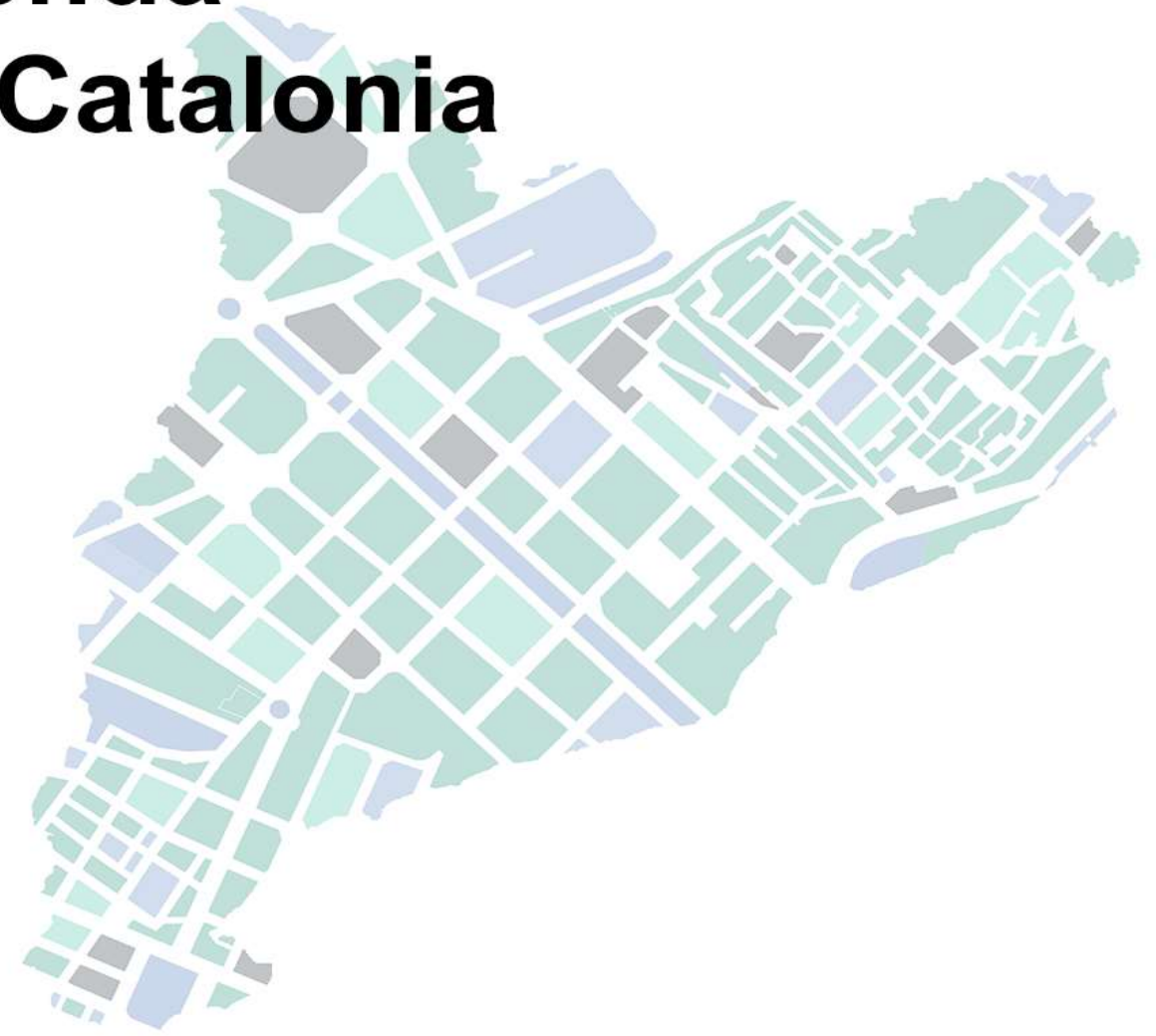




Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament de Territori
i Sostenibilitat**

