



SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2021

The New Urban Agenda: The challenges of Cities

Instructor: Joan Clos (IBEI)

Date: June 17 – 18

Time: 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm (CEST, Barcelona time)

Format: online

Our world and our societies are changing at a dizzying pace. At the same time, the rate of urbanization around the world continues to increase. As a result, urbanism becomes the essential tool to anticipate these changes and the associated problems. Urbanism empowers us to move towards more livable, resilient, cohesive, empathetic, democratic and sustainable cities that are capable of facing these threats, while also leveraging the opportunities that arise in this new era.

The New Urban Agenda addresses these challenges by offering a new urban paradigm that allows us to overcome current deficiencies in how we understand cities. Its main contribution is to frame urbanization as an instrument that generates value and, consequently, also serves as a tool for creating jobs, prosperity and sustainable development.

Session 1. The Wheel of Quality Urbanization

The future is urban. Indeed, the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities. Nowadays, urbanization is at the center of global policy making.

The purpose of the New Urban Agenda has been to generate a broad discussion, ranging from architecture, planning and urban design, to land ownership and regulation, water management and environmental philosophy. This multifaceted approach allows the identification of new trends and the proposal of new insights on contemporary urbanization.

The New Urban Agenda outlines the overall challenges facing cities in the 21st century, while also offering a few conceptual frameworks and approaches for dealing with those challenges.

Required reading:

United Nations. 2017. New Urban Agenda. Habitat III.

<http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

United Nations. 2017. Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

UNHabitat. <http://nua.unhabitat.org/AFINUA19thApr.pdf>

Sennet, Richard. 2018. The Quito Papers and the New Urban Agenda. London: Routledge.

http://wuf9.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/The-Quito-Papers-and-the-New-Urban-Agenda_Author-Flyer-1.pdf

A selection of articles dealing with current events will be available one week before the course takes place.

Session 2. Study Cases

Manresa

Manresa is the capital of and most populous city in the county of Bages. The city is part of the central industrial area of Catalonia where, in recent years and due to different circumstances, the area has been losing the textile industry and other important industrial activity. This loss of industry has led to high levels of unemployment and low labor

participation rates in the city of Manresa. Despite this loss of employment, the city's population has grown significantly in recent years and immigrants make up a high percentage of its population (19%). At the same time, the age distribution and level of education of Manresa's population are similar to that of Catalonia as a whole.

Mataró

Mataró is the capital of the county of Maresme and represents a quarter of the county's population. Historically, Mataró had an agricultural and fishing tradition, and later a strong industrial base to power its economy. As part of the industrialization process of the mid 20th century, there was a great influx of immigrants to Mataró in the 60s and 70s. This rapid influx of population led to unplanned urban development of the city, including the construction of low-quality housing without public services or facilities. With the restoration of democracy and the subsequent approval of the General Ordinance Plan of 1977, the city's infrastructures were improved, as were the connections between different neighborhoods.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the city has slowly lost most of its industrial base and the employment that industry used to provide. Today, the city's economy is primarily based on services and tourism; however, these sectors of the economy have not been able to provide quality employment for the many residents that used to be work in the industrial sector of the city. In 2016 the city had the highest unemployment rate in Catalonia for cities with at least 50,000 inhabitants.

Another challenge for Mataró is cooperation with other local administrations to resolve metropolitan level issues. Although Mataró is clearly an important part of the metropolitan region and would be the fourth largest city in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), it currently is not part of the AMB. As a result, the city is trying to deal on its own with issues of transportation, housing, employment, and other issues that would be better addressed at a metropolitan scale and within the framework of metropolitan cooperation.

Required reading:

Case studies final report for Manresa and Mataró will be provided to the registered students.

A selection of articles dealing with current events will be available one week before the course takes place.