

Report on
Santa Coloma de Gramenet's
contribution
to the **United Nations**
Sustainable Development Goals

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**Diputació
Barcelona**



**Ajuntament
de Santa Coloma
de Gramenet**



**Santa Coloma
és vida!**

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1. Introduction to the report

Advances and challenges in sustainability, equality and social progress in Santa Coloma

Santa Coloma de Gramenet is making good progress as it implements an urban model that strives to combat inequalities and protect both people and the environment - a model fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. This progress is grounded in our firm belief that through working at the local level, we can not only help preserve the life of the planet but also help improve the well-being of our citizens, placing people at the centre of political action and ensuring that equal opportunities and dignity are inalienable rights.

This report bears witness to the fact that, through mechanisms such as the Local Pact for Social, Economic and Cultural Reconstruction in Santa Coloma de Gramenet and the Municipal Action Plan (2020-2023 Plan), we are making the necessary changes in line with the development model proposed by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) for all towns and cities. We have also spent years of effort on our Service Charters, making a public commitment to the quality standards that we wish to maintain in the provision of our services to the public.

Since the approval of the 2020-2023 Plan, we have launched many different projects and measures based on this local roadmap. It includes 302 actions in total, agreed between social entities, political groups and

the public, with the aim of consolidating our model for an advanced, sustainable city and helping Santa Coloma develop in the areas of civic responsibility, equality and solidarity. These are concepts closely linked to the global commitment entailed in the 2030 Agenda, where climate action starts at the local level in our fight to ensure the survival of the planet and its inhabitants.

Our city has concentrated its governmental priorities on six key areas which form the backbone of the Plan and around which effective measures have already been put in place. These areas are focused on reduced inequalities, gender equality, quality education, climate action, sustainable cities and communities, and partnerships with institutions and organisations in order to achieve these goals. We chose these areas because they best represent the city's values and allow us to work toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a whole city, through a joint effort between the City Council, government staff, local entities and citizens. In this way, we hope to make a substantial contribution to the development of Agenda 2030, with help from the indispensable financial support of the regional administrations, the State Government and the European Union.

We are making this a reality in Santa Coloma, where we have already made a qualita-

tive leap with respect to public services for children and youth, support for older people and vulnerable groups and individuals, promotion of employment, support for local businesses, promotion of sustainable mobility and improvements to housing. But we still have many challenges ahead of us in our endeavour to maintain our progress and advance our sustainability.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has, of course, increased the vulnerability of both the general public and families in particular, our city has been clear about its priorities and has spared no human or financial resources to meet the basic needs of the population. And this is one of the key aspects in making this essential change to the development model set out in the 2030 Agenda through the localisation of the SDGs.

This was demonstrated during the early months of the pandemic by the unanimous approval by all the city's municipal groups of the Local Pact for Social, Economic and Cultural Reconstruction in Santa Coloma de Gramenet, with the aim of ensuring that our city could emerge from the ensuing social and economic crisis with the best possible guarantees. As the text of the Pact states, we could not allow ourselves to walk back on our community's rights and equal opportunities. On the basis of this agreement, we have deployed effective measures to support furloughed workers and ease payment of municipal taxes, while implementing direct lines of financial assistance for local businesses - in short helping all the groups who have suffered the most from this difficult setback and again underlining that the real priority is and should always be people, especially the most vulnerable.

Another fundamental mechanism interweaving the SDGs is the Santa Coloma de Gramenet Urban Agenda, an essential roadmap for implementing the public policies that will enable us to transform the city in the areas of economic, environmental and social sustainability. In short, it marks out the projects to be implemented with the support of European funds, offering an unequalled opportunity to design the Santa Coloma of

the future, the city that we all want, where we can live better together.

Through the Santa Coloma Urban Agenda, we can make a definitive leap toward a greener, more livable, socially conscious city with a feminist outlook. We will consolidate policies for preserving biodiversity, centring on the rehabilitation and rewilding of the River Besós and its incorporation into the Can Zam Park and Serralada de Marina. Other priority areas of action in the city's Urban Agenda include sustainable mobility, urban regeneration and the rehabilitation of the housing stock, in line with ensuring decent public spaces and preventing social vulnerabilities.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet was one of nine Catalan towns selected to receive support from the European 'Next Generation' recovery funds in order to develop its local Urban Agenda. The Spanish Government has taken our Action Plan into consideration as a pilot project for the Spanish Urban Agenda - a good practice which is transferable to other municipalities in the development of their own action plans.

On 12 September of last year, the Municipal Plenary Session approved the Action Plan for the Santa Coloma de Gramenet Urban Agenda, including the planned actions and performance indicators. This is a further exercise in transparency and good governance which will serve to respond to the challenges and needs of the city in terms of inclusion, resilience, innovation and sustainability. The Urban Agenda provides a new way to analyse and build the future of Santa Coloma de Gramenet, making it more friendly and welcoming through equitable and sustainable economic growth. We want to be a more sustainable, healthy, efficient and inclusive city, setting an example for Spain and Europe of how to continue pushing the horizons set by the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

It is, in short, a clear example of the firm commitment made by the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. This is a commitment

toward which countries, cities and towns must continue to work - in a joint effort between public administrations, civil society and private corporations - in order to preserve the planet and combat inequalities.

The report that you have in your hands is an exercise in accountability made possible by the efforts of the staff at the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet to analyse the impact of our local policies on the SDGs and measure our contribution to the 2030 Agenda, following the mandate of the United Nations. It has involved sustained effort throughout the whole of our term of office. Aligning our main municipal management instruments - the Plan, the Local Pact and the Service Charters - with the various targets of the sustainable development goals allows our City Council to become a small local ecosystem making a meaningful contribution to the development of the global agenda.

It is a point of special pride for us that the latest report by the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development (REDS) lists Santa Coloma de Gramenet among the 14 Spanish cities that most stand out for their fulfilment of the SDGs, with respect to reduced inequalities, sustainability, good health and climate action. The REDS network has awarded the 2020-2023 Plan a very high rating because it is based on achieving the important goals of progress and resilience.

It is clear that at local level we understand the real problems affecting citizens and that proximity is an important part of implementing effective, common-sense solutions. In recent years, projects such as the launch of La Ciba - a space with resources for women, innovation and feminist economics - the Marie Curie Training Centre and the River Besós rewilding plan are clear evidence of this progressive urban model working actively in the pursuit of real equality between men and women, in the promotion of work to guarantee decent life projects, and in both engagement with and protection of the environment.

There are still challenges ahead and these

are also discussed in this report, but our contribution and our performance in terms of the city's progress and the welfare of its citizens are indisputable. So, we will keep advancing - through dialogue, active listening and shared social responsibility - toward the city that we all want.

Now we need to assess Santa Coloma's level of achievement of the SDGs and look to the challenges ahead, so that we can make our



Núria Parlon Gil
Mayor of Santa Coloma de Gramenet

2. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: what it is and why it matters

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution 'Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' or, as it is more commonly known, the '2030 Agenda'. The

United Nations proposed a transformative approach to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of our planet through a framework for the international community with a horizon of 2030. Essentially, it was a call to change our current development model. Its adoption also marked the broadest and most participatory consultation process in the history of the United Nations, with input not only from governments but also from other stakeholders such as civil society, the private

sector and academia.

The 2030 Agenda coincided with another historic agreement signed in 2015 - the Paris Agreement adopted at the Climate Change Conference (COP21) - which establishes measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit the rise in mean global temperature this century to below 2 °C. Alongside the 2030 Agenda, it is the most ambitious roadmap to preserving life on our planet in human history.

The 2030 Agenda is a shared blueprint for both developed and developing nations with a central promise to leave no one behind, ensuring that even the most vulnerable will be reached. This universal agenda is a plan of action founded on five pillars: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. It is organised into 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), broken down into 169 specific targets which can be measured by means of 232 indicators, allowing their monitoring until 2030¹.

The SDGs are the heart of the 2030 Agenda and reflect a holistic view of sustainable development which requires the participation of governments, businesses, civil society organisations and citizens from every country, region and locality across the world. The interrelated nature of the goals entails following a systemic approach to a new development model, where the success or failure of one goal affects the outcome of others. For example, achieving gender equality or improving health contributes to eradicating

poverty, while fostering peace reduces inequalities and helps the economy thrive.

Despite the many strides forward in sustainable development, the United Nations reminds us that current global crises and conflicts are affecting the expectations set out in the 2030 Agenda. With the COVID-19 pandemic in its third year and the war raging in Ukraine, we are witnessing a worsening of the food, energy, humanitarian and refugee crises, all framed within the ongoing climate emergency. In order to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve global sustainability, we need to make an urgent effort to rescue the sustainable development agenda and position it at the centre of public policy.

This effort entails mobilising all the means at our disposal in order to meet the challenges involved in changing the current development model. Firstly, it requires a very significant financial investment of between 5 and 7 billion euros each year, which needs to be supplemented by other economic and political measures. These include strengthening human capital and sharing technologies, especially with respect to the poorest countries, and international trade, which also plays a key role as a driver of sustainable development. In addition, we must ensure that other policies implemented by developed countries – including those on trade, migration, agriculture and energy – do not harm developing countries' efforts to advance the SDGs. Finally, given the complexity of the 2030 Agenda, it is essential to forge alliances between all public and private stakeholders. While governments are important drivers of development, it should not fall to govern-



¹ Information on the SDGs, their targets and indicators can be found here: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/development-agenda/>

ments alone to face the challenges of such a complex task.

In the end, it should be remembered that while the SDGs are not legally binding, governments at all levels, and to the extent of their powers, have integrated them into their public policies. This has also been the aspiration of the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet since the 2030 Agenda came into effect on 1 January 2016.