Urban Agenda for Catalonia



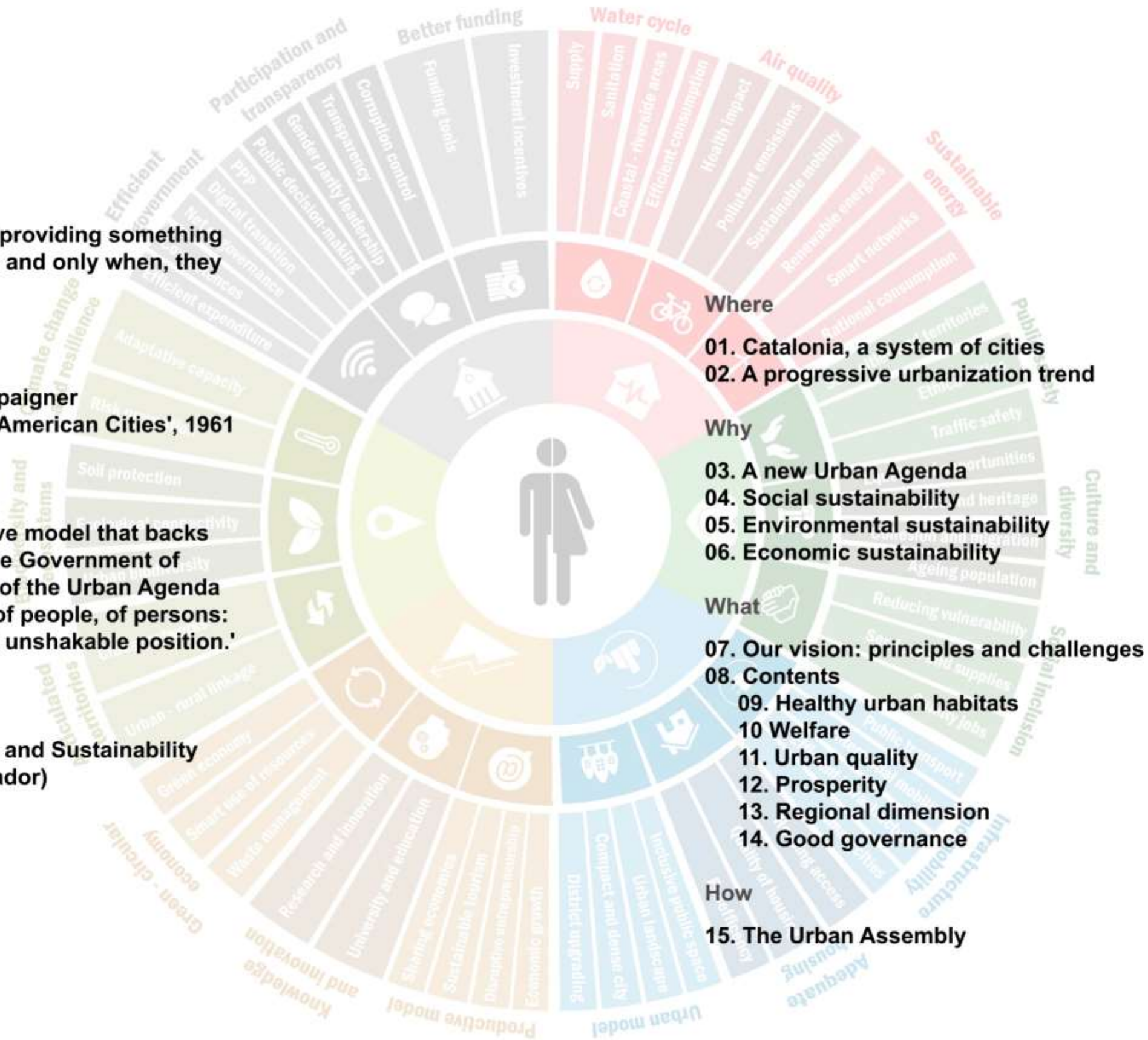
An Urban Agenda for Catalonia

'Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.'

Jane Jacobs
Journalist and planning campaigner
'The Death and Life of Great American Cities', 1961

'Ours is an inclusive, cohesive model that backs sustainable development. The Government of Catalonia can only conceive of the Urban Agenda as something at the service of people, of persons: this is our unambiguous and unshakable position.'

Josep Rull
Catalan Minister for Territory and Sustainability
17 October 2016, Quito (Ecuador)

