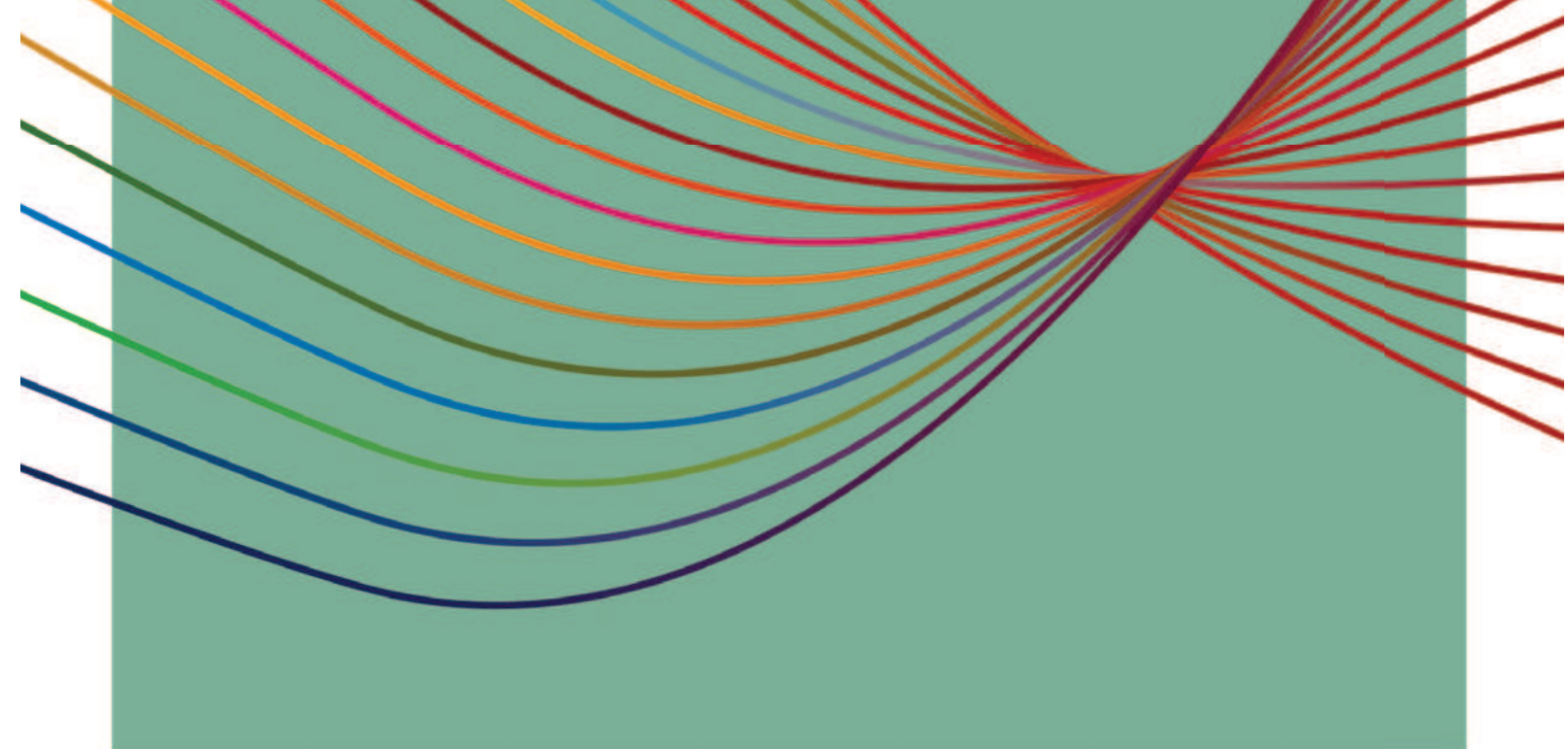


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Voluntary Local Review

by the Barcelona Provincial Council



**Diputació
Barcelona**

diba.cat

With the support of the Metròpoli Institute

June 2025

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Foreword

In 2015, the international community approved the 2030 Agenda with a clear purpose: to collectively tackle the biggest global challenges through **sustainable, inclusive and forward-looking development**. At the Barcelona Provincial Council (*Diputació de Barcelona*, DIBA), we immediately undertook to incorporate this agenda as our strategic framework for local public action, in the conviction that proximity governments have an essential role to play in its implementation and success.

The Barcelona Provincial Council is a local government institution that supports the 311 municipalities in the province



Lluïsa Moret Sabidó

*President of the Barcelona
Provincial Council*

of Barcelona, a region that represents **24% of Catalonia's surface area and 74% of its population**, with almost **5.7 million inhabitants**. This territorial scale confers on us a significant responsibility: to act as the **binding axis of the region**, enabling local councils, large and small, to deploy effective, inclusive and SDG-aligned public policies. This duty is at the heart of our institutional mission.

At the Barcelona Provincial Council we have undertaken to make the 2030 Agenda **our own agenda, rooted in the territory and oriented towards transforming the local sphere**.

This commitment has not only been discursive but also **strategic and operational**. The 2030 Agenda has increasingly permeated our public policies and has become a driver of **institutional transformation and innovation** in local governance. This vision has been consolidated in the current Mandate Action Plan (*Pla d'Actuació de Mandat*, PAM), approved by the Barcelona Provincial Council for the 2023–2027 period, and the Council's other strategic instruments, placing the SDGs at the core of the institution's political and operational priorities.

The first Voluntary Local Review that we hereby present is the

with all the Provincial Council's departments and services, and highlights the policies that are already contributing directly to the achievement of the SDGs. From technical and economic support for municipalities to foster the energy transition and digitalisation, to actions aimed at reducing social inequalities, promoting gender equity, enhancing public health or preserving natural and cultural heritage, the Barcelona Provincial Council acts as a catalyst institution for change at the regional scale.

But this report also adopts a **critical and honest outlook**. We acknowledge that there are still areas in which progress is needed,

outcome of this journey. It is a concrete and transparent testimony of how we are implementing the SDGs at the local level, both within the organisation itself and in cooperation with the 311 municipalities that make up our province. With this review, we not only aim to **practice accountability**, but also to **share lessons learned**, as well as the challenges faced and progress made, and to reinforce our commitment to a form of governance that is open, collaborative and data-based.

The review is grounded on a **rigorous and cross-cutting diagnosis**, produced in **liaison**

such as guaranteeing planning that is more aligned with the SDGs on a municipal scale, improving the quality and availability of local data, and more clearly in incorporating the opinions of the general public and local stakeholders.

Precisely for this reason, this voluntary review is an **instrument designed to foster continuous improvement**, and one which must help us to **evaluate, reappraise and reorient public policies from a transformative perspective**.

The Barcelona Provincial Council will continue to back the 2030 Agenda as a shared horizon. We know that the SDGs can only be achieved through **decisive local**

action, stable institutional support and solid multi-actor partnerships.

We hope to contribute actively to the global debate on the role of intermediate and sub-state governments and to demonstrate that local institutions, when they work in networks and with long-term outlooks, can be **drivers of real change and agents of global justice.**

With this review, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to present and future generations. Because transforming the world begins by transforming its regions. And because no sustainable development is

**possible without a strong,
committed local sphere that is
aligned with its values.**

Executive summary

The analysis that supported the preparation of this Voluntary Local Review (VLR) on progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as presented below, is the result of a shared process of reflection and accountability with the intention of assessing the contribution of the Barcelona Provincial Council (DIBA) to this global endeavour and driving improvement and innovation in local public policies aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

This Review, promoted by the 2030 Agenda Service (part of Barcelona Provincial Council's Coordination of Cooperation and Local Assistance), reflects the institution's commitment to sustainable development and

to the province of Barcelona. This document traces the path covered from the approval of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 through to the present, although the most thorough analysis focuses on the 2020–2024 period.

Work within the framework of the 2030 Agenda began in the 2016–2019 mandate, during which a landing phase was rolled out and the first efforts were made to address this global agreement in an integrated manner, such as the initial alignment of the 2016–2019 Mandate Action Plan (PAM) with the SDGs. Subsequently, in the 2019–2023 mandate, came the so-called localisation phase, in

which the commitment undertaken to this agenda was strengthened, increasing efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs. In the current mandate, the consolidation and evaluation phase has begun, focusing on developing and establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as strengthening support programmes for local authorities. This journey has made it possible to integrate the principles of the 2030 Agenda into the Barcelona Provincial Council's operations, with a direct impact on the province of Barcelona.

To make the adoption of the 2030 Agenda effective, during this period the Provincial Council has launched a number of initiatives. Notably,

policies and strategies for localising the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their regions through different instruments. Of particular note among these is the alignment of the SDGs with the Cooperation Plan of the Network of Local Governments (*Pla de Cooperació de la Xarxa de Governs Locals*), consisting of the General Investment Programme (*Programa General d'Inversions*), specific programmes and the Catalogue of Services (*Catàleg de serveis*). This last instrument alone has been endowed with more than €652 million from 2020 to 2024.

Another key action has been the fostering of inter-institutional collaboration with other local actors, thereby facilitating the coordination

the **transformation of corporate strategy** involved alignment of the main instruments of strategic planning, regional agreement and communication used by the Barcelona Provincial Council with the SDGs. New instruments and programmes have also been promoted to accelerate and realise the commitment made to the global agreement, including the creation of an ad hoc structure, the so-called 2030 Agenda Service.

Likewise, with the aim of making effective progress in adopting the 2030 Agenda, **support has also been provided to local councils**, which have been equipped with tools and resources so that they can design and drive their own

needed to achieve the SDGs not only in the Barcelona area but also at the Catalan, Spanish, European and international levels.

Beyond the working model designed by the Barcelona Provincial Council to implement the 2030 Agenda, the core essence of this Review lies in Chapter 3, which illustrates how much the **SDGs have been achieved by the Barcelona Provincial Council**, and analyses the different projects and initiatives that the Barcelona Provincial Council is carrying out and how they contribute to the various SDGs as well as to their specific targets. This section also includes a brief examination of certain contextual indicators for each of the 17 SDGs.

To frame this chapter, some of the **results** derived from this analysis are presented below.

The Barcelona Provincial Council works to promote more cohesive and just municipalities, ensuring effective access to social, civil and public rights with programmes such as support for municipal social services, the pre-paid card (*targeta moneder*), the remote care service (*servei de teleassistència*) and other programmes such as energy-poverty audits and interventions in households, neighbourhoods and communities as drivers of social transformation. With these initiatives, progress is being made towards **SDG 1**, as well as 2, 10 and 11.

food and other basic products for families with fewer resources.

People's well-being within the 2030 Agenda is also addressed in terms of health in relation to **SDG 3**, with projects concerning public health, addressing the treatment of addiction among adolescents, and promoting youth sport and a more active society being of particular note.

The Strategic Plan for Mental Health also plays a significant role by preventing, detecting and facilitating support and care for people who suffer from mental disorders, especially in the wake of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences.

SDG 2 is also impacted from the perspective of food security and improved nutrition as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture, where the Barcelona Provincial Council is driving initiatives such as *Barcelona Agrària* and the aforesaid pre-paid card, which facilitates access to fresh

Quality education is another central aspect of the Barcelona Provincial Council's endeavours. Through the Local Education Policies Programme and projects such as the Local Education Observatory and local agreements to combat segregation, more inclusive,



equitable and quality education is strengthened. Likewise, the Barcelona Provincial Council also contributes to educational success through the rollout of the Network of Municipal Libraries (*Xarxa de Biblioteques Municipals*, XBM), one of the institution's flagship projects. All of this falls specifically under **SDG 4**, although it also has an impact on others.

Gender equality within the framework of **SDG 5** is another area that has traditionally been prioritised by the Provincial Council. For this reason, it works to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination, ensuring the full participation of women in every sphere. This commitment is embodied in the first

developed in this area, impacting **SDG 6**, as well as 7 and 13, particularly in the form of actions to improve water-supply networks.

Furthermore, with regard to **SDG 7**, the Barcelona Provincial Council implements measures to secure clean and affordable energy through initiatives such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the Sectoral Programme for the 2030 Ecological Transition, which has two lines of action (*Adaptaclima 2030* and *Renovables 2030*) in order to adapt to climate change, promote the large-scale deployment of renewable energies and reduce emissions. All these efforts fall within the Climate Plan, the instrument that the Barcelona

and second Gender Equality Plans, as well as in many other initiatives.

In recent years, addressing the climate emergency has become one of the institution's priorities, and therefore more and more programmes and actions are being

Provincial Council leverages to address the climate emergency and achieve climate neutrality by 2030.

With regard to **SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth), various programmes stand out, such as the Local Employment



Services Network (*Xarxa de Serveis Locals d'Ocupació*, XALOC), the Work, Talent and Technology Programme, and a strong commitment to sustainable tourism in the counties of Barcelona. In addition, the Local Commerce Digitalisation Programme has facilitated the introduction of energy-consumption monitoring systems in markets, which is forecast to cover about 53% of municipalities by 2030.

As for **SDG 9** (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), the Barcelona Provincial Council is working on the development of solid, resilient and sustainable infrastructures, in this regard promoting the transformative Industrial Estates

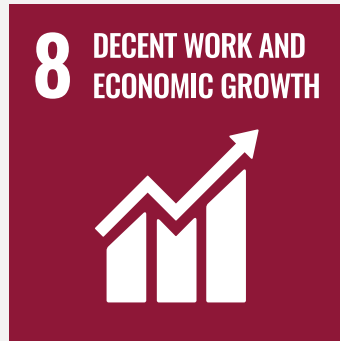
Council's commitment to this Goal. The DIGITAL DIBA: Digital Infrastructure Modernisation programme, in which 264 municipalities of the province participate, has also helped to foster the region's digital transformation.

With regard to reducing inequalities, the Provincial Council works transversally through multiple programmes and action projects.

Noteworthy among these are support for designing and developing inclusive community actions, the support programme for families, the elderly and care for dependent persons and the NEXES programme to address unwanted

Modernisation project to improve the quality of such sites through high-impact investments. Other projects such as Blue Ways (*Vies Blaves*), introduced in 2015, and municipal Information Technology programmes are clear examples of the Provincial

loneliness among the aged. Likewise, the Community Mediation programme and the municipal planning, management and organisation of reception actions for newcomers are examples of initiatives that have a clear impact on reducing inequalities in our



towns and cities and therefore contribute to **SDG 10**, although they can also impact others, such as SDG 1 and 2.

Turning to **SDG 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities) the Local Urban Agendas programme aims to transform and plan urban environments and settlements to ensure opportunities for everyone, guaranteeing access to essential services, energy, decent housing, transport and public green areas. Other programmes such as those for Urban Environment and Health, Housing, and the Improvement of Public Facilities and Urban Spaces also support these objectives.

In the cultural sphere, the Cultural

With regard to responsible consumption and production, as set out by **SDG 12**, the Barcelona Provincial Council has clearly opted for sustainability through, for example, the Programme to Improve the Sustainability of Commerce in the Municipalities of Barcelona (paying special attention to municipal markets) designed to harness the commercial fabric to strengthen the local production structure from a sustainability standpoint.

Addressing climate change has become one of the Barcelona Provincial Council's priorities, framed under **SDG 13**. Some of the most notable projects in this area are Green Infrastructure

Rights Plan of Barcelona Provincial Council, Culture 311+, promotes the recognition and rollout of cultural rights in municipalities, strengthening local cultural policies and fostering new ones from an innovative and territorially connected approach.

Barcelona 2030, which promotes naturalisation and green-space management actions to help municipalities adapt to climate change, and the Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainability programme.



With respect to **SDGs 14** and **15** on the protection of life below water and life on land, the Barcelona Provincial Council has also implemented a number of important programmes, including the Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation programme, and the Tourism Sustainability Plan for the Barcelona and Llobregat Delta coastal resorts. In addition, the Marine Studies Centre (*Centre d'Estudis de Mar*) is one of the prime assets as regards environmental education.

As for the conservation and sustainable use of our natural areas, the Barcelona Provincial Council's Network of Natural Parks warrants special recognition, with 14 protected natural areas of high ecological,

governance and regional cohesion have been deployed, encouraging collaboration between local governments and the general public to generate co-creation processes in the design of public policies and fostering innovation. Programmes such as Digital Innovation, the institutional integrity system and the *Participa311* citizen participation platform are good examples of this.

Finally, the Barcelona Provincial Council is also making great efforts to seek partnerships in the region and with other institutions and levels of government in order to promote sustainable development, in line with achieving **SDG 17**. Likewise, work is also being done to evaluate the Council's progress in achieving

scenic, cultural and heritage value, covering more than 102,000 hectares.

The Barcelona Provincial Council also promotes transparent, efficient and accountable institutions, which relates to **SDG 16**. Thus, new lines of support inspired by good

the 2030 Agenda. One example of this is the Visor2030 project, within the Barcelona Provincial Council's data-governance programme, which aims to foster transparency and facilitate the monitoring of indicators to help measure progress in achieving the SDGs.



For their part, the local authorities in the province of Barcelona have also demonstrated a firm commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, fully recognising their responsibility as catalysts for change. At present, around 140 local authorities in the province of Barcelona have developed some kind of strategy and/or programme within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, although the issue is being addressed with differing intensities, given the heterogeneity of the Barcelona area.

Practically half of the local authorities working within this framework have undertaken awareness-raising and communication actions and/or participation processes in order

while others have drawn up more comprehensive strategies, incorporating the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as the strategic framework for their corporate actions. Among these local authorities there are cases that have tackled the achievement of the SDGs through the Local Urban Agenda methodology, while some have even linked the two agendas (2030 Agenda and Urban Agenda) as strategic and operational frameworks, designing all-embracing urban strategies whose ultimate goal is always sustainable development.

Some of the local authorities that have worked most intensively on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have likewise begun to prepare

to sensitise and engage the local populace and regional stakeholders in actions to advance towards sustainable development. Many local authorities have also aligned their mandate planning with the SDGs, steering government action towards sustainable development,

Voluntary Local Reviews of their own in order to measure SDG achievement in their regions and showcase their commitment to sustainable development.

Finally, beyond the analysis of the Barcelona Provincial Council



and the province, this Review also gathers a number of **reflections and lessons learned** during the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda, both within the Barcelona Provincial Council and in its member municipalities. Specifically, it is considered that the 2030 Agenda has not only served as a roadmap for achieving the SDGs, but has also driven transformation within the institution itself, which has consistently onboarded the Sustainable Development Goals into its actions. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda has become a driver for boosting multilevel collaboration.

It has also become patently clear that there is an urgent need to consolidate a transversal and

In this regard, the Review sets out certain continuity actions and new lines of action towards the 2030 Horizon, in order to keep making firm progress in achieving sustainable development throughout the province. The aim is to consolidate the Barcelona Provincial Council's strategic and operational alignment with the 2030 Agenda, to promote a multifaceted view of public policies, to drive innovation in government action so as to respond better to the region's needs, and to reinforce strategic foresight in order to embed a long-term perspective in decision-making.

Ultimately, this is the first Review drawn up to measure the contribution of the Barcelona

comprehensive working model both within the Provincial Council and among local authorities. There is also still ground to cover in implementing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for policies aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

Provincial Council to achieving the SDGs, with the intention of promoting the continuation of this initiative and consolidating the document as an ongoing instrument for monitoring, evaluation and accountability.



1

Introduction

Introduction

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) presented herein is the result of a shared process of reflection and accountability that seeks, on the one hand, to evaluate the Barcelona Provincial Council's (DIBA) achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, on the other, to drive the transformation of local public policies in line with the 2030 Agenda.

This VLR, promoted by the 2030 Agenda Service, part of Barcelona Provincial Council's Coordination of Cooperation and Local Assistance (*Coordinació de Cooperació i Assistència Local*), not only highlights the progress achieved so far but also paves the way for future actions and transformations that

series of services, instruments and resources to meet this purpose.

Since the approval of the 2030 Agenda, the world has experienced a turbulent period with major impact at the local level. The pandemic, drought, the climate emergency and the serious problem of access to housing, especially for young people, are just a few examples. The Barcelona Provincial Council and the 311 municipalities of the province of Barcelona have demonstrated their capacity for resilience in addressing the region's biggest challenges from a sustainability standpoint. For this reason, after nearly ten years of working toward the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs,

must be led by the local sphere.

As is well known, local governments have been recognised as key actors for the success of this agenda, since around 60% of the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda depend on local governmental action. Likewise, the adoption of SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) is evidence of the significant role that local governments play within the 2030 Agenda.

With this premise, the Barcelona Provincial Council has undertaken to work intensively to advance sustainable development throughout the territory of the province of Barcelona, deploying a

the Barcelona Provincial Council felt that this is the moment to evaluate its efforts by preparing this review.

The review adopts a whole-of-government approach, analysing how the entire institutional structure and policies of the Barcelona Provincial Council (each from its own specificity) contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This interconnected and cross-cutting approach is essential to guarantee coherent public action that is properly aligned with the great global challenges and is capable of having a positive impact on the ground.

This review should not only enable us to systematise information on progress in achieving the SDGs and to evaluate the actions implemented by the Provincial Council, but also aims to serve as a ‘thermometer’ for measuring SDG achievement in the territory. From this vision, the Barcelona Provincial Council intends to foster the continuation of this initiative, consolidating the Voluntary Local Review as a stable, consistent instrument for monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

The process of drafting the review is also an exercise that has helped and will continue to help the Barcelona Provincial Council to improve informed decision-

making, optimise resources and enhance its capacity for response, guaranteeing a multifaceted view of public policies and ensuring their coherent alignment with the SDGs.

With this review, the Barcelona Provincial Council is reaffirming its commitment to transformative public governance, oriented towards achieving the SDGs and improving the quality of life of the region's population.

1.1

The journey

The journey so far



Figure 1

Timeline of the Barcelona Provincial Council's commitment to the SDGs
Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the 2030 Agenda Service

On 25 September 2015, and within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved. Since then, the Barcelona Provincial Council has undertaken to implement this agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Over these years, the Barcelona Provincial Council has devoted great efforts to ensuring that the precepts of this agenda permeate its functions and have a direct impact on the province of Barcelona.

These endeavours are reflected in a series of programmes and actions that can be grouped under what is called *Estratègia 2030*. This strategy can be divided into three phases, which coincide with the different terms of office.

after the approval of the 2030 Agenda itself. This stage was driven mainly by the Barcelona Provincial Council's Directorate of International Relations (*Direcció de Relacions Internacionals*), because this was the service that had monitored the draft and approval of the 2030 Agenda by the United Nations, as well as of the New Urban Agenda. In parallel, the Network of Towns and Cities for Sustainability (*Xarxa de Pobles i Ciutats per la Sostenibilitat*) also worked on the transition from Agenda 21 to the 2030 Agenda.

During these years, the first efforts were initiated to address this global agreement in an integrated manner, so that it could have an impact both on the Barcelona Provincial Council and on the local authorities in the province. The most

Hence, this first chapter describes, in a very brief manner, each of the phases that have taken place for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and presents the Voluntary Local Review as a key instrument for evaluation and accountability, designed to systematise information, generate knowledge and assess the actions implemented by governments in matters of sustainable development. This chapter ends with a description of the objectives of the VLR and the methodology used for the preparation of the document, as well as its structure.

Landing phase (2016-2019 mandate)

The landing phase was carried out during the 2016–2019 mandate, very shortly

noteworthy actions during this period were:

- Definition of a **Roadmap for localising the SDGs** in local authorities, and design of the first training courses. These actions were designed jointly with the worldwide United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) organisation and other local governments to build a common narrative and a shared SDG localisation methodology for all local governments around the world.
- Design of the Barcelona Provincial Council's **first awareness-raising and communication products on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**. This included mandatory training for all Barcelona Provincial Council staff and a wide communication campaign on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

- First **alignment of the 2016–2019 Mandate Action Plan (PAM) with the SDGs**, including four pilot tests (Libraries, Environment, Tourism and Social Welfare).
- Design and launch of the province's **first support resources for local authorities** to localise the SDGs in their territories: training, awareness-raising and financial and technical support.
- **Participation in advocacy spaces and networks** at a national, European and international level, promoting the participation of the province's local governments and fostering more sustainable development.

Localisation phase (2019–2023 mandate)

the attainment of the SDGs, reinforcing support for SDG localisation both across the province of Barcelona and inside the Barcelona Provincial Council itself.

Beyond these structural changes, key actions during this stage were:

- Adoption of the **SDGs in the 2020–2023 Mandate Action Plan (PAM)** as the strategic objectives of government action and the creation of transformative projects to drive SDG achievement.
- Approval of the **Strategic Plan for Implementing the 2030 Agenda (PEIA)**, the 2021–2030 roadmap that guides the Barcelona Provincial Council's implementation process and SDG achievement.

This phase corresponds to the 2019–2023 mandate and was the period in which the Barcelona Provincial Council strengthened its commitment to the agenda, making it its own and intensifying efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs.

That renewed commitment was accompanied by the creation within the corporate structure of the 2030 Agenda and Participation Service (*Servei d'Agenda 2030 i Participació*), placed under the Coordination of Corporate Strategy and Local Coordination (*Coordinació d'Estratègia Corporativa i Concertació Local*) in the Department of the Presidency. The service was set up to contribute actively to the values and principles of the 2030 Agenda and

- **Alignment of the Barcelona Provincial Council's budget,** programmes and sub-programmes with the SDGs, together with its other strategic instruments.
- Design of **new tools, training courses and financial, technical and material resources** for the local sphere, and the creation of **XarxA2030**, a network that fosters collaboration and joint ventures among local authorities to advance together on this major endeavour.
- Creation of **MesA2030**, an internal cross-cutting working forum made up of one representative from each corporate area and geared towards sustainable development.

Consolidation and evaluation phase (2023-2027 mandate)

It was during this mandate that the **consolidation and evaluation** of the achievements thus far have been undertaken. This phase continues to support initiatives for local authorities, but it is also strongly focused on developing and establishing stable monitoring and evaluation systems.

The main initiatives in this phase are:

- **Stronger 2030 Agenda imprint on the 2023-2027 PAM**, the incorporation of the Urban and Rural Agenda as a reference framework, and a review of the Barcelona Provincial Council's SDG-based budget-alignment system.

based localisation of SDG targets and indicators, and the development of an updated dashboard.

- **Improved and expanded portfolio of tools and technical, financial and material resources** for the local authorities in the province of Barcelona.
- Development of **VISOR2030, version 2.0**, a virtual platform with a battery of SDG-keyed indicators at the local scale.
- Assessment of 2030 Agenda implementation in both the province and within the Barcelona Provincial Council itself through the preparation of the Barcelona Provincial Council's **Voluntary Local Review**, which is intended to become a stable, regular instrument for tracking progress on the

- **Enhanced SDG-tracking system**
through refined and consensus-



Figure 2

Barcelona Provincial
Council's 2030 Strategy
Source: Based on data from
the 2030 Agenda Service



1.2

The Voluntary

The voluntary Local Review by the Barcelona Provincial Council

The Voluntary Local Review is the appropriate instrument for assessing the efforts made to date. With this aim in mind, the Barcelona Provincial Council's 2030 Agenda Service (Coordination of Cooperation and Local Assistance, Department of the Presidency) has promoted, led and coordinated its preparation.

The Service launched a joint reflection process with the fourteen corporate areas in order to analyse the impact of the institution's public policies in terms of sustainability, and received key support from the Metròpoli Institute (Institut Metròpoli), which carries out

urban research, training and knowledge-transfer activities, mainly in the Barcelona metropolitan area and region.

This section explains the objectives of the VLR, describes the methodology used for its preparation and presents the structure of the document.

Objectives

After many years of driving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, both within its own organisation and across the province of Barcelona, the Barcelona Provincial Council believes that the time is right to review and evaluate

progress		and innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables systematic monitoring of how municipalities and the wider territory are advancing toward achievement of the SDGs. • Helps detect the areas that most need improvement or reorientation of public policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a commitment to transparency and accountability toward citizens, local authorities, and the international community. • Acknowledges efforts and outcomes related to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and generates international prestige. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps align efforts and establish synergies across levels of government. This exercise not only enables assessment of the current situation but also encourages innovation in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies

Figure 3

Importance of having a VLR at the Barcelona Provincial Council

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the 2030 Agenda Service

all the efforts undertaken so far. This monitoring process must also serve to stimulate learning, innovation and participation throughout the organisation.

The Provincial Council's VLR is designed to analyse the actions carried out to foster implementation of the 2030 Agenda and attainment of the SDGs, and to evaluate the results and/or impacts that those actions have had during the 2020-2024 period, both internally and among the local authorities in the province of Barcelona. It also seeks, of course, to measure the degree of SDG achievement within the Barcelona Provincial Council and across the region by means of the established monitoring systems.

Methodology

The process of preparing the Barcelona Provincial Council's Voluntary Local Review began in the final quarter of 2024 and concluded in April 2025. Over those five months, a methodology was deployed that fosters participation across the entire organisation. Specifically, the VLR drafting process comprised four phases, as shown in the following figure.

COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF SECONDARY INFORMATION

First, a review of other benchmark Voluntary Local Reviews was conducted, drawing on the UN-Habitat repository. The aim was to identify good practices and enrich the proposal for the Barcelona

This document examines whether the mechanisms now in use are the most suitable, while showcasing the joint efforts of the Barcelona Provincial Council and the province of Barcelona in general to advance towards the SDGs. This VLR is also intended to serve as an exercise in transparency and accountability towards the Barcelona Provincial Council, the province, its people and the international community.

Beyond being a transparency exercise and highlighting the efforts made, the review also acknowledges the importance of monitoring, evaluation and accountability as essential elements for improving decision-making and building public policies.

Provincial Council's own review.

Second, the policies, strategies and strategic documents of the Barcelona Provincial Council (mandate plans, corporate strategic and sectoral plans, budget reports, etc.) were exhaustively reviewed and analysed using the list provided by the Council's 2030 Agenda Service. This review took into account the programmes, localised SDG achievements and/or indicators established by the Barcelona Provincial Council.

This documentary review helped to gain an in-depth understanding of the degree to which the precepts of the 2030 Agenda have been implemented and the SDGs attained by the Barcelona Provincial Council.

PREPARATION OF THE DASHBOARD FOR SDG ACHIEVEMENT AT THE BARCELONA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

A new SDG achievement dashboard was produced to evaluate the actions carried out by the Barcelona Provincial Council and their impact on the 2030 Agenda targets. The dashboard was drawn up by the 2030 Agenda Service of the Coordination of Cooperation and Local Assistance, with every area of the organisation supplying information on the targets affected, related programmes and actions, and indicators that allow us to assess the impact.

The data in this instrument provided the basis for Point 3 (Achievement of the SDGs in the province of Barcelona and the contribution of the Barcelona

achievement in the province of Barcelona and the Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution (Point 3 of this review).

INCORPORATION OF LESSONS LEARNED

Thanks to the collection and analysis of secondary information and the work done preparing the SDG dashboard, areas for improvement have been identified and lessons learned and next steps for the Barcelona Provincial Council have been incorporated.

New lines of action have also been pinpointed that will enable the organisation to progress in achieving the SDGs and honouring its commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

DEVELOPMENT OF VISOR2030, VERSION 2.0.

This platform of municipality-based indicators on the social, economic and environmental reality of the 311 municipalities in the province of Barcelona in terms of the SDGs is designed to provide local councils with information on their degree of SDG attainment in their municipalities and regions, so they, along with the Barcelona Provincial Council itself, can improve reflection, analysis and decision-making.

The Visor2030 indicators were also essential for obtaining the contextual indicators used to measure SDG

Lastly, the first Voluntary Local Review of the Barcelona Provincial Council brings together all the information and sets out the strategies, instruments and actions the Council has developed over these years to make its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs a reality.

The VLR presented herein has a distinctive structure: it seeks to measure achievements of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs within the Barcelona Provincial Council while also showcasing the degree of commitment to, and implementation of, the 2030 Agenda across the province of Barcelona. The structure and content of this review are explained in detail below.

Structure

Although VLRs have no official status or set structure, producing these sub-national reviews is a highly constructive and enriching exercise for the Barcelona Provincial Council and can help to boost coherence with other levels of government, above all with the province of Barcelona. Hence, the Barcelona Provincial Council has taken advantage of this lack of formality and this desire to boost regional coherence to prepare a highly distinctive review.

Accordingly, this VLR contains the review, analysis and evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs by the Barcelona Provincial Council, together with an analysis of the commitment to,

and degree of implementation of, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by the local authorities in the province. To do so, the review follows a narrative thread that helps to clarify both the Council's commitment and its impact on the ground in response to this global and analytical perspective.

Specifically, the review is divided into five main chapters:

1

The first chapter, **Introduction**, sets the context and foundations of this review. The subsections “*The journey so far*”, “*The Voluntary Local Review*” and “*Structure of the document*” provide an overview of the process followed to prepare the review, its purpose and the way the information has been arranged to facilitate understanding and analysis.

2

In the second chapter, ***The 2030 Agenda at the Barcelona Provincial Council: From commitment to transformation***, describes how the Barcelona Provincial Council has integrated the SDGs into its policies, from its corporate strategy to the direct support provided to the municipalities in the province. It also analyses the institutional partnerships established with other both national and international stakeholders, to ensure effective multilevel governance and strategic coordination in applying the SDGs.

3

The third chapter deals with ***Achieving the SDGs in the province of Barcelona and the contribution of the Council.***

This chapter forms the analytical core of the review and presents the set of actions carried out by the Council to help achieve the SDGs in the province, with concrete examples of projects and initiatives that have had an impact in fields such as energy transition, gender equality, social justice and climate action. The chapter showcases how the 2030 Agenda has been incorporated transversally into every public policy driven by the Council, highlighting its role as a driver and facilitator of local transformation.

4

The fourth chapter examines ***The impact of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs on the local authorities in the province of Barcelona***, analysing the work the municipalities are doing to apply the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the local level. It gathers examples of good practices, innovative projects and noteworthy initiatives that showcase how municipal governments are aligning their policies with the SDGs. This chapter attaches special value to the empowerment and commitment of local authorities and also highlights the support and guidance the Council has provided to help municipalities develop and implement those policies.

5

The fifth and final chapter refers to ***Lessons learned and next steps***. This section reflects on what has been learned during the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Council and across the municipalities. It also defines the actions being implemented to ensure the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

designed to continue this progress up to the 2030 horizon and presents the new focus areas that will need to be addressed in order to continue advancing toward achievement of the SDGs.

2

The 2020 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda at the Barcelona Provincial Council: From commitment to transformation

In recent years, the **2030 Agenda** has been a major driver of local transformation and an opportunity to innovate in working methods. As already mentioned, the Barcelona Provincial Council undertook a firm institutional commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development immediately after its approval. This commitment meant devoting the effort required to achieve the SDGs that arose from the 2030 Agenda and equipping the province's local authorities with the tools they needed to develop their own strategies for implementing the Agenda and

With this in mind, the following pages present, first, the strategies and initiatives rolled out at corporate level to reach that goal and, second, the support given to local authorities so they can implement the Agenda. Third, the review highlights work and collaboration with institutions and networks outside of the Barcelona area, an effort that has forged the partnerships needed to move toward global sustainable development.

Although work within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

achieving sustainable development.

Accordingly, the Barcelona Provincial Council's *Estratègia2030* has always had a two-fold focus. First, to promote an internal corporate strategy that adopts the 2030 Agenda as its own and works toward achieving the SDGs, and, second, to provide the local authorities in the Barcelona area with capacities, tools and resources so they can drive their own policies and strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

began in 2016, this review focuses on the actions carried out from 2020 to 2024, the period in which *Estratègia2030* was promoted as a roadmap for addressing this global agreement. At this point, it is already possible to evaluate the results and impact of the roadmap that was designed.

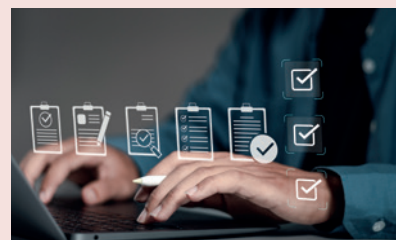
2.1

Corporate

Corporate strategy

In order to make the commitment to adopt this agenda within the Barcelona Provincial Council effective, it was considered essential that the SDGs and the principles derived from the 2030 Agenda should be known, recognised and present in every one of the Barcelona Provincial Council's fields of action.

