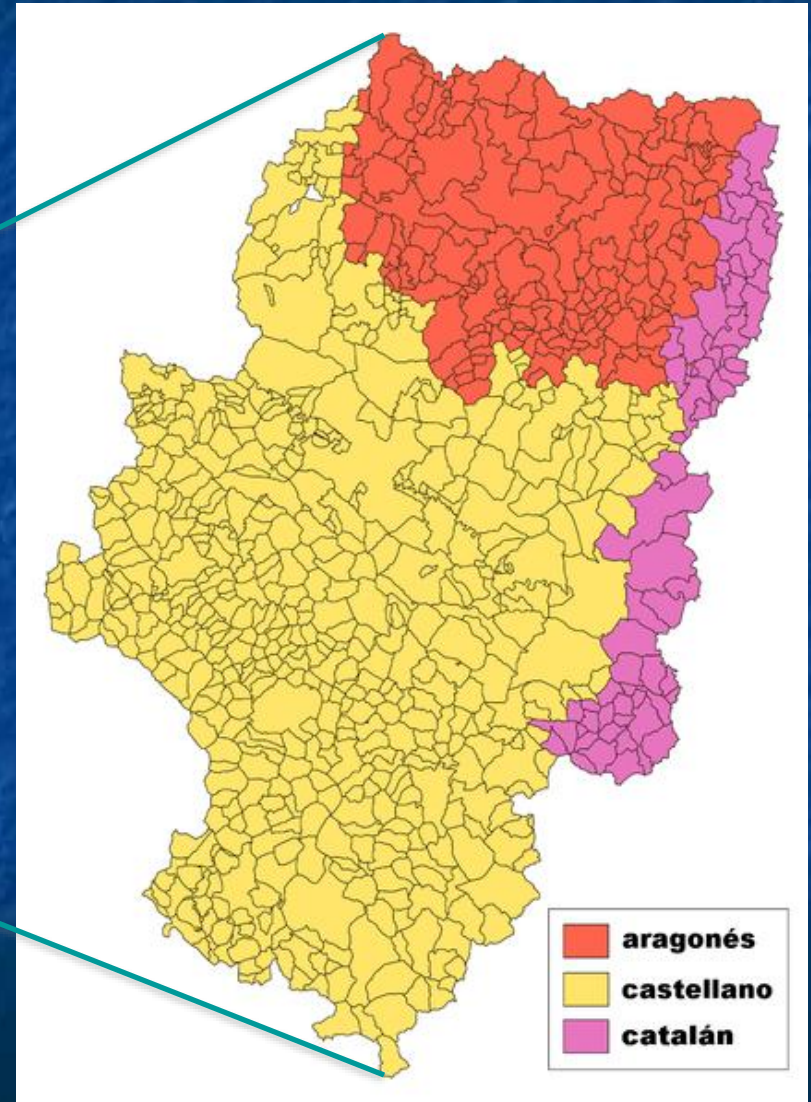
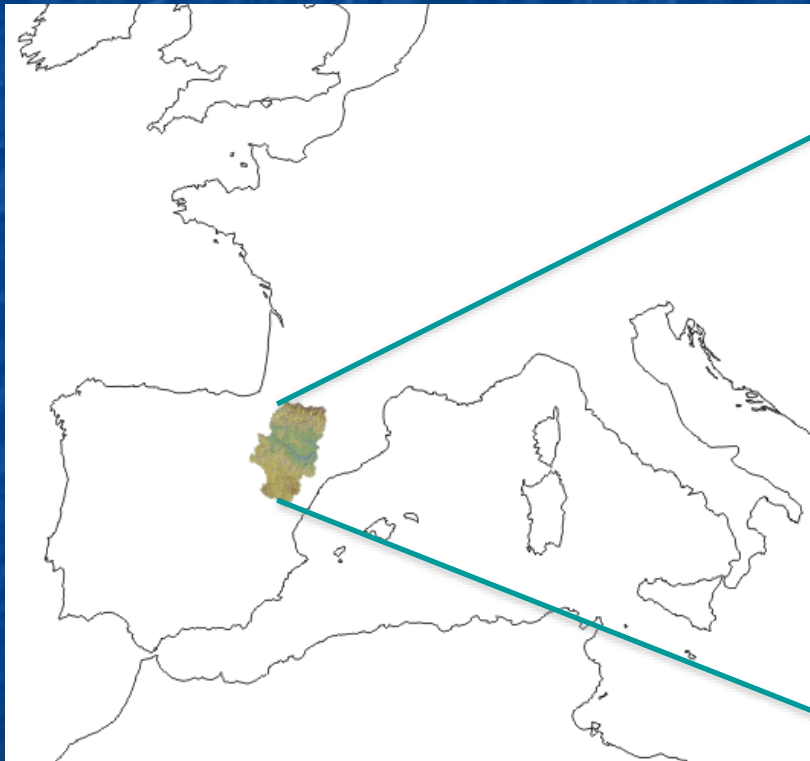


