

A photograph of a classroom with rows of white plastic chairs on a wooden parquet floor. In the background, a blackboard is mounted on a white wall.

## ***SUMMARY OF THE PRESS RELEASE***

***PISA reveals a worrying high academic failure rate among immigrant children in Catalonia***

## **PISA reveals a worrying high academic failure rate among immigrant children in Catalonia**

**Barcelona, Spain  
December 2014**

- Analysis of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) results in Catalonia has revealed a worrying high academic failure rate among immigrant children, which triples the ratio among their native fellow classmates.
- Specifically, in the latest edition of PISA in 2012, 44% of immigrant students could not surpass the lowest PISA level (level 1) whereas only 15% of native pupils were in that situation.
- Failure rate among immigrant children in Catalonia is significantly higher than the average rate in the rest of Spain and specifically than other Spanish regions with similar per capita income, social development level and urban population ratio like Madrid.
- Gap in academic results between immigrant and native children affects boys and girls and widens in public schools.
- The poor performance of immigrant students (most of them Spanish-speaking) in Catalonia seems related to the peculiar educational system imposed by the Catalan regional Government that denies Spanish-speaking children their right to education in their mother tongue whereas makes compulsory the so-called language immersion system, that is, the obligatory use of Catalan as the sole medium of instruction.
- In education it is widely accepted that students learn faster and better when they receive education in their own mother tongue. This has been demonstrated by numerous studies from prestigious international organizations like UNESCO and UNICEF. However, Catalan Government has never accepted international pedagogical recommendations.
- PISA results show that the current monolingual immersion-education system in Catalonia is not a factor of social cohesion. On the contrary, creates a major fracture and educational inequality between immigrant and native populations.

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*Convivència Cívica Catalana is a non-governmental organization created in 1998 which defends citizens' rights and gives insight into Catalan reality from an independent point of view.*