



MÁLAGA, SPAIN: A GLOBAL HUB FOR CONNECTING EUROPEAN CUSTOMS

"SPANISH BID FOR THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION CUSTOMS AUTHORITY"



First Deputy Prime Minister

The Government of Spain strongly promotes and supports Malaga's candidacy as the future seat of the European Customs Agency (EUCA), an institution that is called upon to have strategic relevance for the Union, ensuring a secure and efficient management of international trade within the European single market.

We are convinced that Malaga's application meets the best technical and logistical conditions to host the EUCA: an unbeatable geographical location, an extraordinary capacity for connectivity, an environment with a powerful technological and innovative dynamism, modern infrastructures and an enviable quality of life in a safe and welcoming environment.

This candidacy is also based on the long tradition of customs excellence that Spain treasures, which is today also a benchmark in modernization, digitalization and paperless management, fully aligned and committed to the objectives of the European Union in terms of security, sustainability and trade facilitation.

Thus, Spain's commitment to building a more agile, efficient European customs area that protects the single market and its citizens is reflected in the excellence of its customs system, which is renowned for its efficiency and its ability to respond to the challenges of international trade and the current unstable geopolitical environment.

Equally remarkable is the unanimous support of all Spanish public administrations. From the first minute the Government of Spain and the City of Malaga have been working and cooperating to make this proposal a reality, together with the Junta de Andalucía and Malaga civil society.

Malaga therefore offers a unique combination of strategic relevance, operational excellence, institutional balance and human appeal. And from the Government of Spain we are convinced that its choice as the seat of the EUCA will undoubtedly contribute to the strengthening of the European project and the development of a modern and excellent customs policy at the service of citizens and the prosperity of our companies.

Sincerely,



María Jesús Montero

Andalusia Regional Government President

Through this letter, I would like to express my full support, as well as that of the Government I lead, for Málaga's candidacy to host the European Customs Authority (EUCA), a strategic proposal that brings together the best technical, logistical, and operational conditions to be selected as the host city.

Without a doubt, we know we face strong competition, but we must recognize that the city of Málaga offers countless strengths that make it deserving of this choice: high international connectivity, a consolidated technological ecosystem, an international city attractive to European talent with a high quality of life, an administrative, business, and office infrastructure with modern and sustainable buildings suitable for hosting international institutions, and significant logistical and geostrategic potential.

We are firmly convinced that collaboration and institutional cooperation are essential. For this reason, on behalf of the Government of the Andalusian Regional Government, I want to express to you our fullest support in bringing this initiative to a successful conclusion. I am sure that it will not only contribute to the progress of Andalusia and of Spain as a leading customs country, but also to the modernization of the European Union, increasing efficiency and harmonization in trade and customs operations.

All these qualities will ensure that the selection of Málaga as the EUCA headquarters strengthens the consolidation of the European project and promotes a more coordinated and efficient customs system.

Kind regards,



Juan Manuel Moreno

Málaga Mayor

On behalf of the City of Málaga, allow me to formally express our strongest support for Málaga's candidacy to host the new European Union Customs Authority (EUCA).

Málaga embodies the strategic, operational, and quality-of-life criteria essential for EUCA's success. As a dynamic, medium-sized European city, Málaga offers the advantages of a major metropolitan centre—world-class infrastructure, international connectivity, and comprehensive services—without the congestion, pollution, or limitations often found in larger capitals. Strategically located near the Straits of Gibraltar, Málaga sits at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and the Americas, and serves as a vital gateway to the Mediterranean and global trade flows. The region is supported by a major international airport, a rapidly growing commercial port, high-speed rail, and robust logistics networks, assuring EUCA a modern, secure, and optimally connected foundation for customs operations.

The city's innovation ecosystem further enhances its suitability as a host. Málaga leads Southern Europe in technological transformation, anchored by one of Europe's largest technology parks specializing in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and supply-chain management. Leading European firms—including Vodafone, Dekra, Ericsson, and over 720 other tech companies—have established offices here, making Málaga a reference point for customs modernization and data-driven management. Moreover, the €650 million investment to establish IMEC's cutting-edge European semiconductor research centre in Málaga not only strengthens the city's role in digital innovation but also significantly contributes to Europe's strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty—critical factors underpinning the success and security of the European Union Customs Authority.

Málaga also guarantees an exceptional quality of life, marked by safety, affordability, outstanding healthcare and education, and a tradition of welcoming families and professionals from across Europe. The Costa del Sol hosts more than fifteen international schools and a large, established European expatriate community, ensuring a smooth transition and deep integration for EUCA staff. The city's status as the largest European urban centre without a formal EU institutional presence guarantees visibility and impact for the Authority, both locally and at European level.

The City of Málaga is fully committed to working with EU institutions and partners to deliver a successful, enduring home for EUCA. We stand ready to offer the Authority a resilient, well-connected, and future-oriented environment, fully aligned with its mission and with the values of the European Union.

Sincerely,



Francisco de la Torre

Why Málaga is the perfect fit

Exclusive access to Málaga's finest properties

Benefit from a selection of secure, fully-equipped buildings perfectly tailored to EUCA's needs.

A selection of secure, fully equipped buildings tailored to EUCA's needs is available in Málaga, offering modern, sustainable facilities in strategic locations. Each site is ready for immediate occupancy and designed to provide efficiency, strong connectivity, and a high-quality working environment from day one.



Strategic hub with global digital connectivity

Thrive in a city designed for innovation and seamless international access

The city stands out as one of Europe's most connected urban hubs, offering seamless mobility by air, rail, road, and sea. Its international airport, one of Spain's busiest, links Málaga to 156 destinations in 38 countries, including 24 EU capitals. Efficient high-speed rail connections, world-class road networks, and a modern port reinforce its role as a natural European gateway, while local mobility remains easy and sustainable thanks to modern infrastructure and diverse transport options.



At the heart of a robust EU customs ecosystem

With a key node for global trade and access to custom operations

Spain's well-established customs system and network of EU institutions provide a strong foundation for trade, border management, and technical cooperation. Málaga's strategic Mediterranean location, with excellent port, rail, and air connections, ensures fast access to EU and global markets. The city and its port also emphasize digital innovation and sustainability, making Málaga an ideal hub for the EUCA and related EU operations.



Effortless relocation with soft landing programme

Move smoothly and feel at home from day one, thanks to tailored support

The Headquarters Agreement establishes mechanisms and privileges that facilitate the smooth relocation of EUCA staff and their families, ensuring rapid and stable integration into Málaga. The city also provides a dedicated Soft-Landing Plan with a personalized Welcome Pack Service to support newcomers from day one. In addition, technical assistance is available throughout the headquarters setup, ensuring that all facilities align with operational requirements during the transition.