In short, the SDGs represent an unprecedented opportunity for all stakeholders in society - each in their own sphere of action - to contribute whatever is within their power toward achieving a more sustainable world; in other words, working together, by sharing and combining our efforts and capacities, we can create a better world.

3. Localising the 2030 Agen-

da: the role of municipalities in contributing to the SDGs

Since its inception, the 2030 Agenda has recognised the key role of municipalities in achieving the SDGs. Despite their universal scope, these objectives need to be contextualised for each territory. In this respect, the local level is the first cog in the decision-making machine which operates between the different levels of administration to ensure progress toward the SDGs, in other words, in a 'bottom-up' process from local to global. Municipal action is even more important in the context of health, social and economic crises, such as that generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, where the role of

¿De dónde vienen los ODS?

Los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) son 17 objetivos que surgen en la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible de septiembre 2015. El documento que los contiene se titula "Transformar nuestro mundo: la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible", y es más conocido como **"Agenda 2030"**. Veamos cuál ha sido el proceso de adopción de los ODS...

La Comisión Mundial sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo adopta el concepto de "Desarrollo Sostenible"

"Informe Brundtland"

1987

El Informe Brundtland define el desarrollo sostenible como la satisfacción de las necesidades de la generación presente sin comprometer la capacidad de las futuras generaciones para satisfacer las suyas.



1992

La Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo celebrada en Río de Janeiro aprueba la "Agenda 21".

2000

La Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas adopta los 8 Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en la "Cumbre del Milenio".



2015

La Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas aprueba la resolución "Transformar nuestro mundo: La Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible", que incluye los 17 ODS, sus metas e indicadores.



2012

La Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible (Rio+20) establece una visión coherente con el Desarrollo Sostenible para el s.XXI que influirá en la creación de los ODS.



2030

municipalities has focused on meeting the needs of citizens and where special attention needs to be paid to the most vulnerable people.

From the standpoint of a territorial development approach, contributing to the SDGs relies on participatory processes and collective construction, allowing the sharing of challenges which look toward 2030 but which aspire to progress beyond that date. Contributing to the 2030 Agenda requires an exercise in planning and management that stems from the reality of the territory and the public policies that are already in place, taking into account our existing capacity to promote more inclusive and sustainable development and what we need to achieve a more transformative

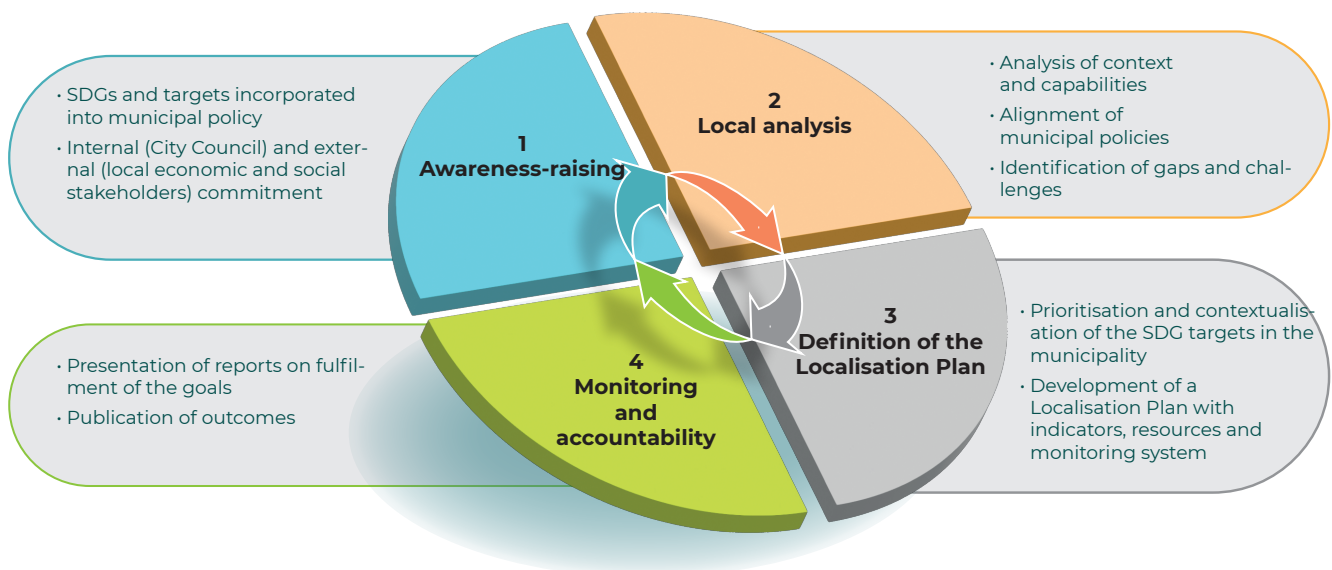
impact that leaves no one behind. This process of 'localising' the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is organised in four phases, as shown in the diagram below.

Localising the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a tool for sustainable development planning is not so much a change in public policy at municipal level but rather a way for municipalities to reinforce their commitment to the principles of sustainable development. It could not be any other way; all the SDGs have targets linked to the responsibilities of local governments and, in particular, their mandate to provide services and promote inclusive and sustainable territorial development. At least 60% of the SDG targets (100 out of the 169) require the involvement of local governments. Thanks to the various studies that aim to examine local progress

toward the 2030 Agenda, we can see what our municipality is doing toward the SDGs. The best-known analysis in Spain is the report published by the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development (REDS), entitled 'The Sustainable Development Goals in 100 Spanish Cities'², in which Santa Coloma de Gramenet is a participant.

Figure 1: Phases in the SDG localisation process

² <https://reds-sdsn.es/informe-ods-ciudades-2020>





In short, achieving the SDGs requires the leadership of the public administrations who are closest to citizens and their problems. However, this effort will fail without the full involvement of local stakeholders, not only in the implementation but also in the definition and monitoring of the 2030 local agenda. In the case of the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet, the development of the 2020-2023 Plan has facilitated the empowerment of all local, public, private and civil society stakeholders, in order to publicise this framework for sustainable development, based on the city's needs and challenges.

4. Santa Coloma de Gramenet and the Sustainable Development Agenda

How are Spanish cities progressing toward the SDGs?

The latest biennial REDS report on the SDGs in 100 Spanish cities, published in 2020, offers a mixed picture of progress toward the goals set by the United Nations.

The SDGs that are progressing at a good pace are those related to Good Health (SDG 3) and Quality Education (SDG 4), followed by Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). In contrast, those that are lagging behind are the goals on No Poverty and Zero Hunger (SDGs 1 and 2) and those linked to Life below Water and the Life on Land (SDGs 14 and 15). The rest of the SDGs show positive trends, although progress is still very slow.

In short, if we carry out a global analysis of cities' degree of compliance with the SDGs, we can conclude that most are at the mid-point and shifting progressively toward sustainability. This snapshot of the state of the SDG targets, meanwhile, will be altered by the impact of COVID-19 and, to a lesser extent, by the effects of the war in Ukraine.

With respect to Santa Coloma de Gramenet, it ranks among the top 14 Spanish cities that stand out for their work toward the SDGs in terms of reduced inequalities, sustainability, good health, climate action and other milestones advocated by the 2030 Agenda for the planet. The REDS network applauds the fact that the 2020-2023 Action Plan is based on the achievement of these objectives.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet's commitment to sustainability predates the United Nations' adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by a long way, and has historically focused on three important areas: environment, social inclusion and urban planning.

The city's natural spaces provide a valuable way to enjoy the outdoors and discover the municipality's biodiversity (over 28% of the municipal area corresponds to natural spaces). In 1994 the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet promoted the Restoration Pro-

Ciudades y ODS

Las ciudades son importantes para lograr cualquier objetivo de desarrollo sostenible:



FUENTE: UN-Habitat

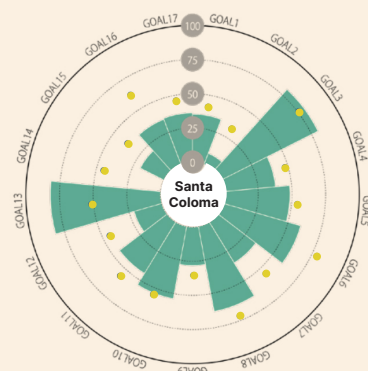
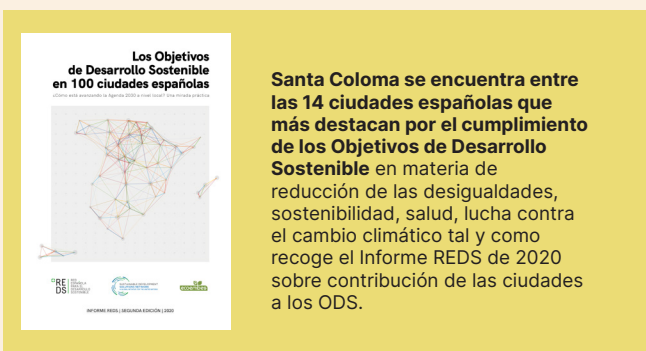
Las ciudades no sólo contribuyen al ODS 11 "Ciudades y comunidades sostenibles":

Al menos
100 /169 METAS
de los 17 ODS (un 60%)
necesitan de la contribución de las ciudades para su consecución



¿Cómo se mide la contribución de las ciudades a los ODS?

A través del "SDGs Index" desarrollado por la Red de Soluciones para el Desarrollo Sostenible o el ranking elaborado por la Red Española de Desarrollo Sostenible para 100 ciudades españolas, ya es posible conocer cómo contribuyen las ciudades a los ODS.



