

Leon's proposal



Spanish proposal to host the **European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre**









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to cybersecurity



The Spanish Government is convinced that the candidacy of the city of Leon is the best possible one to host the European Centre for Industrial, Technological and Research Competence in Cybersecurity (the Centre).

We are presenting this candidacy with the certainty that Leon meets all the requirements and has unbeatable competitive advantages to ensure that the European Union maintains and develops, through the Centre, the cybersecurity capabilities necessary for our single market.

The virtues of Leon's candidacy relate above all to its technical and professional suitability, but I would also like to highlight all its material and organic advantages: Leon is prepared to immediately house the headquarters of the Centre, in a privileged building located in the city centre, with excellent connections for its employees and only a few metres away from the largest high-speed train network in Europe.

Leon is the Spanish capital of cybersecurity, as it is the headquarters of the National Institute of Cybersecurity (INCIBE), and has demonstrated its ability to successfully host technology, business and research centres integrated into European networks. It is a safe bet for value.

Leon is also an excellent place to live and work. Countless indicators show Spain's capacity in infrastructures, health and education systems, historical and cultural heritage, leisure and social and citizen integration. This reality is widely known by the millions of citizens from all over the world who visit us every year or who have made Spain the first-choice destination for students on the European Erasmus programme. To all this, we must add the magnificent quality of life that the city of Leon and its surroundings possess, in terms of housing, transport and natural areas.

Spain has a solid cybersecurity ecosystem, based on strong legislative, strategic and organisational pillars. This consolidates us as one of the seven most advanced and reliable countries in the world in this area. In this ecosystem, Leon plays a very important role. Not only because it is the headquarters of INCIBE, as I have already indicated, but also because of the commitment of technology companies to the city, which reinforces this ecosystem.

All these elements are the right environment to maximise the objectives of the Centre for the benefit of industry and to increase the cybersecurity capabilities of the Member States of the Union.

This candidacy represents Spain's commitment to the European project and its values and contributes to structuring the Europe of the Regions with full physical and digital connectivity. The Spanish telecommunications network, based on the most extensive optical fibre network in Europe, is also robust and secure, and the massive deployment in our country of 5G with European technology reaffirms our commitment to promoting the digital sovereignty of the European Union, the sovereignty that will be firmly defended by the Leon candidacy.



This candidacy enjoys the full and enthusiastic support of the Spanish public and all the institutions involved: the Spanish Government, the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon and the City Council of Leon.

Once again, we are convinced that the city of Leon is the best location for the European Centre of Industrial, Technological and Research Competence in Cybersecurity, due to its consistency with the European project, values and objectives; its solid and committed ecosystem of the cybersecurity sector, both public and private; the excellence of Leon and its unbeatable environment for professional, personal and family development; and our ability to launch it immediately in January 2021.

Pedro Sánchez

President of the Government of Spain

"Spain has a clear commitment to cybersecurity as an essential activity of the digital economy and as a fundamental part of our Digital Spain 2025 strategy. The Centre will allow us to generate enormous synergies for the development of cybersecurity capabilities, the promotion of industry and the increase of European competitiveness in the global market".



Nadia Calviño

Third Vice-President and Minister for Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation

"Spain aspires to lead the development of cybersecurity as a critical part of the protection of citizens' digital rights: the use of technology must always be secure and reliable. The cybersecurity capabilities that the Centre will provide are fundamental for the development of disruptive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, which are essential in the digital transformation of the economy".



Carme Artigas

Secretary of State for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence

"The Centre will find in Castilla and Leon a firm commitment to innovation, technology and digital transformation, committed to the advancement and promotion of the common project by strengthening the Europe of the Regions".



Alfonso Fernández Mañueco

President of the Junta of Castilla and Leon

"The city of Leon, the Parliamentarism cradle and the Spanish epicentre of cybersecurity, represents for the Centre a success story in the implementation of ambitious innovation and technology projects, in an environment that offers history, modernity, nature and quality of life".



José Antonio Díez Díaz

Mayor of Leon



Key figures



Spain



47.3

million people



83.7

millions of tourists visited Spain in 2019

A country to live in, a country to work in



3rd

in the world in number of UNESCO world heritage sites



1st

in the EU in km of high-speed rail



3,402

km of high-speed rail lines



1st

penetration rate of FTTH or "fibre to the home" in the EU



1st

in the world in public healthcare system efficiency



83.4

years life expectancy at birth



99%

4G coverage



1st

choice for Erasmus students



83

universities



Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity



4th

country in the EU for cybersecurity maturity



1st

country in R&D project leadership



3rd

country in presentation of proposals (50,000+)



104

research centres in Spain

Leon



Ready to go



Around
2,000 m²
to host the Centre



20
minute-walk from
the city centre

Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in



1.5
hours trip to Barcelona



Less than
2
hours trip to Madrid



34
schools offering bilingual
Spanish-English education

Success stories: we already did it



18,000+
foreign nationals living
in Leon



1st
place to eat. Leon was
selected capital of
gastronomy in 2018



16
minutes on average to
get to work (the European
average is 42 min)

Leon: a commitment to cybersecurity



160,000+
companies active
in the Community of
Castilla and Leon



100%
of the Spanish citizens
have cyber assistance
from Leon



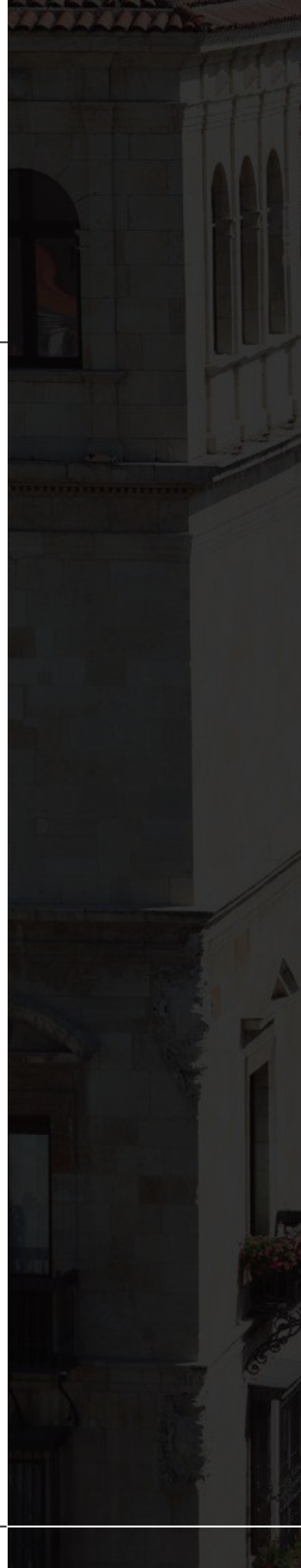
11
research centres
in Leon

Executive summary

The Government of Spain, with the support of the the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon and the City Council of Leon, is proud to present the candidacy of Leon as the seat of the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre.

Leon makes an **outstanding fit for the Centre**, with an extraordinary mix of excellent location, facilities, quality of life and Cyber & Tech industry:

- **A ready-for-this-project city.** An emblematic building including all the needs to establish its headquarters with an excellent location, only a few meters to the main means of transport, and digital connection to European investigation networks, like TESTA and GÉANT.
- Spain is willing to **cover the rental and maintenance of the headquarters** as part of the privileges that the Center would enjoy if it had its headquarters in Spain. Also, the proposal includes the **privileges and immunities for the staff** (page 28 and 29).
- **A city selected** in recent years by various research entities, public and private, **for the location of its headquarters.**
- **A location in a privileged position** far from influences or conflictive places allowing a stable and lasting development.
- **A commitment to the generation of wealth** through the location of important services in highly qualified cities with smaller populations and greater growth potential.
- A culture, a language and physical **connections** that will **facilitate cooperation and development relations** with Latin America and North Africa.
- **A great place to live, work and raise a family with** an extraordinary quality of life and an **outstanding healthcare system and social services** for all people living in Leon.
- A city that offers a **magnificent opportunity to start new projects**, where companies have proliferated in innovation and technology.
- **A great educational system** with bilingual Spanish-English schools.
- **A remarkable connection** to the rest of Europe and Spain and quantity and quality of accommodation facilities to host events and meetings.
- **An extraordinary ecosystem with a strong strategic interest** in the impulse of the cybersecurity sector.





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Ready to go

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**Success stories:
we already did it**

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**Leon: a city to live in,
a city to work in**

4

**Castilla and Leon,
a vibrant region**

5

**Spain: a commitment
to cybersecurity**

Ready to go

We are the best choice. Leon is offering to the organization one of its most emblematic buildings, as its headquarters, **ready to collect and implement all the requirements** identified for the proper development of its activity.

Built-in 1863, with around 2,000 m² available and located in the city centre, it offers to the organization, its workers and visitors the possibility of covering all the needs that may arise.

Excellent communication with all points of the city and proximity to the main means of transport.



The train station in 1863.



The train station nowadays.



The future of the train station.

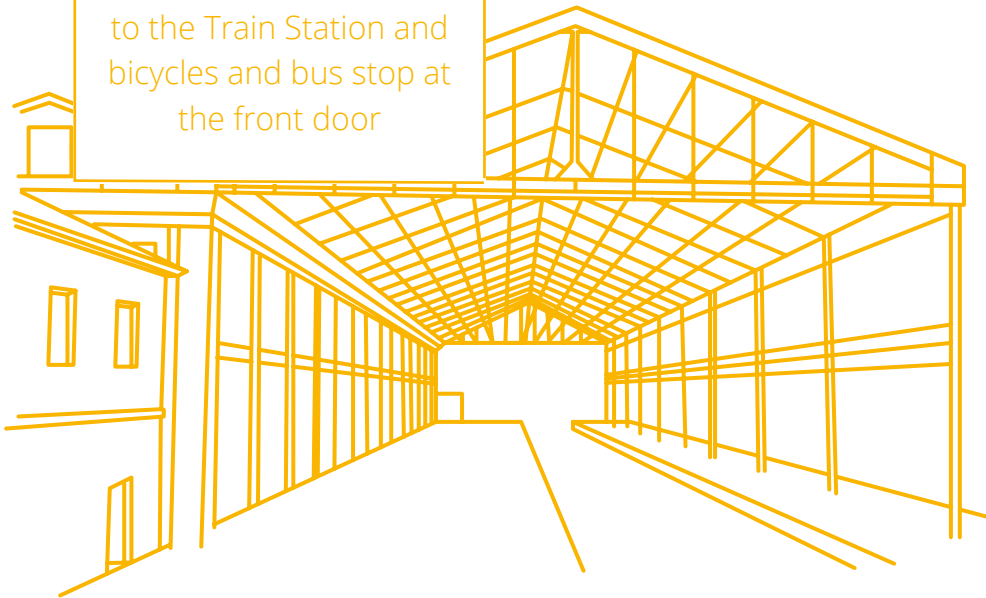


Around
2,000 m²
to host the Centre



1 min

to the Train Station and
bicycles and bus stop at
the front door



- The Centre's facilities, **available from January 1st, 2021**, offer the possibility of carrying out all the refurbishment works that might be requested by the Commission.

- The building that will host the Centre enjoys excellent **infrastructures for all types of connections, extensive capabilities in terms of Cybersecurity and telecommunications**, and tools to ensure interoperability with IT facilities all throughout the Union.

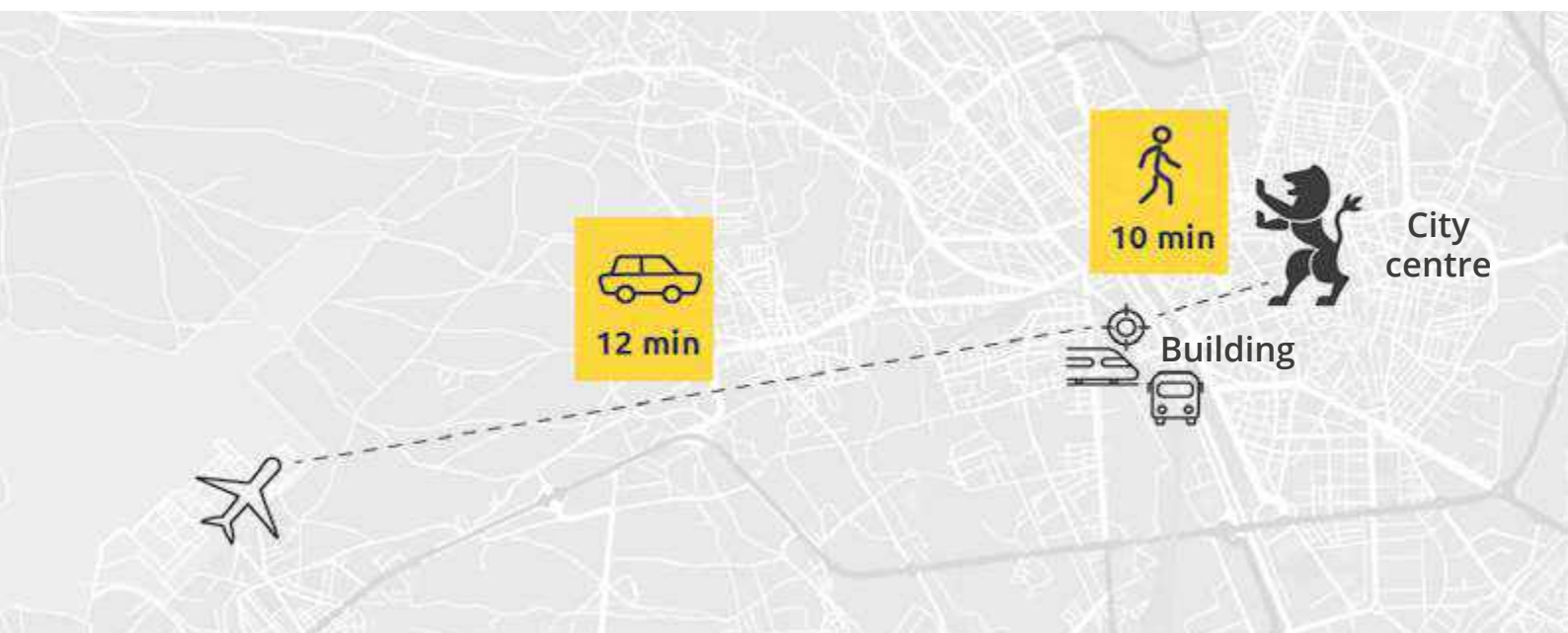
- **Proximity to the main means of international transport**, such as a motorway, train (just 1 minute away) or plane bringing Leon closer to the rest of Europe.

- **Availability and proximity of its exhibition and congress centre**, in case it is necessary to develop events of any kind.

- **Excellent communication** with all points of the city by various methods of transport, providing rapid access to the facilities by bus, taxi, train, bicycle or car.

- **Commodities for its workers**, with walks, parks, a variety of shops, gyms, nurseries and restaurants in the nearby area that will give a good perception and quality of life. The building is handicap accessible.

- **Possibility of growth of the building** according to future needs thanks to urban planning.





Success stories: we already did it

In recent years, Leon has become the Capital of Spanish Cybersecurity.

Since 2006, when the Spanish Institute for Cybersecurity (INCIBE) was set up, many public and private organisations have chosen the city as their headquarters, turning Leon into a centre for research and innovation in this field.

Spain is firmly convinced of the **need to decentralise important services** beyond the main cities. The selection of cities that are far from the typical ones makes it possible to generate wealth and well-being in less inhabited places and, in addition, to make a decisive contribution to such fundamental aspects as the sustainability of the surroundings and the reduction of the environmental impact that the massification of towns and cities entails.



160,000+

companies active
in the Community
of Castilla and Leon



2M+

foreigners choose
Spain to work



100 Gb/s

of transmission
speed with other
research points

The capacities and options offered by the city make it an ideal location for the development and growth of research companies and the centralisation of knowledge. Among other points, the entities already located there stand out:



The **transport network**, which allows you to travel to practically any European city comfortably and quickly.



The **excellent digital connectivity, security and interoperability**, which makes Leon a node in the Spanish research backbone network, guaranteeing contact with all **research networks worldwide (TESTA & GÉANT)**.



The **availability** of a technology park with a large number **of highly qualified buildings** that provide the necessary facilities at all times.



The **accessibility to essential services and suppliers** for the development of the activity.



The **quality of life** it provides to the people who live there and which, without doubt, improves satisfaction and productivity.

Some notable entities that centralize research and support activity at a global level are:

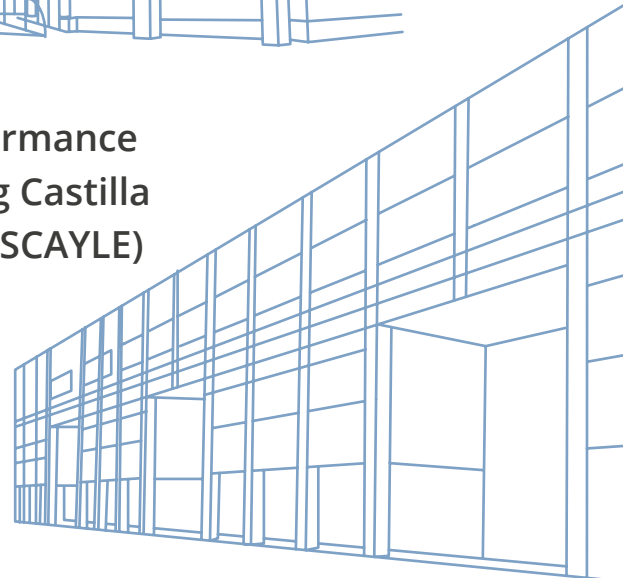
The Spanish National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE)



Biotechnology Institute (INBIOTEC)



High Performance Computing Castilla and Leon (SCAYLE)



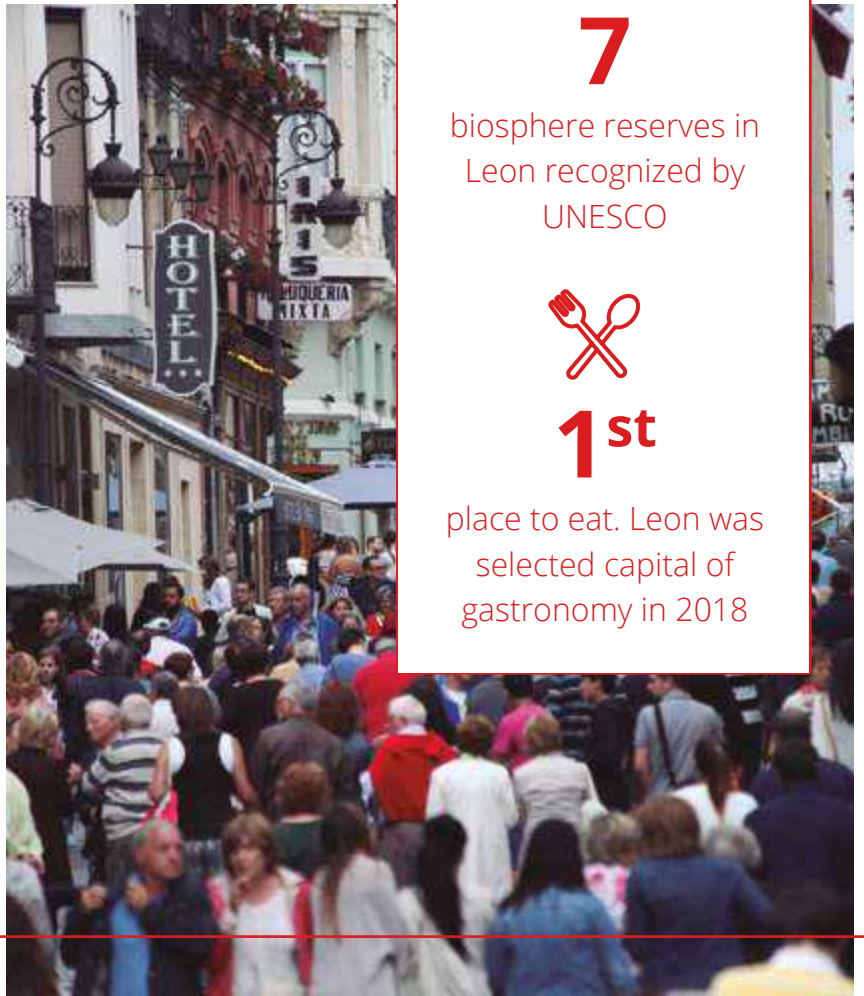


Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

There are many reasons why people choose the city of Leon to live and work in.

Thanks to its natural, cultural and gastronomic wealth, in recent years Spain has been **chosen by millions of people as a tourist destination** and hundreds of thousands have visited Leon.

But Spain and Leon are not just a destination to enjoy, rest and disconnect. That is why **many also choose it to live and develop their professional lives.**



7

biosphere reserves in
Leon recognized by
UNESCO



1st

place to eat. Leon was
selected capital of
gastronomy in 2018

People first

The **national health system**, with 92% patient satisfaction in Castilla and Leon, makes Spain have the highest life expectancy in the European Union, with its citizens living to 83.4 years on average.

Spanish social services include, for all people, among others, maternity and paternity subsidies, large or single parent families, elderly people or dependents and people with special needs or disabilities.

The **costs of living is much lower** than the costs in the European Union, in Spain, more than 15% cheaper. The average of rental price of a house in Leon is 6 euros/m².

There are more than 160,000 national and international companies in Castilla and Leon, which makes the city a **potential working area**.

There's also room for education and intellectual growth with its **bilingual schools** (34 in the city) **and prestigious universities**.



1.5

hours trip to Barcelona



Less than

2

hours trip to Madrid

Connected to the world

Leon, and Spain as a whole, has **excellent digital connections** (99% 4G coverage and a commitment to 5G coverage in the coming months).

In terms of **physical connections** it does not lag behind with the most extensive high-speed rail network in Europe, with more than 2,938 km, and its airports.

Moving around Leon is easy and comfortable, everything is near and it has an excellent public transport service.

The time spent travelling from home to work is 62% less than the average for European cities, which means about 8 days of savings per year.



16 min

on average to get to work (the European average is 42 min)



Enjoyable city

Leon is also a city full of possibilities for all tastes:

It's **somewhere to get lost in nature** with the highest concentration of biosphere reserves of the world in a single province.

With the Camino de Santiago, its medieval **monuments and museums to visit**.

Leon is also known for its **fantastic gastronomic offer**, that's why it was chosen as the gastronomic capital in 2018.

It's a **healthy city**: with low pollution levels, more than 30 gyms, green areas to walk and 30 km of bikes lanes.

With more than 12 hours a day of **natural light and nice temperature**, it's somewhere fantastic to live.

