

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Renovation Wave, Decarbonized & Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Nature Based Solutions, Greening, Water Management

Digital Transition & Smart City

### General Socio-economic Profile

Located on the north-eastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula and facing the Mediterranean Sea, Barcelona is the capital and the largest city of the autonomous community of Catalonia, and the second most populous municipality of Spain.

Barcelona is one of the first industrialised regions on the European continent, and accounts for one fifth of the country's total industrial output in the automotive, chemical, precision instrumentation and plastics industries, making it the largest industrial centre in Spain. Thanks to its artistic and creative tradition, Barcelona is known for its industrial design. The city is home to many characteristic buildings and world heritage sites, which drive tourism and the hospitality industry.

Barcelona has a well-developed higher education system that includes the University of Barcelona, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and the Pompeu Fabra University. Among the private universities, the Ramon Llull University is known for its affiliated business school ESADE - Escola Superior d'Administració i Direcció d'Empreses.

# Barcelona



1,666,530



101.9 km<sup>2</sup>



© Iakov Filimonov



©frank müller, CC BY-SA 2.0

### Good Practices

In terms of urban regeneration, the city is now undergoing a third wave of transformation to restore urban biodiversity and realise socio-economic revitalisation with high-value metropolitan strategies as well as smart and nature-based solutions. Key urban renewal and development projects include the Besòs River Plan, regeneration of Les Glòries and 22@.

22@ represents a pioneering solution for regenerating largely obsolete industrial land. It refurbishes existing architectural heritage and housing, so as to create an innovation ecosystem that attracts businesses and universities. By working with universities, 22@ businesses and neighbourhood associations, it accommodates the interests of local residents, civil society, academia, business and economic stakeholders.

Another urban development challenge Barcelona faces is sustainable water management. Currently, the city introduces a new water collection system, which reduces the load on the conventional system and reuses rainwater. This system is further complemented with extended green canopies and green spaces, which are crucial to reducing the heat effect and fighting against global warming.

### Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- **Urban Agenda:** The Instituto Municipal de Urbanismo (IMU) of Barcelona has broad experience in public space design and SUD strategies, and would like to share it with other cities, as well as learn from their innovative solutions.
- **Renovation Wave:** Barcelona's physical geography makes it impossible to grow and extend the city outwards. The existing neighbourhoods must be renewed to meet the challenges of energy efficiency, accessibility, habitability, and social cohesion.
- **Nature-based Solutions:** Compact cities, such as Barcelona, have high levels of traffic pollution. Introducing nature-based solutions in streets and public spaces helps reduce pollution and ease traffic. The city would like to discuss with Chinese partners how to apply new solutions in its public space design and planning, in order to achieve sustainable development.