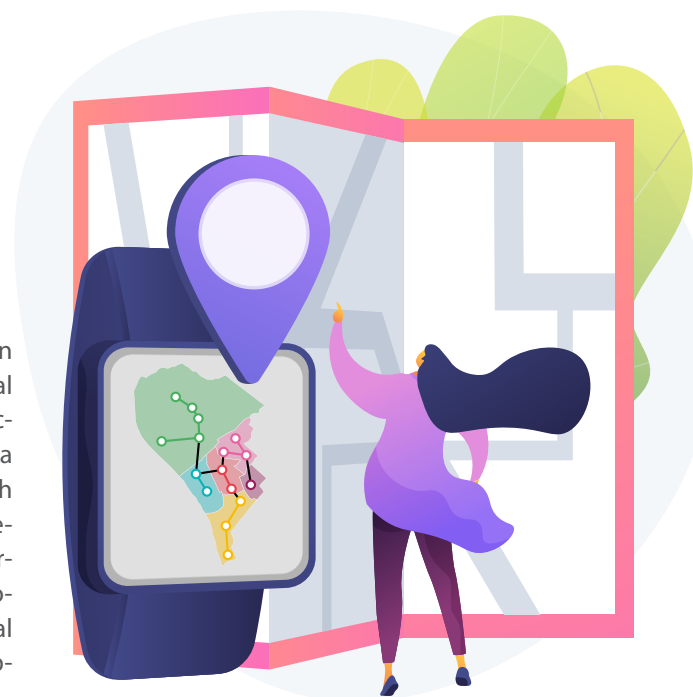
gramme for Peri-urban Areas as a long-term strategy for action on the natural environment, and in 1997 it launched the Environmental Recovery Project for the final stretch of the River Besós, with financing from the European Union Cohesion Funds. In 1996 Santa Coloma de Gramenet became a signatory to the Aalborg Charter, through which a group of European towns and cities have committed to developing their Local Agenda 21 plans. Agenda 21 provides a powerful tool for analysing and formulating municipal environmental, social and economic policies, through the creation of an Environmental Action Plan for a more sustainable urban model. Santa Coloma ap-

proved its Agenda 21 Environmental Action Plan in 1999. Many of the actions implemented in these areas fall within the current scope of SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 15 on Life on Land.

Also in 1999, the city initiated a series of actions to address the effects of climate change, now included in SDG 13 on Climate Action, the most important of which is the Integrated Plan for Sustainability and Combating Climate Change, aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions and improving energy efficiency in the municipality. In 2007, an Environmental Awareness Plan was implemented to strengthen the level of public awareness about respect for and protection of the environment, as well as sustainable development and consumption, concepts linked to SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production.

One of the central elements in the city's progress toward sustainable development is the 2014 approval of the Strategy for Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development (the Santa Coloma de Gramenet Strategy). This initiative enabled the municipality to access European Union ERDF funds with the aim of making Santa Coloma de Gramenet a smarter, healthier, more inclusive, partici-

patory and efficient city which respects and protects the environment, alleviates poverty and promotes equal opportunities between men and women. Many of the Strategy's goals now fall within the scope of several SDGs, including SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities and SDGs 11, 13 and 15, as mentioned above. Other initiatives operating in tandem with the Strategy, such as the Urban Mobility Plan approved in 2012, have also helped improve the quality of infrastructures for pedestrians, bicycle-users and overground public transport. Together with the Air Quality Improvement Action Plan, approved in 2015, this covers many of the targets now included in SDG 11.



Santa Coloma, good practice in urban planning

The Office for Europe and International Strategy at Barcelona Provincial Council has published a handbook entitled 'Integrated Urban Planning: Learning from Europe'. This handbook provides guidelines for councils in small and medium-sized cities to help them better prepare for the urban challenges of the next decade and the 2021-2027 European funding period. Its section on good practices includes Santa Coloma's Strategy for Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development, highlighting its commitment to sustainability and civic participation, and its cross-cutting approach.

The promotion of meaningful, effective equality for women and men is one of the city's hallmarks as part of its efforts to follow a more just and inclusive development model. For years, Santa Coloma de Gramenet has been implementing projects linked to the targets now included in SDG 5 on Gender Equality. Some of these are ground-breaking projects which provide a benchmark for other cities in combatting gender-based violence, bridging the digital divide and empowering women. The Strategy's spearhead for gender equality is La Ciba, a pioneering centre in Spain providing resources and tools that enable women to improve their personal autonomy in all areas of life. It is also a centre for feminist economics and innovation, with spaces for training, work readiness, creation of and support for cultural projects and the development of a new shared, socially conscious and feminist economy.

In recognition of Santa Coloma de Gramen-

et's work in this area, the city was host to the 4th Ibero-American Summit on Local Gender Agendas in October 2022. The Summit was an important meeting point between organisations and local and regional governments from Ibero-American countries, enabling the sharing of initiatives for a more just, sustainable and resilient society.

The municipality has also promoted actions that correspond to its vision of an inclusive city, especially in neighbourhoods with greater social hardships. As part of the Urban Initiative Programme, which ran from 2007 to 2013, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Serra d'en Mena Integrated Intervention Project were developed to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Other social inclusion and mediation actions include the Local Plan for Social Inclusion and the Intercultural Coexistence Plan, designed to identify, mediate and prevent situations of vulnerability, with the aim of improving social cohesion. All these actions fall within the scope of several SDGs, in particular SDG 10 and SDG 11.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet, inclusive social development

In 2022, for the fourth consecutive year, the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet was ranked in the report issued by the State Association of Municipalities (Asociación Española de Municipios, AEM) from the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration.

According to this report, the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet was ranked first for investing in social policies, qualifying it for the Asso for the 2021 investment budget for social services and social policies. Santa Coloma ranks among the top 3 Catalan councils in the report, ahead of Barcelona, and the capital of Maresme, Mataró.

In 2021, municipal investment in social policies in Santa Coloma de Gramenet was higher than that of provincial and regional capital cities, such as Madrid and Burgos. Moreover, the city's investment in this area was higher than that of the major metropolitan area, Madrid.

This outline of some of Santa Coloma de Gramenet's most significant actions on sustainability serves to illustrate the context of the city's commitment to the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs; it is a commitment that is neither casual nor improvised

but based on a determined commitment to create an urban model with policies for people, planet and prosperity.

The prime example of this commitment is the alignment of the 2020-2023 Plan with the SDGs. It is important to note that, at the 2020 Forum on the Plan, it was agreed to include 302 actions in this roadmap for consolidating our model for social, economic and environmental progress in the municipality. These actions are fully aligned with the SDGs. Chapter 6 of this report presents the outcomes of the Plan's contribution to the SDGs, both directly and indirectly through the various synergies between actions and other SDGs.

The Plan's alignment with the SDGs has enabled us to extend this process to other mechanisms for planning and monitoring the City Council's public policies, including the Service Charters. These are public documents setting out the City Council's services and the conditions for their provision, as well as the corresponding responsibilities and commitments to ensure they meet certain quality standards. The City Council also has other internal Service Charters for municipal employees to help them carry out their work.

The Service Charters are particularly relevant to the SDGs listed below.

| SDG | No. of commitments |
|--|--------------------|
| 3. Good health and well-being | 17 |
| 4. Quality education | 30 |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth | 35 |
| 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure | 13 |
| 10. Reduced inequalities | 28 |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities | 84 |
| 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions | 252 |
| 17. Partnerships for the goals | 24 |

*These commitments either contribute directly or through synergies, as can be seen in SDG 16.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet is one of the top 52 councils in Spain according to the Association's rating of 'excellence in social investment'. With a social development amounting to over 14 million euros, it is one of the top 52 councils in Spain for social investment, alongside the Catalan capital, Barcelona. The impact on SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions stands out mainly because the Service Charters incorporate commitments by the City Council to improve the quality of public services, very much in line with SDG 16 in its aim to improve institutions and make them more effective, accountable and inclusive at all levels.

All information on how the City Council's main planning instruments contribute to the SDGs is included in an innovative tool, In-