Castilla and Leon, a vibrant region

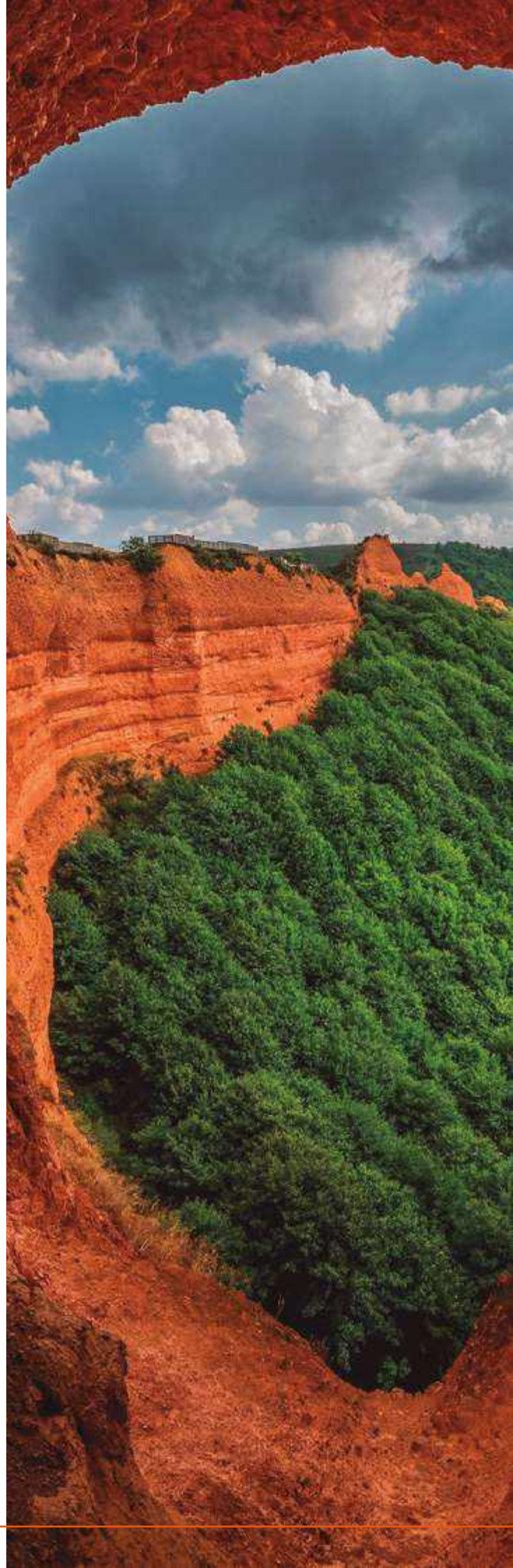
Castilla and Leon is the **largest region in Spain** in terms of surface area and it has multiple exclusive powers beyond those of the Central Government.

It's a natural passage between Portugal and the rest of Europe. It is made up of nine provinces, Avila, Burgos, Leon, Palencia, Salamanca, Segovia, Soria, Valladolid and Zamora.

Over the centuries, it has made a **decisive contribution to the formation of Spain** as a nation and has been an **important link between Europe and America**. A multitude of cultures has passed through Castilla and Leon, leaving their mark. Castilla and Leon has been for Spain and for Europe an example of respect, coexistence, dialogue in diversity and interculturality during its long history.

Castilla and Leon has some **modern communication routes**. A growing network of motorways connect it in a way that is fast and smooth with the main Spanish and European cities. It is a fundamental hub of the national railway network and it is through it that the greatest part of the northern rail network runs.

That's why it's not just a place to go on holidays, it's a vibrant region for those who live there too.





500+

offer bilingual Spanish-English education



**UNIVERSIDAD
DE SALAMANCA**

1st

oldest university
in Spain and the
3rd in Europe



37

hospitals



+6.6%

of annual expenditure
on innovation in recent
years



2M+

visitors every year



Education

The educational infrastructure of Castilla and Leon is very complete and its privileged position enables a high level of training and quality of human resources in the region, including international-oriented education centres.

More than 1,000 schools, 500 of them bilingual, **and 9 prestigious universities** ensure quality education.

Healthcare system

The health system of Castilla and Leon, backed by the efficiency and reputation of the Spanish health system and a network of 37 hospitals and 489 health centres, offers a **wide range of services to provide professional care** to all the inhabitants and visitors of the region.

Research and Development

The European Commission has supported **regional strategies for intelligent specialisation**, letting them identify areas of technological and knowledge specialisation that will allow them to generate increasingly competitive activities that generate wealth and employment.

This way, the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon has drawn up the Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Intelligent Specialisation (RIS3) for Castilla and Leon 2014-2020, which has recently been updated for the period 2018-2020.

Tourism

Castilla and Leon is a region to visit due to its **multiple attractions that will satisfy all tastes**.

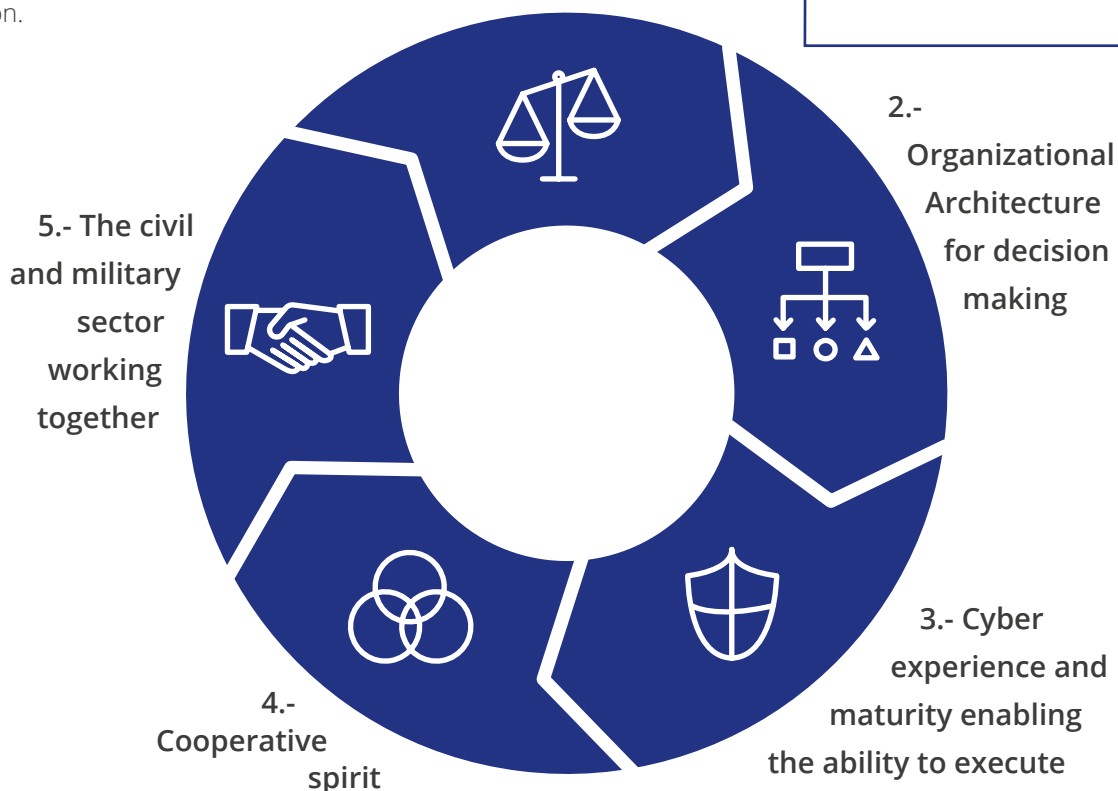
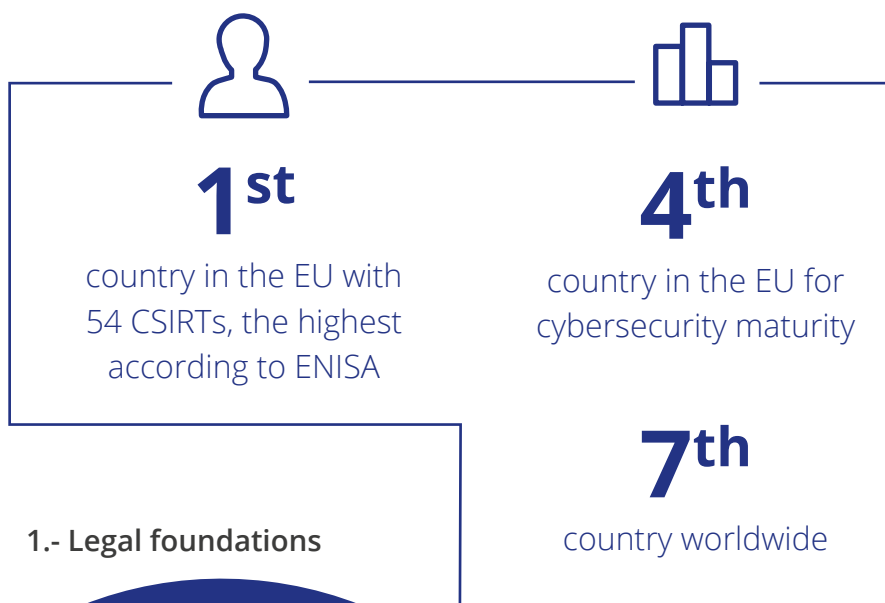
It has more than 2 million visitors every year for being a region with a lot of history, monuments, for being the cradle of the Spanish language, and for its 11 world heritage sites declared by UNESCO. Its nature, with its great wealth of landscapes and, given its environmental values, a large part of the Community has been protected, it also has 10 Biosphere Reserves; which promotes rural and sports tourism. We cannot talk about Castilla and Leon without mentioning its incredible gastronomic and cultural offering, hosting a variety of national and international events.

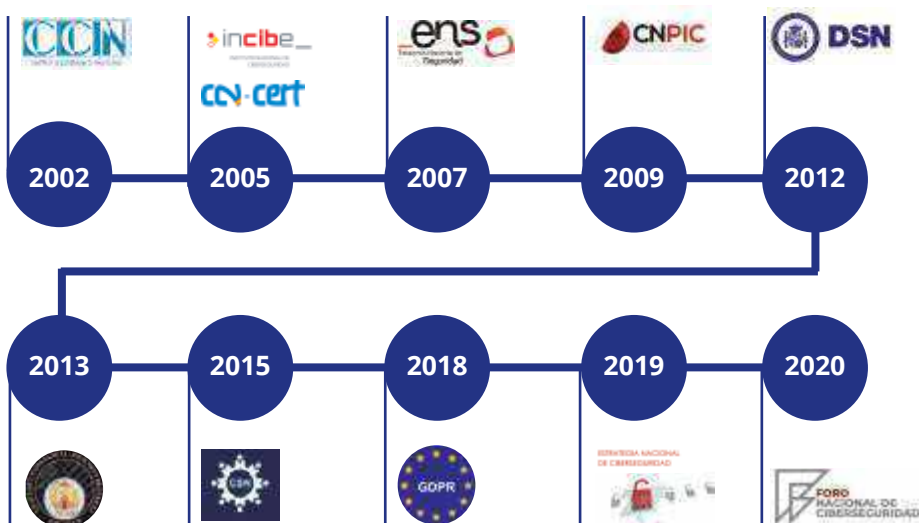

Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity

According to the GCI (Global Cybersecurity Index) published by the ITU (International Telecommunications Union), **Spain is the 4th European country and the 7th in the world in terms of Cybersecurity maturity**. During the last two decades, Spain, with Leon as the Spanish capital of cybersecurity, has established strong foundations, based on four pillars:


Cybersecurity framework

The adoption of the **NIS directive** and its transposition became an important milestone in the harmonization, coupling and synchronization of an already existing framework in Spain. This aspect is based on legal foundations, organizational architecture, 20 years since the first government agencies were created, a cooperation spirit and military & civil cooperation.



1st
country in R&D project leadership



20
years of the Spanish cybersecurity ecosystem

Cybersecurity sector

Activity in the Spanish market is estimated at 1,300 million euros and **growth of between 10 and 15%** is expected by 2020.

There is an updated catalogue of security companies and services in Spain, which includes more than 1,600 entities.



Research ecosystem

RENIC, the **National Network of Excellence for Research in Cybersecurity**, is made up of 104 research teams and more than 1,300 researchers dedicated to the entire spectrum of the subject.

The centres (94 centres affiliated to universities, nine technology centres and one research centre) are distributed throughout the country and coordinated from Leon, with 11 teams in the Community of Castilla and Leon.



Innovation, entrepreneurship & high-quality facilities

Spain's commitment to innovation in cybersecurity and digital transformation in the EU has not ceased to grow in recent years, both in terms of **return and leadership of projects**.

1

Ready to go

We are ready! Leon covers all the requirements to host an European Centre. Leon's proposal facility offers an extraordinary combination of IT infrastructure, physical connections, security measures and a perfect location.



1. Ready to go

The Centre's facilities, **available from January 1st, 2021**, offer the possibility of carrying out all the refurbishment works that might be requested by the Commission.

Leon is offering the organization the possibility of establishing its headquarters in the city, covering the needs that arise and adding the following characteristics:

- **Excellent communication** with both Spain and Europe, as it has the most widely used means of transport.
- **Good accessibility** to the building from any point in the city by various urban means, making it easy for workers to get to our town.
- **Nearby facilities for workers** to improve their quality of life, with gyms, nurseries, restaurants, shops, etc. in the vicinity of the facility to facilitate their days. Also, the building is handicap accesible.
- The building that will host the Centre enjoys **excellent infrastructures for all types of connections, extensive capabilities in terms of Cybersecurity and telecommunications**, and tools to ensure interoperability with IT facilities all throughout the Union.

From tradition to modernity

Our first step is to provide the organization with an **emblematic building**, with proximity to the main means of transport and an excellent location in the city centre, where it can establish its headquarters. This building is currently included in the new urban transformation plan that aims to highlight the railway history of the city.

The proposal includes a pedestrian walkway that, locally, they already call "El Paseo del Ferrocarril" and the building, currently in disuse, will be transformed and adapted to meet all the needs identified by the organization.

The train station from 1863.



The train station nowadays.



The future of the train station.



1. Ready to go

As an emblematic symbol of the city, it will combine tradition and modernity, maintaining the spirit of the building and integrating those modern elements necessary to carry out any type of work with quality.

Besides, **the urban planning of the building's surroundings allows it to grow**, up to 1.7 ha² approximately, depending on the needs that may arise.

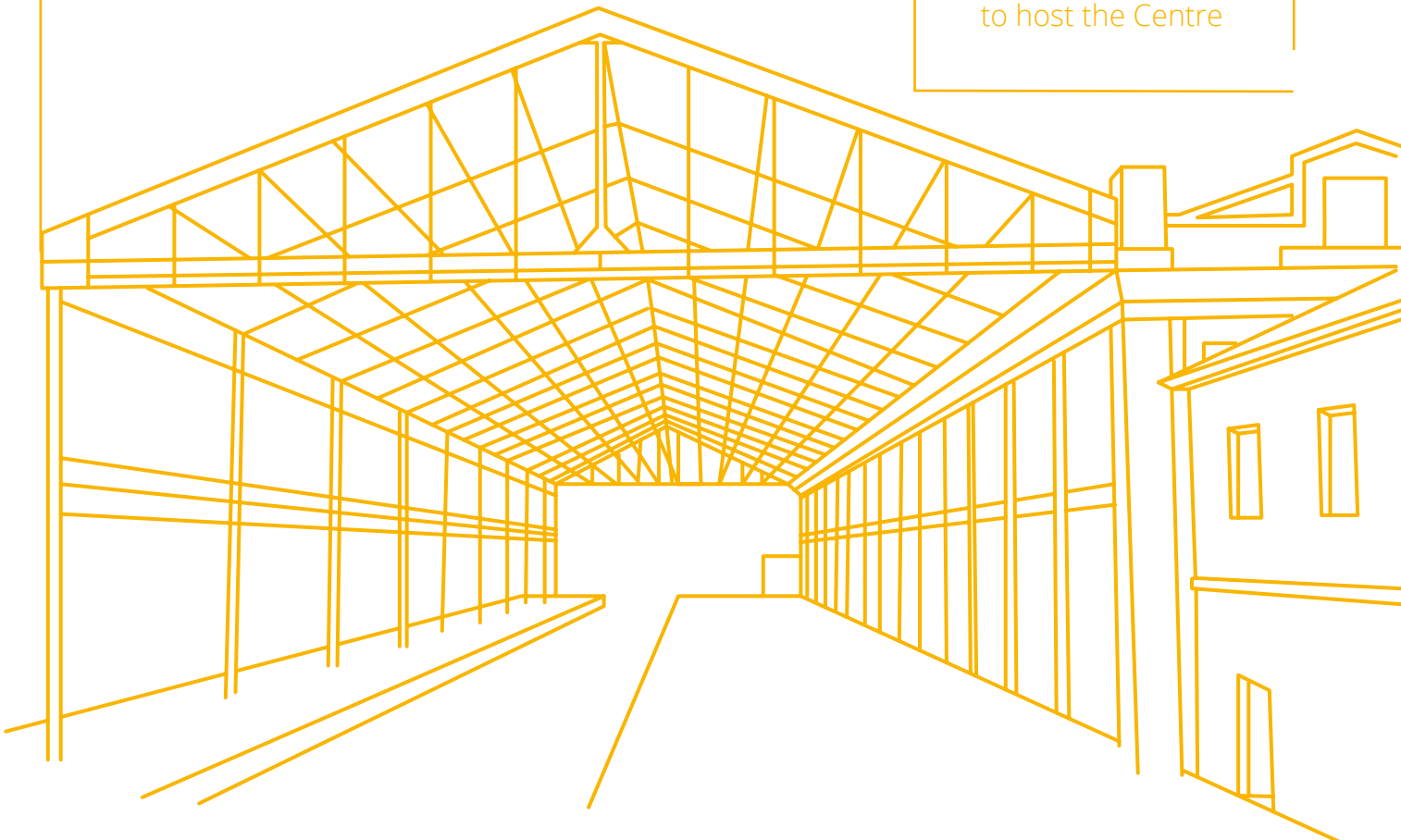
The building in question dates back to 1863 and served as the city's main railway station until it ceased to function in 2011 as a result of plans for new high-speed lines. The building, designed on three levels, has a built area of around **2,000 m²** distributed over a ground floor, a mezzanine and a first floor.



The Centre's facilities, available from January 1st, 2021, offer the possibility of carrying out all the refurbishment works that might be requested by the Commission.



Around
2,000 m²
to host the Centre



1. Ready to go

It also offers workers the possibility of enjoying their surroundings since, as it is centrally located, it presents **different opportunities** such as shops, restaurants and other leisure facilities.



RESTAURANTS

(cafeterias and bistros in the vicinity)



GYMS

(10 minute-walk from the facility)



SHOPPING

(shops & local stores with all kind of goods)



GREEN SPACES

(Paseo de la Condesa and Quevedo Park)



Excellent connection

Well integrated with the different means of transport, the building is **connected to the rest of the city and its surrounding**, which makes the proposal worthwhile as it provides excellent access. It offers the following means of transport:



Taxi network, locating one of its stops at the door.



Bus, with access to up to 4 different city lines.



Bicycle, with a rental station right outside the door.



Train, located a few meters from the entrance.



Car rental, with several car rental offices a few metres away.

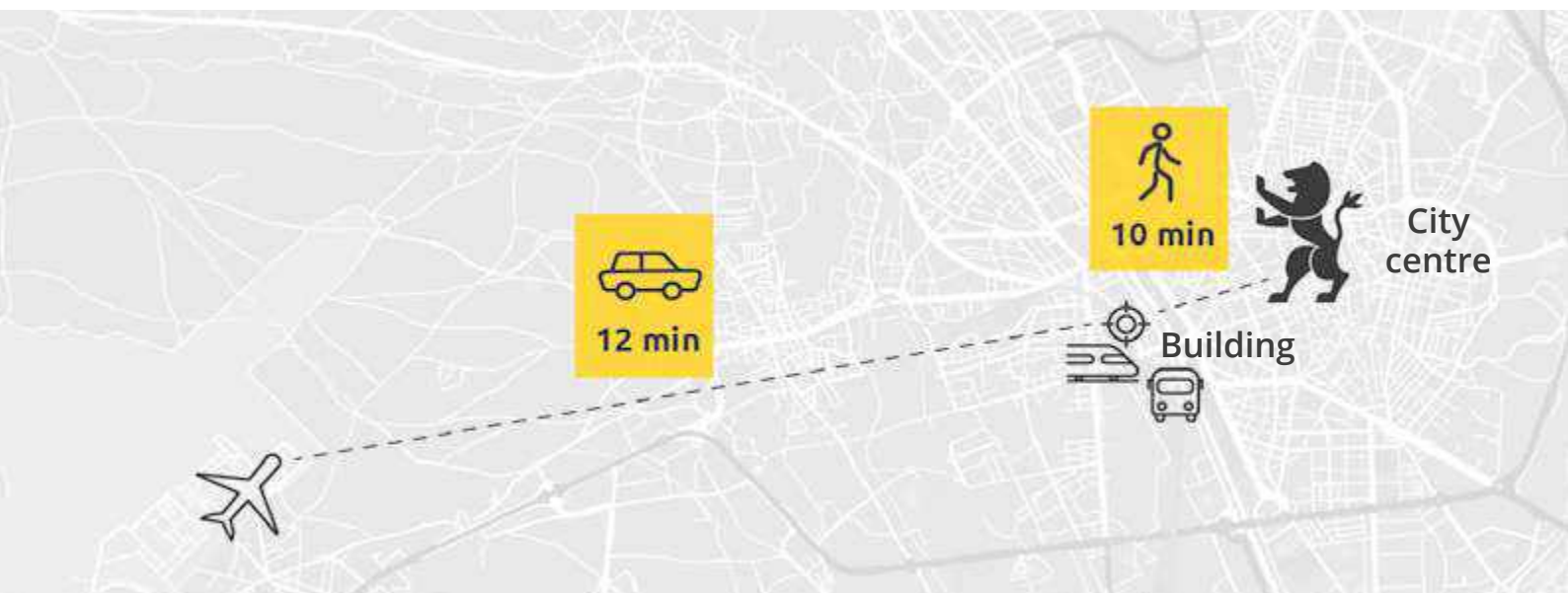


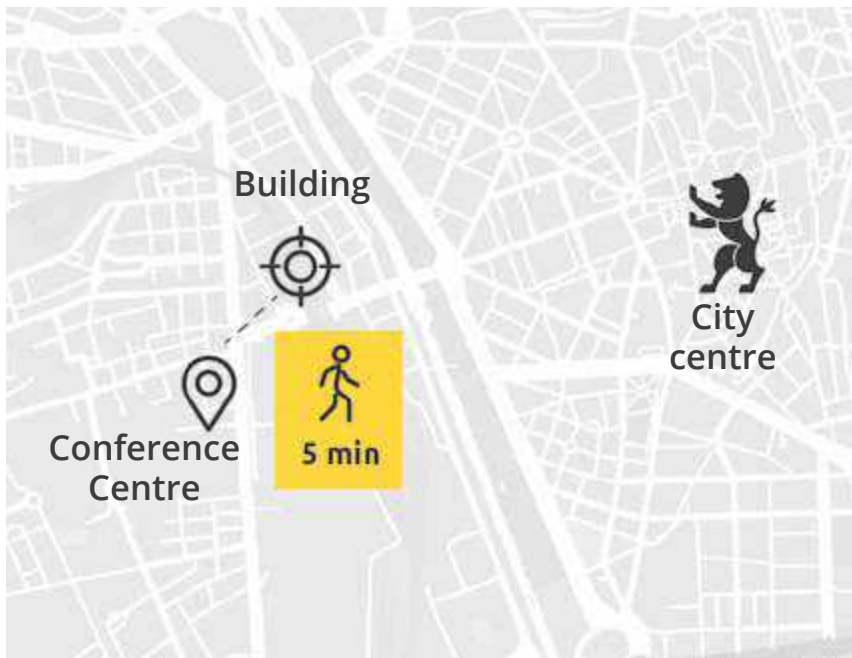
Parking areas, both at street level and underground.



