



Combining guaranteed minimum income and active social policies in Barcelona’s deprived urban areas

**Editorial:** The design and preparation process may have taken months to arrange, but the B-MINCOME pilot project finally kicked off last December, with the first transfer of the Municipal Inclusion Support (SMI) to participating households. More than eight presentations have been made so far with several public, social and community organisations and bodies from the territory, thereby demonstrating the broad interest that the project has generated. Let us not forget that the goal behind the project is to test the effectiveness and efficiency of combining passive policies (SMI) with active ones (training and jobs under employment plans co-created with the territory’s organisations; boosting social entrepreneurship in the social, solidarity and cooperative sector; financial aid for renovating houses so rooms can be put up for long-term renting; and a Community Participation Programme) to reduce the territory’s rates of inequality and exclusion. We are convinced that the project’s complexity (given the number of players involved and its design and management) will be recompensed with good results, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and in terms of the knowledge generated. Once the project has finished, we hope the results will help to consolidate a new way of designing, implementing and assessing public policies in Barcelona, where such policies are co-decided with the players and collectives involved and help to create a new ecosystem in the fight against poverty and inequality in the city.

*Lluís Torrens (director OF Planning and Innovation, Area of Social Rights).*

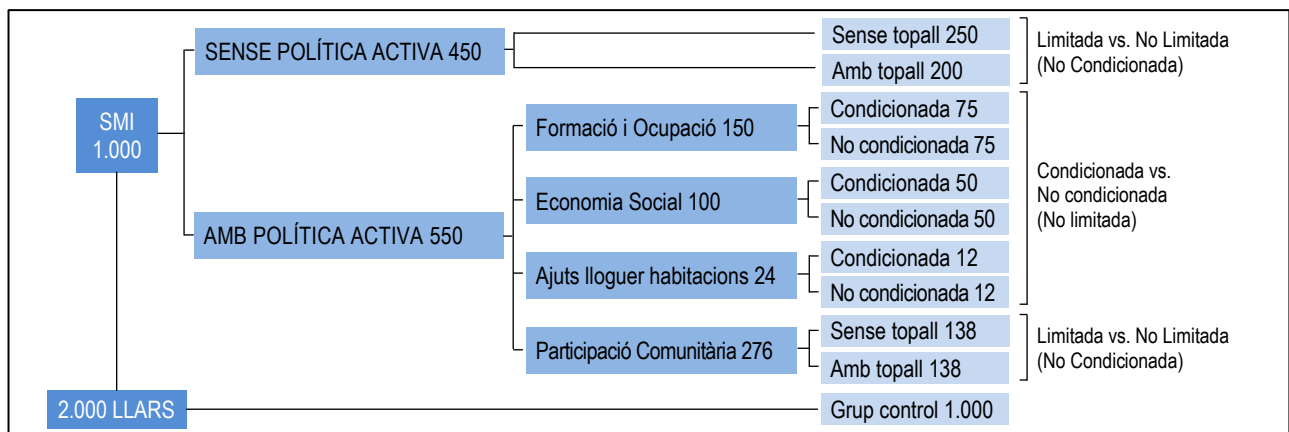
**What is B-MINCOME?** It is a pilot project designed to combat poverty and exclusion in Barcelona’s deprived areas. As part of the EU’s *Urban Innovative Actions* programme, it is run by the Department of Strategy and Innovation at Barcelona City Council’s Area of Social Rights. It combines Municipal Inclusion Support (SMI) with active social and employment inclusion policies in ten neighbourhoods of the Eix Besòs: Ciutat Meridiana, Vallbona, Torre Baró, Roquetes, Trinitat Nova, Trinitat Vella, Baró de Viver, Bon Pastor, Verneda-La Pau and Besòs-Maresme.

**Goals:** The pilot will serve to try out a municipal social-emergency income as a means of facilitating better routes out of poverty, ensuring a minimum income, giving the participants greater freedom to act and improving their capacity to make decisions in every area of their lives. This is about developing an innovative poverty-fighting ecosystem which boosts the empowerment of the people taking part in the project and reduces their dependence on public subsidies and services.

**The four-active social and employment inclusion policies:**

Training programme and Employment Plans	Promoting the Social, Solidarity and Cooperative Economy	Housing grants and subsidies for renting out rooms	Community participation
Barcelona Activa, Education Consortium, districts of the Eix Besòs, social organisations	Social organisations, Barcelona Activa, Area of the Social, Solidarity and Cooperative Economy	Barcelona Municipal Institute of Housing, Hàbitat 3 Foundation	Social organisations, Department of Community Action

**Designing the treatment groups and various categories of Municipal Inclusion Support (SMI)**



**Implementation:** The implementation timetable is shown below, from when information is first sent to potential participant households to the start of the active policies.