Why Málaga is the perfect fit

World-class education

Empower your future with outstanding educational institutions and programs

The city offers an exceptional educational ecosystem ready to welcome EUCA families. With 113 international schools and more than 900 local schools, the province provides extensive, high-quality options for every stage and preference. This offering is complemented by a strong network of daycare centres, leading universities, and renowned business schools, ensuring outstanding academic opportunities for all family members.



Dynamic English-speaking job market and premium healthcare

Build your career in Málaga's vibrant professional scene, backed by exceptional medical services

Málaga is a modern, open city focused on people's well-being, being known for its high quality of life and Mediterranean environment. In fact, Forbes has recognised it as one of the best cities in the world to live and work. The city provides a supportive environment for EUCA's employees and facilities, promoting a good work-life balance. Málaga also has a strong public services network and a social welfare system, contributing to its high quality of life. Finally, Spain also boasts one of the highest life expectancies in the EU, thanks to its renowned public health system.



Cosmopolitan Mediterranean lifestyle

Enjoy a sophisticated, multicultural environment and an unbeatable quality of life

Málaga captures the essence of Mediterranean living, combining over 2.900 hours of sunshine, mild temperatures, and a relaxed yet dynamic atmosphere with rich cultural heritage, vibrant gastronomy, and excellent infrastructure. Modern, connected, and full of character, the city offers ideal conditions where wellbeing and opportunity naturally coexist.



The expansion of the EU's institutional footprint in the Mediterranean

Ensuring a Balanced European Institutional Landscape

The EU aims for a balanced geographical distribution of its institutions, yet most agencies remain concentrated in Northern and Central Europe, leaving the South-Western region underrepresented. Málaga's candidacy for the EUCA addresses this imbalance by strengthening the EU's presence in Southern Europe, closer to key trade routes and emerging Mediterranean economies. By establishing EUCA in Málaga, the Union takes a decisive step towards fairer representation and increased effectiveness across its territory.



Exclusive access to the city's finest properties

Málaga Offers...

Three top-tier, newly built Class A+ office buildings



Ágora



Calle Pacífico, 24, 29004 Málaga



Scheduled for completion in **January 2026**



13' by car to Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport



7' by car to María Zambrano railway station



Noa



Paseo de Martiricos, 32, 29009 Málaga



Scheduled for completion in **Q4 2026**



15' by car to Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport



10' by car to María Zambrano railway station



Marítimo 26



Paseo Antonio Machado 26, 29002 Málaga



Scheduled for completion **Q4 2027**



15' by car to Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport



2' by car to María Zambrano railway station



Exclusive access to the city's finest properties

Málaga Offers...



Buildings meticulously designed down to the last detail



Building

	ÁGORA	NOA	MARÍTIMO 26
Availability	January 2026	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Fit-out & adaptation work (months)	3 - 9	3 - 9	3 - 9
Secure operational facilities	✓	✓	✓
Executive conference room	✓	✓	✓
Various medium and small meeting rooms	✓	✓	✓



Financial terms

	ÁGORA	NOA	MARÍTIMO 26
Rent (€/m²/month)	23	26	30
Monthly maintenance costs (€/m²/month)	3.5	3.5	3.9
Parking fees (€/space/month) + IVA	120	120	150
Fit-out and adaptation costs (€/m²)	750 - 850	750 - 850	750 - 850



Building characteristics

	ÁGORA	NOA	MARÍTIMO 26
Floors	7	7	8
Total surface (m²)	9,186	9,805	9,029
Available surface for EUCA (m²)	6,000	6,000	6,000
Staff capacity for EUCA	507	520	532
Parking spaces available for EUCA	26	200	130
Electric parking spaces	20	33	20
Bicycle parking spaces	32	32	30
Digital connectivity certifications	WiredScore Gold	WiredScore Gold	WiredScore Gold
Sustainability/Accessibility certificates	Breem Excellent, Well Gold	Leed Gold, Well Gold	Leed Gold, Well Gold, AIS

The Regional Government of Andalusia and the City of Málaga will provide:

12 Million €
Subsidy

6 years
Duration

2 Million €
per year

to **cover rental, refurbishment, maintenance** and other related costs

The City of Málaga is offering a **prime seafront plot of land** (free of cost) for EUCA to develop a customized headquarters:

2,680 m²
Surface

8,819 m²
Buildable area

7
Floors

For security and independence reasons, if the EU deems it necessary to have a dedicated building, the City of Málaga is also **willing to assist in negotiating the purchase** of any of the three proposed buildings and to occupy any space not used by EUCA in order to guarantee the building's security.

Exclusive access to the city's finest properties

Málaga Offers...

Prime locations, perfectly connected for your convenience

The proposed buildings for the European Customs Authority in Málaga are well located in the city, surrounded by high-quality services and excellent transport links. They combine architectural distinction with functionality, offering flexible, bright, and energy-efficient spaces that foster collaboration and comfort.



NOA	ÁGORA	MARÍTIMO
15 min	13 min	15 min
10 min	7 min	2 min
9 min	7 min	3 min

Time distance calculated by car

Strategic hub with global digital connectivity

Málaga Offers...

A seamless international access

Málaga is **exceptionally well connected** by air, land and sea, offering **seamless access** to major **national and international destinations**.

BY AIR: MÁLAGA'S STRATEGIC AIRPORT

Málaga is easily accessible via Málaga-Costa del Sol Airport, the **city's main international gateway**, which offers **extensive global connections** and seamless access to key European capitals and major intercontinental hubs.

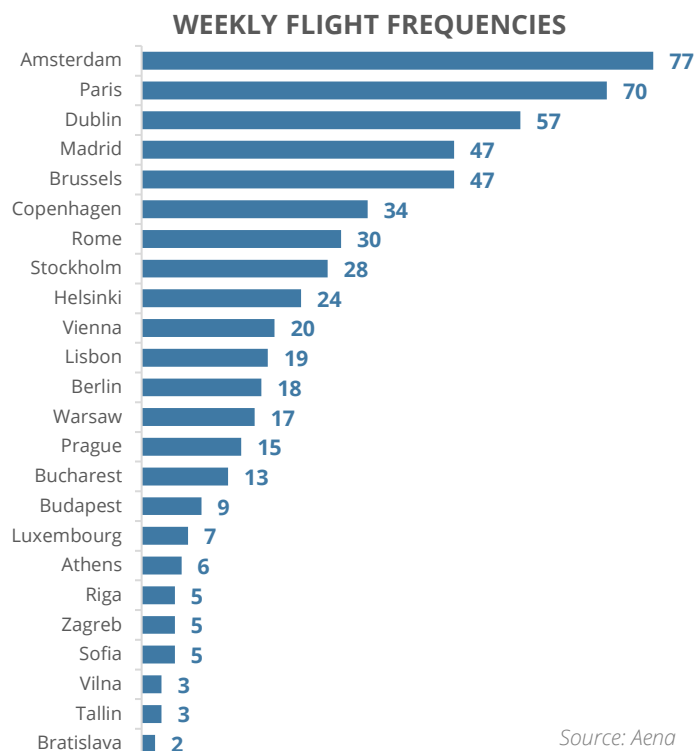
 **275 routes:** A robust network with **240 international** and **35 domestic** connections.