1 min

to the Train Station and bicycles and bus stop at the front door





Other facilities

Also, located at a short distance from the building, there is a **Conference Centre with the possibility of hosting multiple kinds of events**, fairs, congresses and exhibitions. The building has also a number of hotels nearby.

This building proposes an avant-garde architecture made of steel and glass and also integrates solutions for the production of renewable energies and energy control systems. It also has a useful surface area of 20,000 m² divided into two areas of 9,800 m² and 10,000 m² with space for the organizers' offices.

The building has been designed to limit the use of non-renewable energy and to efficiently manage water consumption. It also includes the production of solar energy to complement its needs, thus betting on sustainable development.

Outside the building, there are additional green areas and a car park with a capacity for 400 vehicles.

Located at a short distance from the building, there is a Conference Centre with the possibility of hosting multiple kind of events.



2 ha²

divided in two areas of 10,000 m² and 9,800 m²



400

parking places and garden areas

Privileges and immunities

The Centre and its staff will enjoy the privileges and immunities set out in Protocol No. 7 of the European Union, plus some additional advantages and elements from Leon's Proposal:

Tax exemption for the Centre

- The Centre and the UE shall be exempt from direct taxes, levies, duties and other charges on assets, income and other movable and immovable property.
- The Centre and the UE shall be exempt from indirect taxes or sales taxes included in the price of goods and services in purchases for official use.
- The Centre and the UE shall be exempt from value-added tax (VAT) included in the price of goods and services purchased for official use (over €300).
- The Centre and the UE shall be exempt from VAT on the supply or rental of buildings and maintenance (over €751).
- The Centre and the UE shall be exempt from the tax on mechanical traction vehicles and other motor vehicles.

Exemption from fees for reservation of frequencies

- The Centre and the UE shall be exempt from payment of fees for reserving radio public domain frequencies necessary for the performance of their duties.

Exemption from fiscal and non-fiscal restrictions on imports and exports

- The Centre and the UE shall be exempt from taxes, prohibitions, restrictions, customs duties and/or charges on imports and exports of goods and services for official use.
- The Centre may freely dispose of, receive and transfer its funds, loans or foreign exchange of any kind, and maintain and convert its accounts into any other currency.



Privileges and immunities of the staff of the Centre

- Immunity from prosecution for acts performed in his official capacity, including words spoken or written.
- Immunity from seizure and inspection of your official baggage.
- Inviolability of all writings, documents and materials relating to the performance of their official duties.
- Exemption from taxation on wages, pensions and benefits.
- Exemption from immigration restrictions and official alien registration formalities for staff and their families.
- Facilities on currency or exchange regulations.
- Exemption from VAT, restrictions and import duties on furniture and personal effects, including motor vehicles, of staff and their families (for one year from incorporation).
- Exemption from taxes and duties on a motor vehicle acquired (during the period of one year before its incorporation if not a tax resident in Spain).
- Exemption from taxes and duties on furniture and personal effects acquired (during the period of one year from its incorporation not being a tax resident in Spain).
- Exemption from export duties on furniture and personal effects, including motor vehicles, of staff and their families (for a period of three years from the termination of their employment).
- Protection and the same repatriation facilities that would be granted to diplomatic personnel in times of international crisis to staff and their families.
- The director of the Centre shall also enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Spain (except for traffic offences).
- The staff of the Centre shall also enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to diplomatic staff accredited in Spain (except for traffic offences).

2

Success stories: we already did it

Many international research entities have selected Leon as the headquarters for the development of the activity. All of them highlight the advantages and benefits obtained thanks to the location and the capacities of the city.



2. Success stories: we already did it

Thanks to **strong institutional support and a strategic focus on the attraction of talent, industry, and technology**, Leon has been selected in recent years by various research entities, public and private, for the location of its headquarters and, from there, the promotion and development of their projects and the provision of services at international level. 11 of the Spanish industrial cybersecurity research centres have their headquarters in Castilla and Leon. The excellent digital connectivity which makes Leon a node in the Spanish research backbone network, guaranteeing contact with all research networks worldwide (TESTA & GÉANT).

The implementations carried out and the development of these entities represent the experience and knowledge that guarantees the successful implementation of the Centre in Leon.

Leon has been selected in recent years by various research entities, public and private, for the location of its headquarters.



2. Success stories: we already did it

The research entities located in Leon highlight the following aspects about the city advantages:



Accessibility to providers and services essential for the development of the activity.

The city of Leon is located in a strategic geographical point where large national and international companies have established their logistics centres on the outskirts of Leon. This means the creation of a considerable number of direct and indirect jobs.

The establishment of international entities has created a **virtuous circle of attraction** that generates a concentration of companies from growing sectors, making Leon especially attractive for cutting-edge and innovative projects. Currently, more than 160,000 companies have decided to set up their headquarters in the region of Castile and Leon.



Its **quality of life**, since it facilitates the attraction and loyalty of talent and directly affects employee satisfaction and performance. More than 2 million foreigners have chosen Spain as a country to work in, 18,000 of them are in Leon. This means that the city represents new hope and is welcomed by the future workers of the Centre.



The **ease and availability of technologically suitable buildings** that facilitate and ensure the necessary scalability according to the circumstances. In this way, the companies and entities that collaborate closely with the Centre will have the necessary real estate and technological infrastructure at all times.



Its **excellent geographical position**, as a strategic logistics centre in Spain in the northwest and its location as a key point in the Atlantic Arc, facilitates and guarantees the mobility of people and goods in optimal times between the main national and international cities. Its location is in a **privileged position** away from external influences or centres of conflict. The language, culture and location offer optimal connections that facilitate development and **cooperation with Latin America and North Africa**.



160,000+

companies active
in the Community of
Castilla and Leon

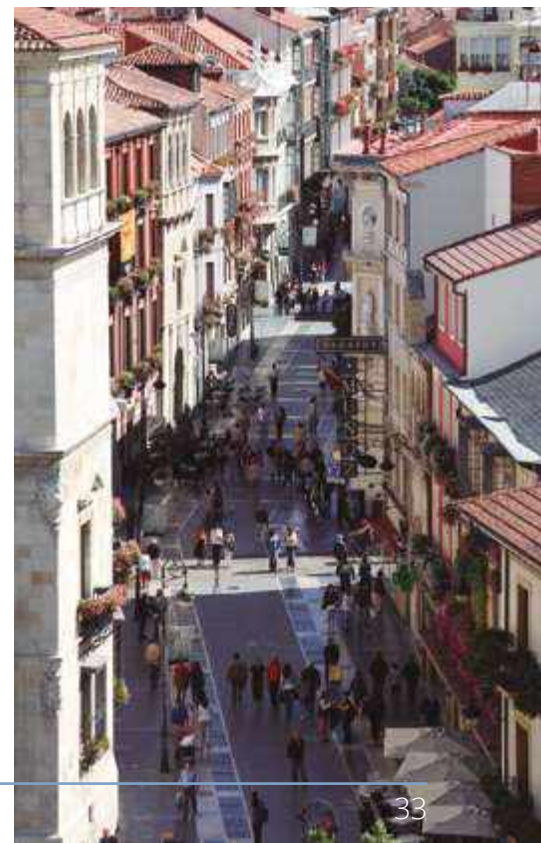


2M+

foreigners choose
Spain to work

18,000+

of them are in Leon



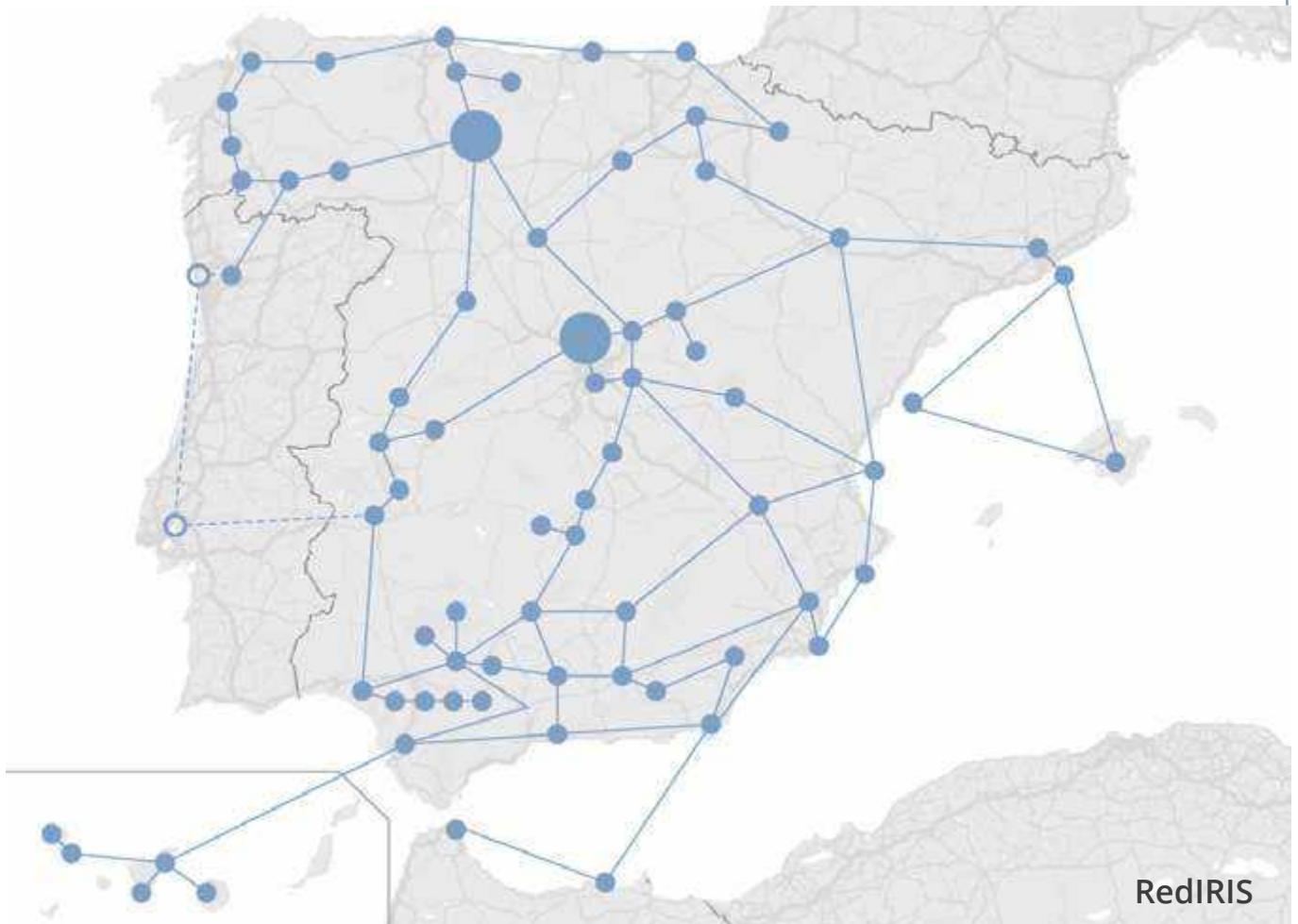


Its **excellent digital connections, security and interoperability**, which allow it to provide services and maintain international contacts with clients and partners with the due guarantees.

The city of Leon has a RedIRIS node connected to SARA and TESTA network which enables the integration of the Spanish and European Administration.

The city of Leon has a RedIRIS node (Spanish backbone network for research on optical transmission based on dark fibre) that will be in operation for the next few decades. Rediris offers the Spanish research community multiple circuits of up to 100 gigabits per second, coming from the main research centres. **Rediris is directly connected to the SARA Network** (the Spanish Administration network), and the **connection between the SARA Network and TESTA** currently enables the integration of the Spanish and European Administration.

This network provides Spanish researchers with the necessary tools to collaborate remotely with each other under optimal conditions, both nationally (through regional networks) and internationally.



RedIRIS is the Spanish backbone network for research on optical transmission based on dark fibre.



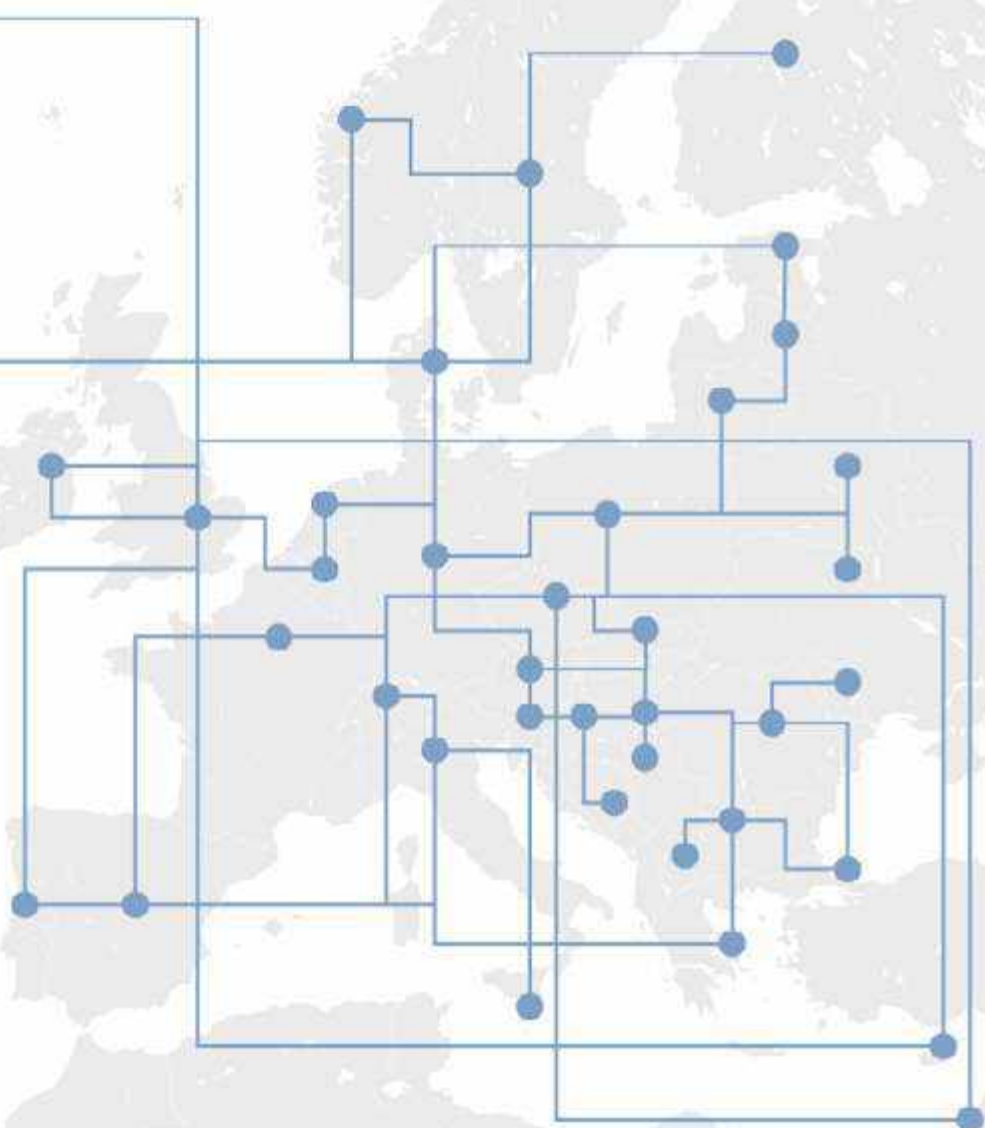
100 Gb/s

of transmission speed with other research points



GÉANT

Pan-European GÉANT network, a dark fibre network infrastructure with one point of presence per country.



Some notable **entities in Leon that foster research and support activity at a global level** are:

The Spanish National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE)

Since 2006, Leon has been named the Spanish “capital” of cybersecurity through the implementation of its competence centre, which acts in a similar way to the proposed European project.

The Spanish National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE), as a centre of excellence based in Leon, is a service offered by the Government of Spain to work towards the development of cybersecurity as an instrument for social transformation and for developing new fields of innovation. To this end, with its activities focused on research, the provision of services, and cooperation with the relevant actors, INCIBE heads a range of initiatives directed at cybersecurity at both a national and an international level.

Currently, from INCIBE in Leon, we protect and help Spanish citizens and 98% of private companies, including SME's.

Spain is one of the first European countries to have a free telephone number (017) for help and consultations on cybersecurity.

Leon has been named the Spanish “capital” of cybersecurity through the implementation of its competence centre, which acts in a similar way to the proposed European project.



Biotechnology Institute (INBIOTEC)



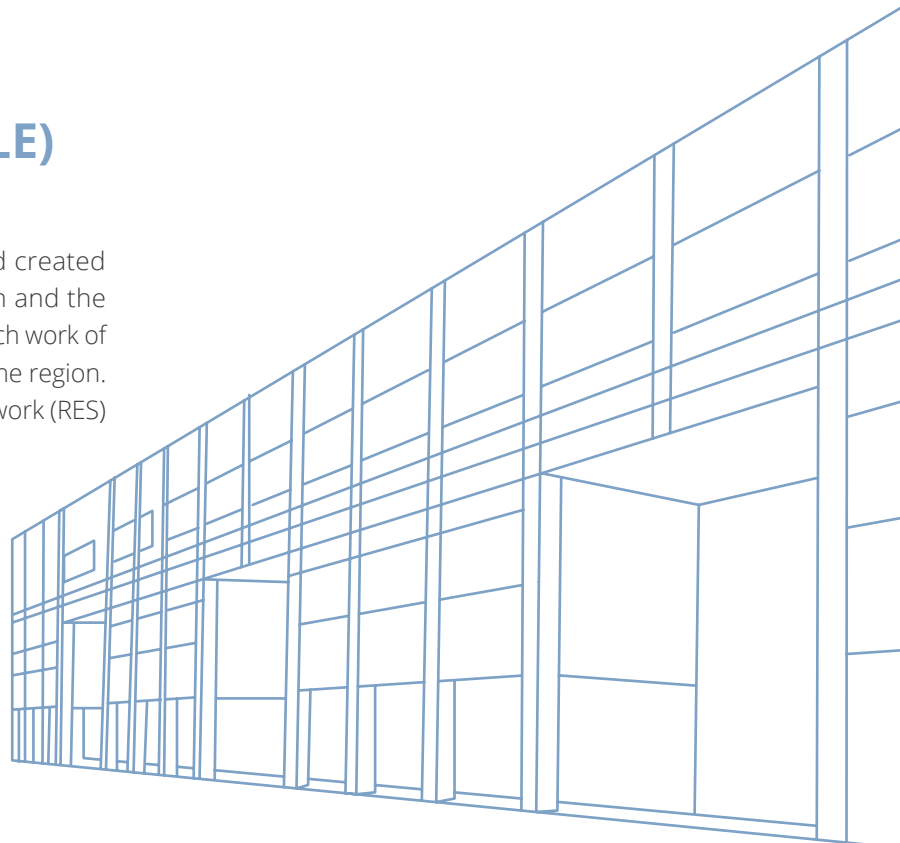
Technology Centre with more than 20 years working on the development of biotechnological solutions aimed at boosting competitiveness in different industrial sectors.

Its origins are related to the proximity of a dynamic biopharmaceutical hub and an academic nucleus which has provided acknowledged professionals in biotechnology and related sciences. INBIOTEC has witnessed how its capabilities and activity range have increased over the years to bring out solutions that meet the needs of industry in order to successfully tackle the latest demanding challenges in productivity, differentiation and sustainability.



Supercomputation Castilla and Leon (SCAYLE)

It's a non-profit public entity located in Leon and created by the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon and the University of Leon, which aims to improve the research work of the university, research centres and companies in the region. SCAYLE is part of the Spanish Supercomputing Network (RES) linked to EuroHPC initiative.



3

Leon:
a city to live in,
a city to work in

Spain and Leon fulfill much of the requirements to be considered a great place to live, work and raise children, with an extraordinary quality of life.



3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

The decentralisation of services in Europe, giving a leading role to smaller towns and cities far from the big cities, allows the **generation of wealth and well-being in less inhabited places**. Aspects as important as climate change, the quality of life of citizens or the sustainability of the environment are decisive factors for Spain when choosing the location of highly relevant public bodies and entities. **Leon perfectly combines technological and infrastructure needs with the vital objectives of sustainability and life quality.**

Leon is a city that not only hosts national and international companies and entities but also already has **experience and success welcoming its employees, families and visitors** with total comfort and closeness, covering all their needs and ensuring their life quality in a quiet and historical environment.

And why is living and working in Leon a great experience?

- **Leon is a welcoming city**; it is a city to visit and to stay. It is extraordinarily well connected to the rest of Spain and has infrastructures and housing that guarantee well-being and quality of life.
- **You can grow professionally**. There is a wide network of national and international companies, as well as universities. It has an environment that facilitates mobility, family harmony and time management.
- **It helps you grow personally**. It combines tradition and modernity; proof of this are its monuments, its history, but also its commitment to the avant-garde in different areas.
- In Spain we appreciate issues such as the **good quality of life** it offers, political stability, currency security, the education system, and that it is an easily accessible destination.
- Among the reasons given by the interviewees for changing their home is the **improvement of their usual family residence**, followed by the possibility of having **better access to quality medical care** or the option of buying a holiday home in a sunny destination.
- The **mobility** allowed by a relatively flat city, **respect for the environment** - with very low levels of pollution -, and the **proximity of natural environments**.