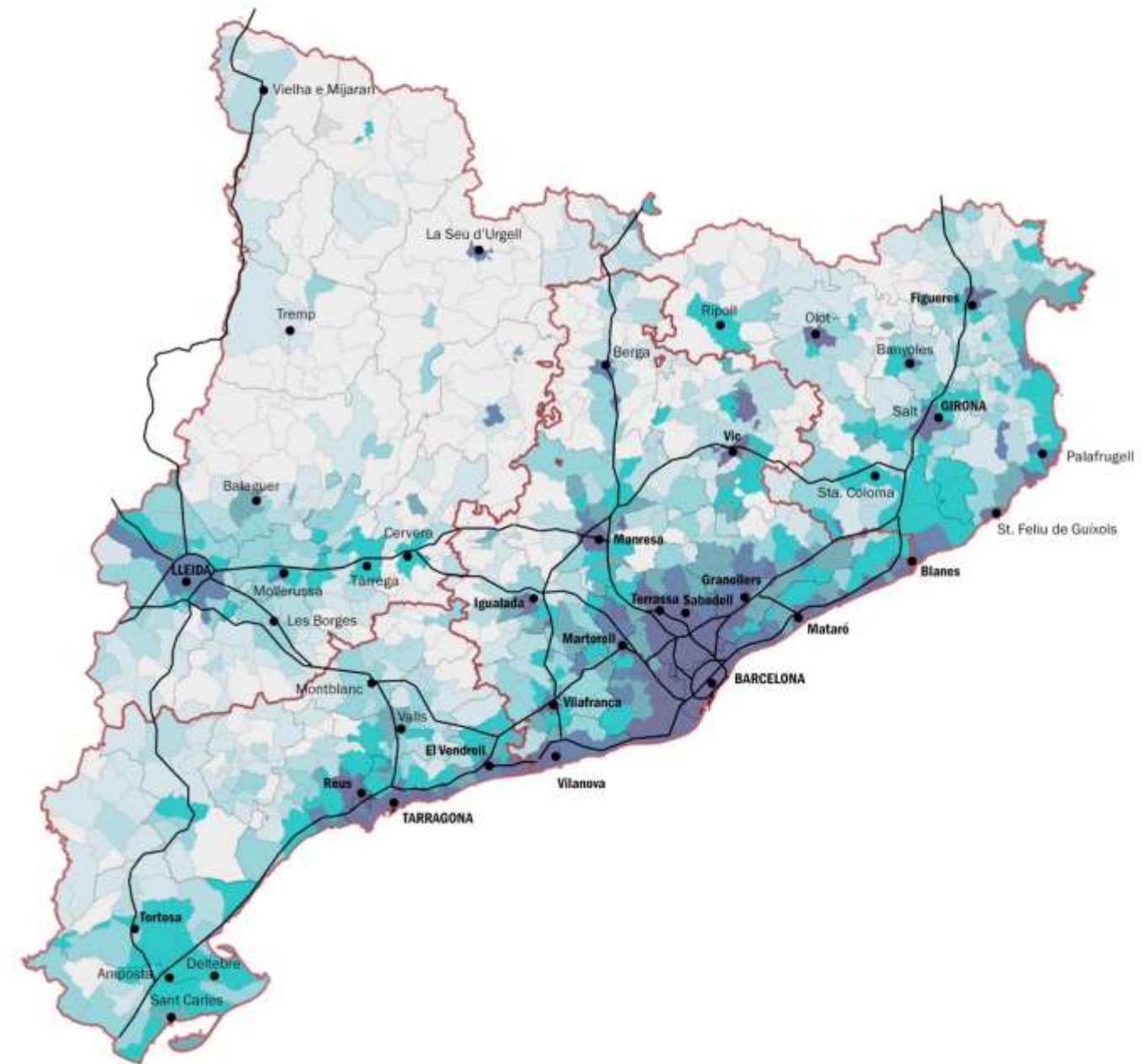


Catalonia, a system of cities that unite the country on a functional level

Cities, towns and villages that, ranging greatly in size and nodal features, have become increasingly established over time, comprise the territory's network of settlements, which serves as its primary backbone as a humanised area.

A metropolitan system with a global reach, Barcelona, with a large central city and a series of metropolitan hubs; significant points in the powerful Metropolitan framework with a proprietary governance model, as established by the Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB) legal framework.

And a network of regional hubs and small and medium-sized cities spread across the country, which constitute significant nucleuses of inhabitants and places of work, with the capacity to have public services, and which serve as urban benchmarks for the way in which the overall territory operates.



The region has an urban structure that is based on its density, compactness, complexity of uses and social cohesion, which means that the occupation of new land can be significantly minimised, guaranteeing proximity and cohabitation for the maximum number of activities, both in residential and economic terms, whilst ensuring the required critical mass is in place for the efficient use of public transport, services and facilities, and improving the population's living conditions. All of this, despite the fact that dynamics of previous decades have distorted this model to a certain extent, both in economic and residential terms, with the dispersion of settlements outside of the logic of the established framework, and the regional specialisation in textiles. Having clearly manifested its resilience, this is 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. A system where the transformation of the existing urban tapestry can be empowered, and growth can continue despite population dispersion, with reasonably high population densities, a clear distinction between urban spaces and open spaces, cohesion of communities in the same area, and harmony in areas where residences, work places and services share a single nucleus.

Catalonia, a progressive urbanization trend

Catalan population has increased a 73% during the past 60 years. While the municipalities under 5.000 inhabitants have dropped off 1/4 of their population, cities above 100.000 inhabitants have tripled, at least, their population. Cities of more than 50.000 inhabitants represent the 54% of total Catalan population. In the last 60 years, Catalonia has increased the number of cities > 20.000 inhabitants from 17 to 64.



Urbanization: a continuous process

Aerial view of Terrassa, a sample of intermediate city in Catalan urban scale, with 215.121 inhabitants (2016).

Trends in the urbanization of the Sabadell – Terrassa conurbation, over three periods: 1956 – 1986 – 2016.
Source: Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya.
Own design.

A new Urban Agenda for Catalonia

Catalonia is working to develop its new urban agenda, sharing the 2030 agenda for the sustainable development aims, 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-sufficient and economic.

With a vision of territory as a transformative driving force for change, we want to maintain and improve upon current standards and provide organization and planning systems with new tools to create structures that are more socially efficient, more energy self-sufficient and more economically balanced. We work within the framework defined by the new agenda to align the administrative competences of nations, regions and the local arena.

The greatest challenge currently facing us as a country is to think big. Despite progress in recent decades, our cities 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 brave, open our eyes and make decisions at the highest level. This is the aim of the new Urban Agenda for Catalonia.



Catalan Government's competences related to urban matters



Urban Agenda, tackling social justice, equality, cohesion and inclusiveness

Unequality is rising in urban habitats. At the local scale, although per capita disposable income in Barcelona has grown slightly, the trend of polarisation is increasing: wealthier areas are rising up their income, while the poorest ones see it shrinking. According to the City Council, the average family in the richest neighbourhood, has 7.2 times more income than a family in the poorest area.

At the metropolitan scale, the wealthiest municipalities multiply per 2,5 the average annual income of the poorest ones.

A socially sustainable Agenda

Social inequality and imbalances in family income (unemployment, impoverishment, instability) between areas and neighbourhoods of Catalan cities are factors that have a direct impact on the life expectancy of citizens and the quality of their health. A correlation that represents an invisible obstacle to the right to the city advocated by the Quito Declaration. Furthermore, the differences between urban areas within the same city are in many cases worsening, forcing us to reconsider the social function of urban planning as an effective redistribution tool.

Housing policies must combat the appearance of real-state bubbles and speculation by investment funds —foreign or domestic—that take place in our cities. Likewise, these policies must increase the amount of social housing, particularly rental properties, given that construction percentages in recent years have, in periods not affected by the economic crisis, been below 10%.

