



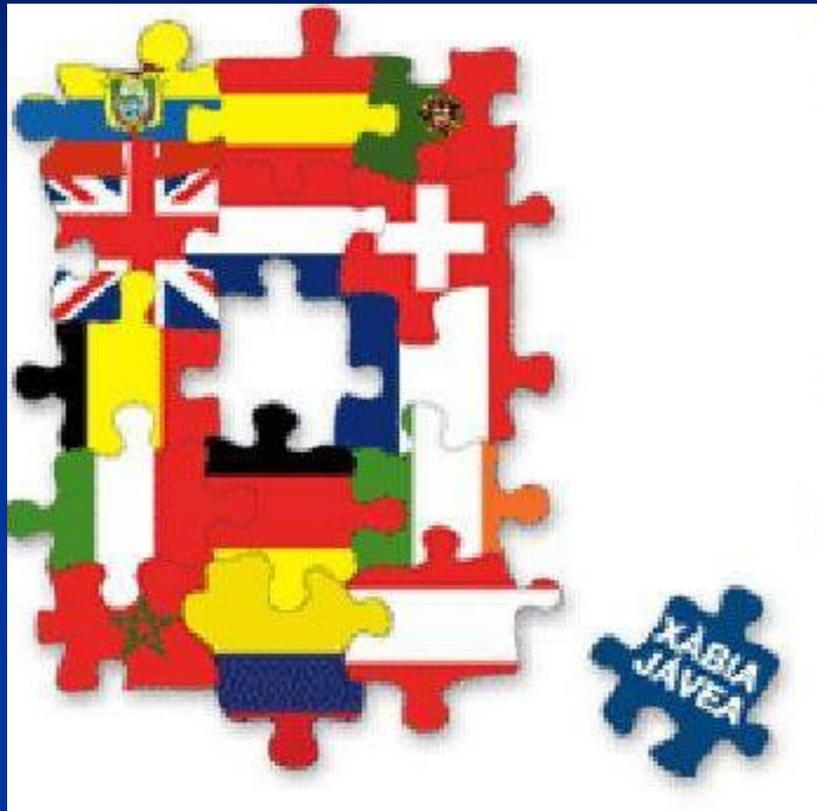
FORUM FOR CHANGE

# The Challenges of Integration

George J. Thomas

PSOE Executive Xàbia

# Xàbia a Multicultural Town



# Eighty-five different Nationalities



# Famous Sons of Xàbia

# David Ferrer



**ATP World  
Ranking 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Ranked  
Number 2  
in Spain**

# Sergio Hernández



World  
Champion  
WTCC Racing  
Driver

Winner in  
Macau 2010



Born Xàbia

1983

**Champion in the  
EVO 125 Category  
Bancaja 2009**

**Javi Cholbi  
(17 years old)**





Ignacio Cardona

Ranked # 3  
in World  
Championships



Winners of the  
Singapore  
vertical race

South East  
Asia's highest  
hotel

73 storeys,  
1336 steps

Completed in

6 mins. 46 secs.