1st

place to eat. Leon was selected capital of gastronomy in 2018



1M+

visitors on its streets during 2019



140 km

is what separates Leon from the best beaches in northern Spain



589

blue flag beaches in Spain (world leader)



7

biosphere reserves in Leon recognized by UNESCO



3.1

People first

Healthcare system

In Spain, the health care system is **free and universal**.

The National Public Health System has a **wide network of primary care centres and hospitals**. Primary Care Centres are the first point of contact for citizens who need to access healthcare. These centres perform diagnoses, resolve common health problems, provide social assistance, and offer home care services. To treat more important healthcare issues, there are hospitals, which perform acute diagnoses, administer specialised treatments and carry out surgical operations.

Spain has the **highest life expectancy in the European Union**, with its citizens living to 83.4 years on average. In comparison, the average life expectancy in the EU is 80.3. This may be partly due to the Mediterranean diet, but it is also mainly due to Spain's excellent public health system, which is one of the best in the world.

The Spanish national health system, which provides universal health care to all citizens, consists of 112,346 doctors and 164,385 highly specialised nurses with many years of training.

The National Health System provides each patient with his or her family doctor, who is responsible for promoting and maintaining the health of patients, preventing and treating problems, and making home visits when necessary.

The system also organizes awareness health campaigns and programs to educate both patients and the general public.

All data collected by national health institutions regarding access to appointments and clinical reports are used to analyse and improve the benefits for patients.



1st

in the world in public
healthcare system
efficiency



83.4

years of life
expectancy,
according to the
World Health
Organization

3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

The Spanish health system is based on **universal access** covering a complete portfolio of free health services. Its main features are:

- Immediate access to primary care in 13,144 centres.
- An extensive network of emergency care and outpatient clinics.
- Hospitals serving 47.2 million cases per year: there are 453 hospitals in the NHS network, each equipped with advanced technology and expertise.

The Spanish National Health System is the 9th largest in terms the number of doctors per capita (3.8 per 1,000 inhabitants) in the OECD.



112,346

doctors and 164,385
nurses in Spain

Key figures in Spanish healthcare:

- 1** | Spain has the highest life expectancy in the European Union: 83.4 years, compared to the EU average of 80.3 years
- 2** | The system is composed of 112,346 doctors and 164,385 nurses
- 3** | Spain has the highest rate of transplant patients in the world per million inhabitants, with 100.7
- 4** | Spain has the lowest breast cancer mortality rate in the European Union: 176 cases per million inhabitants
- 5** | 3 out of 4 women undergo a breast cancer screening test according to protocol
- 6** | Childhood vaccination coverage is around 97%
- 7** | The death rate from cardiac ischemia is among the four lowest in the EU (41.9%), with a 39.5% decrease in the risk of mortality in the 21st century
- 8** | Spain has 21,832 pharmacies, with a wide geographical distribution



3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

Leon has many hospitals and primary care centres. The University Assistance Complex of Leon (CAULE) is known as the Health Complex consisting of 3 public hospitals. The city also has 6 public primary care centres where citizens can receive face-to-face medical attention when they have a health problem or want to prevent a health problem occurring.

These facilities provide **excellent emergency service and medical treatment**. They are staffed by some of the best professionals in the world and are equipped with the latest medical technology. This allows them to give a comprehensive response to patient requirements and enables successful treatment of health issues of varying degrees of seriousness.

In addition, there are another 3 private hospitals out of the National Health System when citizens can be attended.

To improve difficult personal family or social situations, Spain undertakes a comprehensive assessment of the situation and defines a structured work plan to target the critical areas.

It also provides guidance on which **resources services and social benefits** are best suited to specific needs.



12

hospitals and primary
centres in the city



On December 21st, 2009, the Plenary of the City Council of Leon, adopts the agreement to join the Spanish Network of Healthy Cities (RECS). Since joining the RECS in December 2009, the municipal administration has been developing municipal policies aimed at improving the welfare and physical and social environment of the city.

Social services in Leon

Leon and Spain provide social services to all their citizens to improve their quality of life and contribute to facilitating such important aspects as the reconciliation of workers or support for special needs. Among these services, the following stand out:

- **Support for maternity and paternity**, providing paid leave of up to 16 weeks for mothers and 12 weeks for fathers, breastfeeding leave, tax relief, and possible reductions in childcare support.
- **Social benefits for large or single parent families**: Families with three or more children (under the age of 21 or 26 if they study) can apply for large family status. This status allows these families to receive preferential treatment in several institutions entities and commercial establishments. Families with one or more economically dependent children living with a single parent can apply for single parent family status. The social benefits offered to both family types are similar. They can be categorised into the following sets of benefits: Economic, Housing, Education and culture, Transport.
- **Integration of people with disabilities** is a priority for the City Council of Leon. For this reason, in addition to having all its services adapted, it has a specific area for information, advice and mediation between groups or individual citizens and the different city councils.

Likewise, it is in charge of the processing and special follow-up of complaints related to the disability sector, and of advising on the different projects that the City Council may undertake related to the world of disability.

Leon offers diverse **social services for its senior citizens, dependent people and their families**:

- **Personal care**: support in personal hygiene, support in mobility within the home, help in taking medication, help in eating, occasional accompaniment outside the home, collection and management of prescriptions or documents.
- **Domestic care**: daily cleaning of the house, washing, ironing and sorting of clothes, preparation of meals, basic maintenance of domestic utensils.





Housing

Housing is a key feature of life in a new city: prices, availability...

Now, there are more than 2,000 houses available to rent in Leon and another 2,100 to purchase.

The average price of houses:

1,064 euros/m²

versus 1,255 euros/m² on average in Spain (more than 15% cheaper).

The average rental price:

6 euros/m²



4,100+

homes ready to buy
or to rent in Leon



6 €/m²

is the average
rental price in Leon

Leon has **more than 206 establishments** and just over 3,700 beds available in hotels, **perfect for the city to host all kind of events**, fairs, exhibitions and meetings.



3,700+

beds as hotel capacity.
Ideal to host multiple
events in the city

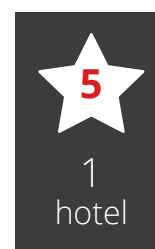
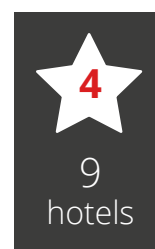
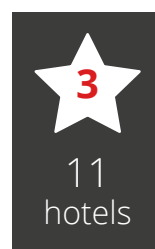
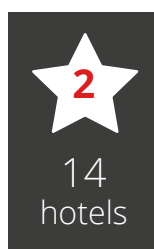
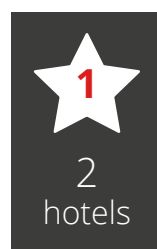
There are several **types of premises** - and a good number of them - to please all kinds of tastes:

Hotels 28

Country houses (B&B) 46

Apartments 135

Hotels quality in Leon:



Education

Spain has an education system with public, private, and "concertado" (private with public funding) schools.

The Spanish academic system is structured in stages, levels and years or degrees of learning. This system is oriented towards the development of children and is organised into four levels of education.

Formal education begins when children are three years old and continues until they enter university or undergo vocational training.

Education is compulsory in Spain for all children aged 6 to 16. In Leon, there are **68 schools, 50% of them offer bilingual education.**

According to a PISA report 2019 published by The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Leon has **one of the best indicators of Spain** and is over the OECD average.



68

schools in Leon



50%

of them offer
bilingual Spanish-
English education



1st

country in destination
choice for Erasmus
students



80+

options to study in the
Leon University with 43
bachelor's degrees and
38 Masters

To make the education accessible to everyone, local and Government of Spain offer **scholarships to students** with good marks and economic difficulties.

The Spanish university system is made up of **84 universities**, 50 public universities and 34 private universities.

Spain is a member of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which complements a higher **education system that is compatible** and comparable with other European universities.

Spain, as the Erasmus EU report indicates, is the country favoured by most Erasmus students from all over Europe (12%, less than 40,000), above Germany and the United Kingdom.

Besides, Leon has the **Leon University** with more than 12,000 students, 43 bachelor's degrees and 38 masters (some of them about cybersecurity in collaboration with INCIBE). According to the U-Ranking 2019 of the Spanish universities made by BBVA, the University of Leon ranks number 8.

Diverse job opportunities

Leon has a **large business network** with more than 160,000 companies in the region.

Given its **privileged position**, close to the industrial centre of northern Spain, as well as its good communications with Madrid and Barcelona, which also places it close to the rest of Europe, its **citizens are eligible for different job opportunities**.

Its **excellent digital connections** make it very attractive to develop a work activity by telepresence to any part of the world.

Leon has become the 3rd biotech and pharmaceutical node in Spain, only behind Barcelona and Madrid. Now hosting recognized national and international leaders in the sector. This offers a wide range of high-qualified professional opportunities.

In the more technological world, thanks to the impulse of the different Startups that are promoted and accelerated in the region, the investments of large companies in the area, such as the High Performance Computing Castilla and Leon (SCAYLE), make the technical profiles very demanded also in the area.



9.5/10

people feel safe
in Leon

Security

In the field of security, Leon has a **very good perception of citizen security**.

Spain is the second country that receives the most tourists from all over Europe. More than 80 million tourists visit Spain every year. A fact that makes it clear the feeling of security that it offers to tourists.

The English, Germans and French are the Europeans who visit Spain the most. Leon is the main destination for French tourists.

According to a survey, 9.5 people out of 10 feel safe.

Cost of living

The good weather, its cultural and social life, and the cost of living make Leon a good place to live. Its citizens enjoy an admirable quality of life. Although being an important tourist city, Leon has been able to keep prices at reasonable levels.

In addition, Leon has **multiple services, facilities, and easy and affordable options for leisure.**

	LEON	MADRID	BARCELONA
Estimated monthly costs for a family (4 people)	€2,513	€3,326	€3,451
Estimated monthly costs for 1 person	€1,076	€1,771	€1,870
	SAVINGS:	+19%	+20%

Some examples:

MARKETS

Chicken breast (500 gr)	€3.28	€3.47	€3.87
Eggs (12 units)	€1.56	€2.29	€2.71
Tomatoes (1 kg)	€1.41	€1.73	€1.68
Apples (1 kg)	€1.54	€1.74	€1.59
Beer (0.5 L)	€0.76	€0.86	€0.94

HOUSING

Rental of a furnished 85 m ² flat (expensive area)	€704	€1,424	€1,533
Rental of a furnished 85 m ² flat	€503	€1,018	€1,081
Electricity, water and light costs for 2 people	€112	€129	€123

TRANSPORTS

Gasoline (1L)	€1.20	€1.37	€1.31
Monthly public transport pass	€34	€52	€41
Taxi ride (8 km)	€10	€16	€24

RESTAURANTS

Menu of the day + drinks (expensive area)	€12	€14	€14
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LEISURE

Cinema (2 tickets)	€14	€17	€18
Theatre (2 tickets, best seats)	€45	€45	€59
Cocktail (expensive area)	€6	€11	€10

3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

LONDON	BRUSSELS	PARIS	MUNICH	LISBON
£4,807	€3,547	€4,876	€4,303	€3,004
£2,969	€1,790	€3,045	€2,578	€1,571
+50%	+26%	+40%	+32%	+9%
£3.28	€4.48	€5.55	€4.18	€2.47
£2.63	€3.73	€4.10	€2.90	€2.25
£2.25	€2.21	€2.64	€2.45	€1.33
£1.83	€2.19	€2.71	€2.57	€1.20
£1.71	€1.58	€1.94	€0.95	€0.87
£2,661	€1,305	€2,647	€2,094	€1,243
£1,887	€1,060	€2,067	€1,825	€895
£136	€136	€143	€168	€119
£1.27	€1.39	€1.51	€1.47	€1.51
£146	€49	€75	€63	€38
£26	€21	€12	€19	€14
£13	€17	€16	€12	€10
£24	€22	€22	€23	€14
£147	€67	€96	€138	€37
£11	€10	€12	€10	€8



3.2

Connected to the world

3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

Leon is an open city connected to the world. Thanks to its **excellent physical and digital connections**, from the city you can keep in touch with political and commercial partners and with family and friends quickly.

Spain's position in Tourism has facilitated the development of one of the **strongest transportation networks in the world**.

Leon is part of the high-speed rail network, and it is connected to Madrid in less than 2 hours (5+ connections in both directions every day), which allows train users access to the Adolfo Suárez International Airport, the largest Spanish airport in terms of passenger traffic, air cargo and number of operations. It is the fifth European airport by the number of passengers according to Eurostat traffic data, the 15th airport in the world according to the annual report of the Airports Council International (ACI).

Also, driven by firm **commitment of Spain to digital transformation** and eGovernment, the degree of penetration and coverage of digital connections is excellent.

Digital connections

The current coverage of **4G connections** throughout Castilla and Leon is 99% and there is 100% commitment to implement **5G coverage** in the main Spanish cities in the coming months.

Currently, the aggregate coverage in Spain of all operators and technological platforms for ≥ 30 Mbps speeds (Wireless ≥ 30 Mbps, VDSL, HFC, and FTTH) is 94.3% and for ≥ 100 Mbps (HFC and FTTH), it is 83.6%. It is the **country with the most FTTH fibre in the EU**.

Spain has a strategic connectivity plan that ends in 2025, which guarantees that it will achieve 100% implementation of **optical fibre** throughout its national territory.

Driven by firm commitment of Spain to digital transformation and eGovernment, the degree of penetration and coverage of digital connections is excellent.



99%

of 4G coverage in
Castilla and Leon

75%

of 5G coverage in
Spain



1st

penetration rate
of FTTH or "fibre to
the home" in the
European Union

Leon and Madrid airports

As mentioned, Madrid, and its airport, are connected to Leon with both a high-speed rail (less than 2 hours trip) and a highway.

Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas airport is the gateway between Europe and Latin America, Madrid is the capital of Spain and Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas Airport the main door to tourism in the country.

Adolfo Suárez Madrid Barajas airport is connected to the main tourist destinations in the country (29 Spanish Airports). It is also connected to **192 international destinations** (5,000+ passengers) in 73 countries. With over 81 airlines in our family and counting, is home to all alliances.



5th

European airport by number of passengers in Europe (Madrid airport)



192

international destinations connected to Madrid

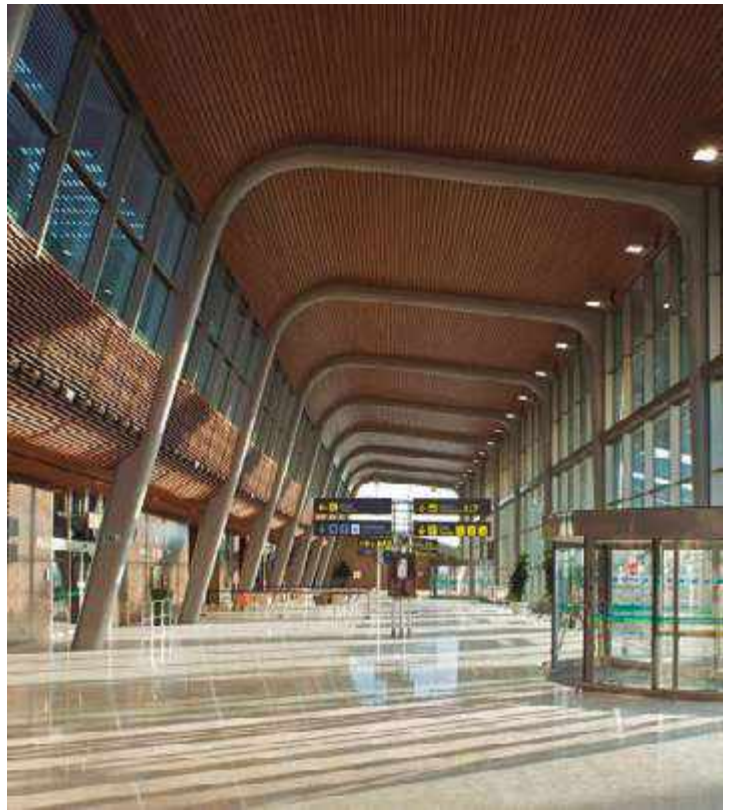


48

airports in Spain

3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

Leon has a modern airport that has recently signed an agreement with the Air Nostrum company that allows it to expand its international flight operations (such as to Paris). However, due to the global pandemic, this initiative has been halted but will be active again in December.



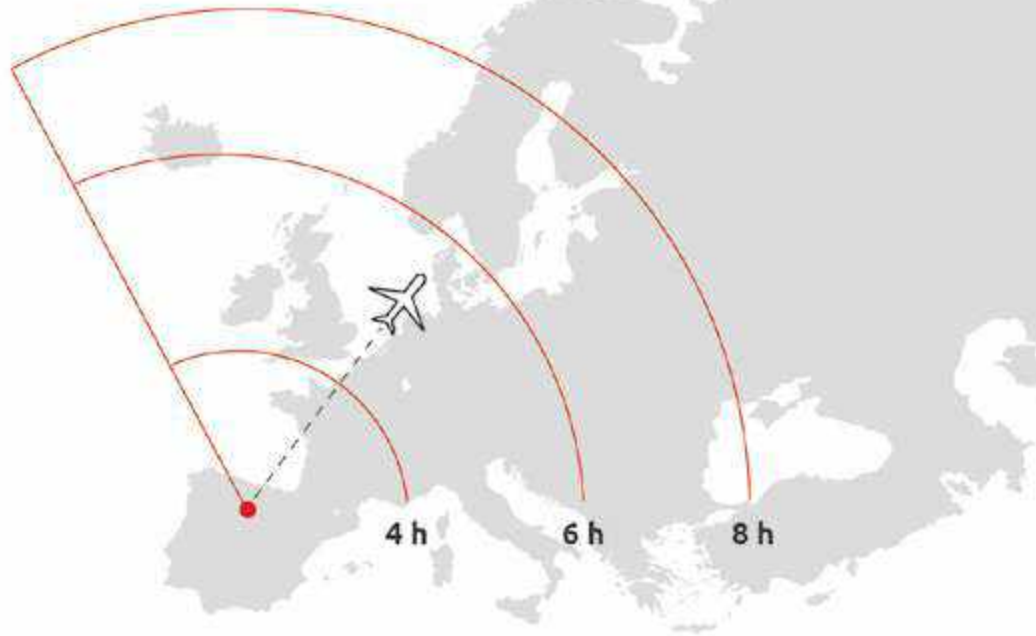
In addition, **Leon airport** has flights with Barcelona airport, the second Spanish airport in terms of passenger traffic, air cargo and number of operations.

The **international airport of Barcelona** is considered by many passengers to be one of the preeminent airports of Europe, ranking as the 7th busiest last year alone, over 44 million passengers from more than 2000 destinations passed through its two terminals, T1 and T2, which are both well connected to the city centre through a wide variety of transport methods.

Leon - Brussels

In just 90 minutes we would be in Barcelona by plane and only 2 hours to get to Madrid by high-speed train.

It takes **2 hours to get to Brussels** by plane.



By motorway

Leon has a **dense road network**, including high-speed roads (highways) connecting to greater cities in Spain:

- A-66 is a major highway in western Spain. It includes European Route E803.
- A-6 and AP-6 are Spanish highway routes that start in Madrid and end in Galicia.
- A-231 is a Spanish highway route that connects Leon to East Spain.

Furthermore, Leon has 10 electric car chargers.



360°

Leon is connected in its 360 degrees with the rest of Spain by important highways



10

public charging points for vehicles



3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

By train

The **best infrastructure in Europe**.

The train is one of the **most comfortable and easiest** ways to reach Leon from anywhere in Spain. Direct trains arrive at the Renfe station, located at the end of the Puente de Los Leones, from Madrid, Barcelona, Gijón, Alicante, Vigo and A Coruña.

Madrid is less than 2 hours train ride away.

Spain has the most extensive high-speed rail network in Europe with more than 3,402 km of tracks and 25 years of service. It is also the world's second-largest after China's, which makes it a **global leader in terms of mobility**.

The service is considered to be **the world's fastest**, with an average speed of 222 km/h, and the most efficient, with a **punctuality rate of 99%**.



Spain has the most extensive high-speed rail network in Europe with more than 3,402 km of tracks and 25 years of service.



Less than

2 h

from Leon to Madrid by train





By bus

The bus is the other most used means of transport to get to Leon. The Bus Station is located near Plaza de Guzmán el Bueno, a 10-minute drive from the city centre. From there you can take a local bus or take a taxi at the stop that is located when leaving the station.

The company Alsa offers **multiple connections with Leon** and affordable prices.

From Madrid's airport Terminal 4 or Madrid's Chamartín train station, it is possible to take a bus to Leon, with nine daily departures. Alsa offers connections with other cities in Spain such as Barcelona, Bilbao, Vitoria, San Sebastián, Santander, Oviedo, Gijón, Badajoz, Logroño, Zaragoza, Albacete, Alicante, Benidorm, Denia, Vigo, Pontevedra, Ourense, Cáceres, A Coruña, Lugo and Valladolid.

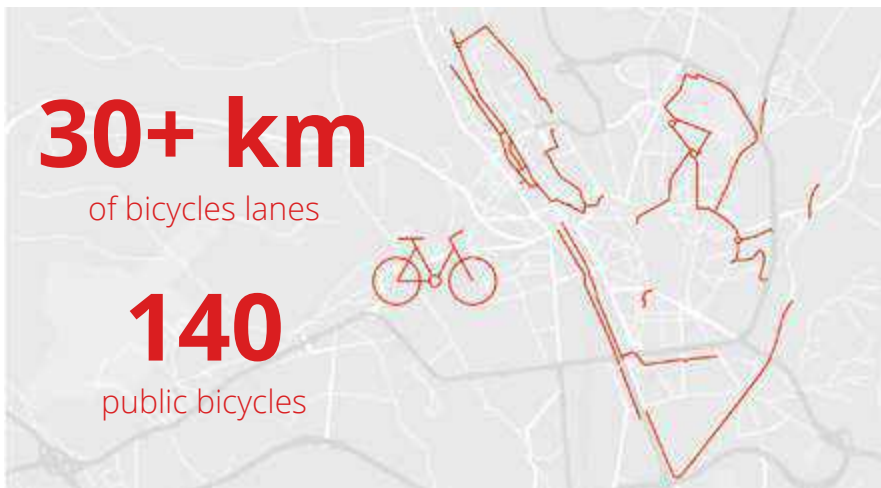
Local mobility

Leon has one of the **shortest commute times of the Spanish cities**, just 16 minutes, well below the Spanish average of 36 minutes (saving 56% of the time), and much less than the European average which is 42 minutes (saving 62% of the time spent). We are talking about the average saving of more than 8 whole days in transportation to work per year. It is in turn the strategic hub of the entire northwest area of Spain.



8+

days a year
is what you save
on transport in Leon



Bicycle transport has become exceptionally important, being part of more than 70% of all journeys, in non-motorized transport, of Leon traffic.

