

Barcelona International Strategy 2025-2029



June 2025
Government
measure

Department
of International
Relations



Ajuntament
de Barcelona

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The government measure “Barcelona International Strategy” was presented at the Municipal Council plenary session on June 27, 2025.

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Printing

Printmakers

Barcelona: June 2025

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1. Presentation

Barcelona is a global city with a long history of leadership and a strong commitment to international engagement. The 2025–2029 International Strategy of Barcelona City Council updates the city's international priorities, aligning them with the plans of the Municipal Government. Its aim is to strengthen the resources and capacities available to us to better respond to the needs of the people of Barcelona.

The new international strategy recognises the growing role of cities in a world marked by deep interdependencies and shared challenges. In this context, cities are not only the spaces where the effects of major global transformations are most visible, but are also increasingly established as active, strategic players in multilateral governance. Moreover, at a time when democracy is in decline in many countries, cities and their mayors are becoming vital defenders of democratic values.

The role of cities in international diplomacy has evolved significantly in recent decades. Today, cities such as Barcelona act as bridges between global dynamics and local needs, helping to shape the international agenda. Urban diplomacy has become a key mechanism for tackling global challenges from a local perspective and for strengthening cooperation between cities, regions and international institutions.

The 2025–2029 International Strategy reflects Barcelona's firm commitment to global leadership. It is a roadmap designed to position Barcelona as a leading city in priority areas that are critical to its future.

One of the distinctive features of this strategy is its determination to directly influence the European political agenda, particularly on housing. Barcelona has promoted the informal alliance “Mayors for Housing”, a network of major European cities working to ensure that housing becomes a central priority for European institutions. This initiative has successfully brought together mayors of major European cities to assert the vital role of municipalities in shaping and delivering effective housing policies tailored to local realities. It also seeks to influence the new Urban Agenda being developed by the European Commission, as well as the EU's budget priorities for the upcoming 2028–2034 period.

Alongside housing, Barcelona is committed to promoting initiatives to address the climate challenge at European level, always ensuring that international efforts deliver tangible benefits for local residents. As one of Europe's designated Mission Cities committed to becoming climate-neutral by 2030, Barcelona is fully determined to ensure that European institutions recognise the indispensable role of cities in designing and delivering solutions to these global challenges.

Through this strategy, Barcelona not only seeks to lead the way towards more ambitious, influential urban diplomacy, but also to consolidate its position as a key player in global governance, capable of actively contributing to building a fairer, more sustainable and more prosperous future for all.

Jaume Collboni

Mayor of Barcelona

2. Barcelona City Council's International Engagement

Barcelona is a city with a strong global outlook and presence, driven by its identity as both a European and Mediterranean city. These defining characteristics have shaped its international profile, combining identity with innovation, and positioning Barcelona as the host city for a range of globally significant institutions and organisations. Since the first democratic governments, the city has expanded its international engagement through initiatives such as hosting the Olympic Games, promoting Mediterranean cooperation, creating European city networks, attracting the headquarters of major municipal networks operating at regional and global level, welcoming a significant number of consulates, and building an ecosystem that draws international trade fairs and major global events.

Through various stages, Barcelona has continued to strengthen its global presence, placing particular emphasis on social rights, climate action and sustainable economic development. The city actively participates in international municipal networks and engages in multilateral processes aimed at advocacy, mutual learning and building connections, especially in times of crisis and global challenges. Barcelona is also working to ensure recognition of the vital role cities play in today's multilateral landscape, contributing actively to joint responses and leading change processes that put cities at the heart of global solutions.

Thanks to this track record, Barcelona stands out today as a leading example of city diplomacy, promoting an inclusive, sustainable and people-focused urban model aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Barcelona City Council sees **city diplomacy** as an essential strategic tool within today's international ecosystem, where cities have demonstrated their ability to foster understanding and solidarity in a world where relations between states are frequently shaped by geopolitical interests. Cities have a responsibility to develop public policies that improve the quality of life for their residents. In a context where local issues and international affairs are increasingly intertwined, cities need to have a voice in key decision-making spaces. It is for this reason that cities such as Barcelona are committed to building relationships with other cities and international actors, determined to make progress, often quickly and in partnership.

2.1. A shared vision

Barcelona is currently promoting a shared vision, embraced by a wide range of stakeholders, that highlights the city's identity as a global, committed, knowledge-driven, inclusive and sustainable city, always focused on the well-being of its residents.

As a **committed city**, Barcelona prioritises the needs of its people, working to create an accessible, peaceful and safe environment. Through initiatives that focus on strengthening public services and improving quality of life, Barcelona positions itself as an influential player on the international stage, fostering dialogue and cooperation with other cities and global actors, while advocating for the essential role of cities in addressing global challenges. This approach strengthens the city's ability to influence today's multilateral landscape and actively contribute to building a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Barcelona is also firmly committed to promoting a culture of peace, where dialogue and mutual understanding are seen as fundamental pillars for building fairer, more cohesive societies. In the face of the inherent diversity within our communities, fostering understanding and dialogue helps to create more resilient, peaceful societies. In Barcelona, we believe that this culture of peace begins and takes shape within local communities, which act as microcosms of wider society.

As a **knowledge-driven city**, science and innovation are fundamental to Barcelona. The city has consolidated its position as a European innovation hub with a vibrant scientific and technological ecosystem. Barcelona is home to six scientific hubs, six technology parks, eight universities, eight hospitals with research institutes, 80 scientific research centres, 1,350 research companies and 6,000 researchers working across the metropolitan area.

This vision is already taking shape in the city through its dedicated Science Plan and in the wider metropolitan area through flagship projects such as the Ciutadella of Knowledge, the Health Axis along Avinguda Diagonal, the CaixaResearch Institute and the establishment of a Fraunhofer Institute site. Barcelona has also become a European tech epicentre, hosting a European AI Factory, as well as spearheading globally significant microchip development projects at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center and the Institute of Photonic Sciences.

As an **inclusive city**, Barcelona sees cultural diversity as one of its greatest strengths. Today, more than 400,000 residents of 180 nationalities live in Barcelona, speaking over 300 languages. The city also hosts over 500 places of worship representing around 15 different faiths. This diversity is reflected in the city's cultural, social and economic life and is supported by the inclusion policies promoted by Barcelona City Council. In Barcelona, every voice should be heard, and everyone who lives here should have the opportunity to play an active role in the community. The city values the experiences and knowledge of all its residents, fostering intercultural dialogue and working to build a more inclusive and equitable society, one where everyone feels respected and part of the community. An example of this commitment is the municipal programme "Voices

Against Racism”, developed in partnership with local organisations to promote anti-racist initiatives. Another milestone is Barcelona’s hosting of the UNESCO Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination in December 2024, which led to the creation of the Barcelona Alliance.