# Toni Mari

**International  
Award  
winning  
sculptor in  
Iron**

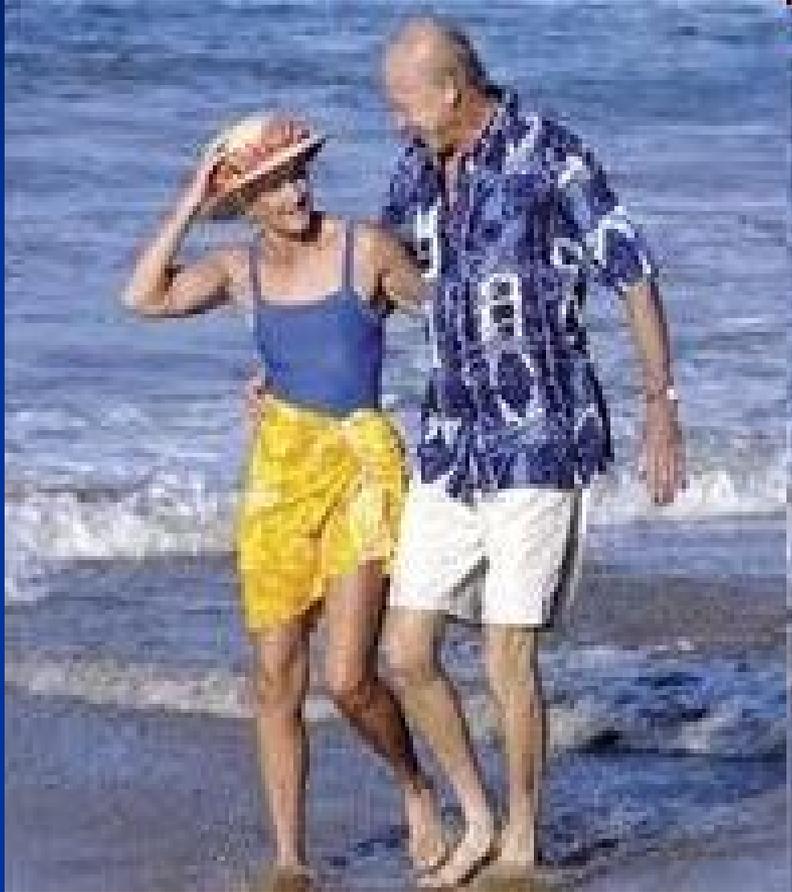


# Some other Xàbia residents!



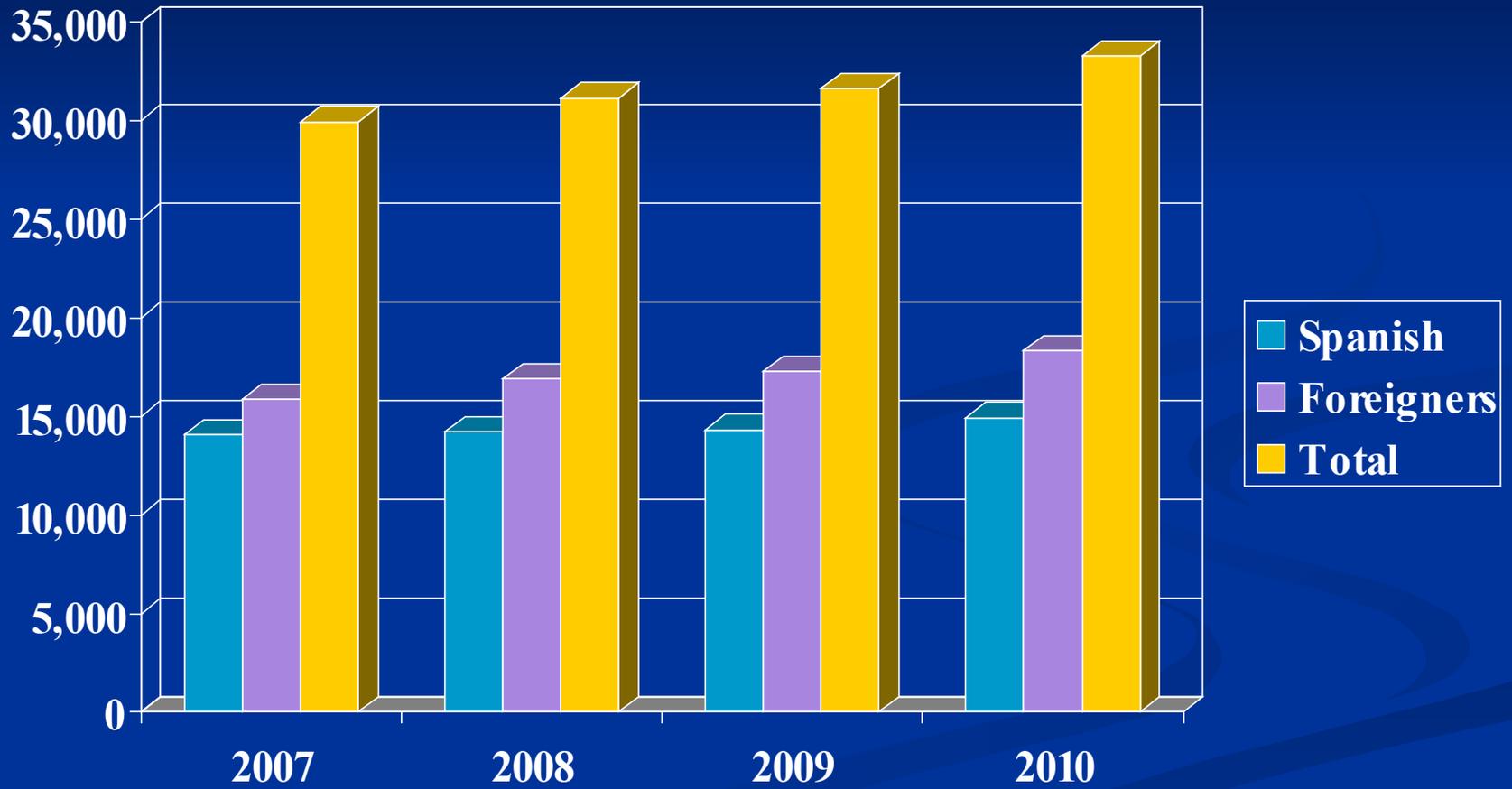
“Sorry Mable, you know the rules, no mobile devices allowed on quiz nights.”