The city council helps this transport with the offer of more than 140 bicycles for rent. The average cost of a bike in Spain is less than 300€ which will be an even greater asset in a city with the speed limit lowered to 30 km/h throughout the city, being even 10 km/h in several areas of the city.





3.3

Enjoyable
city

Camino de Santiago

Leon is a very important part of the Camino de Santiago. In just 11 stages and just over 300 km, pilgrims departing from Leon will be privileged witnesses to the wonderful places and cities that await them on their journey. If you are a bike lover in just 6 stages, you can complete your journey.

Starting the Camino de Santiago from Leon means completing just under half of the entire **French Way**, which starts in Roncesvalles and Somport, in the Pyrenees.

The Camino de Santiago was a great cultural enrichment for the kingdoms through which the route passed. The Camino was a determining factor in the development of Romanesque Art, at the hands of the artists and wise pilgrims who left their mark on the cities they passed through, such as Leon.

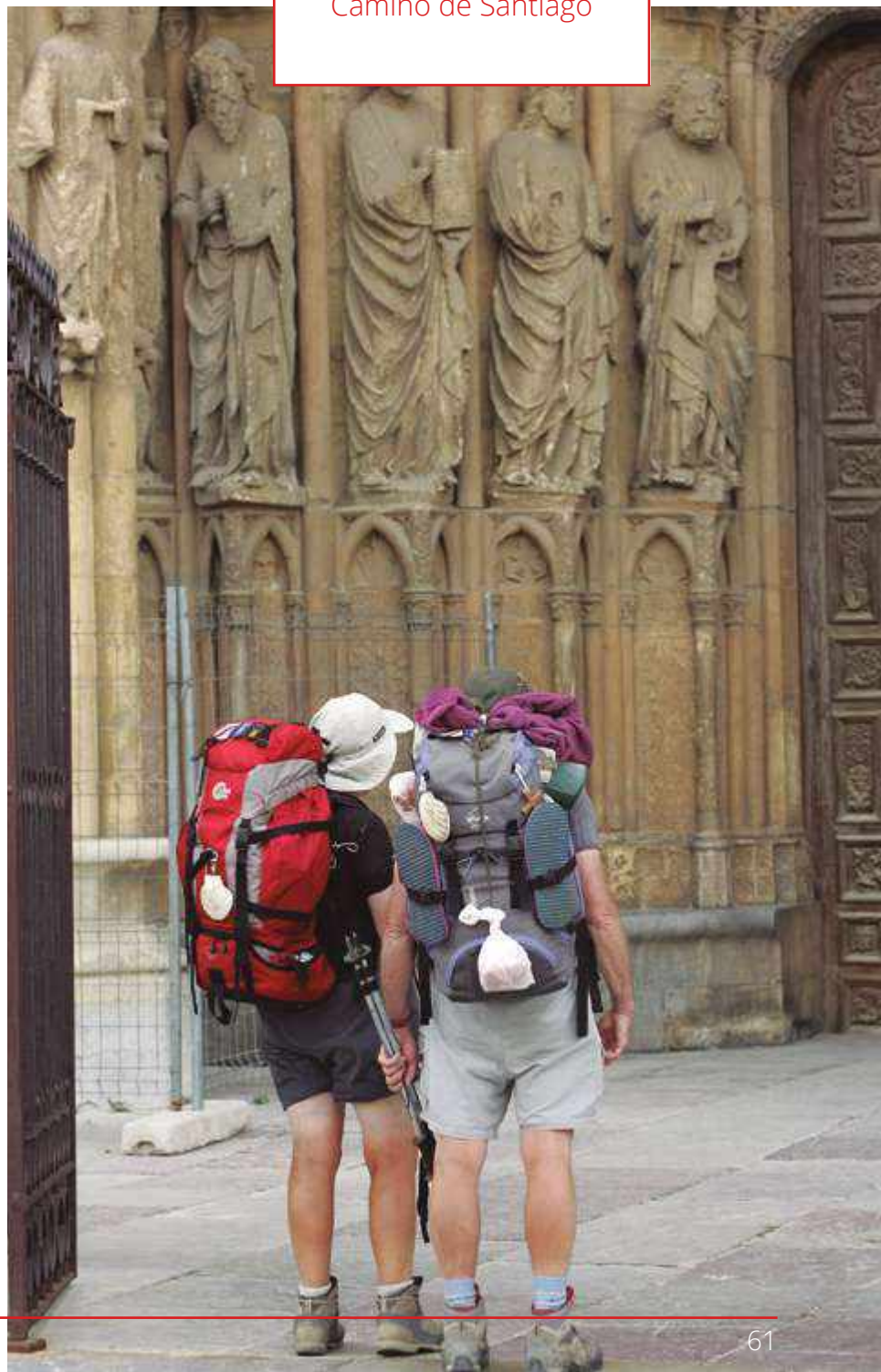
Due to its **international fame**, it receives many pilgrims from different countries every year. Last year 347,578 pilgrims collected their Compostela after walking the Camino de Santiago. 2019 has again been a year of records for the Jacobean Route, as confirmed by the annual report of the Pilgrim Welcome Office of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

58% of pilgrims are foreigners and 42% are from Spain. Spain, Italy, Germany, the United States and Portugal are the countries from which the largest number of pilgrims came in 2019. A year in which a total of 190 different origins were recorded.



300 km

in just 11 stages walking
or 6 by bike, you can
finish the wonderful
Camino de Santiago



A region to get lost in

In Leon there are large green spaces, housing the **highest concentration of Biosphere Reserves**, by UNESCO, of the world in a single province: Picos de Europa (in its surroundings, Leon has four Natural Parks and the Picos de Europa National Park can be reached in just over one hour by car).

Stunning landscapes where you can disconnect from the city and get in touch with wild nature; valleys of Laciana, Babia, Omaña and Luna, Los Ancares leoneses, Los Arguellos and Alto de Bernesga. In total it has more recognized spaces than many European countries.



1st

Leon is the region that has the most reserves of the Biosphere in a single region of the world





30+ km
of ski slopes in Leon

With more than 16,000 km², Leon makes hiking a unique experience to know places, which by their characteristics are of universal interest and deserve protection. The landscapes of Leon showcase incredible differences according to their location, from Picos de Europa to the Ancares, both ecological and anthropological and historical. Upper Bernesga, Riaño, El Bierzo are some of the wonderful places where people can enjoy nature.

San Isidro and Leitariegos are the two **ski resorts** in which lovers of this sport, can enjoy the snow within the province of Leon with more than 30 km of ski slopes.



A walk through history

The history of the city of Leon dates back to the time when the Romans dominated Hispania. That history ran parallel to the development of the Sciences and the Arts in the capital of the Kingdom, which is reflected in its **monumental and artistic wealth**. Leon is a region full of medieval castles perfectly preserved; a few examples of its more than 14 are Ponferrada, Valencia by Don Juan, Laguna de Negrillos, Alija del Infantado or Grajal de Campos.

The monasteries of Leon provide an opportunity to move away from the fast-paced urban life and recover spaces for reflection, walking and quiet chat. The region has more than 20 monasteries to discover peace and rest.



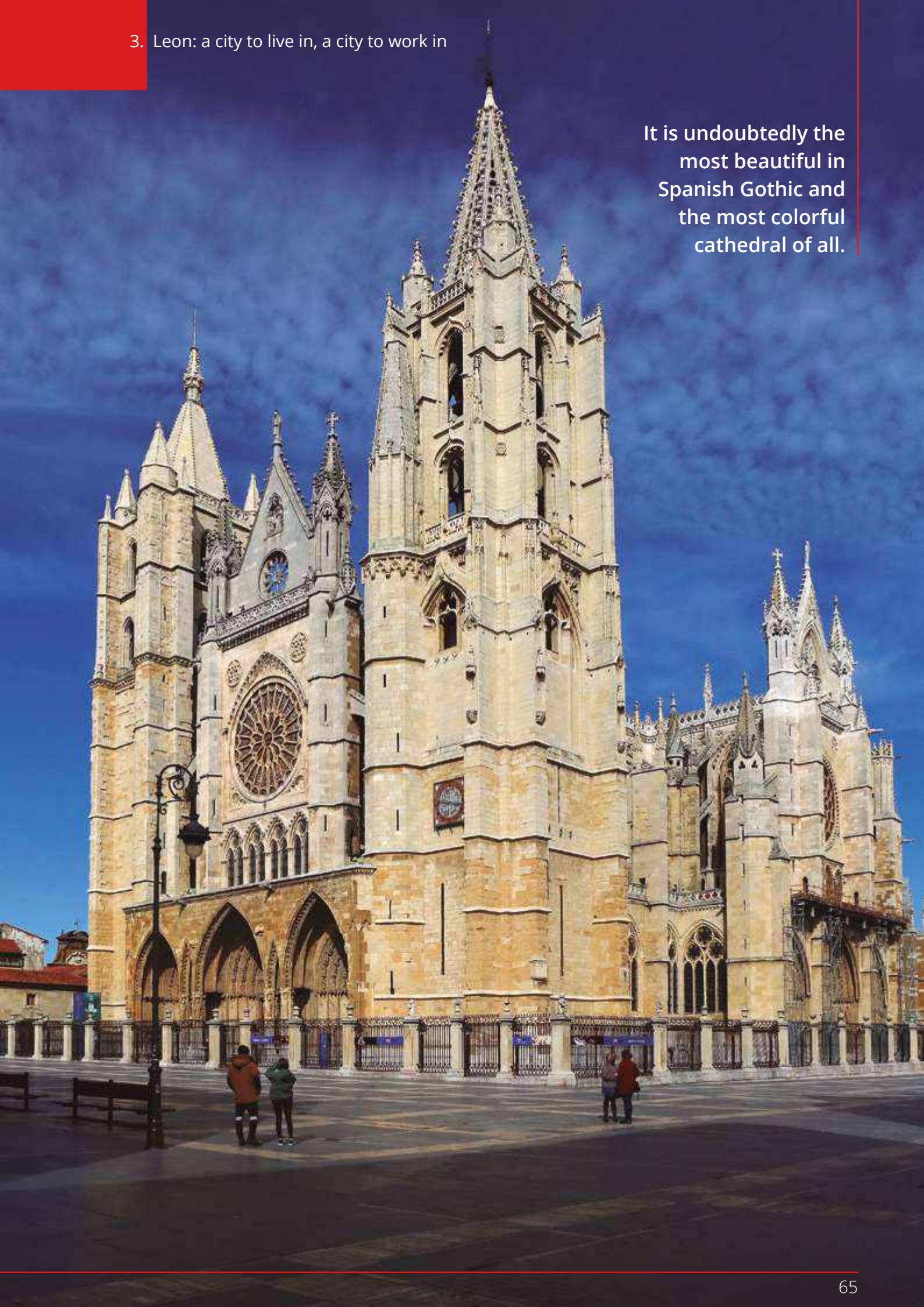
In Leon, the exceptional stained-glass windows of its **Cathedral** offer striking lighting effects inside the temple and the walls seem replaced by the beautiful reflections.

The Pulcra Leonina, a Latin qualifier that defines it as beautiful, was born in the 12th century with the vocation of being the largest cathedral of the time. It failed, but it is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful in Spanish Gothic and the most colorful cathedral of all.

In the Cathedral of Leon everything is subtlety and harmony, to which the stained glass windows contribute decisively - seemingly replacing the walls: these jewels, which in some cases reach twelve meters high, offer surprising lighting effects that bathe every corner of the basilica and together form an area of almost 1,800 square meters that more than justify the term of "Cathedral of Light" granted to the temple.

3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

It is undoubtedly the most beautiful in Spanish Gothic and the most colorful cathedral of all.



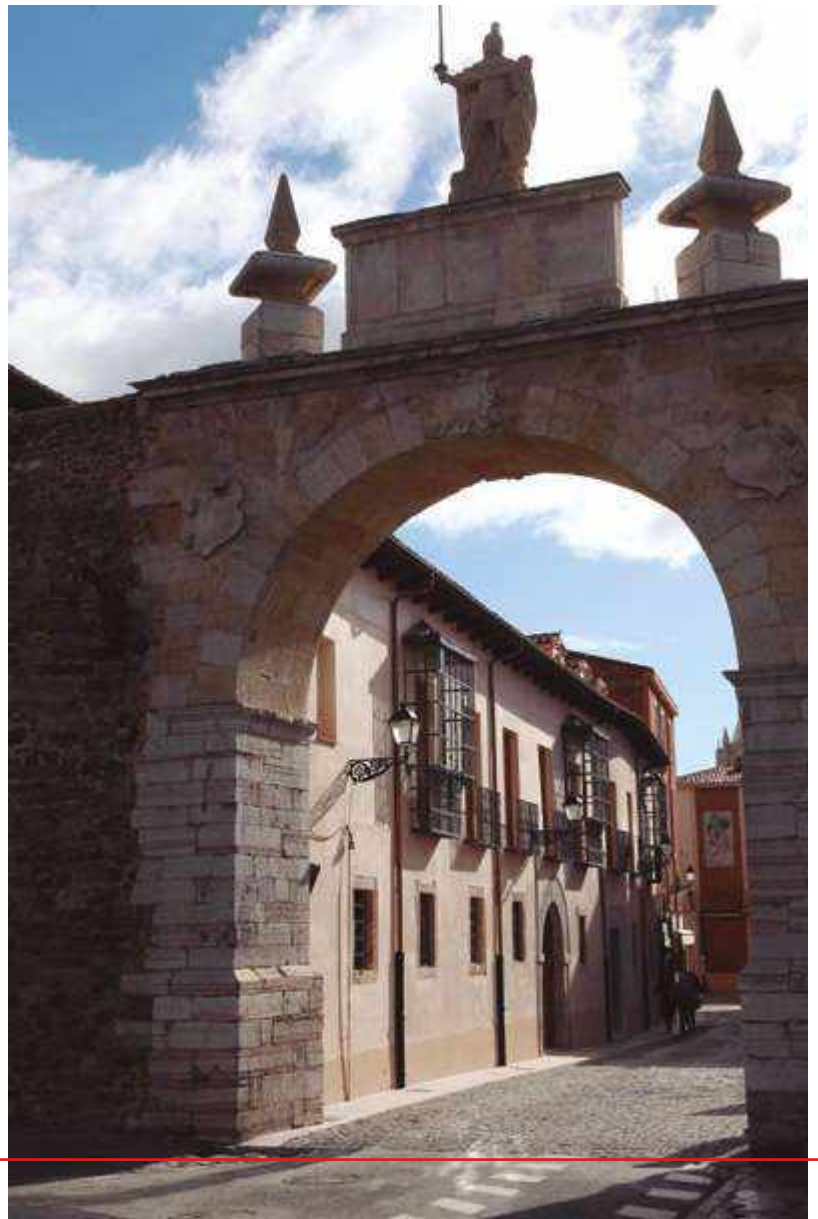
3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in



The passage of cultures and civilizations forms a region of Leon rich in artistic memories.

The Romanesque left beautiful churches unique in its style, in the Mudejar the brick, the tiles and colour were introduced in the monuments, and the Jewish quarters marked a before and after in the current distributions of the cities.

An example of **conciliation of cultures**, religions, and lifestyles. In the province of Leon, you can find more than 12 sites, with high historical value such as Augusta, Castro de la Edrada or Chano, Las Médulas, Roman villas, Cabrea canals, Roman cities, etc.



Cultural activities

Leon is a city with a **broad range of cultural activities**. For example, Leon's citizens can enjoy several museums with permanent and temporary exhibitions.

The **MUSAC**, which is the Museum of Contemporary Art of Castile and Leon, stands out as a place where you can find high value works and an extensive year-round calendar of cultural events.



There's also room for music and performing arts in the city's cultural plans. The City of **Leon Auditorium's** calendar is packed with plays, concerts, stand-up comedy, etc. Its spacious and modern facilities make the Auditorium a must for national and international cultural tours.



3. Leon: a city to live in, a city to work in

Leon is also a city with a long history, as can be seen in its streets and monuments. The city of Leon shows various architectural styles. The breathtaking Gothic-style Cathedral is one of the most visited spots in the city, but there is also the Romanesque-style Basilica of San Isidoro or the Renaissance Convent of San Marcos.



Nowadays, Leon is a vibrant city with **numerous leisure activities**. In the evenings, the centre is full of people filling the bars and restaurants in both the city centre and the outskirts. Some people decide to go to one of the two existing cinemas, or to one of the cultural activities scheduled in the multiple spaces available for them. During the hottest months of the year, concerts and festivals take place throughout the province in parks and outdoors spaces.

Leon owns an art school, Conservatory of Music, Official school of Languages, etc.



Healthy city

There's also room for athletic people in the city, with kilometres of bike lanes and several walking and running trails and routes that begin in the city of Leon itself. Furthermore, Leon has many gyms and sports facilities with football pitches and tennis, paddle, and basketball courts. There are also outdoor and indoor swimming pools. It is **a city for sports lovers** - so much so that Leon has a High-Performance Sports Centre that welcomes young people from all over the country and even the world.

The average monthly cost of a gym in Spain ranges from the 20€ of the low-cost gyms and the almost 70€ of "premium" centres. The penetration rate of gyms in the Spanish market is 11.4% which represents 32% more than the European average. The city has more than 30 gyms and more than 26 kilometres of bikes lanes.

The new football field, next to the Municipal Palace of The Sports of Leon, is practically next to the city centre. With the capacity to accommodate 14,000 people, its facilities host meeting rooms, a gym, fairgrounds, a sports clinic and the headquarters of the main sports teams of the city.



+32%

more gyms in Spain
than the European
average

Gastronomy

There is also an **ingrained leisure culture around the exquisite gastronomic** offering of the city, with bars and restaurants in old neighbourhoods full of charm, with an intense atmosphere thanks to tourists and pilgrims of the Camino de Santiago.

Leon has 5.03 bars and restaurants per 1,000 inhabitants. There are 229 restaurants in the capital of Leon, two of which have been awarded one Michelin star (Pablo and Cocinando), and 1,096 cafés and bars.

In this beautiful city to eat a "**tapa**", small plate of food that accompanies the drink in any bar, is an attractive sight to visitors who come to the Capital of the Old Kingdom to enjoy the miraculous balance of the white architectures of the Cathedral, the solemn austerity of the ancestral stones of St. Isidore, of the gilded San Marcos Renaissance... and, of all, the heady atmosphere of the Wet Quarter, El Burgo Nuevo, La Pícara, Eras and Jarana places, good drinking and better to eat.

As far as wines are concerned, the preferred grape varieties are Mencia from El Bierzo and Prieto Picudo from the south-eastern part of the province. The wine is harmoniously accompanied by "cecina", ham, sausages, tripe, "patatas bravas", black sausages, squid fried or battered in crispy "gabardina", mussels, pickled mackerel, fried sweetbreads, kidneys in sherry, the Galician octopus, Spanish omelettes, etc. are only some of the delicious food that can be found in the bars and restaurants of Leon.



0 €

in Leon it is tradition to eat a "tapa" for each consumption completely for free



Enjoy at home

Spain has one of the **largest and fastest optical fibre networks** in Europe. With an average cost of approximately 41€ per contract, you can enjoy landline and high-speed internet.

Likewise, multiple multimedia content companies that will allow you to enjoy at home the best movies, series, sports, etc. from just over 8€ on average for the main platforms.



Spain, the country of light

Leon has an average of **more than 12 hours a day** of natural light, allowing the population to reduce the energy cost of light.

Recent publications, by scientists from northern Europe, have shown that controlled exposure to ultraviolet B (UVB) has the ability to activate vitamin D3, which in turn has many positive properties - such as the prevention of cancer. The lack of this vitamin is being associated with an increased risk of diabetes, multiple sclerosis, or obesity, among other pathologies. Recent studies also indicate that sunlight causes peripheral vasodilation, promoting blood flow, which some Nordic scientists believe have a positive side effect for people with cardiovascular and hypertension problems, important causes of death in these countries.



2,624 h

of sunlight every
year in Leon



Events

Leon holds **more than 200 events** of different types and interest each year.

Photographic exhibitions, travelling collections, multiple workshops, screenings, wine tastings, theatres, conferences, live art, concerts, zarzuela theatre, painting exhibitions, children's workshops, "Diverviajes", are just a small example of the cultural activities of the city.

Leon also has great events that endure over time, as demonstrated by the more than 13 editions of the "course of contemporary culture", 17 editions of "Classical Music", 6 editions of "Photography Contests", 14 editions of "International Masters of Music", 10 editions of the festival "Grito de Mujer poetry and art", 2 editions of the contest "Reserva de Los Ancares" are just some of the classic festivals that allow its visitors to enter the world of culture.



200+

events of diversity of themes and activities to the delight of one's own and others



Shopping

The commercial offering of Leon has increased notably in recent years with new shops, restaurants, and cinemas.

A lot of buildings have been constructed for leisure and entertainment, taking care over design, architecture and their integration into the landscape, and combining daring materials such as steel and glass with more traditional ones typical of Leonese architecture such as the stone from the Maragatería region and Boñar.