Additionally, there is a need to reverse the growing globalisation of urban spaces, a phenomenon that strips cities of references and trivialises collective spaces, commodifying heritage, whilst giving rise to gentrification, mass tourism and, ultimately, the expulsion of local inhabitants from the most central urban habitats.

Lastly, there is a need to guarantee security in urban habitats, which are more susceptible to radicalisation, the impact of xenophobia and violence, and to strengthen public service management systems against cyberattacks that can compromise the normal operation of urban infrastructures, supplies and services.



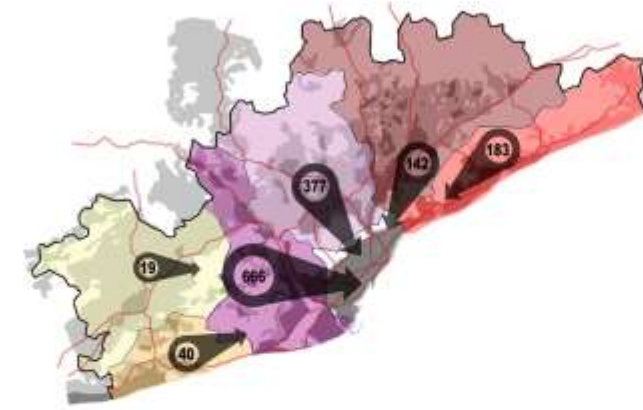
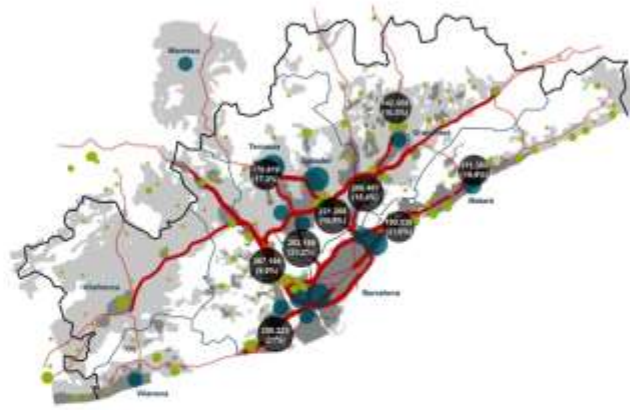
Urban Agenda, minimizing the environmental hazards of urban habitats

The metropolitan area of Barcelona, covering only 2.3% of Catalan territory and home to 4.3 million inhabitants (60% of the population of Catalonia) where Special Atmospheric Environment Protection Areas have been declared, continually exceeds the EU limits for two pollutants: nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and suspended particulate matter (PM₁₀). Mobility is the main cause of problems related to air quality in urban agglomerations. Specifically, in Barcelona, 1.8 million commutes (journeys into and out of Barcelona) are the main cause, as 44% are in private vehicles, compared to 15% for internal journeys.

Environmental sustainability and climate change

There's a need for a strategy firmly backing the transformation of an energy model currently based, in the main, on non-renewable energy sources. It is therefore vital to guarantee a transition towards a post-carbon energy generation model, based essentially on renewable green energies. In this context, and to make buildings energy self-sufficient, we must boost research into the renewable energies sector, make the necessary changes to the legislative framework, provide tax incentives for implementation in households and carry out the structural and infrastructure changes that will be required to this end. Additionally, there is a call for a strategy supporting lifestyles that consume less energy.

There's also a need for a drastic change in people's mobility in the country's cities and conurbations, as the current model is the main reason behind the contamination of urban habitats and, more specifically, the appearance of episodes of air pollution. In this regard, we need to work on reducing unnecessary mobility and on consolidating more sustainable alternatives (facilitating movement on foot, by bike or using public transport). We need to prioritise efficient public transport.



Functional area of mobility in the metropolitan area of Barcelona:

- 1,8 million trips/day
- 4,77 million inh
- 70% of Catalan pop
- 164 municipalities
- 8 regions



Urban Agenda, achieving prosperous and productive cities

Urban habitats fill 7% of the Catalan territory. The 8 regions with consolidated urban systems and non agricultural economy generate 75% of GDP. Tourism represents 12% of the Catalan GDP, and brings 30 million visitors per year.

Barcelona has 21,55% of Catalan population and provides 31,22% of GDP (2014)

Economic sustainability

There's a need to find new production models that leverage the advantages of urban concentration, such as new technologies and communication networks. It is necessary to seek a territorial balance through specific economic development policies that take advantage of the potential of each territory.

At the same time, there is a need to create funding instruments for public policies that respect the principles of decentralisation and subsidiarity and, at the same time, to make greater efforts to explore mixed public/private funding and partnership formulas.



Our vision: principles and challenges of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia

If cities are the problem, they can also be the solution.

Urban environments are opportunity creators; they have the capacity to transform relations and social interactions and are undoubtedly powerful economic catalysts. The drive and energy of cities (attributes that make them authentic global hubs) and their leadership in many fields (tourism, knowledge, research, innovation, solidarity, etc.) makes them key actors in demanding a paradigm shift towards sustainability. However, this drive must go hand in hand with **specific actions that, to be effective and realistic, require coordination with countrywide policies.**

In this context, the Urban Assembly must oversee compliance with the principles of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia: **commitment to its real, effective implementation.**

IMPLEMENTATION

The Urban Assembly will ensure that the proposals and actions arising from the Agenda are **specific, effective and achievable.** In addition, the Agenda will contain a number of quantifiable and **assessable indicators** in order to guarantee adequate implementation and achievement of the commitments.

