

Towards a new Congress for Catalan Culture



The new **Congress on Catalan Culture** is conceived as an open forum where shared identity built upon common cultures, in a broad sense serves as the guiding thread to reclaim collective self-esteem in the face of the significant challenges we confront as a society at this moment.

RE
DIS
COVER
OUR
SELVES

If the Congress of **1975-1977** served to build the structures, consensus, and institutions upon which we have developed in the past decades, the new Congress must serve as the **seed** to generate new perspectives, spaces, and leaderships, with a focus on the decades to come.

With this approach, three sessions have been held in **Barcelona, Palma and Valencia**, with the intention of delving into the collective challenges of the present and designing the structure of the future Congress that is set to culminate in 2025.

In these sessions, voices of diverse backgrounds, origins, and professional and civic trajectories have been convened. Each of them possesses a high level of commitment to the territory, progress, culture, and society; each with experience in activism and cooperative work, offering arguments and highlighting the significant challenges that the Catalan Countries face ahead.

We find ourselves at a pivotal moment as a community, calling upon the best within us to confront the myriad challenges that the contemporary world presents.

It's time to redefine ourselves, to re-empower ourselves, to lay the foundations for our future on the shared identity with which we will face the present and design the future.

Facing the looming threat of totalitarianism, censorship, and political repression; facing the incipient climate crisis and social and economic uncertainty; and facing the trivialization of culture and the erasure of our differences now **is the time time: LET'S REDISCOVER OURSELVES.**

RE DIS COVER OUR SELVES

RE
Connection with the past, a link to that which we are: *an identity, a town, a country.*

DISCOVER
Foresight and openmindedness alongside commitment to knowledge and culture. *Simultaneously* looking ahead, while still interweaving our collective wisdom and history.

OURSELVES
Ours is an identity in motion towards the future. However this future is only possible because of our past.

We have a future because we have a past. We are sons and daughters of a past and we aspire to a future for our own sons and daughters.

Diagnosis and Overall Strategy

We're well aware of the global crisis context and, more precisely, the challenges we face here, in the Catalan Countries (Països Catalans): we need **credibility and trust**. We see culture as the cornerstone to a well-connected society—a dynamic set of practices and narratives geared toward fostering **resilience and cohesion** in a community navigating an ever-shifting landscape.



To be consistent with a 21st century model for our country and planet: landscape and ecology and the cohesion of Catalan Countries.



To take charge of our new social reality: more diverse and multifaceted, with new national identities and perceptions.



To define "ourselves:" reactivate the Catalan Countries.



To identify new challenges to create an identity that is not contradictory with feeling Valencian, Balearic, or Catalan. In this, **the dilution of our common identity can be avoided.**



To achieve predominance in order to ensure that modernity and innovation are expressed in Catalan.



To make the new Congress a **tool for debating and setting goals on deepening self-governance, power, and sovereignty** from the perspective of each of the Catalan Countries.



To bring these debates to a local level.



To establish a framework for social and territorial cohesion.



To put an end to cynicism and defeatism: we need national and social optimism, generosity, and trust.



To advocate gender, territorial, and generational equity.



To use new language and new tools.



To renew the language and give new meanings to words like "freedom" or "censorship."



How do we sustain ourselves?

Energy, economic structure, industry, research and innovation, entrepreneurship and business, food and agriculture, finance.

- 1**
Structure and balance the territory with an integrated, equitable, and global vision.
- 2**
Confront the **climate crisis**.
- 3**
Empower **opportunities for youth** and encourage their development.
- 4**
Address the **vulnerability of the territory** and create instruments for security, care, and resilience in the face of **global change**.
- 5**
Reassess the **role of businesses** and encourage their commitment to society in order to generate **positive impact**.
- 6**
Identify areas of excellence in the economy **with potential for innovation**, individualization, and the creation of value.
- 7**
Generate innovative, efficient, and participatory **strategies in public management**.
- 8**
Tackle the energy **transition headon**.
- 9**
Cultivate a **new culture of consumption**.
- 10**
Promote **new dietary habits** through local production and the **regeneration of the primary sector**.