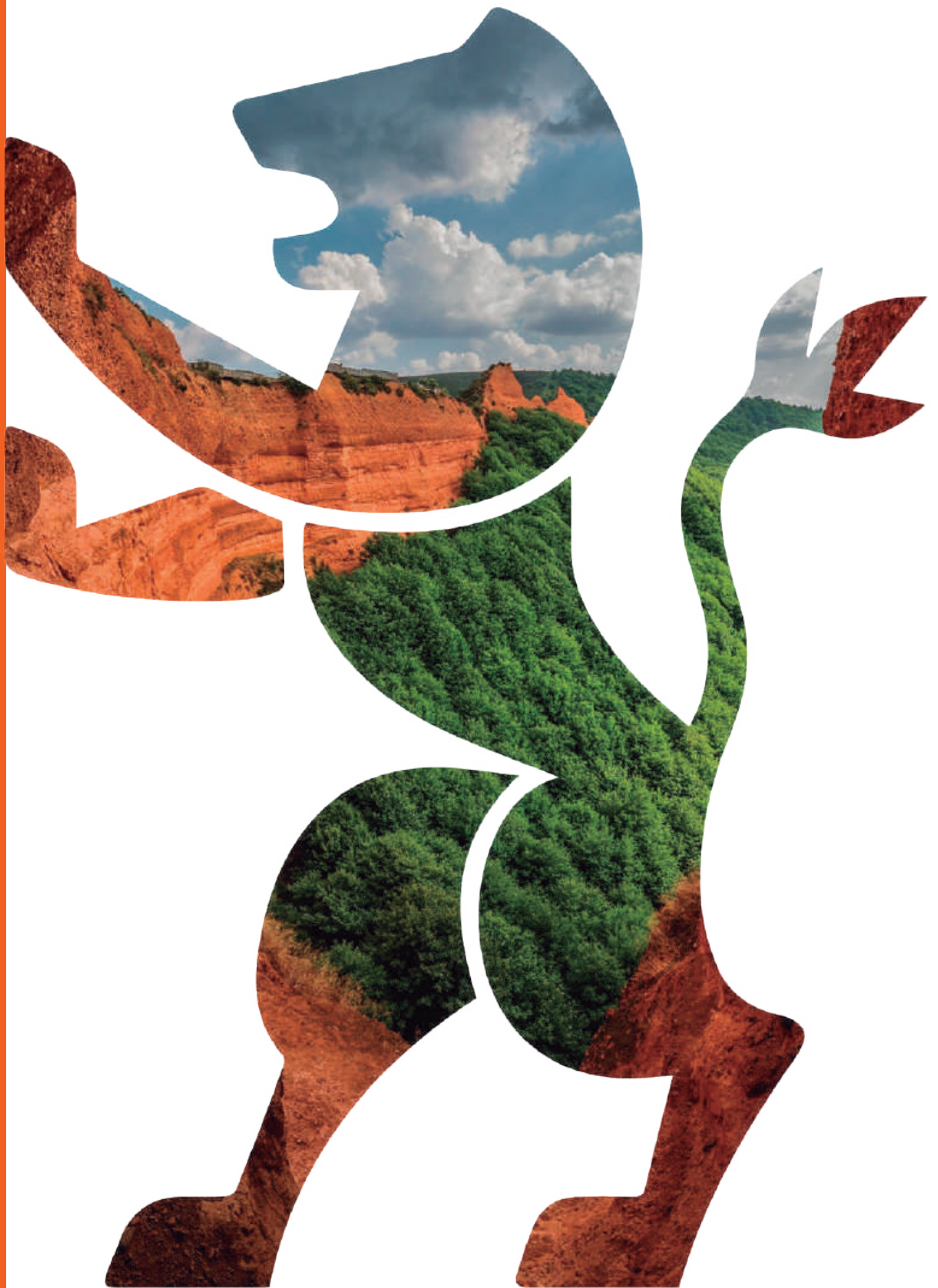
The result is impressive, as these spectacular buildings are outstanding for everyone.



4

Castilla and Leon, a vibrant region

Castilla and Leon stands out for being one of the Spanish regions with the greatest cultural, heritage, ethnographic and natural wealth.



4. Castilla and Leon, a vibrant region

Spain is a decentralized country, with an administrative organization of 17 Autonomous Communities (Regions); 2 autonomous cities - Ceuta and Melilla - and 8125 local entities. With 2.4 million inhabitants and 94,224 km², it is the **largest region in Spain** in terms of surface area (18.62% of the total).

The Junta de Castilla y León, as the Region's governing body, has multiple exclusive powers beyond those of the Central Government, some of which have a high impact on the centre, such as health, education, research and others.

Castilla and Leon is located in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula, at the top of the central plateau and is a natural passage between Portugal and the rest of Europe. It is made up of **nine provinces**, Avila, Burgos, Leon, Palencia, Salamanca, Segovia, Soria, Valladolid and Zamora.

The Autonomous Community of Castilla and Leon is made up of the historical territories that are the former crowns of Leon and Castilla. Over the centuries, it has made a **decisive contribution to the formation of Spain** as a nation and has been an important link between Europe and America. A multitude of cultures has passed through Castilla and Leon, leaving their mark.

Castilla and Leon, birthplace and residence of illustrious characters from the past has been for Spain and for Europe **an example of respect, coexistence, dialogue in diversity and interculturality** during centuries of history.

Castilla and Leon has some **modern communication routes**. A growing network of motorways connect it in a way that is fast and smooth with the main Spanish and European cities. It is a fundamental hub of the national railway network and It is through it that the greatest part of the northern rail network runs.



Transports

Castilla and Leon's geographical location gives it a privileged position on three levels:

- **National:** it borders more than half of the other Spanish regions.
- **European:** it borders Portugal, and is a central part of the Lisbon-Paris-Helsinki axis, enabling logistics to be optimised.
- **Worldwide:** it connects the North of Spain with North Africa, and has easy access to the Atlantic and France.

Roads

Castilla and Leon has a **modern and efficient network of highways and motorways** that allow for fluid traffic with the rest of the Iberian Peninsula and Europe (the French border is 150 kms from Castilla and Leon). Most kilometres of the regional road network are free of charge, and are in excellent condition thanks to frequent maintenance.

In total, there are more than 2,440 km of motorways and highways in the region, and internally, almost all provincial capitals are currently linked by motorways and highways.

Airports



There are **4 airports in Castilla and Leon:** Villanubla in Valladolid, Matacán in Salamanca, Virgen del Camino in Leon and Villafría in Burgos, which offer all the necessary air communication services, both for goods and passengers. All of them are at a maximum distance from the city of 15 kilometres, with comfortable and fast access.

Adolfo Suárez-Barajas International Airport (Madrid) is 55 minutes from the centre of the region.

Train

In addition to communicating the region with all the neighbouring autonomous communities and with Portugal, Castilla and Leon has a railway network that crosses the region with a total length of more than 3,000 km, through which most of the railway traffic of the northern half of Spain passes.

Castilla and Leon plays the role of articulating and connecting freight traffic between the south of the peninsula and the north, especially in its branches to the northwest (Galicia) and northeast (Basque Country, Catalonia and France).

The **High Speed Train** places Madrid less than an hour away from Valladolid and 20 minutes away from Segovia, while connecting the capital with the North of Spain and, soon, with the Atlantic coast and the Northeast of the Iberian Peninsula. The infrastructure plans envisage the extension of sections in the Community both on internal routes and in their direct connection with other regions and indirectly with the French TGV.



Besides, it's not just a region to visit, it's a place to stay. This is due to an **impeccable healthcare and education system** that makes Castilla and Leon a fantastic place to live, ensuring the well-being and quality of life of those who choose it as such.

Education

The educational infrastructure of Castilla and Leon is very complete and its offer in the field of education is at the height of the most developed regions. This privileged position enables a **high level of training and quality of human resources** in the region.

In Castilla and Leon there are **more than 1,000 schools** providing primary and secondary education to more than 275,000 students. Of these centres, over **500 offer some bilingual learning** section and that coexists with 34 other official foreign language schools. Among them, there are three international schools located in the provinces of Burgos, Valladolid and Leon.



1,000+
schools in Castilla
and Leon



500+
offer bilingual
Spanish-English
education

This educational offer is complemented by an extensive and developed **system of vocational training plans** aimed at ensuring an adequate integration in the labor market with the highest level of training. Thus, there are over 200 centres providing vocational training with almost 40,000 students.





9

universities in
Castilla and Leon



UNIVERSIDAD
DE SALAMANCA

1st

oldest university
in Spain and the
3rd in Europe

At upper levels of education, Castilla and Leon is the Spanish region and one of the European countries with the **highest university population** among its youth.

This system allows, at the same time, a process of continuous training and adaptability of employees to the diversification experienced by regional companies. In addition, it guarantees the supply of qualified professionals for all the necessary positions in any company, regardless of their size or sector of activity.

The regional educational fabric currently has **prestigious universities** and a great offer of education and training.

There are 9 traditional universities with more than 83,000 students. Some of them deserve special interest, such as Salamanca and Valladolid, as they are internationally famous for being two of the **oldest universities in Spain and Europe**.

4 Public universities:

- University of Leon (UNILEON)
- University of Valladolid (UVA)
- University of Salamanca (USAL)
- University of Burgos (UBU)

5 Private universities:

- Catholic University of Avila (UCAV)
- IE University (IEU)
- Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca (UPSA)
- Miguel de Cervantes European University (UEMC)
- Isabel I University (UI1)

The importance of the universities of Castilla and Leon not only translates into the training of human resources, but also in the realization **scientific research and technological development projects**. The universities of Castilla and Leon have research experience and a very important scientific potential, which can be transferred to companies in the region. Thus, the share of university expenditure on R&D has grown significantly over the last few years. Only in the public Universities of Castilla and Leon work 6,150 researchers, which has a positive repercussion on the business fabric of Castilla and Leon.

Healthcare system

Healthcare in Spain is universal and supported through different types of taxes, it has a **wide network of primary care centres and hospitals** all around Spain to which all inhabitants are entitled.

The health service of Castilla and Leon - better known by its acronym Sacyl - is the public service which manages public health care in the Spanish autonomous community of Castilla and Leon, belonging to the National Health System, established in 1986 and heir to the National Health Institute.

At the care level, the organisation of health services is established at the following levels:

- **Primary care**, which takes place in the health centres through the primary care teams, made up of family doctors, paediatricians, nurses, auxiliaries, etc. They include hospitals, clinics, outpatient care centres and specialised care centres such as maternity hospitals and psychiatric centres. There are a total of 489 health centres in Castilla and Leon, all of them publicly owned and attached to Sacyl.
- **Specialised care**, which is provided in outpatient clinics and hospitals. In the region of Castilla and Leon, there are a total of 37 hospitals distributed in its provinces and more than 9,000 beds available.



- **Accidents and Emergencies:** Emergency healthcare in the out-of-hospital area in Castilla and Leon is managed by the Regional Healthcare Management. It is a single body whose scope of action extends to the entire Autonomous Community. The aim of the service is to provide health care for out-of-hospital medical emergencies and to coordinate the different levels of health care. The service operates 24 hours a day throughout the year and is accessible to anyone in need of this type of assistance through telephone number 112.

4. Castilla and Leon, a vibrant region

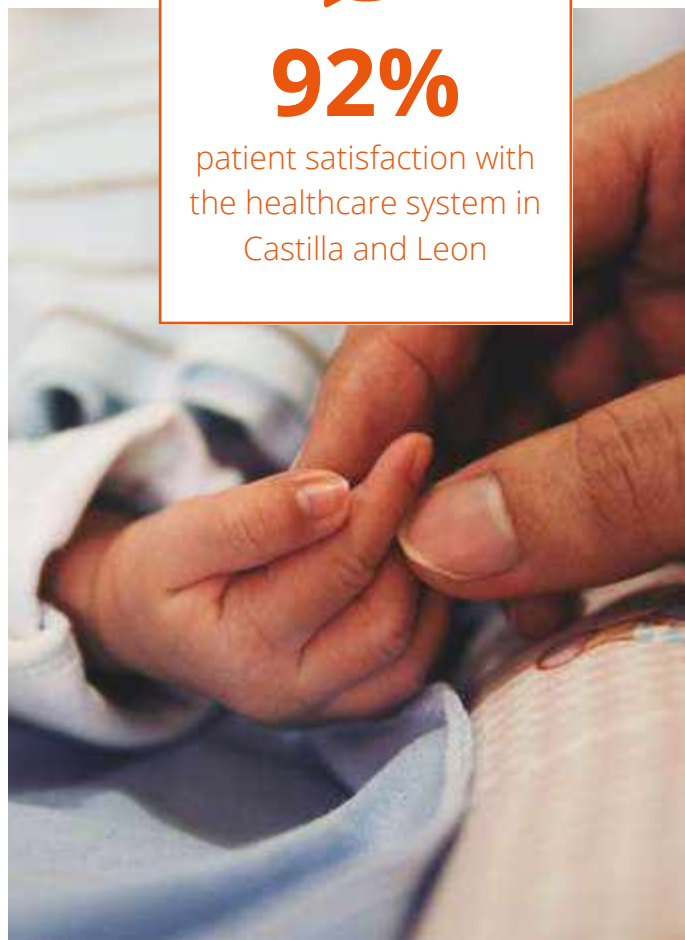
In addition, Sacyl offers a **series of services for the patient**, resulting in a 92% patient satisfaction rate for the health system in Castilla and Leon.

- **Making appointments in advance** with your health centre, as well as **accessing your medical records** digitally.
- **Mother's milk bank.** This is a specialised centre where human milk donated by selected mothers is received, processed, stored and then distributed to hospital centres to feed hospitalised newborns who cannot receive milk from their own mother. The donation is voluntary and altruistic, and the administration of milk is done under medical prescription. The Milk Bank guarantees the anonymity of both donor women and recipient patients at all times.
- **Health Card.** This is the administrative document that accredits certain details of its holder and facilitates access to the benefits of the National Health System. It is a personal and non-transferable card that each member of the family must have, whatever their age, and regardless of whether they are the holder or the beneficiary.



92%

patient satisfaction with
the healthcare system in
Castilla and Leon



- **Register of Prior Instructions.** This is the right to leave written decisions on your health care in advance, in anticipation of a future situation in which it is impossible for you to express your will personally.
- Search engines for **health resources and Sacyl centres**, as well as access to the General Register of health centres, services and establishments.
- **Complaints and suggestions.** These are an expression of each citizen's participation in the Healthcare System since, through it, users express their opinion on its operation. Likewise, it is a fundamental instrument for finding out the perception that the recipients of its services have of it, as well as their degree of satisfaction.
- **Organ donation.** The donor card can be requested through Sacyl from the Regional Transplant Coordination Office-Ministry of Health (Valladolid).
- **Healthcare for Castilians and Leonese living abroad,** taking a further step in healthcare for the Castilian and Leonese population, the Community of Castilla and Leon guarantees free healthcare in emergencies arising from common illnesses and/or non-work related accidents to all emigrants from this community who are not otherwise entitled to it and who are temporarily displaced within the territory of this Autonomous Community.

Research and Development

Over the past decades, the European Union has been found to lag behind the United States and Japan in terms of its R&D intensity and contribution to growth, despite significant public investment efforts in R&D. Although Europe has a significant research capacity, it still lags behind in the **application of innovation as a source of competitiveness**.

This is particularly relevant in the current scenario, where society and the economy are immersed in a process of globalisation and a strong increase in international competition. The economic dynamics vary from one area to another, and a global panorama has emerged in which new actors have positioned themselves and global commercial and productive relations have been structured. In this situation, reducing the gap between Europe and the most dynamic countries is essential.

The expert working group "Knowledge for Growth" concluded that the attribution of the **innovation gap between the United States and Europe** was due to the existing differentials between the critical mass reached in R&D between both, but above all to the mismatch between the priority fields of R&D and innovation and the nature of the economic structure in Europe. This mismatch is what has led to lower relative competitiveness of European companies compared to those of the United States.

Regional strategies for intelligent specialisation are based on the idea that you can't bet on everything and that regions must identify the areas of technological and knowledge specialisation that will allow them to generate increasingly competitive activities that generate wealth and employment.

These guidelines, supported by the European Commission, have been included at international level in the reference framework for R&D and Information Society policies, the Europe 2020 Strategy, as well as in the emblematic initiatives which aim to stimulate Europe's innovative capacities: the Innovation Union and the Digital Agenda for Europe.





+6.6%

of annual expenditure
on innovation in recent
years

At the national level, these premises have been **reflected in the Spanish Science and Technology and Innovation Strategy, 2013-2020** and in the Digital Agenda for Spain.

On the other hand, the European Commission has proposed intelligent specialisation as a precondition for investment in two key objectives of the cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020: R&D and the Information Society.

Taking into account all this background, the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon has drawn up the **Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Intelligent Specialisation (RIS3) for Castilla and Leon 2014-2020**, which has recently been updated for the period 2018-2020.

The new strategy for intelligent specialisation in Castilla and Leon will cover the 2021-2027 programming period, coinciding with the duration of the operational programmes of the European Funds for Cohesion Policy and the European Commission's 9th Framework Programme for Research, Horizon Europe.

Cultural tourism

Castilla and Leon have a **rich, cultural and artistic legacy** that is second to none. Without doubt, the **11 World Heritage Sites declared by UNESCO** stand out: The French Camino de Santiago, the Cathedral of Burgos, the sites of the Sierra de Atapuerca (Burgos), the natural monument of Las Médulas in Leon, the cities of Ávila, Salamanca and Segovia, the archaeological sites of Siega Verde (Salamanca), the beech forests of Cuesta Fría and Canal de Asotín in Leon and the beech forest of Riofrío de Riaza in Segovia, in addition to the Mediterranean diet and falconry. But it also has a large number of castles, fortresses, fortresses, monasteries and unique ecclesiastical buildings. Centuries of history carved into its walls, facades, cathedrals and Jewish quarters.

In addition Castilla and Leon treasures a large part of the Spanish cultural heritage, more than 300 castles, more than 400 museums, collections and interpretation centres that collect the artistic, cultural and ethnographic wealth of our Region as well as 23,000 archaeological sites. It also has more than a **hundred festivals declared of regional, national and international tourist interest**, of which Holy Week, one of the most deeply rooted and popular religious, cultural and popular manifestations, and of which Castilla and Leon It has 8 of the 22 declared of international tourist interest in all of Spain.

Also, Castilla and Leon, known as the **cradle of the Castilian language**, is home to the Camino de la Lengua. A route that shows the traveller the milestones and places where one of the most important languages in the world sprouted. This route allows us to immerse ourselves in history, art and culture and to live with the birth and development of a universal language that is currently spoken by more than 400 million people around the world.



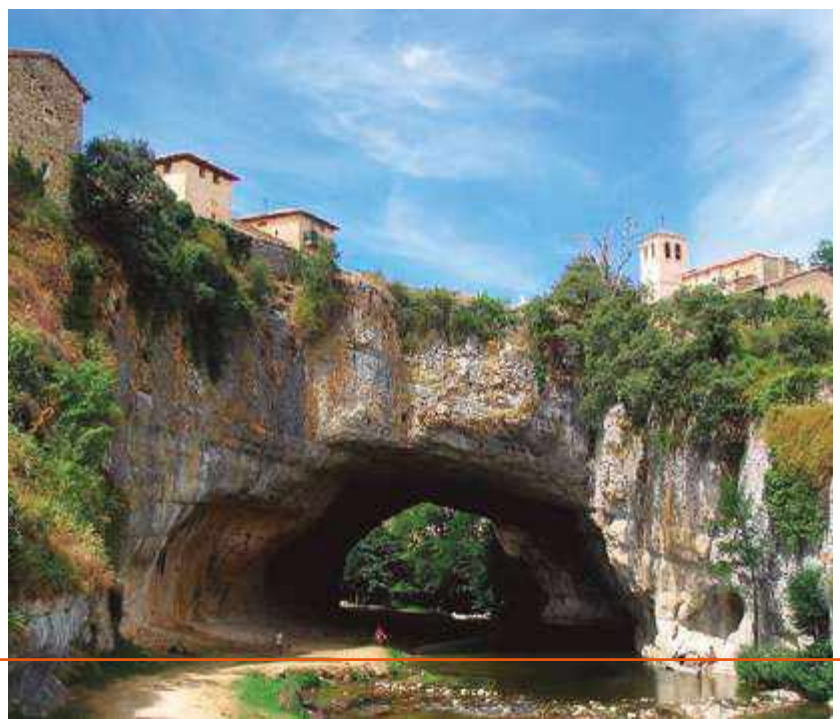
11

World Heritage Sites
declared by Unesco



2M+

visitors every
year





10

Biospheres Reserves
declared by Unesco



Nature

Castilla and Leon has a **great wealth of landscapes** and, given its environmental values, a large part of the Community has been protected within the Network of Natural Areas of the Castilla and Leon Government. It also has **10 Biosphere Reserves, declared by UNESCO**, distributed among Leon (7), Salamanca (2), Zamora (1) and Segovia (1).

The diversity of natural areas that Castilla and Leon boasts makes it a favourite destination for its natural heritage. Nature is a first-class tourist product made up of mountain massifs, unparalleled valleys, gorges, peaks, unique caves, rivers and lakes with a history that goes back millions of years. This **great variety of ecosystems**, landscapes and natural formations make Castilla and Leon one of the most valuable European regions for its biodiversity and the richness of its natural heritage.



Health tourism

Castilla and Leon has been able to take advantage of the richness of its spring waters and has become an ideal destination for **health and wellness tourism**. The treatments offered by the spas are mainly aimed at providing well-being without renouncing or neglecting the recreational and leisure part that water also provides.

Castilla and Leon has suggestive accommodation that allows you to get away from the stress of everyday life for a few days and turn your leisure time and holidays into moments of relaxation and enjoyment through water circuits, showers, saunas, Jacuzzi... and therapies such as massages or beauty treatments such as wine therapy.



Rural tourism

Castilla and Leon is the leading Spanish Autonomous Community in rural tourism in terms of the number of establishments. It also has a quality brand of rural tourism establishments called Posadas Reales, which brings together **the best rural accommodation** in the most beautiful corners of the Community.



Active tourism

Sport, nature and culture coexist in the thousand-year-old corners of Castile and Leon. **The region has reinvented nature tourism** through its modern ski resorts, its golf courses and the adaptation of bathing areas in reservoirs, rivers and canals, delighting lovers of outdoor sports, in all their forms.

The enormous extension of Castilla and Leon, one of the largest in Europe, with a natural wealth that has been protected in 28 Natural Spaces, its orography and climate offer **perfect conditions to practice adventure activities**. It is a different, fun, and on many occasions, an exciting way to enjoy contact with nature more dynamically, doing outdoor activities: cycling, climbing, hiking, trekking, equestrian routes...

Gastronomy

The gastronomy of Castilla and Leon is a **heritage, ethnographic and cultural asset** of enormous value. The nine provinces of the Community share tastes and flavours, but at the same time, they are very diversified in terms of cuisine.

It offers a **wide variety of dishes** made with **products with quality designations**, meats, sausages, cheeses, legumes, fruits and vegetables, which make its cuisine one of the most appreciated and complete in Spain. This culinary and gastronomic wealth is put on display every day by a **large network of hotel and restaurant professionals** who are part of the teams of more than 5,000 restaurants. Some of them, possessing important merits, recognition and presence in reference gastronomic guides, such as the Michelin guide or the Repsol guide. In addition to this gastronomic structure, there is a calendar full of celebrations, events and conferences.

In the Spanish **winemaking map**, Castilla and Leon occupies a privileged place because it has **17 designations of origin** of which three are premium wines. In addition, Castilla and Leon has a figure of quality as a wine from all the territory, the geographical mention (PGI) of Wine from the Land of Castilla and Leon. Castilla and Leon is the Spanish region with the **highest number of Certified Wine Routes**: Arlanza Wine Route, Arribes Wine Route, Bierzo Wine Route, Cigales Wine Route, Ribera del Duero Wine Route, Rueda Wine Route, Sierra de France and the Toro Wine Route.



5,000+

restaurants along the region of Castilla and Leon



1st

Spanish region in number of Certified Wine Routes



Traditional and avant-garde festivals

In Castilla and Leon it is also possible to enjoy culture, gastronomy and heritage actively through cultural events, gastronomic events and commemorations that are held throughout the 365 days of the year.

There are more than a hundred festivals declared of regional, national and international tourist interest, such as Easter, **traditional and popular celebrations combined with new events and festivals of the most modern**, such as Titirimundi, a theatre festival with puppets and marionettes; Cir&Co, the Castilla and Leon International Circus Festival, Seminci, the Valladolid International Film Week, or Facyl, the Castilla and Leon International Arts Festival, which combines music, art, theatre, urban dance...



