



Navigating Uncertainty in Spain



About More in Common



More in Common is an **international initiative** set up in 2017 to build societies that are stronger, more united, and more resilient to the increasing **threats of polarisation and social division.**

We work with a wide range of groups in civil society, politics, government, business, faith, education, philanthropy and the media to connect people across lines of division.

More in Common has teams in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as Poland and Spain.

For more information please visit
www.moreincommon.com or contact
us at contact@moreincommon.com

Methodology

Scope

Sample Size

France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom

N=2,000 per country; margin of error +/- 2.1%; larger for subgroups. In some cases, numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



Research Partner

YouGov

Fieldwork dates

France: 7-15 Dec, 2021

Germany: 7-17 Dec, 2021

Italy: 7-21 Dec, 2021

Poland: 6-17 Dec, 2021

Spain: 7-12 Dec, 2021

UK: 19 Nov - 1 Dec, 2021

Fieldwork Method

Online survey using representative demographic and political quotas

Key Details

Surveys are a mix of common and tailored, nationally specific questions. Comparisons are drawn to a precursor project completed in June 2020.

Widespread exhaustion, but relatively high trust and optimism

1. There is a **common feeling of exhaustion** among the Spanish population when it comes to issues of existing division and political tribalism in society.
2. Even though Spaniards perceive their country as divided, they have the **highest levels of trust** in fellow citizens when compared to other countries.
3. Spaniards show **higher levels of confidence that their differences can be overcome compared to other Europeans**. This is the case despite the tensions of last few years, including those related to the Catalan issue and other regional issues, and what many would describe as a difficult economic and employment situation. In fact, regional issues rarely came up in focus group conversations we had.

Division is blamed on political parties



Our findings show that the Spanish people want a different way of doing politics, one that is based on public interests and less on the interests of political parties.

1. Spaniards **blame political parties for causing existing division**. Although identification with political parties is still strong among some voters, it is weaker among younger generations.
2. The **division in Spain is perceived to be ideological, more than social**. While the division between left and right does not seem so relevant for other countries, it is seen as one of the deepest fault lines in Spanish society.
3. Nevertheless, this division does not seem to correspond with competing priorities for the country. The vast majority see **the economy and health services as the main issues** and the green transition as an opportunity to create jobs.

*“Right now, **the extremes have the loudest voice**, they drag the centre along.”*
– elderly man in focus group

Efforts at change face obstacles from a disaffected minority



1. Almost one third of the population (30%) **feels that they are losers when it comes to social changes**. Among Vox voters, 54% feel this way.
2. Furthermore, **Vox voters also differ from the rest of the country on social issues**: stronger feelings of abandonment, more concern with corruption, and less support for environmental issues. More than half of Vox voters believe that a **radical overhaul of the system** is needed (57%).
3. Looking ahead, **more than half of the population believe that the recovery funds given by the European Union will be misused**.

“Let the 90s come back. Everything seemed to work much better then.”
– young woman in focus group

Consensus on climate presents opportunity



Currently, **climate change issues do not seem to be linked to the political tribalism that characterises so many other issues.** There are multiple areas of consensus:

- Widespread concern
- International efforts are not effective
- Spain must act regardless of what other countries do
- The climate movement is not seen as exclusionary
- We are all responsible. There is an individual responsibility, but also the responsibility of all the actors in society
- The government should do more
- A green transition can lead to more jobs, and believe it would be a good use of public resources – with the notable exception of Vox voters.

Note that the green energy transition and the allocated resources were already on the table before the Russian invasion. Following the events of late February and March, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has stressed the need to speed up this transition in order to reduce dependency on Russian gas.



Thank you

For more detailed information about Navigating Uncertainty and our findings in Spain, please contact us at: contact@moreincommon.com

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