



Castilla y León (ES)



Renewable Energy Clusters in Castilla y León: Focus on Bioenergy and Wind



Population: **2 523 020** (5.7% of ES)

Area: **94 225 km²**

Population density (inh/km²): **26.8**

GDP per capita EU27: **94.9%**

Castilla y León is not only the largest region of Spain, but also one of the largest regions in the European Union. It is made up of an elevated plain surrounded by the mountain ranges of Sistema Ibérico to the east, Cordillera Central to the south, Cordillera Cantábrica to the north and by Duero River towards Portugal.

Renewable Sector

Castilla y León is a great national sustainable energy producer. The wide availability of natural resources has resulted in 33 hydropower plants, a wind power capacity of 2569 MW, 53.000 m² of solar thermal installed and 8 bio-fuel plants.

Castilla y León was one of the first Regions to sign the Declaration of European Regions in Favour of Energy Efficiency and Renewables and had an active role in FEDARENE (European Federation of Energy and Environment Regional Agencies). There is also a strong regional commitment on renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Important key industries have emerged in the region, mostly automotive industry, energy, agro-food, chemical-pharmaceutical industry and, very recently, aeronautics and biotechnology. The importance of the industrial sector is above the Spanish average in Castilla y León. The 50 biggest companies in the region generate 50 % of the industrial turnover. There are also 8 universities within the area with more than 110 000 students and over 30000 foreign students.

Castilla y León obtained its statute of Autonomy in 1983. It has been a central area of Spanish medieval history, and the importance during that epoch is still evident in many cathedrals, monasteries, castles and fortified towns, many of which are preserved in perfect state. Apart of its monumental patrimony, Castilla y León offers natural parks and kilometres of practically untouched nature, with woods of oaks and cork-oaks. Lago de Sanabria is the largest lake within Spain and the only one of glacial origins.

The capital of Castilla y León, Valladolid, has one of the most important sculpture museums of all Spain, and the famous Easter week processions are of great tourist interest. The city itself is monumental, and in its surroundings there are innumerable castles. Other cities including Segovia, Salamanca and Ávila are equally impressive, and have earned UNESCO World Heritage status along with the Santiago Way - the famous pilgrims' trail which traverses Castilla y León, the gothic Burgos cathedral, Roman gold mines in León and the archaeological remains of the earliest known hominids in Europe in Atapuerca.



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