How do we communicate?

Language, Media, Information and Communication Technology, Public Opinion and the Politics of Truth, New Systems of Political Participation

1

Empower the **social use of the language** and normalize it in all sectors and territories.

3

Reverse the dynamics of language marginalization and **reclaim the value** of Catalan for individuals as a **marker of inclusion** in our community.

5

Expand registers and spaces for language use, especially in **new informal environments created by social media**.

7

Generate new strategies and media with an integrated perspective of the entire Catalan Countries to **overcome communicative segmentation**.

9

Address **challenges related to intellectual property** in a context that facilitates the reproduction, alteration, and reuse of cultural products.

2

Strengthen the **connection between the common language and collective identity** as a salient cohesive element of the Catalan Countries.

4

Address the impact of **new forms of cultural dissemination** (particularly that of digital platforms) on language use and increase the presence of the Catalan language.

6

Enhance the linguistic proficiency of the population particularly the youth and **increase the prestige of the language**.

8

Confront the new challenges of communication, particularly regarding various forms of **censorship, manipulation, and trivialization of public discourse**.

10

Tackle **cultural and linguistic homogenization in the globalized world** and design reinforcement strategies for indigenous cultures and languages.



How do we take care of ourselves?

Health, Safety, Adaptation to Climate Change and Protecting Biodiversity, How do we take care of each other across territories?, How do we take care of people who have suffered aggression?

- 1**
Ensure **access to knowledge** as a means to individual and collective empowerment.
- 2**
Address **inequalities between men and women**, recognizing, valuing, and redistributing domestic roles traditionally held by women.
- 3**
Protect **individuals in vulnerable situations** and provide them with tools to overcome adversity.
- 4**
Promote mindfulness surrounding the care of our community and our territory, particularly concerning the environment.
- 5**
Advance **social inclusivity** to guarantee effective enjoyment of rights for everyone.
- 6**
Develop a **health culture** based on adequately equipped and territorially balanced infrastructures and services.
- 7**
Emphasize **equitable relationships** through social and institutional awareness in order to create a culture of inclusivity.
- 8**
Advance the creation and development of **community services to protect individuals** based on proximity and the preservation of community ties.
- 9**
Enhance the role of civil society as a generator of inclusivity through **activism, volunteering, and collaboration with public authorities**.
- 10**
Comprehensively address the basic needs of **individuals in an equitable and inclusive** manner.



How do we foster cohesion?

Visual and Performing Arts, Sports, Literature, Audiovisual Communication,
Urban planning, Transportation, History, Political Institutions

- 1**
Strengthen and rethink the concept of the Catalan Countries as a **plural and diverse community** that generates a **solid shared identity**.
- 2**
Define institutional and informal strategies to **overcome fragmentation and imbalances** among the various territories of the Catalan Countries.
- 3**
Tackle the **demographic challenge**, focusing on effective strategies to welcome newcomers and support families.
- 4**
Encourage a **culture of innovation**, with the capacity to enhance common identity and generate inclusivity.
- 5**
Restore the normalcy of shared culture and **reverse marginalization, folklorization, and subdivision**.
- 6**
Reposition **Catalan culture in the international context**, particularly by enhancing its European projection.
- 7**
Reinforce **connection between cultural production and social and environmental issues**, especially in the face of the climate emergency, pressure from tourism, and socioeconomic inequalities.
- 8**
Reclaim a sense of history and acknowledge the importance of **collective bonds** and **spiritual heritage** in a context where immediacy leads to isolation, disorientation, and distress.
- 9**
Highlight **cultural heritage (both material and immaterial)** as a means of cohesion and social inclusion.
- 10**
Affirm the **connection between territory and culture**, particularly by revaluing the landscape, urban planning, and, in general, the physical environment.



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