

About Manresa

- **Location:** Barcelona province, Catalonia, Spain
- **Size:** 41,48 km²
- **Population:** 78.192

Manresa is located in the heart of Catalonia and the North-East of Spain, at 60 km from the sea, between the Mediterranean and the temperate continental area. Placed at the crossroads of two rivers and three strategic roads, Manresa is the capital city of a metro area of 180.000 inhab., the Bages County, and the main city of the Central Catalonia region (over 400.000 inhab.). Manresa is a millenary city, endowed with an important medieval and Baroque heritage, added to the modernist and industrial legacy of the last two centuries. It has a remarkable industrial and com-

Global Goals for Cities – a strategic partnership for peer learning and planning of integrated actions to localise the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a systematic way in 19 European cities.



mercial tradition, a vibrant cultural life and a wide range of sport, university, health and research facilities. As a place, Manresa is hilly and dense, but surrounded by a green belt of fields and forests, ideal for leisure and sport.

Starting point

What was already done?

In 2018, the Manresa city council started to localise the SDGs by analysing all municipal plans and policies, and training and involving technical and political staff in the process. Public awareness campaigns about the global goals were carried out, along with a

wide participatory process addressed to both stakeholders and citizens. Lastly, international and multilevel complicities were forged, with the aim of improving the design, implementation and assessment of the sustainability strategy of Manresa.



As a result, previous to the final Integrated Action Plan (IAP), the city council had already published three consecutive reports about the Challenge of the SDGs in Manresa.

Challenges and opportunities

For localising the SDGs in Manresa

Challenges

- Municipal structure and culture are strong barriers to develop integrated policies and actions
- Daily and urgent matters of the municipality leave few time to plan a strategy for a more sustainable city
- Local stakeholders also tend to work in silos, knowing few about each other and sharing few information and projects.
- Private-public partnerships and multilevel funding are not frequently used strategies
- The SDGs are not a priority in the public agenda, neither at local level nor at national and state levels.
- In 2018, only 16% of the citizens and 61% of the local stakeholders affirmed to know about the SDGs
- There is an important lack of reliable and robust data at local level

Opportunities

- The Manresa City Council is willing to renew the city strategy by aligning it with the SDGs
- Reaching multilevel support, both technically and financially, has facilitated a change of mind in the municipality, and the funding for specific projects
- Some local stakeholders were already working with the global goals, in an more implicit or explicit way, and they are open to share their progress, once they are given the tools and forums to meet
- The climate emergency (becoming more evident by the day), the awareness raising campaigns and the participatory process carried out in Manresa are putting more and more the focus of the public in a sustainability action plan for a better future

