
Title of the project: Comunalidades Urbanas

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Area: Urban Governance, Commons, Internet and Social Innovation

What

The IGOP, from its headquarters at the School of Social and Urban Policies located in the Nou Barris District of Barcelona, participates in the generation of a community network called the "Urban Community of the Nou Barris District of Barcelona". IGOP contributes with its knowledge and methodology. The project develops a relational strategy with the proximity territories to foster the generation of sufficient demand to make economically sustainable those initiatives related to the generation of employment and economic activity in the District (preferably social and solidarity economy).

The general objectives are the following:

- Create a community network aimed at structuring an Urban Community in the Nou Barris District of Barcelona.
- Promote projects of mutual support and generation of employment and income based on the needs identified in the territory.
- Systematize learning, good practices and successful strategies for the generation of urban communalities, mutual support projects and economic initiatives (social and solidarity economy) from community networks.
- Map common goods that can contribute to meeting the needs of the population of the territory and to generating the network of the Urban Communalities of the Nou Barris District.

The promotion of urban communities in the Nou Barris District of Barcelona began in the Roquetes and Verdum neighborhoods, covering a population of 29,155 people with whom their organization around community economies and mutual support networks was facilitated.

Who

Fundación Pare Manel, Étic-Hàbitat.SCCL, IGOP-UAB, Azimut-360, BarcelonActiva, Plan Comunitario de Roquetes, Plan Comunitario de Verdum. (with funding from Generalitat de Catalunya).

Why

The IGOP School encourages the linkage of the university with its environment, as well as promoting participatory research processes with different actors in the territory. In the case of the Urban Communities of Nou Barris, the work is based on the analysis of the main territorial weaknesses and strengths. This is a population with low income, basic educational level and unemployment rates higher than the Barcelona average. In addition, there is little cooperative trajectory, but with an important claiming culture and consolidated networking dynamics, such as the Roquetes Community Plan that has consolidated mutual support network dynamics.

The identified needs and initial objectives are as follows:

- Strengthen and enhance local commerce as an engine of the economy in the District, fostering attraction of new businesses and in particular those for the provision of care, such as through the creation of SSE initiatives for the distribution of products and food from the proximity.
- Innovate and generate new synergies around mutual support initiatives and/or welfare projects aimed at distributing food to vulnerable families, while addressing the need to generate income from savings in energy consumption from an energy transition perspective.
- To propose care strategies, in a territory with a high rate of aging and a child population without schooling during the 0-3 stage.
- Addressing the digital gap in a broad sense, addressing digital literacy as access to the network (bearing in mind the socioeconomic profile of the population and the possible development of collective infrastructures).
- Respond to the needs of neighborhood communities in the territory, with the provision of joint services (cleaning, maintenance, etc.).

How

The project bases its intervention on the application of a participatory action-research strategy, that is, on the generation of a relational and fieldwork process that aims at creating, on the one hand, useful knowledge for the promotion of possible lines of action. On the other hand, it aims at generating collective organization and learning to achieve the promotion of cooperatives and community economies. This process will be developed by the actors themselves, organizations and urban commons, which we will gradually join the Community as an initial starting point the community networks of the neighborhoods of Roquetes and Verdum.

The Project is structured with the following governance structure:

- The assembly of the urban community, as a space for validation and contrast of the set of actions to be developed, as well as for the generation of collective thinking. The assembly, is made up of the set of associations, entities, associations and urban commons mapped in the territory.

- Activating Committee (project driving group) made up of the entities of this project (Fundación Padre Manel, Ètic-Habitat.SCCL, IGOP-UAB, Azimut-360, BarcelonActiva, Plan Comunitario de Roquetes, Plan Comunitario de Verdum.
- A team that will be in charge of the process. This team will be hired for this purpose.
- Participatory action research group (GIAP). This will be made up of a dynamizing team and different key informants from each of the territories, which may vary according to the needs and moments of the process. They should support the technical team in defining the relational strategy in the territory, connect with groups and people from each urban common good with the idea of integrating them in the Community, etc... Key informants who can help us to approach the diversity of communities of origin and culture of the neighborhood (gypsy community, Moroccan, Honduran...) will participate in the group. It will meet regularly according to the needs of deployment of the Community and the project.

During the first two years we will work on demand generation in the neighborhoods of Canyelles, La Guineueta and Trinitat Nova.

When

The Project started in 2022.