INTEGRATION

The Urban Assembly will **coordinate with other platforms, committees, councils and other bodies** and will include their proposals with regard to the Urban Agenda and align them with the principles of the New Urban Agenda. Furthermore, it will ensure a **holistic, integrated approach** in the discussions of the working groups.

IMPLANTATION

The Assembly will propose actions and policies that are **grounded in the reality of Catalonia, its regional system and its cities.** To this end, it will foster proposals and actions with rigorous and **realistic diagnoses.**

IMPULSE

The Assembly will adopt an **active role** in achieving its task by providing the necessary human and material resources. It will oversee the achieving of results and public **dissemination, participation and awareness-raising** in the process of formulating the Urban Agenda for Catalonia.



People in the center of a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable Agenda

Urban planning must be seen as an instrument for preventing strategic risks. These risks must be defined as not only technological or environmental disasters, but also social risks. At a global level, experiences like the 'Arab Spring', the management of France's banlieues and other episodes of terrorist radicalisation in European cities such as Brussels are caused by the discontentment of the young, unemployed urban population, which explodes in the form of social revolt or radical extremism. The link between urbanisation and social balance is undeniable.

Urbanisation contributes to development. Indeed, on a global level, there are no economically developed countries that have not previously been urbanised, be this formally or informally. This circumstance is more accentuated in developed countries, where the most dynamic economic sectors, i.e. the post-industrial ones—such as the information and knowledge economy—find their home in urban environments. According to UN-Habitat, up to 80% of high-value work takes place in cities.

Urban habitats are environments that are vulnerable to the impact of climate change and are, at the same time, large-scale emitters of greenhouse gases, due to the energy model of consuming fossil fuels that supplies the needs of these environments. So, the current model of urbanisation is not sustainable, and must be rethought, to move towards a new model that limits new land occupation, regards urban renovation as its main focus of actions, one that is efficient in the use of resources and that is powered by locally-produced renewable energies, based on public transport and accessibility to non-motorised means, and which is resilient against the impact of climate change.



An interdisciplinary, multi-level, inclusive, and integrated approach

Achieving the objectives associated with these three dimensions (social, environmental, economic) is not feasible from a solely local perspective. Although we cannot, and indeed do not wish to, deny the importance of local governments in this task, neither can we ignore the fact that achieving sustainable urban models is also the responsibility of supra-local governments and administrations.

Aspects as key to the construction of the urban narrative as the definition of the rules of the game (through legislative and regulatory capacity), wealth redistribution (tax and financial policies), public and road safety, and mobility, fall within of the scope of powers attributed to supra-local government.

There is thus a need to seek real integration of governance at different levels, to overcome the 'silo effect' that is so common when tackling urban policies. Therefore, as noted above, this cannot and must not be a solitary task. It requires the engagement of all the actors and players whose decisions have, one way or another, an impact upon the city and the territory.

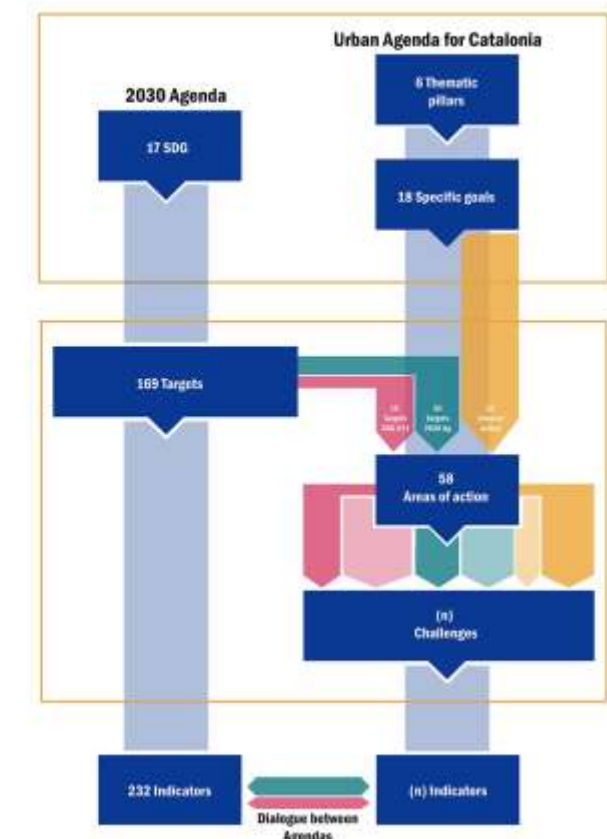
Thus it is that all administrations, the general public and economic sectors must work hand in hand to face up to the challenges facing us as a country and also the challenges of humanity. Accordingly, the formulation of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia will have to be an inclusive, coordinated and cohesive process, one that will require input from all levels and all fields.



Alignment with the Agenda 2030, and inclusion of SDGs with urban dimension

The Agenda aims to specify 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. Thus, three factors are involved in establishing the areas of action:

- Incorporating the 2030 Agenda SDGs with urban implications. Once analysed, 12 SDGs were detected that, in one way or another, have an urban dimension.
- Incorporating the targets from SDG 11. The targets associated with this goal are considered areas of action for the Urban Agenda for Catalonia.
- Other areas of action. New areas of action are added which are not specifically included in the 2030 Agenda. This unique contribution by the Urban Agenda for Catalonia meets the need to 'localise' areas of actions to the specific circumstances of Catalonia and its cities and regions.