# And some more!



# Xàbia Population Spanish/Foreigners

(registered on the Padrón)



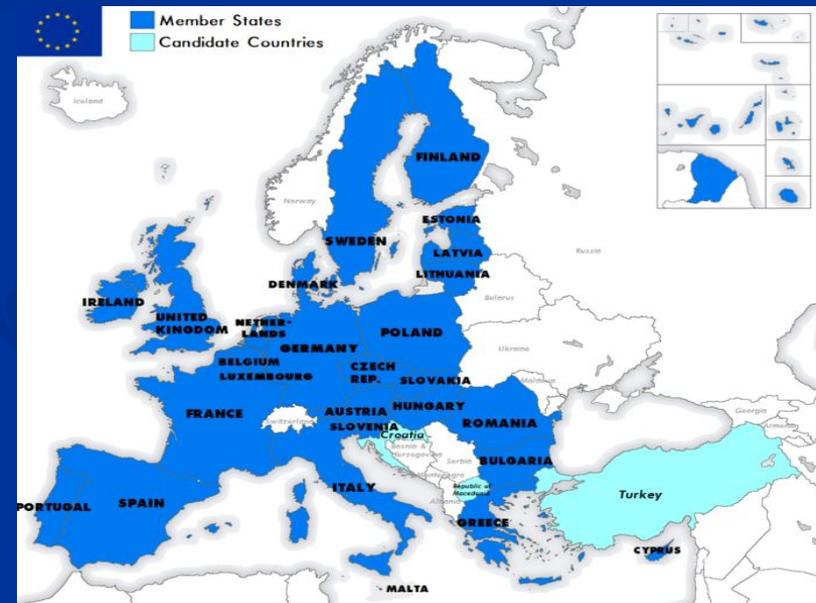
Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística

# Residents of Xàbia on the Padrón

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Spanish	14,044	14,230	14,337	14,931
Foreigners	15,879	16,910	17,256	18,320
Total	<b>29,923</b>	<b>31,140</b>	<b>31,593</b>	<b>33,251</b>

Austria	84
Belgium	389
Bulgaria	141
Croatia	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	52
Denmark	36
Estonia	5
Finland	12
France	527
Germany	2224
Greece	11

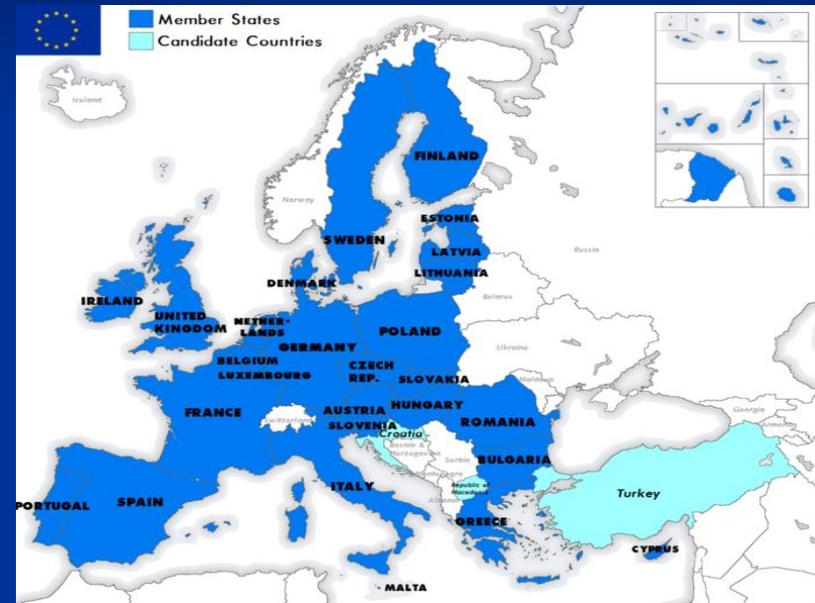
# Xàbia Foreign Residents 2010 E.U. Citizens



Continued.....