Housing policies also reflect the city’s inclusive vision. Through the Pla Viure (Living Plan), Barcelona is promoting a strategic framework that brings together citizens, sector professionals and social actors with the threefold objective of ensuring universal access to housing by expanding the stock of affordable and social housing, renovating and improving existing housing and addressing situations of vulnerability.

As a **sustainable city**, Barcelona has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability and climate justice. Climate change has been placed firmly on the city’s political agenda and is integrated across municipal services. Since 2022, Barcelona has been part of the European Commission’s mission to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. Today, the city has placed climate policy at the heart of municipal action with the launch of the Pla Clima (Climate Plan). This translates into new green spaces, improved infrastructure and projects aimed at reducing environmental impact and promoting cleaner, more sustainable mobility. With this comprehensive approach, the city is working to embed sustainability in all aspects of urban life, reaffirming its commitment to climate justice, social inclusion and equity. Barcelona is thus establishing itself as a forward-looking city with a global outlook, leading initiatives that aim to secure sustainable development for both current and future generations.

2.2. A Meeting Point

Barcelona defines itself as a strategic point of connection between three key geographic regions: the Euro-Mediterranean area, the Asian continent and Latin America. This role as a three-way international link not only reflects the city’s diversity and its deep global connections, but also consolidates Barcelona’s position as a significant player on the international stage. This international outlook drives the actions of Barcelona City Council, which focuses its efforts on these priority regions, while remaining open to building other synergies that may emerge around the world.

As a **European city**, Barcelona has established itself as an important political and cultural centre, hosting various official institutions such as the European Parliament and European Commission Offices in Barcelona, which act as points of connection between EU institutions and the general public. In addition, the City Council is firmly committed to strengthening its action and leadership within the European sphere, a commitment that has been formalised through the creation of a new post: **Commissioner for European Affairs**. Among the Commissioner’s key priorities are: ensuring that housing and climate issues are placed firmly on the European political agenda from the perspective of Europe’s major cities and metropolitan areas; building alliances and coordinating joint actions with the region’s leading cities and city networks, particularly to influence the EU budget; the application of the principle of subsidiarity and agenda of cities; and reinforcing Barcelona’s climate commitment with regard to the “100

Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030” mission.

Barcelona is also a **key player in the Mediterranean region**, a geographic and cultural space with which the city shares strong ties and common challenges. Barcelona hosts a vibrant ecosystem of Euro-Mediterranean organisations, ranging from the Union for the Mediterranean to entities such as PRIMA, the European Institute of the Mediterranean, MedCities, MedWaves and CIDOB. This network helps to create strong personal and community links to tackle shared challenges such as social inequality and climate change. The approval of the Euro-Mediterranean Strategy in March 2023 further strengthens Barcelona’s role as a key player in regional cooperation.

Barcelona is also seen as a **gateway to Asia** within the Euro-Mediterranean area, with a clear commitment to building connections and opening opportunities to and from an innovative, fast-growing continent. The Barcelona Asia Strategy, approved in November 2022, sets out the objective of strengthening ties with the region, tapping into synergies in key sectors such as the economy, culture and technology. The presence of the national consortium Casa Asia in the city serves as a platform to promote dialogue and collaboration in areas such as education, innovation and business projects, further establishing Barcelona as a bridge between Europe and Asia and fostering closer, more productive cooperation.

Finally, the city has strong **ties with Latin America**, based on a shared interest in developing the digital and cultural sectors and promoting joint economic and social growth. This relationship is reflected in the presence of organisations such as Casa Amèrica Catalunya and CIDEU, which promote, on the one hand, cultural exchange and dissemination, and on the other, dialogue and mutual learning in the development of strategic urban projects. This network strengthens cultural, economic and strategic ties, positioning Barcelona as a bridge between Europe and Latin America, capable of promoting mutually beneficial relationships and joint development.

In short, Barcelona has become a **hub of connections** between Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia and Latin America, a role that allows the city to build bridges for collaboration and influence within a globalised world. This reflects both the diversity and cultural richness of the city, and its capacity to make a meaningful impact on the international stage. Through clear strategies and meaningful partnerships, Barcelona not only aims to improve the well-being of its citizens, but also to consolidate its position as a leader in international cooperation, sustainability and intercultural dialogue, reinforcing its role as a global city committed to an inclusive and sustainable future.

2.3. Alignment with local and global priorities

The 2025–2029 International Strategy, building on the experience gained through the Pla Director de Relacions Internacionals 2020–2023 (International Relations Master Plan 2020–2023), sets out the international priorities of Barcelona City Council for this period. In this context, particular consideration is given to the Pla Clima and the Pla Viure, which are key municipal plans for the coming years, alongside the Pla Director de Cooperació per a la Justícia Global 2023–2026 (Global Justice Cooperation Master Plan 2023–2026), which represents the City Council's main public policy for international cooperation. The International Strategy is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

First, the strategy builds on the experience gained through implementing the Pla Director de Relacions Internacionals 2020–2023, which has served as an essential tool for organising and monitoring the actions of the Department for International Relations and for facilitating the management of the city's international activity. The lessons learned during this period have highlighted both strengths and areas for improvement, which have been integrated into this new strategy.

Second, there is a clear intention to align Barcelona's international action for the coming years with the City Council's broader priorities, complementing the Pla Clima and the Pla Viure with other strategic municipal initiatives such as the Pla Endreça, the Pla de Barris (Neighbourhood Plan) and the Pla Barcelona Impulsa. This alignment also extends to the recently approved Asia Strategy and Euro-Mediterranean Strategy. In this way, the emphasis is placed on the need to strengthen collaboration between municipal departments and other stakeholders to generate positive synergies that increase the impact of actions across different areas.

Third, the strategy ensures strong alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The objective of the 2025–2029 Strategy is to further consolidate itself as a robust tool for enhancing Barcelona's projection on the international stage and making a meaningful contribution to achieving global objectives.

Mayors for Housing

Barcelona has promoted an informal alliance of cities for housing at European level. Mayors of major European cities, including Lisbon, Paris, Rome, Milan, Athens, Budapest and Warsaw, have come together in response to the urgent need to take action on housing. Their shared demands towards European institutions focus on securing more resources, better regulation, and above all, giving cities a greater role in shaping policies and participating in decision-making processes.

