300 years: 'pactism' –the tradition of compromise and binding pacts or agreements respecting the interests of both sides in political disputes, known since the Middle Ages – the desire for a balance between modernity and tradition, and the penetration of capitalism in the country. Regarding the idea of 'pactism', he mentioned a range of historical examples (such as the *Pacte de Tortosa* in 1869, in which republicans from Catalonia, Valencia, Aragon and the Balearic agreed to act together to demand a Spanish Federal Republic that would respect their historic rights) to illustrate the argument that Catalans, even today, consider that the principal means of achieving political demands is through a *pacte* or mutual agreement. This is one of the reasons, in Professor Giner's view, why Catalonia has developed an autonomist movement that seeks to move 'step by step'. It is also one of the reasons, he feels, why through the years Catalonia has progressively tended to see 'political violence' as a remote scenario alien to its own Catalan historical identity.

The second of the three principal traits that the speaker used to define Catalan society is the balance between modernity and tradition. Regarding this topic Professor Giner gave a broad overview to an audience of Catalanophiles and other interested British listeners of the importance of the Catalan revival or *Renaixença* as an advanced cultural movement. Catalan culture, he believes, and more specifically the Catalan language as a focus of identity, have been structured on the basis of the principles of modernity and optimism, fleeing from the dogmatisms more typical of cultures rooted in a glorious past. He emphasized that Catalonia is a country of immigrants, which has always had a propensity to integrate people from outside its borders, and that despite the possible outbreaks of xenophobia that one might be able to see in the current panorama, Catalan identity has been forged out of a spirit of openness, not that of a recluse.



Professor Paul Preston and Professor Giner, at the start of the conference

The third historical characteristic indicated by the speaker is the importance of the capitalist spirit in Catalonia. For Professor Giner, Catalonia has traditionally been one of the areas in which capitalism penetrated most strongly, to the point of making work 'the religion of the Catalans'. In this regard he placed the origins of political Catalanism within the context of its contemporary economic panorama, and highlighted how closely linked Catalan political demands have always been to the commercial and socio-economic interests of Catalan society.



Audience at the seminar

At the end of his talk Professor Giner offered a more current view of the political situation in Catalonia. On this he gave a brief survey of the different tendencies and viewpoints that currently exist regarding Catalonia's territorial framework (pro-independence movements, progressively-greater autonomy, federalism, the status quo...), underlining that the most distinctive feature over the years has not been a single political vision, but the strength of civil society. In this regard he wished to offer an optimistic vision of the richness and vitality of the cultural, scientific and economic sectors in Catalonia, arguing that, in spite of all the possible political, constitutional and economic difficulties, in spite of the perplexities of a society that finds itself at the crossroads of the future, 'civil society has always saved us'.

Salvador Giner, Professor Emeritus, University of Barcelona. President, Academy of Sciences and Humanities of Catalonia, Barcelona (from 2005) Vice-President (2002- 2005). MA (Law). PhD (Sociology) University of Barcelona. M.A., PhD. (Sociology and Social Thought), University of Chicago, USA. Co-Founder and President of the Spanish Sociological Association (1987-1991). Vice-President (1979-1987). Recipient of the Spanish National Prize for Sociology and Political Science, 2006, and member of the Order of Civil Merit, by Royal Decree.

Links of interest:

- [Institut d'Estudis Catalans official website](#)
- [Presentation and summary of the seminar \(Catalan Observatory\)](#)
- [Nota de premsa del Patronat Catalunya Món](#)

Review

Debate on 'Paradiplomacy' at Chatham House

 Government of Catalonia
Delegation to the United Kingdom



 Québec
Délégation générale
Londres

The think tank Chatham House, the most prestigious and influential in the field of international relations in the United Kingdom, held a conference on Tuesday 10 March on the theme of decentralization and regionalism in a globalized world. The conference, titled *Devolution in a Globalized World*, took place with the assistance of the Delegation of the Government of Quebec in London, the Delegation of the Government of the Generalitat de Catalunya in the United Kingdom and the Representation in the United Kingdom of the Government of Flanders. The event was attended by numerous experts and journalists. The journal *Foreign Policy* considers Chatham House the best non-American think tank, and the institute is considered one of the most influential in the English-speaking world. The Catalan Observatory at the LSE was invited to attend as part of the audience.