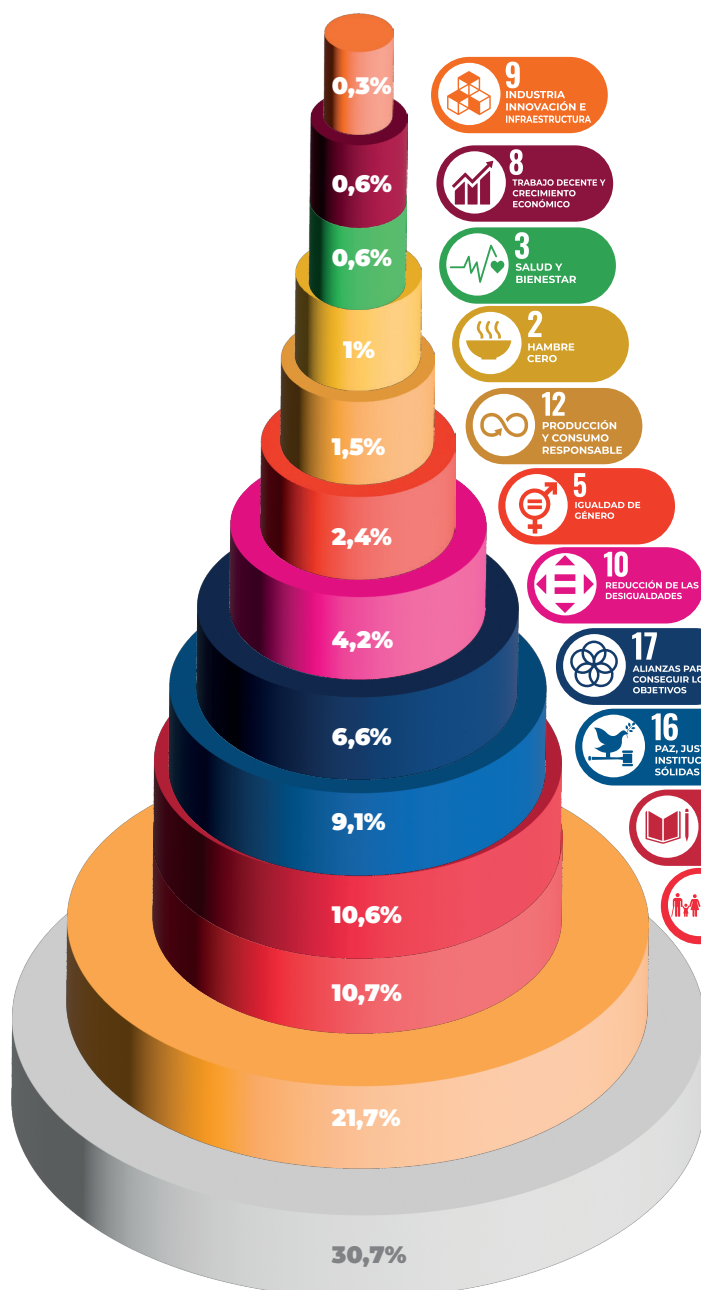
foGover³, the official website for local government accountability. Through Infogovern, users can find out how the actions included in the three main instruments discussed in this report (the Plan, the Local Pact and the Service Charters) impact the SDGs. Each action or commitment has an associated file that includes the following information: name of the action/commitment, tasks carried out (up to 2021), level of compliance, the impact of COVID-19 and the SDGs on which it impacts directly or through synergies.

Another important aspect of planning is the alignment of municipal budgets with the SDGs. Since 2020, the City Council's process of drawing up the budgetary documents has followed an SDG-focused approach. The Department of Economic Services has already designed the expenditure budgets for 2023 and the 2023-2026 period (see Figure 2). From the highest to lowest percentage, the group related to SDGs 11, 4, 1 and 16 accounted for 52% of the budgetary allocations planned for this period, followed by the group related to SDGs 17, 10, 5 and 12, with 15%. Finally, SDGs 2, 3, 8 and 9 bring up the rear with 2.5% of the budget planned for the 2023-2026 period. The alignment of budgets

³ <http://infogovern.gramenet.cat/infogovern/>

with the SDGs is perhaps the best indicator of a public administrations' adherence to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. Santa Coloma de Gramenet's response to the COVID-19 pandemic: an opportunity to strengthen our commitment to the SDGs



The crises arising from the COVID-19 pandemic have underlined the significant link between local public service provision and healthcare systems. Above all, they have demonstrated the importance of these services in protecting people and fostering care and support for everyone. The pandemic has been critical in the sense that it has revealed both deep-rooted vulnerabilities in healthcare systems and essential services, and lack of crisis preparedness on the part of many governments, at all levels. Yet the pandemic has also offered us some important lessons on how we need to prepare cities for future, in terms of effecting recovery and resilience to subsequent crises.

Figure 2: Distribution of the 2023-2026 budget by SDG

Source: City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet

Firstly, the pandemic has underlined the need to develop cities and territories that care for their citizens and respect their essential rights of access to public healthcare, housing and basic services, as well as adequate social benefits. The crisis has also highlighted the need to review urban design. In

Los ODS y la Agenda Urbana en Santa Coloma de Gramenet



Mientras que la Agenda 2030 proporciona el marco para las políticas de desarrollo sostenible, la **Nueva Agenda Urbana (NAU)** es el marco para la acción vinculado con el logro del ODS 11, para lograr que las ciudades sean más inclusivas, seguras, resilientes y sostenibles.



Los objetivos de la NAU son amplios y ambiciosos tal y como se presenta en su “Decálogo de objetivos”:

- 1 Ordenar el territorio y hacer un uso racional del suelo, conservarlo y protegerlo
- 2 Evitar la dispersión urbana y revitalizar la ciudad existente
- 3 Prevenir y reducir los efectos del cambio climático y mejorar la resiliencia
- 4 Hacer una gestión sostenible de los recursos y favorecer la economía circular
- 5 Favorecer la proximidad y la movilidad sostenible
- 6 Fomentar la cohesión social y buscar la equidad
- 7 Impulsar y favorecer la Economía Urbana
- 8 Garantizar el acceso a la vivienda
- 9 Liderar y fomentar la innovación digital
- 10 Mejorar los instrumentos de intervención y la gobernanza

FUENTE: www.aue.gob.es/que-es-la-aue

Además de trabajar para alcanzar los ODS, Santa Coloma también está comprometida con los 10 Objetivos Estratégicos de la Agenda Urbana Española, a través de la Agenda Urbana de Santa Coloma que contempla:

4 grandes retos:

Ciudad Próxima y Sostenible, Ciudad Resiliente y Saludable, Ciudad Inclusiva y Justa, y Ciudad Innovadora y Atractiva;

14 líneas estratégicas

que los despliegan, con 14 acciones asociadas;

64 acciones

en cartera a desarrollar a corto, medio y largo plazo.



La Agenda Urbana de Santa Coloma es uno de los proyectos piloto impulsados por el Ministerio de Transportes, Movilidad y Agenda Urbana y visibilizará todo el potencial que contiene la Agenda Urbana Española para trabajar en las áreas urbanas de todos los tamaños.

La Agenda Urbana de Santa Coloma supondrá el salto definitivo hacia una ciudad más habitable, verde, social y con una mirada netamente feminista.

FUENTE: agendaurbana.gramenet.cat

creasingly, local governments are starting to understand the importance of addressing inequalities - both social and spatial - as well as the need to provide a more equitable distribution of services, safeguard livelihoods and ensure access to public spaces, cultural activities and public services.

At the same time, the COVID-19 crisis has drawn attention to the need to improve the condition of buildings and homes, making them more accessible and energy efficient, as well as the importance of creating high-quality public spaces to favour both physical and mental health. Finally, the pandemic has served to vindicate the need for sustainable production and consumption models for cities, such as the circular economy approach and production and consumption models based on proximity ('zero km').

Beginning from the first months of the pandemic, the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramen-

et adopted all the measures at its disposal to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the municipality. July 2020 saw the implementation of the 'Local Pact for Social, Economic and Cultural Reconstruction', stemming from the agreement reached by the council's different political groups. This agreement sets out the measures necessary for the city's social, economic and cultural recovery. The Local Pact is the result of dialogue and a joint effort to address the effects of the pandemic. It is currently implemented in parallel with the roadmap for government action within the 2020-2023 Plan.

The measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic included in the Local Pact are also aligned with the SDGs, with 21 targets from the United Nations SDGs among its 106 measures. The SDGs that have been most impacted by measures from the Local Pact can be seen below.

| SDG | No. of actions* |
|--|-----------------|
| 3. Good health and well-being | 9 |
| 5. Gender equality | 16 |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth | 20 |
| 10. Reduced inequalities | 44 |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities | 31 |
| 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions | 5 |

*Actions which contribute directly or through synergies

Together with the rest of the measures included in the Plan, this will help address the challenges identified during the City Council's response to the pandemic and will make Santa Coloma de Gramenet a more resilient city, enabling it to respond better to future crises of a similar nature. The city's recovery strategy is also consistent with the recommendations of international organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), whose 'Manifesto for a Healthy Recovery from COVID-19' emphasises the need to transform our cities into healthy, livable places.

It is also consistent with initiatives such as the European Green Deal, the road map to transition the European Union toward a carbon-neutral, resource-efficient and more socially and economically inclusive development model. The Green Deal represents an important opportunity for cities to become healthier and more livable through improvements to urban planning and transport. In



this respect, the Local Action Plan, which is part of Santa Coloma's Urban Agenda, approved in September 2022, is a clear example of the city's determination to shift toward a future based on sustainability, resilience, inclusion and innovation. The Santa Coloma de Gramenet Action Plan is one of the pilot projects of the Spanish Urban Agenda, promoted by the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda. It is championed as a transferable experience that can guide other municipalities in the design of their own action plans.

In short, the COVID-19 crisis has reaffirmed the importance of putting the SDGs at the heart of municipal public policies. Santa Coloma de Gramenet recognises that it needs to be part of this process.

6. How the 2020-2023 Municipal Action Plan contributes toward the

SDGs

How the Municipal Action Plan contributes toward the SDGs in general

The Municipal Action Plan comprises a series of actions to be implemented by the city government within a set timeframe. The Plan is the outcome of a participatory process that takes into account citizens' opinions and proposals, and establishes priority actions for the 2020-2023 period. It is designed to integrate the SDGs into each of the Plan's six areas and the main objectives which are the focus of the priority actions.



Medidas locales frente a la Covid-19





SANTA COLOMA AMB ELS ODS



Since its adoption in 2020, the Plan has contributed toward the SDGs aligned with the actions in these six areas. The level of contribution is variable, since it is influenced by both external factors (e.g. Covid-19) and internal factors (e.g. reorientation of priorities during the pandemic's emergency phase, capacity to implement the proposed actions), as well as the Plan's implementation period.