 **38 countries:** A broad international reach, unlocking access to **165 destinations** worldwide.

 **24,9 M of passengers:** More than **20 million** were international travellers.

Source: Aena

With **reduced travel times** and direct connections to **24 EU capitals across 69 routes averaging 24 weekly flights**, Málaga has become a natural gateway to Europe. Supported by 56 airlines and a 25.5% growth in passenger traffic over the past five year, **the city offers exceptional accessibility**. EUCA members can reach Málaga quickly, easily, and through a **wide range of reliable flight options**.



Source: Aena

AVERAGE FLIGHT DURATION TO EU CAPITALS



Málaga's Airport, the **4th largest in Spain**, stands out as a **strategic node** in the European aviation network, offering **strong and expanding connectivity** across the continent.

BY TRAIN: A LEADING RAIL NETWORKS

Spain's rail network is one of **Europe's most extensive and technologically advanced**, offering exceptional high-speed and regional mobility. High-speed AVE services connect Málaga with Madrid and Barcelona, **two major international transport hubs**, from which travellers can reach the city seamlessly through Spain's well-integrated rail network.

BY SEA: A STRATEGIC MEDITERRANEAN GATEWAY



Málaga enjoys the added value of a **highly connected port** that functions as a gateway for global flows of people and goods.

Málaga's Port in 2024 handled approximately **4,5 million tonnes of cargo** and welcomed over **500.000 passengers**.

Strategic hub with global digital connectivity

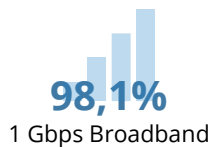
Málaga Offers...

Outstanding innovative and digital infrastructure

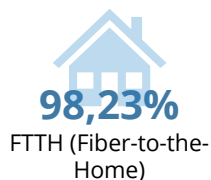


Málaga has developed a **robust and diversified telecommunications ecosystem** that ensures **high-capacity, reliable and redundant digital connectivity**. Its infrastructure combines an **extensive fibre-optic backbone**, linked to regional and national networks, with widespread FTTH deployment and advanced mobile services such as full 4G coverage, a rapidly expanding 5G rollout, and complementary radio, DTT and emergency systems. Together, these **assets provide resilient, high-performance connectivity for citizens, businesses and public services**.

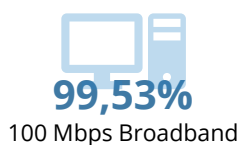
Thanks to these coordinated efforts, Málaga enjoys **near-universal broadband coverage and advanced mobile performance**:



Ultra-fast 1 Gbps broadband widely available, enabling seamless digital performance across the city.



Extensive FTTH coverage delivers stable, high-capacity connectivity for homes and businesses.



High-speed broadband reaches virtually every area, ensuring reliable access everywhere.



Citywide 5G NSA coverage provides fast, flexible next-generation mobile connectivity.

Source: Spain's Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Administration

Málaga achieves **outstanding fixed and mobile broadband indicators**, confirming its position as one of the **most digitally connected cities** in southern Europe.

Málaga stands out as a benchmark for resilient, future-ready telecommunications in Southern Europe, ensuring **service continuity, low latency and high availability**.



Resilient & future-proof infrastructure:

High-capacity networks ready for next-generation services.



Integrated governance model:

Coordinated public-private management ensuring reliability and rapid response.



Aligned with EU digital & sustainability strategies:

Fully connected to European standards and long-term policy goals.



Secure and dependable connectivity ecosystem:

Ideal for critical operations that require continuity and low latency.



Strong foundation for innovation:

Enables smart-city initiatives, data-driven services and digital transformation.



A trusted hub for enterprises & EU institutions:

Providing the reliability needed for high-demand and mission-critical environments.

"The city's infrastructure is remarkable. From advanced digital connectivity to a strong logistics network, Málaga provides all the tools that a company needs to grow."



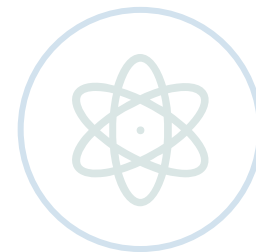
Borja Ochoa

Executive President (CEO) of Telefónica Spain

At the heart of a robust EU customs ecosystem

Málaga Offers...

A key node for global trade and access to custom operations



Spain's customs system plays a pivotal role in ensuring the **efficient functioning of trade and border management** within the European Union. Driven by strong regulation, effective institutional coordination, and international cooperation, Spain—as a member of the EU and Customs Union—has developed significant expertise and a robust institutional framework in customs.

Institutional recognition



Public Management Innovation Award (2021)



Public Management Innovation Award – Second Prize (2025)



European eGovernment Good Practice Award (European Commission, 2003)

Beyond this national framework, Spain hosts a consolidated network of EU institutions that **collectively generate expertise in areas closely aligned with the mission of the EUCA**. This ecosystem — diverse, operational, and interconnected — represents a powerful foundation for technical cooperation and cross-sector innovation.

The location of the EUCA in Malaga would allow for **synergies between the EUCA and the Joint Research Center (JRC)** in Sevilla on the use of AI regarding the Customs Data Hub and, where appropriate, on the management of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), and between the EUCA and **the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, hosted by the EUIPO (EU Intellectual Property Office) in Alicante, regarding customs enforcement of IPR.

Beyond its institutional synergies, Málaga's unique strategic location on the Mediterranean coast makes it a **key crossroads between Europe and global trade routes**, offering **fast access to EU markets and direct maritime and air links to Latin America, Africa, and Asia**.

Málaga's **upcoming integration into the TEN-T Mediterranean Corridor** will strengthen its strategic role by linking the city to a high-capacity rail network connected to Algeciras, Antequera, and the wider European system. Together with its globally connected international airport and active port, this will enable **faster cargo movement and improve accessibility** for EUCA staff and partner agencies.