For that reason, the Council's main strategic planning and cooperation instruments have been aligned with the SDGs and specific instruments and resources have been created to drive and guarantee the development of robust long-term strategies. In addition, training activities have been devised and various communication and awareness mechanisms built to bring the 2030 Agenda narrative and knowledge of the SDGs to as many



Alignment of planning and partnership instruments with the SDGs



local authorities and members of the general population as possible.

The 2030 Agenda has been an important driver for advancing beyond a short-term view of development strategies because it sets a time horizon of 2030, well beyond any single political mandate. In this sense, the Council has onboarded the SDGs as its own, surpassing the strategic goals specific to each political mandate and embracing a new time frame.

This commitment has taken shape in the following lines of action:

New instruments to drive the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs



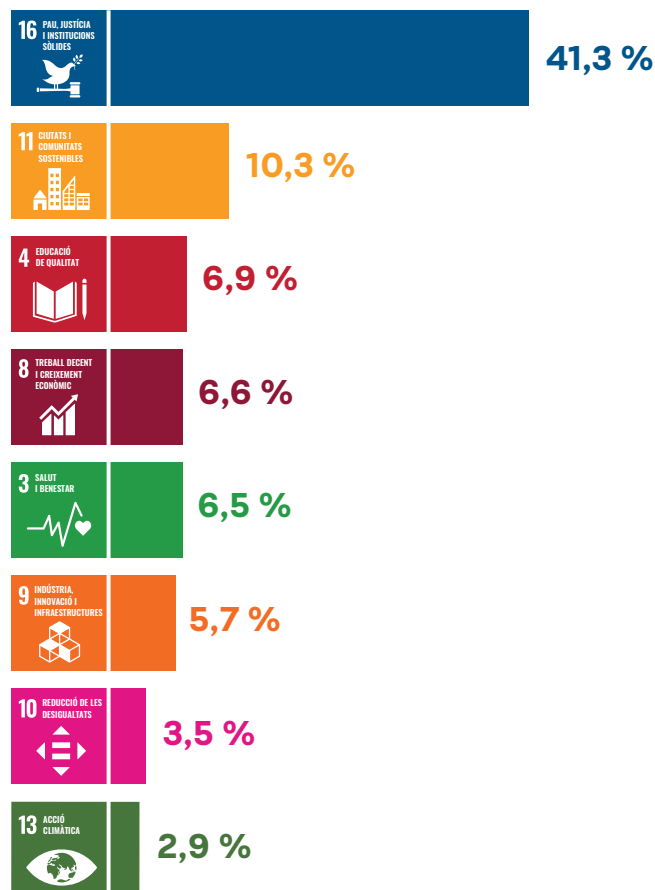
Awareness-raising, training and communication

Alignment of the main strategic-planning and partnership instruments with the SDGs

As part of this strategic transformation, the Barcelona Provincial Council resolved to align its principal strategic-planning, partnership and communication instruments with the SDGs. In doing so it has integrated the SDGs into its corporate policies and strategies, made them known to all of its technical and elected staff, and used the existing monitoring systems of those instruments to track and evaluate SDG achievement.

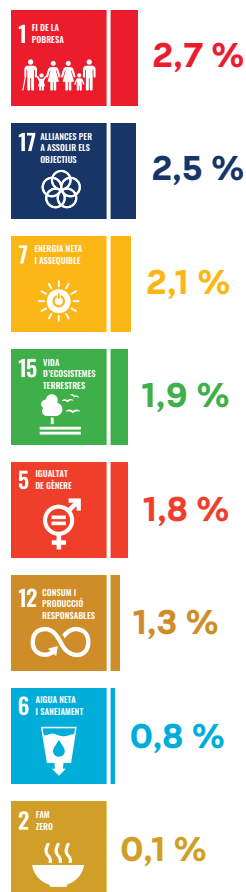
Among the main instruments aligned with the SDGs are:

PAM (PLA D'ACTUACIÓ DE MANDAT)



The **PAM** is the Barcelona Provincial Council's strategic document that sets out the main political objectives responding to government priorities and establishes the lines of action to achieve them. While the previous PAM (2016-2019) included only a very early form of SDG alignment, it was in the **PAM 2020-2023** that the SDGs were adopted as strategic objectives, thus structuring all the Barcelona Provincial Council's government action. In addition, transformative projects were defined to

Figure 5
Distribution of the 2023 and
2024 budget by SDGs
Source: Own elaboration,
based on budget reports



drive progress toward a threefold climate, social and productive transition in the province. In the **PAM 2024-2027**, the SDGs remain the strategic objectives of government action, with the precepts of the 2030 Agenda carrying greater weight in this particular document. The reference framework of the Urban and Rural Agendas is also incorporated, together with their transformative potential for the Council's policies.

Beyond the PAM, the Council has also aligned its **Transversal and/or Sectoral Plans** approved during this period with the SDGs. Examples include the Logistics Sub-directorate Plan, the Building Sub-directorate Plan, the Equality Plan and the Montseny Natural Park Strategic Plan.

BUDGET ALIGNMENT WITH THE

among others. These instruments are cross-cutting across all areas of action within the Provincial Council. Therefore, if their impact were analysed, we would see that they affect the SDGs. Section 2.2 of this review analyses the contribution and impact of the Local Governments Network Cooperation Plan on the different SDGs, thereby complementing the information on budget distribution.

The next SDG with the largest budget allocation (10.3% of the total) is SDG 11, which seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Other SDGs to which Barcelona Provincial Council has allocated a smaller but still significant budget (between 7% and 5%) are SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth),

Since 2021, the Barcelona Provincial Council **has aligned its corporate budget with the SDGs**. Every budgetary programme and sub-programme is linked to the SDGs, with each sub-programme able to impact a maximum of three Goals. From the 2023 budget onward, the budget is apportioned in proportion to the impact on each target.

According to the previous figure, almost half of the budget (a total of €961.7 million) has been dedicated to SDG 16, whose objective is to develop effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. This is because the Barcelona Provincial Council has traditionally linked its main support instruments for local authorities to SDG 16, such as the investment plan and catalogue of services,

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). For the remainder, the budget represents 5% of the total.

ALIGNMENT OF OTHER WORKING AND REGIONAL COORDINATION INSTRUMENTS

In addition to the strategic planning documents and the budget, other **working and regional coordination instruments** have also been aligned with the SDGs, prominent among which are the Provincial Bulletin, the catalogue of projects linked to Next Generation Next Diba, and the Catalogue of Services. The **Official Gazette of the Province of Barcelona** (*Butlletí Oficial de la Província de Barcelona*, BOPB) is one of the main instruments for disseminating public information in the

Province of Barcelona, managing more than 40,000 announcements a year. Since 2022, all BOPB announcements have been aligned with the SDGs, serving as a powerful tool for raising awareness of and communicating the 2030 Agenda. Likewise, the Official Information and Documentation Search Engine (*Cercador d'Informació i Documentació Oficials*, CIDO) also allows announcements to be searched by SDG. The programmes managed in connection with Next Generation EU projects within the framework of the **NEXT DIBA** strategy link those from developed by the municipalities and the Barcelona Provincial Council itself. Most of these projects are linked primarily to SDG 11, followed closely by SDG 9. Finally, the **Catalogue of Services** has also been aligned. This is the main resource that all areas of Barcelona

the region, new instruments dedicated specifically to managing, monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the SDGs within the Provincial Council had to be created, as well as to defining strategies and promoting initiatives that would help advance towards this new working model.

For this reason, the Barcelona Provincial Council has promoted various initiatives to strengthen the institution's own structures and mechanisms, in order to guarantee its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to have its own strategy for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Among these instruments and initiatives, the following stand out:

THE AGENDA 2030 SERVICE

On 1 January 2020, the Agenda 2030 and

Provincial Council make available to local governments to meet the needs identified in the territory and to promote cross-cutting or sectoral policies.

With this type of initiative, the Barcelona Provincial Council exponentially drives knowledge of the SDGs among all of its staff, as well as elected officials, local authorities, territorial agents and individuals who make use of these instruments.

New instruments to promote the 2030 agenda and the SDGs

Beyond aligning planning and cooperation instruments with the SDGs, it was considered necessary that, in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs internally and across

Participation Service (Servei d'Agenda 2030 i Participació) was created, a specific organic unit reporting directly to the Coordination of Local Cooperation and Assistance in the Department of the Presidency, with the aim of accelerating and making effective the commitments undertaken by virtue of this global agreement. The main mission of this Service is to develop the 2030 Agenda as the strategic framework for government action, actively contributing to the localisation of the SDGs in the region and fostering citizen participation in this process. From this Service, all initiatives and actions specifically aimed at this purpose are promoted and coordinated. As of 2024, with the new organisational structure of Barcelona Provincial Council, this Service has been renamed (in Catalan) the Servei d'Agenda 2030. *The Pla*

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA (PEIA)

Estratègic d'Implementació de l'Agenda 2030 was approved in 2021 and became the roadmap for the 2021–2030 period, with the aim of guiding the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda across the Barcelona Provincial Council and defining the main actions and policies to achieve the SDGs and boost the organisation's contribution to the 2030 Agenda. This document is designed to be a flexible instrument, adaptable to the Barcelona Provincial Council's evolution, its political mandates, and the changing emergencies and realities of today's world.

2030 AGENDA DASHBOARD

43 actions

4



Planet

+

11



People

Complementing the PEIA, a **2030 Agenda Dashboard** has been created to track and evaluate the Barcelona Provincial Council’s actions in relation to achieving the SDGs. Besides serving as a monitoring and evaluation system, this instrument is also ideal for generating reflection, analysis and decision-making within the organisation itself.

Figure 6
Classification of the 43 PEIA
actions within the framework
of the SDG spheres
Source: PEIA



The first dashboard was produced within the PEIA framework, but in 2024, coinciding with the start of the consolidation and evaluation phase of 2030 Agenda implementation, the review and construction of a second dashboard commenced. This new dashboard was built in a participatory manner with focal points from the various areas, prioritising the Barcelona Provincial Council's strategic projects and adapting them to the new context. Greater weight has also been attached to localising the SDG targets and to developing indicators that will better measure the impact on the assigned targets and set suitable values up to 2030.

The medium-term objective of this exercise is to improve the resource-allocation process and the efficiency of the organisation's SDG-focused

coverage of the targets, the budgetary allocation per action and budget sub-programme in relation to the targets and the SDGs, and regulatory competence to ensure that the orientation and description of the target as well as the indicators used to evaluate it were suited to the Barcelona Provincial Council's capacity for action. This work has been carried out in collaboration with the different Barcelona Provincial Council management units and services.

2030 AGENDA DASHBOARD

To make this global agreement operational, and as part of *Estratègia 2030*, 2021 also brought the creation of **Mesa A2030 (+A2030)**, an instrument set up to foster transparency and cross-cutting action within the Barcelona Provincial Council. +A2030 is an internal, transversal

interventions, reinforce long-term foresight and the public policies being promoted, and enhance their multidimensional, integrated character from the standpoint of sustainable development.

LOCALISING THE SDG TARGETS AT THE BARCELONA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Within this framework, efforts have also been made to **localise the SDG targets at the Barcelona Provincial Council**. Such an exercise had been conducted before, but on this occasion there was more in-depth reflection around ways to align the targets with the responsibilities and actions of the Barcelona Provincial Council and also of the province's local authorities. For the redefinition of localised targets, the considered criteria included the strategic

workspace made up of the focal points from each corporate area of the Barcelona Provincial Council and coordinated by the 2030 Agenda Service.

This space was created to:

- Establish an inter-area collaborative workspace for drafting, driving and monitoring Estratègia2030.
- Create synergies and set up partnerships for working on common projects related to the 2030 Agenda.
- Serve as a shared learning space.

In 2024 and 2025, the +A2030 focal points have been working on revising the targets, updating the Estratègia2030 dashboard and preparing this VLR.

Training, awareness and communication

Raising awareness and building the capacities of the Provincial Council's officers and elected officials has been essential for ensuring that personnel in every area properly onboard the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and link them to each area's actions. Between 2020 and 2024, ten training courses were held and about 180 Council officers received training. Training and awareness-raising on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have also been provided to senior officials and the elected members of the Barcelona Provincial Council's plenary council.

Beyond these ordinary training actions, in 2018 a mandatory course was held for all Barcelona Provincial Council employees

Barcelona Provincial Council employees to train and sensitise the entire workforce, which was attended by a total of 1,087 employees.

In parallel, a specific 2030 Agenda and SDG space has also been created on the **Intradiba** portal (where staff access the resources provided by the Barcelona Provincial Council), so that personnel have access to constant information on the latest developments and actions in this sphere. At the same time, internal **communication campaigns** have been run to raise staff awareness, called **“Passa a l’Acci - ODS”** (Switch to SDG Action).

2.2

Support for the

Support for the municipalities in the province

As mentioned above, the other main line of action of the Barcelona Provincial Council for implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs in the province is the involvement of the province's local authorities¹. To that end, the Barcelona Provincial Council has provided those authorities with different types of tools and resources so that they can design and drive their own policies and strategies for localising the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their territories.

The main support instruments for local authorities within the 2030 Agenda framework are as follows:

Cooperation plan of the network of local governments linked to the SDGs

province's local authorities so that they can carry out their policies, actions, services and/or investments. This plan is composed of the "*General Investment Programme*," "*Specific Programmes*" and the "*Catalogue of Services*," and encompasses the action of all the Barcelona Provincial Council's areas. Likewise, the Cooperation Plan of the Network of Local Governments (*Xarxa de Governs Locals*, XGL) is fundamentally based on the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

Within this plan, the **Catalogue of Services** stands out as the Barcelona Provincial Council's principal support instrument for the territory. It includes the bulk of the **material and financial and technical support** resources from every area that the Barcelona Provincial Council offers to local governments each year, enabling them to meet identified needs

he **Cooperation Plan** groups together the set of instruments that the Barcelona Provincial Council makes available to the

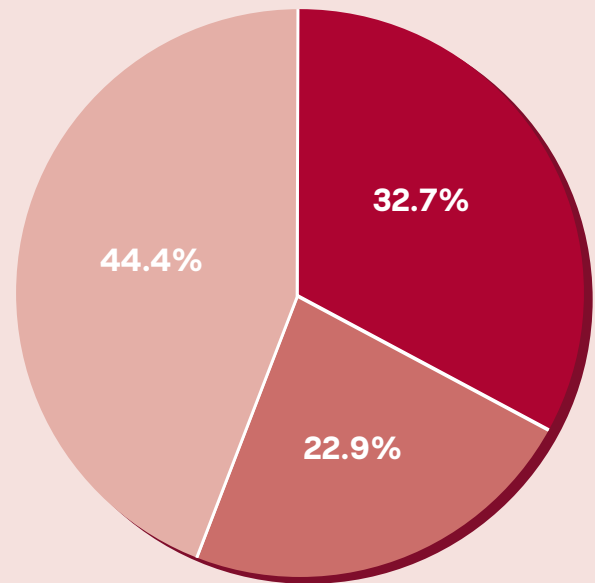
and promote cross-cutting or sectoral policies. Between 2021 and 2024, a total of 1,473 resources were offered. Of these, approximately half (44.4%) were technical

Figure 7

Distribution of resource types (technical, financial and material) (2021-2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Local Cooperation Services Directorate

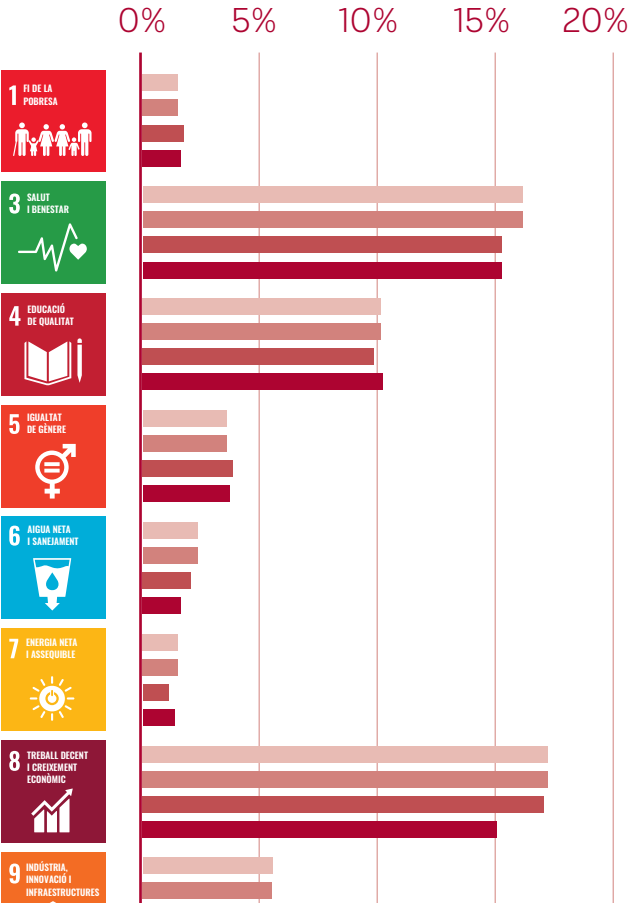
- Economic resources
- Material resources
- Technical resources



resources, 32.7% financial resources and 22.9% material resources (Figure 6). The distribution of these resources has remained highly stable over the analysed period (Figure 7).

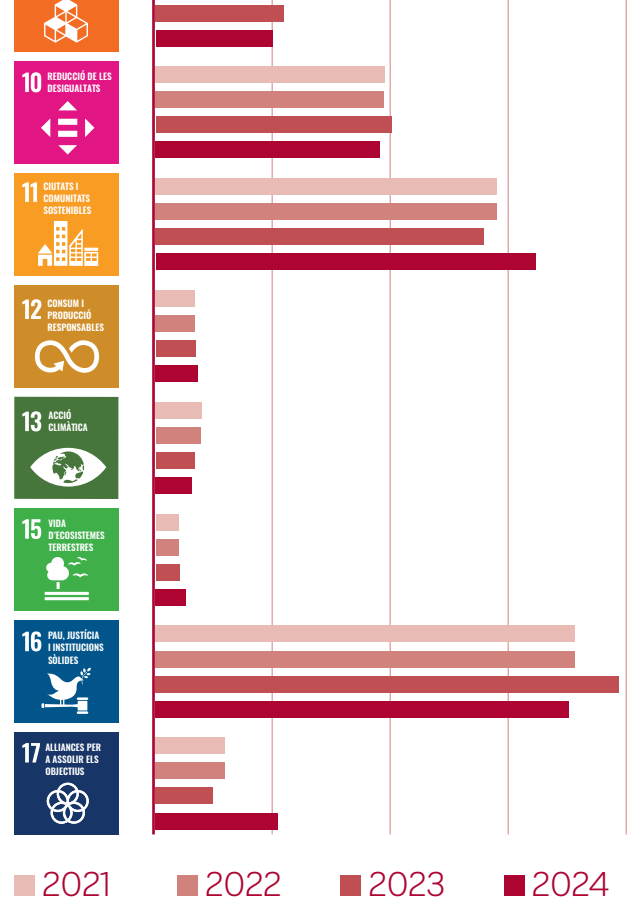
Catalogue resources are primarily aimed at ensuring minimum services and covering the municipal and county councils’ own competences. This allows us to measure the resources that the Barcelona Provincial Council dedicates to achieving the SDGs through local authorities. It should be noted that the budget allocated to the catalogue of resources between 2020 and 2024 exceeded €652.9 million.

As mentioned, all resources included in the Catalogue of Services are aligned with the SDGs (up to a maximum of



three), which provides information on the potential impact of executing each resource in its territory. A significant proportion of the Cooperation Plan's resources are linked primarily to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), representing between 16% and 18% of resources in the years analysed. This SDG is followed closely by SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG

Figure 8
Contribution of the Cooperation Plan of the Network of Local Governments to the SDGs, 2021–2024, by number of resources allocated
Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Local Cooperation Services Directorate



3 (Good Health and Well-being), with 13–15% of resources. These four Goals concentrate a large share of the resources offered in the Catalogue of Services.

When analysing the evolution between 2020 and 2024, some SDGs present a growing trend, especially those related to Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11). Others, such as SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), also show consistently positive trends over the years. In contrast, SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) have shown slightly declining trends in this period.

In a more detailed analysis of the evolution of the formalised amount in the four SDGs in which the Network of Local Governments (XGL) Plan has the greatest impact (SDG 3, SDG 8, SDG 11 and SDG 16), we observe that SDG 8 had the highest allocation of over €50 million in 2024. By comparison, the other three SDGs fall in a range between €2 million and €20 million. There has been especially noteworthy growth in the amount allocated to SDG 8 between 2021 and 2024, much higher than that recorded for the other three SDGs, and most especially SDG 16, whose allocation is exceptionally small.

Although between 2023 and 2024 a decline is observed in the number of

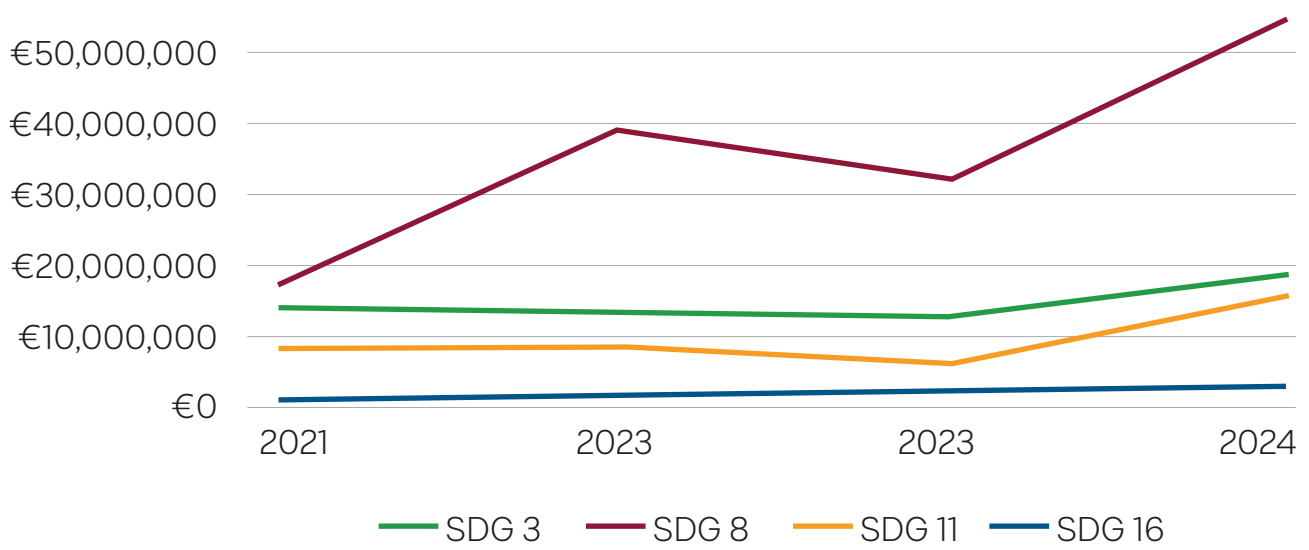


Figure 9

Evolution of the formalised amount of the XGL Plan in the SDGs for which the XGL Plan has the greatest impact

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Local Cooperation Services Directorate

resources allocated to SDG 8 (Figure 8), in economic terms there was actually a large increase in the allocation to this SDG. A similar trend is identified for SDG 3, although not to the same extreme.

As for the distribution of resource types across the four SDGs that were most impacted by the XGL Plan in 2024, a certain variability is observed depending on the SDG. In the case of SDG 3, the distribution is fairly balanced among resource types, although material resources feature less prominently. In the case of SDG 8, financial resources predominate, while technical resources have a smaller but still considerable share. SDG 11, with a total of 58 resources, shows a clear predominance of technical resources, while material resources numbered only 3. SDG 16 is

Specifically, the following are identified:



Resources specifically dedicated to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs



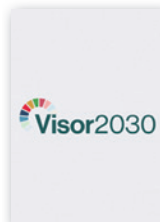
Training and vocational development



Generation and dissemination of knowledge

the one that receives the most resources (a total of 62), and technical resources also predominate here. Material and financial resources are distributed fairly evenly. Therefore, for SDG 11 and SDG 16, technical resources predominate, while for SDG 8 and, to a lesser extent, SDG 3, financial resources comprise the majority. Material resources have a minority presence in all four cases.

Beyond the resources that the Barcelona Provincial Council dedicates to achieving the SDGs in particular, the Barcelona Provincial Council also offers the province's local authorities numerous tools and resources so that they can drive and implement the 2030 Agenda and localise the SDGs collectively in their territories.



Visor 2030

The impact that the support the Barcelona Provincial Council has given to local authorities for addressing the 2030 Agenda has had on the province of Barcelona is analysed in Point 4 of this document, titled “Impact of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs on the local authorities in the province of Barcelona.”

Figure 10
Resource types in the SDGs most impacted by the XGL Plan (2024)
Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Local Cooperation Services Directorate

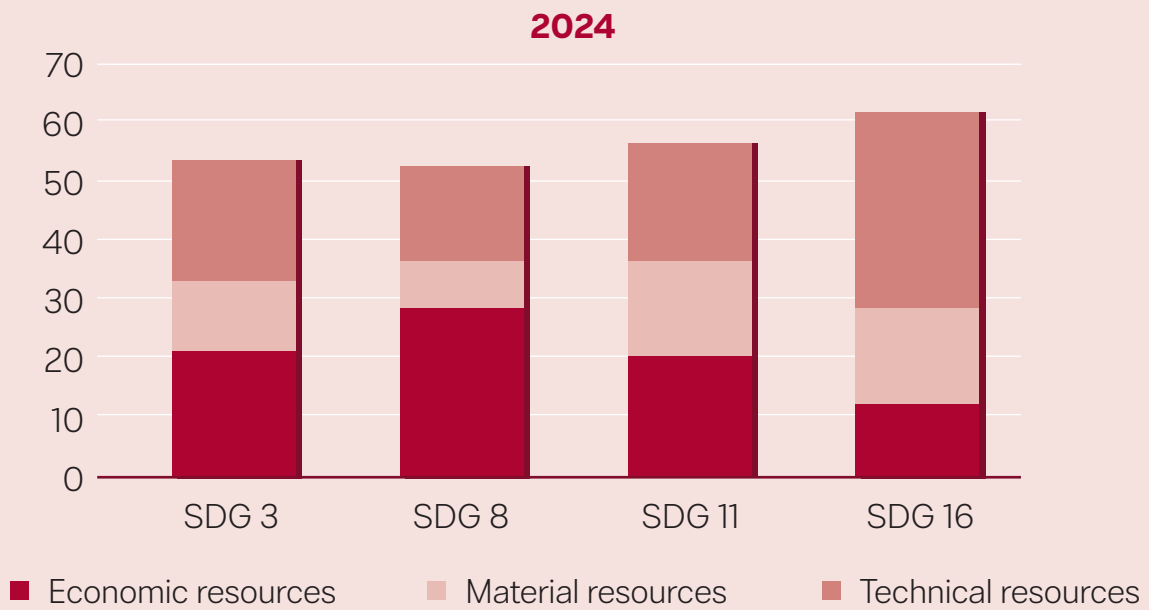
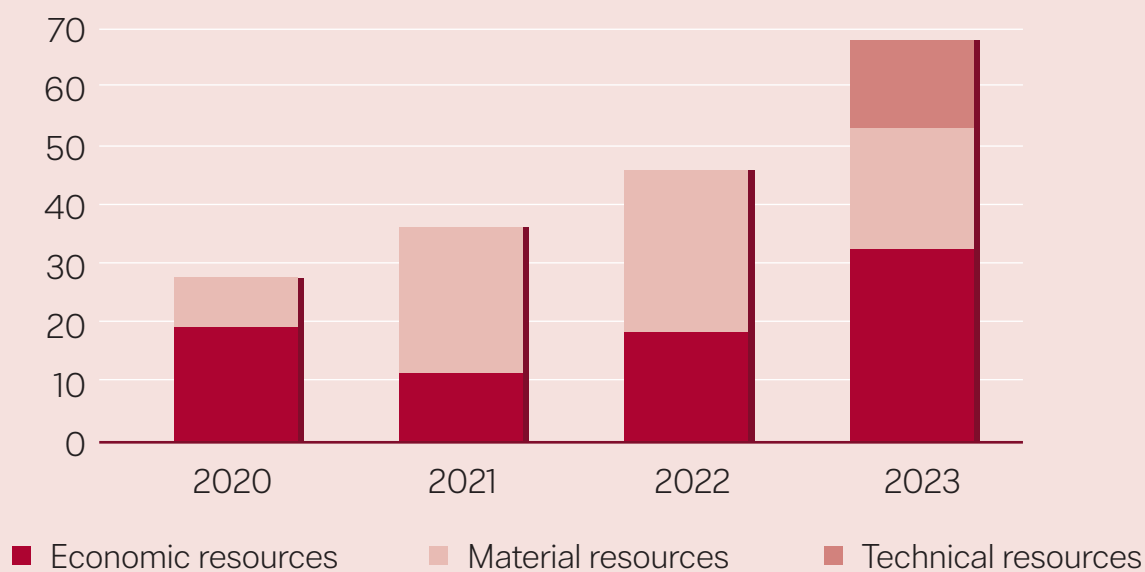


Figure 11

Evolution of the number of technical, financial and material resources offered by the 2030 Agenda Service (2020–2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on DIBA data



Resources specifically dedicated to implementing the 2030 agenda and the SDGs

Within the Catalogue of Services, the **2030 Agenda Service** of the Cooperation and Local Assistance Department offers a suite of resources so that municipalities can autonomously develop strategies, initiatives and policies to implement the 2030 Agenda and localise the SDGs in their areas.

This section includes the economic, technical and material resources offered by the Catalogue of Services of the 2030 Agenda Service that are specifically aimed at 2030 Agenda implementation and SDG localisation.

Beyond the 2030 Agenda Service, other services also provide resources

Financial support:

Funding for local authorities to develop projects and strategies for planning, monitoring or evaluating the 2030 Agenda, as well as projects to engage citizens and territorial stakeholders in achieving the SDGs as a whole.

Technical support:

Technical advice for incorporating the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into local public policies, developing a municipal or county 2030 Agenda, and preparing Mandate Action Plans aligned with the SDGs.

In recent years, technical support has grown steadily, surpassing 70 resources over the past four years.

Material support for communication and awareness-raising:

other services also provide resources that directly impact SDG achievement, such as the **Urban Planning Service** (*Servei d'urbanisme*) through the promotion of local urban agendas and the **Planning and Evaluation Service** (*Servei de Planificació i Avaluació*), for the development of Mandate Action Plans, all aligned with the SDGs.

RESOURCES OF THE 2030 AGENDA SERVICE IN THE BARCELONA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CATALOGUE OF SERVICES

The 2030 Agenda Service offers specific financial, technical, relational and material resources to advance 2030 Agenda localisation and SDG achievement. These supports are grouped into:

Provision of communication and awareness materials to accompany or complement education, awareness-raising or information activities on the 2030

Agenda and the SDGs that the municipality is undertaking. This material encompasses:

- A set of 17 **SDG cubes**
- **Mobile exhibition** on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
- **SDG game**: Cooperative game in which participants propose present and future initiatives

Since this resource was launched in 2023, a total of 36 material resources have been requested

Relational technical support:

The Knowledge Exchange Space for 2030 Agenda implementation, **XarxA2030**, is a forum for local authorities to debate and exchange experiences on methodologies and best practices for implementing the 2030 Agenda and localising the SDGs. The network currently comprises 27 members (24 municipalities and 3 county councils).

Finally, between 2020 and 2024 the Barcelona Provincial Council provided technical support to align more than fifty local authorities' Mandate Action Plans with the SDGs. Half of these were for small municipalities with populations of between 2,000 and 10,000 inhabitants.

Training and vocational development for implementing the 2030 Agenda

significant resources have been allocated to train and engage both local authorities and the general public.

Currently, the range of training options

on offer is broad and varied, with different modalities (in-person, virtual and self-directed learning), levels (basic and expert) and target audiences. It includes training for local authority officers, elected members and the general public.

TRAINING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICERS IN THE PROVINCE OF BARCELONA

In-person format:

- **Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

Understanding the 2030 Agenda and

Beyond the tools offered in the Catalogue of Services, training and vocational development have also been cornerstones for advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the province of Barcelona. This area of action is considered a priority, and

the SDGs, and the contribution local governments can make (introductory level)

- **Tools and resources for localising the SDGs:** Providing tools and resources for localising the SDGs at the municipal level (advanced level)



- **Interacting with the SDGs:** Promoting cross-cutting efforts to drive SDG implementation in local authorities' plans and projects (intermediate/advanced level)

Online format:

- **Virtual approach to the SDGs:** Understanding the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and the contribution local governments can make (introductory level). This was one of the fifteen most repeated training actions between 2020 and 2023, out of more than 2,000 training activities promoted by the Council.
- **Tools and resources for localising the SDGs:** Providing tools and resources for localising the SDGs at the municipal level (advanced level).

Self-directed learning for elected officials:

- **What elected officials need to know about the 2030 Agenda: It is part of the virtual training space for elected officials**, which includes knowledge related to activity in the different 'portfolios', competences and municipal services. Specifically, it provides information for elected officials to learn about the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, their relevance to the local sphere and the tools available to local governments to contribute to their achievement. This resource has had 238 views and 90 active users by 2024.

TRAINING FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- **The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:** This

Self-directed learning:

- **The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:**

Launched in 2024, this module brings the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs to officers working in the province's local authorities, emphasising the agenda's relevance to the local sphere (introductory level).

offers the general public introductory materials to understand the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and how they are addressed by their municipalities. It also provides ideas for how each individual can contribute to the achievement of each SDG through concrete everyday actions. This virtual training has recorded 1,644 views and 730 active users.

TRAINING FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

In-person format:

- **Session “How to Drive the 2030 Agenda from Government Teams?”:**

Raising awareness among government teams and other elected officials of local authorities about the opportunity the 2030 Agenda offers to transform public policies.

El total, during this period, **94 editions of training activities were held for local authorities**. The most in-demand were:

1. Virtual approach to the Sustainable Development Goals by local authorities (33 editions)
2. Tools and resources to facilitate the localisation of the SDGs by local authorities (13 editions)

3. Training Session: How to Drive the 2030 Agenda from Government Teams? (13 editions)

In total, **1,618 people participated in the training between 2020 and 2024**. Of these, **1,484 are local authority officers and 134 are elected officials of local governments** in the province of Barcelona.