Hungary	8
Ireland	118
Italy	287
Latvia	3
Lithuania	8
Luxemburg	9
Netherlands	1055
Poland	108
Portugal	40
Romania	231
Slovakia	23
Slovenia	3
Sweden	69
UK	8669

# Xàbia Foreign Residents 2010 E. U. Citizens



**Grand Total 14,114**

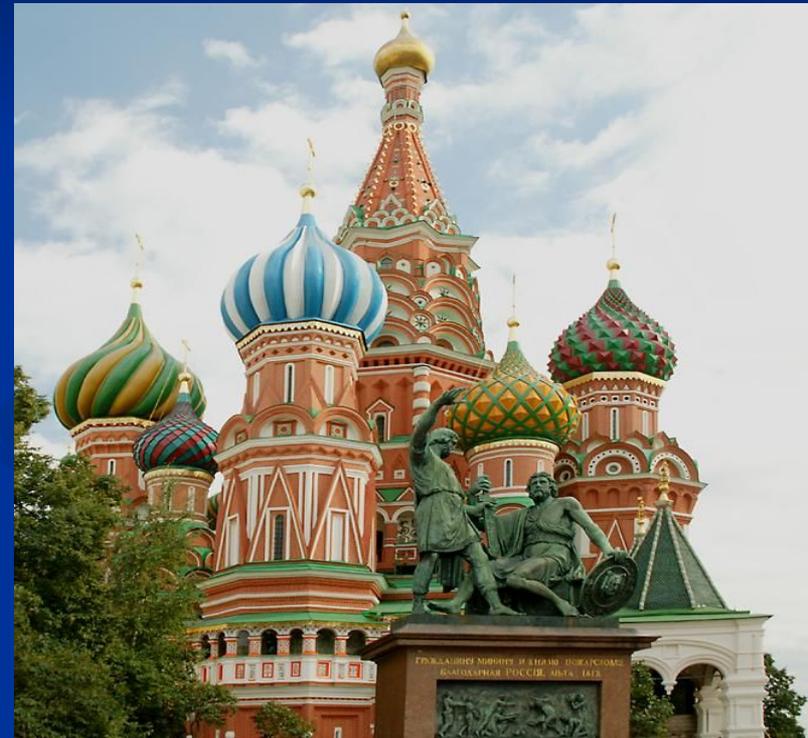
# Xàbia Foreign Residents by Origin: North Africa 2010

■ Algeria	10
■ Morocco	794
■ Others	21
■ Total	825



# Xàbia Foreign Residents by Origin: Europe – non EU 2010

■ Russia	116
■ Ukraine	117
■ Others	628
■ Total	961



# Xàbia Foreign Residents by Origin: South America/USA/Canada 2010

■ Argentina	229
■ Bolivia	28
■ Brazil	66
■ Colombia	837
■ Costa Rica	8
■ Cuba	21
■ Chile	26
■ Dominican Rep.	8
■ Ecuador	446
■ El Salvador	5
■ Guatemala	3
■ Honduras	3
■ Paraguay	9
■ Peru	13
■ Mexico	9
■ Uruguay	148
■ Venezuela	219
■ USA	57
■ Canada	15



**Total 2150**

# Xàbia Foreign Residents by Origin: Asia 2010

■ China	127
■ India	38
■ Indonesia	5
■ Pakistan	145
■ Nepal	12
■ Oceania & Others	35
■ Total	362



# Xàbia Foreign Residents by Origin: Middle East 2010

■ Iran	1
■ Israel	1
■ Jordan	1
■ Lebanon	2
■ Qatar	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>



# **The Missing 10.000 residents!**

**In 2010 there were 33,251 registered inhabitants of Xàbia, but in reality there are at least 10.000 more who haven't bothered to register (calculated from water usage & household rubbish collections). These non-registered people mean a loss of income from the central government of 1.930.000€ for the municipality.**

**(approx. 6% of the total income of the town.)**

**Why are so  
many Residents  
not on the  
Padrón ?**

# Research carried out by **REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO**

- **Sources:**
- **Vicente Rodríguez, Research Professor (CSIC),**
- **Paz Rodríguez, Researcher (CSIC),**
- **Raúl Lardiés, Professor University of Zaragoza (REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO, 28/01/10)**

# Research methodology

2.430 questionnaires were sent out between January and April 2007 to foreigners living in Malaga, Almeria and Granada. 535 completed questionnaires were returned and analyzed.