The Port of Málaga plays a leading role in Andalusia's customs ecosystem by combining advanced digital capabilities and smart, EU-aligned infrastructure that makes it a prime asset for supporting EUCA with efficient and secure customs operations.

Digital innovation lies at the heart of the Port of Málaga's strategic vision. Since the launch of the "Málaga, Puerto Verde" initiative in 2019, the port has **integrated environmental and digital transformation** under a unified **sustainability agenda** aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) and EU-level policies.

Key innovations include:

Smart-port management system - supporting a transition to a "paperless port"



Pilot projects with Telefónica - using 5G, IoT and AI to improve cargo traceability



Strong R&D ecosystem, built in collaboration with Málaga TechPark - promoting smart port tech.



Sources: Telefónica, Puerto de Málaga

Port of Algeciras – located 130km from Málaga

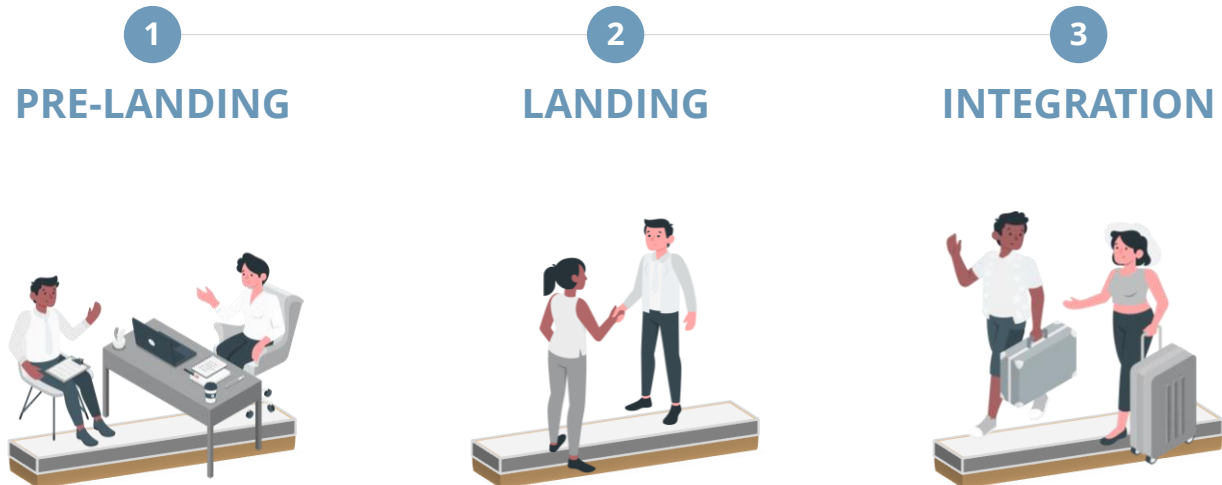
1st port in Spain, **2nd** in the Mediterranean, and consistently ranks among the **top 5 ports in Europe** by total cargo volume, handling more than **100 million tonnes annually** and functioning as Europe's main connection point with **North Africa**.

Effortless relocation with soft landing programme

Málaga Offers...



Soft landing programme for EUCA's employees and their families



EUCA's staff will answer a **questionnaire**, followed by an **interview invitation** in order to draw up a **personalised plan**, tailored to each employee. Employees will have the chance to **express their interest in specific services**. A confidentiality agreement will be signed with each employee to ensure information privacy.

Málaga will support **EUCA's staff to get everything ready** to move to the city. Staff and their families will receive **briefings** on all relevant aspects of the city, tailored to their custom plan. EUCA's employees will also be **assigned a local volunteer** that will support them and help them during the landing experience.

EUCA's staff will receive **assistance for the first year** following their landing to guarantee a smooth adaptation. During the Integration phase, employees will have **volunteers at their disposal**, who will assist them and show them Málaga through the eyes of a local.

Key services offered

Pack Hola Málaga with a custom plan and itinerary with bundles and benefits when they finally land

Info. service on social life and cultural activities

Volunteer support to assist the custom plan

Personal interview and questionnaire

Residence and work permits

Spanish courses

Briefings on necessary administration procedures

Management on educational options

Housing assistance during 1st year

World-Class Education for international Students at Every Level

























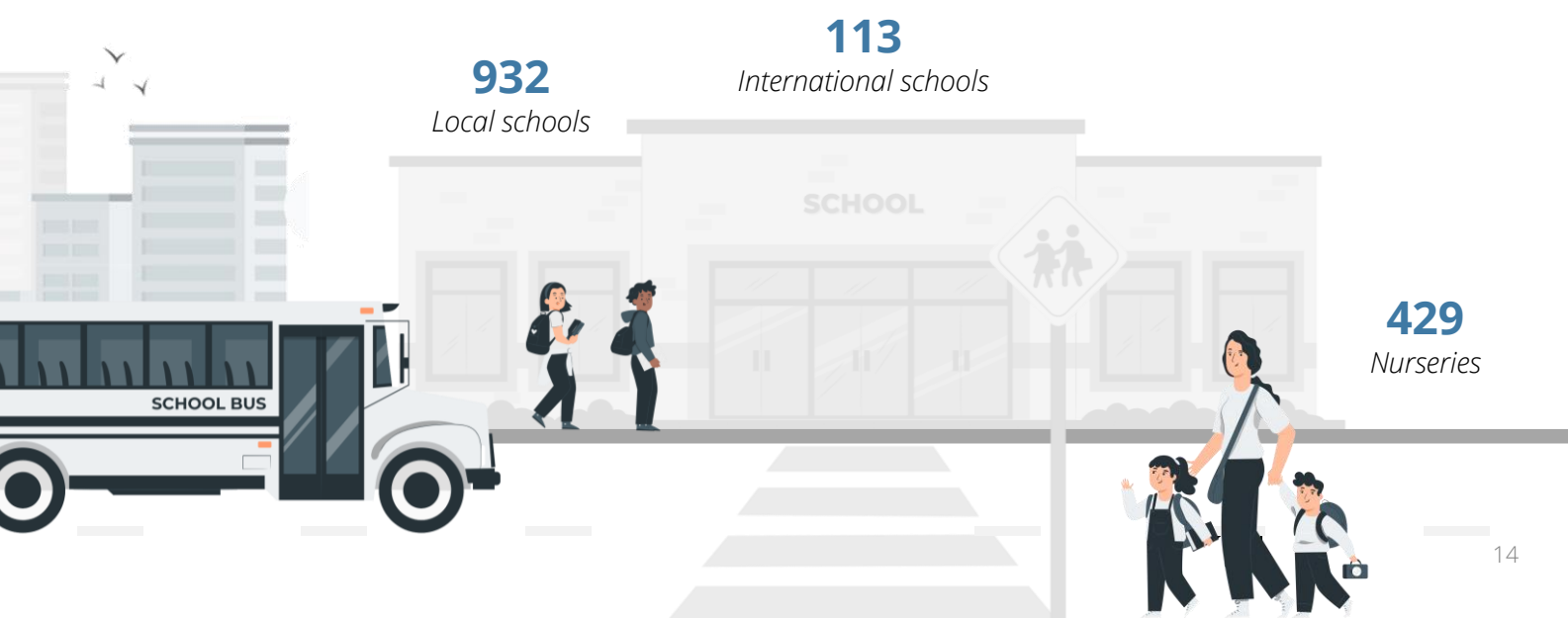
Málaga Offers...