Mayors for Housing aims to create a stable platform for developing and monitoring housing policies with cities, enabling us to work directly with the European Commission on the design and implementation of European housing initiatives.

At the time of drafting this Strategy, sixteen cities have joined the alliance: Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Bologna, Budapest, Dublin, Florence, Ghent, Leipzig, Lyon Metropolis, Lisbon, Milan, Paris, Rome, Warsaw, Zagreb.

3. Objectives

Barcelona City Council engages in international action with three strategic objectives: to influence the European agenda, to promote learning and knowledge exchange with other cities around the world, and to build connections with both local and international actors, all in line with the values of sustainability, social justice and human rights. Each of these objectives contributes to strengthening Barcelona's international position while maintaining a firm commitment to local needs.

The ultimate aim is to consolidate Barcelona's role as a key player on the global stage, promoting the values of sustainability, equity and human rights, and ensuring that this international engagement directly contributes to social cohesion and improving the quality of life for the people who live in the city.

3.1. Strategic goals

In a globalised world, cities play a vital role in tackling global challenges. Through its international action, Barcelona has set itself three strategic objectives to reinforce its position as a key player on the global stage: promoting collaboration, encouraging learning and increasing influence in shaping major international agreements.

- **Influence**

Barcelona aims to play an influential role in the European agenda, with the goal of ensuring that housing, as the top priority, and climate policies are firmly established as core areas of action for European institutions. The city advocates for municipalities to be recognised as indispensable actors, both in designing and effectively implementing policies in these strategic areas. This requires strengthening the voices of European cities, calling for greater decentralisation and the effective application of the principle of subsidiarity at European level. It also means equipping local authorities with the necessary resources and capacities to meet the needs of their residents, while developing an ambitious urban agenda that is reflected in the EU budget.

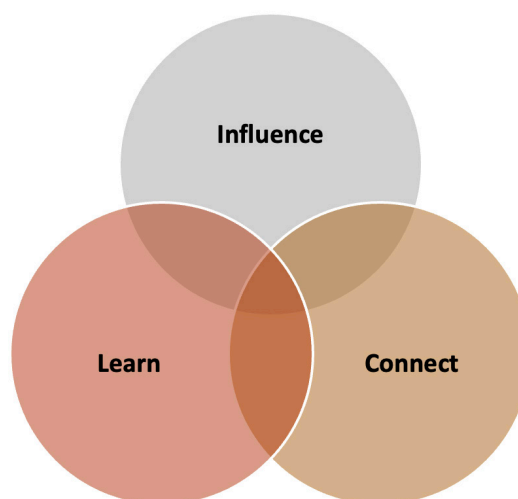
At the same time, Barcelona is strengthening its international relations beyond Europe. Always advocating for municipalism and the growing role of cities, and through active participation in multilateral spaces, not only in Europe but also in the Euro-Mediterranean region, Asia and through cooperation with Latin America, the city also aspires to be an international reference point for social and environmental justice, promoting a city model committed to democratic values that drive sustainable and equitable development on a global scale.

- **Learn**

Barcelona promotes learning and the exchange of knowledge with other cities and international actors, incorporating innovative methodologies and good practices to improve public management and, in turn, enhance quality of life for its citizens. Through participation in networks, projects and international initiatives, the city encourages exchanges and training programmes that strengthen the skills of municipal teams, improve their readiness to address global challenges and create spaces for reflection on how to design effective, locally adapted policies to meet emerging needs.

- **Connect**

Barcelona fosters connections with global actors and also works to strengthen the involvement of local actors in this international framework. To achieve this, it develops bilateral relations with other cities, international organisations and various local entities and stakeholders, while also participating in national and international networks with the aim of involving civil society, the private sector and other local institutions. This strategy facilitates the creation of a strong network for collaboration and influence, enhancing Barcelona's global presence and contributing to a shared international vision for the city.



All actions will be designed to address one or more strategic objectives. In this way, coherence and alignment with the city's priorities will be ensured, projecting the image of Barcelona as a global, inclusive and sustainable city.

3.2. Guiding principles

The key principles that will guide Barcelona City Council's international action over the next three years are:

- **Human rights-based approach**
Barcelona's international action is grounded in a human rights approach, with the goal of promoting fairer societies where no one is left behind.
- **Alignment with local and global agendas**
The International Strategy is structured to ensure that Barcelona's international actions align with the local priorities set out in the existing municipal plans – Pla Viure, Pla Clima, Pla de Barris and Pla Barcelona Impulsa – while also linking each strategic area with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and taking into account the framework of the Pact for the Future, resulting from the United Nations Summit of the Future held in September 2024.
- **Integration of regional strategies**
The International Strategy is conceived as an overarching framework that incorporates the city's already approved strategies for the Euro-Mediterranean region and Asia.
- **A reference framework for municipal departments**
The aim is for the International Strategy to serve as a useful, guiding tool for all municipal departments involved in international activities, both for promoting the local policies and measures they design and implement, for learning from other experiences and for building international partnerships.
- **An operational tool for managing and coordinating the City Council's international action**
Through effective coordination with the Department for International Relations, each municipal department shapes its international action to avoid duplication and harness internal synergies, thereby maximising the impact of Barcelona City Council's international initiatives.
- **Supporting local initiatives with an international dimension**
The city seeks to support the global visibility of transformative initiatives led by civil society, the consular corps, municipal networks, universities and research centres with an international outlook, all based in Barcelona. This creates innovative synergies and strengthens Barcelona's image as an inclusive, diverse and dynamic city.



4. Areas of work

In a global context where some voices are challenging the existing international order and questioning institutions such as the United Nations or the European Union, Barcelona City Council reaffirms its commitment. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, adopted by broad consensus in 2015, represent an action plan for people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships (known as the “5 Ps”) with the aim of securing a better, more sustainable future for all individuals and territories.

The 2025–2029 International Strategy has been designed in accordance with the SDGs. Its structure, based on the 5 Ps, is familiar to municipal teams, facilitating the implementation and monitoring of actions and ensuring a coherent, solid foundation for Barcelona’s international engagement.

The areas of work defined within the International Strategy link local efforts to the global agenda, maximising the international impact of Barcelona’s actions and contributing to the achievement of the city’s strategic objectives.



4.1. Partnerships: Barcelona, a connected city

To promote the city's values, interests and initiatives worldwide and to encourage international engagement at local level, Barcelona understands the importance of building bilateral and multilateral relationships with strategic actors from different levels and sectors, always in line with the city's own principles and values. Barcelona makes use of strong instruments to establish, consolidate and strengthen strategic relationships with other local, national, regional and global governments, as well as with other actors operating internationally, such as municipal networks, institutions, organisations and research centres.

