



METROPOLITAN PACT FOR THE RIGHT TO TIME

**to implement commitments arising from
signing the Barcelona Declaration
on Time Policies**

1. INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Over the last few decades, Catalan society has undergone a profound economic, social and demographic transformation. This has directly affected how society's working hours are organised. Today, the way time is organised poses major obstacles to improving business competitiveness and labour productivity, while increasing psychosocial risks to workers, maintaining inequality between men and women, causing health problems due to sleep disorders in adults and children, and reducing personal free time and availability for social and community participation.

This situation, together with the inclusion of information and communication technologies, at home and in the workplace, and the growing demand by much of society for good use of time, are factors that highlight the need to rethink how time is organised in Catalonia and create new areas for institutional intervention. Thus, time policies are a central element in moving towards healthier, more cohesive and sustainable societies with a better quality of life and greater equality between people.

Time policies were first introduced in European experiences in the 1990s, especially in Italy and France, where time policies were implemented to improve working hours and work-life balance. It was then that the concept of "city time" first appeared, closely linked to the concept of gender equality and work-life balance.

Catalonia has a long history of promoting time management policies. In 2007, the Catalan Government created the Commission on Equality and Working Time within the Labour Relations Council of Catalonia with the aim of reaching a consensus on the organisation of time and rationalisation of working hours in companies in Catalonia. Five years previously, the Government of Catalonia had passed Law 6/2002, of 25 April, on measures relating to reconciling work and family life for public employees, which included aspects to improve time use.

In 2008, Barcelona became the first city in Spain to set up a City Council Department for the Time Use. Shortly after that, other municipalities in the metropolis established time policies and pilot schemes. Esplugues de Llobregat, for example, carried out a pilot test in 2015.

The municipalities of Sant Boi de Llobregat, in 2011, and Barcelona, in 2014, were benchmarks in creating city-wide agreements among the main economic and social agents to promote time policies, known as "time pacts".

Among associations, the Timetable Reform Initiative, which emerged in 2014, promoted the Pact for Timetable Reform, which set goals to improve the organisation of time to be achieved by 2025. The Pact, which was signed by a hundred municipalities, 23 of which are in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), was a major starting point for promoting institutional commitment to implementing time policies.

Following up on this pact, since 2020, a joint strategy to make Catalonia a global benchmark in time policies has been promoted by the four key institutions in Catalonia: the Government of Catalonia, Barcelona City Council, Barcelona Provincial Council and the AMB.

By taking part in this joint strategy, the AMB aims to approach time policies from a metropolitan perspective, as in other metropolises such as Rennes, Lille and Milan.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE METROPOLITAN PACT FOR THE RIGHT TO TIME

At the metropolitan level, since 2020 the AMB has been working with the Barcelona Time Use Initiative for a Healthy Society (BTUI), the organisation that succeeded the Timetable Reform Initiative. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, this collaboration was implemented through agreements, which served to incorporate and define the strategy for promoting time policies in the AMB's area of influence.

The key actions in this collaboration to promote metropolitan time policies were:

- November 2020. **First conference held on the metropolitan perspective of uses of time, “Towards new time management in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area”**, the first metropolitan debate to define actions in terms of time policies in the metropolis. The AMB Vice-President for Social and Economic Development and the mayors of Esplugues de Llobregat, Sant Boi de Llobregat and Molins de Rei took part. It was attended by over 50 people. The *AMB Time Policies* report and the good municipal practices website were presented.
- June 2021. **The “Towards a metropolitan time pact” conference took place**, setting the horizon for a metropolitan time pact. The conference was attended by the AMB Vice-President for Social and Economic Development and the mayors of Esplugues de Llobregat, Sant Boi de Llobregat and Montcada i Reixac, along with over 50 other attendees, including metropolitan political representatives, technical staff from public authorities, social figures and research teams.
- October 2021. The AMB joined the **Local and Regional Governments Time Policy Network**, a network for exchanging experiences and good practices related to time management worldwide.
- October 2021. **The AMB signed the Barcelona Declaration on Time Policies**. With more than 100 organisations and institutions involved, this was a pioneering statement in its field, putting time policies on the agendas of institutions. The AMB was part of the steering group for its drafting.
- November 2021. **Participation in Time Use Week 2021**. The AMB attended the session on “Cities as key actors for the promotion of time policies” and the World Congress on Time Use Research.
- November 2021. **Presentation of the *In-depth Report on the Metropolitan Economy*** on time use. It was presented by the Institut Cerdà to around 30 political and expert representatives from the metropolitan municipalities.
- May 2022. **Creation of the Steering Group and the first Board of Municipalities for the Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time**, as a tool for debate and discussion to promote municipal and metropolitan time policies. The Board is the key governance body, in which all municipalities participate to exchange good practices, experiences, future challenges and lines of work. Fifty people took part in the conference, with the intervention of the AMB VicePresident for Social and Economic Development and the

presentation of good practices from Barcelona, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Esplugues de Llobregat and Sant Boi de Llobregat.

- July 2022. **Public act of renewal of the joint collaboration strategy to promote time policies**, with the Government of Catalonia, Barcelona Provincial Council, Barcelona City Council and the BTUI.
- March-September 2022. **Promotion and implementation of a time policies survey in metropolitan municipalities**, based on interviews with a total of 29 municipalities in the AMB. Among other reasons, the interviews were useful for obtaining an overview of how time policies are treated in the metropolis.
- October 2022. **Participation in Time Use Week 2022**, General Assembly of the Local and Regional Governments Time Policy Network, the Catalan Network for the Right to Time and workshops to promote local time pacts.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BARCELONA COMMITMENT: THE METROPOLITAN PACT FOR THE RIGHT TO TIME

On 5 October 2021, the AMB's adhesion to the Barcelona Declaration on Time Policies was approved by Presidential Decree, thereby empowering the Vice-President for the Area of Social and Economic Development to sign the Declaration at the event held on 29 October 2021.

More than 100 of the world's leading time policy institutions, including 15 from Catalonia, signed this declaration, thereby committing to work together to make the right to time a citizen's right, to improve health, sustainability and equality for all.

With the signing of the Barcelona Declaration on Time Policies, the AMB, to the extent of its competencies and capabilities, undertook to: working to raise awareness of the issue, developing and implementing time policies that move towards a healthier, fairer, more productive and sustainable society; promoting dialogue with all relevant sectors, fostering interdepartmental and inter-sectoral coordination and integrating time policy considerations into social, gender, economic and environmental programmes and actions; participating in the development of a 2022-2024 time policy framework for action; reviewing existing plans to implement time policy recommendations; promoting and supporting Time Use Week as an annual event to promote time policies; continuing to work in the international urban time policy network and promote knowledge on time use and time policies.

The interviews carried out and the analysis of the status of time policies in the metropolitan municipalities show that time policies are already part of the local council agenda in different areas of public policy, all of which are fundamental for the well-being and economic and social sustainability of towns and cities, including: equality; production, trade, consumption and catering; education; leisure, culture and associations; mobility and sustainability; citizens' services and participation; and communicating and raising awareness of the importance of better time use.

The analysis also shows there are common challenges facing metropolitan municipalities, which require a joint commitment to promote time policies and thus ensure the right to time throughout the metropolis.

It also indicates that achieving the objective of moving jointly towards a healthier, fairer, more democratic and sustainable metropolis requires networking at all levels of government and among municipalities, especially those in the AMB, to address the metropolitan dimension of work and time and tackle mobility from a metropolitan perspective. The reality of time transcends the life of citizens in the metropolis.

The AMB Area of Social and Economic Development, the Barcelona Time Use Initiative for Healthy Society (BTUI) and the city councils in the pact steering group (Barcelona, Esplugues de Llobregat, Sant Boi de Llobregat and Sant Cugat del Vallès) propose the Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time as a framework for developing time policies and a roadmap for the AMB and the signatory metropolitan municipalities to develop the Barcelona Declaration on Time Policies.

