



Genetic Identification Programme



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Genetic Identification Programme

The Genetic Identification Programme of the disappeared from the Spanish Civil War and Franco dictatorship is an initiative coordinated and promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institutional Relations and Transparency in conjunction with the Ministries of Health and Justice of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Government).

The programme has three aims:

- To create a database of the **genetic profiles of the families of the disappeared** from the Spanish Civil War and the Franco dictatorship.
- To create a database of the **genetic profiles taken from the human remains of the disappeared** from the Spanish Civil War and the Franco dictatorship.
- To match the information from both databases to try and establish family relationships and thus identify people.

What are the steps to access the Programme?

- 1 Register with the Census of Families of the Disappeared (exteriors.gencat.cat/identificaciogenetica). Using the information from the census, a thorough information search will be performed with the aim of determining the circumstances and burial site of the disappeared person.
- 2 The Ministry Foreign Affairs will send the family members and applicants an initial newsletter with information on the creation of the Programme.
- 3 Family members or applicants will receive a staggered, individualised letter, based on criteria of age and antiquity in the Census, offering the opportunity to carry out genetic tests. The letter will contain the contact information for the appointment service of the Hospital de la Vall d'Hebron genetic laboratory of the Ministry of Health

Collection of the genetic sample will be free and consist of a mouth swab, which is a quick and painless procedure.

- 4 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will analyse the exhumed bone remains; The Institut de Medicina Legal i Ciències Forenses de Catalunya (Catalan Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, IMLCFC) will produce the anthropological and forensic report on the remains.
- 5 Both databases (genetic profile of human remains and genetic profile of families of the disappeared) will be matched to find possible connections.
- 6 Positive results will be reported by the Directorate-General for Institutional and Parliamentary Relations, which will also provide accompaniment in the subsequent process.