The results presented below are based on analysis from the Plan's 2020-2021 Evaluation Report. The Plan's contribution to the UN SDGs can be classified into three main groups, based on the number of actions that have already impacted the SDGs, the number of actions currently in progress, and the number of actions that will have an impact during the Plan's implementation period, either because they are in the initial stages or because they are about to be implemented.

The three groups include the relevant SDGs, ordered according to the number of actions that have made or are currently making an impact. They are as follows:

- SDGs toward which actions have made an **EFFECTIVE** contribution. This group includes actions already implemented which are linked to SDGs 10, 11, 16 and 17.
- SDGs toward which actions have made a **PROGRESSIVE** contribution. This group includes actions which are currently being implemented, as of the time of this report, and which contribute to SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9.
- SDGs toward which actions are making an **INITIAL** contribution. This group includes actions that are in the early stages and which contribute to SDGs 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Table 1 shows the percentage (and number) of actions that have already had or will have an impact in the future out of the total actions included in the 6 areas.

Table 1. Classification of the SDGs according to the percentage of actions which have had or will have an impact in the future

| SDG | % actions w/ impact (no. actions) | % actions w/ future impact (no. actions) |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 11 | 21% (88) | 6% (23) |
| 17 | 20% (83) | 7% (28) |

La contribución del PAM a los ODS



RANKING OF PROGRESSIVE CONTRIBUTION

| SDG | % actions w/ impact (no. actions) | % actions w/ future impact (no. actions) |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 12 | 4% (15) | 1% (3) |
| 15 | 3% (13) | 0.2% (1) |
| 6 | 1.7% (7) | 0.5% (2) |
| 7 | 1.4% (6) | 2% (7) |
| 13 | 1% (5) | 1% (3) |
| 14 | 0.5% (2) | 0% (0) |

| | | |
|----|----------|---------|
| 10 | 19% (80) | 5% (19) |
| 16 | 16% (68) | 3% (12) |

The three categories in which the impact of the Plan on the

SDGs analysed include actions which have a direct or net contribution to the SDG. The concept of direct contribution is not always easy to define, mainly due to the interconnections between the different SDGs. The methodological approach to this analysis considers that an action from the Plan makes a direct contribution toward an SDG when there is an alignment between the action's main objective(s) and the specific SDG, irrespective of the existence of other lower priority or indirect goals to which the action contributes, an issue which we describe in the following paragraph.

RANKING OF INITIAL CONTRIBUTION

| SDG | % actions w/ impact (no. actions) | % actions w/ future impact (no. actions) |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|
| 5 | 8.2% (34) | 2% (10) |
| 4 | 7.7% (32) | 2% (10) |
| 9 | 7.2% (30) | 4% (18) |
| 8 | 7.2% (30) | 2% (10) |
| 3 | 2% (8) | 1% (5) |
| 1 | 0% (0) | 0% (0) |

RANKING OF EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION






Indeed, the conceptualisation of sustainable development embodied in the 2030 Agenda through the 17 SDGs is based on the positive externalities that occur in the interaction between the SDGs, meaning that sustainable development is a broad concept that embraces these synergies. Consequently, in addition to the direct or immediate effects of the actions taken by each of the participating agents - in this case, the departments of the City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet - we also need to consider the indirect effects that extend beyond the direct contribution of the action that is taken. In this respect, it should be noted that the Plan's actions are not only directly linked to specific SDGs but also have synergistic relationships with other SDGs. In this case, the analysis enables us to identify the SDGs with which the Plan's actions create a greater number of synergies. These are, in order of significance: SDGs 10, 1, 3, 13 and 11.

Most of the synergies centre on the 3 SDGs that best reflect the efforts made by the local government to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic: the provision of aid through social services; measures for social, economic and political inclusion for all people; and actions related to supporting vaccination campaigns and maintaining safety measures for the population during the pandemic's most acute phase.

How the Plan's specific areas contribute toward the SDGs

The 2020-2023 Plan is organised into six key areas, with specific objectives and actions that contribute to their scope. The Plan also identifies which SDGs will be impacted throughout its implementation period through the alignment of the actions of each area with these goals. This section presents both the direct contribution and the synergies between the actions in each area which work toward the SDGs. This information is summarised in six tables, one for each area of the Plan.

The area focused on reduced inequalities has mainly impacted on two SDGs: 10 and 17. These two goals account for almost 80% of the total actions in the Plan in this area. Actions in this area have been aimed mainly at mitigating the repercussions of the pandemic. In this vein, actions for social services, the creation of new financial aid as part of the COVID-19 response and the boost to existing mechanisms for supporting the most vulnerable people account for the higher impact on SDG 10. In this context, it has been essential to increase coordination between the different departments and to work closely with the city's entities in order to carry out many of these actions, which also impacts on SDG 17. These actions include support for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and the maintenance of safety measures to pre-

| SDG | No. synergistic actions | % total Plan actions |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
|  10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 50 | 12% |
|  1 NO POVERTY | 40 | 10% |
|  3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL- BEING | 38 | 9% |
|  13 CLIMATE ACTION | 26 | 6% |
|  11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 20 | 5% |



Area 1: 'Reduced inequalities'

(total no. of actions = 114)

| SDGs most impacted | No. actions with an impact | % of total actions in this area | No. of synergies | % of total actions in this area |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10 | 57 | 50% | 23 | 20% |
| 17 | 32 | 28% | 0 | 0% |
| 11 | 23 | 20% | 3 | 3% |
| 3 | 12 | 11% | 15 | 13% |
| 1 | 0 | 0% | 28 | 25% |

Note: these percentages are not exact, since a single action may be linked to more than one SDG, either directly or by creating synergies.

vent further contagion (SDG 3), as well as the creation of a cultural agenda for the city, the promotion of sport, work supporting historical memory, and cooperation for development and solidarity (SDG 17).

Another important contribution has been the work of caring for older people, especially during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The telecare service, which is coordinated at municipal level, benefits more than 3,000 users, while the Home-based Care Service helps more than 600 older people with reduced mobility. With regard to SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, thanks to the creation of the Local Housing Office, about 4,000 cases are managed every year. There is also an Energy Assistance Point, which serves some 2,000 people each year.

In the area of housing, there have been significant developments in social housing made possible through negotiations with the Society for the Management of Assets from Bank Restructuring. There has also been construction of public housing, both for older people, in the former Miguel Hernandez school, as well as young people, in the Oliveras complex (project in initial phase).



Municipal programme: 'A school canteen available to everyone', a social protection measure for early-years schoolchildren

The municipal aid programme 'A school canteen available to everyone' was launched in 2013 with the aim of supporting families, helping them economically and in terms of work-life balance. The scheme is part of the municipal government's strategic plan. The City Council has imposed no limit on this investment to ensure that all eligible families receive allowances for school dinners for their children. A total of 4,247 students in Santa Coloma de Gramenet in pre-primary and primary education (43% of students) received allowances for school dinners during the 2021/2022 academic year, thanks to funding from the City Council and the Generalitat de Catalunya. Of these children, 3,888 receive 100% of the cost of dinners, while 359 receive a partial allowance. The average cost of a school dinner allowance is €6.33 per day and includes both the meal and the midday monitoring service. Since 2013, more than €14,000,000 has been allocated to this programme. During this period, the number of students benefitting has increased by 77%, thanks to the raising of the household income ceiling.

Another aim of the municipal school dinner allowance is to promote healthy eating habits from an early age. Results from a study by the Spanish Society of Dietetics and Food Sciences (SEDCA) shows that good nutrition has a positive influence on students' cognitive development and academic performance. It is also one of the cornerstones of disease prevention (e.g. obesity and diabetes). Consequently, the role of school canteens and educators is becoming increasingly important. This municipal programme also complies with standards established by the World Health Organization (WHO).



With more than half of the actions aligned with it, SDG 4 on Quality Education is the main goal impacted in this Area. The Plan combines actions for educational guidance, for reducing early school leaving and for improving school-age educational spaces. The City Council is also



Area 2: Quality education

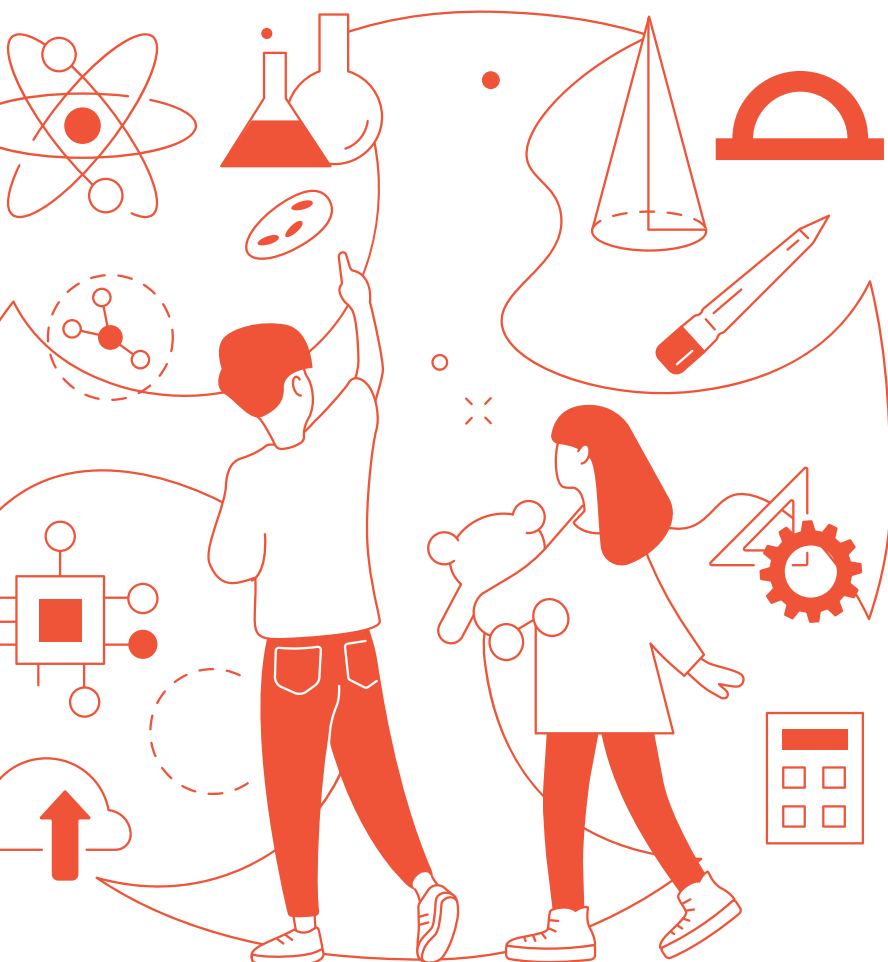
(total no. of actions = 43)

| SDGs most impacted | No. actions with an impact | % of total actions in this area | No. of synergies | % of total actions in this area |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 | 24 | 56% | 2 | 5% |
| 10 | 13 | 30% | 4 | 9% |
| 17 | 13 | 30% | 2 | 5% |

