



Goals and challenges

Vision and principles

The Urban Assembly

Urban Agenda for Catalonia



Defining together a shared strategy for a sustainable urban development. Working to achieve better cities and regions, by means of a gathered governance, fostering healthier, prosperous and quality urban models.

Urbanisation in Catalonia





Goals and challenges

The work of the Urban Assembly is structured around six subject areas:

[01] Healthy urban habitats

Water cycle

Ensuring integrated management of water resources, dealing with periods of drought. Making progress in wastewater treatment and ensuring its reuse and the recycling of treatment sludge. Protecting coastal ecosystems.

Air quality

Guaranteeing clean air in urban environments. Reducing the harmful effects of pollution and noise on health and the environment.

Sustainable energy

Rolling out a decentralised energy model based on renewable energies and bringing generation close to consumption.

[02] Welfare

Public safety

Ensuring safe urban environments free of any kind of violence in ethical, just cities and regions.

Culture and diversity

Encouraging, promoting and protecting diversity and cultural heritage, as well as all artistic expression. Preventing discrimination for reasons of gender, ethnic group, belief, age, sexual, orientation, economic capacity, disability or any other difference. Ensuring equality of duties and opportunities between all citizens. Seeking strategies to cope with demographic change (ageing of the population).

Social inclusion

Fostering a fair society and solidarity and ensuring access to adequate jobs and decent wages. Tackling policies for families and vulnerable persons. Ensuring social economy and local consumption.

[03] Urban quality

Infrastructures and mobility

Being committed to safe, sustainable, efficient, smart public transport. Ensuring efficiency of infrastructures and increasing tools for monitoring and improving public services.

Adequate and affordable housing

Recognising homes as the centre of citizens' lives: the place where people develop and the basis of their dignity and their integration in society. Ensuring access to decent, accessible, quality housing in their local area.

Urban model

Fostering the adoption of compact urban models with adequate densities and mixed uses in order to reduce daily mobility. Implementing upgrading programmes for districts, by means of densification in low-density areas and renewal of obsolete urban fabrics. Suppression of urban development expectancy on isolated and unsustainable sectors. Preventing urban growth in vulnerable regions due to the impact of climate change. Implementing more flexible, streamlined strategic plans.



[04] Prosperity

New productive models

Fostering disruptive business models, taking advantage of the agglomeration economy potential. Achieving a sustainable tourism model.

Knowledge and innovation

Promoting knowledge clusters, fostering new technologies, facilitating creativity and innovation and seeking added value in product and service generation.

Green, circular economy

Incorporating the principles of efficient use of resources in the various stages of production and consumption. Moving from a linear economy to a circular one.

[05] Territorial dimension

Developed territories

Achieving urban integration with the surrounding territories and hinterland.

Ecosystems and biodiversity

Preserving ecosystems, enhancing biological corridors and green infrastructures on all levels, protecting the courses of rivers and the coastal areas, and enhancing urban biodiversity.

Resilience to climate change

Improving risk management, increasing the adaptive capacity of socioeconomic sectors and natural systems, and reducing the exposure of vulnerable people, systems and regions.

[06] Good governance

Efficient governance

Guaranteeing the principles of decentralisation and subsidiarity in the management of urban policies. Strengthening and structuring areas of governance in accordance with closeness to public needs.

Co-participation and transparency

Encouraging decision-making by citizens, establishing tools and processes for direct participation. Promoting transparency of governments and administrations. Establishing mechanisms to control corruption. Providing public access to the administration. Implementation of channels to control public expenditure.

Adequate funding

Establishing funding mechanisms at regional and local level for dealing with urban policies. Development of vertical and horizontal models for distributing financial resources, depending on needs.

- 1 Aerial view of L'Ametlla de Mar
- 2 Social housing, Trinitat Nova (Barcelona)
- 3 Avinguda Josep Puig i Cadafalch, Mataró (Barcelona)
- 4 Cereal field, Lleida
- 5 Peaceful demonstration to welcome refugees
- 6 Les Barques beach, Calella de Palafrugell

Our vision

Sharing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Catalonia is working to develop its new urban agenda, a tool for social progress and transformation based on an instrumental new model for territorial development and the construction of cities that take into account new basic vectors that influence urban development today: social, self-sufficiency and economic.