Period	Action	Description
1-7 Sept.	Sending letters to potential candidate households	3,397 letters to potential participant households. 908 letters to households (>25% maximum income)
7- 22 Sept.	More than 400 information sessions with the households	
9 Oct.	Final day for receiving applications	
27 Sept. - 25 Oct.	Digitisation of applications, verification and stratification.	Refining original list with interoperability.
23 Oct. - 16 Nov.	The first stage of the questionnaire is conducted	A survey is conducted on 1,980 participating households (includes control group and sample extension).
3 Nov.	The provisional list of accepted and turned down applications is published on the website (SMS)	The list will be open to challenge up to 13 November
6 - 29 Nov.	Presentations to 6 Neighbourhood Councils	Roquetes, Ciutat Meridiana, Torre Baró, Trinitat Nova and Vallbona, and planning for Sant Andreu's neighbourhoods.
16 Nov.	The final list of accepted and turned down applications is published on the website.	
17 - 20 Nov.	17 November: the draw is held 20 November: the final list is published on the website.	1,000 households and treatment groups and category (conditional, unconditional, limited and unlimited) are selected
20 Dec.	SMI payment starts	620 households.
Jan.- Feb. 2018	Active Policies start	

The results of the draw held on 17 November are shown below, as well as the distribution of the first three SMI transfers made so far.

District	Applications received	Applications entered in the draw	Results of the draw		
NOU BARRIS	45,20%	47,50%	Roquetes	13,9%	46,10%
			Trinitat Nova	7,7%	
			Torre Baró	6,2%	
			Ciutat Meridiana	16,1%	
			Vallbona	2,2%	
SANT ANDREU	23,01%	22,41%	Trinitat Vella	11,3%	22,90%
			Baró de Viver	3,6%	
			Bon Pastor	8,0%	
SANT MARTÍ	31,79%	30,09%	Besós Maresme	22,2%	31,00%
			Verneda - La Pau	8,8%	
TOTAL	100%	100%		100%	100%
LLARS	2.339	1.545		100%	1.000

SMI	December		January		february		March		April	
0-300 €	156	25,40%	206	26,10%	202	25,25%	195	24,00%	213	24,10%
301-600 €	220	35,80%	251	31,80%	258	32,25%	257	31,70%	281	31,90%
601-900 €	149	24,20%	182	23%	181	22,60%	197	24,30%	215	24,40%
901-1200 €	65	10,60%	111	14,00%	115	14,37%	119	14,60%	126	14,30%
1201-1500 €	24	3,90%	38	4,80%	41	5,10%	40	4,93%	41	4,65%
> 1500 €	0	0%	4	0,50%	3	0,37%	3	0,37%	5	0,56%
Total population	614	100%	790	100%	800	100%	811	100%	881	100%

Some of the main evaluation data from the conducted information-session process, carried out with potential

participant households from 7 to 22 September 2017, are shown here below.




Picture of one of the informative session, September 17

INDICATORS (households)	Nou Barris	Sant Andreu	Sant Martí	Total
Candidate	2337	1087	1797	5221
Without telephone	90	33	56	179
With appointment	1736	841	1163	3740
Came to appointment	645	390	477	1512
Did not come to appointment	1047	439	684	2170
Attending	939	472	766	2177
Application received	879	433	727	2039
Phoned	1745	1056	1284	4085
Answered telephone	840	541	735	2116
Confirmed	702	380	546	1628
Did not attend	97	54	156	307
Received letter	356	183	305	844
Did not receive letter	353	322	314	989
Did not reply	886	495	559	1940
To telephone again	705	367	410	1482
Wrong number, etc.	181	78	109	368

The main executive outcomes of the process for disseminating, providing information on, calling for and receiving applications from potential participant households up to November 2017 are shown below.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Initial universe: <b>5,221</b> / Candidate households: <b>4,305</b> / Households attending sessions: <b>2,177</b> (50.5%). Applications received <b>2,339</b> (300 by post) (54.3%).
Letters send (with appointment): <b>3,397</b> / Letters sent (without appointment): <b>908</b> / (Called on with phone call outside requirements of Sant Martí and SIS: 128).
<b>46%</b> of households confirmed they had received the letter.
<b>92.87%</b> of the households that confirmed their attendance after being phoned then attended the sessions.
<b>93.66%</b> of the households that attended the sessions submitted applications (2,039).
<b>307 (5.88%)</b> of the households that answered phone calls said they were not interested in the programme.