Note: these percentages are not exact, since a single action may be linked to more than one SDG, either directly or by creating synergies

striving to guarantee the educational rights of the city's children and young people, helping ensure equal opportunities (SDG 10) from the earliest ages.

One of the most important objectives in this area is improving quality at all educational stages, especially for children aged 0 to 3 years. In 2021, the City Council took over the management of eight nursery schools, optimising public resources and providing job stability to workers in these centres. In this new phase, it will be possible to guarantee the provision of similar services in all nursery schools, under unified management. At the same time, networking will enable these centres to advance through the sharing of educational projects and good practices. Direct municipal management will facilitate the integration of children with special educational or social needs.



Santa Coloma de Gramenet: city of learning

Santa Coloma de Gramenet is committed to ensuring inclusive, high-quality education for everyone, throughout their life - education that acts as a driver of development, both personal and collective, which enables cities' transformation to fairer, more caring intercultural spaces. With this in mind, the City Council has launched several educational initiatives, such as the programme for 'Reusing textbooks and educational innovation projects' for pre-primary, primary and special education, which helps schools maintain a stock of available textbooks and educational material. Besides providing significant economic savings to families, it promotes wider educational values, encouraging students to respect these resources and return them in good condition, ready for use by another student.

The promotion of these values to students and their families has enabled Santa Coloma's schools to acquire, in addition to textbooks, supplementary educational resources.

At the same time, the Santa Coloma GO! programme, a Guiding City project, aims to foster educational success and prevent early school leaving. Its approach is based on a participatory proposal utilising the territory's existing resources, such as educational institutions, youth services and young people's organisations. It involves actions aimed at both young people (e.g. open days where secondary school students can find out about the professional and academic opportunities in the city's educational institutions), teachers (e.g. workshops for management teams, guidance staff and educational psychologists from educational institutions, where they can share the city's educational resources mapping) and families, with a personalised guidance service to support the work that is carried out in the municipality's various institutes.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet also attaches great importance to environmental education. Ecometropoli, located in the Montserrat Pavilion in Torribera, is the Municipal Environmental Education Centre. It is a space designed to bring people closer to nature and science through environmental education activities. Ecometropoli has an educational programme that aims to increase the level of information and education among the regular visitors who come to enjoy the natural environment of Santa Coloma de Gramenet - Serralada de Marina and the Besós River Park, both outstanding green spaces in the municipality. The range of activities on offer covers various topics: the natural environment, the ecological recovery of the River Besós, the protection and recovery of urban and indigenous biodiversity, the development of urban agriculture and urban gardening, energy efficiency in homes, adaptation to climate change and safe, sustainable mobility. In the same vein, Santa Coloma also has an Environmental Learning Space (Aula Isabel Muñoz in Can Zam) and two environmental games centres.

One example of good practice in this area is the network of safe school routes, launched in 2021. The network aims to ensure that students have safe, easy journeys between home and school, with school support staff responsible for safety at the beginning and end of school-time. This works in combination with an 'Open Door' scheme comprising shops and amenities where children can go if an incident occurs on the way to or from school. Currently, safe school routes have been implemented in ten of the city's schools.

SDG 5 on Gender Equality is impacted by 67% of the actions framed within Area 3 on 'Gender and City'. The consolidation of La Ciba as a benchmark space for equality policies has contributed significantly to the main advances made in this area of the Plan. This work has also involved partnerships and collaboration, consolidating alliances with the city's women's organisations (SDG 17), enabling the implementation of various initiatives and hosting of events by feminist women's associations, and raising their visibility in the city's public spaces.



Area 3: Gender and city

(total no. of actions = 51)

| SDGs most impacted | No. actions with an impact | % of total actions in this area | No. of synergies | % of total actions in this area |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 | 34 | 67% | 0 | 0% |
| 17 | 22 | 43% | 0 | 0% |
| 10 | 4 | 8% | 8 | 16% |

Note: these percentages are not exact, since a single action may be linked to more than one SDG, either directly or by creating synergies.



La Ciba, a resource centre for women, innovation and feminist economics

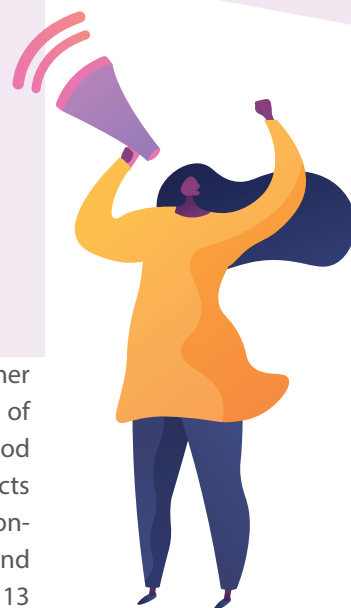
La Ciba is a women-focused resource centre, designed to empower women with the tools needed to improve personal autonomy in all areas of life. The centre is located in the city's old Ciba factory, and its restoration represents another milestone in the urban regeneration of one of the city's strategic points, alongside the Besós waterfront. La Ciba was opened in March 2020, offering a specific resource with facilities and services in a space of over 3000m², which will increase to 8000m² once the final rehabilitation of the building, scheduled for March 2023, is complete. It is a benchmark public facility for the women of Santa Coloma de Gramenet and its surrounding area, as well as a nexus for innovation, equality and feminist creation, along the lines of initiatives such as the Fabra i Coats Creation Factory^{<?>}, the Barcelona Creation Factory and the Women's Building^{<?>}, a women-led, non-profit community arts and education centre located in San Francisco, California, which advocates self-determination, gender equality and social justice.

One of La Ciba's most important objectives is to help improve employability among the women of Santa Coloma de Gramenet. It aims to create deep roots in the city, taking into account the sociological reality of women and the local population and supporting processes toward personal autonomy and economic empowerment. This entails a firm commitment to actions that encompass both the personal dimension (recognition) and the material dimension (redistribution). In addition to supporting women in their empowerment and journey toward employment through the programme 'Fostering a Social, Solidarity-based and Feminist Economy'^{<?>}, La Ciba offers other services such as the 'Women's Integrated Support and Information Centre'^{<?>}, the 'Gender-equal University City'^{<?>}, a new knowledge hub which fosters gender mainstreaming in the city and university, and the 'Initiatives for Innovation'^{<?>}, which include coworking spaces, workshops for creation and training centres, as well as the Fab-Lab, a space for the production of physical objects on a personal scale.

In the 'Climate Action' area, half of the actions are focused on creating a healthier, greener and more inclusive city (SDG 11), through the rewilding of green spaces, the planting of drought-resistant vegetation and the expansion of inclusive play areas to promote good health. The remaining actions are aimed at adapting to climate change through projects such as the 'Thermal City' and 'Green Roofs', and the shift toward sustainable energy consumption models through the installation of solar panels on the city's rooftops. These and other actions are included in the 2020-2040 Action Plan for Sustainable Energy (SDGs 13



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Area 4: Climate action

(total no. of actions = 36)

| SDGs most impacted | No. actions with an impact | % of total actions in this area | No. of synergies | % of total actions in this area |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11 | 18 | 50% | 4 | 11% |
| 15 | 9 | 25% | 2 | 6% |
| 13 | 6 | 17% | 6 | 17% |

Note: these percentages are not exact, since a single action may be linked to more than one SDG, either directly or by creating synergies

and 15).

With regard to SDG 13 on Climate Action, the city has launched initiatives to reduce CO₂ emissions, including enforcing road traffic speed limits of 30 km/h throughout the city. In addition, the city is creating pedestrian-friendly zones, where people travelling on foot are given priority. There are currently five pedestrian-friendly zones in the city, which are either already in operation or in progress. They help not only to reduce traffic-related air and noise pollution but also to improve road safety by implementing a maximum speed limit of 20 km/h and reducing the volume of traffic passing through these areas.

With respect to SDG 14 on Life below Water and SDG 15 on Life on Land, the City Council has launched the 'River Besós Biodiversity Haven in Santa Coloma de Gramenet', a project focused on rewilding the riverside area in the River Besós basin, located between

two protected natural areas: Collserola and Serralada de Marina. This initiative involves environmental regeneration, the recovery of flora and fauna, the removal of invasive species and the control of public use of the area.