Outstanding academic success for future talent

Málaga's education system offers an extensive capacity for future EUCA employees and their families, **with 113 international schools and around 932 local schools.** This ensures a broad variety of educational options to suit different needs and preferences.

International schools are located throughout the Costa del Sol, yet remain within close proximity to Málaga, offering large capacities that make them easily accessible for EUCA employees. Some of the most relevant international schools in Málaga are:

NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	LANGUAGES
Escuela Infantil El Osito Carlos	Nursery	Málaga	-	  
Escuela Infantil Olivitos de San Agustín	Nursery	Málaga	-	  
Escuela Infantil San Juan de Ávila	Nursery	Málaga	-	 
Escuela Infantil Salliver	Nursery	Fuengirola	-	   
Lycée Français International Málaga	International School	Málaga	835	
The British School of Málaga	International School	Málaga	960	
MIT School Málaga	International School	Málaga TechPark	497	 
Deutsche Schule Málaga	International School	Ojén	720	
Aurinkorannikon suomalainen koulu	International School	Fuengirola	-	
Den Norske Skolen Málaga	International School	Benalmádena	140	
Svenska Skolan Marbella	International School	Marbella	220	 
Контакты	International School	-	-	



World-Class Education for international Students at Every Level



Málaga Offers...

Excellence across public and private universities

Málaga offers **5 world class universities** and higher education institutions: **1 state-led, 3 private, and 1 international one.** Málaga's universities offer a great range of campus facilities, including innovation and tech hubs, medical research labs, linguistic services or sport facilities.

Key data from Malaga's universities

28

Faculties

127

Undergraduate degrees on offer

115

Master degrees on offer

24

Doctorate degrees on offer

Source: Málaga's City Council & Universities' official websites

Marbella International University Centre stands out for its global academic approach, career-oriented programmes, and its exclusive partnership with the University of West London, allowing students to obtain a UK degree.

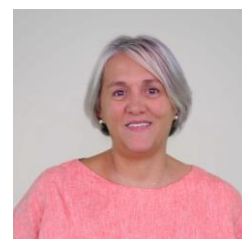
In addition to its prestigious universities, Málaga is **home to 6 of the most globally renown business schools**, offering a wide scope of programmes (ranging from MBA, to cutting-edge training for the corporate world).

Málaga's Business Schools

- **San Telmo Business School** - Top 1 in the world for the food sector
- **ESIC Málaga** – Top 1 in Spain for Marketing and Digital Economy
- **EADE Málaga** – Part of the exclusive 1% of Triple Crown business schools in the world
- **ESSCA Málaga** – Part of the exclusive 1% of Triple Crown business schools in the world
- **Les Roches Marbella** – #2 in the QS World University ranking by subject in Hospitality and Leisure Management, with an immediate employment rate of 94%

Source: Málaga City Council, Michelin Guide

"If you have a family, Málaga provides you every opportunity and every option, both public and private. I have a daughter who goes to a British school, and we are extremely happy with her education."