ARAGON'S ENDANGERED LANGUAGES



A call for European action

A trilingual society



A trilingual society

- Two vernacular languages (since the 9th century)
 - ARAGONESE
 - CATALAN
- One “imported” language (since the 15th century)
 - CASTILIAN

A trilingual society

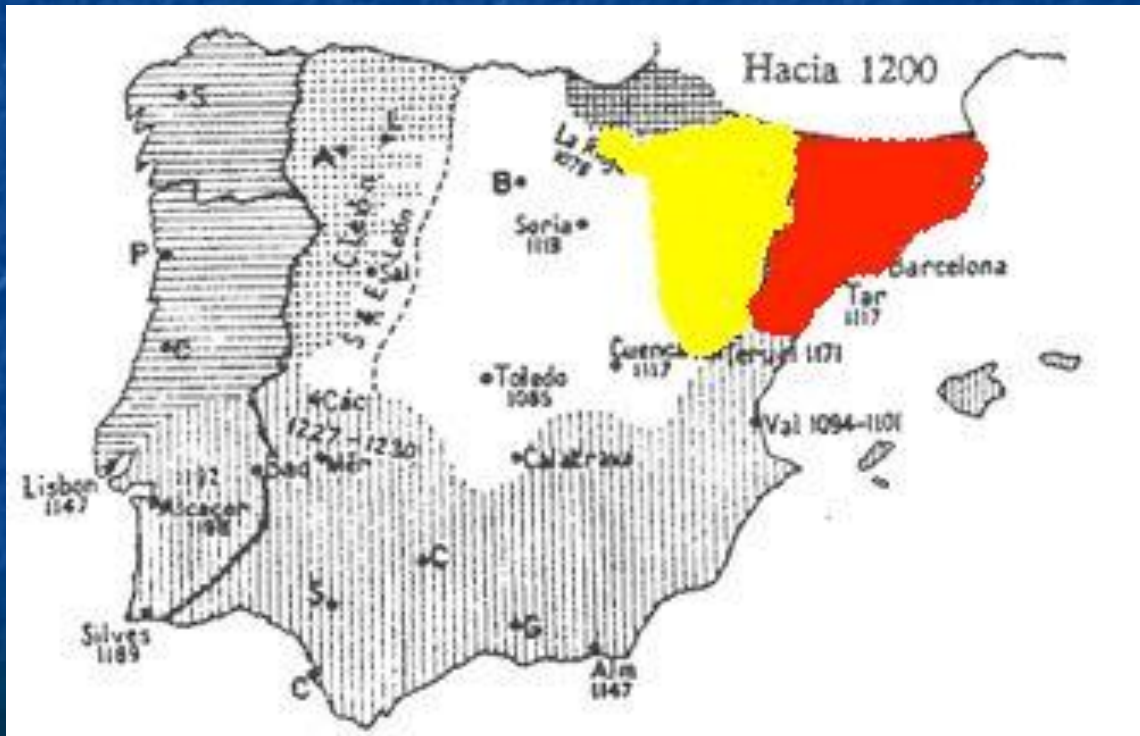
10th century



**Catalan
was born
also in
territories
that have
always
belonged
to Aragon**

A trilingual society

13th century



Aragonese and Catalan expanded Southwards with the Aragonese "Reconquest" to drive de Moors from the Iberian peninsula

