

Catalonia Connects to Video Games

An innovative industry with global vision and one of the most dynamic sectors in the digital content field.

More than 100 companies in the Catalan gaming ecosystem

There are **more than 100 video game companies** established in Catalonia (25.15% of the Spanish total), with 928 employees (27.95% of Spain) and a €95.7M turnover (23.17% of Spain). In 2015, Catalan companies developed about **150 games, 40% for mobiles and 30% for online platforms**. The boom in games for mobiles and the digital distribution have helped new companies to emerge. Most companies were formed less than 5 years ago (65%), and 28% less than two ago.

Some noteworthy companies successfully operating in Catalonia.

Abylight	Edenic Games
A Crowd of Monsters	Gameloft
Activision King	Invedars
5 ants	Kailab
BCN multimèdia	Moonbite
Bee Square	Monkey Armada
Bf Games	No2
bitTales	Paidia Games
Blinzy	Rovio
CoderChild	Socialpoint
Cheesecake	Ubisoft
Childtopia	Undercodes
Digital Legends	Uplay
Digital Rebel	

Foreign capital investment in the Catalan gaming industry covers 50.6 % of total capital investment in Spain, 47% of the projects and 46.9% of jobs created (FDI Markets, 2003 - 2015). When compared to Western Europe, it represents 3.4% of all projects, 2.4% of CAPEX and 5.7% of the region's Gaming FDI jobs.

Entrepreneurial spirit

Barcelona is recognized as the best technological ecosystem in Southern Europe and some of the companies born here are known for their growth potential. The city is Western Europe's most attractive metropolitan area for investment (Site selection), and a global benchmark for smart and mobile cities (Top World Smart City).

With start-ups being one of the strongest employment and income creators in Europe, Barcelona is the 5th Startup Region in Europe according to Compass and ACCIÓ, behind London, Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam.

The CITIE 2015 report lists Barcelona as the 4th Best city favouring digital entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the Catalan capital ranks extremely well in terms of cost of living & best location for office space costs.

2015 Whitepaper on video game development in Spain

The figures for the Spanish market corroborate the very positive growth projections for the world video game market. In fact, the market in Spain is growing faster than in the European Union countries as a whole. Internet-linked distribution models (MMO video games, video games via social networks, casual video games on websites and video games for mobile devices) represented 38% of the market. Spain is among the top five European countries in terms of game revenue in 2015 together with Germany, UK, France and Italy.





Why is Catalonia the best place for the Gaming Industry?

Catalonia offers excellent investment opportunities for the establishment of R&D centres in game programming, HQ & sales offices, and strong growth trends that may offer additional business opportunities in some fields such as porting and gamification activities.

▶ Young, creative and qualified professionals and researchers from all over Europe

Barcelona is the 4th Most Creative City in the World (BCD on the Barcelona Brand, 2013). Catalonia has a large pool of highly skilled professionals and outstanding academia accounting for more than 56,000 students in ICT & Engineering at internationally renowned universities such as the UPC, ESADE or UPF. In Catalonia, **7 universities offer ICT studies**. The high availability of talented software developers means innovative ideas are being continuously generated. Almost 800 students are enrolled in a wide offer of specialized video game training programs that range from videogame creation, design and development or arts, design, 3d, games, animation and visual effects to multimedia engineering or interactive digital content.

▶ Best location for office space costs

Barcelona has the lowest unit costs for office space of the main cities in Europe and it is the **6th city** with the world's best reputation according to City RepTrak 2015.

▶ Mobile World Capital and international major events

The Mobile World Capital turns Barcelona into the permanent global centre for mobile technologies and involves the development of a business environment focused on this type of industry at international level, developing programmes in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation, health, education and smart cities, among others. Barcelona has held the **Mobile World Congress** every year since 2006 and will continue to host the world's main event for mobile phone-related industries until at least 2023. **Gamelab Barcelona** and **Barcelona Games World** are other major international event focused on this type of industry.

▶ Outstanding ICT environment

Catalonia is home to large ICT clusters and technology parks. With the Eurecat Technology Centre, the National Supercomputing Centre or 22@Barcelona area, Catalonia is extremely well positioned to foster technology transfer and collaboration between academia, industry, public administration. Leading research centres working in ICT are the Computer Vision Centre or the Artificial Intelligence Research Institute.

2015 Global Games Market Report

According to the 2015 Global Games Market Report, on a world level the video game sector is the technology industry with the best growth prospects. In 2014, the world video game market reached 81,500 million dollars. It is expected to close 2015 showing a figure of 91,500 million dollars. These figures are generated by the steady growth of the gaming community, which in 2014 was 1,700 million and that by the end of 2015 will exceed 1,900 million.

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