Núria Iglesias

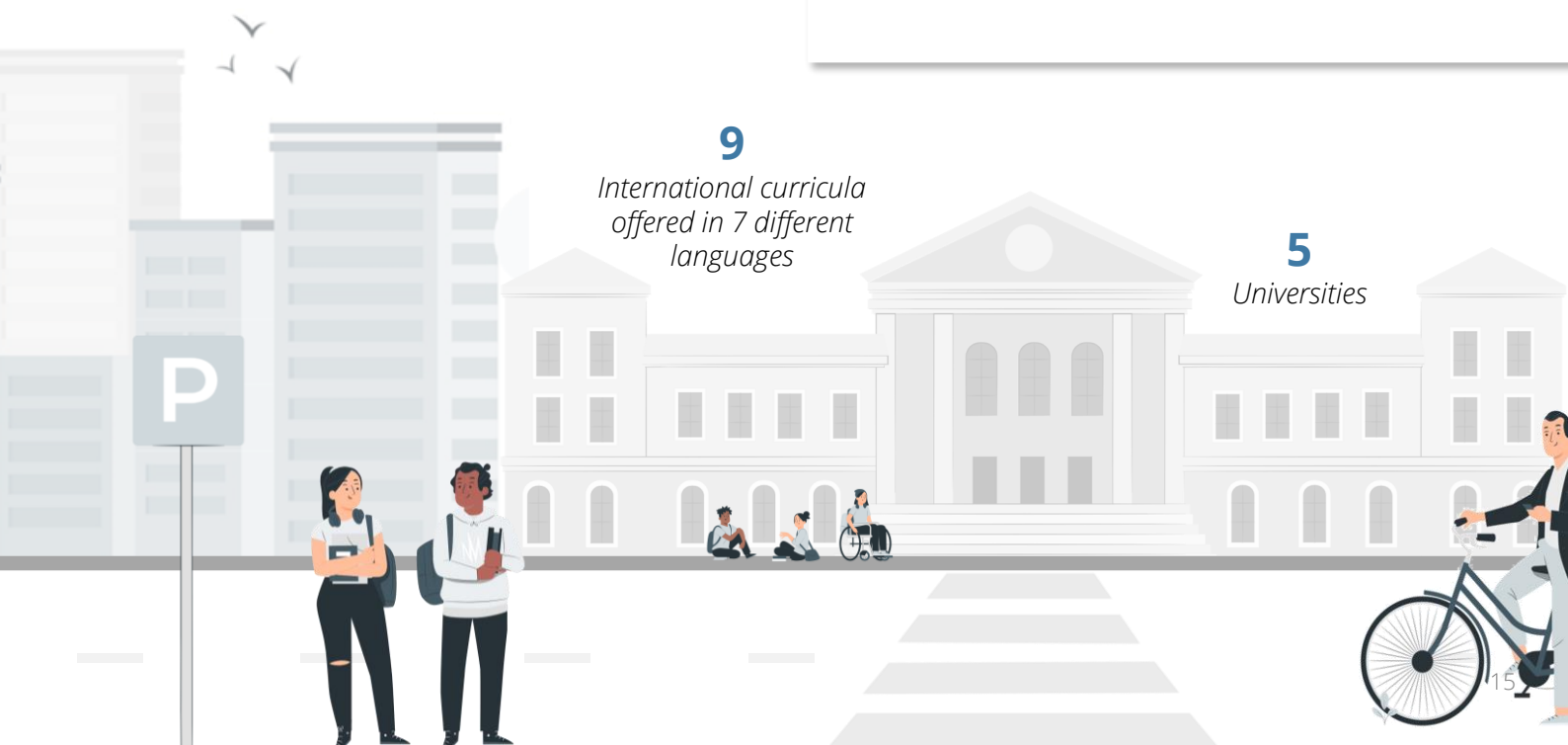
Delivery and Culture Lead in Accenture

9

International curricula offered in 7 different languages

5

Universities



Dynamic English-speaking job market and premium healthcare

Málaga Offers...

A welcoming base for international professionals

Spain stands as **one of Europe's most robust and forward-looking economies** offering stability, scale, and long-term resilience for international professionals. Málaga mirrors this national momentum with **exceptional performance, surpassing European, national, and regional averages**, and consolidating its role as one of Southern Europe's fastest-growing economic hubs. This strong economic foundation provides EUCA employees with a **secure, dynamic, and opportunity-rich environment** from the moment of arrival.



4th
economy in the
Eurozone



+2.9%
GDP growth in the
province in 2024

A key driver of Málaga's transformation is its **expanding international business ecosystem**.



Leading international business hub in Andalusia, concentrating 111 foreign companies from 28 countries.



More than 8,000 new jobs created, reinforcing Málaga's role as the region's top destination for foreign investment.



Attractive FDI environment supported by one of the world's least restrictive regulatory frameworks and strong institutional backing through Andalucía TRADE.

"Málaga offers a uniquely collaborative ecosystem, where public and private institutions work together. With more than 4.500 companies and talent from over 40 nationalities, it has become an exceptional place to innovate and attract global professionals."



Jesús Amores González

Head of Vodafone Innovation Hub

Málaga offers a highly supportive environment for **digital professionals, entrepreneurs, and international talent**. As a European pioneer in remote work—being the first Spanish city certified by AENOR as a Destination for Digital Nomads and consistently ranking among the Top 3 global remote-work cities—it **combines strong digital infrastructure, global connectivity, and a vibrant international community**. Platforms like **Málaga WorkBay** further streamline relocation by guiding newcomers through housing, services, administrative processes, and professional networking.

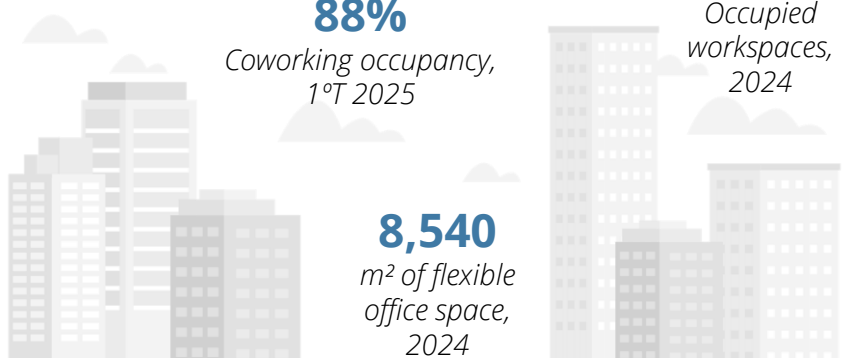
A top global destination for remote professionals, combining world-class digital infrastructure with seamless integration for international talent.

3rd
best City in the
World for Remote
Work

88%
Coworking occupancy,
1st 2025

8,540
m² of flexible
office space,
2024

854
Occupied
workspaces,
2024



Dynamic English-speaking job market and premium healthcare

Málaga Offers...

A thriving international business hub

Málaga has emerged as one of Europe's leading innovation and technology hubs, driven by a **dynamic business environment, specialised talent, and strong public-private-academic collaboration.**

At the centre of this momentum is the **Málaga Valley**, a flagship ecosystem that unites **companies, startups, research centres, and global technology leaders**, reinforcing the city's position in Southern Europe's digital economy.

Málaga Valley - A thriving innovation ecosystem where **global companies, research centres, and specialised talent** converge to drive **technological leadership** in Southern Europe.

Málaga Valley is home to **several international companies** specialized in cybersecurity, microelectronics, AI, big data, IoT, and Industry 4.0, driving high-skilled employment and digital competitiveness. Some of these companies, including Google, Vodafone or Mercedes-Benz, **lead key innovation projects** that enhance Málaga's reputation as a global technology hub.

"[Málaga] offer an iconic space to foster cooperation amongst institutions and connect students with a business digital ecosystem [while providing] a very high-quality environment to live that makes it attractive for digital professionals and executives".



Isabel Salazar

General Director of Fundación Telefónica

Notably, this ecosystem also features **innovative local businesses** and the **Málaga TechPark (PTA)** the driving force behind the region's innovation strategy.

It concentrates high-value companies, research activity, and specialised talent in one of Europe's most dynamic technology environments. Its role as a strategic hub for advanced industries and flagship R&D projects reinforces Málaga's position as a competitive and internationally connected tech ecosystem.

715

*companies at
Málaga TechPark*

€4,1B

*annual turnover generated
at Málaga TechPark*

72

*foreign
companies at
Málaga TechPark*

27.940

*employees at
Málaga TechPark*

**Málaga
TechPark;**
Parque Tecnológico
de Andalucía

Dynamic English-speaking job market and premium healthcare

Málaga Offers...

A healthcare ecosystem designed for excellence

Spain is globally recognised for its high-quality, accessible, and citizen-centred public healthcare system. Málaga builds on this national strength with a broad network of hospitals, clinics, research centres, and primary care facilities that ensure fast, reliable, and comprehensive medical attention. With both advanced public services and specialised private providers, EUCA employees benefit from a healthcare environment that fully supports their wellbeing.

Spain delivers one of the world's top healthcare systems - **2nd in the EU and 7th globally** - with Málaga standing out for its exceptionally medical coverage and easy access to **high-quality care** for residents.