In this regard, the significant concentration of internationally focused organisations based in Barcelona is particularly noteworthy. Given the city's extensive diplomatic network, it is essential to maintain partnerships that help position Barcelona internationally, enhance its contribution to global agendas and, at the same time, analyse and address the impact of international affairs on our metropolis.

This integrated approach to international action not only strengthens Barcelona's global presence, but also enriches the city's internal management and improves quality of life for its residents.

Objective: PARTNERSHIPS: Strengthen strategic partnerships at local, national, regional and international levels to raise Barcelona's global profile and learn from other key actors.



- **Line of action 1. Promoting international municipalism: multilateral relations for a fairer world and a host city for city networks**
Barcelona is strengthening its strategy in support of international municipalism through multilateral relations and by hosting the headquarters of city networks.
- **Line of action 2. Promoting and monitoring bilateral relations with other institutions and cities**
Barcelona builds bilateral relations with other institutions and cities as part of its urban diplomacy strategy, with the aim of sharing ideas and fostering collaboration in key areas.
- **Line of action 3. Barcelona, a global think tank**
Barcelona is working to be recognised as a hub for reflection, idea exchange and international knowledge sharing.

- **Line of action 4. Agenda with European institutions**
Barcelona defends the principle of subsidiarity in its approach to relations with European institutions and insists that the voice of cities must be heard effectively and actively. To this end, the city promotes the Local Europe working group in collaboration with CIDOB and the Catalunya Europa Foundation.
- **Line of action 5. Strategic agenda for the Mediterranean**
Barcelona maintains its role as a leading city in the Mediterranean, spearheading projects and promoting cooperation and innovative solutions to address the region's challenges.
- **Line of action 6. Strategic relations with the diplomatic corps and foreign communities in Barcelona as ambassadors for the city**
Barcelona builds strategic relationships with the consular corps present in the city and with foreign communities living in Barcelona, who project the city's image to the world.

4.2. Prosperity: Barcelona, a city of opportunity

In its ambition to establish itself as a leading global hub for the economy, science, culture and technology, Barcelona views international relations in general and scientific diplomacy in particular as essential tools.

Barcelona leads a digital city model based on the protection of digital rights, urban innovation that serves social progress and a socially just ecological transition. This leadership is made possible through partnerships with other cities, universities, research centres, and national and international institutions, recognising that policies to foster technological prosperity and innovation present challenges – including ethical, geopolitical and governance issues – that go beyond the city's direct competences.

As set out in the Pla Barcelona Impulsa, the city is firmly committed to promoting quality employment, supporting local commerce, driving new strategic sectors and managing the visitor economy. The aim is to consolidate the city's image as a global hub for the economy, science, culture and technology.

Organising and hosting major international events, trade fairs and congresses such as the Smart City Expo World Congress, Mobile World Congress and Integrated Systems Europe (ISE) also contributes to positioning Barcelona as a leading city in these fields.

Whether attracting talent, organisations, businesses and institutions or hosting international events that align with the city government's values, the institutional support and involvement of Barcelona City Council helps to strengthen the city's global position.

This integrated strategy reflects the City Council's commitment to sustainable prosperity through global governance based on human, scientific and social values that ensure a sustainable future for Barcelona and for the wider world.

Objective: PROSPERITY: Position Barcelona as a global hub for the economy, culture, science and technology by promoting scientific diplomacy as a key tool and playing a leading role in shaping the European and international digital and innovation agenda.



- **Line of action 1. Institutional support for international initiatives to promote urban innovation, entrepreneurship, job creation and talent attraction**
Barcelona is recognised as a key local actor in international initiatives that promote urban innovation, encourage entrepreneurship, create jobs and attract talent in strategic sectors.
- **Line of action 2. International strategy for supporting local commerce**
Barcelona seeks to raise global awareness of its urban model, where local commerce is considered vital for social cohesion, economic dynamism and the city's sustainability.
- **Line of action 3. Promoting Barcelona as a cultural hub**
Barcelona positions itself as a global cultural reference point, promoting creativity, cultural diversity and access to the arts.
- **Line of action 4. Support and collaboration in the international promotion of the municipal Blue Economy Strategy**
Barcelona is building partnerships with international actors to promote the blue economy as one of the city's strategic sectors.

4.3. People: Barcelona, city of rights

The 2030 Agenda addresses the social dimension of sustainable development with the goal of eradicating poverty and hunger, guaranteeing dignity and equality and tackling discrimination. This approach puts people at the centre of public action, ensuring that everyone can fulfil their potential with dignity. The principle of “leaving no one behind” is especially relevant to this strategic area, reaffirming Barcelona’s commitment to building a fair and inclusive society.

Barcelona places the fight against inequality at the heart of its urban and international policy. In a global context marked by the rise of hate speech and governments with significant global influence implementing policies that threaten diversity, pluralism and a broad vision of human rights, Barcelona, in alliance with other major cities and progressive institutions, faces the challenge of working to reposition human rights and equality as fundamental, non-negotiable pillars of international debate.

At the same time, Barcelona presents itself as a learning city, firmly committed to education as a tool for social transformation, to guarantee equal opportunities, promote values such as coexistence and respect for human rights and build a more cohesive society.

Through these efforts, Barcelona City Council seeks to position the city as an international model for inclusion, equity and social cohesion, promoting gender equality and encouraging citizen participation in global initiatives. The city also seeks to engage in international projects that highlight good practices in social inclusion and coexistence.

Objective: PEOPLE: Promote the defence of human rights by placing them at the centre of Barcelona City Council’s international action, particularly within key advocacy spaces.



- **Line of action 1. Influencing the European social agenda, in particular defending the right to housing and ensuring the effective application of the principle of subsidiarity**
Barcelona works to influence the European agenda by defending and promoting social rights, with affordable housing as a top priority.
- **Line of action 2. Recognition of Barcelona's leadership on social rights**
Barcelona is recognised internationally as a leading city for social rights, particularly in the fight against discrimination and inequality.
- **Line of action 3. Exchange of innovative social and housing policies**
Barcelona shares and learns from the innovative experiences of other cities and actors in the fields of social policy and housing.

4.4. Planet: Barcelona, a city committed to climate action

In the 2030 Agenda, the Planet pillar focuses on protecting the environment and tackling climate change. These are among the most pressing and complex global challenges of our time, as reflected by the existence of multiple multilateral climate agreements through which governments and other climate actors have agreed on commitments and a common framework for action.

