



Diaspora engagement mapping CHILE

Facts & figures

Terminology: The government uses the term “chilenos en el exterior” in reference to the government officials and embassies/consulates abroad and “comunidades de chilenos en el exterior” and “chilenos en el extranjero” to refer to the diaspora.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.03%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **100.14**

Voting from abroad

At consulates or alternative premises in
certain cases



Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from [UNDESA \(2024\)](#) and remittances from the [World Bank \(2024\)](#).

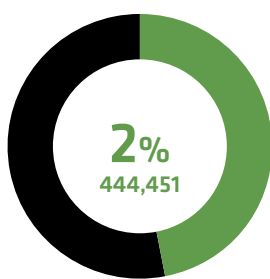
Emigration



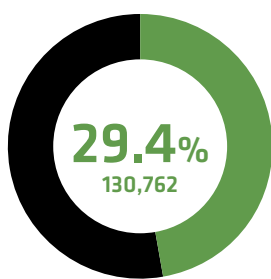
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 47.9%
♀ 52.1%



♂ 47.6%
♀ 52.4%

Top countries of destination



Argentina	141,348
Spain	73,732
Australia	35,849
Sweden	27,831
Canada	27,191

¹ <https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/nacionalizacion/preguntas-frecuentes-nacionalizacion/>; https://bibliotecadigital.indh.cl/bitstream/handle/123456789/511/La_nacionalidad_chilena_luego_de_la_reforma_de_2005_-_05_abril_2010_Libro_soc_de_Derecho_Constitucional_Francisco_Cumplido.pdf?sequence=1

According to the numbers provided by the Chilean authority DICOEX, as of 2016, 1,037,346 Chileans were living outside the country. This number considers both people born in Chile and born abroad with a father and/or mother born in Chile. Of this number, 26% live in Europe. (Source: https://www.chilesomostodos.gob.cl/chilesomostodos/site/docs/20180814/20180814173226/publicacion_segundo_registro_de_chilenos_en_el_exterior_1.pdf)

² Since 2017 Chileans living abroad may exercise their right to vote in presidential elections and primaries, and since 2020 in national plebiscites as well. Voting from abroad is enabled at consulates or alternative premises in certain cases.

<https://duguechdip.com/chile-2017-elections-how-to-vote-from-abroad/>; <https://www.votoenelexterior.cl/votoenelexterior/preguntas-frecuentes>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2014** ● **Guide on Return for Chileans Abroad - Manual del Regreso para Chilenos en el Exterior.** This Guide was created by the Dirección para la Comunidad de Chilenos en el Exterior (DICOEX) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to bring Chileans abroad information about citizenship, voting, consular services and other topics of their interest.³
- 2015** ● **Guidelines and Instructions for the National Migration Policy (Presidential Note No. 5) - Lineamientos e Instrucciones para la Política Nacional Migratoria (Instructivo Presidencial No. 5).** Although this document mainly refers to immigration, it addresses Chileans abroad briefly in terms of the need for their recognition as subjects with rights and entitlement to public policies. It also establishes the government's obligations to provide them with services and to work towards stronger relationships with them.⁴
- 2021** ● **Law No. 21.325 on Migration and Foreigners' Affairs** has a special section that refers to Chileans abroad, underlining the need to promote the rights of its diaspora, as well as to sign agreements with countries where they are located in order to facilitate the exercise of those rights. The law also establishes the promotion of return and the obligation to provide information to the diaspora in consular offices.
- 2023** ● **National Policy on Migration and Foreigners.** In accordance with the legal mandate established by Law 21.325, different axes have been defined for the National Policy on Migration and Foreigners, among which is the one referring to Chileans abroad. This specific section refers to matters such as extraterritorial voting, the work of DICOEX, as well as some areas of work in terms of engagement with Chilean communities abroad.
- 2024** ● **Return Guide to Chile:** replaces the previous Guide on Return developed by DICOEX. This tool provides practical and up-to-date information to facilitate the return of Chileans from abroad, covering migration, customs, labour, education, and access to public services.

Practices

Explore 520+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



Gobierno en terreno 2011

The project seeks to bring the services provided by the State of Chile closer to nationals living abroad, in order to promote their links with the country; until 2010, it was developed in Argentina. From 2011, it was extended to non-bordering countries making use of information technologies such as videoconferencing and video calls; and in 2020, as a result of the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, the virtual modality was enhanced. To date, 66 Gobierno en Terreno have been developed.

Revisitando Chile Programme 2001 - 2019

It is aimed at older Chileans with limited resources who live in bordering countries. The beneficiaries return to Chile for a week and reconnect with the country they left. This initiative promotes and strengthens the link between the elderly compatriots who migrated from Chile decades ago and their families and roots.

³ "Manual del Regreso para Chilenos en el Exterior", 2014. https://chile.gob.cl/chile/site/artic/20170727/asocfile/20170727100930/manual_del_regreso_segunda_edicion.pdf Accessed September 2020.

⁴ "Lineamientos e Instrucciones para la Política Nacional Migratoria" (Instructivo Presidencial No. 5), 2015. <https://www.extranjeria.gob.cl/media/2019/03/Inst.-Pres-N%C2%BA5.pdf> Accessed September 2020.

Complementary Fund to support Chileans organisations abroad

This fund finances up to 50% of the total cost of a project developed jointly by a Consulate and a Chilean diaspora organisation. The project must fall within the following lines of participation: Culture, Sport and Recreation; Science, Technology and Innovation; and Integration. The first call for applications was launched in 2004. Since then, the call for applications has been held annually, except in 2016, when no competition was held.