# Profile of Foreigners answering questionnaire

- Majority aged between 65 and 74 years
- British the largest group, followed by Germans and Finns.
- Majority spoke some basic Spanish, few felt they spoke the language well.
- Generally live as couples.
- Most arrived in Spain after 2000.
- More stated that they now resided permanently in Spain as opposed to living temporarily in the country.

# Reasons given for not registering on the Municipal Padrón

## 1 - Temporary Residency

- *I only live temporarily in Spain.*
- *I don't need to do it as I am a EU citizen.*
- *I prefer to live here anonymously.*

# Reasons given for not registering on the Municipal Padrón

## 2 - Misinformation/lack of interest

- *I didn't know that I had to go on the Padrón.*
- *I don't know how to do it.*
- *I don't have any particular reason for not doing it.*
- *You don't have to do it in my country.*
- *There are no advantages/benefits from being on the Padrón.*

# Reasons given for not registering on the Municipal Padrón

## 3 - Failure to Integrate

- *I have difficulties with the Spanish language.*
- *I don't want to lose my rights in my home country.*
- *Too much bureaucracy involved.*
- *I don't want to pay taxes in Spain.*

**Or maybe they are one of these gentlemen just keeping a low profile!**



So what's the point of  
registering on the  
municipal Padrón?

# The Purpose of the Padrón

For a Spanish Municipality, it is the basic instrument for planning and making economic, social and political decisions at the local level.

# A Legal Requirement

Officially all residents in Spain are required by law to register on the Padrón of the municipality where they reside.

# The Benefits

## 1. Better public services

The Central Government allocates money to the different municipalities according to how many people are on the Padrón.

If you are not registered, your town hall is losing money for the provision of health centres, doctors, police officers, postal workers and schools.

# The Benefits

## 2. Access to benefits and social care

You must be on the Padrón for a certain period of time to take advantage of some income-related benefits and other aspects of social care available through social services at your town hall.

# The Benefits

## 3. A reduction in taxes

Depending on the town hall, registration on the Padrón could mean reduced Property Taxes, as well as reductions in certain community charges

and inheritance tax. Furthermore, those on the Padrón can also often enjoy discounted courses, and leisure and cultural activities run by the town

hall

# The Benefits

## 4. Voting rights



**In order to register to vote in local or European elections, you must first be registered on the Padrón.**

# The Benefits

## 5. Influence Local Politics

If you are on the Padrón you could stand as a candidate in local elections.

# The Benefits

## 6. An easier life

**You'll need your Padrón certificate to carry out**

**various administrative tasks, such as:**

- **registering for healthcare,**
- **registering your car with Spanish number plates**
- **enrolling your children in school.**

# CONFIDENTIALITY

- Your information on the Padrón is confidential
- It is NOT given to the Police or Tax Authorities
- Many **ILLEGAL** immigrants are registered, as a Padrón certificate is required when enrolling their children into local schools

