



Intercultural Policy in the city of Barcelona: results and examples.

**Compas Oxford
Autumn Academy**

Strategic approaches to Migrant Integration in Europe

Tuesday September 6th 2016

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What administration is competent in Immigration?

Competences / Field UE STATE REGION LOCAL

Border Control, flux control (Return directive, Frontex...)

Residents permit, regrouping, working permits....

Free movement within EU borders (Schengen, ...)

Refuges, Asylum .

Nationality, naturalization (Civil codes...)

Welcoming policies, (information, language...)

Access to services and programmes (health , education, social services, housing...)

Integration, living together with, ...(Leisure, participation, visibility...)

Outline of the session:

- 1. Introduction: City of Barcelona**
- 2. Economic crisis and impact on migration in Barcelona**
- 3. Policy framework: Interculturality**

Goals

The 3 principles

Examples

3. Case Study in groups: Chinatown in Barcelona?

- 1. Conclusions**



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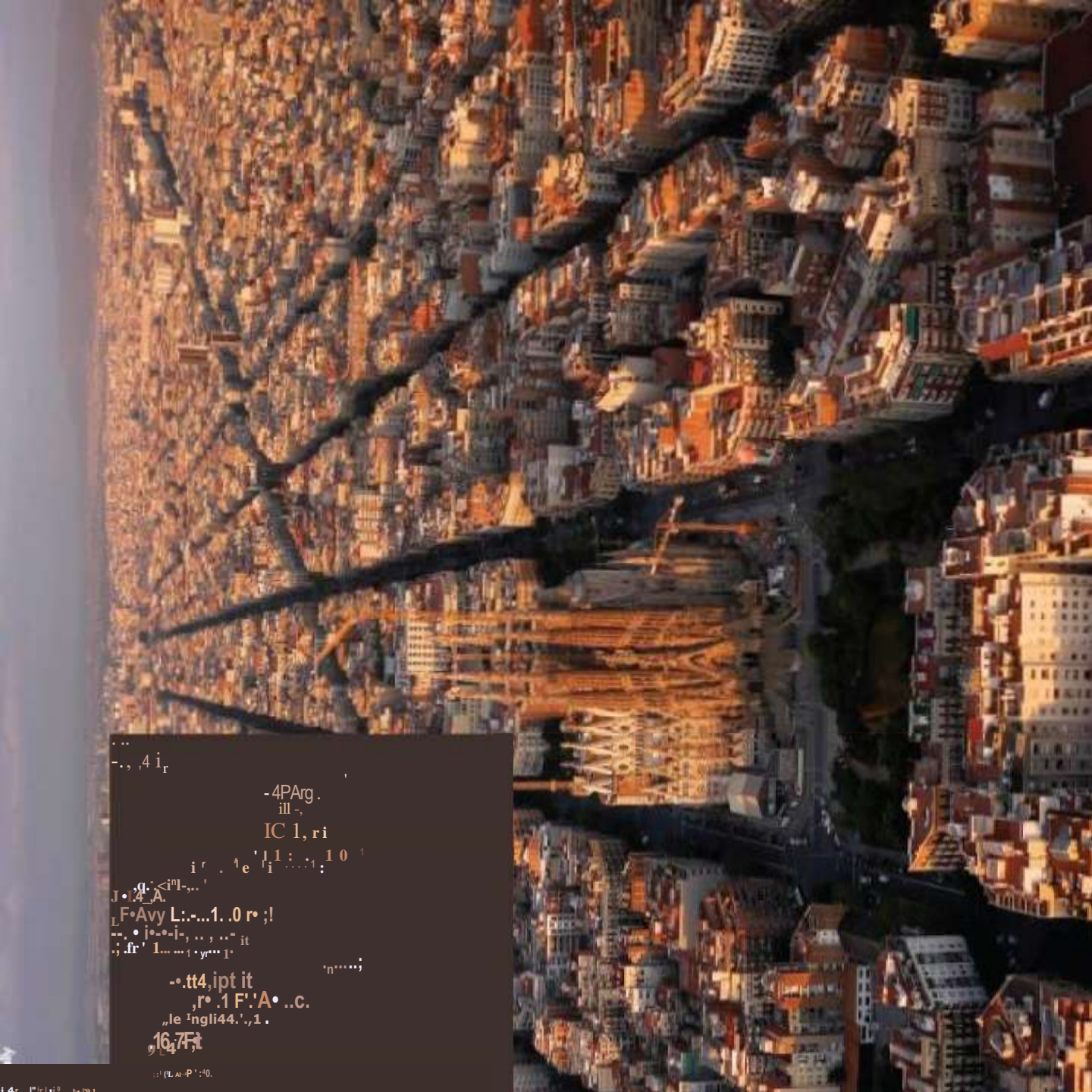
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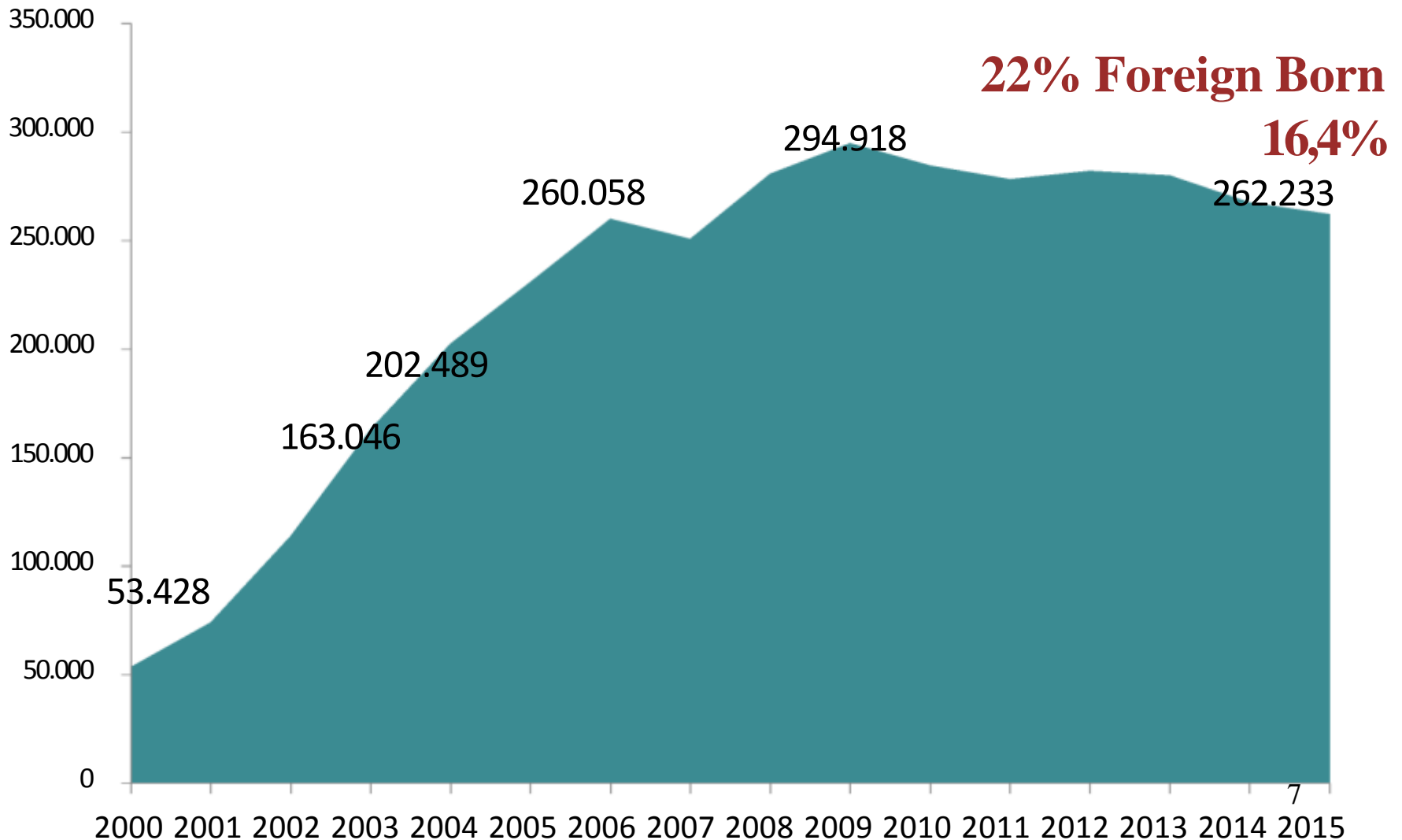
BARCELONA:

- **City Population: 1,65 million. Metropolitan area of 4 million: Historically economic engine in south Europe. High density: 16.000 x Km2**
- **Foreign population: 280.047 (2014) 17,2% . 23% (with foreign background)**
- **22% population 65+**
- **Official Language: Catalan and Spanish. (Caregiving generational and diversity gap)**
- **International migration is very recent in the last 15 years. Flow has stopped in the last two years because economic situation**
- **Economic migrants rather than refugees.**
- **Ranking of foreign nationalities (2015):**
 - 1. Italy 25.797**
 - 2. Pakistan 19.414**
 - 3. China 17.487**
 - 4. France 13.281**
 - 5. Morocco 12.601**
 - 6. Bolivia 9.946**
 - 7. Ecuador 8.647**



Impact: Great Migration influx 2000 to 2009.

Evolution of the number of foreigners registered 2000-2015





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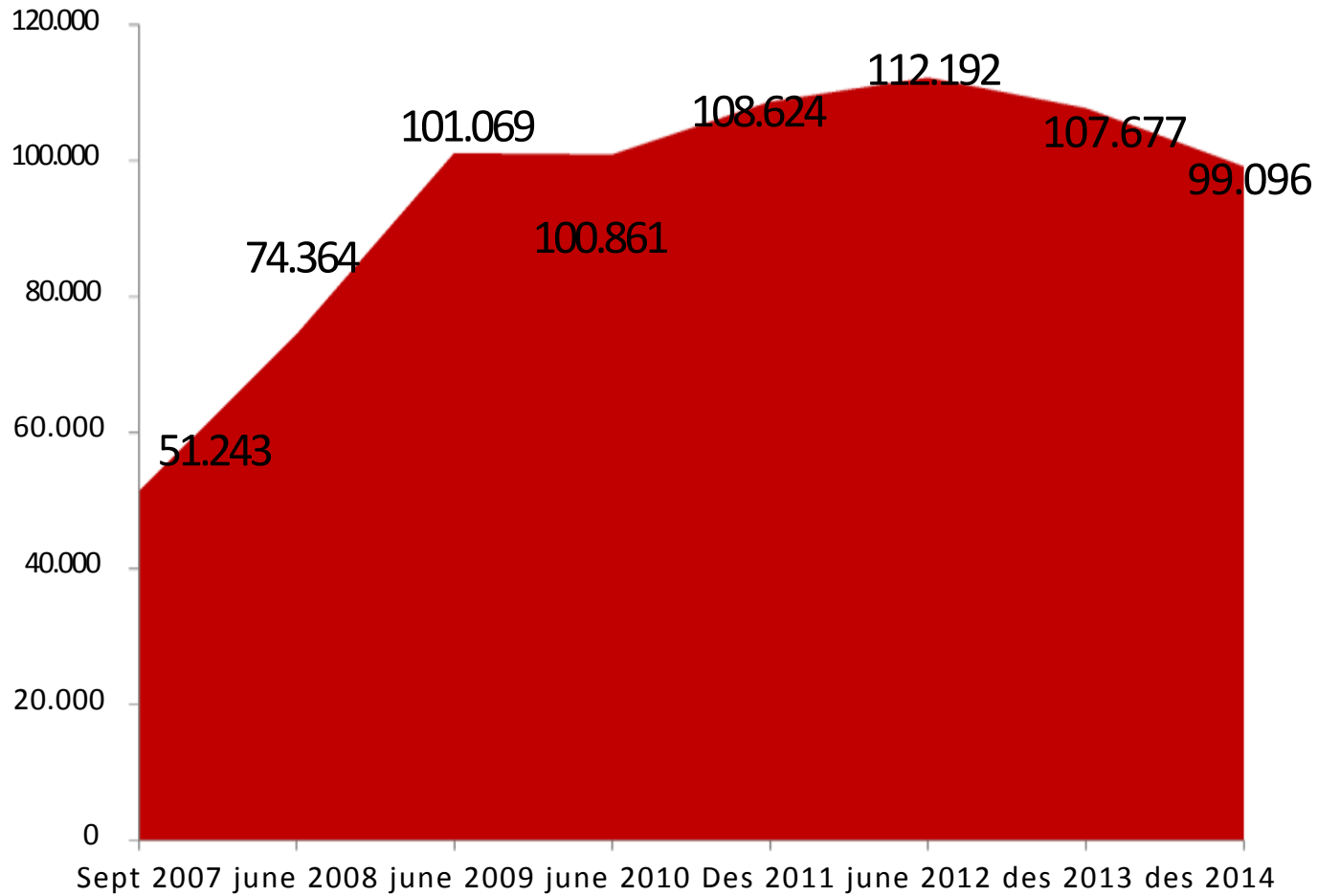
Context of Economic crisis and big social distress:

- Unemployment has raised from 7% to up 20%(2013) now is 15%.
- Youth unemployment 50%.
- Migrant unemployment 36%.
- The Banking crisis and real states crisis caused an enormous increase of evictions. One of the neighborhoods in Barcelona it is known as "Eviction village". "Ciutat Meridiana.
- Important increase of vulnerable persons and migrants with irregular status
- Budgets cuts and austerity policy (other administrations) affected basic services like Health, education, social benefits, pensions...etc
- New tendency Emigration of well educated youth and voluntary return to countries of origin.



Impact 2:

Evolution of Unemployed in Barcelona





Hypothesis:

**+ Massive migration
+ deep economical crisis in a dense
complex urban area
+ austerity policies
+ corruption cases and political
crisis**

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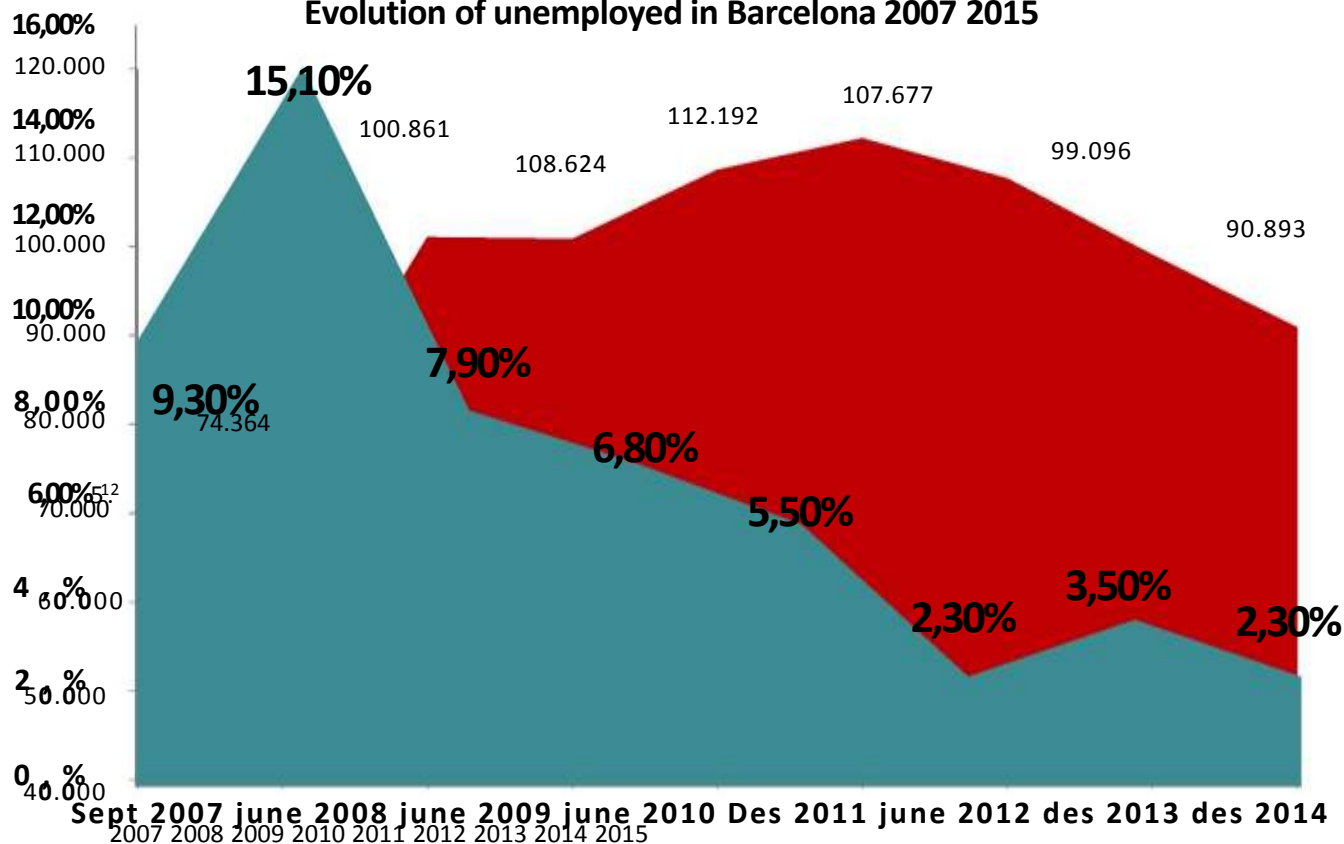
**Riots, ethnic tensions, racism and
xenophobia**