Santa Coloma: thermal city

The discovery in 2014 of high-quality hot spring water, across an area of more than 50 hectares, has made Santa Coloma de Gramenet one of the few consolidated urban environments in Europe with a thermal water resource of this type. This natural resource opens up a wide range of possibilities for the city, especially the opportunity to take advantage of this water for heating and hot water supply in public facilities. It is estimated that this thermal network will supply some 45 amenities and a spa-leisure centre next to the Can Zam Park, with an annual energy output of more than 10,000 megawatt hours offering annual savings of more than €800,000. In 2022, the municipality joined the Catalan Association of Thermal Towns. The Association's aim is to work together toward the sustainable development of thermal springs from the standpoints of tourism and health, as well as local social, cultural and environmental interest. It is estimated that, by 2025, Santa Coloma de Gramenet will have made great strides toward consolidating its position as a thermal city, with a hands-on approach to sustainable well-being for its citizens.





Area 5: Sustainable cities and communi- ties

(total no. of actions = 123)

| SDGs most impacted | No. actions with an impact | % of total actions in this area | No. of synergies | % of total actions in this area |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11 | 62 | 50% | 15 | 12% |
| 8 | 26 | 21% | 0 | 0% |
| 9 | 26 | 21% | 0 | 0% |
| 10 | 23 | 19% | 13 | 11% |
| 16 | 23 | 19% | 0 | 0% |
| 3 | 1 | 1% | 22 | 18% |

Note: these percentages are not exact, since a single action may be linked to more than one SDG, either directly or by creating synergies.

Half of the actions in this area have contributed to SDG 11. These include improvements in urban planning, sustainable mobility and housing – in particular, social housing – following an approach that promotes equal opportunities (SDG 10) among the community in access to decent housing. Another noteworthy action toward SDG 11 is the Plan for Improved Civic Responsibility, the result of ongoing work by the City Council on civic responsibility and coexistence during several terms of office, in partnership with grassroots organisations and individual citizens. The Plan's 38 actions are aimed at the promotion of civic culture within the city. These are underpinned by an educational approach based on personal and collective responsibility with a view to generating respect for the city's people, environment and public spaces.

In addition, a considerable effort has been

made to help local businesses overcome the crisis (SDG 8), with measures aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19. This includes allocating €700,000 and extra local currency to subsidies, in addition to reducing rates for pavement seating for bars and market stalls. Likewise, the local currency scheme ('Grama') has helped promote social and solidarity-based criteria among businesses and has contributed to the implementation of an online shopping platform, as well as specific aid for digitalisation (SDG 9).

Finally, the city is making great strides toward SDG 16, most notably in terms of civic responsibility and safety. The local police workforce has been expanded and the Rapid Response and Support Unit (USIR), created in July 2019, was launched to provide support for public safety at local level.

Santa Coloma de Gramenet: a city targeting zero waste

The city's Local Waste Plan provides for various sustainable waste management campaigns, including specific public awareness campaigns for reducing reliance on plastic. Campaigns such as 'Santa Coloma turns its back on plastics' or 'Santa Coloma for zero waste' appeal to the public to recycle and minimize the generation of new waste in order to combat climate change and protect the environment. The city wants to foster rational and sustainable consumption with the aim of achieving a healthier city, in accordance with the new European regulations in force which call for reduced manufacture and day-to-day usage of plastics. For every inhabitant of Santa Coloma de Gramenet, 386 kg of waste is generated every year, 11% of which is plastic containers. In addition, the City Council has joined forces with the European Week for Waste Reduction, which aims to carry out awareness-raising actions on waste prevention in all European cities.



The Santa Coloma de Gramenet neighbourhood improvement model, a pioneering project in Spain

Launched in 2016, the 'Renovating our Neighbourhoods' Plan involves providing public funding for the renovation of 32 private housing blocks in one of the city's streets. This is a groundbreaking project at state level, which involves renovating housing blocks with the involvement of residents' associations and public stimulus, and has since been extended to other areas of the city. It is the first time that a city council has taken charge of organising the rehabilitation of private buildings - including renovating facades, roofs, patios, heating/cooling systems and communal spaces. At the same time it facilitates all the necessary conditions - economic and planning requirements - to ensure that the residents' associations are able to easily pay for the reforms and that the work is fully guaranteed.

The Federation of Catalan Municipalities (FMC) has praised the Plan as 'an innovative and high-quality contribution to tackling housing issues', which has been replicated by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. For this reason, it has been added to the local government's Bank of Good Practices, a service promoted by the FMC and the Carles Pi i Sunyer Foundation for Regional and Local Studies, for Catalan municipalities of over ten thousand inhabitants, which identifies and publishes information on innovation in government and municipal management.

Grameimpuls: approaching the SDGs from a synergistic point of view

Grameimpuls is a company run by the City Council. Since 1989, it has developed and implemented active labour market policies for the local area and policies to boost the local economy. Its activities create many synergies with several SDGs, including:

- Quality Education (SDG 4): Grameimpuls develops and delivers courses linked to active labour market policies.
- Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3): It contributes indirectly to improving people's health and well-being, especially mental health, by offering options for work and training opportunities.
- Gender Equality (SDG 5): One of the main goals of Grameimpuls is to reduce the gender gap through training actions focused on women.
- Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12): Grameimpuls' new strategic plan incorporates the concept of the green economy, including actions to promote a sustainable and circular economy.

This area focuses on two SDGs which are vital to improving institutional quality and provid-



Area 6: Partnerships for the goals (total no. of actions = 48)



| SDGs most impacted | No. actions with an impact | % of total actions in this area | No. of synergies | % of total actions in this area |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 16 | 32 | 67% | 0 | 0% |
| 17 | 24 | 50% | 0 | 0% |

Note: these percentages are not exact, since a single action may be linked to more than one SDG, either directly or by creating synergies.

ing effective public services (SDG 16) and to the City Council's relationship both with the general public and with economic and social stakeholders, in particular through participatory processes (SDG 17).

With respect to SDG 16, the City Council has improved its level of transparency through actions such as the publication of the mayor's agenda, the improvement of municipal communication channels and the implementation of new tools in the Office for Public Information and Assistance. With respect to SDG 17, meanwhile, the City Council's relationship with the local community and the strengthening of its alliances with various stakeholders in the city have been reinforced with actions such as the launch of the Children's Council, which has continued to work as the focal point of children's participation

in the life of the city. Other noteworthy actions include the City Council's involvement in the events of 'Barcelona, World Capital of Sustainable Food', together with the university, and its continuing contact with the city's women's organisations, which has led to further collaboration and various initiatives and events for feminist associations.

Partnerships with the university community have become increasingly important in recent years. Santa Coloma is a university city with over 3,000 students studying for more than 20 bachelor's, master's and postgraduate degrees offered on its university campus. In addition, it is now host to the main campus for international excellence in nutrition, which currently offers qualifications in dietetics and food science through the University of Barcelona and UNED.



The city is also home to a catering college in Torribera, which includes an experimental vineyard and a greenhouse. With the aim of further strengthening the university campus, the City Council will be working toward expanding enrolment through the construction of a new teaching building with capacity for 1,000 students and a technology suite. All these actions are part of the city's strategic commitment to creating the right

conditions for the development of new techniques for locally sourced, sustainable food, where innovation and knowledge transfer provide the basis for developing the future of the university campus.



The Pompeu Lab: a space for co-creation and civic reconnection

Santa Coloma de Gramenet has an extensive network of participatory resources, including civic centres, activity centres, youth centres and other spaces for public engagement. In addition to this, and in line with the new participatory techniques already used by many municipalities, the city has created a 'participation centre' that offers an outlet for citizen creativity in the interests of the city. The Pompeu Lab is designed to be a space where innovation and new technologies can be used for co-existence and sharing, empowering citizens, promoting the values of teamwork and solidarity, and celebrating the special character of Santa Coloma de Gramenet.

Another goal of the Pompeu Lab is to empower citizens through new techniques and methodologies to increase their level of engagement with the city, opening up the opportunity to participate in the sectors furthest from the everyday life of city policies, and also to help bridge the digital divide through specific resources adapted to the different stages of life. In addition, it offers activities using participatory techniques based on brainstorming and gamification - ideal tools for making mind maps and doing creative work. It is, in short, a community space for meeting and supporting people and entities with common interests.

In addition, the Making Lab is a digital manufacturing laboratory equipped with 3D printing technology, a laser cutter and cutting plotters for working with PVC-free vinyl. It hosts training, design and digital skills courses, as well as production and assembly workshops based on robotics, electrical circuits and renewable energy generation, for all ages.

7. Conclusions and remaining challenges

The 2030 Agenda is an ever-present part of the City Council's political actions. The city's commitment in this regard has been constant, even before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda within the framework of the United Nations and its translation to decentralised public administrations. One of the most interesting and important aspects of this commitment is the work of raising social awareness about the challenges that the 2030 Agenda still poses for the city. Civic actions, volunteering and education for development undoubtedly help advance a culture of sustainable development in the city.

This report has also drawn attention to the existence of good examples of Santa Coloma de Gramenet's cross-cutting approach to the 2030 Agenda. While this is gradually being incorporated into the City Council's organisational culture, it is more evident in departments that cover several sectors linked to different SDGs. This is the case with the Department for Territorial Services, Urban Planning and Mobility, which makes a decisive contribution toward the fulfilment of SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy, and SDG 15 on Life on Land. At the same time, all the actions implemented by this department also contribute to SDGs such as SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 13 on Climate Action. With respect to the 2020-2023 Plan, its implementation has already passed the mid-point, and many of the actions that had just been

introduced at the time of the analysis are likely already reinforcing the positive synergies established with the SDGs to which they contribute. This report has described the Plan's contribution to the SDGs, as well as the course taken by Santa Coloma de Gramenet to champion sustainable development. Some of the general conclusions that can be drawn from the analysis are outlined below.