Although climate change is a global challenge, it must be addressed from every level and perspective. The role of cities in this regard is increasingly recognised. There is broad consensus that the successful implementation of effective climate policies will depend heavily on the involvement of cities.

Cities occupy just 3% of the planet's surface but account for between 60% and 80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. In light of these figures, it is essential to engage cities as key players in global processes towards a green transition.

Barcelona recognises the energy transition and climate change as among the most significant urban challenges shaping the future of the city. These issues are identified as one of the strategic areas within Barcelona's transformation agenda, with the Barcelona Pla Clima setting out the roadmap for addressing the causes and consequences of climate change, aligning climate action with economic modernisation and social equity. This will be implemented through six cross-cutting plans: energy transition, mobility, neighbourhoods, resilience, heat and "Canviem pel clima" (Let's Change for the Climate).

Objective: PLANET: Promote a favourable political and financial framework at European and international levels to support Barcelona's model as a climate-neutral city that is well adapted to climate change by 2030.



- **Line of action 1. Recognition of Barcelona as a leader in climate policy**
Barcelona is internationally recognised as a city that is firmly committed to a socially just ecological transition.
- **Line of action 2. Influence at European level**
Barcelona, as a member of the European “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030” mission, works to influence the European environment, committing to the mission’s objectives and the implementation of its climate contract.
- **Line of action 3. Solidarity and cooperation with other cities**
Barcelona expresses solidarity and cooperates with other cities and territories committed to adapting to climate change and driving a just ecological transition.
- **Line of action 4. Funding and resource mobilisation**
Barcelona actively seeks funding to meet its climate mitigation, adaptation and climate justice objectives, working in collaboration with other European cities, NetZeroCities and leading city networks.
- **Line of action 5. Global partnerships and mutual learning**
Barcelona builds global partnerships with other actors to accelerate the transition towards becoming a climate-neutral city that is well adapted to climate change.

4.5. Peace: Barcelona, city of peace

Globally, we are witnessing an alarming deterioration in peace and security. Far from diminishing, violence is spreading and taking increasingly diverse forms, some of them seemingly invisible or even normalised: active wars, the rise of autocracies and the erosion of democratic regimes, criminal violence that fuels militarisation, gender-based violence in all its forms, and hate speech and disinformation that polarise societies. At the same time, there is growing distrust towards institutions, especially among younger generations, which puts the foundations of our democratic system at risk. All of this fuels hatred and division, undermines social structures and conventions, and threatens peaceful coexistence.

This context demands a global, firm and collective response to defend human dignity. Working for peace means working for people's safety. Peace is not simply the absence of war; it also means social justice, dialogue, mutual understanding, cohesion and respect for diversity. In this context, Barcelona, as a city of rights and dialogue, reaffirms its commitment to coexistence and a culture of peace by putting forward political and social proposals rooted in the local area but with a global outlook.

Objective: PEACE: As a global city of peace, contribute to building a fairer world by defending peace and human rights, investing in local peacebuilding efforts, attracting international initiatives and actively participating in global processes and proposals.



- **Line of action 1. Promote exchanges in the field of peacebuilding and peace consolidation**
Barcelona coordinates with other cities and international organisations on projects that foster peace, build peaceful societies, and promote security and coexistence.
- **Line of action 2. Contribute to major debates on peace, democracy and the future of the planet**
Barcelona connects with local and international actors to contribute to key processes and debates on peace, democracy and the future of the planet, including the Summit for the Future and the United Nations' New Agenda for Peace.
- **Line of action 3. Host international congresses and campaigns promoting peace, non-violence and disarmament**
Barcelona hosts congresses and joins international campaigns focused on peace, non-violence and disarmament.

- **Line of action 4. Promote negotiation and mediation processes aimed at preventing conflict and maintaining peace in key regions**
Barcelona positions itself as a mediator in negotiation processes aimed at preventing conflict and violence and maintaining peace in key regions such as Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Nicaragua.
- **Line of action 5. Strengthen the city's capacity to support the social transformation of pro-democracy, pro-rights and pro-peace movements**
Barcelona is committed to strengthening its capacity to support the social transformation of movements that promote democracy, human rights and peace, with particular focus on the role of new technologies, digital security, the relationship between climate change and peace, and gender and peace.
- **Line of action 6. Create and equip an internationally recognised centre for the promotion of peace**
Barcelona is developing a resource centre to coordinate all local actors working in support of peace.



5. Annexes

5.1. 5.1. International municipal networks of which Barcelona City Council is a member

1. **100Climate Neutral Smart Cities** ([web](#)). Sustainability (Europe).
2. **Airport Regions Conference** ([web](#)). Mobility.
3. **International Association of Educating Cities (IAEC)** ([web](#)). Education (Global).
4. **Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI)** ([web](#)). Culture.
5. **Association International Villes et Ports (AIVP)** ([web](#)). Mobility (Global).
6. **Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+)** ([web](#)). Environment.
7. **Association Trans Europe TGV Rhin-Rhône-Méditerranée** ([web](#)). Mobility.
8. **C.I.T.I.E.S.**
9. **C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group** ([web](#)). Environment (Global).
10. **Ibero-American Centre for Strategic Urban Development (CIDEU)** ([web](#)). Urban development (Latin America).
11. **Cities Coalition for Digital Rights** ([web](#)). Digital (Global).
12. **City Alliance for the STR** ([web](#)). Habitatge turístic (Europa).
13. **City Hub and Network for Gender Equity (CHANGE)** ([web](#)). Gènere (Global).
14. **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** ([web](#)). Generalist (Global).
15. **UCLG. Community of Practice of Digital Cities** ([web](#)). Smart Cities (Global).
16. **Consejo Catalán del Movimiento Europeo (CCME)** ([web](#)). UE (Europa).
17. **Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)** ([web](#)). Generalist (Europa).
18. **Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN)** ([web](#)). Security (Global).