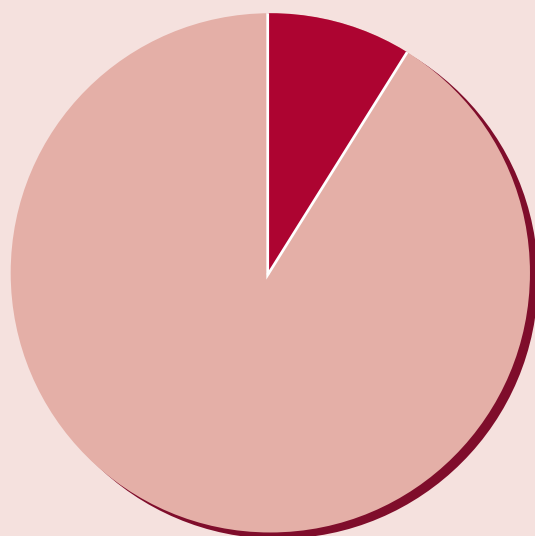
Figure 12

Distribution of the profiles of participants in training sessions (2020-2024)
Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the 2030 Agenda Service

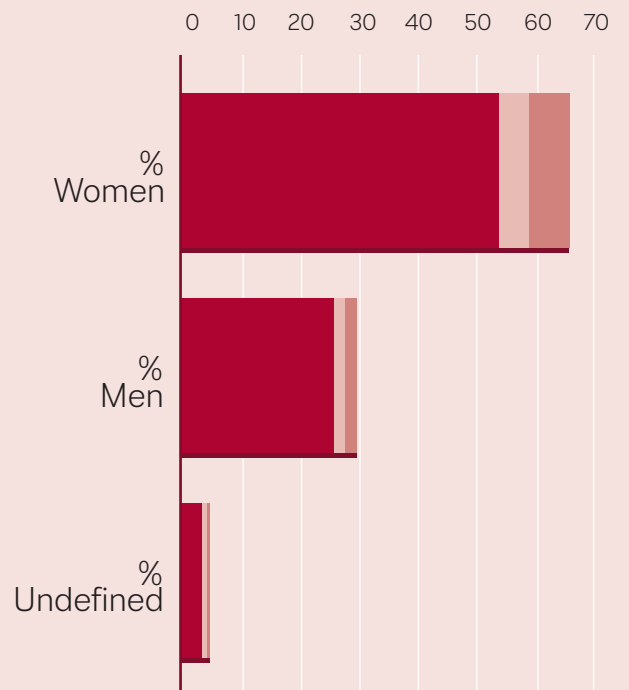
As for the gender of registered participants, 65% were women, 29.7% men and 4.6% unspecified. When analysed by the type of organisation to which they belong, 53.8% of women work in municipal councils, while 6.6% belong to the Barcelona Provincial Council and 5.4% to other local authorities. In the case of men, 25.5% work in municipal councils and the remainder are distributed evenly between the Barcelona Provincial Council

Figure 13

Distribution of registered persons by gender and type of organisation to which they belong
Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the 2030 Agenda Service



- Elected officials in local governments
- Officers in local authorities



- Municipal councils
- Other local authorities
- Barcelona Provincial Council

and other local authorities. The smallest percentage of unspecified individuals is split between municipal councils and other local authorities.

Beyond the training offered by the 2030 Agenda Service, during this period additional training sessions were promoted under the SDG framework by other areas of the Barcelona Provincial Council.

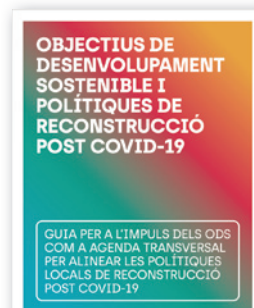
Within the **Barcelona Provincial Council Observatory of Decentralised Cooperation**, from 2019 to 2023, the online course “Localising the Sustainable Development Goals: Tools for Local Transformation” was organised jointly with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). This course was aimed at technical and political leaders from around the world who work on implementing the 2030 Agenda and



Published: 2020



Published: 2021



achieving the SDGs. During this period, a total of 460 participants from different countries took part.



Published: 2021



Published: 2023

Generation and dissemination of knowledge

The Barcelona Provincial Council has also promoted the generation of knowledge around the 2030 Agenda and SDG achievement for the province's local authorities. This aims to contribute to innovation in the design, implementation and evaluation of sustainable public policies. Some of the **publications** produced are:

In terms of dissemination, **several events** have been held to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the

“Webinar on Local Governance and the 2030 Agenda” and “Six Years of the 2030 Agenda: Towards a Sustainable Reconstruction” in 2021, and “The 2030 Agenda and the Transformative Drive of the SDGs” and “Municipal Leadership Workshop on the 2030 Agenda”, organised in association with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) in 2022.

Similarly, the Barcelona Provincial Council has invested in its communication and

dissemination strategy, creating specific **awareness-raising materials** as well as other resources such as videos and support materials. A dedicated SDG webpage is also available.

With the aim of maximising the visibility of initiatives undertaken by the province's local authorities, **the Map of Experiences (MapA2030)**, a platform that collects local authorities' experiences related to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, was created.

The map currently includes around 108 experiences and best practices from

municipal councils and other local bodies, classified into the following categories: strategic planning and 2030 Agenda implementation, awareness-raising and communication, training and professional development, and monitoring and evaluation tools and instruments.

This map allows searches by various criteria (municipality, county, experience type, SDG, etc.) and provides contact details for each experience's coordinators to facilitate knowledge exchange among local authorities interested in implementing the 2030 Agenda in their regions.



Visor2030. Local SDG indicators platform

Finally, 2021 brought the creation of the **VISOR2030 platform, which is a virtual platform of social, economic and environmental indicators**. This tool aims to provide municipal councils in the province with information on the degree of achievement of the SDGs in their territories and thus improve reflection, analysis and decision-making by both the municipal councils and the Barcelona Provincial Council itself

The visor has the following main objectives:

1. Facilitate the localisation, alignment and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the province of Barcelona

the 311 municipalities in the province, version 2.0 of VISOR2030 also offers additional information layers, all aligned with the SDGs:

Budget
execution

Strategic
plans

Citizen
perception

Analytics



2. Guide the Barcelona Provincial Council's decision-making by providing useful information for local policy planning and development
3. Contribute to dissemination of the SDGs and their local deployment among the population

In 2025, VISOR2030 version 2.0 was launched, increasing the number of indicators from 52 to over 70, improving the linkage between targets and indicators, and adding new information layers. This open-source, responsive platform is designed to be highly user-friendly and functional.

In addition to analysis via the Synthetic Index and by SDG targets for each of



2.3

Partnerships

Partnerships with other institutions

The institutional commitment of the Barcelona Provincial Council to the 2030 Agenda has driven inter-institutional collaboration with other regional stakeholders to foster the coordination necessary for achieving the SDGs not only in the province of Barcelona but also in Catalonia, Spain and Europe.

The articulation between different levels of government and institutions makes it possible to coordinate public policies and to use resources more efficiently, ensuring coherence between local action and international commitments.

This multi-level cooperation strengthens the transformative capacity of local governments, promotes public innovation and guarantees that no person or territory is left behind. For this reason,

Sostenible, CADS). From the alliance's inception, the Barcelona Provincial Council has played an active role as a member of its **Steering Group** and of the **General Assembly**, and it participates in projects such as "*The 10 Sustainable Development Challenges of Catalonia*."



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Consell Assessor
per al Desenvolupament Sostenible**

In 2024, a partnership was initiated to establish a working group among the four Catalan provincial councils to advance the creation of local indicators for measuring the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In this framework, several meetings have been held, to which the CADS and the Statistical Institute of Catalonia (IDESCAT)

the Barcelona Provincial Council has also worked intensively in this direction.

Among other initiatives, partnerships have been strengthened with institutions such as the following:

Catalan context

The Barcelona Provincial Council participated in drafting and establishing the National Agreement for the 2030 Agenda in Catalonia, **Aliança Catalunya 2030**, of which it has been a member since 21 February 2020. This Alliance is a partnership between public and private entities that share Catalonia's commitments to making the SDGs a reality and that drives the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (*Consell Assessor pel Desenvolupament*

were also invited to see if they could assist with this endeavour.

Although not much progress has been made to date on this objective, the Barcelona Provincial Council is starting from a slight advantage due to having the VISOR2030 platform, currently under review and being updated. Hence, it has been agreed that this work should resume once the new VISOR2030 is completed, as it will be more easily replicable.



Diputació
Barcelona



Diputació de Girona



Diputació de Lleida



Diputació Tarragona

Spanish context

Within Spain, the Barcelona Provincial Council has also been part of the Network of Local Entities for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since 2021. This network is part of FEMP and comprises local governments committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Its main objective is to foster coordination among local governments to achieve better results in SDG achievement at the local level. The Network currently includes 707 local governments.

In this framework, the Barcelona Provincial Council is one of the most active members, and beyond institutional bodies such as the General Assembly, it also participates actively in training sessions, meetings and in working groups

by the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and the 2030 Agenda, as well as in other studies and publications.



Kaleidos is a network of municipalities centred on collective thinking, action and innovation in public management. Its mission is to provide guidelines and tools for action in local governance, and the Barcelona Provincial Council is a member of its board of trustees. In recent times the Barcelona Provincial Council has reinforced its participation in this network by focusing its activity on promoting the

(Partnerships, Indicators, Knowledge and Communication) that aim to expand and share technical capacities and experiences among local authorities.

It is also part of the OKR Leaders Group of the Network of Local Entities formed by a small group of entities (Alcobendas, Rafelbunyol, Riba-roja del Túria, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Burgos Provincial Council, Córdoba Provincial Council and the Barcelona Provincial Council) chosen for their expertise and commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, in order to design, evaluate and drive innovative actions within the network itself.

Likewise, through this network the Barcelona Provincial Council has participated in consultations for preparing the Voluntary National Review, promoted

implementation of the 2030 Agenda and innovation in public policies, which are both topics of great interest to the Barcelona Provincial Council.

Along these lines, it has taken an active part in the board meetings, in the working groups promoted by this network, as well as in other activities. During 2024, two such groups have focused on Proximity Facilities 2030 and the Organigram by Purposes.



In recent years, the Córdoba Provincial Council and the Barcelona Provincial Council have had a very close

collaborative relationship. The former developed its own 2030 Agenda implementation plan with the support of the Barcelona Provincial Council, and thanks to this work on 21 March 2024 they signed a **“declaration of intent between the two institutions to establish the coordination and exchange mechanisms necessary to drive the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs.”**

Beyond this document, the Barcelona Provincial Council has taken part in a couple of virtual forums of the Provincial Alliance 2030. Moreover, information has been shared on how to address budget alignment with the SDGs, an area in which Córdoba has more experience than Barcelona, and on the new 2030 Agenda implementation plan.

PLATFORMA produces an **annual report on the progress of 2030 Agenda localisation by European local governments**, as well as their contribution to achieving the SDGs in **local governments of third countries under decentralised cooperation.**



The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is a consultative institution of the European Union (EU) representing regions and local authorities.

Union (EU) that brings together the Union's local and regional authorities. In this context, the Barcelona Provincial Council has provided information and positions in various **consultations on achieving the SDGs by 2030.**

Context europeu i internacional

The Barcelona Provincial Council is a member of PLATFORMA, the oldest and largest European association of local and regional governments active in decentralised cooperation. Within this international network, all partners cooperate globally to promote sustainable development. The technical secretariat of this association is hosted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, CEMR.



**Comité Europeo
de las Regiones**

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is a global network of local, regional and metropolitan governments and their associations, of which the Barcelona Provincial Council has been an active member since 2004. Its role is to represent, defend and amplify the voice of local and regional governments and to create spaces for exchange and learning. Together with UN-Habitat, UNDP-ART and UCLG, the Barcelona Provincial Council promoted the first **global training programmes on SDG** localisation, establishing the initial methodologies, procedures and the different dimensions of SDG localisation to generate a multiplier effect on implementing the 2030 Agenda at the local level.



The Barcelona Provincial Council has also participated in the **“Towards the Localisation of the SDGs”** report, which addresses the role of local and regional governments and their associations in implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs at the subnational level. This report has been produced since 2017 and is presented annually at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York.

Likewise, the Barcelona Provincial Council attended the Local and Regional Forum organised by UCLG as part of the aforementioned high-level forum, as well as the **Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary Subnational Review Days**.

3

Achievement of the

Achievement of the SDGs in the province of Barcelona and the contribution of the Barcelona Provincial Council

This chapter aims to offer a comprehensive overview of the **Barcelona Provincial Council's** action in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, emphasising the contribution of the Barcelona Provincial Council's activities to achieving the targets defined in the 2030 Agenda.

With this purpose, an exercise was carried out to link the programmes and actions of the Barcelona Provincial Council's various areas to the SDGs. The analysis was based on multiple corporate information sources, such as the

that is, the optimal value to be achieved.

This reference value is defined, where possible, based on generally accepted recommendations from authoritative institutions related to the relevant indicator, for example, the World Health Organization, European directives or approved regulations (the full list is attached as an appendix to the review).

A reference value for the province of Barcelona is not always possible, since in some cases the evaluation must reflect each region's reality,

2030 Dashboard, the 2021–2024 budgets and the 2020–2023 and 2024–2027 Mandate Action Plans. Contextual indicators from the province’s VISOR2030 and other official sources were also incorporated and duly referenced.

Throughout the chapter, for each of the 17 SDGs, the targets localised by the Barcelona Provincial Council are presented alongside a selection of provincial-level contextual indicators linked to each SDG. Wherever possible, these indicators have been associated with a reference value,

making it hard to determine a reference value applicable to all territories. In some instances, no specific recommendation could be found, and therefore no reference value is specified.

The values of the contextual indicators have been set for 2023 based on data availability. In addition, wherever possible, the evolution of each indicator between 2022 and 2023 has been included to analyse whether the trend is upward or downward compared with the previous year. Blank cells indicate that no data is available

for the mentioned years. Finally, the arrow colour reflects whether the observed trend is positive or negative, facilitating rapid, visual interpretation of the results.

Likewise, for each SDG, a description is provided of the Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to that goal and its targets through its activities. Projects, programmes and lines of action deployed by the Council are identified and linked to the localised targets, thereby illustrating the alignment between the Barcelona Provincial Council's

actions and global commitments adapted to the reality of the province of Barcelona. This linkage allows for a clearer visualisation of progress achieved. In addition, selected activity and budget indicators are highlighted to show the scope and contribution, offering a cross-cutting view of the Council's overall commitment to sustainable development.

The background of the image features a solid red upper half and a red lower half. In the lower half, there are stylized human figures in shades of orange and red. One figure is on the left, partially cut off, and another is on the right, more complete. They are composed of simple geometric shapes: a circle for the head and a rounded rectangle for the body with two vertical lines for legs.

SDG 1

No poverty





Localised targets for SDG 1

1.1 Reduce extreme poverty.

1.2 Reduce the proportion of the population living in poverty by increasing comprehensive programmes that address it in all its dimensions.

1.3 Strengthen at the local level appropriate social protection systems and measures for all people so as to achieve broad coverage of vulnerable persons.

1.4 Ensure that people, especially the poor and vulnerable, enjoy equal rights and have access on an equal basis to basic services, natural resources, economic resources and financial services.

1.5 Promote the resilience of poor and vulnerable people and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 1

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022- 2023 ²	Reference value
Population with income per consumption unit below 60% of the average ³	15,76 % (2022)		Reduce by at least 15 million the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the European Union by 2030 ⁴
Gross household disposable income ⁵	€119,772,796	↑	Achieve a 78% employment rate in the EU among the population aged 20 to 64 ⁷
Unemployment benefit recipients per 10,000 inhabitants ⁶	130.46 per 10,000 inhabitants	↑	

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 1

SDG 1 is a call to eradicate poverty in all its forms, including extreme poverty. This first SDG seeks to guarantee a basic standard of living and social protection measures for all people, including the most vulnerable.

In this context, the Barcelona Provincial Council works to promote more cohesive and just municipal councils, ensuring effective access to social, civil and citizenship rights. To this end, it supports municipal councils in all areas related to social services and care, community life and coexistence, and throughout the lifecycle, paying special attention to transitions in childhood, adolescence, youth and ageing.

and lessen the financial burden. In 2024, approximately 170 households in the province received such audits and interventions. Also noteworthy is the **Prepaid Card** (*targeta moneder*), which is explained in more detail under SDG 2.

To contribute to Target 1.2, the Barcelona Provincial Council also **promotes mediation actions** for individuals or families facing difficulties in paying loans or mortgage repayments for their primary residence or in meeting rent payments with financial institutions. **In 2024, over 2,000 housing mediations were carried out.** The goal is to reach 2,700 by 2030, thereby contributing to social and economic inclusion with special attention to the most vulnerable groups.

In line with Targets 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4, one of the most notable initiatives is the **Support for municipal social services programme**, which aims to strengthen planning and projects directed at social inclusion and the fight against poverty in the province of Barcelona. **In 2024, nearly €40 million was allocated.** More than 50% of that (€26 million) went on transfers to basic municipal social services in that year.

This support is manifested in the form of various services, both for social services officers and directly for citizens. Among the most relevant projects are **audits and interventions in households experiencing energy poverty**. This service assists households struggling to pay basic energy bills, aiming to improve energy efficiency, reduce consumption

Closely linked to Target 1.4, in 2021 the Barcelona Provincial Council launched the **Neighbourhoods and Communities: Drivers of Social Transformation programme**, which intervenes in complex urban areas of the province of Barcelona to reduce inequalities and promote social cohesion in municipalities with over 40,000 inhabitants. This programme adopts an integrated approach in neighbourhoods affected by socio-urban segregation and high social complexity, placing social and community perspectives at its centre.

In 2022, 13 local authorities participated; by 2024, 60% of municipalities with more than 40,000 inhabitants were part of the programme. The objective is to reach

90% coverage by 2030, with an estimated cost of around €12 million.

Within this project and that of **Rights to a Basic Income, municipal income-guarantee policies**, work has been done to develop and identify Statistical Neighbourhood Units (*Unitats Estadístiques Barrials*, UEB), producing statistical information that led to the creation of a new neighbourhood-level data source called Statistics on Living Conditions and Opportunity Structures (*Estadístiques de Condicions de Vida i Estructures d'Oportunitats*, ECVEO). These represent an unprecedented database in the Catalan and Spanish contexts, operationalising the

neighbourhood as a knowledge unit and advancing the generation, organisation and systematisation of neighbourhood-scale information. This instrument offers extensive information on the reality of neighbourhoods in the province of Barcelona.

Figure 14

Budget allocated to support for municipal social services (2021–2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports

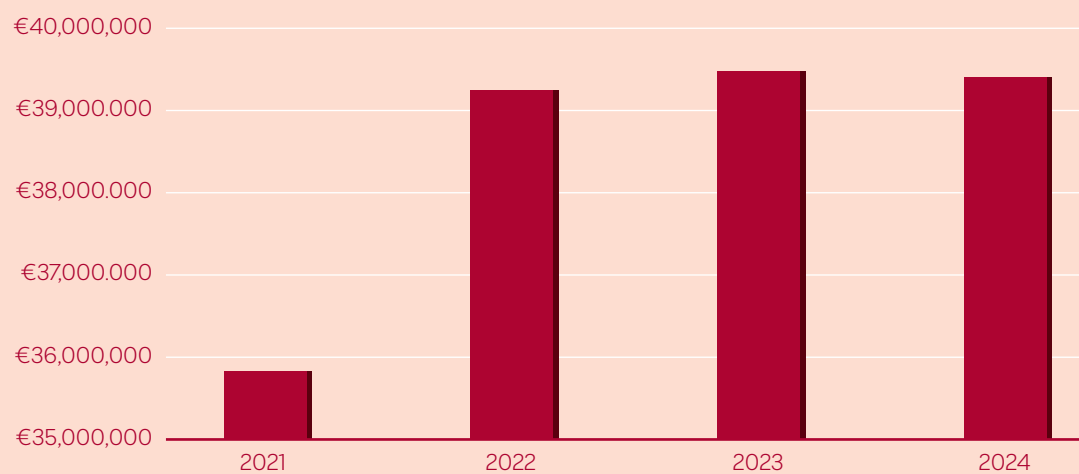
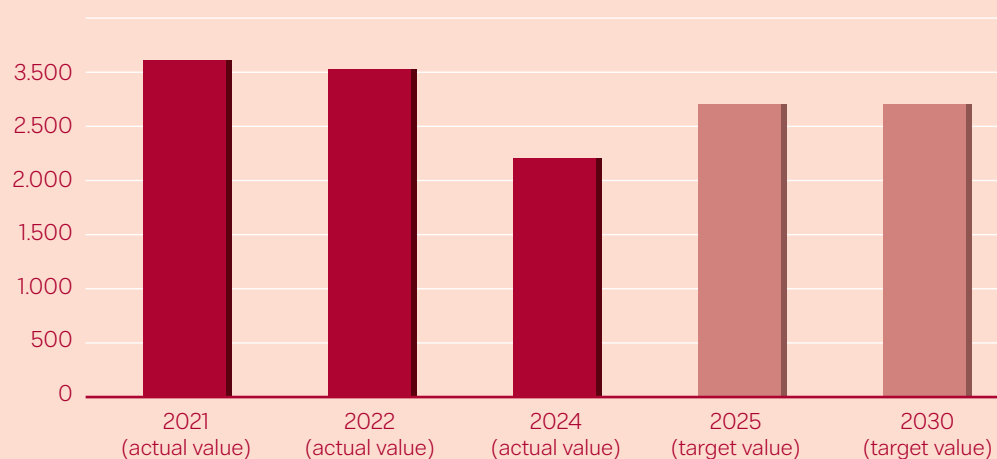


Figure 15

Number of housing mediations

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard



2 The trend between the years 2022 and 2026 is observed. If a cell is blank, this is

because no data is available for the years in question.

3 Source: INE, extracted from *Visor 2030*.

4 According to the *Action Plan for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights*, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

5 Source: Municipal Economic Information Service (SIEM),
Barcelona Provincial Council, extracted from the *Hermes Programme*.

6 Source: *Visor 2030*.

7 According to the *Action Plan for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights*, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

The image features a solid mustard yellow background. In the lower half, there are three faint, overlapping, wavy vertical bands in a lighter shade of yellow. The text 'SDG 2' is prominently displayed in the center of these bands in a large, white, serif font. Below it, the text 'Zero hunger' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

SDG 2

Zero hunger



Localised targets for SDG 2

2.1 Ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all, especially for those in food-insecure situations, by promoting sustainable, local agriculture that is resilient against extreme climate and weather conditions.

2.3 Promote agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers.

2.5 Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domestic animals, and their related wild species.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 2

Indicator	2023 value	Trend in 2023	Reference
-----------	------------	---------------	-----------

Indicator	(or most recent data available)	2022-2023 ²	Reference value
Surface area devoted to organic farming ⁸	16.2%		Dedication of 25% of agricultural land to organic farming by 2030 ⁹
Percentage of small-scale farms	51.64% (2020)		

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 2

SDG 2 aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. This Goal calls for ensuring safe food production systems and promoting sustainable, healthy and fair agri-food models at the global level.

In this context and to contribute to achieving Target 2.1, the Barcelona Provincial Council has promoted various agriculture development strategies through the **Barcelona Agrària** initiative. This programme, with **a budget of nearly**

€3 million in 2024, seeks to improve the province's food system by fostering a healthier, safer and more sustainable agricultural sector that helps mitigate climate change and capture more carbon. The initiative's areas of action include:

- **Agricultural parks**: Promoting the conservation and revitalisation of farmland by incorporating it into the Barcelona Provincial Council's network of agricultural parks.
- **Food strategies**: Advising and supporting municipal councils in transforming their food models by designing and implementing local strategies.
- **Agri-food innovation**: Strengthening agri-food innovation and technology transfer to small and medium producers

urban environments to improve air quality and increase climate resilience, as well as to promote healthier, more sustainable environments for the province's residents. It also aims to develop green infrastructure through agricultural spaces to enhance ecosystem services with a significant impact on the environmental and socio-economic sustainability of municipalities and territories in Barcelona.

The project promotes the adoption of agroforestry practices that reduce fire vulnerability, such as installing firebreaks and diversifying crops. In 2024, a total of 249.7 hectares in the province were used for extensive grazing and mosaic agroforestry pasture restoration, and the number is expected to exceed 1,000 hectares by 2030.

and processors of local foods.

- **Land banks:** Facilitating access to land by identifying abandoned or afforested fields and managing their transfer to entrepreneurs with an interest in farming them.

On this last line of action, it is noteworthy that **in 2024 a total of 105.81 hectares were incorporated into the land banks promoted by the Barcelona Provincial Council**, exceeding by 5.81 hectares the target set for that year. The aim is to reach 200 hectares by 2030. These hectares add to the 1,021 already held in the land bank

To further contribute to Target 2.1, the **Green Infrastructure Barcelona 2030** project seeks to integrate green infrastructure into

Finally, another objective of SDG 2 is to improve the population's nutrition as proposed in Target 2.1. In this context, the Barcelona Provincial Council offers the **Social Impact Prepaid Card** (*Targeta Moneder d'Impacte Social*), which has a monetary value defined by the local authorities' basic social services. This system facilitates the management of food aid and enables families to access fresh food and other basic products. It also fosters strategies to address nutritional needs while respecting autonomy, promotion and shared responsibility, averting stigmatisation and allowing beneficiaries to choose a variety of foods in local shops rather than relying on charitable food distribution. In 2024, a total of 5,540 cards were issued, and the goal is to reach 10,000 by 2030.

Figure 16

Hectares incorporated into land banks and future forecast

Source: Own elaboration, based on the Barcelona Provincial Council dashboard

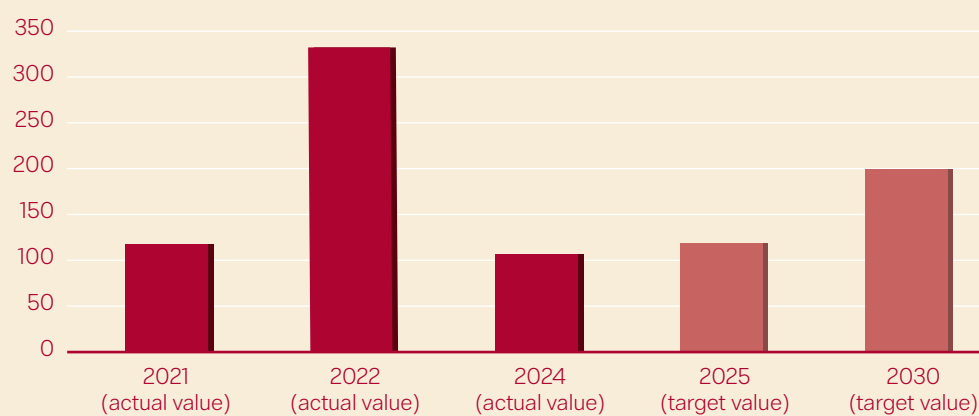


Figure 17

Total area used for integrated and organic production in the province of Barcelona

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard data



⁸Source: Catalan Council for Organic Agricultural Production, extracted from *Visor 2030*.
⁹According to the European Green Deal, cited in the Appendix to the Report.

SDG 3

Good health and



well-being



Localised targets for SDG 3

3.4 Scale up programmes to promote healthy habits to reduce the risk of non-transmissible diseases and to promote mental health and well-being.



3.5 Strengthen prevention, information and treatment of addictions, including drug abuse, tobacco use, harmful alcohol consumption and screen addiction.

3.6 Halve the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.7 Promote measures to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services.

3.9 Contribute to reducing the incidence of diseases caused by hazardous chemicals and by air, water and soil pollution.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 3

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Persons killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents per 10,000 inhabitants ¹⁰	3.89 nre		Zero road fatalities by 2050 and a 50% reduction in deaths and serious injuries by 2030 ¹¹
Over-ageing rate ¹²	15.9		

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 3

Ensuring people's health and well-being is one of the objectives of SDG 3, and the Barcelona Provincial Council has developed various initiatives to improve public health and reduce inequalities at the local level.

In this vein, the Council drives several actions, among which the **Public Health programme** stands out for having a significant impact on Targets 3.2, 3.5 and 3.9. This project promotes healthy habits and lifestyles, combats social inequalities in health, implements a "health in all policies" strategy and safeguards people's health in the areas of food security and environmental wellbeing. **As a result, in 2024, a total of 81% of municipal councils received support to develop programmes**

social-distancing measures adopted led to widespread feelings of uncertainty and loss, directly worsening the mental and emotional health of the general population and especially those already living with mental disorders. In this context, the **2024–2027 Mental Health Strategic Plan** was approved to prevent, detect and provide support and care for people with mental disorders in order to improve the quality of life of the whole population and support local authorities in the province.

To reinforce local action on health, the Barcelona Provincial Council produces **local-level health-indicator reports** to assist municipal councils in preparing their Local Health Profiles and Health Plans. Moreover, a **global report is compiled using data from**

promoting healthy habits to reduce the risk of transmissible diseases and to foster mental health and well-being.

In addition, 65% benefited from health education activities.

Beyond this, in the area of addiction prevention and treatment (substances, tobacco, alcohol and screen addiction) under Target 3.5, the **Adolescent Addiction Treatment programme also stands out, involving 7% of municipal councils and more than 200 young people through the Centre for Addiction Prevention and Treatment (SPOTT) in 2024.**

Meanwhile, mental health has become a priority in the Council's public-health policies as set out in Target 3.4. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the

all municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants, providing around 100 key local indicators to assess those localities' health status, identify problems and inequalities, and facilitate decision-making in municipal health policies.

Finally, the Council has also established a **Public Health Documentation and Resources Centre** to offer high-quality information and resources so that public health officers and elected officials have access to the knowledge needed to manage public health more effectively.

Another strategic area of the Barcelona Provincial Council that impacts SDG 3 is the **promotion of physical and sporting activity** in line with Target 3.4. The Council works to ensure everyone's right to enjoy sport and physical exercise as an essential

activity for personal well-being that also contributes to social cohesion and community development.

The Barcelona Provincial Council supports inclusive, educational, health-promoting and community sporting activities, resulting in **1,715 support actions for sporting events organised or co-organised by municipal councils in the province** during 2024, exceeding the initial target of 1,400 actions. As for local sports circuits, the accumulated potential user base reached 25,454 in 2024, with the aim of reaching 100,000 by 2030.

In terms of improving the **planning, management and safety of sporting activities**, 94.5% of the province's municipal councils received economic, technical or material support for sporting activities in 2024 and 100% coverage is expected by

youth facilities and spaces as inclusive, equal-opportunity and environmentally sustainable buildings and installations. The project's ultimate objective is to define standards that any municipal facility must meet to be recognised through a distinctive accreditation as a responsible facility in these areas. Specifically, it aligns sports facilities with measures in accordance with the four core requirements of being participatory, accessible, equal-opportunity and sustainable.

This project began as a pilot with a limited number of facilities and has since been adopted as a best practice. **By 2022, a total of 90% of municipal councils had joined; by 2024, this number had risen to 94.5%.**

In 2024, some 7% of sports facilities were

2030. From a gender perspective, 31.5% of municipal councils in the province **promoted sporting actions specifically for women.**

There is also the **Youth in Sport, Active Society (Joventut Esportiva, societat activa)** programme, which combats sedentary lifestyles and dropout from sports among young people, and especially those facing greater barriers to physical activity. The percentage of participants routed into educational and/or employment pathways after the intervention compared with those neither in education nor employment at the outset was 18.30%, which is 1.7 percentage points above the target.

The **Facilities 2030: Managers and Educators (Equipaments 2030: responsables i educadors)** project promotes municipal education, sports and

implementing the measures plan, which is two percentage points above the established target, and the aim is to reach 20% by 2030.

Regarding road safety (another objective of SDG 3 under Target 3.6), the Council is the authority responsible for over 1,500 km of local roads and manages the province's local road network. Since 2018 it has operated the **Barcelona Provincial Council Local Road Network Zonal Plan**, the planning instrument that determines which roads may be added to the Council's local road network.

In this context, more than €60,000,000 was invested in 2024 in **managing and improving the local road network** to enhance road safety in urban and non-urban areas, to steer road network interventions towards preventive and remedial safety management, and to maintain the network.

Thus, 41.15 km of resurfacing work was carried out in 2024 with the aim of reaching 70 km by 2030. Additionally, 15

road network projects under the Zonal Plan were executed to improve road safety and/or humanise the road network.

Figure 18

Total number of beneficiaries/participants in the Youth in Sport, Active Society programme
Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard data

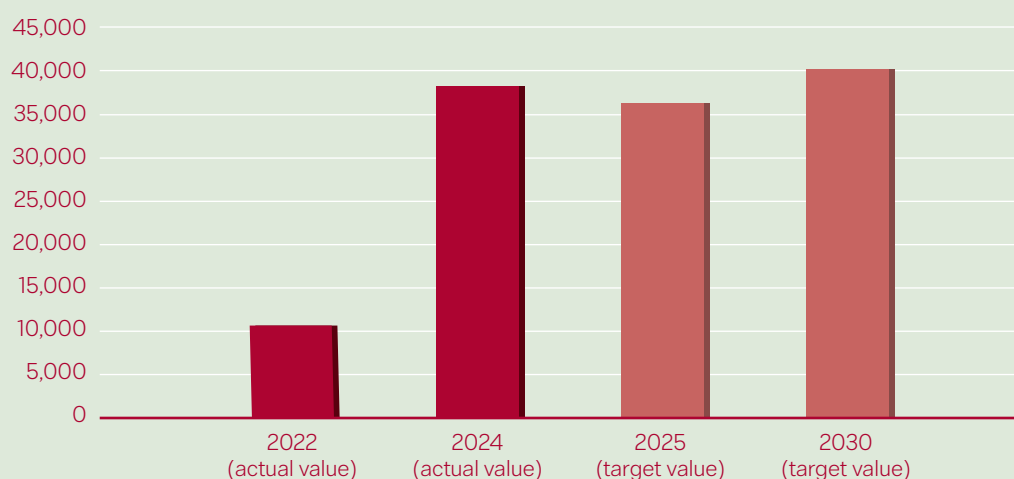
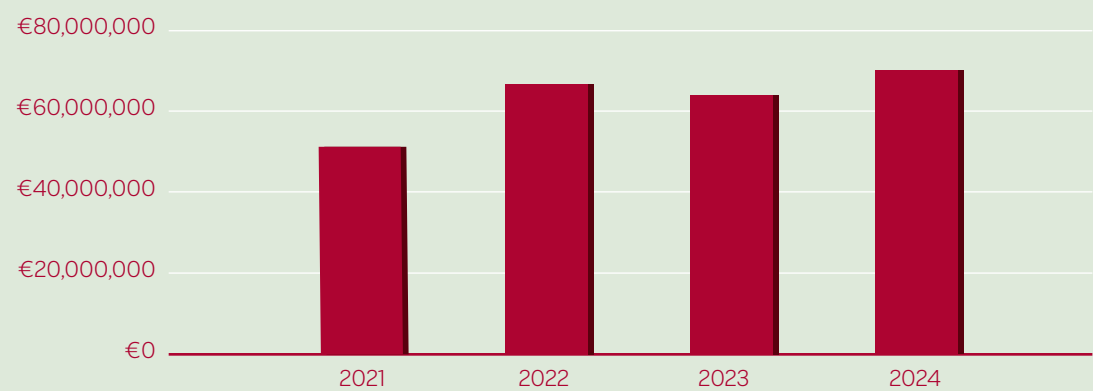


Figure 19
Budget allocated to maintenance and improvement of the local road network (2021-2024)
Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports



10 Source: Department of the Interior of the Government of Catalonia, extracted from Visor 2030.
11 According to the EU's Vision Zero, cited in the Appendix to the Report.
12 Source: Idescat, extracted from Visor 2030.

The background of the lower half of the image is a solid dark red. Overlaid on this is a light red, stylized graphic of a school building. The building features a central bell tower with a semi-circular top and a flagpole to its right. The text 'SDG 4' is written in white, with 'SDG' in a serif font and '4' in a bold sans-serif font, positioned over the building's facade.

SDG 4

Quality education



Localised targets for SDG 4

4.1 Contribute to educational success by ensuring access to free, equitable and quality education.

4.2 Ensure that all children aged 0–3 have access to care and development services and to quality early childhood education.

4.4 Substantially increase the number of young people and adults with the skills needed to access the labour market, decent work and entrepreneurship under equal conditions.

4.5 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equity in access, conditions and outcomes for all vulnerable groups.

4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development.

4.a Ensure that education facilities meet the needs of children and persons with disabilities and take gender into account by providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 4

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Participation rate in early childhood education (first cycle) ¹⁴	27.04%	↑	By 2030, 96% of children from age 3 to the official primary entry age will be enrolled in pre-primary education. ¹⁵
Student–teacher ratio	9.9 students per teacher	↓	
Lower secondary (ESO) graduation rate	89.9%	↓	

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Enrolment rate in training and insertion programmes ¹⁶	28.34%	↓	

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 4

SDG 4 promotes inclusive, equitable and quality education while fostering lifelong learning opportunities for all. In this context, the Barcelona Provincial Council has set up various initiatives to support educational success, ensuring maximum equity in access to and benefit from educational opportunities across the province of Barcelona. This commitment is reflected in the following initiatives:

Through the Library Services Division (*Gerència de Serveis de Biblioteques*) the Council has, for years, promoted an innovative public-library model, the so-called 'XBM Model', which views the library as a transformative agent of its environment, preserving its essence while innovating in methodologies for access to reading and culture, knowledge creation, and digital literacy. The XBM Model is based on the following principles:

work is carried out from a municipalist perspective, collaborating with all the stakeholders and resources present in each city, town and village as spaces for social transformation.