A new Urban Agenda for Catalonia

The Urban Agenda for Catalonia is structured into six thematic pillars that analytically condense the broad set of goals and challenges considered in the Quito Declaration.



[01] Healthy urban habitats

By ensuring an urban environment free of pollution to guarantee public health. By reducing the environmental impact of cities through efficient, sustainable urban services and the use of renewable energies produced in the urban environment



[02] Welfare

By guaranteeing safe, cohesive, diverse and inclusive cities with public areas enhancing interaction between citizens. By promoting and supporting art and culture and eradicating exclusion, discrimination and vulnerability.



[03] Urban quality

By achieving urban environments accessible for everyone. By ensuring compact, mix-used cities, with adequate densities, in order to allow proximity to goods, services and opportunities. Well-equipped, smart habitats with access to transport, energy and quality public spaces.



[04] Prosperity

By exploring new production models with high added value associated with urban development. By promoting knowledge and innovation. By assuring economic sustainability, and moving from a linear economic model to a circular one.



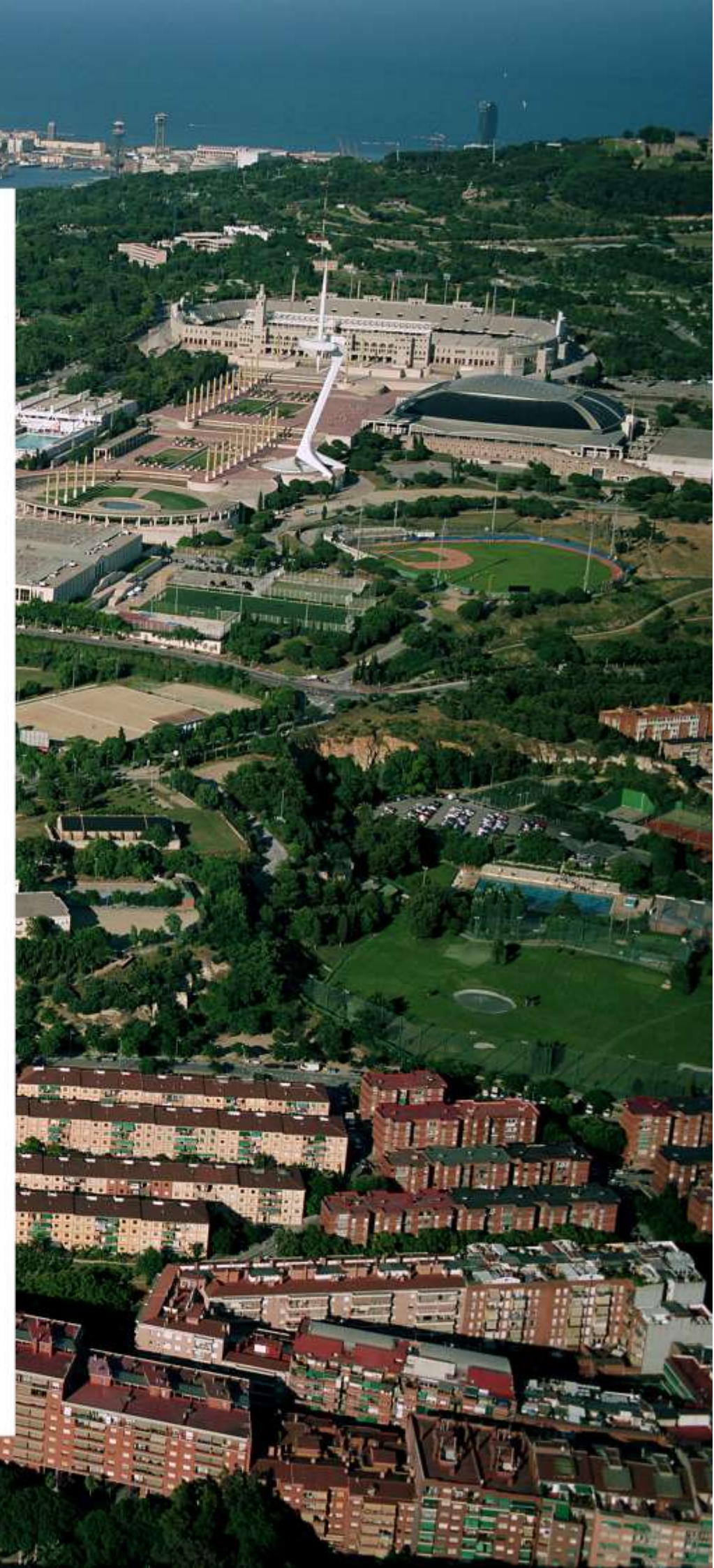
[05] Regional dimension

By ensuring well-developed cities connected with their regions and hinterland, provided with environmentally preserved natural areas to improve people's lives. By adapting territories to the effects of climate change.



[06] Good governance

By ensuring a better management of urban policies, bringing them closer to the citizens to achieve more inclusive and transparent cities. By providing local and regional governments with better funding in order to guarantee better public services. By achieving more accountable governments.