19. **Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy** ([web](#)). Security (Energy).
20. **Délice, the city network on food and gastronomy** ([web](#)). Food.
21. **Energie-Cités** ([web](#)). Energy.
22. **ESINET-EBN** ([web](#)). Entrepreneurship (Europe).
23. **Eurocities** ([web](#)). Generalist (Europa).
24. **European BIC Innovation Network (EBN)** ([web](#)). Innovation (Europe).
25. **European Cities for Sustainable Public Finances (CSPF)** ([web](#)). Funding (Europe).
26. **European Innovation Capital Alumni Network** ([web](#)). Innovation (Europe).
27. **European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)** ([web](#)). Innovation (Europe).
28. **European Network of Policewomen** ([web](#)). Security (Europe).
29. **European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign** ([web](#)). Energy (Europe).
30. **Exceltur: alianza para la excelencia turística** ([web](#)). Tourism (Spain).
31. **European Forum for Urban Security (Efus)** ([web](#)). Security (Europe).
32. **World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace** ([web](#)). Security (Latin America).
33. **G20 Global Smart Cities** ([web](#)). Smart Cities (Global).
34. **Global Ferrmed** ([web](#)). Mobility (Europe).
35. **Global Growth Network** ([web](#)). Entrepreneurship (Global).
36. **G-NETS** ([web](#)). Generalist (Global).
37. **Housing Europe** ([web](#)). Housing (Europe).
38. **ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability** ([web](#)). Environment (Global).
39. **IMPACTS Europe. Information Management Policies Assessment for City Transportation** ([web](#)). Mobility (Europa).
40. **Intelligent City Challenge (ICC)** ([web](#)). Urban Technologies (Europe).
41. **International Association of Science Parks (IASP)** ([web](#)). Economic Development (Global).
42. **League of Historical Cities** ([web](#)). (Global).
43. **Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)** ([web](#)).
44. **Major Cities of Europe** ([web](#)). Technology (Europe).
45. **Mayors for Peace** ([web](#)). Solidarity/Peace (Global).
46. **Medcités** ([web](#)). Generalist (Mediterranean).
47. **Metropolis - World Association of Major Metropolises** ([web](#)). Generalist (Global).
48. **Milan Urban Food Policy Pact-UFPP** ([web](#)). Food (Global).
49. **Network of EU Cities and Regions on Trafficking of Human Beings (NCRT)** ([web](#)).
50. **International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)** ([web](#)).
51. **Pact of Free Cities (POFC)** ([web](#)). Democracy (Global).
52. **POLIS. Promoting Operational Links with Integrated Services** ([web](#)). Mobility (Global).

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53. **Procura+ Network** ([web](#)). Public Procurement
 54. **Local and Regional Governments Time Network** ([web](#)).
Work-life balance (Europe).
 55. **Red FP (European Vocational Education and Training Network)** ([web](#)). Education (Europe).
 56. **REN21 Renewable Energy Policy Network for 21st Century** ([web](#)).
Energy.
 57. **Reseau Art Nouveau Network** ([web](#)). Heritage.
 58. **Reseau Cités des Métiers** ([web](#)). Employment.
 59. **Resilient Cities Network** ([web](#)). Resilience (Global).
 60. **UCCI – Unión de Ciudades Capitales Iberoamericanas** ([web](#)).
Generalist (Latin America).
 61. **UNESCO Creative Cities Network** ([web](#)). Culture (Global).
 62. **World Tourism Cities Federation** ([web](#)). Tourism.
 63. **World Union of Olympic Cities** ([web](#)). Sports.
 64. **World Water Council** ([web](#)). Water.

5.2. The consular network in Barcelona

Barcelona City Council maintains regular relations with the consulates present in the city. After Hong Kong and New York, Barcelona ranks third on the list of non-capital cities worldwide with the highest number of consular representations. There are 100 consulates from around the world based in Barcelona, including:

1. [Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany](#)
2. [Consulate General of Algeria](#)
3. [Consulate General of the Argentine Republic](#)
4. Consulate of the Republic of Armenia
5. [Honorary Consulate General of Austria](#)
6. [Honorary Consulate of Australia](#)
7. [Honorary Consulate General of Bangladesh](#)
8. [Consulate General of Belgium](#)
9. [Honorary Consulate of Belize](#)
10. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Benin](#)
11. [Consulate of the Republic of Belarus](#)
12. [Consulate General of the Republic of Bolivia](#)
13. [Honorary Consulate of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
14. [Consulate General of Brazil](#)
15. [Consulate of the Republic of Bulgaria](#)

16. [Honorary Consulate of Burkina Faso](#)
17. [Consulate of Canada Barcelona](#)
18. [Consulate General of Colombia](#)
19. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Korea](#)
20. [Honorary Consulate of Côte d'Ivoire](#)
21. [Honorary Consulate General of Costa Rica](#)
22. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Croatia](#)
23. [Consulate General of Cuba](#)
24. [Consulate General of Denmark](#)
25. [Consulate General of the Dominican Republic](#)
26. [Consulate of the United Arab Emirates in Barcelona](#)
27. [Consulate General of the Republic of Ecuador](#)
28. [Honorary Consulate of the Slovak Republic](#)
29. [Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia](#)
30. [Consulate General of the United States of America](#)
31. [Consulate General of the Republic of Estonia](#)
32. [Honorary Consulate of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia](#)
33. [Consulate General of the Philippines](#)
34. [Consulate General of Finland](#)
35. [Consulate General of France](#)
36. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of The Gambia](#)
37. [Consulate of Georgia](#)
38. [Honorary Consulate of Greece](#)
39. [Honorary Consulate of Guatemala](#)
40. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Guinea \(Conakry\)](#)
41. [Consulate General of Honduras](#)
42. [Consulate General of the Republic of Hungary](#)
43. [Honorary Consulate of India](#)
44. [Consulate General of Ireland](#)
45. [Consulate General of Iceland](#)
46. [Honorary Consulate of Israel](#)
47. [Consulate General of the Italian Republic](#)
48. [Honorary Consulate of Jamaica](#)
49. [Consulate General of Japan](#)
50. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#)
51. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Latvia](#)
52. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lebanon](#)
53. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Lithuania](#)
54. [Honorary Consulate of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg](#)
55. [Consulate of the Republic of Madagascar](#)
56. [Consulate General of Malaysia](#)
57. [Consulate of the Republic of Mali](#)
58. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Malta](#)
59. [Consulate General of the Kingdom of Morocco](#)
60. [Consulate of the Republic of Mauritius](#)