One of the contributions that was most warmly applauded was that of the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones. The speaker focussed his intervention on explaining what he understood by 'paradiplomacy', and the advantages offered by a regional structure in comparison with traditional political diplomacy. In first place Mr Jones underlined the apparently contradictory relationship that exists between the European Union and the regions. In a context in which the European Union has problems in justifying itself before its citizens, the Welsh First Minister argued that a more decentralized form of politics would permit the citizen to gain an awareness of the importance of European policies, and even the extent to which they play a fundamental role in day-to-day life. In this regard he emphasized that the solution to the crisis of legitimacy currently faced by Europe would be found in a progressive augmentation of regional policy-making and a regionally-based politics.

Continuing in the same line of argument, Mr Jones called for a regionalism based on the strong points and specific necessities of each region, placing special emphasis on the demographic characteristics of each of them. For the speaker the solution to current problems does not lie necessarily in an increase in the regional budget, but in spending it in function of the priorities that the voters have indicated to their representatives, which inevitably supposes a progressive expansion in the devolution of powers.

In his speech to the conference the Minister of Transport of Quebec, Sam Hamad, also wished to reflect on the need to make ever greater use of the alternative channels that regions have at their disposal to promote their own diplomatic interests. In doing so he argued that the regions have an ever-more prominent presence in the international arena, and that the promotion of cultures that extend beyond state boundaries (citing as an example the '*Francophonie*') has to be undertaken precisely through other channels than those of the respective states.

At the same time, the speaker also made some interesting observations on the need to maintain 'regional' policies that simultaneously both respect and take into account the particular policies of the principal urban agglomerations within a territory. In this regard Hamad touched upon the need to create channels of cooperation not only between different regions but also between different cities, developing political practices and policies that are based on common practical and functional objectives (such as, for example, in the areas of transport, urban development projects, best practice in waste management and so on).

The more academic contributions to the conference were provided by the specialists Michael Keating, of the University of Aberdeen, Joep Konings, of the



University of Leuven, and Benoît Pelletier, of the University of Ottawa. The three speakers were in agreement in asserting that 'paradiplomacy' is a phenomenon that is increasing in importance and that the best way to take advantage of it is by adapting it to the particular needs of the different sub-state bodies. In this regard the lecturers offered an 'alternative' vision to the traditional style of diplomatic relations, and proposed a model that was instead based more in a complementary role to the institutions of central state governments, together with the professionalization of a regional 'diplomatic' sector. Equally, all three speakers coincided in pointing out that the traditional states have lost some of their areas of competence, at the same time as globalization has itself been changing the system to the point where decentralized political models have become the most efficient, in both social and economic terms. The speakers concluded that what was most important was not to copy the diplomatic practice that has been employed by state governments but to create a new way of undertaking diplomacy, better adapted to the strategic and functional objectives of the regions and which can at the same time incorporate the particular challenges of trans-national European construction and progressive federal decentralization.

Working documents:

- [Chatham House report on the Conference](#)
- [Conference Agenda](#)
- [Speech by the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones](#)

News updates regarding topics covered in previous editions of the Newsletter

The multi-sectoral effort to develop, strengthen and improve the Euro-Mediterranean area and relations within it



Catalonia has played a notable role in current events in the Mediterranean area in the first half of 2011.

On 28 January the second plenary session of the ARLEM (Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly) was held in Agadir, Morocco. The ARLEM is an initiative linked to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) that brings together different local and regional bodies from around the Euro-Mediterranean area, providing a permanent channel for communication between these particular institutions. The Assembly is made up of 84 representatives chosen by local and regional authorities of the EU (including the Generalitat of Catalonia) and other Mediterranean countries, of which 10 represent organizations for inter-regional cooperation.

During this second session Catalonia presented a report on 'The State of the Territorial Dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean', which enumerated the principal challenges in Euro-Mediterranean relations that have a territorial dimension: sustainability, development, cohesion and governance. The document was very favourably received, since it was the only one of the three reports presented at the session that was adopted unanimously. The other two reports, on urban development (presented by the Mayor of At-Tafilah in Jordan) and on local water management (prepared by the President of the region of Murcia) were adopted after the addition of some amendments.

Links of interest:

- Report on **'L'estat de la dimensió territorial de la Unió per la Mediterrània** (January 2011)
- **Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly/ARLEM (Wikipedia)**
- **Union for the Mediterranean official website**
- **EU Committee of the Regions official website – ARLEM**



In other aspects of current relations in the Euro-Mediterranean area, during May 2011 the UfM appointed Ambassador Youssef Amrani, formerly Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, as its new Secretary General. His appointment brings to an end the period of transition that had gone on since the resignation of the previous Secretary-General, Ahmed Kalaf Masa'deh, was announced in January this year. The Union for the Mediterranean project has a privileged relationship with Catalonia, since its headquarters is located in the Palau de Pedralbes in Barcelona.

