



City-regional collaboration in Catalonia

Seminar 4-5.4.14

orbital.40
Science and Technology Park of Terrassa

AMB : Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona

ciT
Catalonia Innovation Triangle
Cerdanyola · Rubí · Sant Cugat

The EUROCITIES Working Group for Metropolitan Areas held a seminar, kindly hosted by the City of Terrassa, 3-4 April 2014. By organizing the meeting within the region, it was possible for an in-depth exchange between Working Group members. Altogether 12 cities took part, including professional staff and politicians from the cities within the Catalan region.

Barcelona is the strong, capital core of the region, surrounded by a number of cities with substantial size, such as Terrassa and Rubí. The region's industrial and trading past is being transformed through innovation strategies. The cities are building on past specializations, internationally recognized research hubs and transformatory visions from the 1992 Olympics, all supported by strong collaboration arrangements across the region.

Seen through the prism of metropolitan areas, the urban region appears to be partly fragmented, but this geographic complexity veils a number of dynamic and committed arenas for urban collaboration.

- The Catalan core, administered by the recently established Barcelona Metropolitan Area, is managing water, transport, social housing, infrastructure projects and strategic planning for its 36 participant municipalities.
- Terrassa metropolitan area is coordinating urban and economic development for its smaller region to the north of Barcelona.
- The three smaller cities which comprise the Catalonia Innovation Triangle have pooled their resources, by linking the joint strengths of the industrial production capacity, technical university and a cluster of business headquarters, all on the region's outer ring-road.
- Widening this, a network of seven cities along the ring-road is also collaborating to strengthen the position of the outer perimeter of the urban region.

The seminar in Terrassa was opened by the city mayor, Mr. Jordi Ballart, and included informative presentations from representatives of the partnerships and cities. A highlight was at the end, with an open debate with leaders from the City of Terrassa and an expert from Terrassa University. Juan Antonio Gallardo, councilor for International Relations, led the discussion of core issues and opportunities for stronger cooperation in the region, focusing especially on jobs and housing.





Mrs Laura Sarrion, Innovation officer in Terrassa, presented the Orbital.40 strategy



*Mr Xavier Tiana,
Barcelona Metropolitan Area*



*Deputy Mayor Jaume Buscallà,
Catalonia Innovation Triangle*



Delegate Councillor Juan Antonio Gallardo, led discussions about territorial collaboration in Terrassa