

Project Title:	Territorialización de derechos e infraestructuras sociales: el papel de los equipamientos públicos en contextos de vulnerabilidad urbana (TEDIS)
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Area:	Social services, care & wellbeing, social investment, policy assessment

What?

The **TEDIS project (Territorialization of Rights and Social Infrastructure: The Role of Public Facilities in Contexts of Urban Vulnerability)** is a research project led by principal investigators Oriol Nel·lo, Ismael Blanco, and Blanca Fillola. Its overall objective is to **analyze the role of public facilities** (e.g., health centers, community centers, etc.) as drivers of social and territorial cohesion in metropolitan contexts.

The project addresses the growing concern about the relationship between increasing social inequalities and the deepening of **urban segregation**. It is based on the hypothesis that the distribution of public facilities is unequal, being **scarcer, less accessible, and of lower quality** precisely in areas with greater social needs. Furthermore, it examines the effectiveness of these facilities as “social infrastructure”—that is, as spaces for fostering social bonds and community resilience—depending on factors such as design, management, and governance model.

Who?

The project team is multidisciplinary, with experts in Urban and Environmental Sociology, Geography, Environmental Sciences, Political Science and Anthropology. It includes researchers from IGOP, the Metròpoli Institute (IM), the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), the Universidad del País Vasco (EHU) and the Universitat de València (UV).

Why?

The TEDIS project adopts a dual perspective on public facilities as service providers (rights) and as social infrastructure (cohesion).

The project is particularly relevant today due to the increase in inequalities and the need for public policies that address social and territorial divisions:

1. Sustained Increase in Social Inequalities: Accumulated evidence indicates that social inequalities have increased significantly and steadily in the European context since the beginning of the 21st century.

2. Deepening Urban Segregation: This growth in inequalities has been accompanied by increasingly profound processes of urban segregation, generating growing differences between affluent and disadvantaged urban areas.

3. Strategic Priorities of the State Plan: The proposal aligns with two key strategic priorities of the **2024-2027 State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research (PEICTI)**: "The challenge of demography and social cohesion" and "Public Policies and Governance." This underscores its relevance on the current political and scientific agenda. It also addresses elements established in the 2020-2027 Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (EECTI), such as urban land use, multicultural societies, and marginalization.

How?

The methodology is divided into two main stages:

1. General Analysis: A study of the density and socio-spatial distribution of facilities throughout the metropolitan area, using georeferenced data sources in an integrated manner for the first time—the AMB's Georeferenced Database of Facilities, the Urban Vulnerability Index, and data on municipal income and resources.

2. Sectoral Analysis: Development of two thematic studies in the city of Barcelona on the **public library** network and the network of **community centers**, using quantitative analyses of uses, surveys of managers (88 facilities), and four qualitative case studies in disadvantaged neighborhoods. This part will place special emphasis on analyzing the social dynamics that occur in the observed facilities, paying particular attention to **gender** relations and **interculturality**.

When?

The project, which began in September 2025, has a planned duration of 36 months.