

The city of Barcelona

Barcelona is an open, vibrant and creative city with a busy cultural, political, business and commercial life. It is a metropolis where every imaginable language can be heard, as well as a city that invites its residents and visitors alike to discover its Catalan culture and traditions.

The Catalan capital

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, a country whose nation boasts a long history, enjoying self-government as an autonomous region in the Spanish State. It is situated on the north-east coast of the Iberian Peninsula, facing the Mediterranean Sea and bordered by Andorra and France along its north. Catalonia also has its **own language**, Catalan, which grew out of Latin, as did Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. **Catalan is its official language**, together with Spanish, and is used regularly in every walk of life. In addition, most of the people working in international trade and the country's main tourist areas speak English and other languages as well. Barcelona has always attracted people from all over the world, making it even more **multilingual and special**. It is the people living there, with their different backgrounds and cultures, who make it so **cosmopolitan, diverse and intercultural**.

Economic powerhouse of a prosperous region

One of the biggest metropolitan areas in Europe has grown up around the capital, consolidating Barcelona as an **outstanding business, technological and industrial centre, as well as a major economic powerhouse**. In fact, the city has always stood out for its intensive business and commercial activities and proved its ability to modernise and adapt itself to the new times. It has become such a magnet for global talent that it is now a European centre for business creation, especially in **leading sectors** such as information and communication technologies, biotechnology, sustainability, design and aeronautics. The city also plays host to several of world's most important international trade fairs, such as the **Mobile World Congress** and the **Barcelona Meeting Point**. Innovation is another Barcelona's hallmarks: it is the number-one smart city in the Spanish State and the fourth in Europe. It is also one of the cities with the highest quality of life in the world and the life expectancy of its residents is among the highest in Europe.



Barcelona, 10th February 2017

BARCELONA REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 10-POINTS PLAN OF ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COALITION OF CITIES AGAINST RACISM

OBJECTIVES

MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Commitment 1: Greater Vigilance Against Racism To set up a monitoring, vigilance and solidarity network against racism at city level.</p> | <p>Under the “Barcelona, city of rights” programme, the city advocates for the strengthening of regulations that defend human rights beyond the municipal powers and establishes a network of pro human rights associations and individuals to promote and survey a human rights culture in Barcelona.</p> <p>The “Plan against Islamophobia” conceives the creation of an observatory for hate crimes and hate speech and complementary training for municipal workers and city police regarding islamophobia and its detection.</p> |
| <p>Commitment 2: Assessing Racism and Discrimination and Monitoring Municipal Policies To initiate or develop further the collection of data on racism and discrimination, establish achievable objectives and set common indicators in order to assess the impact of municipal policies.</p> | <p>Both the Internal training plan for human rights and diversity and the Plan against islamophobia deal with the necessity of training municipal personnel in order to raise awareness of discrimination and racism, especially in regards of issuing public policies and dealing with its victims.</p> <p>At least twice a year, the city council does a thorough revision of all municipal regulations through the prism of human rights defence and promotion, to ensure that the legislation works towards integrating all city dwellers and guaranteeing an equality of opportunities. The “Barcelona, city of rights” plan states the need of this revision and its procedure.</p> |

Kommentar [AdB1]: Please link to Measure Barcelona city of rights (eng).pdf

Kommentar [AdB2]: Link to Measure Plan against islamophobia (eng).pdf

Kommentar [AdB3]: Link to Measure Human rights formation (eng).pdf



| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Commitment 3: Better Support for the Victims of Racism and Discrimination To support victims and contribute to strengthening their capacity to defend themselves against racism and discrimination.</p> | <p>The Office for Non-Discrimination takes care of victims of racism and discrimination by providing information, support, mediation and juridical counselling in order to guarantee the equality of rights for all citizens. It is also at the front of a training and sensitivity campaign regarding discrimination, becoming an important actor and a privileged observer in the city.</p> |
| <p>Commitment 4: More Participation and Better Informed City Dwellers To ensure better information for city dwellers on their rights and obligations, on protection and legal options and on the penalties for racist acts or behaviour, by using a participatory approach, notably through consultations with service users and service providers.</p> | <p>The city's regulations: plan for interculturality (website), plan against islamophobia, and Barcelona, city of rights consider the composition of Barcelona's population as a key asset for city, taking it as one of its most important values as a cosmopolitan reference in Europe.</p> <p>Hence, these plans work towards raising awareness of the city's reality, promoting interculturality as a means to grow in social cohesion as well as tackling with any form of discrimination and racism, and sensitising the population against hate speech and crimes.</p> <p>In order to favour the participation and empowerment regarding the city's policies, the CMIB (Immigration Municipal Council of Barcelona) and the CMPG (Roma People's Municipal Council) are two advisory bodies that serve both as spokesperson and as a participative platform.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Local strategy for the Roma People in Barcelona defines the city council's guidelines and actions to be implemented in terms of education, jobs, housing, welfare, integration and empowerment.</p> <p>Finally, Barcelona's city council has planned several activities and conferences under the banner of Barcelona vs. Hate, which tries to tackle with the rejection and discrimination of people who are seen as different, being this rejection the first step towards hate speech and crimes.</p> |