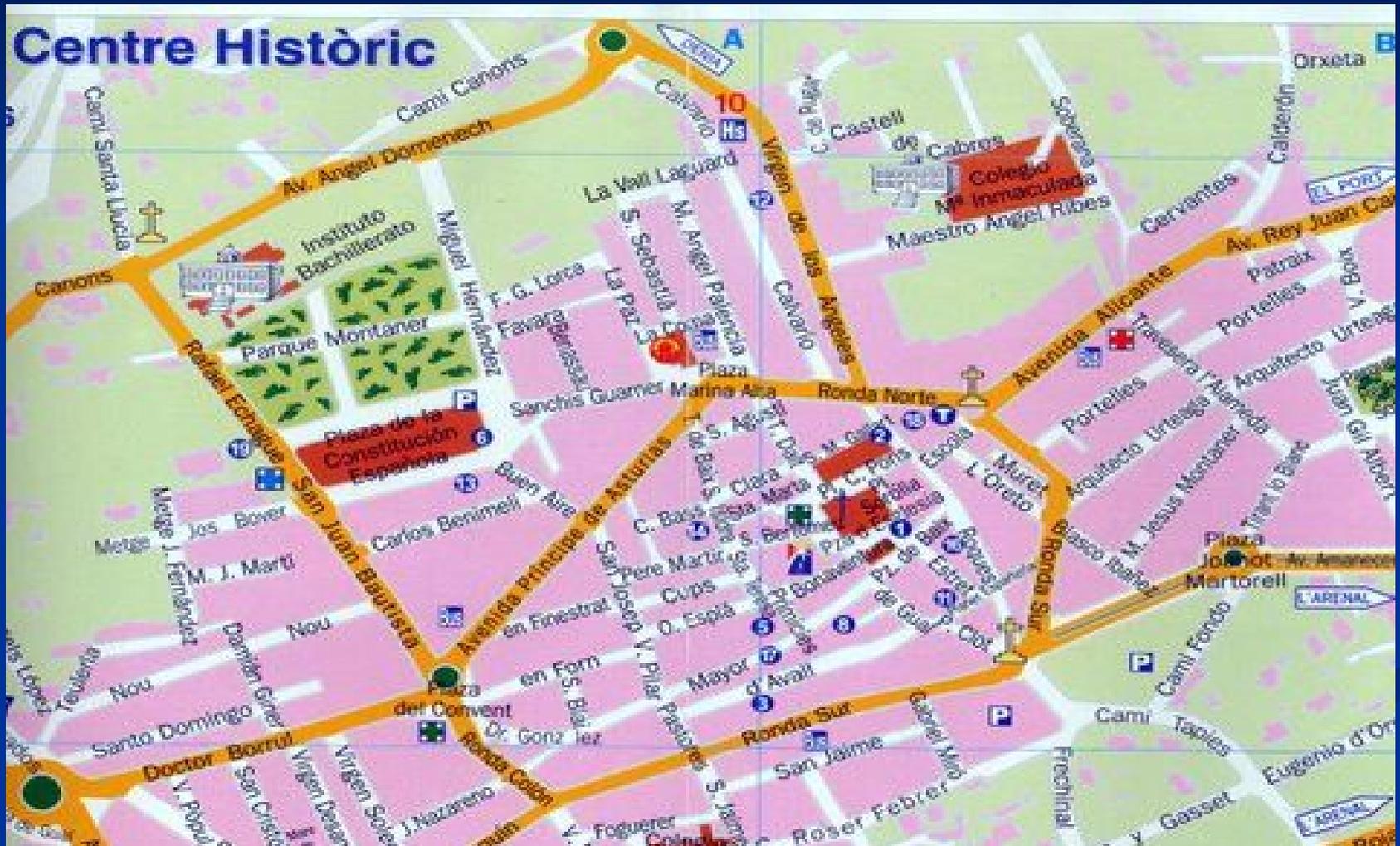
# **Where do you go to register on the Padrón and Electoral Role in Xàbia?**

**You can sign on to both registers at the  
same time.**

**Go to the Oficina Técnica Municipal located  
in the centre of the Old Town, in Carrer  
d'Avall (see following map).**

**Open Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 14.00**

# The Oficina Técnica is located in Carrer d'Avall (no. 3 on map)



**If you haven't yet  
registered**



**DO IT SOON!**

**The queue won't be as long  
as this!**



# How do I do it?

- **Simply go to the Padrón office of your town hall and fill in the form they provide.**
- **Take along official identification, such as a passport, and also your NIE or residence certificate/card.**
- **a recent utility bill in your name, the receipt from your bank for your IBI payment, or a copy of your rental contract.**

# “STOP PRESS”

The PSOE central government taking into consideration that many foreign residents were away for Christmas and New Year holidays, announced on 13th January that the date for registering to vote has been extended by a further 10 days until **25th January**. The only condition is that the applicant had registered on the Padrón prior to 31st December 2010.

# Check if you are on the electoral register

There is a help line in Alicante where you can check if your name is entered on the current electoral register

901 101 900

(only Spanish speaking)

**You have now taken your first steps  
towards integration into Spanish  
community life**



**Maybe like this!**

Or even this!



If you dare!

# NUMBERS OF BRITONS IN SPAIN

Total	Inc. part-time	Pensioners*
761,000	990,000	74,636

\* The low figure for registered pensioners indicates that the majority have taken early retirement or are economically active

# Immigrants or “Expats”

Quite a lot of Brits living here complain about the number of immigrants coming to the UK, and do not recognise that they themselves are immigrants here in Spain.