METROPOLITAN PACT FOR THE RIGHT TO TIME

THE COMMITMENT OF THE BARCELONA METROPOLITAN AREA

The Barcelona Metropolitan Area, within its areas of competence and capabilities, is committed to:

- **Continuing collaboration with the key Catalan institutions** to promote time policies, contributing to and consolidating the metropolitan vision.
- **Placing the right to time in the AMB's strategic planning and as its own policy initiative**, by coordinating a metropolitan strategy for territorial development that considers time as a basic element for daily well-being and social and economic reactivation, also linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This strategy must incorporate **the metropolitan vision of time in all areas of the AMB's work**, mainly in socio-economic development, ecology and mobility.
- **Adopting working time management policies for AMB employees and teams**, incorporating joint responsibility measures, flexible working hours and hybrid work.
- **Compiling information and standardising data on time use based on indicators** that facilitate policy design based on evidence and the reality of the municipalities and metropolis.
- **Promoting dissemination tools and joint communication campaigns** for all the metropolitan municipalities, to raise awareness among citizens, organisations and metropolitan companies of the importance of the uses of time and their impact on people's life, personal, work and family balance.
- **Introducing time policies in the training strategy** for technical staff, positions of political responsibility and people working in the metropolitan municipalities, in conjunction with other institutions already offering training to municipalities, such as DIBA and Barcelona Activa.
- **Providing impetus, support and resources for metropolitan municipalities so they can implement time policies** to improve people's quality of life and guarantee the right to time as a citizen's right, through a technical secretariat providing support and advice for the municipalities.
- **Detecting and compiling municipalities' good practices** in time policies to facilitate exchange and transferability between municipalities.

- **Boosting the Board of Municipalities for the Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time and its steering group**, in order to foster implementation of the pact.
- **Raising the visibility of municipal time policies** through internationalisation and participation in areas such as the Local and Regional Governments Time Policy Network and Time Use Week, as international meeting spaces for promoting time policies.
- **Following up on agreements stemming from this Commitment.**

THE COMMITMENT OF METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES

The **metropolitan municipalities** are committed to this initiative from the moment they formalise their adhesion. All metropolitan municipalities that agree and express their willingness to work actively to achieve the following objectives may join.

The **municipalities of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area** that adhere to the **Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time**, within their area of competency and possibilities, are committed to:

- **Participating in the Board of Municipalities for the Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time**, as a tool for debate and discussion to promote the Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time, and to participate in activities that are generated to facilitate the transfer of technical and political knowledge among the rest of the AMB metropolitan municipalities.
- **Incorporating time policies**, intrinsically and with specific terminology, **into the public policy agenda** of the municipality to promote the right to time for all citizens and local council employees.
- **Defining one or more municipal reference figures in time policies** to facilitate a cross-cutting vision of the policies implemented in the municipality and dialogue with both the AMB and the rest of the municipalities. In municipalities with larger populations, a specific unit, office or portfolio for time policies is recommended.
- **Promoting time pacts and policies aimed at improving citizens' use of time** in the fields of: equality; production, trade and consumption; education; sport; the management of leisure, culture and associations; mobility and the public highway, citizens' services and participation.
- **Adopting policies for the internal time management for local council staff**, to ensure time based on joint responsibility, health and respect for people working there, including those in positions of political responsibility.

- **Establishing the basis for time use data for each municipality**, by incorporating time use indicators and relevant information in municipal surveys, diagnostic studies and need and policy impact assessments.
- **Compiling time policies** at different municipal levels.

OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE

The **implementation period** for this Pact is from **2023 to 2026**.

The Board of Municipalities for the Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time, promoted by the AMB in conjunction with the BTUI, in operation since 2022, **is the space for monitoring and implementing this Metropolitan Pact for the Right to Time**, meeting at least twice a year.