A trilingual society

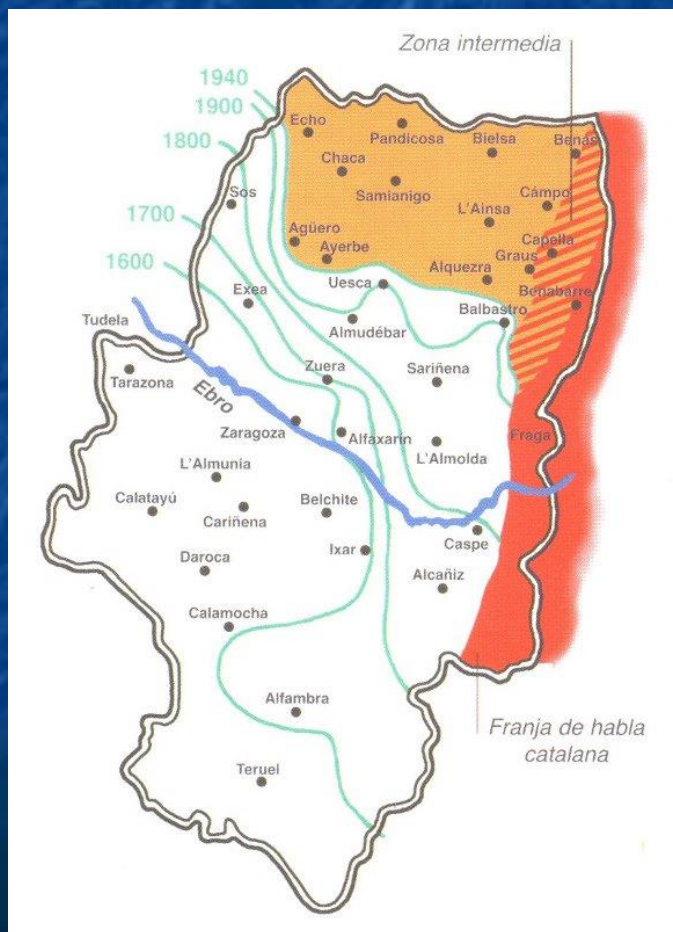
14th century



Aragonese and Catalan reached their highest point of development and prestige in Aragon as literary and administrative languages

A trilingual society

15th to 21st century



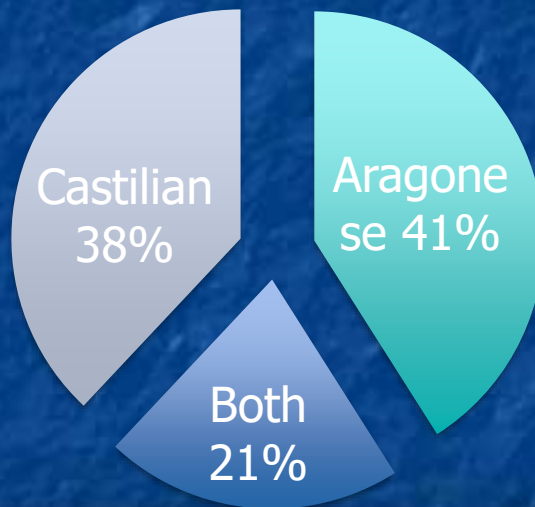
**The new kings
only spoke
Castilian,
which replaced
the Aragonese
and Catalan
languages as a
vehicle of
culture and
social
promotion**