[01] Healthy urban habitats

By ensuring urban environments free of pollution to guarantee public health. By reducing the environmental impact of cities through efficient, sustainable urban services and the use of renewable energies produced in urban environments.



Water cycle

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

- Water supply
- Better sanitation
- River and coastal areas
- Efficient consumption



Air quality

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

- Health effects on people
- Pollutant and GHG emissions
- Sustainable mobility



Sustainable energy

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

- Renewable energies
- Smart energy grids
- Rational energy consumption



[02] Welfare

By guaranteeing safe, cohesive, diverse and inclusive cities with public areas enhancing interaction between citizens. By promoting and supporting art and culture and by eradicating exclusion, discrimination and vulnerability.



Public safety

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

- Safe cities and regions
- Ethical cities
- Road safety
- Security against hacking



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).

- Equal rights and opportunities
- Cultural heritage and art promotion
- Migration policies, intercultural dialogue, cohesion
- Demographic ageing



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.

- Minimisation of vulnerability
- Guaranteed access to basic services and supplies
- Access to quality employment

[03] Urban quality

By achieving urban environments **accessible for everyone**.
By ensuring **compact, mix-used cities, with adequate densities**
in order to allow proximity to goods, services and opportunities.
Well-equipped, smart habitats, with access to transport, energy
and **quality public spaces**.



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.

- Public transport
- Commuting (intermodality)
- Efficient infrastructures
- Smart cities



Adequate and affordable housing

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

- Economic accessibility to housing
- Quality of housing
- Ecoefficiency and environmental impact reduction



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.

- Inclusive public spaces
- Urban and peri-urban landscape
- Compact city
- Districts upgrading and urban recycling

[04] Prosperity

By exploring new production models with high added value associated with urban development. By promoting knowledge and innovation. By assuring economic sustainability, and moving from a linear economic model to a circular one.



New productive models

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

- Economic growth and increased productivity
- Entrepreneurship and disruptive sectors
- Sustainable tourism
- Sharing economy and new technologies



Knowledge and innovation

Promoting knowledge 'clusters', fostering new technologies, facilitating creativity and innovation and seeking added value in products and services generation.

- Education and university
- Research, development and innovation



Green, circular economy

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

- Waste management
- Efficient use of resources
- Green economy and responsible consumption



[05] The regional dimension

By ensuring well-developed cities **connected with their regions and hinterland**, provided with environmentally preserved **natural areas** to improve people's lives. By adapting territories to the effects of **climate change**.



Developed regions

Achieving urban integration with the surrounding regions and its hinterland.

- Rural - urban linkages
- Small and intermediate cities
- Food security



Ecosystems and biodiversity

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

- Urban biodiversity
- Ecological connectivity
- Soil preservation from urbanization



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.

- Improving risk prevention
- Increasing capacity to adapt



[06] Good governance

By ensuring a better management of urban policies, bringing them closer to the citizens to achieve **more inclusive and transparent cities**.
By providing local and regional governments with **better funding** in order to guarantee better public services. By achieving **more accountable governments**.



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.

- Efficient spending
- Competence framework
- Networked governments
- Digital transition and administrative simplification
- Public - private partnerships (PPP)



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.

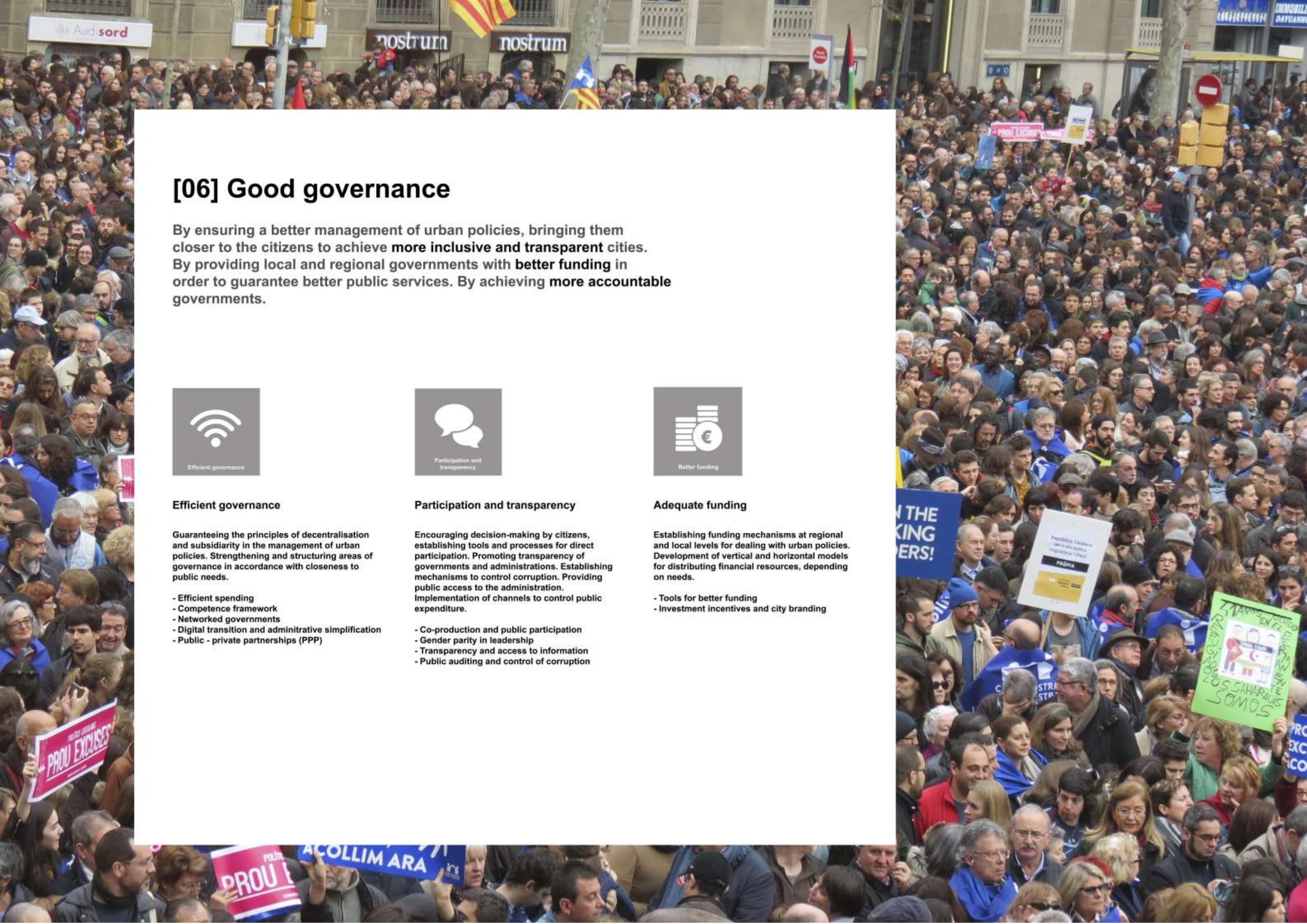
- Co-production and public participation
- Gender parity in leadership
- Transparency and access to information
- Public auditing and control of corruption