#### Partners' contributions and progress:

**IVÀLUA – Institut** **ivàlua**  Institut Català d'Avaluació de Polítiques Públiques

**Impact assessment and economic evaluation:** The goal is to find out the effect that receiving the various forms of benefits has on social and employment exclusion. It is on the basis of the results of the impact assessment that the efficiency of the various categories of benefits will be

determined, through an economic evaluation analysis. The results and knowledge drawn from this process will be useful for making informed decisions with regard to formulating public policies. The novelty of this impact assessment is that it is based on an experimental design. This means the procedure for selecting the households taking part in the B-MINCOME pilot project has a randomness component.

A thousand households were selected at random from among the 1,527 applications received that met the eligibility requirements for taking part in the project (being a user of social services, residing in the Eix Besòs area, having an income below the guaranteed minimum and having a household member aged between 25 and 60 who is employable). This type of design ensures that the comparison between the results of the 1,000 participating households and the control households allows a valid estimate of the impact of receiving this benefit. This is one of the most recommended methods for evaluating social programmes whose demand exceeds their offer, but which has unfortunately been little used in our context. This means that B-MINCOME is innovative both in the design of the programme in itself and in its evaluation. Ivàlua collaborated with the City Council in designing the draw for the various types of SMI, to ensure the programme could be evaluated. This draw was carried out using strata defined in accordance with the state of the households' employability, the amount of SMI they would have to receive and whether or not they met the requirements for taking part in the housing policy. The mechanism used for carrying out the draw was the same one used by the IMEB for allocating nursery school places.

**Challenges:** As with any impact assessment of an experimental design, the evaluation presented several important challenges. Part of Ivàlua's work was to identify the main risks through joint work with the City Council, to reduce these risks as much as possible in the design and implementation. Firstly, it is important in any impact assessment to monitor not just the households taking part in the programme, but also the ones that remained in the comparison group. The challenge in this case was to raise



Picture of the lottery (November 17, 2017).

the response rate to the surveys in both groups, to prevent biases arising from a lack of responses.

On the other hand, a significant proportion of people drop out for various reasons in almost all public programmes. A second challenge was to prevent the places that fell vacant from being filled with households from the comparison group, thereby maintaining the result of the randomisation. To deal with this potential situation, a group of reserve households was established during the draw: these are households that could end up taking part in the programme but which will not take part in the evaluation under any circumstances.

**Next steps:** The next steps will consist in analysing the results of the initial survey conducted with all the households selected to take part in the draw. These data will allow us to discover the initial situation of the households in terms of welfare, work, education and health. What is more, the information obtained for checking whether the various groups resulting from the draw (the various types of participation as well as the comparison) have similar features. The results of the impact assessment and economic evaluation will be obtained at the end of 2019.

**Novact – Institut  
Internacional per a  
l'Acció No Violenta**



During 2017, the basis for the public presentation of the new Citizen currency along the first trimester of 2018, have been released.

The main elements and variables formed by the monetary, legal, technologic, participation, governance, communicative and evaluation models have been setting up, by creating the main concepts of "Citizens currency" based on digital



Picture of the International Meeting of Experts on Social Currency in Barcelona.



technology in order to promote proximity trade and local-based business. Initially, the Citizen Currency –called REC– will be used to pay the 25% of the “Suport Municipal d’Inclusió” (SMI) to the 1.000 households of the 10 neighbourhoods of the Eix Besòs of the Barcelona city.

The Citizen Currency project is being developed by NOVACT with the involvement of the key municipal actors (Social Rights, Social and Solidarity Economy,

Consumer Affairs, Commerce Areas), the Directions of the People Services of the Districts, in collaboration with the associations of merchants and the social entities of the neighbourhoods.

Citizen money raises the enthusiasm of many of the territory actors for its potential to strengthen the community and the links between its members. The next months will be fundamental to understand how users - businesses and customers- adopt their use.

### Institut de Govern i Polítiques Públiques (IGOP) – UAB



The IGOP team at the Autonomous University of Barcelona is taking part in two of the project’s work packages: the WP7 package on analysing and measuring the impact of the project on the players involved and the WP4 package on ethnographic and participatory research and co-creating solutions.