Participatory process

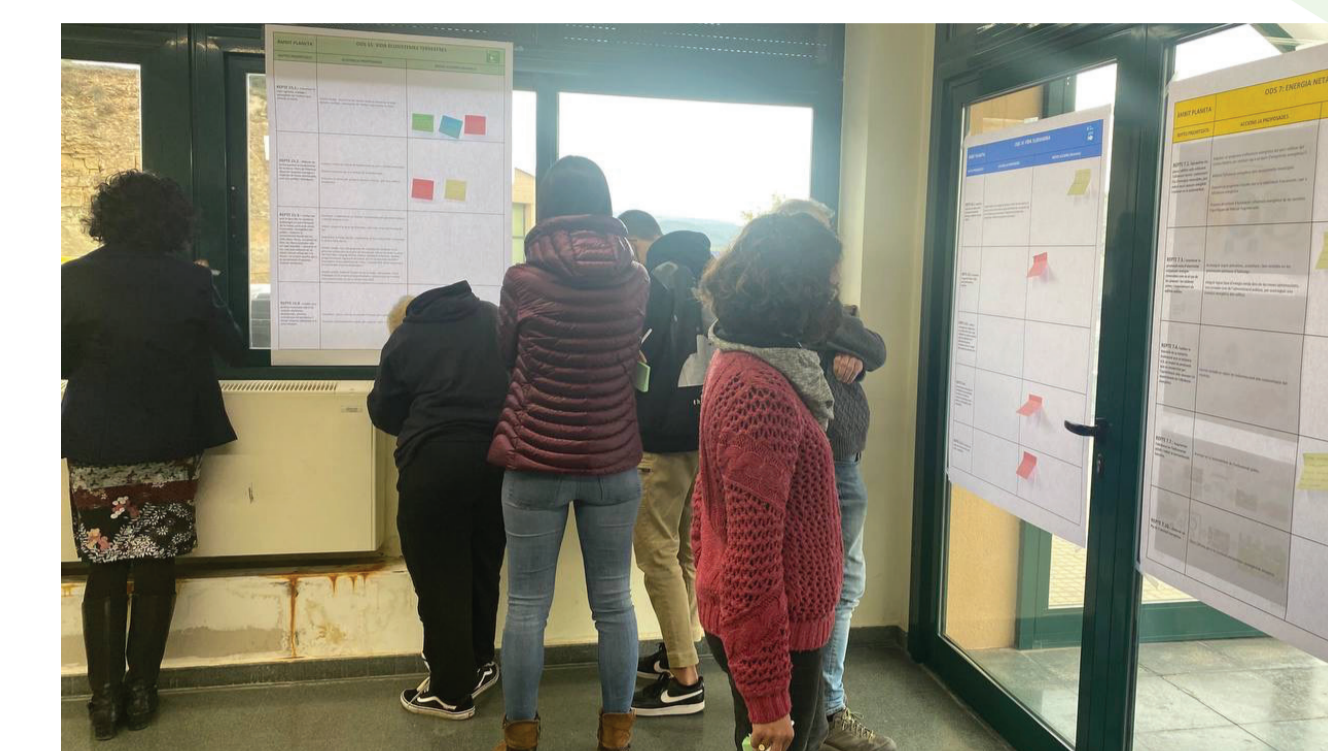
ULG structure and size

Around 50 members currently involved, adding local stakeholders and municipal staff, and distributed in three working groups: People, Planet and Prosperity, though they also meet together.



Meeting highlights

Inspiring visits were organised for ULG members, to learn from best practices and experiences, followed by discussion on identified local targets and actions to be included in the IAP, then refined and agreed in subsequent group sessions and co-creation activities.



ULG members value most the possibility to get information of projects, to interact with each other, and to have a voice in the planning of the city's future. They fear that the results won't match with the expectations of the group, and regret their lack of time to be more active. But most of them want to be involved in a governance body to implement and assess the IAP.



Focus of the Integrated Action Plan

One Vision: By 2030, Manresa will ensure social inclusion and equality, while achieving a sustainable economic modernisation with a territorial perspective. It will be a city of 15 minutes that preserves the urban and peri-urban nature, as well as its local heritage and its strong local identity.

Eight Missions: By 2030, Manresa will:

1. Have a more sustainable mobility, which will connect the city and its surroundings, prioritizing public transport, pedestrian zones and bike lanes. The basic equipment and services will be at a maximum of 15 minutes from all points of the city.
2. Invest in the preservation of its historical,

cultural and architectural heritage.

3. Offer accessible green areas in its neighbourhoods, key to improve health and social relations.
4. Enjoy a Green Ring with a preserved environment, rich in healthy, sports, educational and touristic spaces, where biodiversity will be protected and local agriculture and sustainable food will be promoted.
5. Have succeeded in reducing inequalities and improving social inclusion, through more and better jobs, affordable housing, the reduction of the digital divide and the fight against any type of discrimination.

6. Have a competitive and sustainable local economy, thanks to technological innovation, the use of clean energies, circular production systems and a better articulation of the territory.
7. Incorporate transparency, citizen participation, the gender perspective and the evaluation of results in all municipal policies.
8. Establish solid multi-stakeholder and multi-level alliances to achieve the SDGs, giving special support to organizations and citizen initiatives.

Thirty transformative Actions: detailed in the IAP, to achieve the missions and make the vision come true.

Spotlight on...

The sustainability action plan of Manresa is an integrated, holistic strategy not only for the municipality, but for the whole city, going beyond the current political mandate, until 2030. Its governance is ensured by the creation of a Citizens' Alliance for Sustainability, to continue the work done by the ULG. In order to leave no one behind in the localisation of the SDGs, 860 surveys were carried out at street level in different places throughout the city, made in Catalan, Spanish and Arabic, and using simple and clear language instead of the technical jargon. Public awareness campaigns to localise

the SDGs include a travelling exhibition, a city escape room, social theatre an online school workshop. Most prioritized SDGs at schools were SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 1 (End of poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger). Practical workshops have been also offered to citizens, to develop practical abilities for living in a more sustainable way, like how to prepare tasty meals from food leftovers, to make Christmas lights from recycled materials, and to go to school by bike in a big group (Bike-bus).



Most impacted SDGs