61. [Consulate General of the United Mexican States](#)
62. [Consulate General of the Republic of Moldova](#)
63. [Honorary Consulate General of the Principality of Monaco](#)
64. [Honorary Consulate of Mongolia](#)
65. [Honorary Consulate of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal](#)
66. [Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Nicaragua](#)
67. [Honorary Consulate General of the Kingdom of Norway](#)
68. [Honorary Consulate of New Zealand](#)
69. [Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#)
70. [Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan](#)
71. [Consulate General of Panama](#)
72. [Consulate General of the Republic of Paraguay](#)
73. [Consulate General of Peru](#)
74. [Consulate General of the Republic of Poland](#)
75. [Consulate General of the Portuguese Republic](#)
76. [Consulate General of the State of Qatar](#)
77. [Consulate General of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#)
78. [Consulate General of Romania](#)
79. [Consulate General of the Russian Federation](#)
80. [Consulate General of the Republic of El Salvador](#)
81. [Consulate of the Republic of Senegal](#)
82. [Consulate General of the Republic of Seychelles](#)
83. [Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Singapore](#)
84. [Honorary Consulate of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka](#)
85. [Consulate General of the Kingdom of Sweden](#)
86. [Consulate General of the Swiss Confederation](#)
87. [Consulate of the Kingdom of Thailand](#)
88. [Consulate of the United Republic of Tanzania](#)
89. [Consulate of the Czech Republic](#)
90. [Consulate of the Togolese Republic](#)
91. [Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye](#)
92. [Consulate General of Ukraine](#)
93. [Consulate of the Republic of Uganda](#)
94. [Consulate General of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay](#)
95. [Consulate General of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)
96. [Consulate General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela](#)
97. [Honorary Consulate of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam](#)
98. [Consulate General of the Republic of Chile](#)
99. [Consulate General of the People's Republic of China](#)
100. [Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Cyprus](#)

5.3. City networks, international institutions and organisations, and international research centres based in Barcelona

a) Municipal networks based in Barcelona

UCLG, global network of local and regional governments

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), created in 2004, is a global network with a broad, generalist approach that addresses a wide range of political and technical issues. It is structured around seven geographic areas, with two additional sections, metropolitan and regional, which have specific characteristics.

The aim of UCLG is to act as the voice of local and regional governments before the international community, particularly the United Nations, to defend their core interests and promote democratic values and human rights worldwide.

UCLG also works to support the localisation of major international agendas, with particular emphasis on the 2030 Agenda, and to create spaces for collaboration that help address urban challenges and foster synergies for inclusive, shared development.

Metropolis. The Metropolis association brings together cities and urban areas with over one million inhabitants from around the world

Created in 1985, it has 164 members. It serves as the metropolitan section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and aims to contribute to addressing urban challenges. Its tools include training, debate, project development and raising the international political profile of metropolitan interests.

More specifically, Metropolis works to promote reflection on how metropolises are evolving, identify innovative solutions to metropolitan challenges, support metropolitan governance to reduce social and economic inequalities, and facilitate mutual learning and knowledge exchange.

The Mayor of Barcelona serves as Vice President of Metropolis in his role as President of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area and as a member of the Board of Directors in his capacity as Mayor of Barcelona.

MedCities, cooperation between cities in the Mediterranean

MedCities, created in Barcelona in 1991, was established during the development of the Euro-Mediterranean policy as an initiative of the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP). Since its foundation, it has focused on sustainable urban development. Its Secretariat is based within the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, and the network maintains strong links with Euro-Mediterranean institutional frameworks, including a relatively privileged relationship with the

Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The Secretariat's relationships with the network's member cities are highly valuable, especially those with neighbouring cities in the immediate area.

MedCities is a well-established urban network with a strong track record of cooperation and close ties to local institutions. Its technical expertise and ability to connect local knowledge with practical applications in cooperation frameworks are highly noteworthy.

Ibero-American Centre for Strategic Urban Development (CIDEU), Barcelona's work with Ibero-America.

CIDEU is the network of Ibero-American cities that, since 1993, has shared and promoted the culture of strategic urban thinking. It is headquartered in Barcelona and is made up of 152 members: 135 cities and 28 partner institutions, organised into regional networks. CIDEU's mission is to promote strategic thinking in the design and management of urban projects to achieve the sustainable development of Ibero-American cities through strategic planning. Key areas of action focus on harnessing the experience cities have gained through strategic management, developing the next generation of urban strategists, and promoting cooperation between cities.

International Association of Educating Cities: Education as a tool for social transformation

Founded in Barcelona in 1994, the International Association of Educating Cities (IAEC) brings together local governments from across the world committed to lifelong learning and to promoting education in all areas of city life as a tool for social transformation. It serves as a permanent platform for collaboration between cities committed to the Charter of Educating Cities, which provides a shared roadmap for members and encourages the exchange of ideas, reflections and good practice. The concept of the Educating City is based on the idea of the city as a laboratory for learning, citizenship and social transformation.

The IAEC has around 500 member cities worldwide and operates through a structure based on regional networks. The International Bank of Documents of Educating Cities gathers examples of practical initiatives from member cities across the full range of topics covered by the association.

Coworking space for international networks

A coworking space has been set up at 15 Carrer Avinyó in Barcelona, a municipally owned building, for individuals working with networks of local and regional government (including Eurocities, C40 and others), who live in Barcelona or are staying in the city temporarily. Although the organisations these individuals work for are headquartered in other cities, this shared office allows them to work together in one dedicated space.

The coworking area is located in the same building as the main offices of several international city networks: UCLG, Metropolis, Educating Cities and CIDEU. Sharing space encourages synergies and strengthens collaboration between the various associations.

b) International organisations and research institutes based in Barcelona

Barcelona is also home to a number of institutions and organisations with international reach, of which Barcelona City Council is a member, alongside other public authorities at national, regional or local level.

The city also hosts several highly regarded research centres and institutes with international influence, both public and private, which contribute to Barcelona's global reputation.

Casa Àsia is Spain's leading public diplomacy institution for relations with the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, the Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City Council. Madrid City Council joined the initiative in 2007, leading to the creation of a second Casa Asia centre in Madrid, although the organisation's main headquarters remains in Barcelona.

Casa Asia has become a key reference point for institutional, economic, cultural and educational exchanges with the Asia-Pacific region, while also working with Asian communities living in Spain. It serves as an open window to the diversity of this vast region and as a meeting place for all stakeholders with an interest in the Asia-Pacific.

Casa Amèrica Catalunya, a century-old institution founded in Barcelona in 1911 through the merger of various Americanist societies, now serves as a bridge for dialogue and a platform for cultural diplomacy and cooperation between institutions, organisations and communities on both sides of the Atlantic. Its work focuses in particular on cultural exchange and collaboration.

The **Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània (IEMed)** plays a prominent role in promoting knowledge and cooperation across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Its work aligns with the objectives of the Barcelona Process for Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean.

The **Centre d'Informació i Documentació Internacionals a Barcelona (CIDOB)** is recognised as a leading research centre on global issues and international relations in Southern Europe, and as one of the most influential institutions of its kind worldwide. As a think tank, it conducts research and analysis on international affairs, develops collaborative projects, produces publications, provides training and advisory services, and organises events to promote reflection and debate, while also sharing the results of its studies and work.