Actually the Brits generally do not think they are immigrants - we are "expats" and sometimes can have a very colonial attitude . We know how to run things far better than the locals.....

# “Expats” or Immigrants

An expatriate is different from an immigrant in that most expatriates do not plan on residing in their new country permanently.

Unlike other mass migrations where people flee poor countries to find work in a rich one, the British immigrants in Spain are from a relatively rich and prosperous European nation.

# The New Resident in Spain

Usually pretty soon after arriving, contact is made with other people in the British community and despite the best intentions of integrating quickly, mastering the language, learning the customs, and participating in the activities of the town.

**It's harder than expected.**

# Expectations & Hopes

Everyone who moves to Spain has certain expectations and hopes. Whatever the reasons for moving here, we all had a vision of what it would be like. Gradually though, one by one, those hopes and expectations undergo a quite subtle change as we adapt to the new way of life.



# Challenges



Everyone who leaves their country of origin has something about them, some strength of character, a willingness to take on a challenge, and confidence in their ability to have a go and get by. Most new residents, knew they were up for a challenge, and knew at times it would be difficult.

# Changing Attitudes

There are those of course in any community who will have trivial complaints such as they can't get some food brands, such as M&S ready-meals, and they don't like chorizos, but many, if not all, are interested in the local food, the local shops, the local ways of doing things. Gradually our attitudes begin to change, sometimes dramatically.

# Difficulties in Language Learning especially for Pensioners

Everyone has some problems learning a new language, plus the further complication in some Spanish Provinces of the extensive use of regional languages such as Valenciano, Catalan, Basque and Galician.

# Learning Spanish 1.

- French, Italian and Romanian residents are easily able to learn basic Spanish, because of linguistic similarities.
- Dutch residents having multilingual skills usually learn to speak Spanish with few problems.
- Foreign residents with businesses are forced to make efforts to speak Spanish to increase their customer base.

# Learning Spanish 2.

*But what about the British residents?*

With the reputation as the worst linguists in Europe the British residents have the greatest problems in integrating and socialising with the Spanish population.

The comment “I didn’t come to live in Spain to learn Spanish” has been overheard on more than one occasion.

# ISOLATION

There are British residents who effectively live in a bubble, reading only English newspapers, watching only English TV, speaking only English to English people, in English owned pubs, bars and restaurants, and shopping in English supermarkets, yet at the same time they are separated from England. What happens there largely doesn't affect them, and what happens here in Spain also barely affects them. That has an unfortunate effect on their attitudes since nothing ever challenges their ideas, their beliefs, their prejudices. Sometimes, their prejudices just grow.

# COMFORT ZONE

© Original Artist  
Reproduction rights obtainable from  
[www.CartoonStock.com](http://www.CartoonStock.com)



search ID: form1285

# INSULATION

With the comfort of an insulated British community sharing their views, there is less pressure to integrate. With more and more information available in English, there's less reason to learn Spanish, and as a consequence less opportunity to understand the local culture. There are many residents who speak no more than ten Spanish words in an average week (usually restaurant Spanish!) and they pride themselves on getting by.

# Learning Spanish

How many times have you said, in your own country, of foreigners:

**'THEY SHOULD LEARN TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE !!'**

Is it any different here? Of course it isn't, yet there are still thousands of people living on the

Costa Blanca who barely speak any Spanish at all.

# Misunderstandings



The inability to communicate can lead to misunderstandings, expectations not met, deliveries that didn't happen, confusion over administrative procedures, and the result sometimes is an attitude that blames the Spanish for being inefficient, or slow, or disorganised. No doubt, just as in England, people can experience these problems, but often the cause lies in poor communication.

# Enriching the Experience

The culture of Spain is rich and varied, open and welcoming, sometimes challenging and confusing, but always interesting and stimulating. For those wanting a full life in Spain, they will need to study the language but more than anything else they need to be willing to let go of their assumptions and prejudices, and give themselves the opportunity to participate in and to share another culture. They won't be disappointed and their lives will be richer.

# Learning Spanish “Intercambio”



One way of learning is to start an “intercambio” with a Spanish neighbour. It's a language exchange in which both speak in English and Spanish and both learn together.