Beyond healthcare, Spain offers one of the EU's most **comprehensive social protection systems**, providing families with extensive support across parental leave, dependent care, disability services, elderly programmes, education assistance, and housing benefits. This ensures that EUCA staff relocating to Málaga enjoy not only strong medical coverage but also a **broad and reliable social safety net throughout all stages of family life**.

Support for **students with special educational needs**.

19 weeks parental leave per parent.

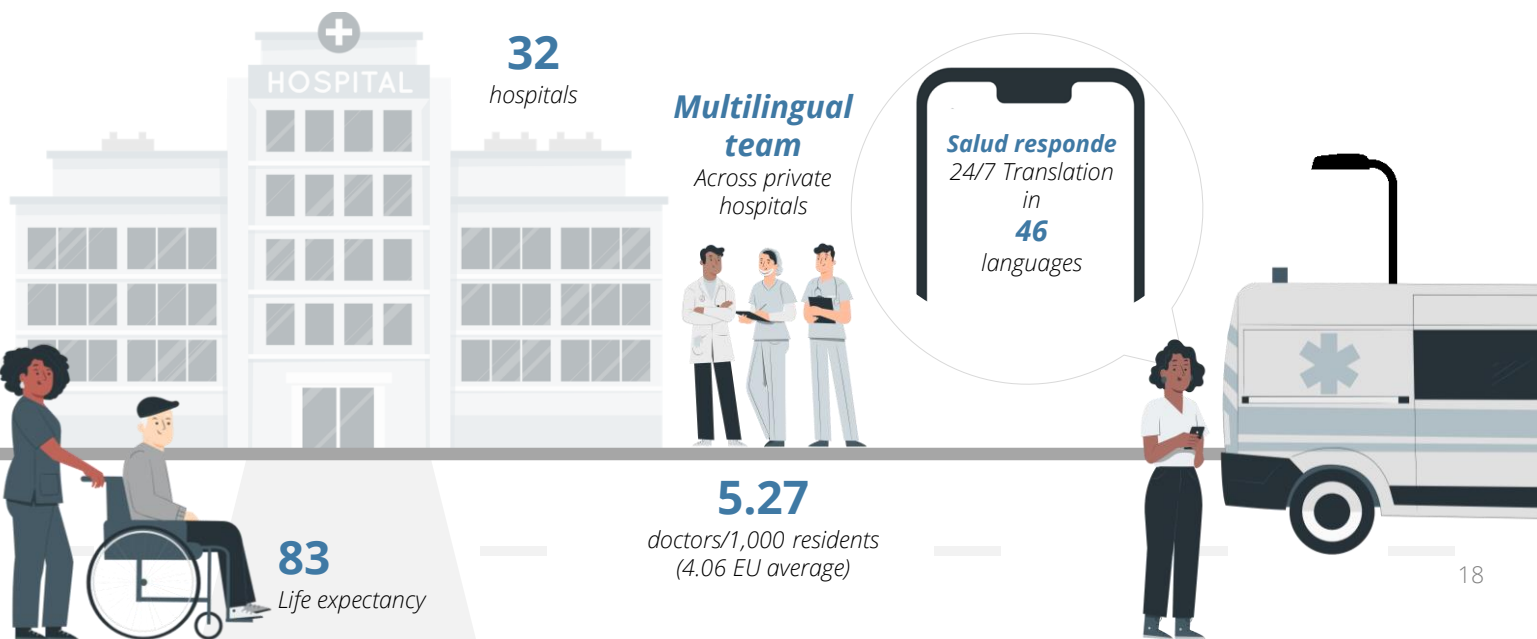
Social care services for **elderly or dependent people**.

Social services for **people with disabilities**.

For international staff and their families, Málaga offers a key advantage: a **healthcare ecosystem designed for multicultural populations**. Public services provide real-time, **24/7 linguistic interpretation** across primary care and hospitals, while private centres offer multilingual teams and dedicated international patient units. This level of linguistic support—rare in Europe—**ensures newcomers can navigate consultations, treatments, and emergencies with confidence**, greatly easing the relocation experience.

Málaga offers a **secure and supportive environment for international professionals**, strengthened by Spain's strong public health indicators, high citizen satisfaction, and a proactive culture of prevention. Together, these factors create a stable foundation where EUCA employees and their families can build a **life with confidence, wellbeing, and long-term prospects** in Southern Europe.

A **future-proof environment** that prioritises wellbeing and provides international talent with **stability, protection, and quality of life**.



Cosmopolitan Mediterranean lifestyle



Málaga Offers...

An unbeatable quality of life

Málaga combines **Mediterranean wellbeing** with a **vibrant cultural scene** and a people-centred urban model. Its walkable historic centre, green public spaces, and rich artistic ecosystem create an environment where **everyday life feels comfortable, inspiring, and connected**.

Cultural offer



+1M annual visits to cultural sites and monuments.



150 Performances scheduled for the 2025/26 Municipal Theatre Season.



40+ Museums such as Centre Pompidou Málaga, Museo Picasso Málaga.

Source: Málaga City Council

A 3,000-year heritage is seamlessly integrated into modern city life. Ancient sites, contemporary museums, and a dynamic waterfront art district coexist naturally, giving **Málaga a cultural depth rarely matched in Europe**. Life flows effortlessly between the sea, nature, and the city. Residents enjoy easy access to beaches, coastal promenades, mountain trails, and year-round outdoor activities — a balance that supports both **wellbeing and active living**.

With **160 km of coastline and 45 Blue Flag beaches**, Málaga offers one of Europe's most **exceptional coastal environments**, combining quality, accessibility, and year-round outdoor living.

"Málaga is an exceptionally liveable Mediterranean city — safe, welcoming, easy to navigate, and full of culture. Its climate and lifestyle make teams feel at home, creating a place where people are genuinely happy to live and thrive."



Helio Fernandez Tellez

Program Manager at IMEC

Málaga is one of **Spain's most welcoming and international cities**, where newcomers integrate naturally into a diverse and globally minded community. Its **open social fabric and modern public policies** create an environment where **everyone feels included** from day one.

Málaga stands out for its global community, with **16.7% foreign residents** and **64% of new arrivals coming from abroad**, making it one of Spain's most welcoming cities.

Security is a defining feature of daily life. As **the 2nd safest city in Spain**, Málaga offers a **calm and family-friendly environment** supported by effective public services and nationally recognised safety standards. For international families, this provides **stability, peace of mind, and a strong foundation** for long-term settlement.



The expansion of the EU's institutional footprint in the Mediterranean



Málaga Offers...