One of the main instruments is the **Network of Municipal Libraries (Xarxa de Biblioteques Municipals, XBM)** made up of over 235 libraries and 12 mobile libraries (bibliobusos) covering almost 100% of the province's population, all operating under the same service and quality standards to ensure regional balance in access to public reading services, with a direct impact on Target 4.1. In 2024, the XBM received over **17 million visits** and hosted more than **337,000 visitors**, while school visits exceeded **16,000**.

promotion of lifelong learning and as a space for gathering and participation by individuals and communities.

In parallel, the Barcelona Provincial Council contributes to Targets 4.1 and 4.5 by providing resources to ensure the proper functioning of education centres, supporting them to improve the management and pedagogical quality of their services and promoting networked collaboration. The Council promotes the **Network of Municipal Schools**, an initiative to improve municipal schools in the province, enhancing their sustainability and service quality as well as sharing strategy, knowledge and experience across the network. This network comprises different types of schools:

- **Network of Municipal Nursery Schools (*Xarxa d'Escoles Bressol Municipals*, XEBM)**: Created in 2018 as a forum for exchange, knowledge building and learning, open to all municipalities with nursery schools. **In 2024, almost half of the municipalities in the province of Barcelona (48%) belonged to the XEBM out of the total municipalities with such schools.** These received average grants of around €10,000 per council to promote inclusion in nursery education.

- **Network of Special Education Schools (*Xarxa d'Escoles d'Educació Especial*, XEMEE)**: Launched in 2017 to improve the capacity to serve special-needs

their key role in promoting equity at the level of local authorities.

Through the **Local Education Policies** programme, with a 2024 budget of over €40 million, the Council guarantees more and better educational opportunities through whole-community participation and basic education services tailored to local realities. Of that sum, **over €5 million was allocated in 2024 to economic support for municipal councils to improve educational outcomes and combat segregation, and about 7% of municipalities received support for upgrading education facilities.**

As a strategic action to contribute to Target 4.5, the Council also promotes **local pacts against educational**

pupils and to highlight the local role in advancing inclusive education, for which purpose workshops and training sessions are organised.

- **Network of Municipal Music and Arts Schools (Xarxa d'Escoles de Música i Arts, XEMMA)**: Set up in 2017 to intensify support for the sustainability and improvement of music and arts schools and to showcase the local contribution to arts education.
- **Network of Adult Education Schools (Xarxa d'Escoles de Persones Adultes, XEMPA)**: Established in 2015 to advance municipal lifelong-learning policies, share knowledge and experience, and raise the profile of these centres and

segregation, which are designed to combat the segregation that is both produced and reproduced within school and community education.

In the digital realm, the Council is active on several fronts. **In 2024, a total of 55.16% of municipalities took part in training on Local Cultural Development.** Meanwhile, the Network of Local Governments Cooperation Plan specifically includes the **Work, Talent and Technology** programme, which offers pathways to improve the digital competences of unemployed, employed and inactive people and to increase the participation of vulnerable groups (women, young people and long-term unemployed) in industrial, scientific and technological occupations. This programme, run in partnership

with companies, training centres and education institutions, **has a budget of €3 million for allocation to 12 municipal councils for 2024–2026.**

Finally, the Barcelona Provincial Council has also been promoting a **Local Education Observatory**, a space for analysis, innovation and reflection that generates and disseminates knowledge about the local education landscape, and has developed a line of work on **educational planning and governance**

to help municipal councils design and evaluate public policies in a rigorous, systematic manner that aligns with local needs, with the ultimate aim of ensuring educational success for all. Resources are offered on strategic planning, such as the Educating City Plan (*Pla de ciutat educadora*), and on governing bodies, such as Municipal School Councils (*Consells escolars municipals*, CEM) and Local Councils for Children and Adolescents (*Consells locals d'infància i adolescència*, CLIA).

Figure 20

Percentage of municipalities participating in the networks of municipal schools (EMPA, EBM, EMM and EEE) out of the total municipalities with a municipal school in the province of Barcelona

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard

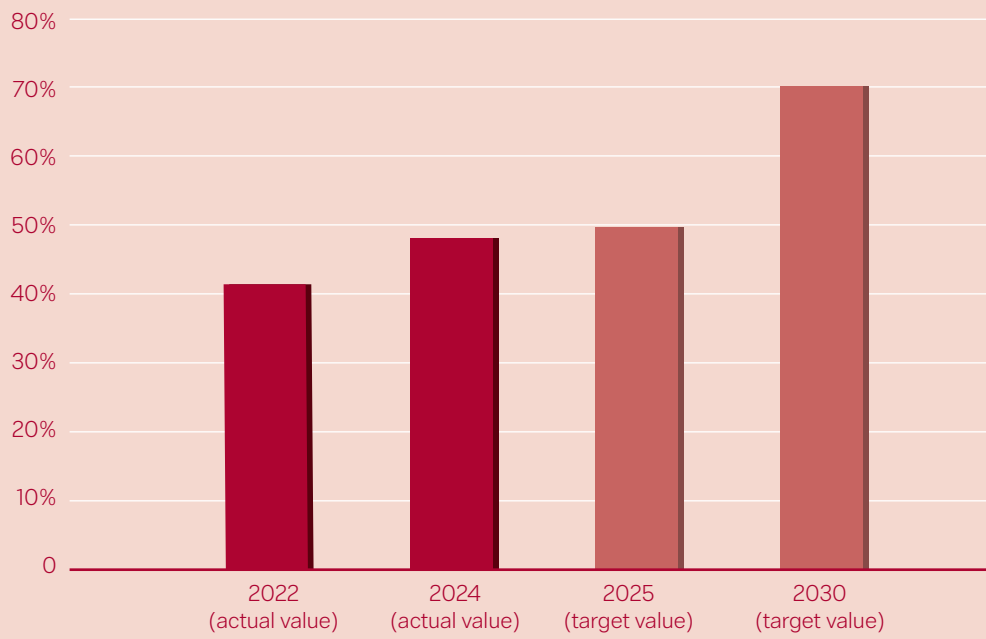
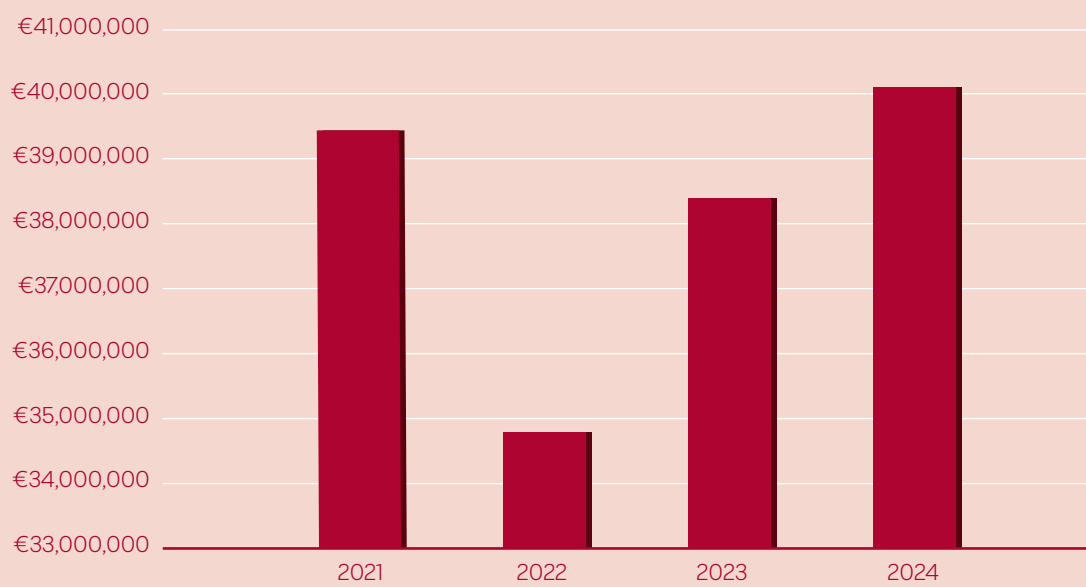


Figure 21
Budget allocated to local education policies (2021-2024)
Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports



14 Source: Department of Education of the Government of Catalonia, extracted from Visor 2030.

15 According to the Strategic Framework for European cooperation in education and training, cited in the Appendix to the Report.

16 Source: Department of Education of the Government of Catalonia, extracted from Visor 2030.

The image features a solid red background. In the lower half, there is a large, faint, light-orange graphic of the number 5 with a stylized female symbol integrated into it. Overlaid on this graphic is the text 'SDG 5' in a large, white, serif font. Below this, the words 'Gender equality' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

SDG **5**

Gender equality





Localised targets for SDG 5

5.1 End all forms of gender discrimination.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence.

5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, promote shared responsibility and support non-professional caregivers.

5.5 Ensure full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities for women in all decision-making spheres of political, economic and public life.

5.b Achieve gender equality in the use of information and communications technologies.

5.c Strengthen gender equality policies and plans and the empowerment of women and girls.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 5

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022- 2023	Reference value
Percentage of elected official positions held by women in municipal councils ¹⁷	45.4%	↑	
Female unemployment rate ¹⁸	11.2%	↓	Reduce the gender gap in employment by at least half compared with 2019 ¹⁹
Female employment rate ²⁰	64.6%	↑	

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 5

SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. This involves eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination, and ensuring that women have the same opportunities as men in every area of society.

In this context, the Barcelona Provincial Council has a long-standing institutional commitment to promoting and advancing equality. For this reason, its first Equality Plan was approved in 2015, marking an important step towards effective gender equality within the organisation by establishing concrete actions to achieve this goal. In January 2024, the **2nd Gender Equality Plan of the Barcelona Provincial Council (2024-2027)** was introduced, which directly contributes to

strategies. Within this framework, direct support is offered to municipalities and organisations to foster innovation, research and networking.

With regard to **gender equality and mainstreaming**, the Barcelona Provincial Council has made considerable efforts to contribute to Target 5.1, which seeks to end all gender discrimination and inequalities: **in 2024, 1,702 women and 843 men participated in awareness-raising and training activities provided to local authorities with the support of the Barcelona Provincial Council.** In addition, 80% of local authorities benefited from economic support for gender equality, and 36.70% from

Target 5.c and continues the institution's commitment to equality, while reflecting the current reality of the women and men within the organisation. Planning focused on strengthening gender equality policies directly impacts progress towards the aforesaid Target 5.c.

In addition, the **Feminisms and Equality Programme** is structured around three core areas, (1) Gender equality and mainstreaming, (2) Gender-based violence, and (3) LGBTI rights, contributing to Targets 5.1 and 5.2. Building on these core areas, the Barcelona Provincial Council implements various projects and actions that directly support local authorities in the deployment of equality policies, foster innovative role models, encourage networked collaboration and drive shared

awareness-raising actions.

Regarding the second area, that concerning the **eradication of gender-based violence** (Target 5.2), in the previous mandate the Barcelona Provincial Council established the **Network of Territories Free from Gender-Based Violence** in order to create programmes, services, resources and actions that guarantee and defend the fundamental right to live free from gender-based violence. This network is a space for co-creation and co-leadership from a strategic perspective to address this structural problem that affects society as a whole.

The current mandate has brought the introduction of the **Prevention of Gender-Based Violence project, a**

key strategy for municipalities of up to 20,000 inhabitants. During 2024, a total of 99% of local authorities in the province of Barcelona benefited from economic support for gender-based violence eradication policies and 59.7% from awareness-raising actions. More than 9,000 people took part in training activities, of whom around 6,000 were women, twice as many as men.

With regard to the third core area addressed by the Feminisms and Equality Programme, the Barcelona Provincial Council is a pioneer in **local policies on affective, sexual and gender diversity**. It provides municipalities with communication materials (such as banners, posters and videos) to celebrate groundbreaking

the SAUV, **53 new places were added in 2024, with the projection of doubling this figure by 2030.**

Another strategic line of SDG 5 is to ensure active and equitable participation of women in public life and in decision-making and leadership spaces, as set out in Target 5.5. In this regard, the Barcelona Provincial Council coordinates, manages and provides the services and actions necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the **Espai Francesca Bonnemaison**, a space set up in 1941 to promote equal opportunity policies for all citizens of the province of Barcelona.

One of the projects in this space is the **School for Women (Escola de les dones)**, established by the

municipalities in local affective, sexual and gender diversity policies.

The Barcelona Provincial Council also promotes projects contributing to Targets 1.3 and 5.4 by recognising and valuing unpaid care through public services under the **Temporary Stay Residential Centres (Centres residencials d'estades temporals)** programme, which includes the **Elderly Emergency Care Service (Servei d'Atenció d'Urgències a la Vellesa, SAUV)**, and the **RESPIR programme**, which supports care-giving families responsible for dependent people over 65, aiming to improve caregivers' quality of life by providing time for respite and addressing unforeseen family situations. **In 2024, the programme served 908 different people, and the goal is to reach 1,500 by 2030.** As for

Barcelona Provincial Council in 1883 as a pioneering initiative to offer women training in the fashion profession, enabling them to practise it professionally and thus gain greater autonomy. Today it is a non-formal training centre for people over 18, **with funding of over €3 million in 2024. In that year, 82% of the training places offered were filled, with a target of 88% by 2030.** More than 90 organisations received economic support in 2024, and it is expected that 300 organisations will benefit by 2030.

Figure 22

Percentage of local authorities receiving economic support for gender equality
Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard

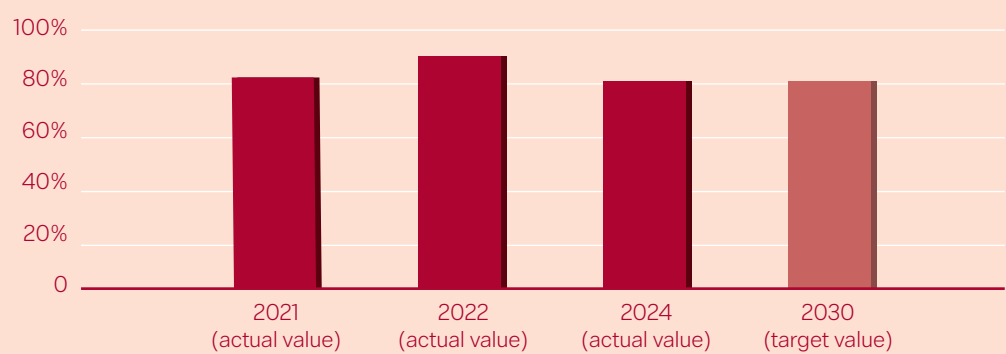
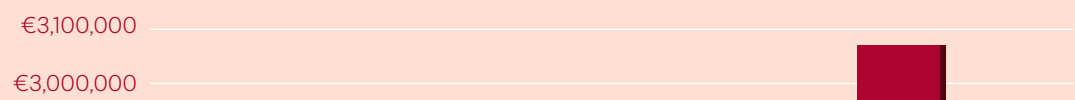
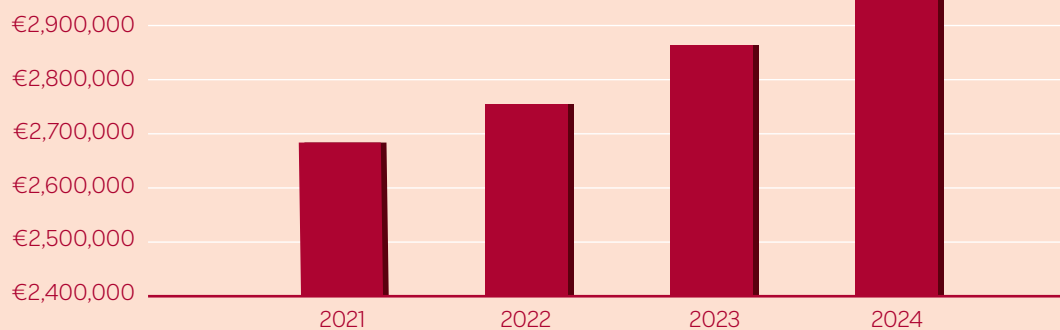


Figure 23

Budget allocated to the School for Women (2021-2024)
Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports





17 Source: Institute of Political and Social Sciences, extracted from Visor 2030.

18 Source: Department of Business and Labour of the Government of Catalonia and Idescat, extracted from Visor 2030.

19 According to the Action Plan for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

20 Source: Idescat, extracted from Visor 2030.

SDG 6

Clean water and

sanitation

The background of the page is a solid blue color. In the upper left corner, there is a large, semi-transparent blue circle. Below this circle, a large, light blue arrow points downwards, its tip reaching towards the bottom center of the page. The word "sanitation" is written in white, lowercase letters across the top left, partially overlapping the blue circle.



Localised targets for SDG 6

6.1 Ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, with special attention to the most vulnerable.

6.2 Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene services.

6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating discharges and increasing sustainable drainage, recycling, reuse and capture of groundwater.

6.5 Implement integrated water-resources management in all sectors, including regional cooperation if necessary.

6.6 Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including forests, mountains, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes in all areas of special natural value.

6.b Promote and strengthen local community participation in water and sanitation management.

6.4 Substantially increase water-use sanitation management.
efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable extraction and supply of freshwater.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 6

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Cost of water in € per m3 ²¹	€1.8/m3	↑	
Water consumption per capita ²²	105.07 litres	↓	

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 6

SDG 6 calls for the guarantee of universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, as well as adequate sanitation and hygiene services, while improving water quality, using water resources efficiently and promoting sustainable freshwater extraction and supply.

In response to this goal, the Barcelona Provincial Council has adopted an ecosystem approach to the water cycle. This involves promoting alternative water sources, applying nature-based solutions to enhance retention and reduce flood risk, bolstering ecosystem resilience to water stress, and offering technical support to implement the new Royal Decree 3/2023 on the quality, control and supply of drinking water.

to save a total of 12.5 hm³ of potable water per year across the province, equivalent to 5,000 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Also aligned with Target 6.3, the Barcelona Provincial Council promotes **DIBASalus: Quality Water**, a project targeting small municipalities of up to 5,000 inhabitants with publicly managed water services. The project's primary objective is to guarantee water quality through optimal supply-and-use management in these municipalities, installing network-monitoring systems to control, track, collect and analyse data on sanitary water quality. **In 2024, 59% of municipalities with up to 5,000 inhabitants with public water management had a remote monitoring**

With a view to contributing to Target 6.3, and in light of the severe droughts affecting our region, the Barcelona Provincial Council has recently launched the Sectoral Project for the **Improvement of Water Supply Networks**, with an allocation of €100 million over the four-year mandate. Its aim is to upgrade obsolete or deteriorated drinking water infrastructures, and prevent water wastage caused by leakage in the low-pressure urban distribution network, thereby increasing potable-water savings. In general, many municipalities in the province suffer from ageing networks due to insufficient maintenance and renewal, leading to average performance well below the desirable minimum of 80%, especially in municipalities under 20,000 inhabitants. **This investment is expected**

and control system for the water cycle, and full 100% coverage is expected by 2030.

To contribute to Target 6.4, the Barcelona Provincial Council also offers the **Environmental Assessment and Management Programme**. With a budget exceeding €3 million in 2024, this provides economic support to municipalities for local environmental management, particularly acoustic pollution, as well as technical assistance on air quality, natural water sources and electromagnetic field monitoring. **In 2024, over 2,000 water samples were analysed, and this figure is projected to rise to 4,000 by 2030.**

Also under Target 6.4, and in the context of the droughts of recent years

in Catalonia, a **Municipal Drought Response Guide** was published in 2024. By that year, **16 municipalities in the province had implemented drought-management and control instruments** (audits, efficiency measures, tariff calculations, information protocols, etc.), **and four had adopted specific drought-response plans or ordinances.**

Moreover, in relation to Target 6.b, the Barcelona Provincial Council also established the **Inter-municipal Water Supply Benchmarking Circle**, a management instrument based on service-specific indicators, where technical staff and supply managers share experiences and solutions.

Moreover, the Barcelona Provincial Council offers **several water-cycle-**

Improvement of Public Facilities and Urban Spaces Programme, contributing to Target 6.1. To meet the challenges of drought and flooding under climate change, it supports decision-making through studies, projects and master plans for the required investments in drinking water supply infrastructures, comprehensive stormwater and wastewater management, and network upgrades

In 2024, **10.6% of the province's municipalities received technical support for improving their local water cycle, and coverage of 74% is targeted by 2030.** At the same time, 108 municipalities (34.8% of the province) received economic support for water-cycle improvements, with the aim of reaching 50% coverage by 2030.

Figure 24

Budget for the Environmental Assessment and Management Programme (2021-2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports

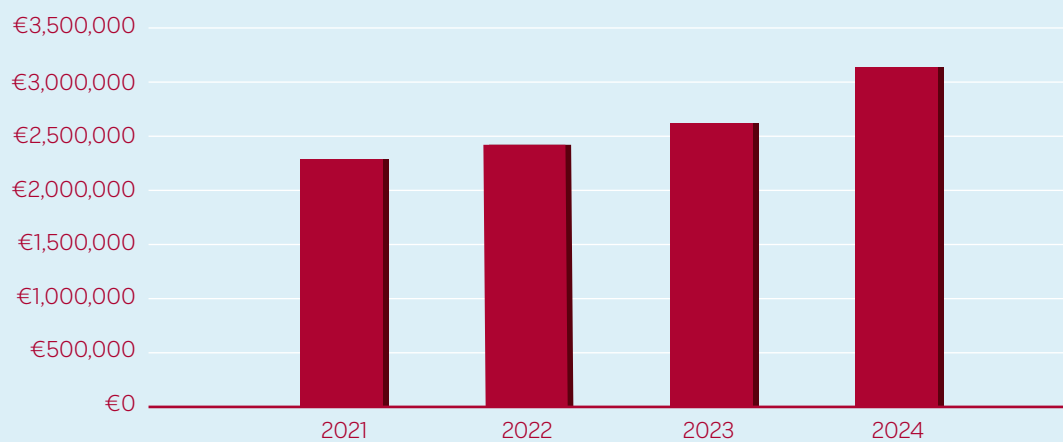
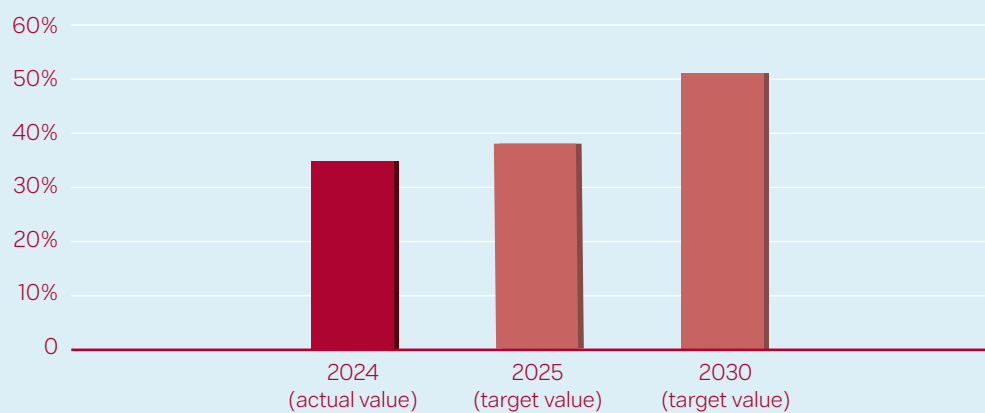


Figure 25

Percentage of municipalities benefiting from the Barcelona Provincial Council's economic support for local water-cycle improvement

Source: Own elaboration, based on the Barcelona Provincial Council dashboard



21 Source: Catalan Water Agency, extracted from Visor 2030.

22 Source: Catalan Water Agency, extracted from Visor 2030.

SDG 7

Affordable and clean



energy



Localised targets for SDG 7

7.1 Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, with special emphasis on households in energy poverty.

7.2 Substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix.

7.3 Substantially improve energy efficiency.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 7

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022- 2023	Reference value
Percentage of			By 2030, achieve an

Percentage of renewable energy consumption ²³	3.21% (2022)		electricity system with at least 74% renewable energy generation ²⁴
New self-consumption electric energy installations per 100,000 inhabitants ²⁵	311 installations / 100,000 inhabitants	↑	
Self-consumption capacity ²⁶	294.26 kW	↑	
Final household energy consumption per capita ²⁷	2550.48 kWh (2022)		Reduce primary energy consumption by at least 39.5% from the baseline in accordance with EU regulations ²⁸

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 7

SDG 7 calls for ensuring universal access to modern energy services, improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy. To drive the transition towards an affordable, secure and sustainable energy system, countries must promote investment in energy infrastructure and in environmentally friendly technologies. The major challenge in the energy sector is to achieve an economic and energy model free from fossil fuels and nuclear power by 2050.

In this context, local governments play a key role. **By 2024, 165 municipal councils in the Barcelona province had joined the Global Covenant of**

face of environmental challenges, within the framework of Agenda 2030 and the European Green Deal.

Within the **Sectoral Programme for Ecological Transition 2030**, which has a total budget of €47 million, the Barcelona Provincial Council promotes two key initiatives: **Adaptaclima 2030**, focused on projects for climate change adaptation, and the second edition of **Renovables 2030**, centred on the deployment of renewables and the upgrade of public lighting. Each of these projects aligns with a different SDG: *Renovables 2030* falls under SDG 7, while *Adaptaclima 2030* links to SDG 13 (and will be described in the corresponding chapter).

Mayors for Climate and Energy, a

European initiative that promotes local authorities' commitment to the energy transition and climate action. This figure represents more than half of the municipalities in the province and highlights the existing commitment.

The Barcelona Provincial Council works to improve people's quality of life through actions that tackle the climate emergency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These include the promotion of energy communities and renewable energy, air quality improvement, proper water management, the circular economy and environmental education. The aim is to strengthen municipal resilience, making towns and cities greener, healthier and more equitable in the

Renovables 2030 is an initiative to accelerate the mass rollout of renewable energy in municipalities, cut CO₂ emissions, achieve energy and financial savings, and establish various kinds of energy communities, thereby advancing towards a decarbonised and locally resilient economy. The project has been implemented in two phases, having a significant impact on Target 7.2.

The first edition of Renovables 2030

ran from 2019 to 2024 and represented an investment of €104 million in renewables and energy communities. Of this, 48% went to photovoltaic installations, 15% to biomass systems and 37% to public lighting upgrades. The results for that period were substantial: 257 municipalities submitted

approved applications, and 146 benefited, equivalent to almost half of the province's municipalities (47%). Annually, **the project delivered over €23 million in cumulative savings, produced more than 118 million kWh of renewable energy and cut CO2 emissions by over 50 million kg.**

Complementing this, the **Sectoral Programme for the Climate Emergency 2022-2024**, with a budget of €12 million (excluding the city of Barcelona), **allocated 57% of its funds to lighting, 36% to photovoltaic installations and 7% to waste management.**

To reaffirm its commitment to the energy transition, the Barcelona Provincial Council has launched a broader project entitled **“Accelerating the**

2023 mandate, the Plan aims for the Barcelona Provincial Council to achieve energy self-sufficiency and zero direct greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. To oversee this strategy, the **Energy and Climate Board** (*Taula d'Energia i Clima*) was established, bringing together multiple institutional areas.

The Climate Plan comprises 55 actions across two domains: 34 actions to achieve energy self-sufficiency and climate neutrality by 2030, with zero direct GHG emissions, and 21 actions to reinforce corporate resilience to climate change impacts.

These domains are detailed in two interlinked documents: the Energy Transition Plan and the Adaptation Plan. In July 2024, the **first monitoring report**

Energy Transition: Renewables and Adaptation 2030”, with a planned cost of €167 million.

In 2024, 148 municipalities benefited from renewable energy installations, equating to 47.7% of the province’s municipalities, with a target of 64.5% by 2030. Additionally, 47.6% had management and monitoring instruments in place, with coverage expected to reach 64.3% by 2030. Regarding emissions, **2024 saw a 44% reduction compared with 2005, with a goal of 55% by 2030.**

These efforts are framed within the **Climate Plan**, the Barcelona Provincial Council’s tool to tackle the climate emergency and achieve climate neutrality by 2030. Developed during the 2019–

was published, outlining completed actions and tracking indicators.

The Barcelona Provincial Council’s commitment to energy transition extends not only to transforming municipalities but also to its own transformation. Through the **Strategic Plan of the Building Sub-directorate 2024-2030**, approved in 2024, it seeks to preserve, manage and adapt its public assets in an environmentally sustainable manner and to develop new working models, thus strengthening organisational resilience and contributing to Target 7.2.

Finally, to support Target 7.3, new working models are being implemented aimed at improving public services **and achieving a 100% reduction in**

CO₂ emissions from energy supplies in all corporate sites and buildings by 2030. Over €21 million has been allocated to transform workplaces, optimise management and foster a cultural shift towards new ways of working. **In 2024, Barcelona Provincial Council reduced 814 tonnes of CO₂ emissions from its energy supplies at all corporate sites and buildings, a 13% cut compared with the 2021 baseline.** Currently, almost 2% of Barcelona Provincial Council's energy comes from renewables, with the goal of reaching 100% by 2030.

Within this broader drive for a sustainable, energy-efficient transition, the Industrial +, project seeks to redefine the Industrial School (Escola Industrial) campus as a green, sustainable, innovative space open to the general public. The project will adapt the campus to new energy requirements, create an innovation hub, rehabilitate heritage assets and improve links with the surrounding neighbourhood, while retaining existing public uses and facilities.

Figure 26

Percentage of municipalities in the Barcelona province with renewable energy installations

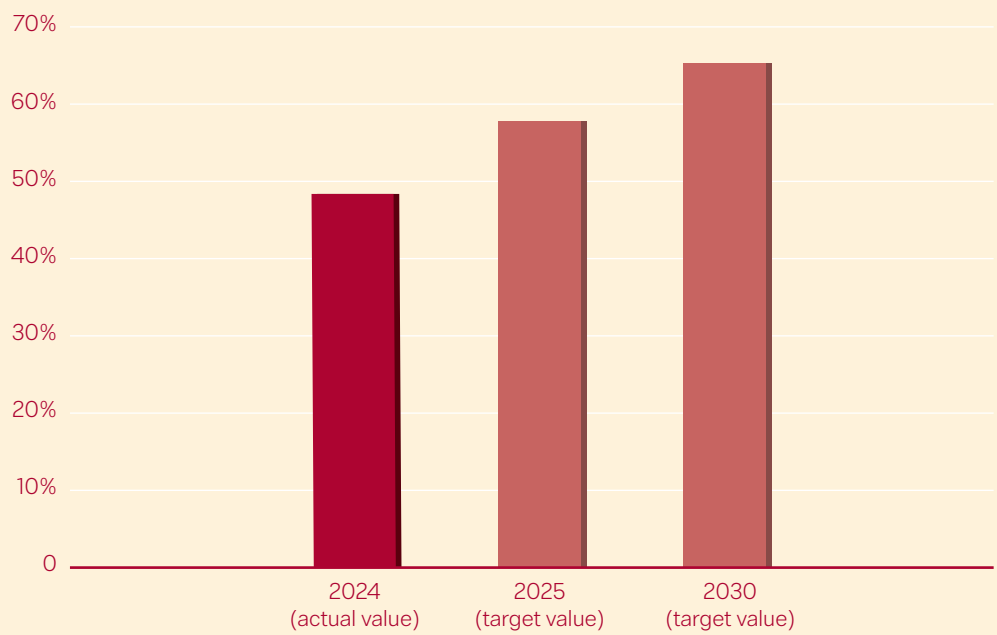
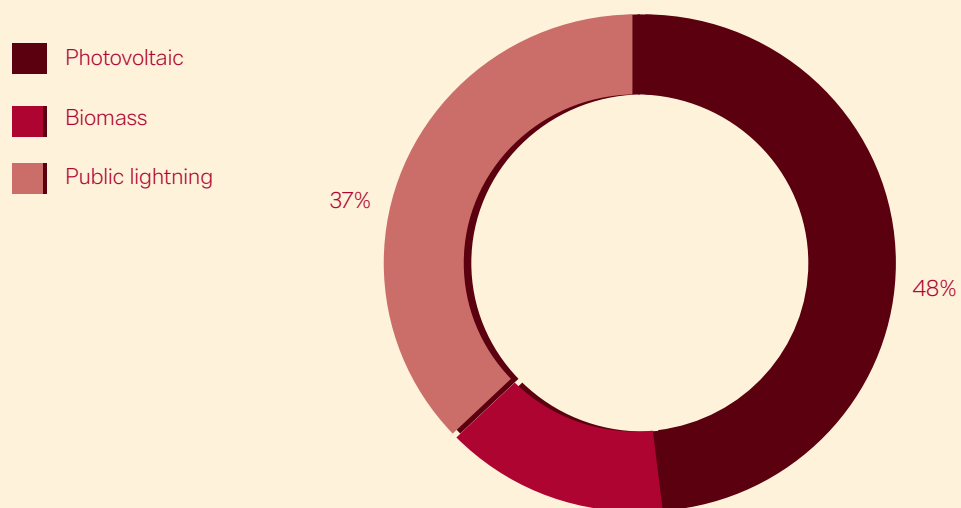


Figure 27

Breakdown of funding awarded under the Renovables 2030 project (2022-2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on the Climate Action and Energy Transition Department



23 Source: Catalan Institute of Energy, CORES, Directorate-General of Traffic, Idescat and municipal councils, extracted from Visor 2030.

24 According to the European Green Deal, cited in the Appendix to the Report.

25 Source: Catalan Institute of Energy.

26 Source: Catalan Institute of Energy.

27 Source: Catalan Institute of Energy, CORES and Idescat, extracted from Visor 2030.

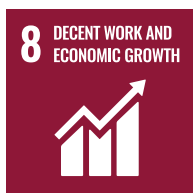
28 According to Act 16/2017, on Climate Change, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

SDG 8

Decent work and

economic growth

An abstract graphic on a dark red background. It features a large, light red downward-pointing arrow. A jagged, light red line starts from the top left, goes up, then down, then up again, ending near the top right. The text 'economic growth' is written in white at the top left.



Localised targets for SDG 8

8.2 Widely increase economic productivity across the territory through specialisation, diversification, innovation, strategic planning and territorial coordination.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, business consolidation, creativity and innovation.

8.4 Improve the efficient production and consumption of resources and decouple economic growth from environmental

8.6 Substantially reduce the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training.

8.8 Protect labour rights and promote a safe working environment across the province, especially for migrant women and those in unstable employment.


8.9 Strengthen policies promoting quality, sustainable, local-market tourism that generates employment and promotes local culture and products.

economic growth from environmental degradation. culture and products.

8.5 Achieve a high employment rate and quality jobs for the most vulnerable groups throughout the province.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 8

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Employment rate ²⁹	66.9%	↑	Achieve an employment rate of 78% in the EU among people aged 20–64 ³⁰
Commercial establishments per 1,000 inhabitants ³¹	12.46 (2019)		

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Tourist pressure per 10,000 inhabitants ³²	500 beds / 10,000 inhabitants		

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 8

SDG 8 highlights the need to promote economic growth that is sustained, fair and environmentally friendly, with the aim of guaranteeing productivity and creating decent, stable and well-paid jobs. It also calls for job opportunities for everyone, the eradication of human trafficking and child labour, and the defence of labour rights, while ensuring safe, healthy working environments.

system through the **Network of Local Employment Services (*Xarxa de Serveis Locals d'Ocupació, XALOC*)** which **covers more than 90% of the municipal councils in the province**. This network's main function is to advise jobseekers and employers with vacancies and to intermediate between them. In addition, there is the **Network of Labour Technical Offices (*Xarxa d'Oficines Tècniques de Treball, OTT*)**, which provides technical

Within this framework, the Barcelona Provincial Council is driving a range of initiatives that advance this goal across the province.

One of the instruments that aligns with Target 8.3. is the series of actions grouped under the programme called **Support for the Local Labour Market**. Its mission is to boost the efficiency of and foster innovation in the local public employment system throughout Barcelona province, with a focus on sustainability and adaptation to each area's specific characteristics. It does this by providing technical and financial assistance to local authorities to reduce unemployment and encourage stable hiring.

As for **Local employment services**, the Barcelona Provincial Council is committed to enhancing the quality, impact and efficiency of the local public employment

Laborals, OIL), whose objective is to reduce the barriers hindering insertion into and retention in the labour market of people diagnosed with mental health disorders in the province of Barcelona.

There are also the **Local Centres of Services to People (Centres Locals de Serveis a les Persones, CLSE)**, which are municipal departments supporting start-ups and business owners in creating, launching and developing economic activities, with the aim of strengthening the local business fabric. **Currently, there are 87 CLSE covering 98% of the province's population.** During 2023, these services assisted 64,259 entrepreneurs (46% women and 54% men) and nearly 40,000 companies. Thanks to their work, 2,364 new companies were established, generating over 3,000 new jobs.

Currently, **the two main networks (XALOC and OTL) are offering coverage across 100% of the territory** (excluding the city of Barcelona).

Meanwhile, and in order to contribute to Target 8.6, **youth policies** are also being promoted. In 2024, 80% of the territory received economic support to develop actions in this area, demonstrating a territorial commitment to youth labour inclusion.

Similarly, the Barcelona Provincial Council is promoting the **Work, Talent and Technology Programme**, which seeks to finance projects that promote the labour insertion of people in occupations undergoing technological transformation, in line with business needs and following a strategy based on identifying challenges and opportunities through analysis and mapping

objectives that 75% of participants will raise their level of digitalisation by the end of their participation, and that 50% of persons from vulnerable groups—such as women, youth and long-term unemployed—will find work in the industrial, scientific and technological sectors.

Work is also under way to make the production and consumption of resources more efficient and to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in line with Target 8.4. During 2024, **19% of municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants received specific economic support to improve their locally-sourced commerce**. At the same time, the **Digitalisation of Locally-Sourced Commerce Programme** was introduced, within the framework of which attendance controls were implemented in 21.98% of

of companies within a given value chain.

In its first edition, this Programme **financed 60 projects involving 4,852 participating companies and 6,582 people, 61.5% of whom were women**. Of the **beneficiaries, 70% were unemployed**, 15% employed but seeking to improve their situation, and 15% inactive. **Almost 60% of the beneficiary companies were small enterprises with fewer than 10 employees** (39% microenterprises; 19% self-employed). Seventy-five per cent of firms operated in three value chains: food and agro-industry (39%), personal services (23%) and logistics (16%). In addition, 2,203 companies and 3,696 people improved their level of digitalisation, yielding a 24.3% insertion rate.

This Programme is being continued with a new edition that **sets for 2030 the**

municipalities, using a system to monitor and count the number of people entering and exiting each access point of municipal markets, with the aim of reaching 40% coverage by 2030. Moreover, **in 17.58% of the province's municipalities, energy-consumption control systems were installed in markets in 2024** to detect deficiencies in insulation, heating or cooling systems that cause increased consumption. Coverage of 35% of municipalities is expected by 2030.

With the aim of supporting Target 8.9 and promoting sustainable, local, quality tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products, public policies are being developed that foster economic development. These policies place equality of opportunity, business competitiveness and regional sustainability at their centre, in cooperation

with municipal councils and socioeconomic agents. Two initiatives stand out:

- **Commitment to Tourism Sustainability in the Counties of Barcelona Programme**, promoted by the Barcelona Provincial Council's Tourism Services Division with the support of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, and which fosters sustainable management across the sector.
- **TurismeS Programme**, which places people at the heart of tourism policy, ensuring that tourism contributes to the wellbeing of local communities, reduces inequalities and fosters respect for diversity.

Complementarily, and still in support of Target 8.9, the Council assists the province's municipalities through the Support for Artistic

Dissemination in Municipalities Programme. In 2024, **176 cultural festivals received support from the Barcelona Provincial Council.**

Finally, in line with Target 8.9, the **Blue Ways (*Vies Blaves*)** project was set up in 2015, which entails creating infrastructure along the banks of the Llobregat, Cardener and Anoia rivers as they pass through the province, so that these waterways can be used continuously, unmonitored and in a manner respectful of biodiversity. **These Blue Ways will cover 59 municipalities across seven counties (Alt Penedès, Anoia, Bages, Baix Llobregat, Berguedà, Solsonès and Vallès Occidental) and traverse three natural parks, 13 protected natural areas and eight tourist sites, being accessible to more than 5 million people.**

Figure 28
Budget allocated to Support for the Local Labour Market (2021-2024)
Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports

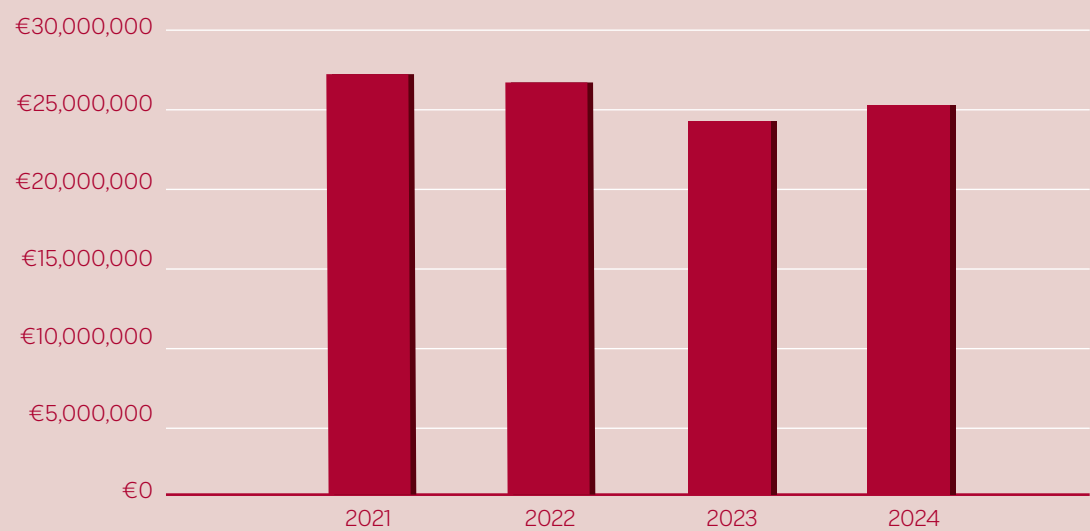
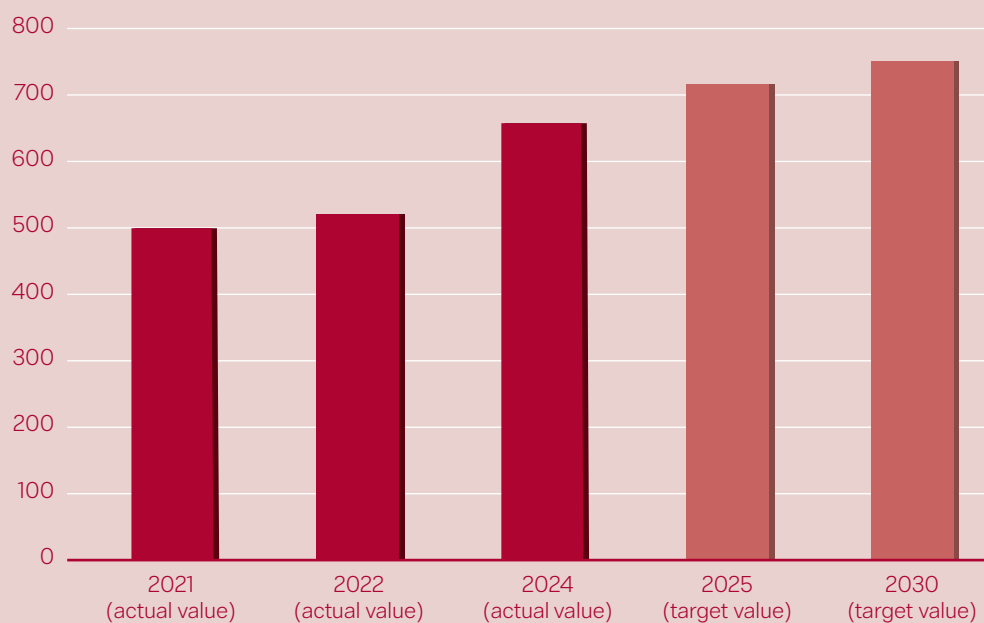


Figure 29

Budget allocated to Support for the Local Labour Market (2021-2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports



29 Source: Idescat and Hermes (Barcelona Provincial Council), extracted from Visor 2030.

30 According to the Action Plan for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

31 Source: Department of Business and Labour of the Government of Catalonia, extracted from Visor 2030.

32 Source: Idescat, extracted from Visor 2030.

The graphic features a large, solid orange rectangle at the bottom of the page. Overlaid on the bottom-left corner of this rectangle is a faint, light-orange geometric pattern consisting of a hexagon with internal lines forming a cube-like structure. The text 'SDG 9' is written in a large, white, serif font, centered horizontally within the orange area.

SDG 9

Industry, Innovation,

Technology and Infrastructure





Localised targets for SDG 9

9.1 Develop sustainable, resilient, quality infrastructure with strong transformative capacity to support the territory's economic development, ensuring affordable and equitable access.

9.2 Strengthen policies supporting the productive fabric to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, increasing industry's contribution to local employment and to GDP throughout the province.

9.3 Increase small, medium and enterprise

affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

9.4 Modernise infrastructure and convert industries to sustainability by promoting technology adoption, process improvement and environmental rationality.

9.5 Increase scientific research and improve technological capacity in industrial sectors.

9.6 Enhance international infrastructure

9.3 Increase small-industry and enterprise access to financial services, including

9.c Ensure universal and affordable access to the Internet and to ICT across the province.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 9

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Internet coverage via fixed networks >=100 Mbps ³³	98.75%	↑	By 2030, all households should have access to gigabit broadband internet over fixed networks ³⁴
Employment in the industrial sector ³⁴	18.73% (2023)	↓	

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022- 2023	Reference value
Knowledge-based companies per 10,000 inhabitants ³⁵	14.39 companies per 10,000 inhabitants (2023)	↓	

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 9

SDG 9 focuses on the development of robust, resilient infrastructures that support sustainable development and human well-being. It also promotes inclusive and environmentally sound industrialisation, viewing this as a key tool to eradicate poverty and improve living conditions worldwide.

impact projects that enhance resident companies' competitiveness, thereby promoting growth, attracting new business and generating quality jobs.

Meanwhile, to ensure universal and affordable access to the internet and information and communication

Consistent with Target 9.2, the transformative project for the **Modernisation of industrial estates** was launched to improve the quality of economic activity zones (*polígons d'activitat econòmica*, PAEs) through high-impact investments. These measures sought to increase companies' competitiveness, foster business growth, attract new opportunities and generate quality employment. **In 2022, more than 116,000 workers in PAEs benefited from this programme's interventions.**

In this context, the **Sectoral Programme for the Improvement of Industrial Estates 2025–2028** was recently approved, with an investment of **€38 million**, aimed at raising the quality of industrial estates through funding high-

technologies (ICT) across the territory, as set out in Target 9.c, a significant annual investment is made to advance **information technologies at the municipal level**. **This investment exceeded €40 million in 2024.**

In the framework of this programme, Barcelona Provincial Council provides technical cooperation to municipalities in the field of ICT and digital administration in general. It also offers internal municipal management services via the provincial telematics network, supplies the basic infrastructure for municipal information systems, and delivers standard ICT services with guarantees of quality and efficiency.

As a result of this effort, **almost 70% of municipalities received data-**

protection support in 2024, with the aim of achieving near-total coverage by 2030. In parallel, around 25% of municipalities are connected to Barcelona Provincial Council's sensor platform, and over 80% have their websites hosted on the provincial digital infrastructure.

Finally, to drive the digital transformation of municipalities in the province, since 2022 the programme **DIGITAL DIBA: Modernisation of digital infrastructure** has been implemented. **A total of 264 town and city councils have participated in this project**, funded by NextGenerationEU, **benefiting over one**

million inhabitants of the Barcelona province.

This initiative has invested more than €7 million to support digital transformation, equipping municipalities with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants with the necessary infrastructure and devices (new IT equipment, digital signage, interactive screens and other hardware) to improve internal management, citizen communication and public-service delivery.

Figure 30

Budget allocated to municipal IT projects

Source: Own elaboration, based on Barcelona Provincial Council budget reports

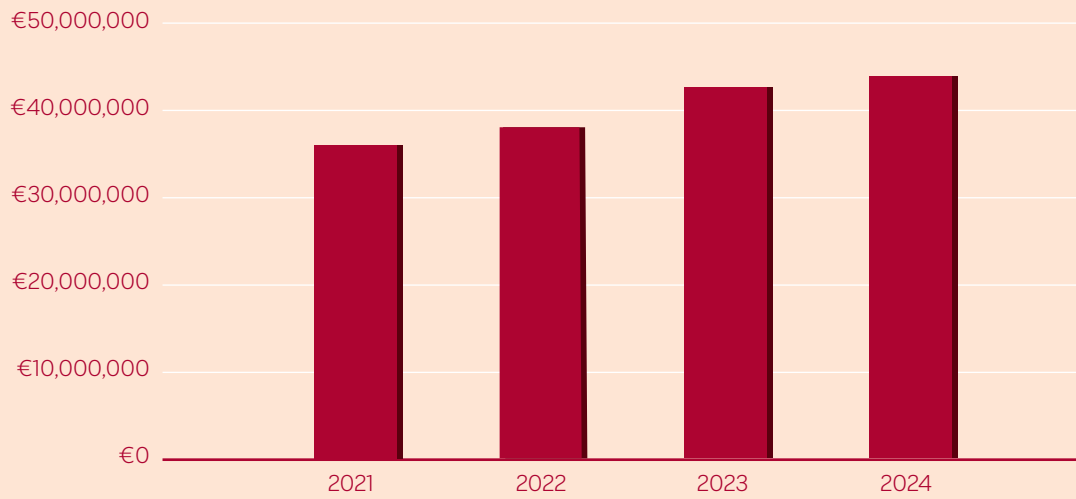
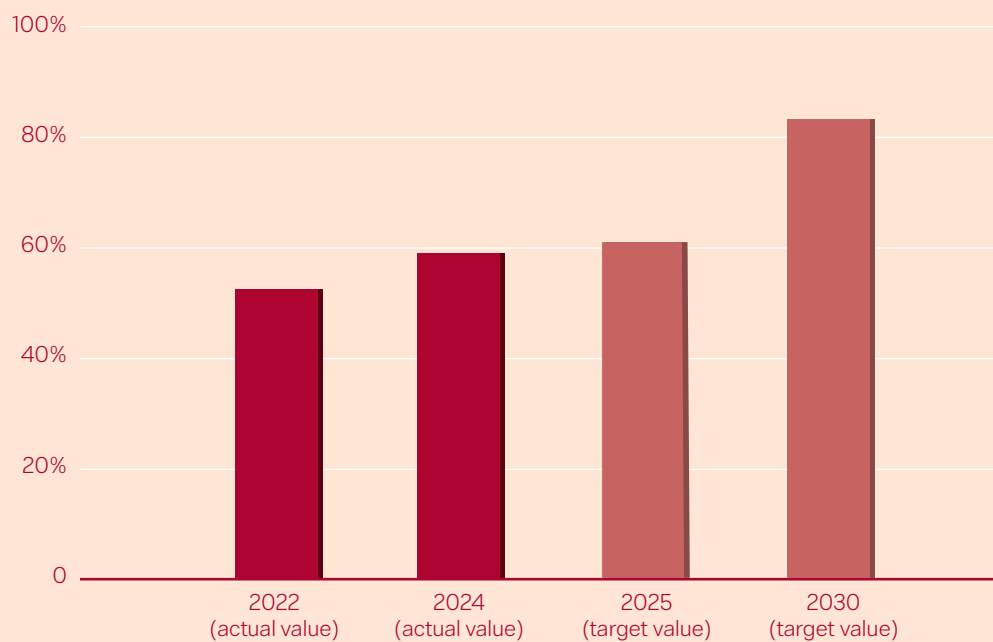


Figure 31

Percentage of municipalities with data-protection support

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard



- 33 Source: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, extracted from Visor 2030.
- 34 According to the Europe's Digital Targets for 2030, cited in the Appendix to the Report.
- 35 Source: Department of Business and Labour of the Government of Catalonia, extracted from Visor 2030.
- 36 Source: Social Security, extracted from Visor 2030.

The graphic features a solid magenta background. In the lower-left corner, there is a faint, semi-transparent geometric pattern consisting of overlapping triangles and lines, creating a hexagonal-like structure. Overlaid on this pattern is the text 'SDG 10' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the main title, the words 'Reduced inequality' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

SDG 10

Reduced inequality





Localised targets for SDG 10

10.1 Progressively achieve income growth for the poorest 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

10.2 Promote social, economic and political inclusion, paying special attention to vulnerable, disabled, migrant or racialised groups and regardless of religion.

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce outcome inequalities by eliminating

discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting adequate measures.

10.4 Drive policies, and especially fiscal, wage and social protection, to achieve greater equality.

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, including through planned and well-managed migration policies.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 10

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Gini index ³⁷	30.85 (2022)		
Population with income per consumption unit below 40% ³⁸	7.21% (2022)		Reduce, by at least 15 million, the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030 in the European Union ³⁹
Income inequality ⁴⁰	2.26 (2022)	↑	

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 10

SDG 10 seeks to boost the income of the poorest 40% of the population and works to combat existing inequalities based on economic status, gender, age, disability, ethnic origin, religion, social class or opportunity. To achieve this, it proposes implementing efficient policies and legislative frameworks and advocates for better regulation and supervision of financial institutions and markets, with the aim of ensuring greater equity and social justice.

Social inclusion is one of the most important challenges for local authorities to guarantee cohesion and, above all, equal opportunities and the safeguarding of social and civil rights. For this reason, the Barcelona Provincial Council, with

with a budget of €28.2 million in 2024. One of the most notable is the **Remote Care (teleassistència) service**, which provides permanent home support (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) to ensure the safety and well-being of people who may be at risk due to age, frailty, loneliness or dependency. Between 2022 and 2024, **the number of users of the local remote care service increased by 32.4%, to over 115,000**, and **€18.3 million** was allocated to this programme.

Older people are also beneficiaries of the Barcelona Provincial Council's **Housing Adaptations (Arranjaments d'habitatge)** programme. **More than 1,000 homes for older people have been adapted during this mandate,**

the aim of contributing to Target 10.2 and Target 10.4, offers **support with the design and development of inclusive community initiatives** that seek to promote people's autonomy; prevent situations of exclusion, isolation and social discrimination; and strengthen participation and links among individuals and stakeholders who live, work and operate in a given region. **In 2024, a total of 19 municipal councils received technical support in the areas of disability and dependency.**

Along the same lines, to promote social inclusion and reinforce at the local level appropriate protection systems and measures for all people, the Barcelona Provincial Council also offers various lines of action within the **Families, Elderly and Dependency Care programme**,

with the aim of increasing this figure six-fold to around 6,000 homes by 2030.

Moreover, this commitment to dignified and active ageing is complemented by innovative actions such as the specific **Fighting Ageism against Older People programme**, included within the new and specifically created Network of Local Governments Cooperation Plan. **With a budget of €1.5 million, this fund will benefit 189 local authorities in the province of Barcelona.**

In line with Target 10.2 to promote the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, the **“NEXES: Care for Unwanted Loneliness among Older People” programme** seeks to forge local care and support networks and strategies for older people experiencing unwanted

loneliness. During 2024, there were 19 municipal councils in the province of Barcelona taking part.

Contributing to Target 10.2, the Barcelona Provincial Council also supports municipalities in areas related to coexistence and community life, as well as the different stages of the lifecycle, particularly promoting the social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. In this regard, various lines of work stand out within the **Diversity, Coexistence and Life Cycle programme**, such as technical support for the development of analytical and strategic planning tools, and the formation of coordination and organisational bodies such as, for example, Coexistence Boards (*Taules per a la convivència*). In **2024, a total of 24 local authorities benefited from**

which is made available to the entire provincial population via the Local Citizens' Mediation Services (*Serveis locals de mediació ciutadana*, SMC) and the Mobile Citizens' Mediation Service (*Servei Itinerant de Mediació Ciutadana*, SIMC). **A total of 13,000 people participated in mediation processes in 2024.**

Furthermore, to promote Target 10.2, the Council provides economic support to local authorities through the **Affective, Sexual and Gender Diversity programme. In 2024, 83.87% of local authorities benefited from this support.**

In line with Target 10.3 and Target 9.1, the **Let's Network (Concertem en Xarxa 2.0)** programme is especially

the Coexistence programmes, and coverage is expected to reach fifty-five by 2030.

Related to the previous programme, the Barcelona Provincial Council also promotes mediation through the **Citizens' Mediation programme**,

noteworthy, which in 2024 alone allocated over €182 million to local authorities under the Catalogue of Services in order to ensure regional balance and enable local governments to meet the needs identified in their territories and promote cross-sectoral or sector-specific policies.

Figure 32

Number of people with active local remote care service

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard data

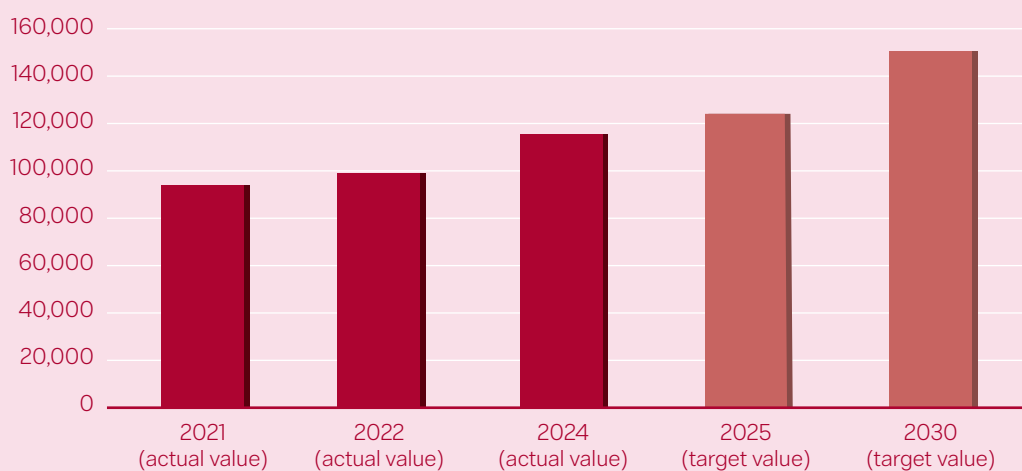
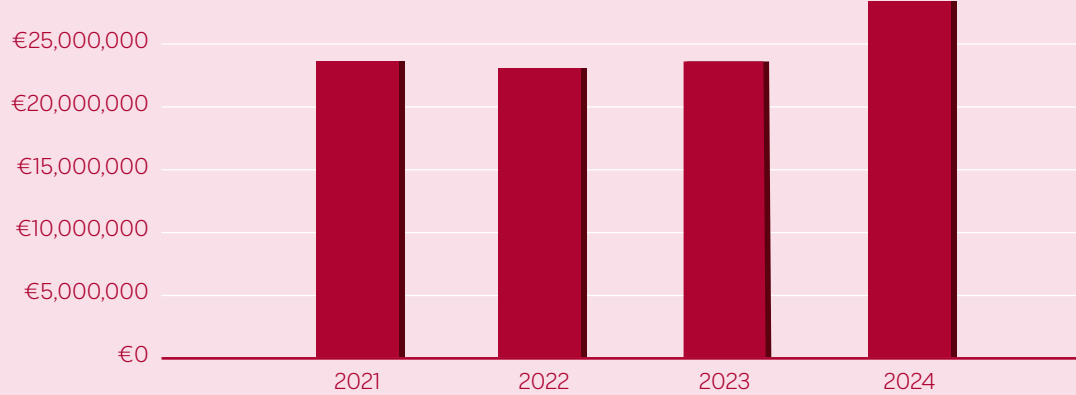


Figure 33

Budget allocated to the Families, Elderly and Dependency Care programme

Source: Own elaboration, based on Barcelona Provincial Council budget reports.

€30,000,000



37 Source: INE, extracted from Visor 2030.

38 Source: INE, extracted from Visor 2030.

39 According to the Action Plan for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

40 Source: INE, extracted from Visor 2030.

A stylized orange building graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide. It features a vertical rectangular structure with several square windows and a triangular roof element at the bottom right.

SDG 11

Sustainable cities

and communities

The background of the top half of the page is a solid orange color. Overlaid on this are three stylized, light-orange building shapes. The leftmost building is a tall rectangle with four square windows arranged in a 2x2 grid. The middle building is a taller rectangle with six square windows arranged in a 3x2 grid. The rightmost building is a shorter, wider rectangle with four square windows arranged in a 2x2 grid. The text 'and communities' is written in a white, sans-serif font across the top of these buildings.



Localised targets for SDG 11

11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, with special attention to vulnerable neighbourhoods and areas.

11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems and improve road safety.

11.3 Achieve an inclusive, sustainable urban model through strategic, territory-coordinated planning and citizen participation.

deaths and economic losses caused by disasters.

11.6 Reduce the negative environmental impact across the territory, with special attention to air quality and municipal waste management.

11.7 Provide universal access to more safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, with special emphasis on women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

participation.

persons with disabilities.

11.4 Redouble efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage.

11.5 Significantly reduce the number of

11.a Strengthen urban and territorial strategic planning, supporting economic, social and environmental links among urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 11

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Percentage of artificial land cover ⁴¹	15.79%	↑	
Green area (in m2) ⁴²	44.69 m2	↓	Minimum 10–15 m2 of green space per capita ⁴³

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022- 2023	Reference value
Rental burden ⁴⁴	43.7%	↑	Mortgage or rent burden should generally not exceed 30 percent of household disposable income ⁴⁵

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 10

SDG 11 aims to transform and plan urban environments and settlements so that they guarantee opportunities for everyone, ensuring access to essential services, energy, adequate housing, transport and public green spaces. At the same time, it seeks to optimise resource use and

of Services, and aligned with the Urban Agenda criteria. The goal is to reach 50 local authorities by 2030.

Meanwhile, **46 authorities were members of the Barcelona Network of Local Urban Agendas (Xarxa**

minimise environmental impact.

In this context, the Provincial Council deploys multiple actions aligned with SDG 11 through different strategies and across several departments.

One major initiative in this area, and one with significant impact on Target 11.a, is the mission to drive **Local Urban Agendas**, accompanying local authorities in the definition of their **Local Action Plan (LAP)** in line with Urban Agenda criteria. This process adapts global guidelines to local realities, aligns local public investments, and allocates resources from the Provincial Council to achieve these goals. **In 2024, 29 local authorities had an LAP either in preparation or already completed**, funded via the Catalogue

d'Agendes Urbanes Locals de Barcelona, XAUL), the goal being to reach **75 by 2030**.

At the same time, to strengthen the impact on Target 11.a, the Barcelona Provincial Council works to reinforce strategic urban and territorial planning, supporting economic, social and environmental linkages between urban, peri-urban and rural areas. **In 2024, €722,551 was allocated to provide financial support to urban and territorial strategic plans.**

With regard to the objective set out in Target 11.6, mention must be made of the **Urban Environment and Health programme**, which promotes local projects that improve people's health

and quality of life in the municipalities, integrating health transversally across all public policies.

In line with this approach to reducing environmental impacts, **environmental assessment and management actions** are also deployed, **as a result of which, in 2024, nearly 3,000 water samples were analysed, with the aim of reaching 4,000 by 2030.**

Another fundamental aspect of SDG 11 is ensuring that all people have access to decent and affordable housing, especially in neighbourhoods and areas of greatest vulnerability, as set out in Target 11.1. In this regard, the **Urban and Territorial Management programme** is deployed, which offers support to local authorities on housing, urban regeneration, urban

three areas: mortgage intermediation, consumer mediation (for unfair clauses) and rental mediation, with the aim of preventing the loss of family homes.

Also, in accordance with Target 11.1, the Council increased its allocation to the **Improvement of Public Facilities and Urban Spaces programme** from **€6.7 million in 2023 to almost €16 million in 2024**. This project seeks to enhance quality of life in municipalities through investments, services and support plans for public spaces and urban infrastructure. As part of this project, **6.4% of municipal councils** benefited from technical support for municipal road improvements, with the aim of reaching 45% coverage by 2030. Likewise, **7.42% of the province's municipalities** benefited from support for public space and urban green

planning activities and civil protection, adapting to the reality on the ground.

With an allocation of over €15 million in 2024, almost double the budget assigned in 2021, the programme aims to improve housing and urban planning conditions in the region. **In 2024, 32.5% of municipalities received economic support for housing, with the aim of reaching 39.5% by 2030; and 12.5% for urban planning.**

In this housing line, mention must also be made of the **Housing Debt Intermediation Service (*Servei d'Intermediació en Deutes de l'Habitatge*, SIDH)**, which offers free guidance to people with difficulties in meeting debts related to their main residence. **SIDH has 41 local service points** and offers specialised support in

improvements, and it is expected that by 2030 up to 37% of municipalities will have benefited from this aid.

In relation to another key target of SDG 11, Target 11.4, in 2024 the Council approved the **Cultural Rights Plan of the Barcelona Provincial Council**, known as **Cultura 311+**. This Plan promotes the recognition and deployment of cultural rights in municipalities, strengthening local cultural policies and fostering new ones from an innovative and territorially connected approach. The objective is to ensure that the whole population of the province of Barcelona has access to, participates in and actively contributes to the cultural life of their municipalities.

In line with this approach, the **Cultural Heritage Office (*Oficina de Patrimoni*)**

Cultural) promotes a specialised service to support and promote local cultural heritage. This Office is organised through the articulation of a series of sectoral and/or regional networks (Municipal Archives Network, Local Museums Network, Cultural Heritage Studies Programme) that provide municipalities with a set of services and support mechanisms for the organisation, management, conservation, treatment, dissemination and communication of the heritage assets present in the region and the specialised cultural facilities that operate at the municipal level. **The Mobile Museums and Cultural Heritage programme, endowed with over €16 million in 2024, has led to the creation of cultural heritage maps in 228 municipalities (73.5% of the total).** In addition, more than 600 actions have been carried out to support the members of the

In parallel to this, the Barcelona Provincial Council promotes the **Architectural Heritage** action programme, **with an allocation of over €24 million in 2024, which reached 15.43% of the province's municipalities**, with a projection of reaching 20% by 2030.

Finally, to contribute to the achievement of Target 11.3 and Target 11.a by strengthening strategic urban and territorial planning, the **Economic Development Strategies programme** has been promoted for several years, which allocated over €700,000 in 2024 to drafting strategic plans for local authorities. Related to this target, support was also given to **6.15% of local authorities** in citizen participation processes related to participatory territorial planning.

Figure 34

Number of municipalities with a Local Action Plan (LAP) in preparation or completed via the Barcelona Provincial Council's Catalogue of Services, aligned with Urban Agenda criteria
Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard

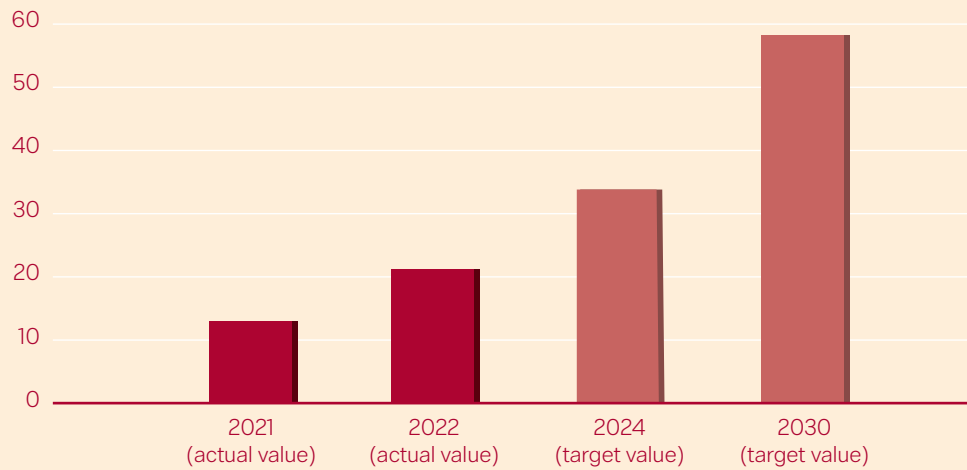
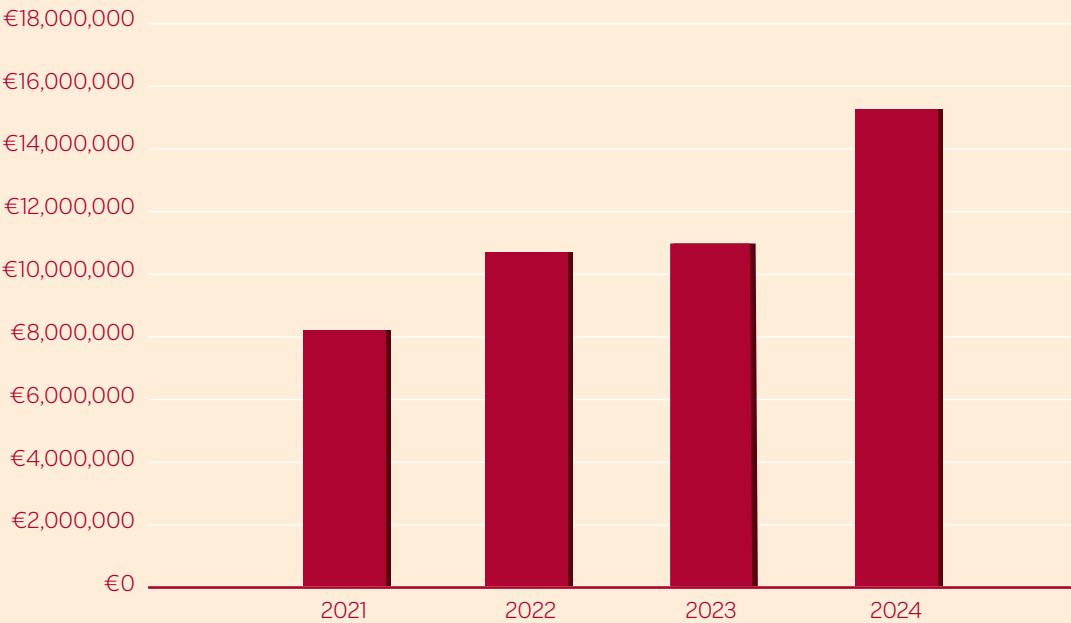


Figure 35

Budget allocated to the Urban and Territorial Management programme

Source: Own elaboration, based on Barcelona Provincial Council budget reports



41 Source: Department of the Vice-presidency and of Digital Policies and Territory of the Government of Catalonia, extracted from Visor 2030.

42 Source: Urban Planning Map of Catalonia, extracted from Visor 2030.

43 According to the WHO.

44 Source: Local Housing Observatory of the Barcelona Provincial Council, extracted from Visor 2030.

45 According to Act 12/2023, on the right to housing, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

SDG 12

Responsible

consumption and production





Localised targets for SDG 12

12.1 Promote sustainable consumption and production, including local-market commerce.

12.2 Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

12.3 Substantially reduce food waste and losses in production and distribution chains.

12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

12.6 Encourage the adoption of sustainable practices by businesses.

12.7 Promote sustainable public procurement practices (including social, environmental and economic clauses).

12.8 Ensure that everyone has the information and awareness needed for sustainable development and lifestyles

recycling and reuse policies.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 12

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Selective collection rate ⁴⁶	58.93%	↑	EU target of 55% recycling by 2025 and 60% by 2030 ⁴⁷
Domestic waste per capita ⁴⁸	1.22kg/day	↓	
Photovoltaic self-consumption installations ⁴⁹	24,133	↑	

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 12

SDG 12 appeals to shared responsibility and coordinated action across multiple spheres. It invites companies to adopt sustainable practices and report on their environmental impacts; urges policymakers to promote sustainable procurement and eliminate inefficient fossil fuel subsidies; encourages consumers to adopt more environmentally friendly lifestyles; and calls on the scientific and research community to develop new technologies and more sustainable production and consumption models.

In this vein, the Barcelona Provincial Council deploys various programmes and projects aligned with Target 12.1. Among these, one of the standout programmes is the **Sustainability Improvement Programme for Businesses in the Municipalities**

municipalities in the province in 2024, that is, in a total of 277 municipalities.

To foster sustainable consumption, the Barcelona Provincial Council cooperates with and provides technical and financial assistance to local authorities in the province through the **Consumption Policies** programme in all matters related to the management of local public consumer services. In 2024, **the territorial coverage rate of technical assistance reached 97%**, with the objective of reaching 100% by 2030.

In relation to Target 12.2, and aligned with SDG 2, which seeks to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture, the **Barcelona Agrària** programme stands

of Barcelona, with particular attention to municipal markets, non-stationary markets and trade in smaller municipalities. The ultimate objective is for the business fabric to continue fulfilling its social role as a driver of urban coexistence and as a factor capable of strengthening the local productive structure.

Regarding the reach of these actions, **in 2024 nearly one third of the municipalities in the province of Barcelona (91 municipalities) had a municipal market. Of these, 57.14% offered products with organic certification and/or fair-trade products and/or implemented measures to prevent waste.**

Meanwhile, sustainable non-stationary markets were recorded in 89.3% of the

out. This programme drives a healthier, more secure and sustainable agricultural system that contributes to mitigating climate change and capturing more carbon. The programme covers different areas of action such as the Barcelona Provincial Council's **Agricultural Parks**, **municipal food strategies**; **agri-food innovation** and the creation of **land banks**, with the goal of transforming the food model of the province.

In accordance with the objective of Target 12.8, the **“Oh, i tant!”** (Oh, yes indeed) campaign that is promoted by the Barcelona Provincial Council with the support of NextGenerationEU funds, encourages local commerce as a key driver of social cohesion, sustainability and responsible consumption. Complementing this effort to achieve the

target, the **Local Consumer Network (Xarxa Local de Consum)** is a voluntary grouping of local authorities made up of 316 consumer defence services in the province that works to coordinate local policies and programmes for the protection and defence of consumers and users, promoting local consumption in a coordinated manner.

In this spirit of raising awareness to achieve sustainable development, **training on the 2030 Agenda is also offered to officers and elected officials. Specifically,**

in 2024 alone, 492 people received training, and the target is to reach 1,000 by 2030.

Finally, internally the Barcelona Provincial Council promotes the achievement of Target 12.7 by encouraging **sustainable public procurement practices** (including social, environmental and economic clauses), another key target of SDG 12. In 2024, 66% of contracts awarded included social clauses, while environmental clauses were present in 18% of the total contracts awarded.

Figure 36

Budget allocated to the local business fabric programme

Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports

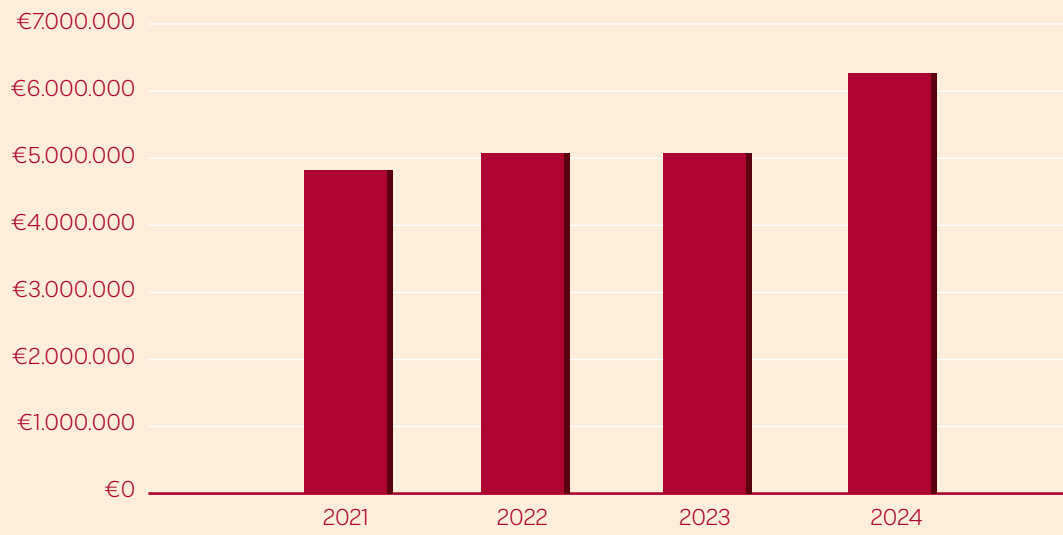
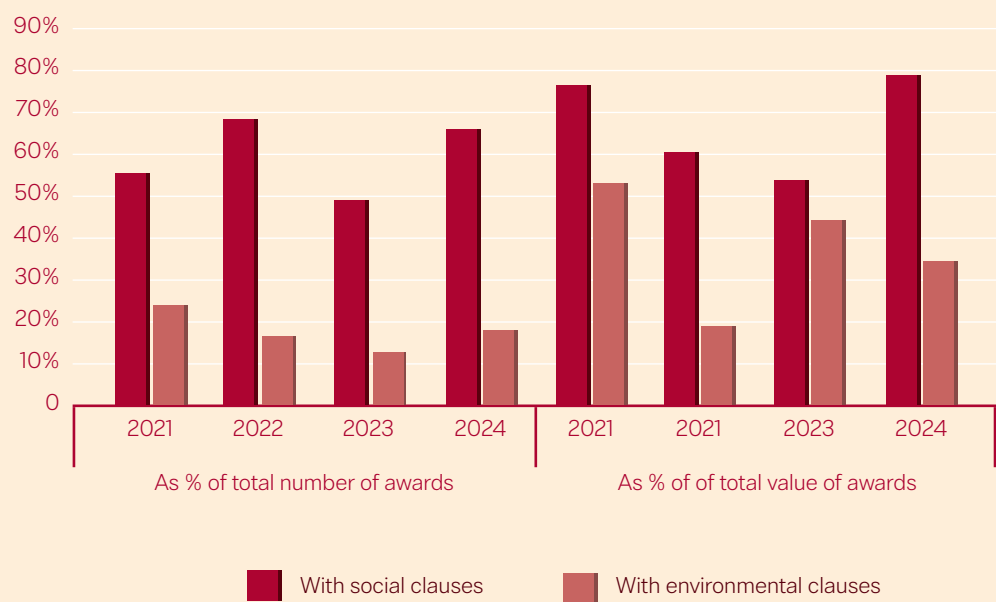


Figure 37

Evolution of awards including social and environmental clauses, as a share of the total number of awards and as a share of the total value of awards (2021-2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on reports concerning the Barcelona Provincial Council's contractual activity 2021-2024



46 Source: Catalan Waste Agency, extracted from *Visor 2030*.

47 According to Directive 2012/19/UE, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

48 Source: Catalan Waste Agency and Idescat, extracted from *Visor 2030*.

49 Source: Catalan Institute of Energy.

SDG 13

Climate action



Localised targets for SDG 13

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

13.2 Incorporate climate change measures into local policies, strategies and plans.

13.3 Improve education, awareness and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 13

	2023 value	Trend in	
--	------------	----------	--

Indicator	(or most recent data available)	2022-2023	Reference value
Vulnerability to heatwaves ⁵⁰	2.15	↑	
Greenhouse gas emissions per capita ⁵¹	3.44 (2018)		Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels ⁵²
Greenhouse gas emission intensity of consumed energy ⁵³	29.78% (2018)		

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 13

SDG 13 promotes the implementation of the commitments established in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund. The main objective is to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of countries to climate-related risks and natural disasters, integrating climate change mitigation into policies, strategies and action plans.

Within this framework of action and related to Targets 13.1 and 13.2, the Barcelona Provincial Council promotes various initiatives aimed at strengthening territorial resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate-related risks and natural disasters. One of the

promoted, focused on fostering local resilience and management for economic and environmental sustainability, thus stimulating employment, the green economy and the circular economy. **With an allocation of almost €50 million in 2024**, an amount that quadruples that allocated in 2022, **the programme is a key factor for driving the energy transition in the territory.**

In this same line of action, linked to Target 13.2, the Barcelona Provincial Council is leading a new project under the European Commission's LIFE programme: Life eCOadapt50 / **LIFE – Adaptation of Territories to the Climate Change project. With a duration of eight years, a budget of almost €19 million**

flagship actions is the transformative project titled **Green Infrastructure Barcelona 2030**. Specifically, this project provides technical support for the drafting and planning of urban green and blue infrastructure projects for climate change adaptation, for the management and stewardship of green spaces, as well as financial support for space naturalisation projects. **In 2024, a total of 345.68 hectares were restored through reforestation, replanting and recovery of degraded ecosystems, and around 1,751 hectares of forestry works were carried out in strategic fire-prevention areas.**

Complementarily, and with the aim of reinforcing the achievement of Target 13.2, the **Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainability programme** is

and the participation of 24 Catalan entities and two associations, its main objective is to strengthen the resilience of economic sectors that are particularly exposed to the effects of climate change. **In 2024, 692 social and economic agents participated in this project, with a target of reaching 750.**

As part of the **Sectoral Programme for Ecological Transition**, as described under SDG 7, the **AdaptaClima 2030** programme is being promoted, a grant line for the province's municipalities that wish to develop an action to adapt to climate change, such as the creation of shaded areas, installation of awnings, climate shelters, nature-based solutions or resource-saving and efficiency measures. **The programme, endowed with €16 million, can allocate to**

each municipality an amount ranging between €20,000 and €75,000, depending on the size of the population.

Also linked to Target 13.2 is the **Facility Transformation Project 2030** (*Projet Transformador d'Equipaments*) that promotes an integrated (social, economic and environmental) conception of public facilities, encompassing the physical space, the uses and services they offer, the user community, their surroundings and the administrative network that manages them.

Training and awareness-raising on climate change mitigation and adaptation are also cornerstones of the Council's efforts, in line with Target 13.3. In this regard, **during 2024, a total of**

of the parties responsible for urban green management in the participating municipalities.

Finally, and in line with Target 13.3, as well as with SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals, the **Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability** warrants mention. This is an association of municipalities that work together to promote sustainable development and environmental protection. This network acts as a space for collaboration and exchange of experiences, concerns, needs and shared projects, offering an ideal environment to drive common.

68 environmental training actions were carried out aimed at municipal officers, within the framework of the Environmental Awareness and Dissemination programme. These actions are key to empowering officers and citizens in the face of climate challenges.

In parallel, and related to this target, environmental education and awareness-raising for citizens were improved, with almost 82,000 people participating in **education and training programmes on fire prevention and landscape management**. At the level of local authorities, the **Inter-municipal Urban Green Sustainable Management Comparison Circle** has been consolidated as a management and benchmarking tool with the participation

Figure 38

Budget allocated to the Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainability programme
Source: Own elaboration, based on Barcelona Provincial Council budget reports

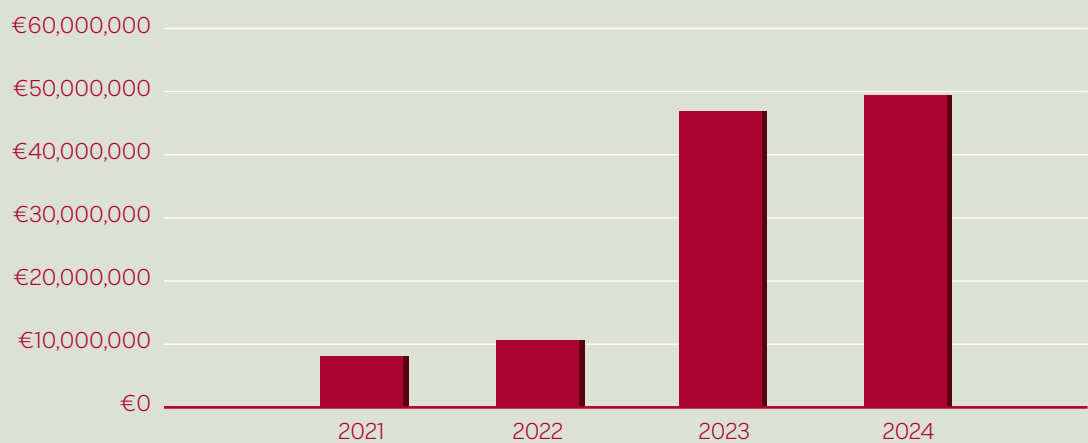


Figure 39

Percentage of emissions reduced compared to 2005
Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard data





50 Source: Barcelona Provincial Council (from various sources), extracted from Visor 2030.

51 Source: Barcelona Provincial Council (from various sources), extracted from Visor 2030.

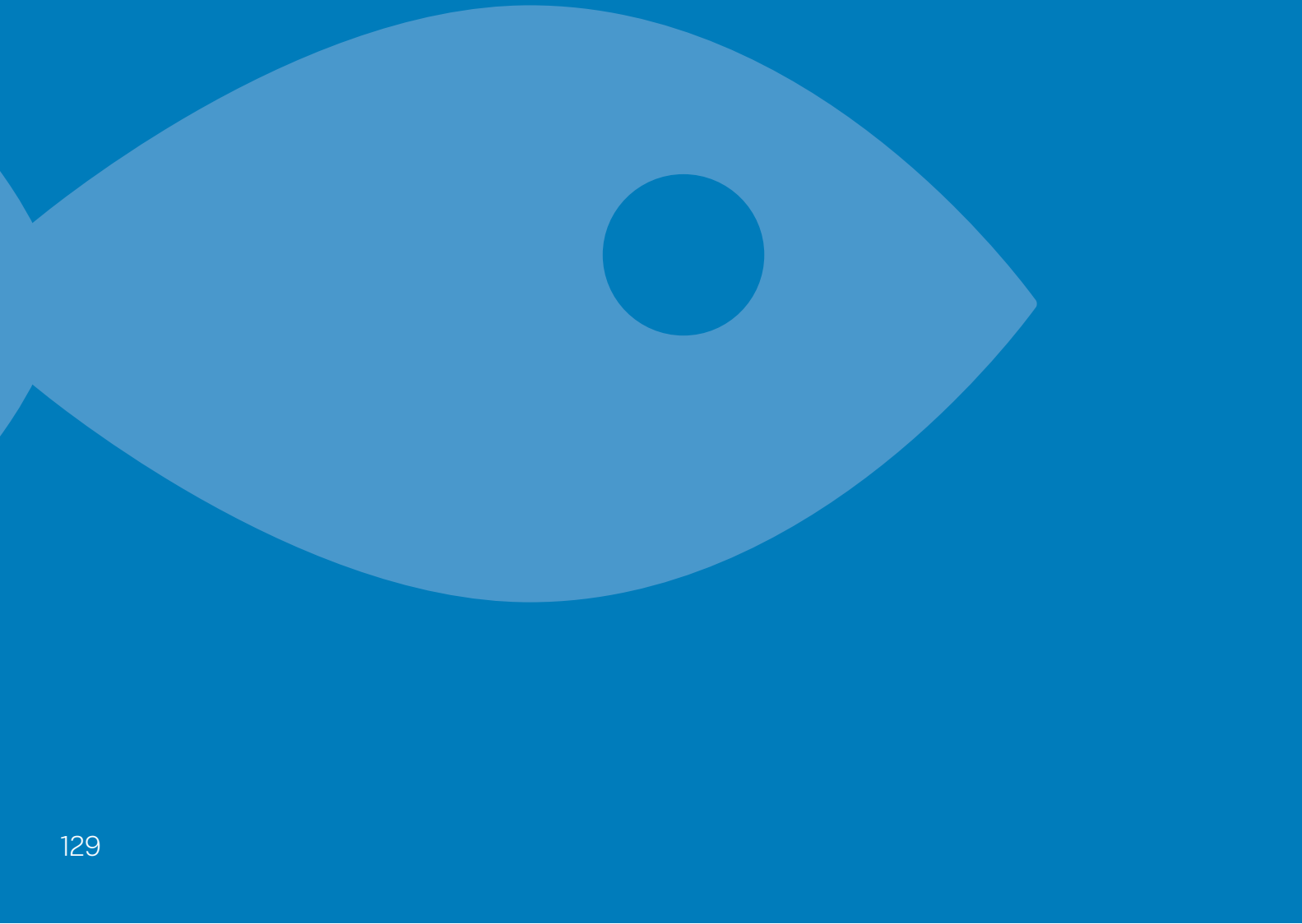
52 According to the European Green Deal, cited in the Appendix to the Report.

53 Source: Barcelona Provincial Council (from various sources), extracted from Visor 2030.

The graphic features a solid blue background. In the lower half, there are three stylized, overlapping wavy lines in a lighter shade of blue, representing water. The text 'SDG 14' is centered over these waves.

SDG 14

Life below water





Localised targets for SDG 14

14.1 Prevent and significantly reduce all kinds of marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities.

14.2 Protect and promote sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

14.a Increase scientific knowledge to improve ocean health and enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity.

14.b Support access by small-scale traditional fishers to marine resources and markets.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 14

	2023 value	Trend in	
--	------------	----------	--

Indicator	(or most recent data available)	2022-2023	Reference value
Coastline free from urbanisation 54	9.8%	↑	Protect at least 30% of EU land and marine areas, including coastal zones, for biodiversity conservation 55
Excellent bathing water quality 56	0.87%	—	Improve water quality by reducing waste, plastics to the sea (by 50%) and microplastics released into the environment (by 30%) 57

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 14

Sustainable Development Goal 14 seeks to ensure the protection of the oceans through sustainable use. This purpose includes the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, with the objective of protecting at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, as well as preventing and reducing marine pollution and the negative effects of ocean acidification.

With this horizon, and in line with Target 14.2, the Barcelona Provincial Council has introduced the **Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation Programme**. The Council collaborates with coastal municipalities to protect and restore marine and shoreline habitats, promoting sustainable practices that preserve marine biodiversity. Related to this programme, the

municipalities in the province to ensure the highest standards of bathing water quality and minimise risks to users through the “Care for the beaches and care for yourself” (*Cuida les platges i cuida’t tu*) campaign.

The Barcelona Provincial Council also is also clearly committed to environmental education and outreach as a key tool for promoting sustainable development. In line with Target 14.a, it carries out education, training, awareness-raising and outreach activities aimed at both the general public and the education sector. One of the flagship assets of this effort is the **Marine Studies Centre (Centre d’Estudis del Mar) in Sitges**, a pioneering space dedicated to environmental education, focused on disseminating and preserving

Municipal Territorial Information System (*Sistema d'informació Territorial Municipal*, SITMUN) provides maps on maritime spatial planning, vulnerability to sea-level rise, and more.

To reinforce this commitment to Target 14.2, the Council also leads the **Costa Barcelona–Delta Llobregat Sustainable Tourism Plan**. **Funded with €2 million from Next Generation funds**, this Plan includes an environmental focus devoted to preserving the coastal environment through actions such as the restoration and renaturalisation of dune systems on Barcelona's beaches.

In order to protect and promote the sustainable management of coastal ecosystems, the Barcelona Provincial Council supports the 25 coastal

the values of marine ecosystems. **More than 12,000 people visit it each year**, of whom 85% were school groups in **2024**. Under the **Marine Ecosystems Environmental Education programme**, the Centre organises conferences and workshops and runs educational campaigns for schools and the general public to raise awareness of the importance of marine-ecosystem conservation and to promote responsible action.

In parallel to this, and with the aim of strengthening the contribution to Target 14.2, the Council runs a specific **Environmental Awareness and Outreach Programme** that includes citizen-science initiatives. **In 2024, the citizen-science platform “Minka” received over 4,000 entries** across the two projects in which the Council participates:

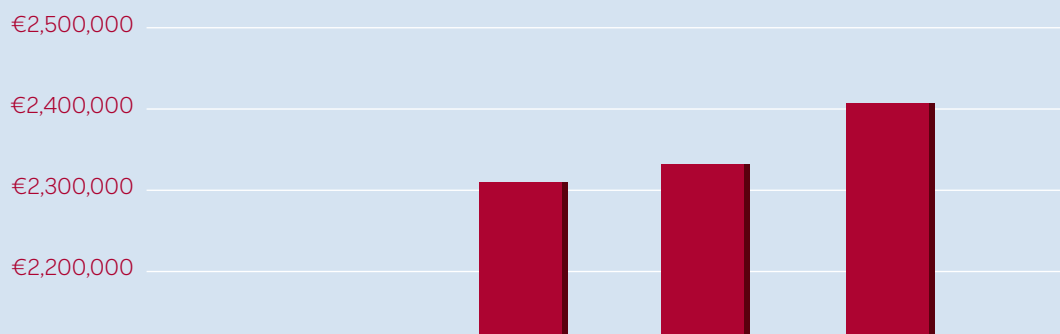
- CEM Beaches: Focused on mapping the beaches of Sitges (La Barra, Terramar and Anquines). The project uses Centre activities (school visits, weekend events, summer camps, etc.) to collect and upload observations via a digital platform.

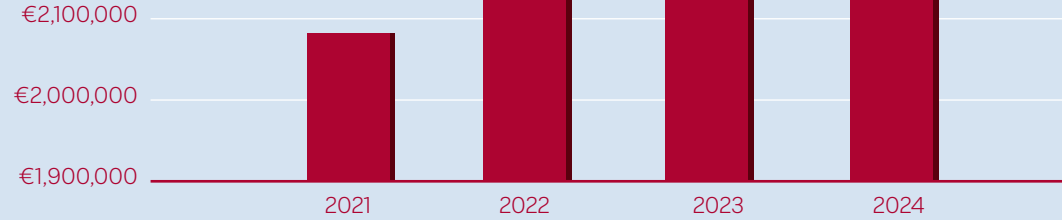
- Aneris Vilanova: A project gathering all marine biodiversity observations along the Garraf coast in the Vilanova i la Geltrú area.

Figure 40

Budget allocated to Environmental Awareness and Outreach

Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports





54 Source: Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications. and SITxell (Barcelona Provincial Council), extracted from Visor 2030.

55 According to the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

56 Source: Catalan Water Agency, extracted from Visor 2030.

57 According to the Zero-Pollution Action Plan, cited in the Appendix to the Report.

The image features a solid green background. In the lower-left corner, there is a large, light-green silhouette of a tree. Two stylized, light-green birds are depicted in flight: one is positioned above the 'SDG' text, and the other is below it, to the right. The text 'SDG 15' is prominently displayed in the center-left area in a white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the phrase 'Life on land' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

SDG 15

Life on land





Localised targets for SDG 15

15.1 Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, particularly forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands.

15.2 Increase the area of sustainably managed forests, end deforestation, restore degraded forests and significantly expand afforestation and reforestation.

15.3 Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and

15.5 Reduce degradation of natural habitats, halt biodiversity loss and protect threatened species.

15.8 Adopt measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species.

15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies

affected by desertification, drought and floods.

15.4 Ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems, in particular their biodiversity.

processes, poverty-reduction strategies and accounting.

15.a Mobilise financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 15

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Municipal area corresponding to open spaces ⁵⁸	23.94%	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Area in hectares of non-urbanisable land ⁵⁹	31.16%	↑	Protect at least 30% of EU land and marine areas, including coastal zones, for biodiversity conservation ⁶⁰

The Barcelona Provincial Council’s contribution to SDG 15

SDG 15 aims to preserve, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, inland freshwater ecosystems and mountainous areas. To achieve this, it promotes the sustainable management of forests, a campaign against deforestation and desertification, and the restoration of degraded land

de ribera, QBR) index rated good or very good, and the **biological quality of rivers** within the same Network reached 55% in 2024, according to the IMBWP (Iberian Biomonitoring Working Party) index on water-body biological quality in good or very good status. The projection is to reach 57% by 2030.

and soil. It also includes the protection of biodiversity and the safeguarding of threatened species.

With a view to contributing to Target 15.1, Barcelona Provincial Council's **Network of Natural Parks (Xarxa de Parcs Naturals, XPN)** stands out. Comprised of 14 protected natural areas, including natural parks, nature reserves and areas of natural interest, it spans a total of 103 municipalities, home to 70% of Catalonia's population. In total, **they cover 102,772.5 hectares under management**, representing 22% of the province's territory.

In this regard, **the quality level of riparian forests reached 80% in 2024** in terms of the percentage of sites in the Riparian Forest Quality (*Qualitat boscos*

This commitment to SDG 15 objectives is reflected in a substantial increase in public investment: **in 2024 nearly €33 million was allocated to the planning and management of protected natural areas, an increase of 61% compared to the €20.5 million budget for 2021.**

At the same time, **the promotion of municipal policies aimed at forest planning and management continues**, in line with Target 15.2. Forest management in the natural parks includes a range of measures and actions, among which the management of the Council's own forest heritage and efforts to promote the conservation, improvement and sustainable use of forest resources stand out. Work is under way to implement forest-fire prevention

plans and, in liaison with municipalities and associations, to roll out information and surveillance plans against forest fires as an annual summer awareness measure. Restoration of affected areas, enhancement of forest habitats and the establishment of firebreaks and prevention belts between urban and forest environments are also carried out.

In 2024 more than €15 million was allocated to forest management and fire prevention.

In line with Target 15.5, conservation actions are also promoted to ensure the protection and improvement of biodiversity through studies, plans, projects and measures.

Since natural parks represent ideal spaces for environmental education,

Strategic Plan for Nature, Health and Well-being of the Network of Natural Parks.

This document aims to promote the health and well-being of people and communities through the integration of nature and evidence-based practices. It seeks to establish a closer connection between humans and nature by providing affordable access to health restoration through interaction with the environment. This fosters a desire to preserve the environment and to promote a respectful and caring relationship with natural spaces.

the Council has long maintained a consolidated educational network that explains the model of territorial use. Public awareness and training are also key to preserving natural ecosystems. With this in mind, the Council carries out various initiatives **to raise awareness and inform the population about the risk of forest fires, to reduce irresponsible behaviour and to improve the rapid detection of and response to fires. In 2024, a total of 13,241 people participated in education and training programmes focused on fire prevention and landscape management. The target is to reach 15,000 participants by 2030.**

Finally, in line with Target 15.9, it is worth noting the new cross-sector strategic planning instrument, the

Figure 41

Budget allocated to planning and management of protected natural areas (2021-2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on budget reports

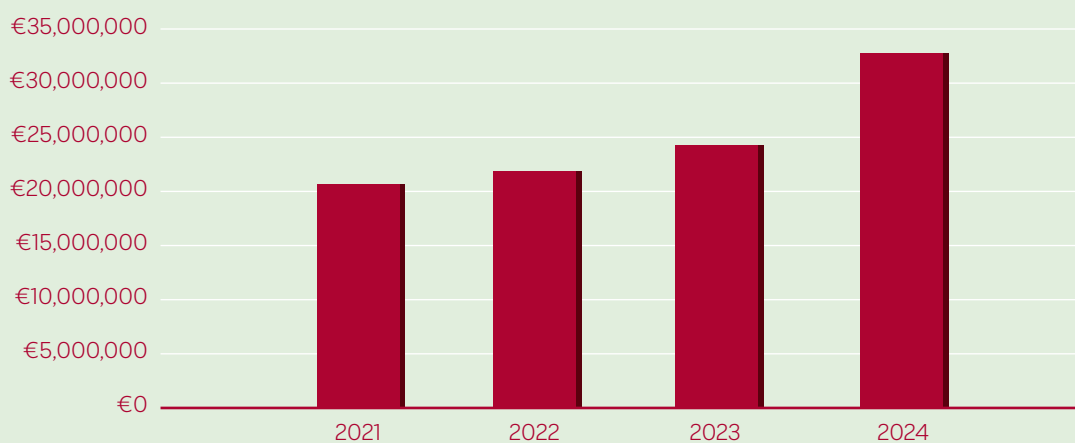
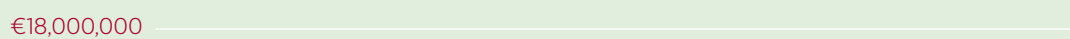
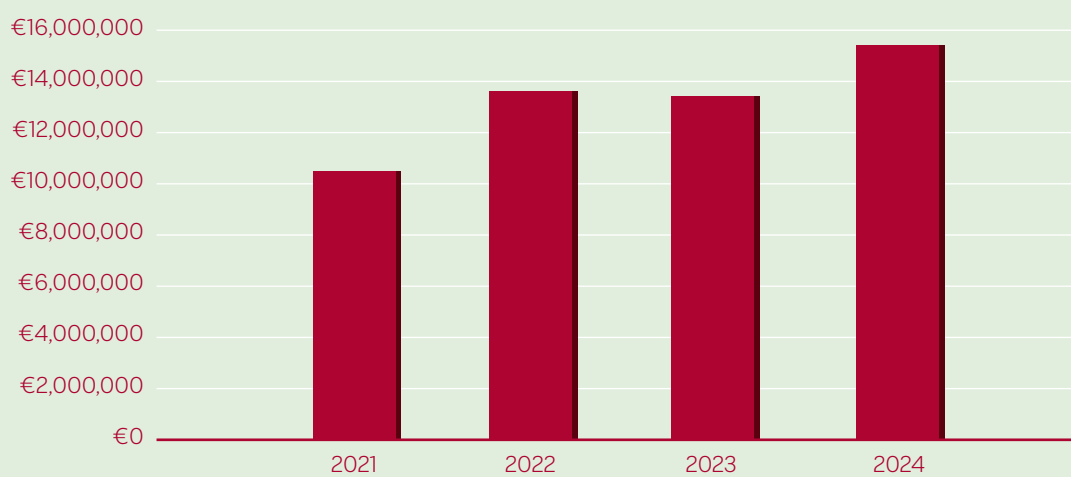


Figure 42

Budget allocated to forest management and fire prevention

Source: Own elaboration





58 Source: SITxell (Barcelona Provincial Council), extracted from Visor 2030.

59 Source: SITxell (Barcelona Provincial Council), extracted from Visor 2030.

60 According to the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030, cited in the Appendix to the Review.



SDG 16

Peace, justice and

strong institutions

An abstract graphic in shades of blue. On the left, a stylized tree-like structure with a thick trunk and a large, rounded canopy. A horizontal bar extends from the trunk towards the right. On the right, a vertical stack of three rounded rectangular shapes, with the middle one being significantly larger than the top and bottom ones. The horizontal bar connects the tree structure to the middle, larger rectangle.



Localised targets for SDG 16

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates, with special attention to children and older persons.

16.3 Promote initiatives to improve equitable access to justice and mediation mechanisms, especially for the most vulnerable.

16.5 Strengthen local measures against corruption, improve transparency and promote accountability in public

16.6 Build effective, accountable, transparent and participatory institutions.

16.7 Ensure inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making that responds to the population's' needs.

16.10 Guarantee public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms.

16.b Promote and apply non-discriminatory laws, regulations, administrative measures of

and promote accountability in public management. local regulation and legislation in favour of sustainable development.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 16

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Digital maturity level ⁶¹	64		At least 80% of people aged 16–74 should have basic digital skills ⁶²
Turnout in municipal elections ⁶³	61.40%	↓	
Update rate of participation channels ^{64 65}	0.53 (2022)		

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022- 2023	Reference value
Update rate of transparency portals ⁶⁶	7.45 (2022)		

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 16

SDG 16 aims to build peaceful and inclusive societies, founded on respect for human rights, the protection of the most vulnerable, the rule of law and good governance at all levels. It also promotes transparent, efficient and accountable institutions that foster the fair application of laws and policies, and work to eradicate corruption and prevent violence.

With this vision, the Provincial Council

- **XGL Plan per capita:** €70.39 per capita, with the aim of increasing to €80.50 per capita by 2030.
- **Specific Programmes:** €8.48 per capita, expected to reach €11.32 per capita by 2030.
- **General Investment Programme and Sectoral Programmes:** €30.85 per

With this vision, the Provincial Council coordinates various initiatives aligned with Target 16.6. Among these, the **Cooperation Plan of the Network of Local Governments (Xarxa de Governs Locals, XGL) 2020 - 2024** stands out as a key tool to reinforce commitment to municipalism and local cooperation in order to guarantee quality essential services throughout the province of Barcelona. As detailed in Chapter 2.2 of this review, the XGL Plan mobilises economic and professional resources to strengthen local governments, support vulnerable people and drive social cohesion, sustainability and innovation through three instruments: the Catalogue of Services, the General Investment Programme and the Specific and Sectoral Programmes, all of which are endowed with multi-million-euro budgets, as shown in Figure 43. Expenditure in 2024 was as follows:

Sectoral Programmes: €50.85 per capita.

- **Catalogue of Services:** €182.3 million allocated to local authorities.

Moreover, **36.9% of the local authorities** in the province received economic support, and **160 technical-support projects** for municipal organisation were developed, with the aim of reaching 200 by 2030.

Another line of action to achieve the objectives of Target 16.6 is the deployment of public policy evaluation. The Planning and Evaluation Service carries out **evaluations of public policies** to analyse why an action has (or has not) worked as expected and to identify, on the basis of rigorous evidence, success factors and areas for improvement.

Related to this target, the **Digital Innovation** project stands out for modernising municipal administration and fostering a more efficient, open and transparent relationship with the general public through the use of electronic media and the promotion of digital transformation. In 2024, 20 local authorities improved their compliance rate on their municipal transparency portal and **111 local authorities benefited from SeTDIBA**, the suite of digital administration services offered by the Barcelona Provincial Council to support the digital transformation of municipalities with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants.

In line with Target 16.5, the Barcelona Provincial Council and its public sector entities run flagship initiatives such as the **Institutional Integrity System and the**

SDG 16 also emphasises, in Target 16.7, the adoption of inclusive, participatory and representative decisions that respond to needs at all levels. To this end, in 2024 the Technical Participation Office for Local Governments was created. This body is tasked with promoting participatory processes entailing consultation, deliberation, decision-making, implementation and evaluation on local matters. In 2024, some 41% of municipalities received support in the field of citizen participation.

Likewise, the **Participa311 participation platform** has been consolidated as **a benchmark resource (40.9% of municipalities benefited from it in 2024)**. In the same year, a total of 1,055 participatory processes were published, with the aim of reaching 1,500 by 2030. In addition, 240 stable citizen participation spaces were

Anti-Fraud Measures Plan, which were approved in 2022 and updated in 2023. This integrity system comprises eleven instruments organised around the **Anti-Fraud Measures Plan (Pla de Mesures Antifrau, PMA)**. Since 2017, another asset has been the Barcelona Provincial Council's **Code of Good Governance and Institutional Quality**.

Efforts toward Target 16.10, which aims to guarantee public access to information, are reinforced with tools such as the **Official Information and Documentation Search Engine (Cercador d'Informació i Documentació Oficials, CIDO)**, which helps users to find official information published by Catalan administrations and their bodies quickly and easily, and which incorporates different layers of information.

consolidated (published on the Participa311 platforms), a number that is expected to increase to 280 by 2030.

Finally, in relation to Target 16.1 on the reduction of violence, and especially that against minors and older people, two programmes stand out within the Support for Families, the Elderly and Dependency Care Programme:

- **Children at Risk**: 38.06% of the municipalities in the province had measures for the public, comprehensive and effective care and protection of children and adolescents at risk in 2024.
- **Approaches to the Mistreatment of the Elderly**: 84.8% of the municipalities in the province participated in 2024.

Figure 43

Evolution of XGL Plan expenditure in € per capita

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard

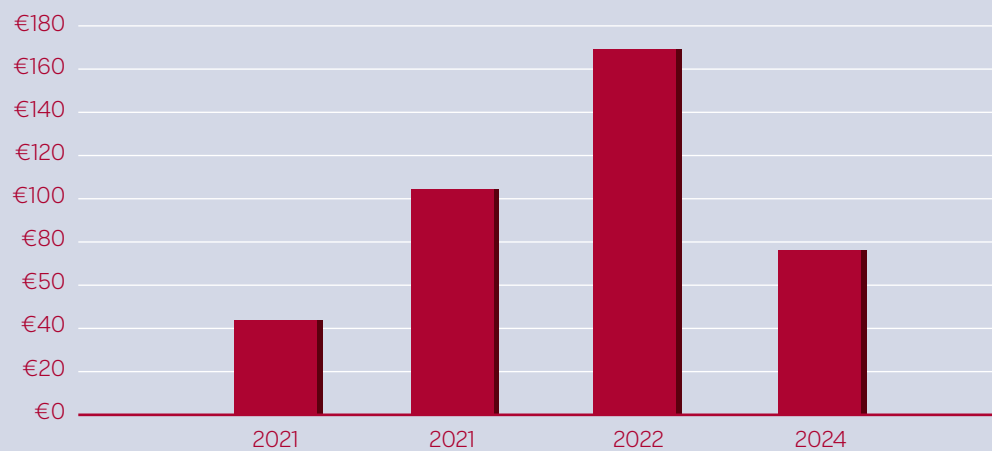
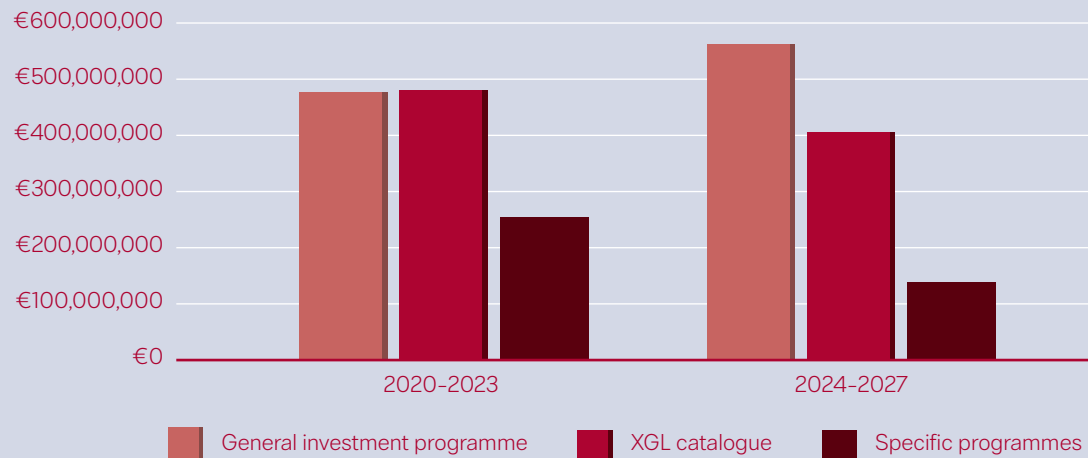


Figure 44

Distribution of the Cooperation Plan of the Network of Local Governments (2020–2023 and 2024–2027)

Source: Own elaboration, based on Barcelona Provincial Council



61 Source: Open Administration Consortium of Catalonia.

62 According to the Action Plan for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, cited in the Appendix to the Review.

63 Source: Muncat, extracted from Visor 2030.

64 Source: Ombudsman of Catalonia (Síndic de Greuges), extracted from Visor 2030.

65 This is a binary indicator: it takes the value 1 if an update has been produced and 0 otherwise.

66 Source: Ombudsman of Catalonia (Síndic de Greuges), extracted from Visor 2030.

A graphic for Sustainable Development Goal 17, featuring a dark blue background with a lighter blue circular pattern of interlocking rings. The text 'SDG 17' is prominently displayed in white, with 'SDG' in a serif font and '17' in a bold sans-serif font.

SDG 17

Partnerships for the



goals



Localised targets for SDG 17

17.1 Strengthen the economic and fiscal autonomy and capacity of local governments.

17.2 Promote development cooperation and ensure 0.7% of revenues for this purpose.

17.6 Enhance knowledge exchange and strengthen regional and international cooperation, North–South, South–South and triangular, for economic, social and environmental development.

17.17 Promote the creation of effective public, public–private and civil–society partnerships to drive sustainable development.

17.18 Improve the availability of high–quality, timely and reliable data.

17.19 Encourage and support the development of monitoring systems and indicators to measure progress in achieving the SDGs.

17.14 Improve policy coherence for sustainable development.

Contextual indicators in the province linked to monitoring of SDG 17

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022-2023	Reference value
Outstanding debt per capita ⁶⁷	€442.78 per capita	↑	Public debt not to exceed 60% of GDP ⁶⁸
Municipalities allocating resources to development cooperation with the support of the Barcelona Provincial Council ⁶⁹	30%	↑	

Indicator	2023 value (or most recent data available)	Trend in 2022- 2023	Reference value
Budget allocated to official development assistance	€0.84 per capita (2022)		

The Barcelona Provincial Council's contribution to SDG 17

SDG 17 seeks to strengthen the mechanisms for applying and revitalising the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. It calls for the promotion of a universal, rules-based, open, fair and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO),

- **Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**: A European initiative launched in 2008 to promote local sustainable energy and to channel and recognise local authorities' involvement in combating climate change. Since 2015, the covenant has expanded its commitments to focus on adaptation to

and is committed to ensuring that less developed countries get to enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to global markets.

In this global context, the Barcelona Provincial Council drives a range of initiatives aligned with SDG 17 to forge strong, effective partnerships that advance sustainable development throughout its own region. This commitment is reflected in actions spanning institutional cooperation, strategic planning, transparency and data governance.

One key area, to foster partnerships that drive sustainable development in line with Target 17.17, is the support for and promotion of municipal and territorial networks. Of note in this regard are the following:

climate change. Currently, more than 700 municipalities in Catalonia have signed the agreement, of which over 200 are in the province of Barcelona.

- **Network of Towns and Cities for Sustainability**: Created in 1997, this network now brings together 326 local authorities committed to environmental protection and progress toward sustainable development. It serves as a collaborative and exchange platform that municipal councils can leverage to share challenges, concerns and best practices, and for launching programmes around shared interests.
- **XAUL**: This is a relational space for cooperation, exchange, innovation, learning and monitoring of the Local Urban Agendas. It is a collaborative

environment where institutions and professionals engaged in the implementation of such agendas can exchange knowledge and drive their development. XAUL promotes and coordinates among the different agendas and actors, facilitates the creation of partnerships, enhances capacities and constitutes a space to forge commitments and advance collaboratively in the process of implementing the local urban agenda.

- **XarxA2030**: This network was created in 2021 and is a shared working space between the Barcelona Provincial Council and the local authorities of the province of Barcelona, with the aim of exchanging knowledge and experiences, and jointly building innovative tools and methodologies to advance the

data collection, the creation of online resources, training, experience exchange and knowledge dissemination. During 2024, ten mapping, research, dissemination and experience-exchange actions in decentralised cooperation were promoted. This figure is expected to double by 2030.

With the aim of contributing to Target 17.19, the Provincial Council has various tools in place to evaluate its contribution to and support for municipalities. Internally, the **2030 Dashboard** facilitates monitoring of the Council's progress in relation to the SDGs.

Furthermore, the **Visor2030** is available. As detailed in Chapter 2, this virtual platform contains a suite of municipality-level SDG indicators on the social, economic and environmental reality

implementation and transformation encouraged by the 2030 Agenda. XarxA2030 is made up of around 30 local authorities with experience in implementing this agenda.

At the same time, to contribute to Targets 17.2 and 17.6, the Provincial Council promotes the **Support Programme for Local Development Cooperation Policies**. In this area, notable initiatives include the **Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid** programme, where the Barcelona Provincial Council's annual budget allocated to Official Development Assistance (ODA) is 0.7%, of which 10% is dedicated to humanitarian aid; and the **Observatory for Decentralised Cooperation**, which seeks to strengthen cooperation between local regions in Latin America and the European Union through

of the local authorities in the province of Barcelona. This tool was created to provide the province's municipalities with information on their degree of SDG achievement in their regions, thereby improving reflection, analysis and decision-making both by the municipalities and by the Barcelona Provincial Council itself.

In addition, the **Local Housing Observatory**, through the production and dissemination of statistical housing data, supports local authorities in designing, implementing and evaluating their policies. The Observatory has launched **Indi_Mhab (Municipal Housing Indicators of the Province of Barcelona)**, which enables data comparability between municipalities and with the province as a whole, offering data organised into four thematic

blocks (people, housing, market and housing policies), which is available as charts, maps and reports, including in downloadable formats.

With the aim of contributing to Target 17.18, the Provincial Council has introduced the **Data Governance** programme. Within this framework, it has led the **Local.IA** project, an integrated series of regulations, tools, models and training and assistance resources designed to guide public administrations in the implementation of ethical and responsible artificial intelligence. This project functions as a practical white paper, providing guidelines, training pathways, outreach actions, the latest news and multiple resources to ensure safe and reliable AI deployment. Furthermore, it addresses aspects such as the quality of data used

carried out. In municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, a representative survey by population bracket is conducted. To date, more than 36,000 surveys have been completed.

by algorithms, potential biases arising from training data and the importance of good data governance.

In 2024, a total of 340 datasets were identified within the Barcelona Provincial Council. 76% of these datasets were open data, with the aim of reaching 50% by 2030, and for 80% of the Council's areas or units to have started using this data governance programme.

Finally, to strengthen the contribution to Target 17.18, the **Dibaròmetre** is another instrument that has been made available. It arose from the Barcelona Provincial Council's interest in capturing the population's perceptions of their municipalities and of the services and administration that their local councils provide, for which purpose a survey is

Figure 45

Number of member entities of the Network of Cities and Towns for Sustainability and the 2030 Agenda

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard

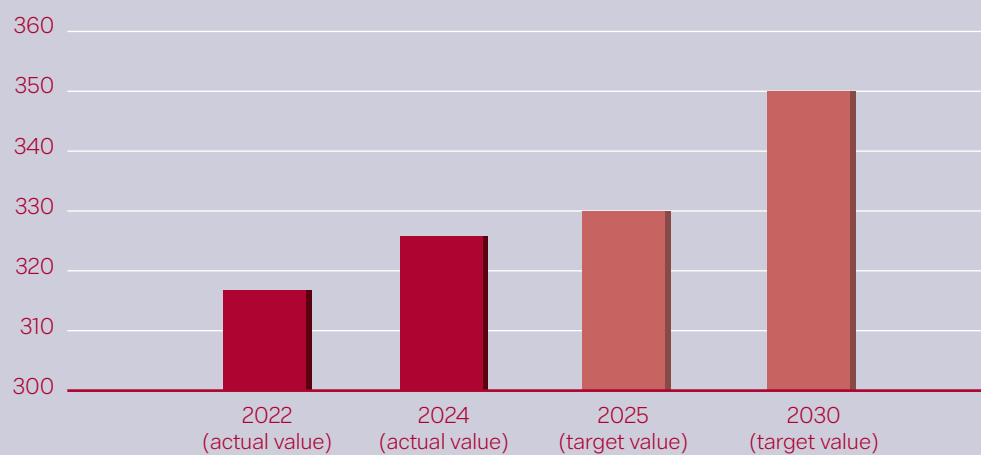
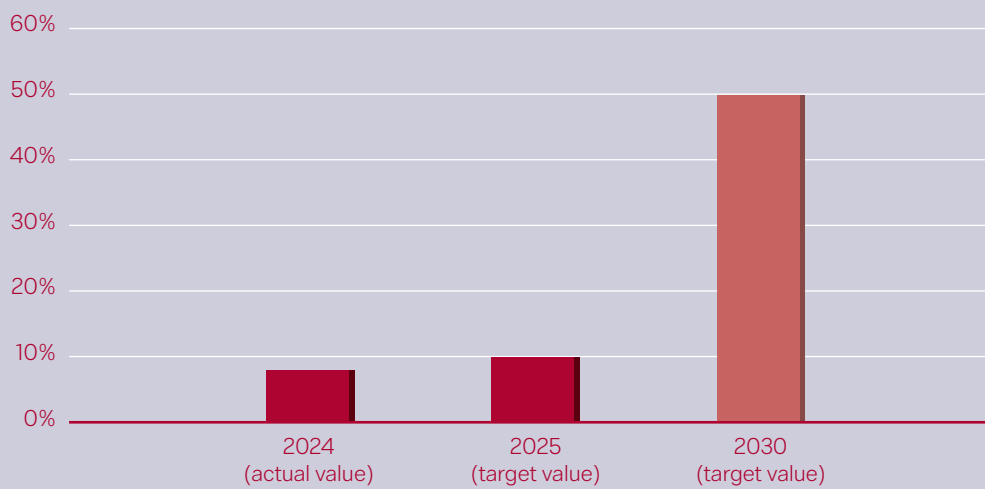


Figure 46

Percentage open datasets out of the total

Source: Own elaboration, based on dashboard



67 Source: Ministry of Finance and Civil Service, extracted from Visor 2030.

68 According to the European Union's Stability and Growth Pact, cited in the Appendix to the Report.

69 Source: Office for Development Cooperation (Barcelona Provincial Council), extracted from Visor 2030.

4

Commitment

Commitment
undertaken by the
local authorities in the
province of Barcelona
to the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises local and subnational governments as a fundamental aspect for the achievement of the SDGs, defining them as true holders of responsibility and catalysts for change

Local governments can address the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs from a more grounded and effective perspective thanks to their in-depth knowledge of the territory and their proximity to and trust among the populace and local stakeholders. This means that, at the local scale, the SDGs can be tackled more pragmatically and adapted to each region's specific contexts, identifying and defining concrete and effective actions that

Provincial Council undertook to promote sustainable development across the province of Barcelona, the local councils in the region have responded with the same determination to that premise. The result is the policies and initiatives they have been developing within this framework. For this reason, this VLR includes a specific section that collects the actions promoted by local governments in their territories related to the promotion and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly between 2020 and 2024.

During that period, 140 local governments in the province of Barcelona developed at least one strategy and/or initiative within the framework of the 2030 Agenda

contribute to the transformation towards sustainability demanded by the 2030 Agenda. This has been very clearly demonstrated when facing recent global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the climate emergency that has led to severe droughts, among other consequences. Local governments have been at the forefront of responding to these problems.

The province of Barcelona is a region typified by solidarity and commitment to universal values, defending human rights, social justice, equality, non-discrimination and peace. It is therefore a region that is fully committed to the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs. Just as the Barcelona

and the SDGs, of which 129 are municipalities, nine are county councils (*Consells Comarcals*), one is an association (*Mancomunitat*) of municipalities, and one is a decentralized municipal entity (the municipality of Barcelona is not included in this analysis).

Although these 140 local governments are working under the premise of achieving the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda is being addressed from different perspectives and with varying intensities. It must also be borne in mind that the province of Barcelona is highly heterogeneous in terms of local specificities, so its municipalities also have very different characteristics, conditions and sizes.

Practically half (47.9%) of the local governments working in this framework have carried out awareness-raising and communication and/or participation actions in order to engage citizens and local stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and/or the achievement of the SDGs. Many local governments have also aligned their mandate or strategic plans with the SDGs, directing their governance actions towards sustainable development; others have developed more

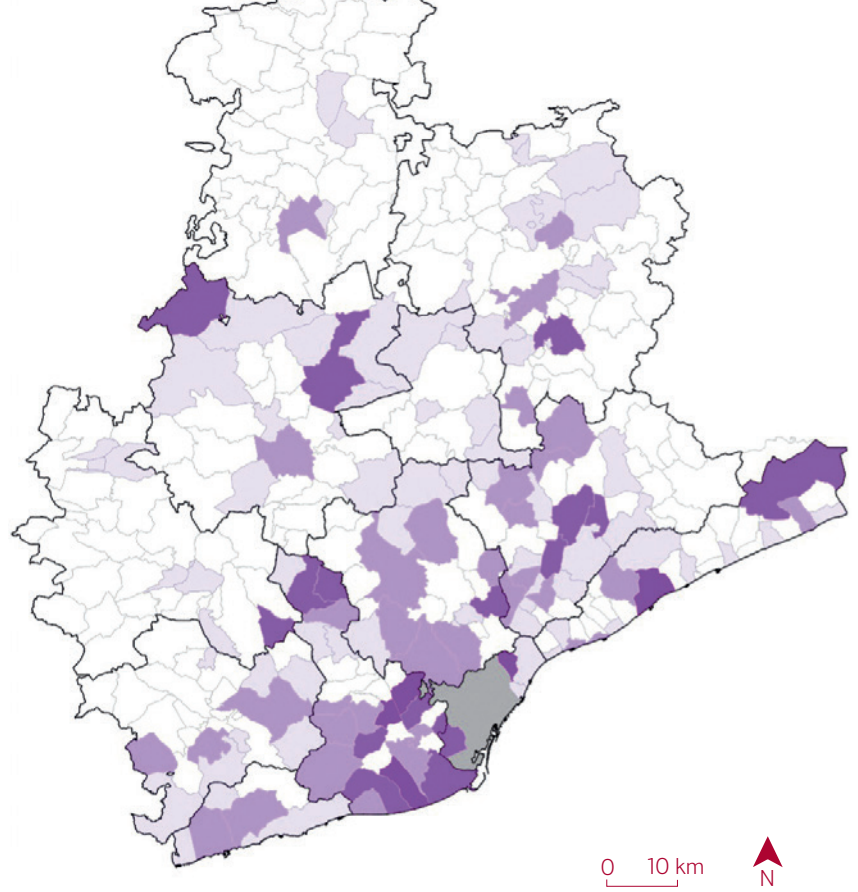
comprehensive strategies, incorporating the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as the strategic framework for their corporate action. Among these, some have addressed the achievement of the SDGs through the Local Urban Agenda methodology, and some have even linked the two Agendas (2030 Agenda and Urban Agenda) as both strategic and operational frameworks, designing integrated town/city strategies with the ultimate goal of sustainable development.

Map 1

Municipalities in the province of Barcelona that carried out one or more actions (awareness-raising; strategic plans aligned with the SDGs; Local 2030 Agendas; Local Urban Agendas) within the framework of the 2030 Agenda between 2020 and 2024

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Barcelona Provincial Council's Planning and Evaluation Service, the Urban Planning Service and the 2030 Agenda Service

Total actions



The initiatives promoted by local governments can be classified into the following four categories of action.

The number of resources granted under the 2030 Agenda has progressively increased in recent years, reaching more than 100 in 2024. Until 2020, the alignment of strategic planning instruments with the SDGs and some awareness-raising actions predominated. From 2021 onwards, the initiatives supported by the Provincial Council have diversified towards the 2030 Agenda and the Local Urban Agenda, and especially the latter.

Awareness-raising,
communication
and citizen
engagement

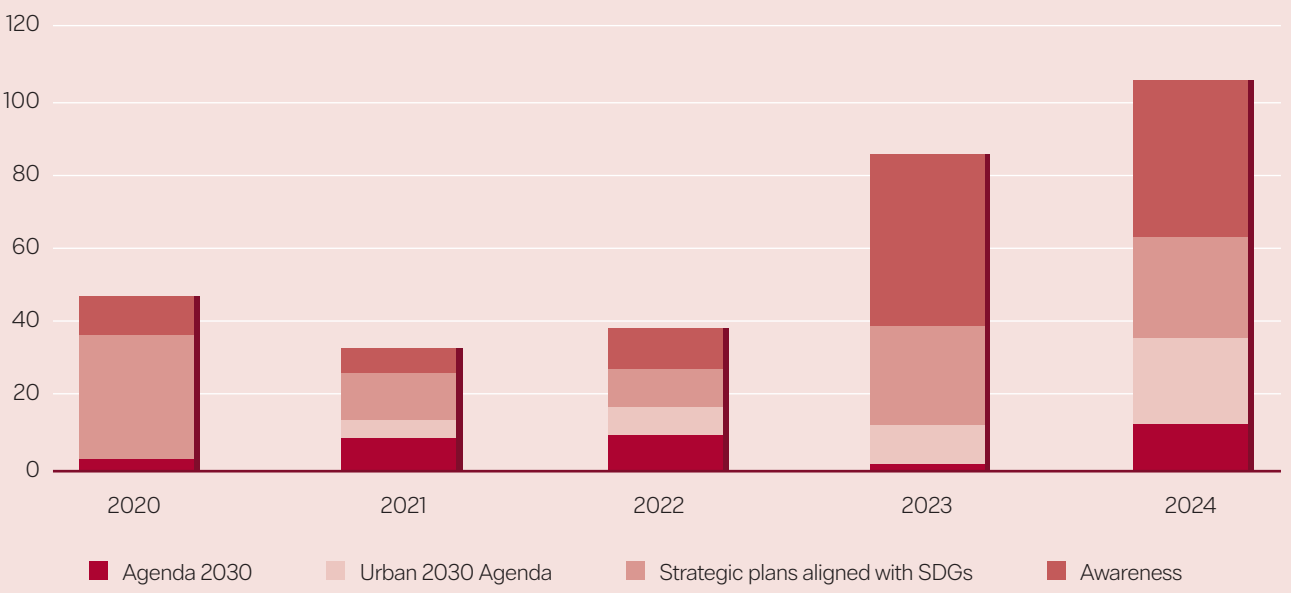
Strategic plans
aligned with
the SDGs

Local 2030
Agendas

Local Urban
Agendas

Evolution of the number of resources granted, between 2019 and 2024, by type of resource (awareness-raising; strategic planning aligned with the SDGs; Local Urban Agenda; 2030 Agenda)

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Barcelona Provincial Council's Planning and Evaluation Service, the Urban Planning Service and the 2030 Agenda Service

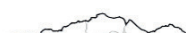


Awareness-raising, communication and citizen engagement

Multiple municipal councils have promoted awareness-raising, training and communication actions around the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with the aim of bringing these processes closer to the people and making them participants in the achievement of the SDGs. Specifically, 68 local governments have carried out awareness-raising, training or communication actions to make the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs known to citizens and/or local stakeholders, namely 60 municipalities, seven county

councils and the Decentralized Municipal Entity of Bellaterra. The municipalities that have driven these actions account for 27.4% of the province's population.

The activities deployed have dealt with topics such as communication and awareness-raising on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs through talks, training and/or activities in schools; a variety of recreational and artistic activities to bring the SDGs to citizens; and/or participation processes to involve the local populace in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and their municipalities' Local Urban Agendas.

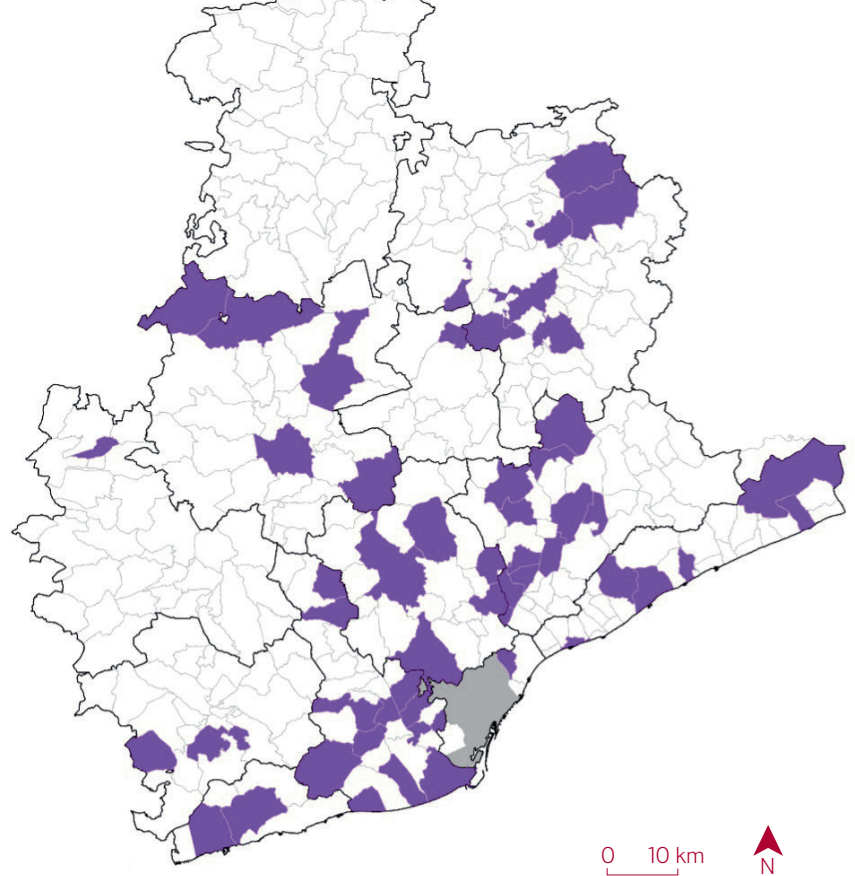


Map 2

Municipalities with awareness-raising, training and communication actions around the 2030 Agenda and the Local Urban Agenda

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the 2030 Agenda Service

■ Awareness-raising, training and communication actions related to the 2030 Agenda



Strategic plans aligned with the SDGs

Likewise, the majority of the local governments that have worked within the SDG framework have embarked on this endeavour by carrying out an alignment exercise of their mandate or strategic plans with the SDGs to identify which SDGs their actions impact, and subsequently analyse them and redirect them if necessary.

Finally, around 115 strategic instruments are aligned with the SDGs. Of these, 52 municipalities (representing 16.7% of the total in the province) have drawn up a Mandate Action Plan (Pla d'Actuació de Mandat, PAM) aligned with the SDGs with resources from the Provincial Council. In addition, 45 municipalities (14.5% of the

comprehensive exercise by developing a Local 2030 Agenda or a Local Urban Agenda. In some cases, councils have managed to integrate both Agendas into the city strategy by drawing up a 2030 Urban Agenda.

Beyond municipalities, six county councils have aligned their strategic planning instruments with the SDGs: Alt Penedès, Anoia, Moianès, Maresme, Vallès Occidental and Osona.

Presented below is the distribution of the planning instruments developed within the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, by the size of the municipalities in the province of Barcelona, during the 2020-2024 period. The data shows that the bigger the municipality, the greater the implementation of these strategic

addition, 16 municipalities (7.15% of the total) have aligned existing mandate plans or other strategic planning instruments.

The preparation of a PAM aligned with the SDGs is one of the most common exercises, especially in municipalities of up to 50,000 inhabitants. In larger municipalities, this alignment with the SDGs also occurs in other planning instruments. Otherwise, they have even advanced to a broader, more

planning instruments up to municipalities of 50,000 inhabitants, whereafter the Local 2030 Agenda and Urban Agendas have a prominent presence. In contrast, smaller municipalities present a much lower adoption rate. This may be due, on the one hand, to the limited capacity of small municipalities to introduce this type of strategic planning instrument because of their lack of resources, and on the other, to the prominent role that intermediate cities are playing in this case.

Map 3

Municipalities with mandate and strategic plans aligned with the SDGs

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Barcelona Provincial Council's Planning and Evaluation Service and the 2030 Agenda Service

■ Strategic plans aligned with SDGs

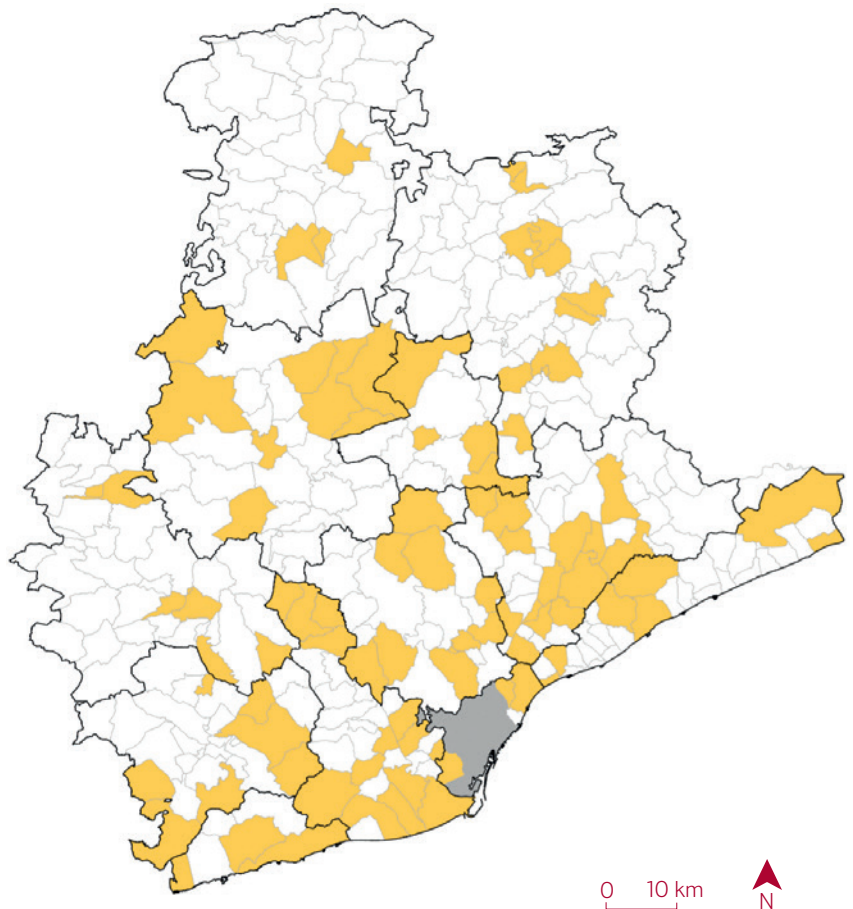
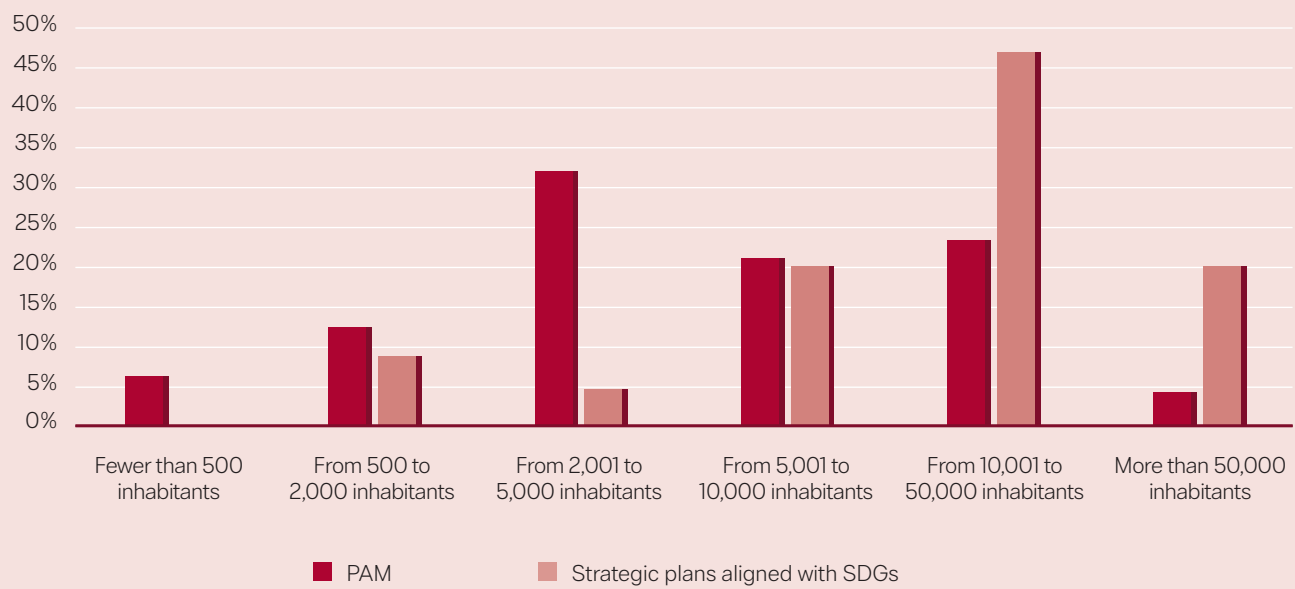


Figure 48

Distribution of SDG localization by type of plan, according to municipality size

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Barcelona Provincial Council's Planning and Evaluation Service and the 2030 Agenda Service



COUNTY COUNCILS AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

County Councils have also promoted the alignment of the SDGs with strategic planning instruments. Specifically, the County Councils of Anoia, Moianès and Vallès Oriental have developed their own Local 2030 Agenda, while those of Moianès and Baix Llobregat have a Local Urban Agenda. Lastly, the County Councils of Alt Penedès, Anoia, Moianès, Maresme, Vallès Occidental and Osona have aligned their strategic plans with the SDGs.

Finally, the Inter-municipal Association of La Conca d'Òdena (Igualada, Santa Margarida de Montbui, Òdena, Vilanova del Camí, La Pobla de Claramunt, Jorba and Castellolí) also has a Local Urban Agenda.

thereby defining an integral 2030 Agenda implementation plan. These agendas include an analysis of the local authority's management from a 2030 Agenda perspective, the establishment of a comprehensive strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda in the municipality, and the creation of monitoring systems and/or indicators for its evaluation.

In relation to monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda, some of the local authorities that have worked most intensively on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by establishing comprehensive strategic planning and monitoring systems have gone one step further and have begun to draw up Voluntary Local Reviews, in order to measure the achievement of the SDGs in their regions and disclose their commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

Local 2030 agendas

By 'Local 2030 Agenda' we mean the definition of a comprehensive, strategic plan for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in which an analysis is made of the local authority's management through an SDG lens; a strategy is defined to incorporate the precepts of the 2030 Agenda into the municipality; and the SDGs are made part of the authority's own objectives, complete with the corresponding monitoring systems and/or indicators for their evaluation.

In the province of Barcelona, 29 municipalities (representing 20.7% of its population), as well as the County Councils of Moianès and Vallès Oriental, have developed Local 2030 Agendas,

Among these local authorities are the Town/ City Councils of Esplugues de Llobregat, Manlleu, Manresa, Mataró, Sant Boi de Llobregat and Sant Feliu de Llobregat, as well as the County Council of Vallès Oriental. These Voluntary Local Reviews are developed with the financial support of the Barcelona Provincial Council.

At this point it is worth highlighting the case of the Barcelona City Council, which has already published four annual monitoring reviews (from 2020 to 2023) that showcase and analyse the evolution of their indicators.

Figure 49

Distribution of strategic planning instruments by municipality size (2020–2024)

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the Barcelona Provincial Council's 2030 Agenda Service, Urban Planning Service and Planning and Evaluation Service

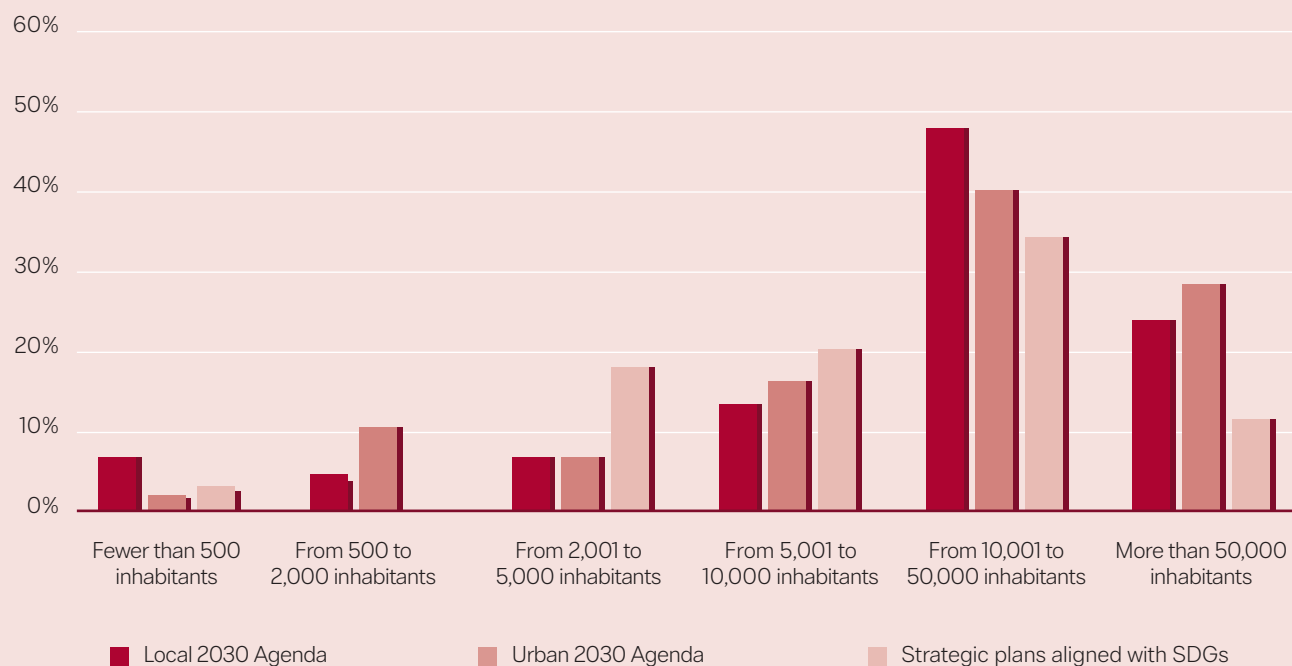
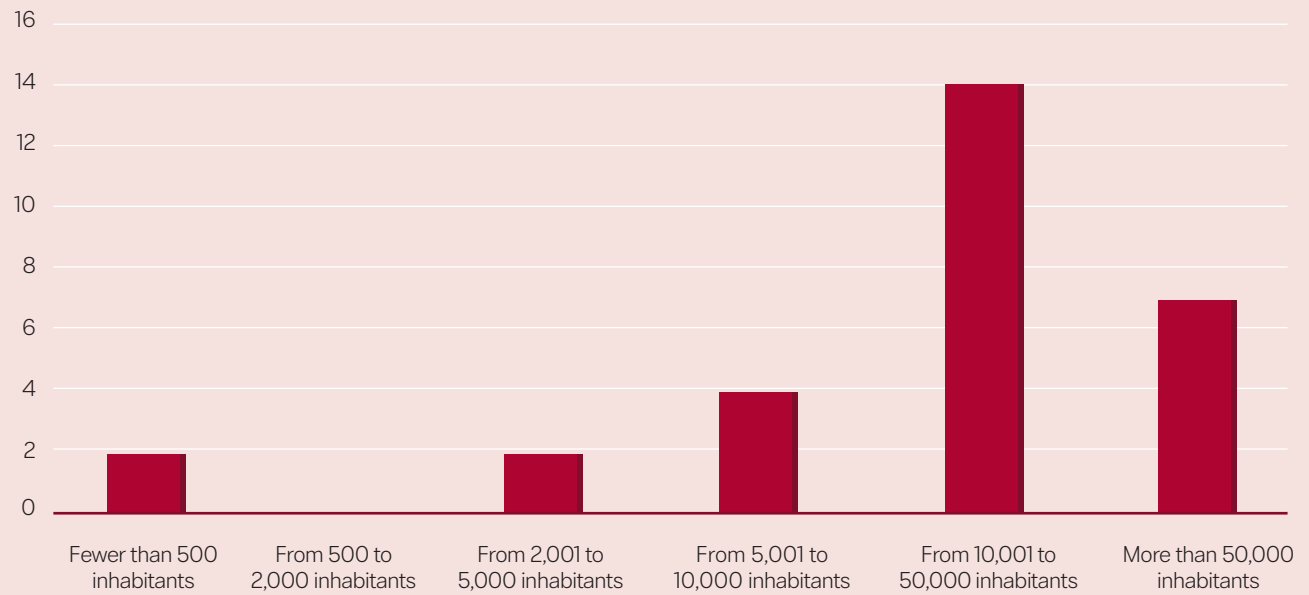


Figure 50

Municipalities with a Local 2030 Agenda, by population size

Source: Own elaboration, based on data from the 2030 Agenda Service



Local urban agendas

Local Urban Agendas have also been developed as strategic planning instruments that take an integral, holistic and cross-cutting approach. Framed under SDG 11, these agendas set out the role of local authorities in achieving environmentally sustainable, socially cohesive and economically competitive urban development.

Similarly, some of the local authorities that aligned their strategic plans with the SDGs have gone on to develop a Local Urban Agenda, thanks to strong European and Spanish support for this instrument. In some cases they have managed to integrate both Agendas into their strategy.

In the province of Barcelona, 43 municipal

2030 Agendas and, at the same time, Local Urban Agendas, thereby creating what they call 2030 Urban Agendas. Among the municipalities that have chosen this option are Viladecans, Esplugues de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Gramenet and Masquefa, which, despite having fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, has carried out a comprehensive strategic-planning exercise encompassing both global agendas.

councils plus three local authorities, Moianés County Council, Baix Llobregat County Council and the Conca d'Òdena Community, have drawn up Local Urban Agendas, covering 13.5% of the region's municipalities. Of these, 29 were developed with the support of the Barcelona Provincial Council; 17 were part of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda (MIVAU) pilot project for Local Urban Agendas; and the remaining local authorities developed their Agendas with their own resources. One possible explanation is the availability of funding from higher-level administrations for these two types of planning (although in some cases the final outcomes may be very similar).

It is also observed that several municipal councils have opted to promote Local

Figure 51

Funding for the development of Local Urban Agendas

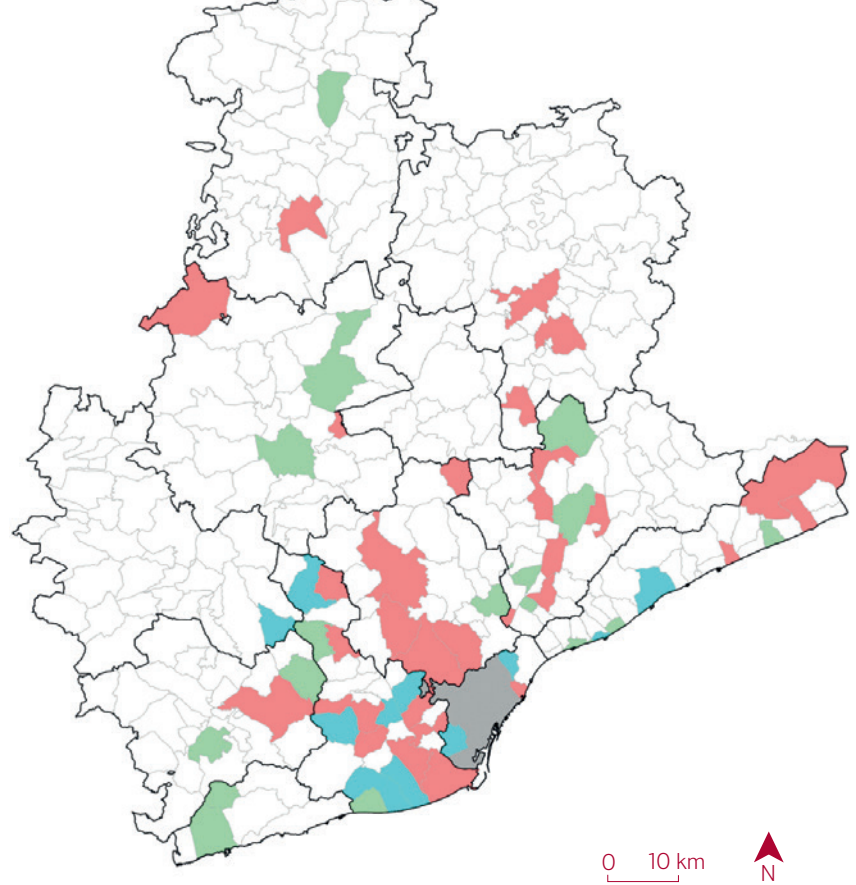


Map 4

Municipalities with Local
Urban Agendas, a 2030
Agenda or both

Source: Own elaboration,
based on data from the
Urban Planning Service and
the 2030 Agenda Service

Local Urban Agenda
2030 Agenda
2030 Agenda & Local
Urban Agenda



5

Lessons learned and

Lessons learned and next steps

This review showcases the high level of commitment of the Barcelona Provincial Council to all the SDGs, both as a corporation and as an entity supporting the municipalities of the province. Nevertheless, both the budgetary analysis and the Catalogue of Services reveal a greater intensity of resources for certain SDGs, given the specific characteristics and trajectory of the Barcelona Provincial Council.

First, the importance of SDG 16 “Peace, justice and strong institutions” for the Barcelona Provincial Council is clear. Strengthening the institutions closest to the people, and making them as effective, responsible and

quality, civil protection, and so on). Beyond the specific support the Barcelona Provincial Council provides in many of these areas, it is important to highlight its significant drive toward the development and monitoring of Local Urban Agendas as a means of localising this SDG.

Three other SDGs warrant specific mention, namely SDG 3, 4 and 8, to which the Barcelona Provincial Council devotes significant effort, though they may seem less directly related to its core competencies. SDG 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” addresses ways to improve the population’s health. Here, the importance of local policies is evident, particularly those promoted

inclusive as possible, fully aligns with its mission as a supra-municipal local institution, namely to support the functioning, policies and services of local governments. In a context where many municipalities in the province are small and have limited resources, it is essential to continue working to make local governments solid and transparent institutions that generate trust among their populations and guarantee social cohesion and sustainable development. Second, SDG 11 “Sustainable cities and communities” also stands out, as it encompasses many of the functions and competencies of local governments (such as housing, transport, planning, green spaces, cultural heritage, waste management, air

by the Provincial Council and local governments to improve healthy habits and mental health among adolescents and young people. SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” likewise underscores the role of local policies, both within the compulsory education system (through the campaign against educational segregation) and across the services that complement and enable inclusive lifelong education, notably those provided by the Network of Municipal Schools and the Network of Libraries. Finally, in terms of the volume of resources, SDG 8 “Decent work and local economic growth” stands out, encompassing much of the Council’s work to promote

and enhance local economic development and employment, through, for example, support for the strong Network of Local Employment Services as well as new programmes such as Work, Talent and Technology, which address the challenges and opportunities posed by digital transition for businesses and workers.

However, this review does more than systematise and evaluate the efforts made towards the 2030

Agenda's targets. It also aims to foster learning and innovation in the design and deployment of public policies. For this reason, this chapter gathers the most relevant lessons learned from these years of implementing the 2030 Agenda, as well as ongoing actions and new initiatives that may play a key role in reinforcing and consolidating the commitment of both the Barcelona Provincial Council and local authorities to achieving the SDGs.





5.1

Lezione

Lessons learned

The preparation of this Voluntary Local Review has made it possible to identify numerous advances and lessons learned across different areas. In particular, progress has been detected at the institutional level, specifically in the Barcelona Provincial Council's corporate strategy, in the alignment of corporate projects with the 2030 Agenda, in territorial support and multi-level governance, and in the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating public policies.

THE 2030 AGENDA: DRIVER OF INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

A fundamental lesson is that the 2030 Agenda must not only serve as a roadmap for achieving the SDGs, but also drive profound transformation within

also been classified in relation to the SDGs, making them highly present in the day-to-day work of the institution and its staff. However, to enable truly effective alignment in planning, greater specification of the SDGs is necessary. Locating the targets through a technical and political agreement, linking them to projects and programmes, and tracking them via outcome indicators is essential. Currently, however, there is still no clear connection between the indicators, the targets and the programmes and projects driven by the Barcelona Provincial Council. While the 2030 Agenda promotes a strategic vision beyond municipal mandates, it must coexist with the political agreements and priorities of each mandate, so the localisation of the targets and their inclusion in the Mandate Action Plan is the key moment when

the institution itself when developing public policies. Integrating the SDGs into government action has required rethinking processes, planning tools, evaluation systems and working methodologies. The 2030 Agenda and the creation of the 2030 Agenda Service attached to the Coordination of Cooperation and Local Assistance in the Department of the Presidency have fostered more widespread and cross-cutting approaches to management, urging departments to work in coordination rather than in isolated silos.

The Barcelona Provincial Council's last two Mandate Action Plans (2019–2023 and 2023–2027) have incorporated triple sustainability as a working framework, facilitating reflection on the purpose of its government action. Resources, projects and planning tools have

this alignment is articulated. The recent development of the 2030 Dashboard might help in this regard.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF CROSS-CUTTING AND COMPREHENSIVE WORK AS A NECESSITY

One of the biggest lessons learned from promoting the 2030 Agenda at the Barcelona Provincial Council is the urgent need to consolidate a cross-cutting and comprehensive working model. The challenges posed by the SDGs —such as climate change, social cohesion and economic innovation— cannot be addressed in a fragmented manner or from purely sectoral perspectives. Coordinated action across areas and services is required, where each public

policy is drafted with a full understanding of its global impact and its contribution to common objectives.

This way of working fosters internal synergies, optimises resources and generates more complete and efficient responses for the people. Transversality also implies cultural changes within the institution, recognising the value of active listening, cooperation between teams and organisational flexibility.

The 2030 Agenda has driven a cross-cutting vision in project execution, the formation of specific working groups to foster inter-departmental collaboration within the Barcelona Provincial Council,

and the establishment of synergies and collaborations to work on common projects related to the 2030 Agenda, such as the 2030 Dashboard and the localisation of SDG targets. That said, much remains to be done. This Voluntary Local Review has shown the level of commitment and momentum of different areas and programmes within the institution for each SDG. Based on these observations, the review of target localisation and the Dashboard could allow for more precise synergy-building between the various projects, for example by starting with an SDG that has particular potential to drive internal collaborative work.



The 2030 Agenda has provided a strong impetus to multi-level collaboration. It has endowed all governments, and particularly local governments, with a common narrative, facilitating the establishment of shared objectives and fostering the formation of multi-actor, multi-level partnerships in defining public policies. Its achievement is not possible unless it is viewed as a shared effort among administrations and other social and private actors.

SUPPORT ON THE GROUND AND MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

The Barcelona Provincial Council has played a key role in providing tools and resources so that municipalities in the province can implement the 2030 Agenda and localise the SDGs in their regions, as well as in

sized municipalities, given the effort required not only to develop strategic plans but above all to embed them within municipal culture and operations. It is therefore essential, in each case, to decide which framework to prioritise and to continue supporting its monitoring and implementation.

Working with the province's local governments has also created a network of commitments and shared responsibilities that intensify the impact of public policies, promote mutual learning and generate a collective shift towards sustainability.

At the same time, mechanisms for participation, reflection and shared multi-level work have been established, always respecting the autonomy of different levels of government and the roles of various

promoting them among the general public. Without the economic, technical and material support provided by the Catalogue of Services, progress towards the SDGs would have been much slower and far more limited. Each municipality presents diverse realities in terms of technical capacity, available resources and political priorities, and this has required adaptation of the tools and support programmes accordingly.

The development of Local 2030 Agendas and Local Urban Agendas demonstrates local governments' commitment to the SDGs, as well as to strategic planning beyond their Municipal Action Plans. However, the coexistence and overlap of multiple strategic planning frameworks (such as the 2030 Agenda and the Local Urban Agenda) can also represent an added complexity for small and medium-

actors. The Barcelona Provincial Council's institutional commitment to the 2030 Agenda has also fostered partnerships with other territorial actors in Catalonia, Spain and Europe, thus reinforcing its impact and leadership in SDG implementation, making local enactment of the 2030 Agenda a driver for global progress towards the SDGs.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE DEGREE OF SDG ACHIEVEMENT

The measurement of the achievement of the SDGs is fundamental to ensure that public action is not only based on good intentions but has a real, verifiable and results-oriented impact. Without rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems, it is impossible to know whether the policies and projects being promoted

are effectively contributing to progress towards the 2030 Agenda or whether changes to planning are needed.

The Barcelona Provincial Council has taken steps in the right direction by implementing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for policies aligned with the 2030 Agenda. For the first time, the Council has created a dashboard offering an overview of all the policies it develops. Moreover, the newly improved version of the Visor 2030, with contextual indicators for the Province of Barcelona and complementary information such as the budgetary effort that the 311 municipalities dedicate to each SDG, is a truly valuable tool for evaluating progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Nevertheless, there is still much to be

hinder them, is anything but a simple endeavour. It is therefore essential to count on robust contextual indicators and objective reference values to interpret their evolution. Some European-level reference values have been included in the report, but these targets often fail to account for existing data at the regional or local level for their monitoring. The link between shared objectives, their specification in measurable targets within the context of the province of Barcelona, and the data that can be used to monitor them must continue to be reinforced.

The ambition and scope of the Sustainable Development Goals do not allow for an impact analysis of the different programmes, but they do permit reflection on whether these objectives and their targets are

done. The evaluation of very broad objectives, whose achievement depends on multiple actions by different actors and administrations, as well as external social, economic, environmental, technological changes that facilitate or

included in the institution's political and technical agenda, and how and which issues are being prioritised and from what perspectives, together with the opportunity to assess synergies among the different actions.

5.2

Horizon 2020

In Horizon 2030, the Barcelona Provincial Council reaffirms its firm commitment to contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, both by introducing new lines of action and by continuing existing ones.

This mandate, as noted, involves a continuity phase regarding support initiatives for local authorities, but with a strong focus on developing and establishing consistent monitoring and evaluation systems, while ensuring political commitment and momentum around the 2030 Agenda. Some of the priority continuity actions are described below:

5.2.1

Continuity actions

Consolidation of the strategic and operational alignment of the

of the Council. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a thorough analysis of the bottlenecks, obstacles and structural barriers that hinder implementation, and to facilitate agreement and joint endeavour to achieve those targets that need to be approached from more than one area of the Barcelona Provincial Council.

Meanwhile, at the budgetary level, there is a need to establish a more comprehensive and continuous vision of policies related to the 2030 Agenda, evolving from a model based on extraordinary funds for innovative projects to a model that provides resources to cross-sectoral and intersectoral actions with real impact on the localised targets.

Improvement of transparency

The consolidation of the operational alignment of the Barcelona Provincial Council with the Sustainable Development Goals is a fundamental aspect for ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of public policies within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. This implies deeply embedding the SDGs into the Council's operational strategies, ensuring that all actions, projects and services are aligned with the goals. Building on an already solid corporate structure, the next step is to strengthen the transversal coherence of policies by improving coordination among the different services and programmes implemented by the Council. Operationally, the 2030 Agenda must be deployed from an integral, non-sectoral perspective that impacts all areas

Transparency is a cornerstone of good governance and an essential condition for guaranteeing the effectiveness of public policies related to the 2030 Agenda. Improving transparency mechanisms means recognising that information on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is not the exclusive property of the administration but a public good that must be shared openly and understandably. It is therefore necessary to guarantee the development of transparency and accountability mechanisms in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, through the biannual preparation of a Voluntary

Local Review, which covers both advances and the challenges identified in achieving the proposed goals.

These reviews, in addition to being presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the United Nations' central platform for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, could also be presented in sessions open to the general public and local authorities, thus promoting participation and transparency.

Facilitation of local authorities' access to resources to advance towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Achievement of the 2030 Agenda depends, to a large extent, on the capacity of local

that is disconnected from the real priorities of municipalities.

Expansion of awareness-raising and training efforts

The extension of awareness-raising and training efforts is essential to ensure that all actors involved in implementing the 2030 Agenda —particularly local governments— understand their responsibility and role in the transformation process. Awareness-raising not only gets people to appreciate the importance of the SDGs but also deepens the general understanding of how these goals can be practically integrated into local public policies. However, this task requires the creation of a common, unified and coherent narrative that conveys the global purpose of the

governments to translate global goals into concrete, effective public actions at the regional level. Local authorities are the administration closest to the people and therefore best placed to identify needs, mobilise actors and drive sustainable transformations. However, to fulfil this role effectively, they need sufficient resources and robust institutional capacities.

Facilitation of access to resources should not be viewed solely in economic terms, but also in terms of knowledge, technical capacity and strategic support. The availability of these resources is a key factor for ensuring that local authorities can design, implement and evaluate public policies aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Without this support, there is a risk that the 2030 Agenda will be perceived as an abstract, distant framework

2030 Agenda and makes all municipalities feel part of the same project for change. Having a shared purpose is also essential to ensure coherence in the way actions are implemented. Awareness-raising efforts must present the idea that, although each municipality may adapt strategies to its own reality, the ultimate objective is the same everywhere, namely to build a more just, inclusive and sustainable world.

Training, for its part, is essential to equip political and technical leaders in municipalities with the tools and knowledge necessary to design, implement and evaluate policies that have real impact. It is therefore crucial to continue supporting programmes that train both political and technical leaders in understanding and applying the 2030

Agenda and the SDGs, ensuring that these remain present in their respective decisions.

Ultimately, creating a common narrative and shared purpose among all municipalities is a key step towards achieving the 2030 Agenda in an effective, inclusive and cohesive manner, with the aim of promoting sustainable development across the whole territory.

5.2.2

New lines of action

Promotion of a polyhedral perspective and identification of synergies between public policies

In order to accelerate the impact of local policies on the SDGs, it is essential to focus more firmly on setting strategic priorities

Thus, it is necessary to analyse cross-impacts between the SDGs and to develop strategies that maximise synergies while minimising conflicts and negative trade-offs among objectives.

To this end, it may be appropriate to design an instrument that facilitates the recording, visualisation and analysis of the interaction between the multiple endeavours of the Provincial Council, and for this to be done from a systemic approach, such as Policy Coherence. This approach has become a benchmark and innovative framework for building public policies. Policy Coherence allows the needs of citizens and/or the region to be observed and understood from an integral, transversal and multidimensional perspective, so as to design programmes and policies that transcend the sectoral and hierarchical logics prevailing in most

and promoting accelerator policies for the 2030 Agenda. This involves identifying interventions that leverage synergies among the SDGs and foster simultaneous progress across multiple goals. A polyhedral perspective on public policies is needed to detect the various vectors affecting their design, implementation and evaluation.

public administrations and establish a more coherent, efficient, cohesive and sustainable integrated management system.

Strategic foresight

Technological, economic, social and political changes in the twenty-first century are and



will be so profound and rapid that public institutions must develop strategic foresight capabilities, that is, a high institutional capacity for prospective analysis. Public institutions must incorporate a long-term perspective into decision-making and take into account the dysfunctions of short-termism. In this context, public administrations need to define future scenarios and produce risk and sustainability analyses of the policies to be pursued.

The Barcelona Provincial Council must take a further step and adopt this long-term vision to plan ahead for the challenges and opportunities that will arise in the future. This outlook will not only help identify the trends and structural factors that will shape regional development, but also enable proactive guidance of public policies, rather than only reacting to events after they have

more robust, and more open to innovation and to emerging technologies if they do not want to be left behind. The Barcelona Provincial Council has designed five internal strategies that the organisation must tackle in the coming years. Specifically, these are:

Digital transition: Harness the potential of disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence to innovate, become smarter and achieve a Barcelona Provincial Council 4.0, all the while remaining vigilant to the need to prevent and mitigate vulnerabilities in this area.

Human resources: Transform organisational designs, recruitment and personnel management so that the Council's staff can respond to new social needs and challenges, becoming more receptive to innovation and the new context of public policy

happened.

A long-term perspective and the incorporation of strategic foresight mechanisms are not only tools for anticipating change but also for designing a more coherent, sustainable and resilient future for the region, transforming future challenges into opportunities for more inclusive and sustainable development.

Internal strategies for change

Public administrations face very different and invariably complex challenges, including the technological paradigm shift, climate change, growing social inequalities, and new public demands that cannot be addressed without reform or transformation of local government. Institutions must become

implementation.

Local cooperation: Review the conception and architecture of the instruments and resources serving municipal councils. There is a need to align local cooperation policy with corporate strategy in order to implement purposeful public policies and enable the transformation of the local public sector, avoiding resources with overlapping impacts and duplications in the Council's actions.

Incorporation of SDG 18 “Culture”: A step forward in the centrality of cultural rights

It is recognised that in adopting the 2030 Agenda, although culture was addressed in a cross-cutting manner, no specific

goal was defined to treat this matter in its entirety.

For this reason, the Barcelona Provincial Council has begun work to incorporate SDG 18 “Culture” into the institution’s strategy, supporting the international Culture 2030 Goal campaign, which calls for the recognition of culture as a structural component of sustainable development. This initiative aligns with the Council’s intention to place culture at the centre of social and environmental transformations, recognising its key role in building more equal, diverse and cohesive societies.

SDG 18, as proposed internationally, aims to ensure cultural sustainability for the well-being of all people. This goal seeks to encompass the promotion of cultural

of indigenous peoples’ rights, and the improvement of conditions for the mobility and work of practitioners in the sector. It is an agenda in itself with a transformative vocation that views culture as a driver of emancipation, justice and sustainability.

Culture has always been an essential field of action for the Barcelona Provincial Council and local authorities in the region. For this reason, the Barcelona Provincial Council has approved CULTURA 311+, the institution’s 2024–2027 Cultural Rights Plan. The plan is based on a strategy articulated around three core areas (access, participation and innovation/ knowledge) and thirteen areas of intervention, covering everything from libraries to artistic creation, through heritage, cultural mediation and strategic analysis. The objective is to ensure that all

rights and the diversity of expressions through to the protection of heritage, artistic freedom and support for the creative industries. It also calls for the integration of culture into environmental and urban policies, the strengthening

people, wherever they live and whatever their situation, can fully exercise their cultural rights.

With this line of work, the Council is reinforcing its role in supporting municipal



councils with the development of cultural policies from a rights-based approach, treating culture as a common good and a fundamental right, and not only as a sectoral activity. The adoption of SDG 18 helps to consolidate this framework and align it with the 2030 Agenda, thereby facilitating a better connection between local strategies and global priorities.

This commitment positions the institution as an active benchmark in promoting a cultural agenda with real impact on sustainable development. At the same time, it highlights culture's capacity to generate new narratives, material opportunities, expand freedoms and pave the way to a more just, greener and more democratic future.

Public innovation at the service of

that views innovation as only effective when it arises from collaboration with actors on the ground: local governments, the academic and scientific sphere, charities, businesses and the public at large.

Within this framework, science and rigorous knowledge also play a key role. Evidence-based decision-making, impact evaluation and data analysis are fundamental elements to guide innovation toward tangible and useful results. For this reason, the Barcelona Provincial Council must strive to strengthen ties with academia and research, promoting the connection between scientific knowledge generation and public action.

The International Centre for Innovation in Public Services is the strategic instrument that makes this vision possible. The Centre

The 2030 Agenda calls on us to profoundly transform public policies to respond to global and complex challenges with local consequences, such as climate change, social inequalities and the digital transition. Faced with this scenario, public innovation is an essential tool to design more adaptive, inclusive and sustainable responses, with a polyhedral perspective on public policies.

For the Barcelona Provincial Council, innovation means a firm commitment to the continuous enhancement of public policies and to driving transformative solutions. This commitment is structured via a systemic and participatory approach

is a potential benchmark for innovation aimed at achieving the SDGs, acting as a laboratory of ideas and practices, supporting experimental projects, promoting co-creation methodologies and facilitating networking among institutions, academia and the general public.

Looking towards 2030, the Council is keen to reaffirm its intention to consolidate a robust and open public innovation ecosystem, grounded in scientific evidence, institutional collaboration and the participation of territorial agents. Only through this integrated approach will we be able to achieve the SDGs and build a local administration that is more streamlined, proximate, transformative and committed to the well-being of people and the planet.

6

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Table 1. Reference documents for the reference values included in Chapter 3

Source: Own elaboration

Reference documents	Reference value
<u>Action Plan for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights</u>	Reduce by at least 15 million the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030 in the European Union
	Achieve an employment rate of 78% in the EU among people aged 20 to 64
	Reduce by at least half the gender employment gap compared with 2019
	Achieve an employment rate of 78% in the EU among people aged 20 to 64
	Reduce by at least 15 million the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030 in the European Union
	At least 80% of people aged 16 to 74 should have

	basic digital skills
	Dedicate 25% of agricultural land to organic farming by 2030
<u>European Green Deal</u>	By 2030, have an electricity system with at least 74% of generation from renewable energy sources
	Reduce transport emissions by at least 50% and promote the use of electric vehicles
	Reduce energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 compared with the consumption forecasts made in 2020
	Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels
<u>Europe's Digital Targets for 2030</u>	By 2030, all households should have access to gigabit broadband internet through fixed networks
<u>European Care Strategy</u>	By 2030, 96% of children between age 3 and the start of compulsory primary education will be enrolled in early childhood education and care

Reference documents	Reference value
European Biodiversity Strategy 2030	Protect at least 30% of EU land and marine areas, including coastal zones, for biodiversity conservation
WHO Air Quality Guidelines (Global update 2021)	Annual mean of 10 µg/m ³ of NO ₂
WHO	At least 10–15 m ² of green area per capita
Strategic Framework for European cooperation in education and training	By 2030, the rate of early leaving from education and training should be below 9%
European Union's Stability and Growth Pact	Public debt must not exceed 60% of GDP
Zero-Pollution Action Plan	Reduce premature deaths and health impacts from air pollution by more than 55% by 2030
	Improve environmental quality and reduce pollution in the

	Improve water quality by reducing waste, plastics in the sea (by 50%) and microplastics released into the environment (by 30%)
<u>EU's Vision Zero</u>	Zero road fatalities by 2050 and a 50% reduction in deaths and serious injuries by 2030
<u>Directive 2012/19/EU</u>	55% recycling target set by the EU for 2025 and 60% by 2030
<u>Directive 2008/50/EC</u>	Annual mean of 40 µg/m ³ of NO ₂
<u>Act 12/2023 on the Right to Housing</u>	Mortgage payments or rent should not generally exceed 30% of household income
<u>Act 18/2007 on the Right to Housing</u>	15% of existing primary residences should be allocated to social housing policies
<u>Act 16/2017, on Climate Change</u>	Reduce primary energy consumption by at least 39.5% compared with the baseline in accordance with EU legislation

Table 2. Localised targets

Source: Barcelona Provincial Council

1.1	Reduce extreme poverty.
1.2	Reduce the proportion of the population living in poverty by increasing comprehensive programmes that address it in all its dimensions.
1.3	Strengthen at the local level appropriate social protection systems and measures for all people so as to achieve broad coverage of vulnerable persons.
1.4	Ensure that people, especially the poor and vulnerable, enjoy equal rights and have access on an equal basis to basic services, natural resources, economic resources and financial services.
1.5	Promote the resilience of poor and vulnerable people and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
2.1	Ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all, especially for those in food-insecure situations, by promoting sustainable, local agriculture that is resilient against extreme climate and weather conditions.

	that is resilient against extreme climate and weather conditions..
2.3	Promote agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers.
2.4	Integrated into Target 2.1
2.5	Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domestic animals, and their related wild species.
3.4	Scale up programmes to promote healthy habits to reduce the risk of non-transmissible diseases and to promote mental health and well-being.
3.5	Strengthen prevention, information and treatment of addictions, including drug abuse, tobacco use, harmful alcohol consumption and screen addiction.
3.6	Halve the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
3.7	Promote measures to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services.
3.9	Contribute to reducing the incidence of diseases caused by hazardous chemicals and by air, water and soil pollution.

4.1	Contribute to educational success by ensuring access to free, equitable and quality education.
4.2	Ensure that all children aged 0–3 have access to care and development services and to quality early childhood education.
4.4	Substantially increase the number of young people and adults with the skills needed to access the labour market, decent work and entrepreneurship under equal conditions.
4.5	Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equity in access, conditions and outcomes for all vulnerable groups.
4.7	Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development.
4.a	Ensure that education facilities meet the needs of children and persons with disabilities and take gender into account by providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments.
5.1	End all forms of gender discrimination.

5.2	Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence..
5.4	Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, promote shared responsibility and support non-professional caregivers.
5.5	Ensure full and effective participation and equal leadership opportunities for women in all decision-making spheres of political, economic and public life.
5.6	Integrated into Target 3.
5.b	Achieve gender equality in the use of information and communications technologies.
5.c	Strengthen gender equality policies and plans and the empowerment of women and girls.
6.1	Ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, with special attention to the most vulnerable.

6.2	Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene services.
6.3	Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating discharges and increasing sustainable drainage, recycling, reuse and capture of groundwater
6.4	Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable extraction and supply of freshwater.
6.5	Implement integrated water-resources management in all sectors, including regional cooperation if necessary.
6.6	Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including forests, mountains, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes in all areas of special natural value.
6.b	Promote and strengthen local community participation in water and sanitation management
7.1	Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, with special emphasis on households in energy poverty.
7.2	Substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix.

7.3	Substantially improve energy efficiency.
8.2	Widely increase economic productivity across the territory through specialisation, diversification, innovation, strategic planning and territorial coordination.
8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, business consolidation, creativity and innovation.
8.4	Improve the efficient production and consumption of resources and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
8.5	Achieve a high employment rate and quality jobs for the most vulnerable groups throughout the province.
8.6	Substantially reduce the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training.
8.8	Protect labour rights and promote a safe working environment across the province, especially for migrant women and those in unstable employment.
8.9	Strengthen policies promoting quality, sustainable, local-market tourism that generates employment and promotes local culture and products.

9.1	Develop sustainable, resilient, quality infrastructure with strong transformative capacity to support the territory's economic development, ensuring affordable and equitable access.
9.2	Strengthen policies supporting the productive fabric to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, increasing industry's contribution to local employment and to GDP throughout the province.
9.3	Increase small-industry and enterprise access to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.
9.4	Modernise infrastructure and convert industries to sustainability by promoting technology adoption, process improvement and environmental rationality.
9.5	Increase scientific research and improve technological capacity in industrial sectors.
9.c	Ensure universal and affordable access to the Internet and to ICT across the province.
10.1	Progressively achieve income growth for the poorest 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

10.2	Promote social, economic and political inclusion, paying special attention to vulnerable, disabled, migrant or racialised groups and regardless of religion.
10.3	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce outcome inequalities by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting adequate measures.
10.4	Drive policies, and especially fiscal, wage and social protection, to achieve greater equality.
10.7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility, including through planned and well-managed migration policies.
11.1	Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, with special attention to vulnerable neighbourhoods and areas.
11.2	Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems and improve road safety.
11.3	Achieve an inclusive, sustainable urban model through strategic, territory-coordinated planning and citizen participation.
11.4	Redouble efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage.

11.5	Significantly reduce the number of deaths and economic losses caused by disasters.
11.6	Reduce the negative environmental impact across the territory, with special attention to air quality and municipal waste management.
11.7	Provide universal access to more safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, with special emphasis on women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.
11.a	Strengthen urban and territorial strategic planning, supporting economic, social and environmental links among urban, peri-urban and rural areas.
11.b	Integrated into Target 13.1
12.1	Promote sustainable consumption and production, including local-market commerce.
12.2	Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
12.3	Substantially reduce food waste and losses in production and distribution chains.

12.5	Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse policies.
12.6	Encourage the adoption of sustainable practices by businesses.
12.7	Promote sustainable public procurement practices (including social, environmental and economic clauses).
12.8	Ensure that everyone has the information and awareness needed for sustainable development and lifestyles.
12.b	Integrated into Target 8.9
13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.
13.2	Incorporate climate change measures into local policies, strategies and plans.
13.3	Improve education, awareness and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

14.1	Prevent and significantly reduce all kinds of marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities.
14.2	Protect and promote sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.
14.a	Increase scientific knowledge to improve ocean health and enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity.
14.b	Support access by small-scale traditional fishers to marine resources and markets.
15.1	Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, particularly forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands.
15.2	Increase the area of sustainably managed forests, end deforestation, restore degraded forests and significantly expand afforestation and reforestation.
15.3	Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods.
15.4	Ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems, in particular their biodiversity.

15.5	Reduce degradation of natural habitats, halt biodiversity loss and protect threatened species.
15.8	Adopt measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and control or eradicate priority species.
15.9	Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into local planning, development processes, poverty-reduction strategies and accounting.
15.a	Mobilise financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.
16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates, with special attention to children and older persons.
16.2	Integrated into Target 16.1
16.3	Promote initiatives to improve equitable access to justice and mediation mechanisms, especially for the most vulnerable.

16.5	Strengthen local measures against corruption, improve transparency and promote accountability in public management.
16.6	Build effective, accountable, transparent and participatory institutions.
16.7	Ensure inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making that responds to the population's' needs.
16.a	Guarantee public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms.
16.10	Promote and apply non-discriminatory local regulation and legislation in favour of sustainable development.
17.1	Strengthen the economic and fiscal autonomy and capacity of local governments.
17.2	Promote development cooperation and ensure 0.7% of revenues for this purpose.
17.6	Enhance knowledge exchange and strengthen regional and international cooperation, North-South, South-South and triangular, for economic, social and environmental development.

17.14	Improve policy coherence for sustainable development.
17.16	Integrated into Target 17.17
17.17	Promote the creation of effective public, public-private and civil-society partnerships to drive sustainable development.
17.18	Improve the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data.
17.19	Encourage and support the development of monitoring systems and indicators to measure progress in achieving the SDGs.

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