Links of interest:

- **Generalitat de Catalunya page on Union for the Mediterranean**
- **UfM press release on appointment of new Secretary-General**
- **Interview with Youssef Amrani, Euractiv**

On 13–15 May Catalonia also played a prominent role in the Second 'United by the Mediterranean' Forum, which coincided with the presentation for the first time of the Al-Idrissi Prizes. The 'United by the Mediterranean' Forum is organized by the Sicilian regional government and has as its aim to be a forum for debate on prospects for future governance and the direction of current policies in the Mediterranean basin. In this regard the conclusions of the Forum pointed to the need to re-energize the Union for the Mediterranean, to make it more visible and to provide it with economic and technical instruments on the scale of its ambitions.

The same event also saw the presentation of the first edition of the Al-Idrissi Prizes, which will be awarded on each occasion to two figures from the north shore of the Mediterranean and two figures from the south, in recognition of their activities in favour of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and cooperation. The first prizes were awarded to the President of the Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Michel Vauzelle, the ex-President of the Generalitat of Catalonia Jordi Pujol, the President of the Anna Lindh Foundation and adviser to the King of Morocco André Azoulay, and finally the President of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women, Sana Ben Achour.

Links of interest:

- **Al-Idrissi Prizes (COPPEM)**
- **'United by the Mediterranean' conference (COPPEM)**

Maintaining the presence that has been achieved by Catalonia in international conferences and other fora



On 16 April 2011 the Generalitat of Catalonia succeeded the Languedoc-Roussillon Region in assuming the rotating presidency of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region. For the next 18 months Catalonia will have the responsibility of leading one of the wealthiest regions within Europe. The Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region was created in 2004, and is a project for political cooperation between Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Aragon, Languedoc-Roussillon and the Midi-Pyrénées. Its objective is to share synergies and so create a hub of development, growth and territorial integration within a more united, more supportive Europe.

During the Catalan presidency efforts will be focussed on responding to three main objectives, as announced by the Generalitat during the transfer ceremony:

- a) To promote economic growth in the territory of the Euro-region, by means of encouraging cooperation in the area of higher education and research, encouraging policies that contribute to socio-economic development and by promoting activities that aid sustainable growth.
- b) To undertake lobbying campaigns in Brussels, Paris and Madrid, especially regarding infrastructure and communications.
- c) To position the Euro-region as an actor in the current framework of Euro-Mediterranean relations, through the development of joint activities, especially in the Maghreb.

Links of interest:

- **Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region official website**
- **Catalonia assumes the Presidency (from the Euro-region site)**
- Working documents: **'Contribution of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region to the conclusions of the 5th Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion: the Future of the Cohesion Policy'** (January 2011), and **Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, published by the EU.**

On the three priorities previously mentioned, Catalonia has initiated two important projects during the first six months of 2011 related to the goal of promoting economic growth across the territory of the Euro-region, via the encouragement of cooperation in the area of higher education and research and encouraging policies that contribute to socio-economic development. These are, in first place, the 'Eurocampus' project, and secondly the consolidation of the CREAMED business support scheme.

The Eurocampus is an initiative to create a virtual university campus, where students, teachers, researchers and business people can exchange experiences and develop synergies. The www.eurocampusweb.eu/ portal presents its resources jointly in a single website that is unique in Europe, connecting 510,000 students, 45,000 researchers and 87 centres of higher education. Another aim of the project, also, is to encourage the creation of new academic qualifications and joint Masters' degrees without passing through the Erasmus system, such as the option of a joint degree that is already in operation shared by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and the Université de Toulouse. The Eurocampus represents, equally, the initiation of a project



eurocampus

En fase de proves



that will serve to revitalize and connect the different student communities that exist within the Euro-region.