# Learning Spanish "Hablemos +" ("Let's Talk +")



**This is a project launched by the Department of International Relations, Citizens' Participation and Intercultural Relations of Xàbia Town Hall in order to boost exchanges between mainly English and Castellano speakers.**

# Learning Spanish

## Subsidized Spanish Lessons

These language projects are part of a group of initiatives launched by Xàbia Town Hall with the aim of promoting the integration of all citizens, knowing that learning the language is a necessary condition to achieve this. The course of Castellano for residents, is subsidized by the Diputación (Alicante), and begins each autumn.

# Difficulties of using Spanish

There is a reluctance by some Britons to learn a foreign language. For others it is not the case of a wilful refusal to learn, rather it is an inability. Many take Spanish lessons but find that they forget what they have learned because they have little need to use it. Others find the learning process very hard, especially pensioners, some of whom were never taught a foreign language at school and are now of an age when learning anything new is difficult.

# Local Xàbia Culture

Having perhaps struggled to learn Spanish the further challenge is that the local language and culture is Valenciano, not Castellano. It's a bit like being a Frenchman living in Wales.

# Specific Challenges of Xàbia

It has to be acknowledged that the British living in Xàbia do face particular challenges in integrating.

The large British community is now pretty much self-contained with its own shops, plumbers, butchers radio stations, etc.

There is no need to interact (let alone integrate) with the local community EXCEPT when you deal with the National Health Service, the Police,

Public Utilities and the Town Hall.

# Isolated Communities

The geography of Xàbia, with its three urban centres, means that there is no one centre where everyone goes to eat, shop etc. to develop a sense of community.

Many foreign residents live in urbanisations in the countryside, and have limited day to day contact with locals.

# Overcoming these obstacles

The Town Hall must recognise these issues and reach out to improve communication. More than 55% of the population is affected by these problems.

# Information on local issues

At present the British in Xàbia obtain their information about local issues through the filters of the regional English language press (e.g. Costa Blanca News, Round Town News, Euroweekly, Grapevine), and of course, gossip. Ideally all the “Brits” should learn Spanish, but realistically this is not going to happen even if free lessons are available. Somehow, there must be two way communication or we shall develop a divisive “them and us” mentality which will lead only to discord.

# El Pais. Com

If you wish to keep up to date on the Spanish news in English there is an on-line version of the national newspaper El Pais at:

[www.elpais.com](http://www.elpais.com)

# Two Way Communication

## How can this be achieved?

A more proactive Xàbia Town Hall could have a multilingual web site like the one run by Calvià (Mallorca) with the opportunity to e-mail the town hall (and receive a reply) in English. Hold regular, well publicised, Question and Answer press conferences, with interpreters, to which journalists of all nationalities are invited.

# Calvia Town Hall Website

## Access in English

Street Directory,

Tax Payments

Certificates,

Collection of used articles

Complaints and suggestions

Download Forms

All services



# Agenda 21

Unlike Xàbia, in some other towns Agenda 21 although supported by the Town hall is an independent body, not subjected to manipulation by the party in power.

To encourage more participation by foreign residents, there should be help with interpretation at Agenda 21 meetings.

# Interculturality/Integration

The goal of “Interculturalitat” can only be achieved if all members of our society have information they can rely on. “Little Britain” is here to stay. It is a market for businesses of all nationalities. Its economic significance is important; its social impact on Spanish communities is being felt and its political influence is being seen. Almost 26% of the electorate in Xàbia is British. “Little Britain” cannot be ignored.

# Integration – A Dream?

Is it only a dream that foreign residents will one day integrate into Spanish society? (A similar discussion is being held in Britain about the integration of migrants from ex-colonies and Eastern Europe.)

The idea of extensive British/Spanish integration will therefore probably remain a dream, at least in the medium term, with language being the main barrier.

For a better integrated society all parties need to be creative and try many different approaches.

# Summary

This presentation has attempted to highlight the issues for fostering integration between the foreign residents of Xàbia and the local Spanish population.

It is clear that the foreign residents have to make a greater effort but in turn the local residents have to recognise the cultural and economic benefits of fuller integration with their foreign

residents for a richer and more homogenous society.

# Conclusion

**If you love where you live, be  
a part of it!**

**¡Si amas el lugar donde vives,  
tienes que ser parte de él!**

Thank you for your  
attention

**PSOE**



# Forum for Change



**For a real change in Xàbia**

**For a fresh approach**

**For new ideas**

**For 21<sup>st</sup> century politics**

**For a new generation of  
politicians**

**For better citizen  
participation**

**José Chulvi, the PSOE  
candidate for Mayor of  
Xàbia**