In the field of education, the **Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)**, established in 2004, is notable for promoting postgraduate research on international affairs. Also of importance is the **Centre d'Estudis Internacionals (CEI)**, founded in 1987 to support the development of a professional body dedicated to diplomacy and international relations.

c) International institutions headquartered in Barcelona

UpM – Union for the Mediterranean

As the successor to the regional cooperation initiative known as the Barcelona Process, launched at the first Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers, held in Barcelona on 28 November 1995, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) established its headquarters in Barcelona in 2010. This intergovernmental organisation brings together 43 member states (28 from the European Union and 15 from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries) and promotes Euro-Mediterranean cooperation through political dialogue and the development of joint projects. The **UfM Secretariat**, based at the Palau Reial de Pedralbes, is the region's first permanent intergovernmental institution for cooperation. It leads operational activities and collaborates with international partners, bringing significant added value to Barcelona through the many opportunities that have emerged around the UfM, such as the PRIMA programme, described below.

PRIMA - Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area

In 2017, Barcelona became the headquarters of the “**Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area**” (**PRIMA**), (PRIMA), an organisation established under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which provides a framework for enhanced cooperation between EU member states and third countries associated with the European Commission's Research and Innovation Framework Programme. PRIMA has its offices in Barcelona, within facilities provided by the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness at the Polytechnic University of Barcelona. The decision to base PRIMA in Barcelona is directly linked to the presence of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), as the agreement between participating countries was made possible solely because of this. Its director is Octavi Quintana, a Barcelona-born official of the European Commission and one of the individuals approached by CIDOB to collaborate with the Local Europe Working Group.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The **WHO** office in Barcelona is located at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site and specialises in health system financing. It works with member states across Europe and Central Asia to promote evidence-based policy development. It also provides training in health system financing.

European Union - F4E – Fusion for Energy

Fusion for Energy (F4E) is a European Union body established to manage the international ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) project, focused on fusion energy research.

Fusion for Energy set up its administrative headquarters in Barcelona in 2007. The Barcelona office, initially located in Torre Mapfre and now based in Diagonal Mar, is responsible primarily for the project's administrative operations, while scientific research and experimental work are carried out at Cadarache in southern France.

ITER is a global research partnership involving China, the EU, Japan, India, South Korea, Russia and the United States.

The presence of F4E in Barcelona strengthens the city's position and appeal as an international hub for research and innovation.

European Union – Representation of the European Commission

The European Commission has established its **regional office for Catalonia and the Balearic Islands** in Barcelona. With the aim of providing information about the European Commission and linking local interests with those of the Union, the office is responsible for public information services, relations with various local institutions and the media, and the organisation of public events. The European Commission's Barcelona office helps bring the EU closer to citizens, enhancing the city's international connections and influence.

It is worth noting that Barcelona is one of the few cities outside an EU member state capital to host such an office (other examples include Milan in Italy and Marseille in France).

European Union – European Parliament Office

Like the European Commission, the European Parliament also has a dedicated representation office in Barcelona. Located on Passeig de Gràcia, the **European Parliament Office** focuses primarily on institutional relations and the organisation of talks on current European issues. Its role also includes providing public information to keep citizens informed about the activities of the European Parliament, as well as the responsibilities and decisions of members of the European Parliament at regional level.

EIT

Barcelona hosts several headquarters linked to major international consortia known as KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Community) created through calls for proposals by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) of the European Commission.

The Southern Europe headquarters of the **KIC on renewable energies (InnoEnergy)** is located within the facilities of the Polytechnic University of Barcelona (UPC), which is a project partner working on the development of innovative renewable energy solutions.

Barcelona hosts the Southern Europe headquarters of the **KIC-EIT Health (InnoHealth)**, which works on topics related to health and biomedicine. Some of the key partners in the international KIC Health consortium

include the University of Barcelona, IESE Business School, the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) and Hospital Clínic.

Specifically, in relation to the **EIT on urban mobility**, Barcelona led the coordination work for the consortium's bid, which, once selected, established its European headquarters in the city. Through this collaboration, Barcelona City Council participates in various innovative European projects aimed at improving urban mobility and air quality in the city.

Finally, Barcelona also hosts the activities of the **EIT on culture and creativity**, established in October 2022, with partners including the Eurecat technology centre and the company Mediapro.

All these headquarters of major international consortia strengthen Barcelona's position as a leading innovation ecosystem and as a hub for attracting research talent.

European Forest Institute (EFI) – Mediterranean regional office

An example of Barcelona being chosen both for its role as a Mediterranean capital and for the opening up of spaces at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site is the establishment, in 2007, of the Mediterranean Regional Office of the EFI in the city. This is an international organisation created by European states, and EFIMED was its first regional office. It works to promote the sustainability of Mediterranean forests by connecting forest researchers, policymakers and various professionals with the aim of improving the management and resilience of forest ecosystems in the Mediterranean region.

GIGA Technology Centre

Jointly driven by UNICEF and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the GIGA Technology Centre aims to connect every school in the world to the internet by 2030, helping to reduce the digital divide, especially among vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

The centre has been based at Ca l'Alíer in Barcelona since 2023, with financial contributions from several institutions, including Barcelona City Council.

d) Other international actors present in Barcelona

Barcelona is also home to a number of organisations with an international focus.

One example is the **Urban Resilience Hub, part of UN-Habitat**, which implements international cooperation projects to promote urban resilience and works with cities, universities, civil society and public institutions.

In the academic sphere, the city hosts the **Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI)**, which brings together hundreds of members from 80 countries, with regional offices across five continents

Outside the institutional and territorial cooperation framework, other organisations based in the city also work with a strong international outlook from the social and private sectors. Examples include the **Barcelona Knowledge Hub**, the Southern Europe and Mediterranean Office of the **Academia Europaea**; the **Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation**, based at IEMed; and **ASCAME**, the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce, founded by the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce in 1982, which co-organises the Mediterranean Economic Week (MedaWeek) in Barcelona.

The city is also home to a wide range of organisations participating in different Euro-Mediterranean networks. By way of example, it is worth mentioning the organisations in the city that are part of the **EuroMed Rights** network, the city's universities that participate in **EMUNI** (Euro-Mediterranean University, a UfM project based in Piran, Slovenia), and the coordination role played by IEMed with the **Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue Between Cultures**. Also of particular importance is **EuroMeSCo**, a network of research centres and think tanks from the Euro-Mediterranean area, whose Academic Secretariat is held by IEMed, which coordinates the network's activities and projects.