Kommentar [Adb4]: Link to BCN Plan for Interculturality (eng).pdf



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Commitment 5: The City as an Active Supporter of Equal Opportunity Practices</p> <p>To facilitate equal opportunities employment practices and support for diversity in the labour market through exercising the existing discretionary powers of the city authority.</p> | <p>Barcelona City Council has no specific powers regarding the labour market but, through Barcelona Activa, as part of the Department of Economy, Business and Employment, executes Barcelona City Council's economic promotion policies. It drives an ample package of measures aimed at unemployed people and/or people wanting to improve their employability in Barcelona:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PISL (Social and Occupational Integration Programmes) is a programme for social and occupational integration aimed primarily at people at risk of exclusion. • Dona Impuls (Woman Stimulus), a social and occupational integration programme for Sub-Saharan women, promoted by ABITS (Agency for a Comprehensive Approach to Sex Work). • The municipality offers a proper, personalised programme for job hunters. • Pilot programme for the integration and Employment of transsexual people. • Neighbourhood employment project. <p>Barcelona has chosen a model of competitiveness articulated around the qualification of human capital, the quality of employment and a labour market with equal opportunities for everyone, without any kind of discrimination on grounds of sex, age or country of origin or physical or intellectual abilities.</p> |
| <p>Commitment 6: The City As An Equal Opportunities Employer and Service Provider</p> <p>The city commits itself to be an equal opportunities employer and equitable service provider, and to engage in monitoring, training and development to achieve this objective.</p> | <p>Regarding municipal contracting, Barcelona City Council has pushed policies for the inclusion of social and environmental clauses in all contracts of services and products. This initiative, a pioneering regulation in Spain, states that at least 5% of all employment contracts of the municipal administration and its companies must be conceded to people at risk of social exclusion or with physical or mental disabilities. In addition, it will have to outsource 5% of the contract budget to special work centers or social integration companies.</p> |



| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Barcelona City Council's website, in the 'Contractor profile' tab, provides information on current tenders and provisional and definitive awards. It also contains the portfolio of particular administrative clauses regulating contracts.</p> <p>The regulations also envisages to include the contractor's obligation to hire at least 20% of new personnel from one or more of the following profiles: victims of gender violence, people who have practiced prostitution, transsexual people, people with disabilities, people with problems of drug addiction or alcoholism who are in the process of rehabilitation or social reintegration, etc.</p> |
| <p>Commitment 7: Fair Access to Housing To take active steps to strengthen policies against housing discrimination within the city.</p> | <p>Barcelona Housing Plan fights to guarantee a fair access to housing for everyone. In fact, municipal actions has always been directed at preventing and avoiding any form of social discrimination, designing policies and resources directed at the population as a whole to attend to the needs of society.</p> <p>Be it by legal means through the Prosecutor's Office, or be it through a budget allowance to prevent the eviction of the most vulnerable, the city council considers a priority to protect and enforce the access to housing for everyone.</p> <p>Barcelona Housing Plan also lays out the sheltered housing promotional aims in Barcelona city, being the Consell de l'Habitatge Social (Social Housing Council) the advisory and participative body in charge of surveying the whole municipal activity.</p> <p>Finally, the Office for Non-Discrimination works with estate agents, property managers and organisations to publicise the regulation in force, putting emphasis on its fight against all types of discrimination on grounds of race, ethnic origin or nationality in terms of access to housing.</p> |



| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Commitment 8: Challenging Racism and Discrimination Through Education</p> <p>To strengthen measures against discrimination in access to, and enjoyment of, all forms of education; and to promote the provision of education in mutual tolerance and understanding, and intercultural dialogue.</p> | <p>Education is one of the key points to fight racism and discrimination. As such, the PAM (Municipal Action Plan) considers that empowering young people of diverse origins through education is a must. Furthermore, the Plan for interculturality underlines the importance of teaching about the socio-cultural diversity of the neighbourhoods, and urges the Consorci de l'Educació (Educational Consortium) to commit themselves in establishing measures in this direction, in a similar way as it is pointed out by the LEC (Catalonian Education Law).</p> <p>The Plan against islamophobia also states the importance of raising awareness against hate crime discrimination at schools in order to attain a true intercultural society.</p> |
| <p>Commitment 9: Promoting Cultural Diversity</p> <p>To ensure fair representation and promotion for the diverse range of cultural expression and heritage of city dwellers in the cultural programmes, collective memory and public space of the city authority and promote interculturality in city life.</p> | <p>The city has cultural diversity as a standard, considering it one of its most important values. Hence, many actions fall within the Plan for interculturality. One of its best examples is the Espai Avinyó (Avinyó space), a cultural reference that fosters a free of stereotypes, culturally diverse agenda, promoting intercultural dialogue through a wide range of activities.</p> <p>In regards of creating bonds between cultures, an Anti-rumour strategy has been implemented in order to bridge gaps, since misconceptions and lack of information are the root of hate speech.</p> |
| <p>Commitment 10: Hate Crimes and Conflicts Management</p> <p>To support or establish mechanisms for dealing with hate crimes and conflict management.</p> | <p>The Office for Non-Discrimination is the reference point for hate crimes and conflict management, advocating for mediation as the main mechanism to deal with conflicts while offering juridical counselling in case of need.</p> |

Kommentar [AdB5]: Link to BCN Plan for Interculturality (eng).pdf