The greatest challenge currently facing us as a country is to think big. Despite progress in recent decades, our cities still continue to generate poverty and inequality, environmental degradation, imbalance and segregation. If we want to get traction, to solve the problems our towns are currently facing in terms of management and administration, we must be bold, open our eyes and take decisions at the highest level. This is the aim of the new Urban Agenda for Catalonia.

Principles

Inclusive and integrated approach

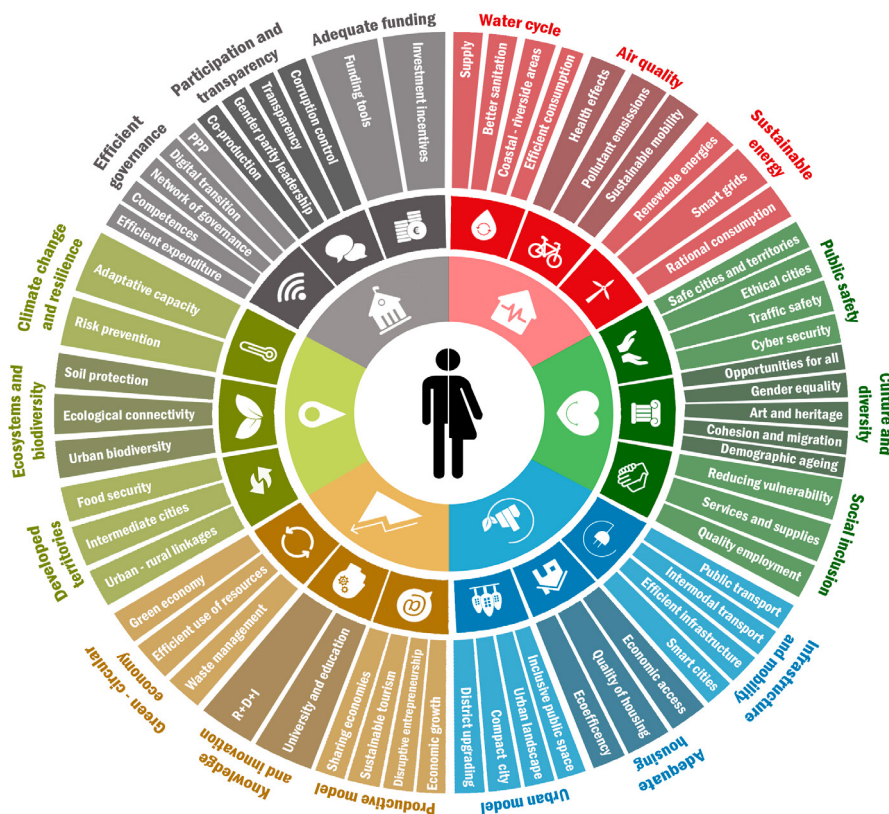
There is thus a need to seek real integration of governance at different levels, to overcome the 'silo effect' that is so frequent when tackling urban policies. Therefore, all administrations, citizens and economic sectors must work hand in hand to meet the challenges facing us as a country and also the challenges of humanity. Accordingly, the formulation of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia will have to be an inclusive, coordinated and cohesive process, one that will require input from all levels and all fields.

Alignment with the 2030 Agenda

The Agenda aims to establish 18 goals through a number of areas of action. As the Urban Agenda for Catalonia is clearly cross-cutting in nature, it must therefore be conceived not just as the implementation of SDG 11, but must also consider the urban implications of the other Sustainable Development Goals.

Territorial model

The Urban Agenda stands for the system on which the future territorial model of Catalonia needs to be based: a country configured by a system of cities, efficiently linked together but with the right distance between them to allow for open spaces and natural corridors to be preserved.



The Urban Assembly

A multidisciplinary collegial body, consisting of all levels of government and representatives of civil society and the productive sector. A forum for diagnosing, analysing, discussing, proposing and eventually validating the direction of urban policy in coming years.

A holistic approach

Formulation of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia requires a multi-level and multi-field approach. This involves an integrated view that requires technical and specialist expertise in a variety of fields.

Shared decision-making

The Urban Agenda for Catalonia cannot be conceived as a proposal from a single actor; its preparation must be shared and coordinated between all government bodies, agents and the public.

Expert groups

The Assembly is responsible for setting up the working groups, consisting of accredited experts, based on their impact and involvement in each of the subject areas in which they work.