Links of interest:

[Eurocampus official website](#)

The second of these initiatives is the consolidation of the CREAMED project (mentioned in the first Newsletter of 2010–2011 of the Catalan Observatory), through the creation of a network of business incubators in the five territories that make up the Euro-region. The principal aim of the project is to stimulate economic growth by means of the creation of a structure that facilitates the expression of the entrepreneurial spirit and the exchange of information among the different business incubators of Catalonia, the French regions, Aragon and the Balearic Islands. The principal activities that are being undertaken reflect these overall objectives: the structuring on a complementary basis of facilities for welcoming and assisting new business creation (with forum meetings for incubator directors and staff); improving the resources available to help companies enhance their competitiveness (through, for example, a digital exchange platform and social-professional network, tools to alert companies when researching new opportunities, and facilities for integrating the work of researchers and graduate students); and finally, promoting the attractiveness of the Euro-region among entrepreneurs and investors by participating in international trade fairs and congresses for entrepreneurship and business creation.

CREAMED has been initiated by the Pyrenees-Mediterranean European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), and has a budget of 1,477, 249 euros, of which 1,107,937 euros were provided through co-financing by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Links of interest:

- [Current information on proposed projects \(Generalitat of Catalonia\)](#)
- [Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region website](#)
- [Creamed](#)



II Economic Conference of the North-West Mediterranean

During June the second Economic Conference of the North-West Mediterranean was held in Barcelona. The Conference, held 25 years after the first, was organized as part of the expanding strategy of strengthening links with the rest of Europe, and more particularly within the framework of the Pyrenees-Mediterranean Euro-region, of which Catalonia holds the presidency for the next 18 months. The II Conference had as its central theme that of territorial cooperation, and the agenda was the result of two years' work by the University Institute of European Studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Fundació Congr s de Cultura Catalana.

Links of interest:

- [II CEMNO 2011](#)
- [Institut Universitari d'Estudis Europeus, UAB](#)
- [Fundaci  Congr s de Cultura Catalana](#)



Pabell  St Miquel, future location of the United Nations University Institute.

Rehabilitation Work at the Hospital de Sant Pau to welcome the International Institute of the United Nations University

The rehabilitation work necessary to welcome the United Nations University International Institute for the Alliance of Civilizations (referred to in Newsletter 1 of 2010–2011) within the former Sant Pau hospital are progressing at the anticipated rate. The Institute, which is expected to offer its first courses in September 2012, will be the eleventh of the University's Institutes in the world and the first one in southern Europe. During June the renovation work in the emblematic Modernista buildings of the Hospital de Sant Pau was visited by the Rector of the United Nations University and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Professor Konrad Osterwalder

Links of interest:

- [United Nations University](#)
- [Explanatory dossier on the project](#) (PDF from the Hospital de Sant Pau)



Consolidation of tourism promotion in London

During the first half of 2011 Catalonia's different bodies for cultural and tourism promotion have focussed their efforts on the British market. Until 11 September, for example, London is hosting one of the most important exhibitions yet seen of the work of Joan Mir  at Tate Modern, the city's foremost museum of contemporary art. Equally, on the occasion of the Final of the Champion's League between FC Barcelona and the English club Manchester United at Wembley, the directors of Bar a and the President of the Generalitat themselves promoted gastronomic, cultural, sporting and business travel to Catalonia in an event open to the public on 27 May, also at the Tate Modern.

Links of interest:

- [Mir  and Catalan Culture programme, Institut Ramon Llull](#)
- [Mir  at the Tate Modern](#)
- [Board of FC Barcelona in London](#)

We Recommend



→ The Magazine of the Patronat Catalunya Món, *Món.cat*.

<http://www.revistamoncat.cat>

The magazine is available in Catalan and Spanish, Catalan and English and Catalan and French. It can be consulted in a complete e-book version through the website <http://www.revistamoncat.cat/>

Món.cat magazine is an instrument for communication for all the professionals involved in the promotion and publicizing of Catalonia abroad. Each quarterly issue presents exclusive articles, written by independent journalists or experts on the subject they are writing on, dealing above all with different aspects of current events in the country, as well news reports, interviews and features relating to the work of internationalization that is being undertaken both by the Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia and by Catalan civil society.

→ The Newsletter of the Catalan News Agency, 'Catalunya Info'

The Catalan News Agency (CNA, www.catalannewsagency.com/) is a part of the Agència Catalana de Notícies (ACN). ACN is a public corporation owned by the Catalan public administration. It was one of the first digital news agencies created in Europe and has been operating since 1999. It is a pioneer in the use of multimedia journalism, teleworking and decentralised organization applied to a virtual journalistic environment.

With the collaboration of



Patronat
CatalunyaMón

Abertis Infraestructuras S.A. • Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona, "la Caixa"
Foment del Treball Nacional • Mancomunitat de Municipis de l'Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona
Mediaproducció S.L. • Societat Econòmica Barcelonesa d'Amics del País