- The markedly inclusive nature of the City Council's political actions. The fight against inequality in all its dimensions (social, economic, gender and more) is one of the guiding principles of municipal action and this is achieved through various instruments and actions which seek to provide social benefits, combat social exclusion and gender-based violence, promote equality and celebrate diversity. In short, Santa Coloma de Gramenet advocates eradicating inequalities and defending its citizen's rights, through public leadership and civic participation.
- The fostering of consensus through participatory processes and partnerships with citizens and economic and social stakeholders. Santa Coloma de Gramenet enjoys a high level of in-person participation in the various city-wide participatory processes. The Plan recognises this as an asset and at least 148 actions are geared toward the forming of partnerships with organisations, citizens, residents' associations, and other groups and institutions, in order to achieve the goals set by the United Nations. This is perhaps one of the most characteristic features

of the City Council's public management, and it helps generate broad adherence to the sustainability policies implemented by the Council's different departments.

- The transversality of gender policies. The City Council's actions and, in particular, those implemented through the Plan, reinforce its commitments on equality policies, especially those aimed at preventing, combatting and raising awareness about gender-based violence. Women's empowerment is the main objective of the actions implemented through the area of the Plan devoted to 'Gender and City' and the transversality of the gender approach remains the main tool with which to achieve this end. Proof of this commitment is the fact that in 2021, the City Council received the SG City 50-50 gender equality badge awarded by the Forgender Seal association, an international seal that recognises leadership in incorporating the gender perspective in policies and actions⁴.
- The ambition to create a more livable city. The City Council of Santa Coloma de Gramenet has demonstrated its ambition with respect to the city's urban policies. Its policies on urban planning, housing, public spaces, urban ecology and mobility, implemented through its Areas for 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' and 'Climate Action', seek to integrate the city, guarantee the right to housing, foster social cohesion, boost sustainable mobility, regenerate urban spaces and rehabilitate architectural heritage.

Challenges for Santa Coloma de Gramenet in our

⁴ In addition, Santa Coloma has recently received an award from the Ministry of Equality in the 7th Contest for Good Local Practices for its work in combatting gender-based violence, through the project 'Xarxa Violeta. Protocol per un Espai Públic d'Oci i Festiu Lliure de Violències masclistes i LGTBIfòbiques'.

contribution to the SDGs

The analysis presented so far is supplemented by the results from a survey administered to the managers and specialists in the various City Council departments, with the aim of gaining insight into their assessment of the Plan's contribution to the SDGs. There were 45 responses to a survey with 7 questions related to participants' degree of knowledge of the SDGs and initiatives related to the sustainable development agenda, their assessment of the Plan's contribution to the SDGs and the factors that affect this, as well as the main challenges facing the City Council in making an effective contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Most relevant to this section are the results from three of the questions: the first, evaluating the Plan's contribution to the SDGs; the second, evaluating the main factors⁵ that influence this; and, lastly, the challenges facing the City Council in its contribution to the SDGs.

In general, respondents' assessment of the Plan's contribution to the SDGs can be described as highly positive. On a scale from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high), most responses (62%) fell within the 8-10 range. While this is a subjective perception, it is a good indicator that the SDGs constitute the compass for many of the City Council's policies and that they are, therefore, already integrated into many processes.

With respect to the factors affecting the Plan's contribution to the SDGs, there is a general consensus underlining the importance of the budget, the availability of sufficient technical and human resources, and

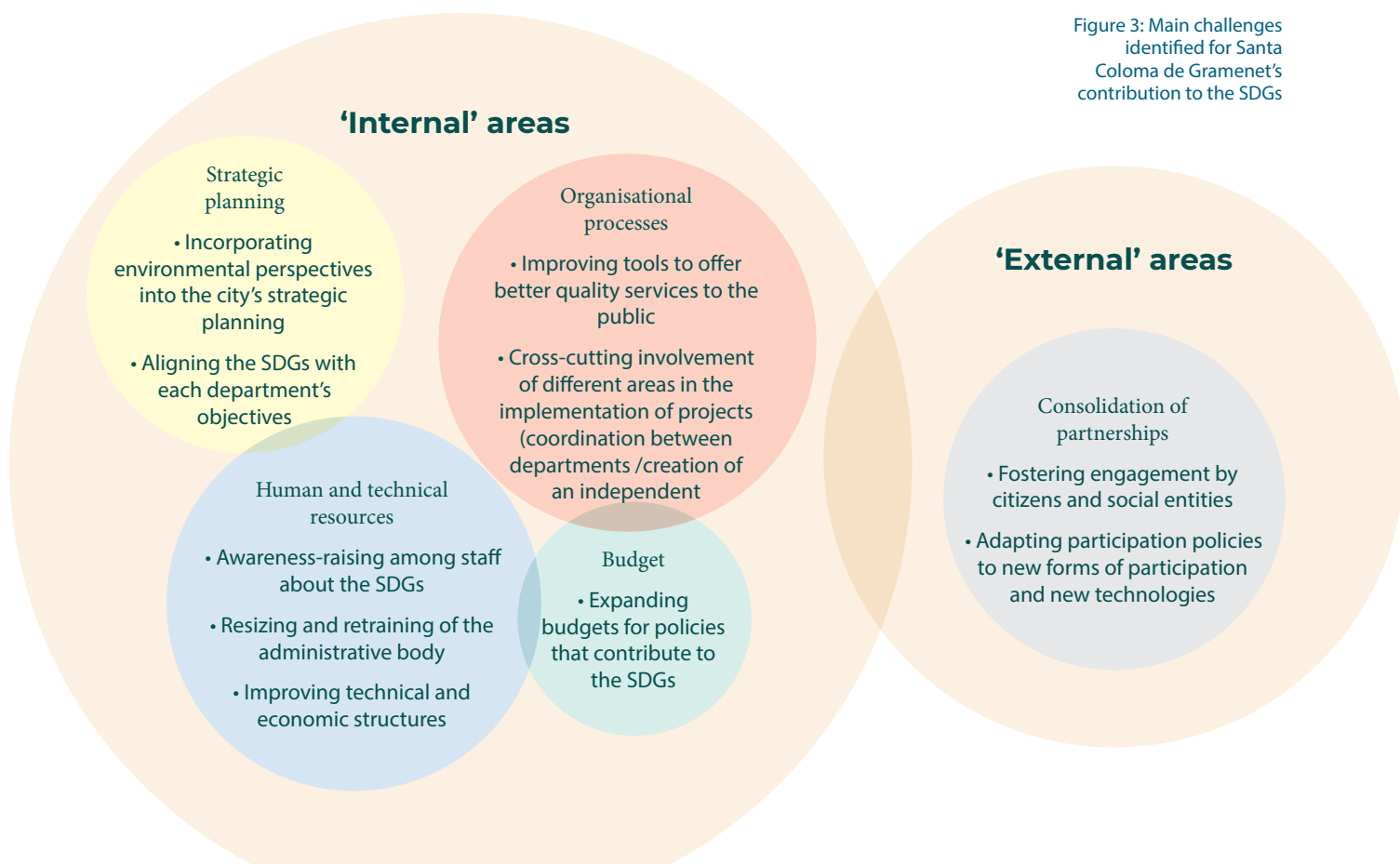
⁵ These factors include the following: budget, availability of human and technical resources, staff capacity to work from an SDG-based perspective, impact of COVID-19, active participation by citizens and social entities, and the country's economic and political situation.

staff competence concerning the SDGs. The next most important factors were the country's economic and political situation, the involvement of citizens and social entities, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The responses to the survey's last question are important because they help identify a number of challenges that the city will have to address in the future if it intends to improve the quality of its contribution to the SDGs. These responses enable us to identify a set of 'internal' areas linked to important dimensions of the Council's work, such as strategic planning, organisational processes, human and technical resources and the budget. Alongside this, there is an 'external' area, linked to the City Council's capacity to establish working relationships with citizens in general and with social entities in particular (participation processes linked to SDG 16 and partnerships linked to SDG 17). Figure 1 shows the challenges in each of these dimensions.

In short, as we can see, implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is not without its challenges. Firstly, sustainable development

Figure 3: Main challenges identified for Santa Coloma de Gramenet's contribution to the SDGs



may be an alien or vague concept for some people, despite the City Council's efforts to raise awareness. In this respect, the Agenda's complexity and transformative ambition mean that it is essential to maintain our information actions and awareness-raising on the 2030 Agenda and the work carried out by the municipality toward the SDGs.

In addition, the localisation of the SDGs at municipal scale remains a complex task, both in terms of competence and operation. Since the SDGs were conceived at a macro (international) scale, their implementation may often encounter barriers due to the regulatory incapacity of the different local public administrations. In this respect, the information gathered in the online questionnaire highlights a specific need to adapt to regulatory and organisational changes to enable progress toward the SDGs following a territorial development approach.

Finally, it is important to remember that one of the limitations to achieving the SDGs is the individual character of each municipality, with its specific needs and resources which, by definition, are always limited but can be

used as efficiently as possible. This limitation is likely an underlying factor in the City Council's occasional inability to provide a faster, more comprehensive response to the needs of its citizens. This situation was most evident during the state of emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, which stretched the capacities of many municipalities to the maximum in trying to meet the needs of the community.

Despite all these challenges, the city's journey so far toward sustainable development has followed a very positive trajectory. This report bears witness to this fact and also aims to contribute to discussion on sustainability, which is ever more necessary.