Spoken only by 7% of the 1,300,000 total Aragonese population

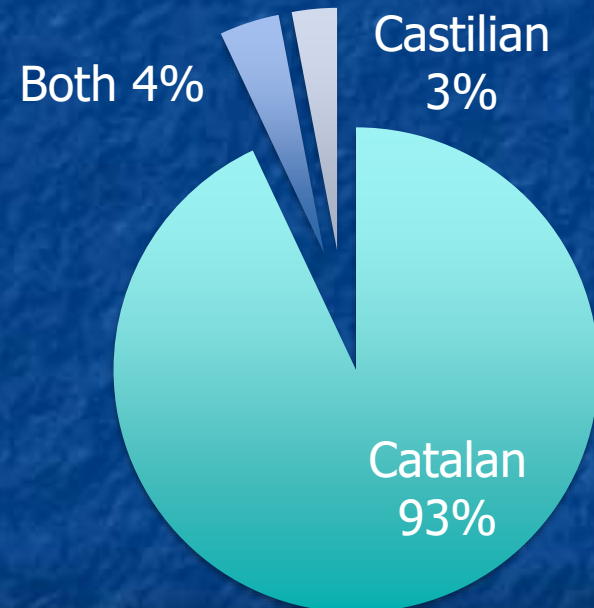
	ARAGONESE	CATALAN
TOTAL POPULATION OF THE AREAS WHERE EACH LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN	130,000	47,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO SPEAK IT DAILY	14,000 (9 %)	34,000 (73 %)
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW IT BUT SCARCELY USE IT	24,000 (18 %)	13,000 (27 %)