Consulado.gob.cl 2023

Plataforma digital del gobierno cuyo objetivo es mejorar la atención a la diáspora chilena reuniendo en un solo lugar la información que necesitan. El sitio consolida información de trámites, recomendaciones de viaje, qué hacer en situaciones de emergencia, entre otros temas que anteriormente se encontraban dispersos en distintos sitios de gobierno. Adicionalmente cuenta con espacios donde se relevan historias de miembros de la diáspora destacados. La plataforma contiene una sección denominada “Comunidades”, donde se publica información de interés para la diáspora tales como antecedentes sobre el voto extraterritorial, los Fondos Concursables así como los mecanismos de participación ciudadana que consideran a los chilenos en el extranjero.

Observations

The “Observations” and “Obstacles” sections contain additional information on the context of diaspora engagement that does not fit directly into the other sections. They are based on a combination of literature review and comments from the authors. New information is incorporated during the annual updates. Readers are invited to verify the relevance of the information at the time of reading, as the context may have evolved.

Although there are no clear diaspora support policies set by the Chilean government, it makes locating nearby embassies or consulates a fairly simple task through an interactive digital interface and has a well-updated website with detailed event calendars for those who would like to attend Chilean events abroad, there are no clear diaspora support policies set by the government.

In 2022, the Chilean government has introduced the Electronic Apostille, allowing Chileans abroad to legalise their official certificates remotely so that they can be used in their countries of residence.⁵

In 2017, the government granted the right to vote in presidential elections, presidential primaries, and national plebiscites to Chileans living in other countries.⁶ On October 25, 2020, for the first time, Chileans abroad exercised this right in a national referendum on a new Constitution and a Constituent Assembly.⁷ Out of 59.522 registration, 3.912 people voted, leading to a turnout of 51.93%⁸.

⁵ <https://www.registrocivil.cl/principal/canal-tramites/apostilla>

⁶ <https://www.votoenlexterior.cl/votoenlexterior/preguntas-frecuentes>

⁷ Please see: <https://www.plebiscitonacional2020.cl/preguntas-frecuentes/> Accessed September 2020.

As mentioned in this article, the number of Chileans abroad registered to vote in the next referendum, increased in 48%. <https://www.cooperativa.cl/noticias/pais/politica/constitucion/plebiscito-chilenos-inscritos-para-votar-en-el-extranjero-aumentaron-en/2020-01-31/012247.html> Accessed September 2020.

⁸ https://serval.cl/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/participacion_electoral_plebiscito_2020.pdf

In line with its commitment to strengthen ties with the diaspora, Chile published in 2017 its Registry of Chileans Abroad, a joint effort by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Statistics. This instrument enables an updated characterisation of the Chilean population residing abroad, supporting the development of inclusive public policies based on reliable data.

Chile has bilateral agreements on social security with at least 27 countries and a multilateral agreement ratified by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Spain, Paraguay, Perú, Portugal, Uruguay and El Salvador, that allow Chileans who work abroad to access benefits such as pensions, in other countries, when applicable.⁹

Obstacles



- **Lack of dedicated policy framework:** The Chilean government currently lacks clearly defined policies to bolster Chilean communities abroad or create mutually beneficial relationships with other countries in order to support the diaspora population.

⁹ Please see: <https://www.spensiones.cl/portal/institucional/594/w3-propertyvalue-5936.html> Accessed September 2020.

Annex:

List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 520+ institutions](#)

Diaspora related institutions



- **National institutions**

Intersectoral Working Bureau for the Chilean Community Abroad – Comité Interministerial para la Comunidad Chilena en el Exterior 2010

A multisector entity created by decree and chaired by the Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs and in charge of coordinating public policies for Chileans abroad in social and cultural issues, national identity, development of the country and other related issues.¹⁰

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The ministry's mission is to structure and coordinate policy implementation with the public and private sectors, in order to safeguard the interests of Chile and Chileans globally.

Dirección General de Asuntos Consulares, Inmigración y de Chilenos en el Exterior

The General Directorate of Consular Affairs, Immigration, and Chileans Abroad aims to implement the policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in consular and immigration matters. Part of their obligations is developing efficient and modern oversight of the consular service in order to satisfy the needs of nationals residing abroad.

Diaspora organisations in Europe¹¹

Asociación Casa de Chile Valencia 1994 Spain

Integration activities

This organization promotes and develops the strengthening of relations between Chileans and the community of Valencia and organises leisure activities.

Chilenos de Sardinia Italy

-  **Integration activities**
-  **Development activities**

A Rome-based association of adult Chileans who were adopted by Italians as children. It promotes cultural and social activities, mainly between its members and other Chileans abroad, including consular agents.

¹⁰ "Decreto No. 139", 2010. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <https://minrel.gob.cl/transparencia/archivos/D.139.pdf> Accessed September 2020.

¹¹ <https://chilesomostodos.gob.cl/chilesomostodos/stat/asociaciones/index.html>

Círculo Chileno-Italiano de Roma 2000 Italy **Integration activities**

This organization based in Rome promotes integration activities for Chileans in Italy, through events such as cultural and social reunions, parties and cooking competitions.

Club Chileno de Zürich 1998 Sweden.

-  **Integration activities**
-  **Development activities**

The organization aims to preserve Chilean culture and traditions and bring Chileans abroad together through social and cultural activities. The club also promotes fund raising activities to educational and medical programs in Chile.

Chilean Researchers in Switzerland (ICES) Switzerland

-  **Integration activities**
-  **Development activities**

This organisation brings together Chilean researchers in Switzerland and seeks to promote scientific and professional collaboration between Swiss and Chilean individuals and institutions. Its main objectives are to support Chilean researchers during their stay in Switzerland, to promote collaboration, and to participate in the discussion on scientific and academic development in Chile.

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