Adequate funding

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

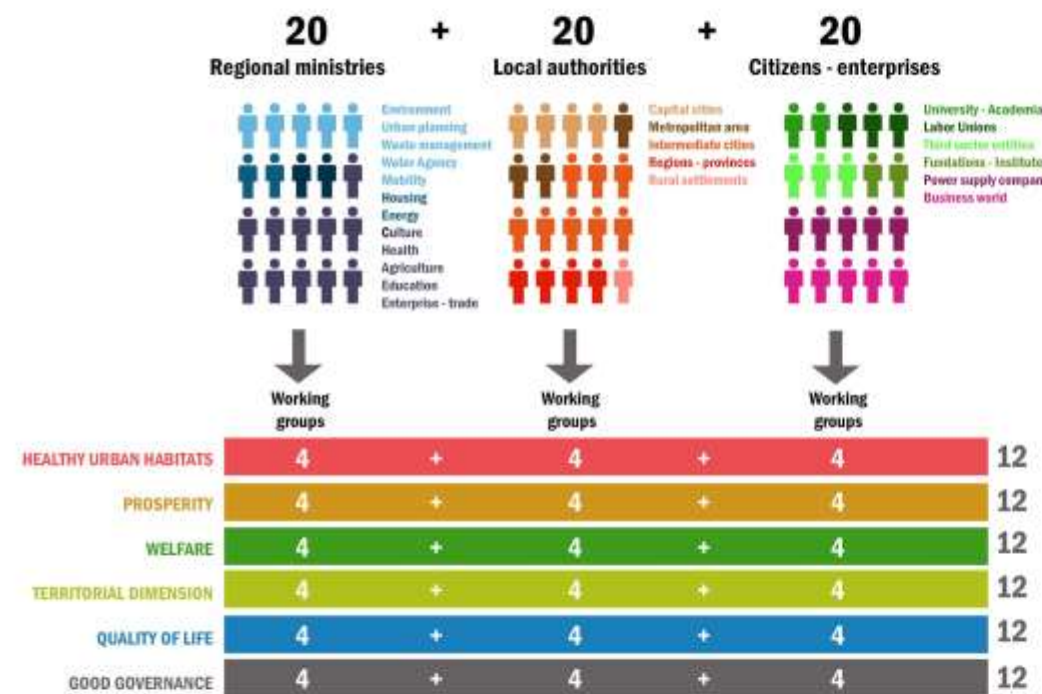
- Tools for better funding
- Investment incentives and city branding



The Urban Assembly

A multidisciplinary collegial body, consisting of all levels of government (the Government of Catalonia and regional, metropolitan and local governments) and representatives from civil society and the productive sector.

A forum for diagnosing, analysing, discussing, debating, proposing and eventually validating the direction of urban policy in coming years.



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. Similarly, notwithstanding specific urban situations, the adoption of various urban agendas in Catalonia cannot be seen as the result of political opportunism, administrative manoeuvring or regional tensions.

A holistic approach

Formulation of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia requires a multi-level and multi-field approach. This involves an integrated, holistic view that requires technical and specialist expertise in a variety of fields, in conjunction with the commitment of the different government bodies that in one way or another affect the cities and regions.

Working 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 thematic pillars on which they work. Experts will be appointed by the by three equal actors in the Catalan Urban Assembly (Government of Catalonia, local government and the citizens), with a maximum of 12 members in each working group and a ratio of 4 members per level.

Urban Agenda for Catalonia



Generalitat de Catalunya - Government of Catalonia
Departament de Territori i Sostenibilitat - Regional Ministry of Territory and Sustainability
Direcció General d'Ordenació del Territori i Urbanisme
Directorate-General for Urban and Territorial Planning