Much more than tourism

The geographical location of Castilla and Leon, the good connections with the rest of Spain and the tourist offer of each province, make our Region a **strategic point for the celebration of events, fairs and congresses**.

Castilla and Leon has a **consolidated structure for hosting large events**. It has a wide range of facilities and equipment (conference centres, auditoriums, unique spaces, hotels, monasteries, wineries, universities, rural centres and castles, among others, which make the difference compared to other destinations), as well as external services such as catering, transport, translators, shows or any other service which, together with its quality hotel and catering facilities, is capable of absorbing many of these demands under the best conditions.



5

Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity

Spain is a country strongly committed to cybersecurity, being a national priority for public administrations, private sector and the innovation and research ecosystem.



5. Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity

Spain's firm commitment to digital sovereignty and the Spanish way of approaching Cybersecurity is **reflected in its maturity as recognized by the GCI** (Global Cybersecurity Index) issued by the ITU (International Telecommunications Union), that positions Spain as the **4th European and 7th worldwide**, in the ranking of countries with the highest levels of Cybersecurity maturity.

During the last two decades, Spain, with Leon as the Spanish capital of Cybersecurity, established strong foundations, based in four pillars: our cybersecurity framework, our cybersecurity public & private sector, our research ecosystem and innovation, entrepreneurship and high-quality facilities.

The Cybersecurity Spanish law, our cyber-strategy, the technology, the size and critical mass that enables our ability to execute, and our culture of cooperation with all the European countries and institutions, make Spain and Leon the most realistic candidate to host the Centre.

During the last two decades, Spain, with Leon as the Spanish capital of Cybersecurity, establishing strong foundations.



1st

Country in the European Union with 54 CSIRTs, the highest according to ENISA



4th

country in the EU for cybersecurity maturity



Cybersecurity Code of Law

7th

country worldwide



5. Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity

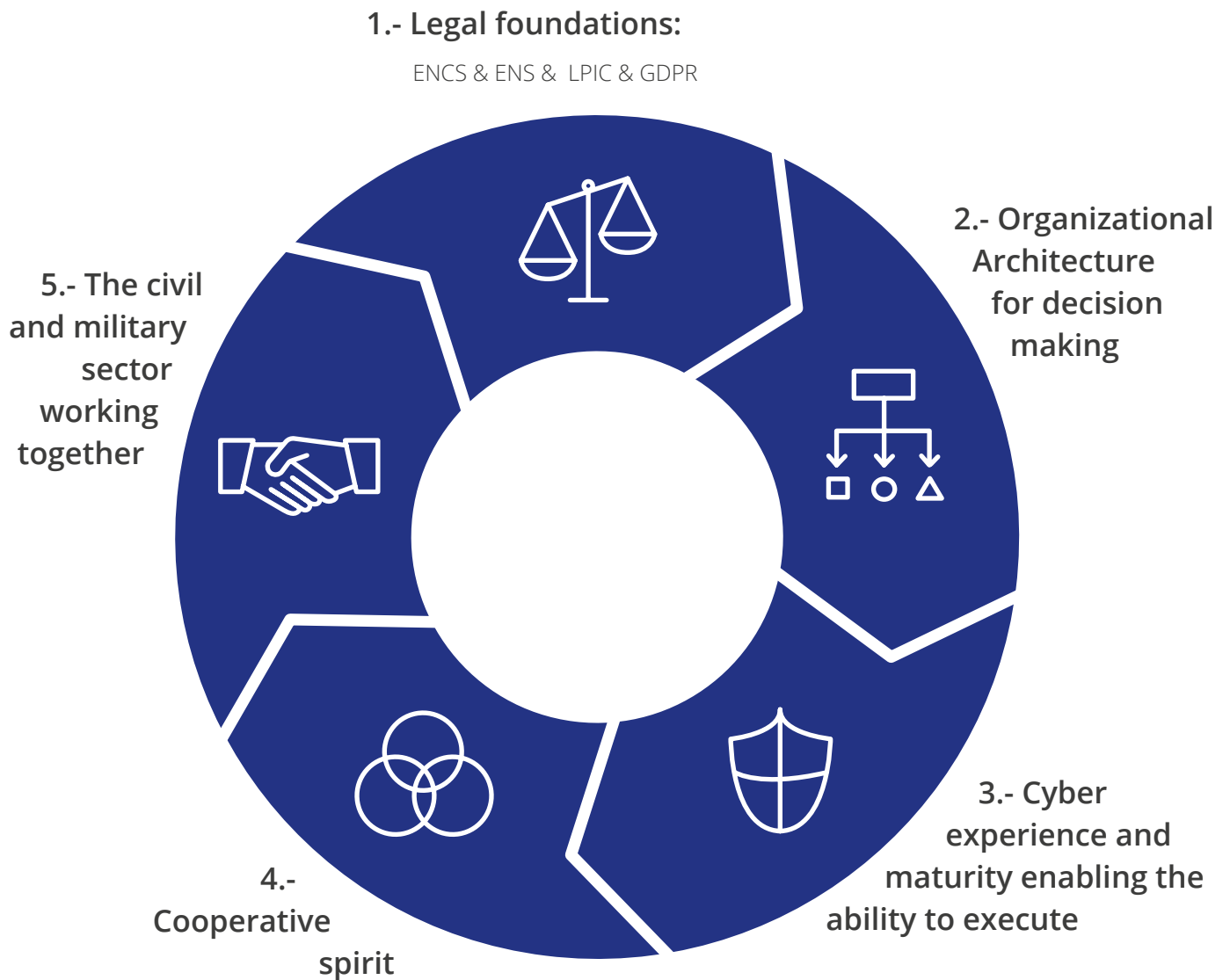


A photograph of a set of concrete stairs with metal railings, viewed from a low angle looking up. The stairs are made of grey concrete and have a simple metal railing with vertical posts. The background is a bright, slightly overcast sky. The overall tone is clean and modern.

5.1

Cybersecurity framework

The Spanish way



The adoption of the **NIS directive** and its transposition became an important milestone in the harmonization, coupling and synchronization of already an existing framework in Spain.

This Directive designates national competent authorities, single point of contacts and reference CSIRT´s like a solid foundation to construct the European Cybersecurity framework. Spain, with its **54 public and private CSIRTs**, leads the **European ranking** recognized by ENISA.





Legal foundations

The cornerstone of cybersecurity is the legislative framework and the strong commitment of Spanish public administrations, which have created the appropriate conditions to promote the maturity of our current ecosystem.

Spain is one of the few countries that has a **Cybersecurity Code of Law**, a compendium of laws that apply to cybersecurity and updated in August 2020. A **complete set of laws and regulations it's been implemented during the past 20 years**, made the Spanish Cybersecurity Framework with the maturity and the appropriate volume to make Spain the most appropriate candidate to host the Centre.

This Legal foundation is based on **four pillars**.

1.- Estrategia Nacional de Ciberseguridad (ENCS- National Cybersecurity Strategy)

Spain established in 2013 its first National Cybersecurity Strategy (ENCS) and after seven years of experience and the new goals due to advances of digitalisation, Spain has a new updated edition in 2019, published by the Government of Spain through the Department of National Security (DSN).

Aligned with the objectives of the Centre, it establishes the principles of governance, entities and Spain's commitment to the EU and NATO Cybersecurity framework. It includes five strategic objectives and seven lines of action, including internationalisation, the seed of this candidacy.



Line of action V

contributes to cyberspace security internationally, promoting open, diverse, secure and trustworthy cyberspace supporting national and European interests

Strategy goals

General goal

Spain will guarantee the secure, reliable use of cyberspace, protecting citizen's rights and freedoms and promoting socio-economic progress.



Goal 01

Security and resilience of information and communication networks and systems for the public sector and essentials services.



Goal 02

Secure and reliable use of cyberspace to ward off illicit or malicious use.



Goal 03

Protecting the business and social ecosystem and citizens.



Goal 04

Culture and commitment to cybersecurity and strengthening human and technological skills.



Goal 05

International cyberspace security.

2.- Esquema Nacional de Seguridad (ENS- National Security Framework)

The National Security Framework is established by Law 11/2007 and defines a framework of obligatory compliance for the Public Administrations, which has made the maturity of cybersecurity evolve throughout the national territory.

It requires the implementation of 75 security controls including organisational, operational and technological. The ENS and its certification scheme with more than 10 years experience have led to the high maturity of cybersecurity of the Spanish Public Administration.



3.- Ley de Protección de Infraestructuras Críticas (LPIC – Critical Infrastructures Law)

Spanish law 8/2011 establishes the legal framework and the architecture of national agencies necessary for the protection of critical infrastructure. The transcript of the Council Directive on the identification and designation of European Critical Infrastructure (CI), establishes a Spanish model based on trust and cooperation of public administration and private critical infrastructure operators, initially without a penalty regime. This has led to the significant improvement of the protection of CI and the creation of the National Centre.

4.- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

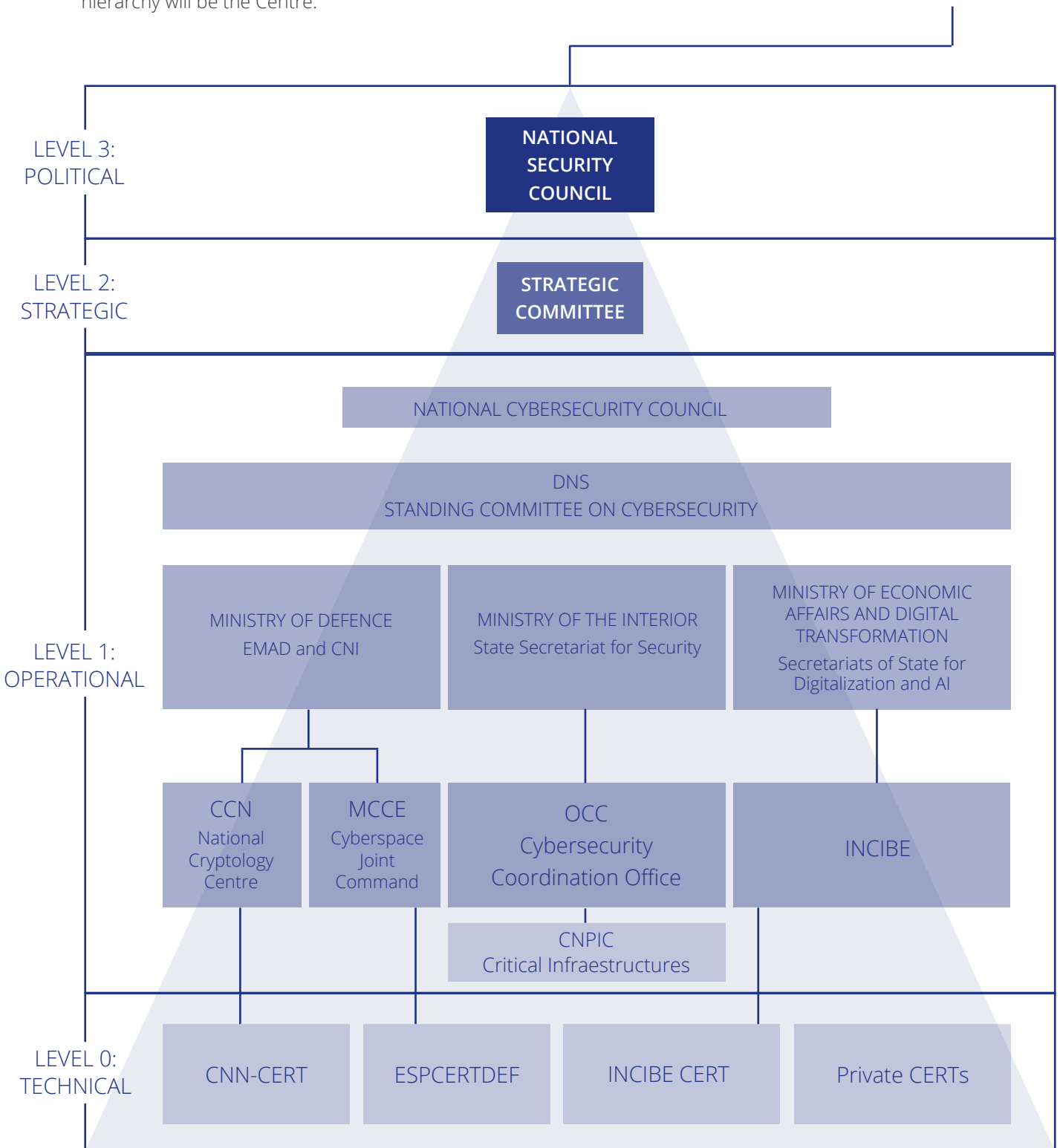
The first Spanish law for the protection of personal data dates from December 1999, (LOPD) and had very high levels of compliance, which has put Spain in an advantageous position. The law 8/2011 establishes the legal framework, and the architecture of agencies to enhance privacy and therefore cybersecurity.

The Agencia Española de Protección de Datos (AEPD – Spanish Data Protection Agency) is the public organization in charge of the overall management of personal data for public and private sectors.



Cybersecurity architecture

For centralised decision-making concerning cybersecurity, it is crucial to have an architecture of hierarchical and specialised bodies, with the **capacity to act from a political, strategic, operational and technical point** of view at the Spanish national level, coordinated from Leon, and whose superior hierarchy will be the Centre.



5. Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity

At the political level, authority emanates from the Government of Spain, from the Department of National Security with the National Security Council, chaired by the President of the Government.

At the strategic level, the Strategic Committee will act following the political-strategic guidelines adopted by the National Security Council for crisis management.

On the operational level, the highest body is the National Council of Cybersecurity which consists of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation.



Based on the collaboration of these three Ministries, the main bodies supporting operational cybersecurity in Spain are:



· The National Cryptographic Centre (CCN), responsible for cybersecurity in central, regional and local public administrations.



· The Joint Command of Cyberspace (MCCE), responsible for cybersecurity in the Armed Forces.



· The National Centre for Critical Infrastructure Protection (CNPIC), responsible for cybersecurity in Spanish Critical Infrastructures.



· The National Institute for Cybersecurity (INCIBE), responsible for cybersecurity for Spanish citizens, enterprises, academia and private operators of essential services.

At the technical level, each of these four operational centres has a CSIRT that provides advanced cybersecurity services in its field. In addition to these four government CSIRTs, other centres of the regional governments and private companies from multiple sectors have been added to form the largest network of national CSIRTs in Europe, with strong cooperation between them through CSIRT.es association.

This network has been constituted following the recommendations of the NIS directive, which establishes the creation of a network of European CSIRTs supported by ENISA.



INCIBE was established in Leon in 2005, **decentralizing the cybersecurity operation** from Madrid, and nowadays after such a successful history with contrasted and reputed expertise, it is proposed as the seed of the Centre.

INCIBE as a **centre of excellence** based in Leon, is a service offered by the Government of Spain to work towards the development of **cybersecurity as an instrument for social transformation and for developing new fields of innovation**. To this end, with its activities focused on research, the provision of services, and cooperation with the relevant actors, INCIBE heads a range of initiatives directed at cybersecurity at both a national and an international level.

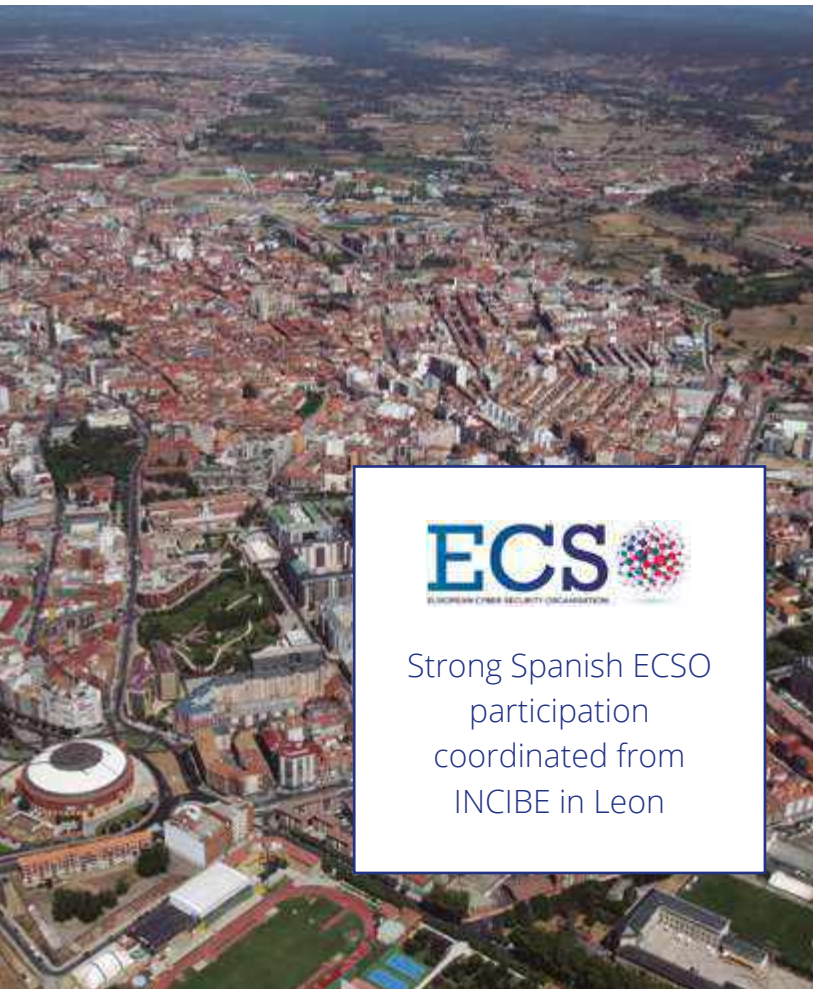


100%

of the Spanish citizens have cyber assistance from Leon



INCIBE as national CVE numbering authority



Strong Spanish ECSO participation coordinated from INCIBE in Leon

INCIBE has been very **active participating on European initiatives** such as stakeholders groups of ENISA, NIS platform, etc. INCIBE is a founding member of ECSO and it has been recently elected as part of its board of directors. It also takes part leading European projects from CEF-Telecom, ISF-Police, or H2020 Programmes. INCIBE as the public national agency with cybersecurity competences participates on CONCORDIA, SPARTA, and CyberSec4Europe cybersecurity pilots as member of their Advisory Board providing expert advice.

INCIBE also coordinates a national working group of the Spanish members of those projects (including ECHO) to apply their main outcomes to Spanish ecosystem.

INCIBE has been appointed as the candidate to be the National Coordination Centre by the Working Group 6 of the National Security Council. Participants of that WG represents all national public agents with competences on cybersecurity.



Cyber experience and maturity

The **Spanish cybersecurity ecosystem has been in place for almost 20 years** since the first government agencies were created.

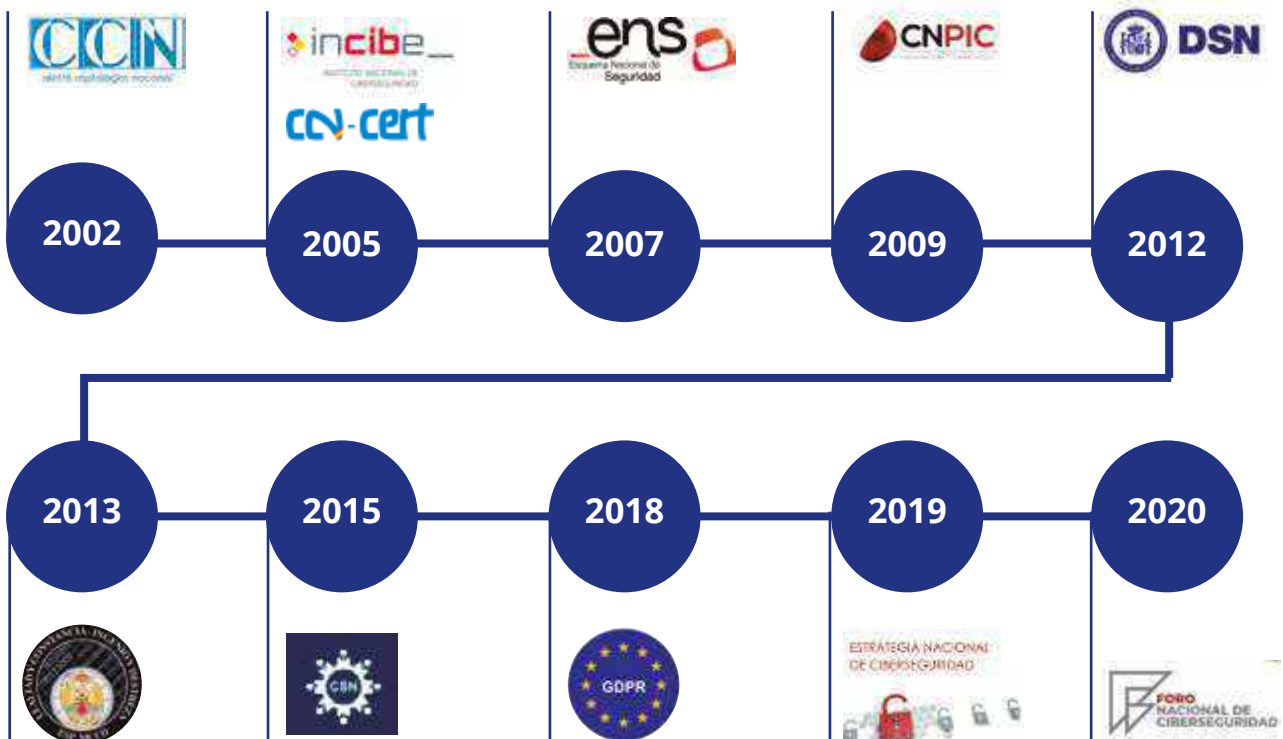
Since then, **it has matured** to the present day **based on feedback and cooperation** between the public and private sectors. Today, Spain has an ecosystem with the experience and critical volume sufficient and necessary to take the leap and lead the Centre.

To lead the Centre it is not only necessary to have years of experience and leadership but to have as a country the volume and critical mass necessary to have the capacity to execute an important volume of activities and initiatives.



20

years of the Spanish
cybersecurity
ecosystem





Cooperation spirit

The Spanish way of doing things is strongly based on **cooperation between the parties to achieve a common goal.**

In cybersecurity, this cooperation is crucial to overcome or at least prevent, detect and respond to cyber-crime. And in Spain we have been practising this cooperation for years in different areas, which have become a reality:

The aim in this area is to promote, enhance, advise, consolidate and raise awareness of development, knowledge, culture and solutions in cybersecurity.