Generational transmission

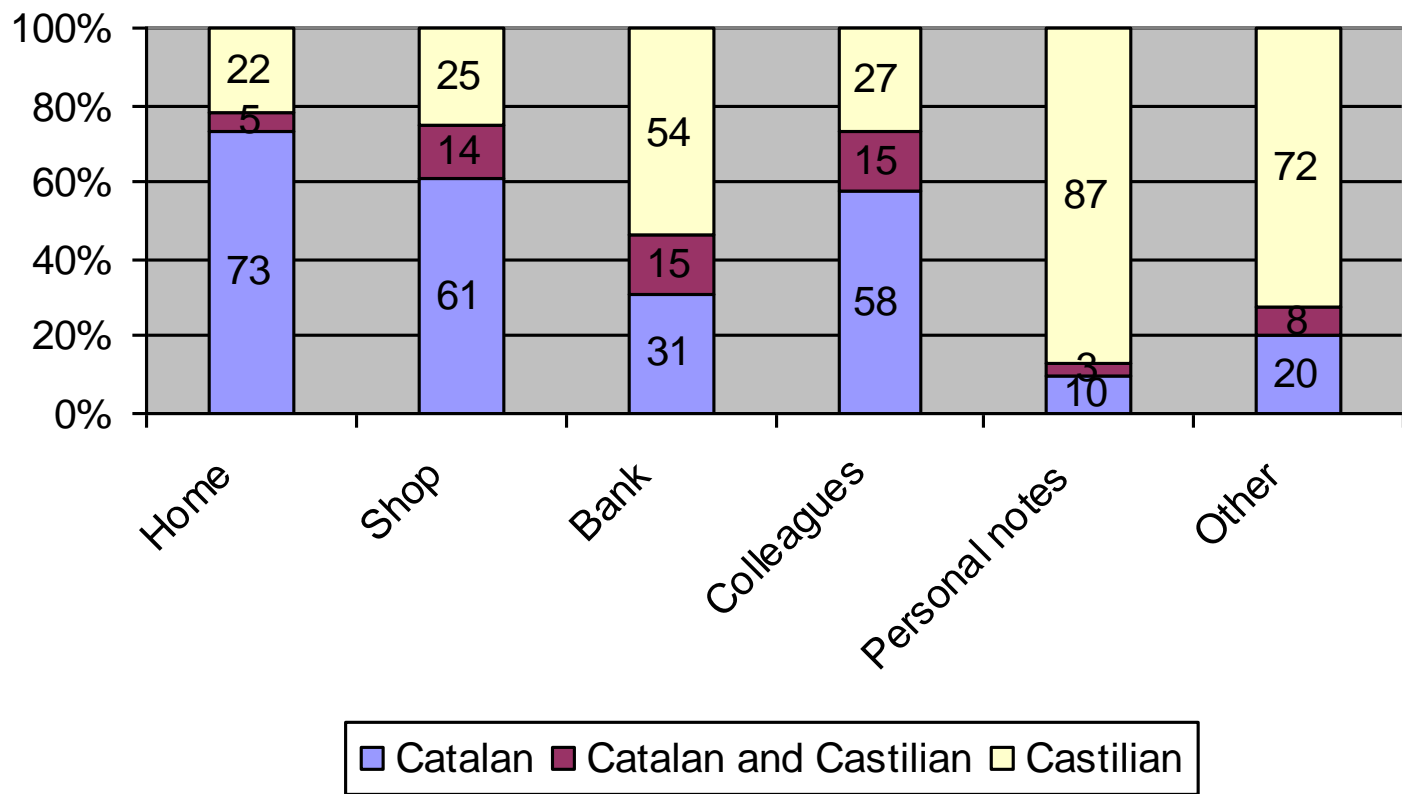
Aragonese



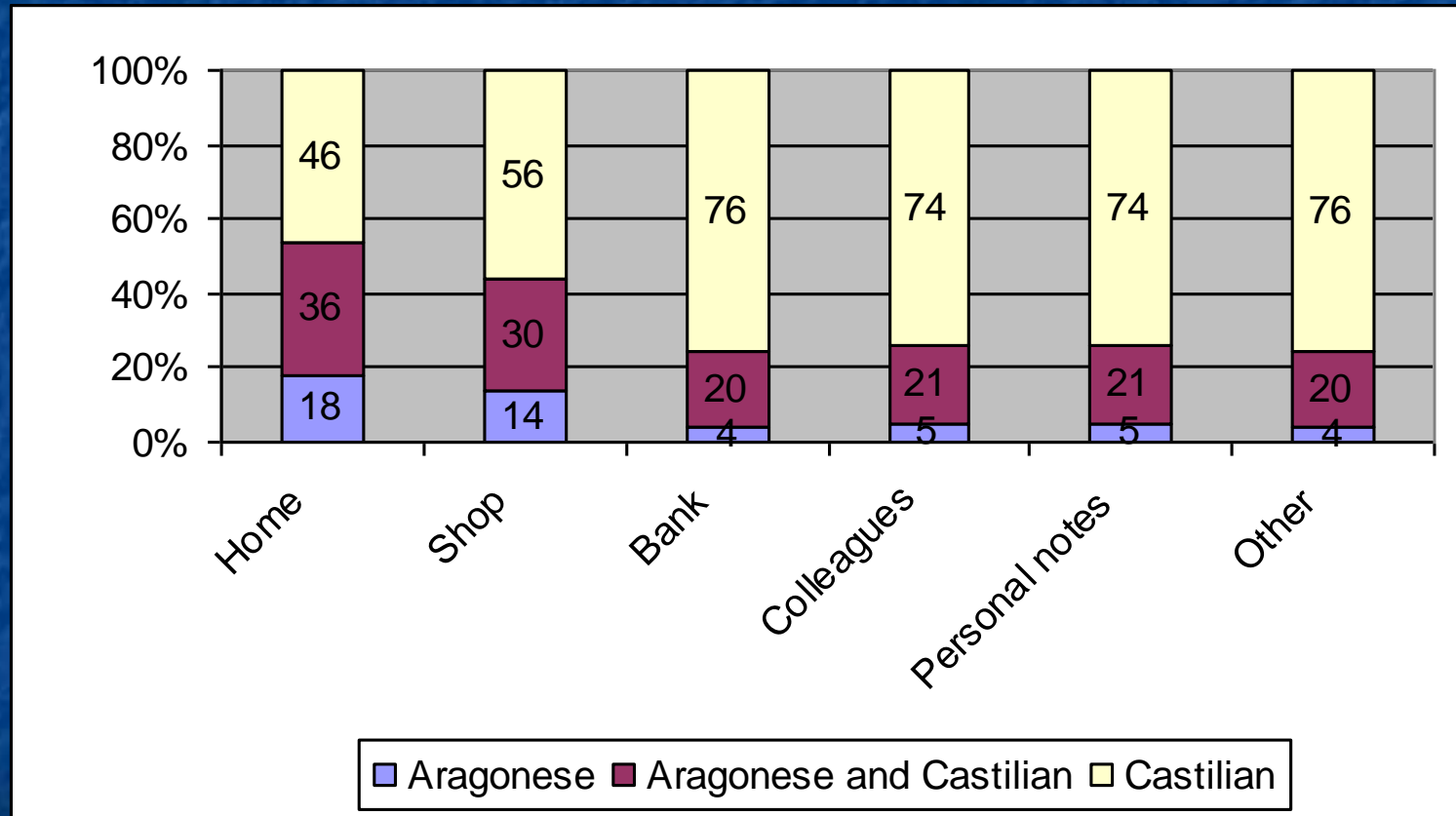
Catalan



Use of Catalan



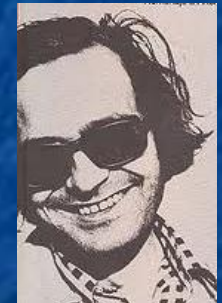
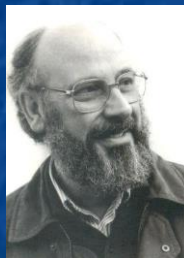
Use of Aragonese



Aragonese is one of the endangered languages of the world, according to *UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*

A 40 year-long claim

- Aragonese is re-discovered in the early 70's and NGOs start working for it
- Catalan speakers demand their recognition and dignification in Aragon



Aragonese self-government to no or little avail

- The Statute of Autonomy (1982) and its reforms (in 1996 and 2007) always recognized Aragon's linguistic diversity and provided for its legal protection...
- ...but little or nothing was ever done in 27 years!

Statute of Autonomy of Aragon (1982)

Article 7: The different linguistic modalities of Aragon will be protected as integral parts of its cultural and historical heritage.

Article 35: 1. The Autonomous Community of Aragon has exclusive competence in [...] Culture, particularly in its traditional manifestations and linguistic modalities, taking care of their preservation and study.

Statute of Autonomy of Aragon (1996)

Article 7: The languages and linguistic modalities of Aragon will be protected. Their teaching and the rights of their speakers will be guaranteed in the manner established by an Act of Parliament of Aragon in the areas where they are predominantly spoken.

Statute of Autonomy of Aragon (2007)