The first year of the B-MINCOME project’s life saw IGOP implementing its tasks in Work Package nº 7, focusing its work on analysing and evaluating the “Community Participation Programme” Active Policy. More specifically, the IGOP team, led by Dr Ismael Blanco, has been working to produce two products: 1. An analysis and evaluation model for the B-MINCOME’s Participatory Community Project, 2. A community-asset mapping in the

programme’s intervention neighbourhoods. The analysis model establishes the theoretical bases for observing the changes that B-MINCOME could bring about in the community reality of the neighbourhoods it intervenes in, by distinguishing between the changes at an individual level (beneficiaries), at a social-fabric level (associations, projects, social players), and at an institutional level (public services and their relationship with the area). On the other hand, asset mapping describes the community reality of the B-MINCOME neighbourhoods by identifying the projects, facilities, associations and other non-formal initiatives where the Community Participation Programme would be deployed.

As for 2018, field work is expected to be rolled out to begin monitoring and evaluating the Community Participation Programme and to design a work plan for implementing the WP4 package.

### The Young Foundation



The Young Foundation (TYF), a research and social innovation institute with its headquarters in London, leads the way in ethnographic research that seeks to understand the experiences and histories of people from the Eix Besòs area. We are delighted to be part of this project, as it offers a unique opportunity for putting people’s lives and perspectives at the heart of public and social-innovation projects.

TYF and its research team have been working in close collaboration with Barcelona City Council for the last six months. This team was created to carry out ethnographic field work in the Besòs-Maresme, Ciutat Meridiana and Bon Pastor neighbourhoods. Each researcher has been



assigned to one of the Eix Besòs area’s districts. They have also involved a wide range of possible participants in the project through small-scale information events, speaking to residents about the B-MINCOME project and answering their questions.

The key issues that emerged from the research included: family, housing, work and unemployment, communal life, diversity, mobility, poverty and inequality. A rigorous ethnographic process has been designed that aims to work with 40 participating households from the B-MINCOME project over the coming year. The research is intended to reveal how people experience and perceive

experience and perceive the project and how it affects their lives. Next year will see TYF and Barcelona Council raising the number of participating residents for a better understanding of their experiences. We will be holding workshops and creative and participatory groups with these same households during the second half of the year.

Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia  
Ambientals (ICTA) – UAB



**Impact on the happiness of individuals and households:** To evaluate the impact of the SMI we carried out a preliminary survey with over 1,000 families from the Besòs area, some of whom will be receiving the SMI and others who will not. We asked them all kinds of questions but one thing we were really interested in understanding was whether subjective well-being and happiness improves with guaranteed income. Most happiness economists do not want to give a precise definition of happiness, since people have individual feelings and their own understanding of this term.

product of the good life that produces long-term satisfaction with life. Our survey used a standard question found in a large part of literature on happiness: "Taking a general stock of your life, how satisfied are you with your current life?" The answers to this question were numerical and ranged from 0 (totally dissatisfied) to 10 (completely satisfied with life).

Happiness can be understood in various ways; some researchers point to three layers that consist in: instantaneous or momentary feelings of joy; general satisfaction with life and fulfilling one's potential. Alternatively, happiness has also been defined as a by-

Happiness, however, cannot be understood on its own, but is determined by a series of features that are also asked in the survey, such as age, sex, marital and work status (as well as recent changes in both), physical and mental state of health, educational achievements, income and change of income, emotional stability, social capital, confidence, community relations (sharing), entrepreneurship, consumption and practice of community and political participation. If we have all these controlled variables we will be able to understand whether changes in happiness during the BMINCOME project are due to the SMI or other factors.

Data Management Group  
(DAMA) – UPC



The Polytechnic University of Catalonia is the B-MINCOME project's technology provider. More specifically, the DAMA-UPC research group has been implementing an innovative system to provide a tool for beneficiaries and Barcelona City Council's Social Services which enables Sustainable Inclusion to be managed. This system will be comprised of a Website App and a Mobile App for Social Services and a Mobile App for the pilot's beneficiaries.

courses, communicate with beneficiaries, conduct surveys and monitor how the beneficiaries spend their citizen currency. The system will enable all recipients to have an intuitive function adapted to their needs which will gradually be equipped with new functions that will be available for the City Council's use in the future, with the aim of becoming a project that crosses boundaries and which can help other cities with the same goals.

This way, by using B-MINCOME's tools, participants will be able to: manage all the events and courses taking place in the city which are geared towards improving their situation; manage the civic currency contributed by the City Council and answer surveys, among other things. The Social Services will be able to announce events and