A Balanced European Institutional Landscape

Four key arguments are presented that demonstrate how **Málaga's candidacy guarantees true geographical balance in the EU's institutional landscape.**

- **Reinforcing South-West Europe:** Málaga's candidacy for the EUCA directly addresses the South-Western underrepresentation of EU agencies, offering a stronger institutional presence in Southern Europe.
- **Strengthening EU Cohesion:** placing EUCA in Málaga would address the EU's uneven institutional distribution, strengthen territorial cohesion, and increase representation in the underrepresented Mediterranean region.
- **An experienced host country:** Spain provides efficient, stable, and high-quality support for EU institutions, and Málaga extends this track record as a professional, innovative hub with an excellent quality of life.

- **A strategic choice for Europe:** Málaga—a city with no existing EU agencies—offers a strategic, well-connected, and innovation-driven location for a new EU agency, combining strong logistics, international trade relevance, and high quality of life.

Establishing EUCA in Málaga would reinforce the EU's vision of cohesion by extending its institutional network to a region that blends strategic location, global connectivity, and a vibrant, innovation-driven economy. Málaga's dynamic ecosystem — fuelled by international talent, cutting-edge infrastructure, and a thriving business and tech scene — offers the ideal environment to host a forward-looking European agency.

This strategic choice would not only **balance Europe's institutional map**, but also **amplify the EU's operational reach, visibility, and influence** in a region where its presence remains limited — while positioning the Union at the heart of one of the Mediterranean's most promising growth hubs.

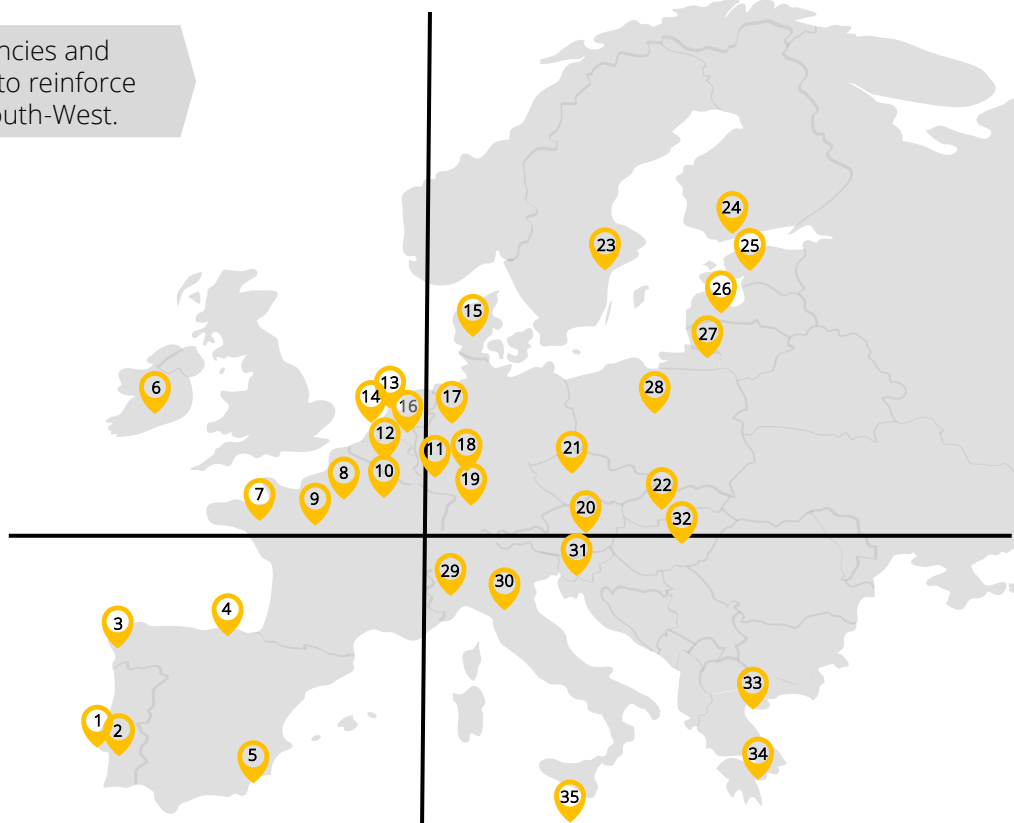
Source: : Internal analysis / Internal elaboration



Current distribution of EU agencies and institutions — an opportunity to reinforce the Union's presence in the South-West.

Distribution of EU agencies

1-EMSA	19-EIOPA
2-EUDA	20-ERA
3-EFCA	21-EUSPA
4-EU-OSHA	22-ELA
5-EUIPO	23-ECDC
6-EUROFOUND	24-ECHA
7-CPVO	25-Eu-LISA
8-EBA	26-BEREC Of.
9-ESMA	27-EIGE
10-ERA	28-FRONTX
11-CdT	29-ETF
12-SBR	30-EFSA
13-Eurojust	31-ACER
14-Europol	32-CEPOL
15-EEA	33-Cedefop
16-EMA	34-ENISA
17-EASA	35-EUAA
18-AMLA	



Key Takeaways

Voices That Matter

"It is my privilege to support and represent the candidacy of Malaga as the seat of the European Customs Authority (EUCA). The strong commitment of the Government of Spain, in unity of efforts with the Junta de Andalucía and the City Council of Málaga, has mobilized generously and solvently the necessary resources for a successful candidacy. These joint efforts make it possible to combine the excellent and well-known qualities of the city of Malaga with the necessary features to provide the European Customs Authority with the guarantees for its effective and successful performance."

Joaquín Almunia Amann

Former Vice President and European Commissioner for Competition, former European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and Patron of Malaga's Candidacy.



"Málaga combines a privileged Mediterranean–Strait position with a long tradition of attracting talent, trade, and entrepreneurship. Its strategic location is reinforced by a modern economic ecosystem with 85 top companies, record exports, and Málaga TechPark generating over €4 billion annually. The city offers world-class infrastructure — international airport, major port, and advanced transport networks — together with strong institutional coordination supporting technological development and investment. With exceptional quality of life, global connectivity, and a dynamic business environment, Málaga offers ideal conditions for international professionals and remains a strategic, future-oriented choice for the European Customs Authority."

José Manuel García-Margallo

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain and Member of the European Parliament



"Málaga has become one of Europe's most promising innovation hubs — a city that truly understands the language of technology. Its strong collaboration between institutions, universities, and global companies creates real opportunities, while its connectivity and skilled international talent make it an exceptional place to grow. For Telefónica, Málaga offers the rare combination of a vibrant ecosystem and Mediterranean quality of life — a perfect environment for the European Customs Authority."

Borja Ochoa

Executive President (CEO) of Telefónica Spain



