The team lacks cohesion

While Spain's economy is picking up again after a long dry spell, the country is going through one crisis after another politically. In 2017, Catalonia created a nationwide state of emergency with a supposedly illegal referendum and the subsequent declaration of independence. As a consequence, the central government in Madrid stripped the regional government in Barcelona of office and took over the administration of the region for more than six months. At the same time, former Regional President Carles Puigdemont fled abroad. He and other Catalan politicians in custody face years of prison on charges of rebellion. Meanwhile, the political chaos has also spread to Madrid, as the long-time conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy fell over a corruption scandal in his own party and was replaced by Social Democrat Pedro Sánchez by a vote of no confidence. The new Prime Minister Sánchez now faces the difficult task of having to lead the country with his transitional minority government, while at the same time containing problems such as the separatist aspirations in Catalonia and the high unemployment rate (almost 20%), which particularly affects younger people.

Elections

Elections are generally free and fair. Virtually every citizen is eligible to stand and it is relatively easy to register new parties. The law stipulates that parties must run in elections with approximately the same number of male and female candidates. Referenda are possible, but the hurdles to their success are high.

- good playmaking

Civil rights protection

State institutions respect and protect civil rights. However, many courts are understaffed, which can lead to excessive waiting times. Opposition and activists complain that a new public security law can be abused as an instrument against protests.

- good defense

Corruption prevention

Corruption has declined somewhat since the real estate bubble and the subsequent financial crisis, but is still unusually high by European standards. However, there are no problems in day-to-day dealings between citizens and authorities, and the population shows little tolerance for abuse of office.

- mediocre fair play

Freedom of speech

Freedom of the press and freedom of opinion is guaranteed under constitutional law; there is no censorship. However, the plurality in the Spanish media landscape is low and state broadcasting is not completely neutral. Regional public broadcasters in Catalonia, Andalusia and elsewhere are decidedly partisan.

- good fan culture

Social inclusion

By European standards, the income gap between rich and poor is wide, and social exclusion remains a serious concern. More than 20% of Spaniards are at risk of poverty, especially elderly people with low pensions, the unemployed, single mothers and migrants. The child poverty rate is almost at 30%.

- mediocre team spirit