Article 7.- *Own languages and linguistic modalities*

1. Aragon's own languages and linguistic modalities are one of the most outstanding manifestations of the historical and cultural Aragonese heritage and a social asset for respect, coexistence and understanding.
2. A Law of the Aragonese Parliament will define the areas of predominant use of the Aragonese languages and linguistic modalities, regulate their status and the using rights of the speakers of these territories, promote their protection, restitution, teaching, development and the dissemination of the Aragonese linguistic heritage, and will foster –in the areas of predominant use- the employment of our own languages in relations between citizens and the Aragonese public administrations.
3. No one shall be discriminated on grounds of language.

Law of Languages of Aragon (2009)

- Passed in Dec. 2009, after two evaluation reports by the Council of Europe (2005 and 2008) calling for its adoption and campaigns by NGOs



A fairly good first step...

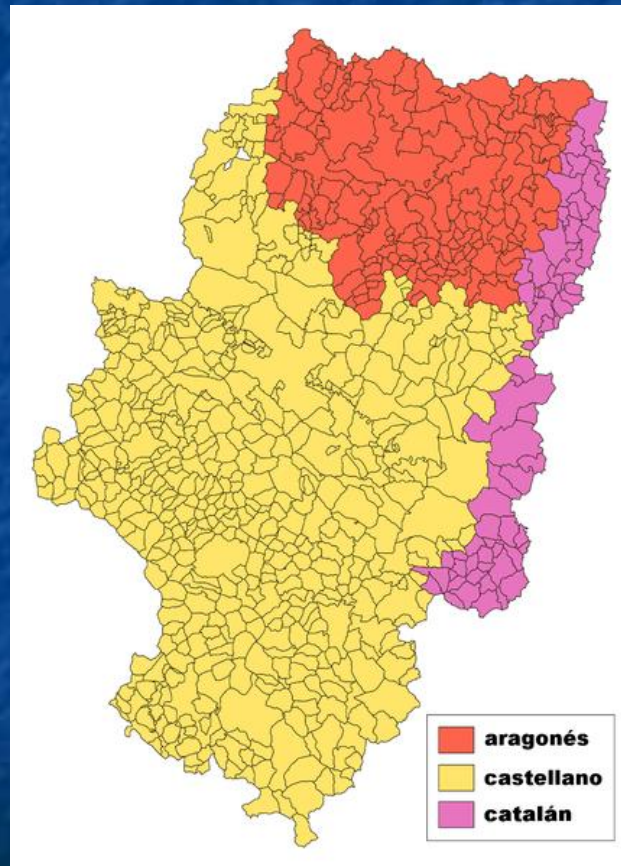
- They are recognized by their names as original and historical languages of Aragon
- No official status, but the Law recognizes important rights to speakers (with no obligations to the rest)
- Public administrations must guarantee these rights:
 - a. To be known and used in both private and public life
 - b. To be taught in the education system
 - c. To be published and broadcasted by the media
 - d. To be used in social and economic life