1.- International cooperation vision & mission

Spain's commitment to international cooperation through INCIBE in Leon, is strategic and is materialized in various initiatives that have already opened the way to European cybersecurity:

- The collaboration with ENISA, through the participation in conferences, tables and European working groups.
- Different Spanish public and private organisations, universities and research centres actively participate in ECSO - European Cybersecurity Organization, of which INCIBE is a founding member. A clear success story of cooperation between the public and private sectors, which will be an objective of the Centre in Leon.
- At a non-EU level, INCIBE has been appointed a few months ago by MITRE, as the CVE Numbering Authority (CNA) which is responsible at a national level for the assignment of vulnerability identification codes for ICS, IT and IoT systems. A fact that includes INCIBE in the network of 139 CNAs from 24 countries and positions Spain and Leon as the ideal candidate for international cooperation between Europe and Latin America.

2.- Non-profit business associations

Spain, in its commitment to cybersecurity, has been developing environments to promote and share knowledge in this field for 15 years. To this end, it has many associations in which professionals and companies of different types and sizes participate, both public and private and national and international.

The aim in this area is to promote, enhance, advise, consolidate and raise awareness of development, knowledge, culture and solutions in cybersecurity.

These groups carry out their activity through different dissemination mechanisms such as forums, reports, bulletins and events with massive participation and analysis of clients and suppliers.

Some of them are related to general IT Cybersecurity, cyber technology, industrial Cybersecurity, electronic security, and others.

Some of the main associations:



3.- Public-private partnership (PPP)

The Spanish culture of PPP is widely extended in all of our territories including international, national and regional organizations.

At the international arena, the best example of Spanish culture of PPP is the participation of 34 Spanish organizations in ECSO (the country with the most members), including public administrations such as INCIBE, large user and supplier companies, SME, research centres as RENIC, universities, and others.

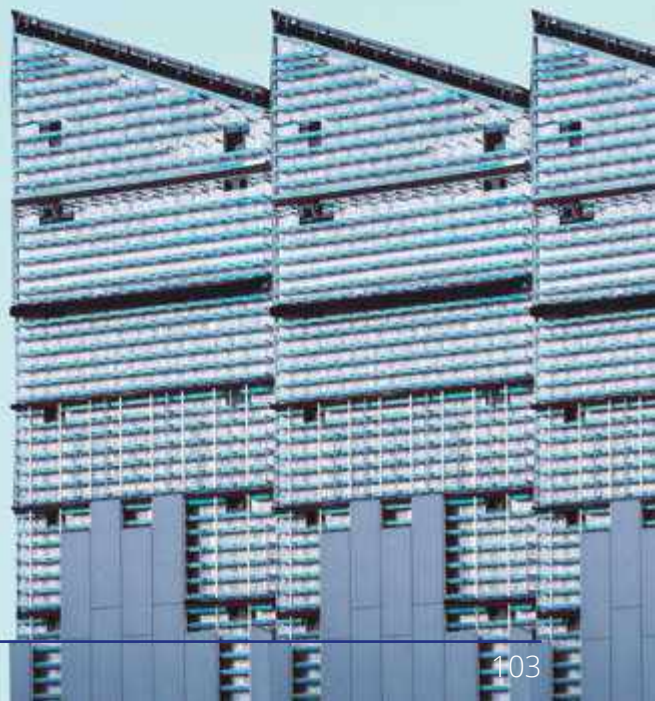
At national level, the most important and updated initiative is the “Foro Nacional de Ciberseguridad” (FNCS - National Cybersecurity Forum).

The National Cybersecurity Forum (FNCS) has recently been established to respond to one of the lines of action of the National Cybersecurity Strategy. This is the best practical example of public-private collaboration in cybersecurity already in place in Spain.

The FNCS is run by public administrations (DSN, INCIBE, and CNN-CERT), private sector (large, SME companies and self-employed professionals), research sector, academia, think tanks and other relevant actors in national cybersecurity sector, one of its main functions is to support the projection and participation of Spain at an international and European level.

Furthermore, the main working groups of this National Forum are fully aligned with the objectives of the Centre:

- To promote a culture of cybersecurity.
- To boost national and European industry and R&D.
- To promote training, skills and talent.



At the regional level, Spain is a highly decentralized administration and therefore multiple PPP ecosystems have been created around regional and even local administrations.

Some of the main examples are the following:



- AEI – Agrupación Empresarial Innovadora de Ciberseguridad. The Cybersecurity and Advanced Technologies Cluster is the result of the union of the Innovative Mobility and Security Companies Groups, which in 2014 approved in their respective general assemblies to constitute a single body to become a regional and national reference in Leon.

The idea of creating this macro cluster arises from the 6 objectives pursued by the Digital Agenda for Spain, among which is to strengthen confidence in the digital environment. “This is where cyber-security comes into play, that an autonomous community like Castilla and Leon has the advantage of having the INCIBE headquarters in Leon, an opportunity that could not be missed”, also, it has the support of the Government through the Agency for Innovation, Financing and Business Internationalization.

- CYBERMADRID, Cluster of cybersecurity of the Madrid’s City Council, in which also participates the Community of Madrid and INCIBE, recently formed with more than 10 founding organizations and four strategic objectives on training, research, business development and dissemination of cybersecurity culture, especially among SMEs.



- Cybasque is a Cybersecurity cluster of Euskadi region.

The objective of Cybasque is to promote Cybersecurity in all private areas of the territory, promoting collaboration with other sectors and encouraging the development of new products/services, technologies and markets.



- CIBER.gal, a Cybersecurity Node promoted by the Xunta de Galicia, which has just signed an agreement with the National Institute of Cybersecurity (Incibe), the National Cryptology Centre (CNN), the Fegamp and the four provincial councils to develop it in a coordinated way. The involvement of the three administrations with competence in this area in this cybersecurity plan seeks a fluid exchange of information and resources, also promoting public-private collaboration to create a portfolio of services that provides Galicia with autonomy in a strategic sector, making cybersecurity a driving force for R&D, thus achieving a good positioning of the sector.



Military and civil cooperation

Spain is one of the EU countries with the greatest military tradition and has several large companies with high technology in defence, not only in Europe but also worldwide. It also has a **powerful ecosystem between the Ministry of Defence and private enterprise.**

The CSIRT of the MCCE (Spanish Joint Cyberspace Command) constitutes, together with the CCN-CERT and INCIBE, one of the pillars of national cyber defence, and collaborates actively, in coordination with the CCDCOE (NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre Of Excellence) in Tallinn, with large Spanish companies that develop cyber defence products that could be applied to the civilian environment.



Strong Spanish CCDCOE participation



1.- Spain, a cyber-bridge to Latin America and North Africa

Spain's commitment to the Defense of Europe and our NATO allies remains one of our national strategic objectives.

Due to our geopolitical position, Spain plays a transcendental role as a bridge of collaboration between the Transatlantic Alliance and Europe on the one hand, and Latin America and North Africa on the other. Both regions are linked by culture, history and major commercial interests.

In cybersecurity, international cooperation is critical and Spain can play a fundamental role in this area.



2.- The Spanish industry leads the European projects of Defence and Cyber Defence

The Spanish defence and cyber defence industry is among the top European players in terms of technological innovation and execution capacity. Our country leads large European programs in close collaboration with the Spanish Ministry of Defence.

In the first call of the EDIDP (logo), the Spanish industry is the one that leads more projects (3 of the 16) assuming more than 50% of the total budget. The three EDIDP projects that Spain leads in this call, are centred around the development of Command and Control (C2) capabilities, electronic defence and cybersecurity.

Spain is currently leading probably the most important cyber defence project in EU: the Development of the European Cyber Situational Awareness Platform (ECYSAP) will offer integrated and real-time imaging of cyber threats to which a defence system may be subjected. It will enable immediate reaction capabilities, as well as smart support tools for decision-making.

The European Strategic Command and Control (ESC2) System, and the Responsive Electronic Attack for Cooperative Task (REACT), are the other two important projects where cybersecurity is critical, and will give the EU essential C2 capabilities and prevents or denies access to airspace, so that all European countries can act in unison and coordinate with their allies in international missions for peacekeeping.

3.- Maximum involvement of Spain in the European Defence Agency (EDA)

Appointed in December 2019, Spaniard Mr. Josep Borrell is the Head of the European Defence Agency (EDA).

The Spanish defence industry plays one of the main roles in the EDA by participating and leading many of its critical projects, especially those related to cybersecurity in military environments (ECYSAP), that are called to play an important role regarding the project's dual-use for civil or military cybersecurity.

EDA's 'CySAP' project aims to do just that. Launched in early 2019 and led by Spain with partner countries Germany and Italy, its goal is to develop a prototype architectural design for a fully-fledged C2 system for cyber operations.



Since 2007, Leon has a **Centre of Excellence in Security** (CES-Leon), with more than 100 people dedicated to R&D projects in defence and security for the Armed Forces, Defence and Air Traffic.

From the CES-Leon, in collaboration with the University of Leon and partially subsidized by the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon, complex secure digital systems are designed and implemented in more than 130 airports, European defence systems, or help train Eurofighter pilots.

State-of-the-art technologies in Defence and Security, such as Command and Control and communications systems for Defence, air navigation simulators, cyber-physical systems for fire detection by means of AI, or nuclear emissions, will make it possible, through appropriate cooperation, to build an ecosystem of civil and military cybersecurity in Leon with the latest available technologies.

5.2

Cybersecurity sector



Just as the public sector is the basis on which the cybersecurity ecosystem is based and which has positioned Spain in the leadership position it currently holds, the private sector is the driving force behind the **cybersecurity business** and the one which drives its annual growth with double-digit percentages.

According to Gartner, global cybersecurity spending in 2019 was \$124 billion. Activity in the Spanish market is estimated at 1,300 million euros and growth of between 10 and 15% is expected by 2020. INCIBE has an updated catalogue of security companies and services in Spain, which includes more than 1,600 entities.

Large companies

Large Spanish multinational companies from all sectors of the economy are the main consumers of cybersecurity products and services. Although there are more mature sectors such as Banking, Telecommunications or Critical Infrastructures, they are all affected and require secure systems.

With the implementation of the Centre in Leon, the European and international **presence of large Spanish companies will accelerate the expansion of cybersecurity** culture and maturity in the European environment.

SME

The Spanish business fabric is characterised by the **predominance of micro-enterprises**.

The budgetary aspects and the lesser culture of cybersecurity in this area make its improvement one of the Centre's objectives.

The government and INCIBE have launched several programmes to promote cybersecurity in EMS, such as "Activa Seguridad" and "Protege tu empresa".

Another important initiative of INCIBE from Leon is the incubation and support to the entrepreneurship of startups specifically dedicated to cybersecurity, with its incubator CyberEmprende that counts with the collaboration of the central, regional and municipal governments.



1,657

companies catalogued offering cybersecurity services



15+

years promoting and disseminating cybersecurity in all types of business



ENISE

Industry challenges are key to resolve risks and achieve its digital transformation.

That is why, in León, we have the **ENISE** event, an International Business Forum with participants from 20 countries in America, Europe, Asia and Oceania, virtual meetings between 30 international buyers (sophisticated demand) and Spanish sellers. Making it the **reference event in the Spanish language in cybersecurity and the main link between private companies and startups**.

We have celebrated **13 editions** of the international ENISE event with the key industry players in cybersecurity. NGO entity created to focus on the promotion of education, knowledge, scientific research and technology transfer.

Its **main objectives** are:

- Generate business opportunities.
- Facilitate the internationalisation of Spanish industry.
- Stimulate networking.
- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation in cybersecurity.
- Discuss trends, solutions and challenges.



5. Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity

Among its **audience**, it brings cybersecurity professionals, cybersecurity entrepreneurs, representatives of the academic and research sector, cybersecurity companies themselves, companies interested in purchasing solutions to improve the security of their information: CISO, CIO, CTO, investors, business angels, venture capital and possible partners.

The programme includes conferences, roundtables and panel discussions during two days from the assembly hall of INCIBE. The main stage brings together top-level speakers in the world of cybersecurity with presence and institutional support.

It's always been covered by video streaming, simultaneous interpretation into Spanish and English and with open access to everyone. Additionally, this year, due to the special situation caused by a global pandemic, the event will be held entirely online for the first time.



In Leon, with the collaboration of the central, regional and local government, the **Cybersecurity Ventures Forum** is being held, an international programme for accelerating startups, whose awards enable the promotion of Spanish and European research and technologies.





5.3

Research ecosystem

Spain has a **strong cybersecurity research area** which is mainly made up of two entities: RENIC and RNLI.



RENIC, the National Network of Excellence for Research in Cybersecurity, is made up of 19 partners, 104 research teams and more than 1,300 researchers dedicated to the entire spectrum of the subject.

The centres (94 centres affiliated to universities, nine technology centres and one research centre) are distributed throughout the country and coordinated from Leon, with 11 teams in the Community of Castilla and Leon.



104

research centres
in Spain



1,300

cyber researchers



25

industrial
cybersecurity
laboratories
throughout Spain

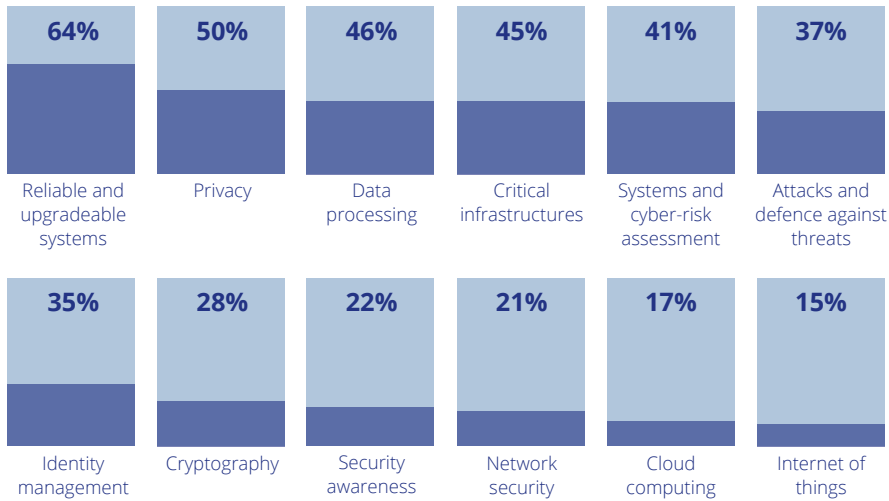
+20%

are in Leon

5. Spain: a commitment to cybersecurity

RENIC's founding partners are the main Spanish universities with the greatest experience in cybersecurity research.

The research works are grouped into 12 topics that are usually identified from the cyber sector for RENIC.



In turn, RENIC has a constant relationship with equivalent research centres in Europe and internationally, and most of its members are regularly involved in European innovation initiatives.



Cybersecurity research and innovation challenges:

01

Geographical and thematic disaggregation of research lines

02

A high potential of the cybersecurity research sector

03

Need for a common cybersecurity research strategy

04

Dynamic sector in constant change

05

Fostering international positioning

RENIC proposal

Improving cybersecurity research positioning

Strengthening coordination and active cooperation of the cybersecurity research ecosystem

Creating innovative solutions to mitigate emerging risks and threats

Contributing to the improvement of cybersecurity research competitiveness

Promoting knowledge transference to industry



As Industry is digitally transforming (4.0), the Cybersecurity of Industrial Control Systems becomes critical and a path for transforming the ME economies and improve their competitiveness.

Aware of this, in 2015 the RNLI (National Network of Industrial Laboratories) was created, coordinated by INCIBE from Leon, which has 25 laboratories, 6 of which are located in Leon. Each of them is specialised in one of the industrial sectors and Critical Infrastructures that use these industrial systems (ICS).

5.4

Innovation, entrepreneurship & high-quality facilities

European innovation commitment

Spain's **commitment to innovation in cybersecurity and digital transformation** in the EU has not ceased to grow in recent years, both in terms of return and leadership of projects.

In **Horizon 2020**, 25% of all proposals participating in the EU have at least one Spanish representative, which translates into third place in terms of participation. A total of some 11,000 Spanish entities have participated so far, submitting 50,113 proposals. Furthermore, this grant applies to the entire ecosystem: companies (36.5%), universities (20.5%), public research centres (11), technology centres and public administrations (5.7%).

According to **The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**, Spain leads the way in terms of projects achieved. Ninety-seven agreements have been signed involving Spanish beneficiaries in the period 2014-2019. CEF Telecom funding (EUR 31.5 million) is earmarked for Spanish beneficiaries, corresponding to a total cost of EUR 43 million, the highest in the EU.



Results of the Spanish participation:



1st

country in R&D
project leadership



4th

country in EU
funding



3rd

country in the
presentation of
proposals (50,000+)



4700M+

euros obtained to carry out
research and innovation
activities

Cybersecurity innovation entities in Leon



Leon UP is the Investment Promotion Bureau of Leon, created by the City as a part integrated into ILDEFE, the local Investment Promotion Agency. Leon UP aims to become a reference in attracting new investments and in supporting the growth of those projects already existing in the city.

Cybersecurity Innovation Hub is a digital ecosystem around cybersecurity and advanced technologies, which has INCIBE as a reference centre and has been promoted by the Institute for Business Competitiveness of the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon (ICE) and the Association of Innovative Companies (onwards AEI) in Cybersecurity and Advanced Technologies, to bring the benefits of digitalization to companies, and help them accelerate their adoption of digital technologies, specially designed to improve an industry 4.0.

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics, represents corporations and professionals from more than 60 countries involved in the industry, government and academia. AUVSI members work in the defence, civil and commercial markets. Leon is the Spanish headquarters of this international association.



National and international scope

Participation and support from public and private, national and international organisations





Cybersecurity talent

The growth and future of the sector will be determined by the talent and skills of training in cybersecurity. The **provision and retention of specialists in all fields of cybersecurity** in Europe should be one of the main objectives of the Centre.

Talent in cybersecurity in the Spanish ecosystem is more than consolidated. Of the four editions of the **European Cybersecurity Challenge** promoted by the EU, **two have been won by the Spanish team**, organised by INCIBE and trained in Leon.

Spanish Universities offer more than 72 Masters in Cibersecurity, which puts in relevance the bid of Spain for Cybersecurity, with very different specialities that address most of the needs of the ecosystem: hacking, cyber intelligence, industrial systems, governance, privacy, cryptography, etc.



72

masters in
Cybersecurity

High-quality facilities

Leon's Technological Park

The Technological Park has an area of 32 urbanized hectares destined to technological and innovative companies. Companies settled in the Leon Technological Park are considered Innovative Technology-Based Companies and accredit compliance.

Dedicate a minimum of 5% of its personnel to activities related to R&D and, therefore, will be qualified technical personnel.

The Leon Technology Park is not an enclosure designed for companies of a specific discipline but given the level of excellence of its University in areas such as health sciences, veterinary science, biotechnology, agri-food, renewable energies and environment, a concentration of companies is expected with activity in these sectors.

The city has a Technology Park, which has an important provision of services and infrastructure, such as:

- Optical fibre or ADSL
- Natural Gas Infrastructure
- Low and medium voltage electricity
- CCTV
- Telecommunications

Currently, the activity is mainly focused on Information and Communication Technologies and Industry sectors, among others.

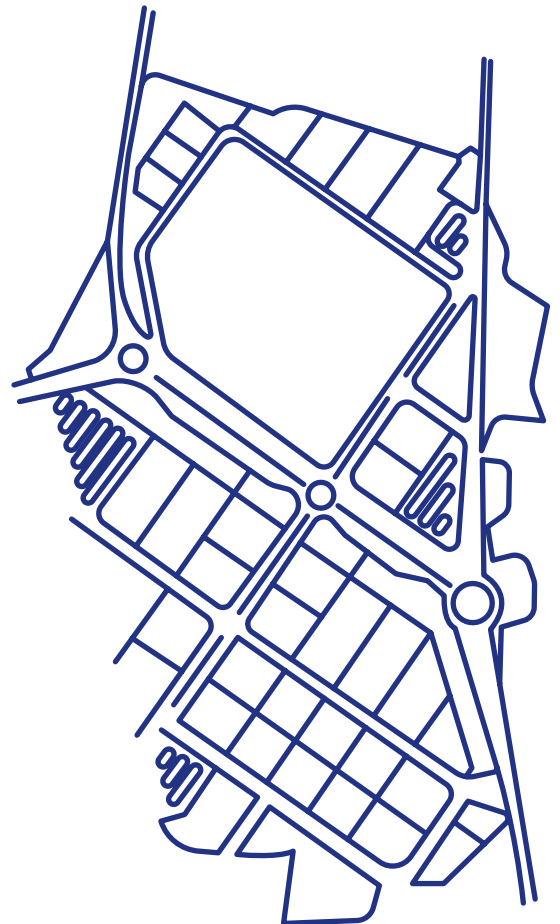
The park has a building for rent, a building for common use, where the central offices of the park management are located as well as services for workers and companies such as a cafeteria, coworking offices and an assembly hall. Besides, the extension of the site to accommodate more business initiatives is under review.

The available plots at the Leon Technology Park have a surface area that varies between a minimum of 1,300 m² and a maximum of 7,700 m², with the possibility of grouping several of them and, to adapt to the needs of companies, the management company of the Technology Park of Leon has promoted the development of spaces for rent with a variety of surfaces, which are located in the Common Uses Building.



32 ha²

available at spaces between 1,300 and 7,700 m²



33

national and international headquarters that it already hosts

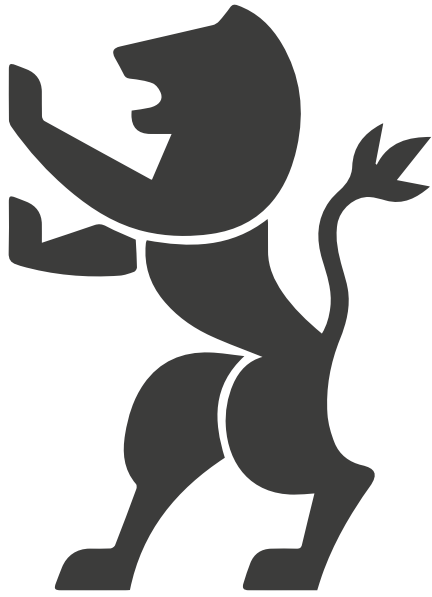
ILDEFE CEBT (Centro de Empresas de Base Tecnológica, Centre for Technology-Based Enterprises)

Ildefe, the local development agency of the City Council of Leon, have a building designed to accommodate new business technological projects called CEBT (in Spanish, Centro de Empresas de Base Tecnológica).

This centre offers business offices equipped with sufficient equipment and facilities, and basic and optional support services to facilitate the start and subsequent development of their business activity, a support and networking service is offered, which includes creativity awareness, business training and meeting forums.









Leon's proposal

Spanish proposal to host the European Cybersecurity
Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre