

Summary of the 1st Forum of Local Urban Agendas

Event Overview

The 1st Forum of Local Urban Agendas was held on July 18, 2022, at the Paraninfo of the Escola Industrial in Barcelona. Organized by the Barcelona Provincial Council, the forum aimed to be a meeting point for local governments in the Barcelona region to discuss and share their experiences with Local Urban Agendas (LUAs).

Key Objectives

- **Sharing Best Practices:** Highlighting the work of various municipalities in implementing LUAs.
- **Learning from Others:** Gaining insights from other regions on LUA implementation.
- **Practical Workshops:** Conducting workshops on governance, collaboration, and post-action plan strategies.

Main Sessions

1. **Institutional Greetings:** Emphasized the transformative power of LUAs and the importance of local solutions.
2. **Global Vision for Local Action:** Discussed the alignment of LUAs with international, national, and regional agendas, highlighting the non-binding yet strategic nature of these agendas.
3. **Transformative Power of LUAs:** A roundtable with municipal representatives discussing the impact of LUAs on local governance and urban planning.

Workshops

- **Workshop 1:** Focused on multi-level governance and network collaboration, addressing internal transversal processes, inter-administrative coordination, and public-private partnerships.
- **Workshop 2:** Explored the deployment of strategic projects, monitoring action plans, and maintaining participatory governance models.

Key Takeaways

- **Multi-Level Governance:** The importance of coordination between different levels of government and sectors.
- **Participatory Processes:** Engaging citizens and stakeholders in the planning and implementation of LUAs.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Ensuring LUAs align with broader strategic goals and frameworks.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Identifying and leveraging various funding sources for LUA projects.

Conclusion

The forum concluded with the reading of the manifesto of the Network of Local Urban Agendas, emphasizing the commitment to collaborative work in defining, deploying, and implementing LUAs. The event was well-received, with high levels of satisfaction among participants.

Summary of the 2nd Forum of Local Urban Agendas

The 2nd edition of the Local Urban Agendas Forum (Fòrum AUL), held on October 28, 2024, brought together over 170 participants and 30 speakers at the Paraninfo of the Escola Industrial, focusing on the implementation of urban agendas in the province of Barcelona. Led by the Barcelona Provincial Council, the event highlighted the progress and challenges in deploying Local Urban Agendas (LUAs) aligned with the UN's 2030 Agenda and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

XAUL (Local Urban Agendas Network), created in 2022, now includes 46 agendas involving 75 municipalities—representing 40% of the province's population. The Forum emphasized collaboration across governmental levels, civil society, and the private sector, and positioned LUAs as tools for transforming urban policies toward sustainability, climate neutrality, and social equity.

Key sessions addressed:

- Strategic implementation of LUAs from European, national, and regional perspectives.
- The Barcelona Provincial Council's commitment to renewing urban public policies through networked governance.
- Presentation of the project "*Ciudades que se superan*" (Cities that overcome), by UN-Habitat, to accelerate transformative urban projects in intermediate Spanish cities.
- A collective commitment through the XAUL Manifesto, ratified by all participating municipalities.
- Expert panels discussed transformative power, strategic alliances, governance models, funding mechanisms, and monitoring tools.

Participant feedback indicated high satisfaction, with suggestions for more hands-on, case-based sessions in future editions. The Forum solidified Barcelona's role as a leader in urban agenda deployment and promoted continued cooperation for sustainable urban development.



MANIFESTO OF THE NETWORK OF LOCAL URBAN AGENDAS

Our society faces increasing complexities day by day, complexities that represent threats as well as new opportunities. As a society, we are redefining the challenges we must address; and, in this changing context, our environments are becoming increasingly relevant.

Urban settlements, towns, cities, and conurbations are the framework where this complexity is most intensely visible and the main stage where its approach is played out.

The Sustainable Development Goals, formulated by the United Nations in 2015 within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the deployment of the Urban Agenda at different levels of government highlight this transition towards a new way of interpreting this complexity while offering a renewed framework to address it.

Urban agendas allow us to share a common vision of the challenges of our world, while projecting concrete actions, adapted to the problems, places, and communities. In a way, the urban agenda allows us to reconcile a global vision of the challenges of our society with an effective local response.

In this context, the local entities that are part of the Network of Local Urban Agendas, promoted by the Barcelona Provincial Council:

1.- We defend the central role of local administrations in the governance of our society, as key institutions for the advancement of citizens' well-being, deployed in a territory that aspires to the harmonious coexistence of progress, equity, and sustainability.

2.- We advocate for Local Urban Agendas as the ideal instrument to guide and make possible the transformation of our urban settlements, in harmony with their natural environments, responding to their own problems and simultaneously addressing the new challenges that increasingly confront our societies.

3.- Agenda-setting implies the will and commitment to act, and **we will act** from a triple perspective: aligning policies and resources, improving the regulatory framework, and building knowledge and experience.

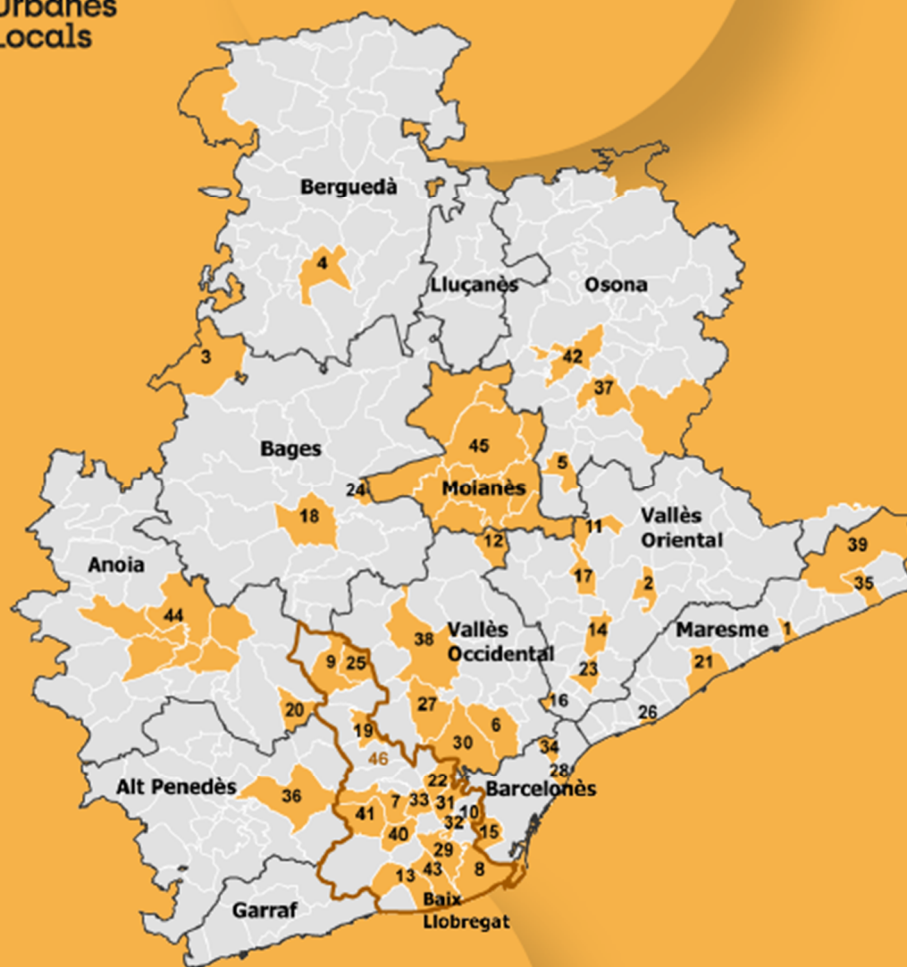
4.- We call for concerted action from all areas and levels of public intervention, and also the effective involvement of economic and social agents, all called to be active participants in this collective challenge, and to contribute commitment, initiative, and resources for its approach.

5.- Driven by this objective, the local entities adhering to the Network of Local Urban Agendas **commit** to working together in the definition, deployment, and implementation of our respective agendas, convinced that collaboration and joint action make us grow, improve, and bring us closer to achieving the challenges ahead.

Barcelona, July 18, 2022.



Agendes
Urbanes
Locals



#AgendesUrbanesLocals

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Canet de Mar | 25. Olesa de Montserrat |
| 2. Cardedeu | 26. Premià de Mar |
| 3. Cardona | 27. Rubí |
| 4. Casserres | 28. Sant Adrià del Besòs |
| 5. Centelles | 29. Sant Boi de Llobregat |
| 6. Cerdanyola del Vallès | 30. Sant Cugat del Vallès |
| 7. Cervelló | 31. Sant Feliu de Llobregat |
| 8. El Prat de Llobregat | 32. Sant Joan Despí |
| 9. Esparreguera | 33. Sant Vicenç dels Horts |
| 10. Esplugues de Llobregat | 34. Santa Coloma de Gramenet |
| 11. Figaró-Montmany | 35. Santa Susanna |
| 12. Gallifa | 36. Subirats |
| 13. Gavà | 37. Taradell |
| 14. Granollers | 38. Terrassa |
| 15. L'Hospitalet de Llobregat | 39. Tordera |
| 16. La Llagosta | 40. Torrelles de Llobregat |
| 17. L'Ametlla del Vallès | 41. Vallirana |
| 18. Manresa | 42. Vic |
| 19. Martorell | 43. Viladecans |
| 20. Masquefa | 44. Mancomunitat de la Conca d'Odena |
| 21. Mataró | 45. Consell Comarcal del Moianès |
| 22. Molins de Rei | 46. Consell Comarcal del Baix Llobregat |
| 23. Montornès del Vallès | |
| 24. Navarces | |



**Agendes
Urbanes
Locals**

Pla d'acció Impuls de les agendes urbanes locals

Diputació de Barcelona.

Projecte Transformador del Pla
d'actuació de mandat 2020-2023

Description

The "**Impuls de les Agendes Urbanes Locals**" (Promotion of Local Urban Agendas) is a transformative project developed by the **Barcelona Provincial Council** (Diputació de Barcelona) within the 2020–2023 strategic mandate framework. It aims to guide municipalities in aligning their development strategies with global sustainability agendas, particularly the **UN 2030 Agenda**, the **Spanish Urban Agenda**, and **Catalonia's Agenda for Towns and Cities 2050**.

Purpose and Scope

The project supports local governments across the province in drafting and implementing **Local Urban Agendas (LUAs)** that foster urban environments that are sustainable, inclusive, safe, healthy, and resilient. It emphasizes integrated planning, cross-sector collaboration, and the mobilization of public investment aligned with sustainable development goals.

Strategic Axes

1. **Technical Support to Local Entities** – Assistance in drafting LUAs using a standardized methodology based on strategic goals and territorial diagnosis.
2. **Creation and Coordination of the XAUL Network** – The *Xarxa d'Agendes Urbanes Locals* connects municipalities, government bodies, experts, and civil society to exchange practices, build alliances, and monitor implementation.
3. **Strategic Alliances and Knowledge Sharing** – Encourages collaboration with national and international institutions, boosting innovation and shared learning.

Key Instruments

- **The XAUL Network:** A governance structure with political and technical committees and working groups on methodology, best practices, and monitoring.
- **Funding:** Includes support from Spain's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (NextGenerationEU), with €300,000 allocated to the Diputació de Barcelona.
- **Indicators Framework:** To assess progress in urban quality, social equity, budget alignment, and inter-agency collaboration.

Results & Impact

By 2022, over 30 municipalities were actively drafting LUAs with support from the Diputació. The project fosters a cross-municipal, data-driven approach that strengthens local autonomy and advances urban sustainability.

Practical Guide for Drafting a Local Urban Agenda

Introduction

The Barcelona Provincial Council has developed this guide to support municipalities in drafting and implementing their Local Urban Agendas (LUAs). The LUAs aim to align local policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, promoting inclusive, sustainable, and resilient urban environments.

Objectives

1. **Update Urban Diagnoses:** Address social, economic, and territorial changes comprehensively.
2. **Coordinate Policies:** Foster synergy between different sectoral policies and stakeholders.
3. **Innovative Management:** Implement new intervention and management methods focusing on health, climate action, social justice, equity, security, and resilience.
4. **Concrete Projects:** Develop integrated urban regeneration projects and other urban management tools.

Structure and Content

The guide is divided into two main parts:

1. **Contextual Framework:** Outlines the strategic and operational frameworks at international, national, and local levels, emphasizing the importance of LUAs in achieving sustainable development.
2. **Methodology for Drafting LUAs:** Provides a step-by-step approach to drafting LUAs, including: 1) Initial Work, 2) Analysis and Diagnosis, 3) Action Plan and 4) Monitoring and Evaluation

Key Phases

1. **Initial Work:** Establish objectives, thematic areas, and a work plan. Engage stakeholders and design a communication strategy.
2. **Analysis and Diagnosis:** Conduct technical and participatory analyses to understand the current urban situation. Combine quantitative and qualitative analyses to identify urban challenges and opportunities.
3. **Action Plan:** Define strategic objectives and specific actions to address identified issues, ensuring they are feasible and impactful.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish mechanisms to track and assess the implementation of the action plan. Implement a system to monitor progress and make necessary adjustments.

Support and Resources

The guide includes practical tools such as templates, indicators, and methodologies to assist municipalities in drafting their LUAs. It also emphasizes the importance of collaboration and knowledge exchange among local entities.

Conclusion

The LUAs are instrumental in guiding municipalities towards sustainable urban development, aligning local actions with global goals, and fostering inclusive, resilient, and innovative urban environments.

Study and Methodological Proposal for Participatory Processes in Local Urban Agendas (LUAs)

This report presents a diagnostic and methodological proposal to enhance **citizen participation** in the development and implementation of **Local Urban Agendas (LUAs)** across the province of Barcelona. The initiative supports the **Impuls AUL project**, part of the Provincial Council's broader strategy to localize the **UN 2030 Agenda** and promote inclusive, resilient urban planning.

Objectives

- Assess the current status of participation in LUAs across member municipalities of the **XAUL network**.
- Provide tailored **tools and methodologies** that match local socio-economic and institutional contexts to strengthen participatory processes.

Methodology

The study applied a **Participatory Action Research (PAR)** approach, engaging 21 municipalities through:

- **Surveys** (questionnaire with 31 items).
- **In-depth interviews** with 9 municipalities.
- Collection of **inspirational experiences** inside and outside the province.
- Comparative analysis of participatory models.

Key Findings

- Most municipalities are in early stages of LUA drafting or diagnosis.
- **Participation challenges** include tight timelines, limited human resources, and difficulty engaging diverse populations.
- Some municipalities reused participation from other strategic processes (e.g., Agenda 2030, local plans).
- **Notable tools used:** citizen workshops, online surveys, thematic focus groups, youth councils, and street-level engagement activities.
- There's growing interest in creating **permanent governance spaces** (e.g., technical working groups, city councils).

Phase 2 Outlook

- Develop a **flexible, adaptable methodology** for participation in LUAs.
- Deliver a set of tools and examples to facilitate community engagement in both the **design** and **monitoring** phases.
- Create a **visual repository** to map experiences across the province.

Manual for Developing a Communication Strategy for a Local Urban Agenda

This manual provides a comprehensive guide for municipalities to design effective communication strategies to support the development, implementation, and public engagement of Local Urban Agendas (LUAs). These agendas align with the UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to transform cities through inclusive, sustainable, and participatory urban policies.

Key Highlights

- **Transformative Communication:**

LUAs are powerful tools for aligning local strategies with global objectives. Effective communication is essential to involve citizens, build trust, and highlight the relevance of these agendas in daily life.

- **Strategic Planning:**

A communication plan should be designed from the early stages of LUA development and be tailored to each locality's context—rural towns, medium-sized cities, or metropolitan areas.

- **Communication Pillars:**

- Analyze the **context** (internal and external).
- Define **clear communication goals** (awareness, engagement, participation).
- Identify and segment **target audiences** (citizens, youth, internal staff, media, economic and social agents).
- Develop a **coherent narrative** and adapt messages to each audience.
- Design a strong **visual identity** and brand for the agenda.

- **Channels and Tools:**

Use a mix of **online** (websites, social media, videos, digital bulletins) and **offline** tools (events, printed materials, exhibitions) to maximize reach. Internal communication and media relations (press kits, articles) are also critical.

- **Social Media Guidelines:**

Customize messages by platform, maintain a consistent visual and narrative tone, and promote participation through hashtags, real stories, and data-driven content.

- **Implementation and Monitoring:**

Continuous communication is vital, even after launching the LUA. Strategies must be dynamic, measurable, and adjusted through feedback and performance indicators.

Un projecte de



Finançat per



"Methodology for Monitoring Local Urban Agendas (LUAs) and Conceptualization of the LUA Dashboard"

1.- Methodology for Monitoring Local Urban Agendas (LUAs)

This document outlines a methodological proposal for tracking the progress and impact of *Àrees de Laboratori Urbà* (AULs), initiatives under the *Programa d'Actuació Municipal* (PAM) in Barcelona. The AULs serve as experimental territories where innovative solutions are tested to address urban challenges. The document emphasizes the need for a robust, systematic approach to monitor the evolution of these pilot experiences.

Goals of the Methodology

- Establish a shared framework for analyzing AULs.
- Enable effective monitoring and documentation of changes over time.
- Ensure knowledge is transferable and replicable across different territories.

Monitoring Strategy

The methodology proposes a multi-dimensional monitoring structure based on:

1. Governance and Participation: Evaluation of collaborative mechanisms, institutional alignment, and citizen engagement.
2. Urban Transformation: Observation of physical, environmental, and economic impacts.
3. Social Innovation: Analysis of new forms of community organization and social dynamics.
4. Scalability and Replicability: Potential for the practices to be extended to other areas.

Implementation Tools

The proposal includes tools like:

- Field visits and interviews with local actors.
- Periodic assessment reports.
- A comparative dashboard for cross-AUL analysis.
- A central repository to document processes and learnings.

Expected Outcomes

- Better coordination and learning among public administrations.
- A robust evidence base to support urban innovation policies.
- Enhanced capacity to measure the long-term value of experimental projects.

This methodology is designed to be dynamic and adaptable, capable of evolving alongside the development of the AULs themselves.

2.- Conceptualization of the LUA Dashboard

The **Local Urban Agendas Dashboard (Visor AUL)** is an interactive tool developed by the Barcelona Provincial Council to support municipalities in the implementation and monitoring of their Local Urban Agendas (LUAs). It provides comprehensive, accessible data to guide strategic decisions, promote transparency, and measure long-term impact aligned with the goals of the Spanish Urban Agenda and the 2030/2050 horizons.

Key Objectives of the Visor:

1. Offer clear insight into the state of LUAs across the province.
2. Guide decision-making through analysis of key indicators.
3. Promote transparency by sharing data with the public and stakeholders.
4. Measure progress toward strategic goals.
5. Foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among municipalities.

Development Process:

- **Data Review:** Analysis of monitoring models from 20+ municipalities helped identify strengths and weaknesses.
- **Surveys and Workshops:** Participatory sessions with local entities highlighted the need for a dual indicator system (strategic + detailed), cross-municipal comparability, and data automation.
- **European Best Practices:** Inspired by tools like the OECD Better Life Index and Barcelona's ODS Indicator Dashboard.
- **Focus Groups:** Municipal feedback favored a hybrid model combining strategic impact indicators with detailed local tracking.

Dashboard Structure:

- **Implementation Section:** Presents the status of LUA adoption with maps and detailed municipal profiles.
- **Monitoring Section:** Displays three types of indicators:
 - *Descriptive indicators* (general municipal data).
 - *Impact indicators* (long-term outcomes linked to strategic objectives).
 - *Follow-up indicators* (tracking specific actions and progress).

Technical Integration:

Built on Qlik Sense, the dashboard supports interactive visualizations and allows data export. Data is updated based on the nature of each indicator (e.g., descriptive = every 5 years, impact = annually, follow-up = annually via municipal surveys).

This tool empowers local governments and enhances coordination in advancing sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban development across the province.