...and NO MORE

TWO YEARS AND A HALF LOST

- The previous Aragonese government did not apply it (with the sole exception of the setting up of the Aragonese Languages Council) during the year and a half left of the past legislature
- The new government that took office in June 2011 declared its intention of “cutting” the law to wipe out its obligations (?) on the population and the “imposition” of the Catalan language

The Law is not enforced



Linguistic
territories still
remain
officially
undefined
(articles 7 to 9)

The Law is not enforced



No adequate administrative unit has been created for its implementation (articles 16 & 17, Second Additional Provision)

The Law is not enforced



The official
academies of the
Aragonese and
Catalan languages
have not been
created

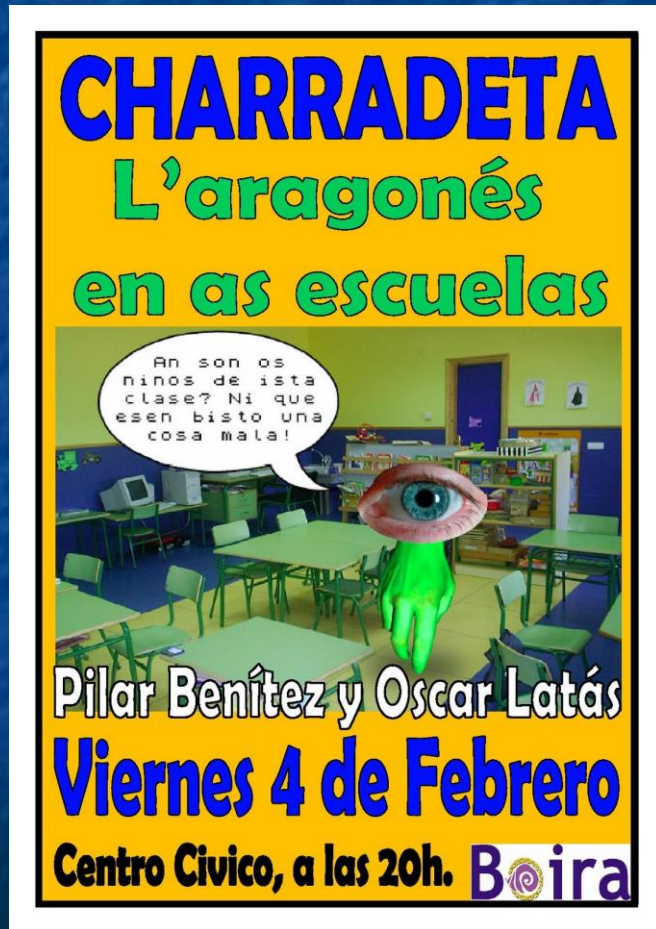
(arts. 15 & 16,
Second Additional
Provision)

The Law is not enforced

Written and spoken
use with public
administrations is
recognized, but
nothing has been
done to make it
feasible
(arts. 27 to 32)



The Law is not enforced



Teaching in all educational levels as a curricular subject has not been introduced (arts. 22 to 26, Third Additional Provision)

The Law is not enforced

NOTHING DONE ON...

- Dignifying measures
- Heritage preservation
- Cultural promotion
- Social use
- Use by the media



Only an Aragonese Languages Council
was set up...



...but its President resigned two weeks
ago because of the neglecting attitude
of the Government of Aragon

The new government's agenda



- Non-recognition of the two languages - only "linguistic modalities" (*of what?*)
- No Aragonese and Catalan language academies
- No right to use them for administrative purposes