Impact:

% Of citizens in Barcelona that perceive immigration as the main problem of Barcelona (2007-2014)

Source: Barcelona city Omnibus survey.

Evolution of unemployed in Barcelona 2007 2015





But , yet social cohesion and living together it is not broken!

There has been big social distress and increase of inequity in the city among richer and poorer neighbourhoods but migrants are not being blame of the situation.

There are conflicts related to diversity but not great problems

Xenophobic parties do not have any support in Barcelona (never elected in our town)

Migrants are not scapegoats of the situation like in other cities and countries!

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Our framework: Barcelona Interculturality Plan

Main Objective:

Define a strategy for the city of Barcelona in order to tackle the challenge of diversity from an intercultural point of view.

Main goal is to foster interaction between individuals. Pursue “convivencia”.

Barcelona is a city, a setting, where interaction is more likely to happen.

Build a common sense of belonging, civic engagement

The central concept of "*Convivencia*" – Living together with. Professor Carlos Gimenez Romero (UAM)

- **Diversity challenges the reality as it was every day: public policies need to readapt and examine constantly in front of new situations.**
- **Living together with (*Convivencia*) is not coexistence; it goes beyond and very often means conflict.**
- **Conflict is not hidden it is faced and try to overcome through mediation and policies.**
- **Transversality of the policy in the administration is a key issue.**
- **Political leadership**
- **Build political consensus within all political representants.**



A. Barcelona Interculturality: 3 principles

(Theoretical framework of Dr. Carlos Gimenez Romero U.A.M)

All programmes and policies can be examined how they contribute to the 3 principles.

Equality

Convivencia
Living together with

Diversity Interaction

Equality

- **Assure equal access to services and programmes: Active local register "*padron*", even for migrants with irregular status.**
- **Avoid segregation.**
- **Access to health and education guaranteed even for irregular migrants.**
- **Welcoming policies: attend everybody as soon as possible: the irregular today is the future regular.**
- **Adapt services to the changing reality of our residents. Quality and quantity.**

Respect for diversity

- Libraries network open to new citizens with books in many languages.**
- Language learning language of origin at the school.**
- Celebration of diversity in public spaces.**
- Respect for religious diversity even in public**

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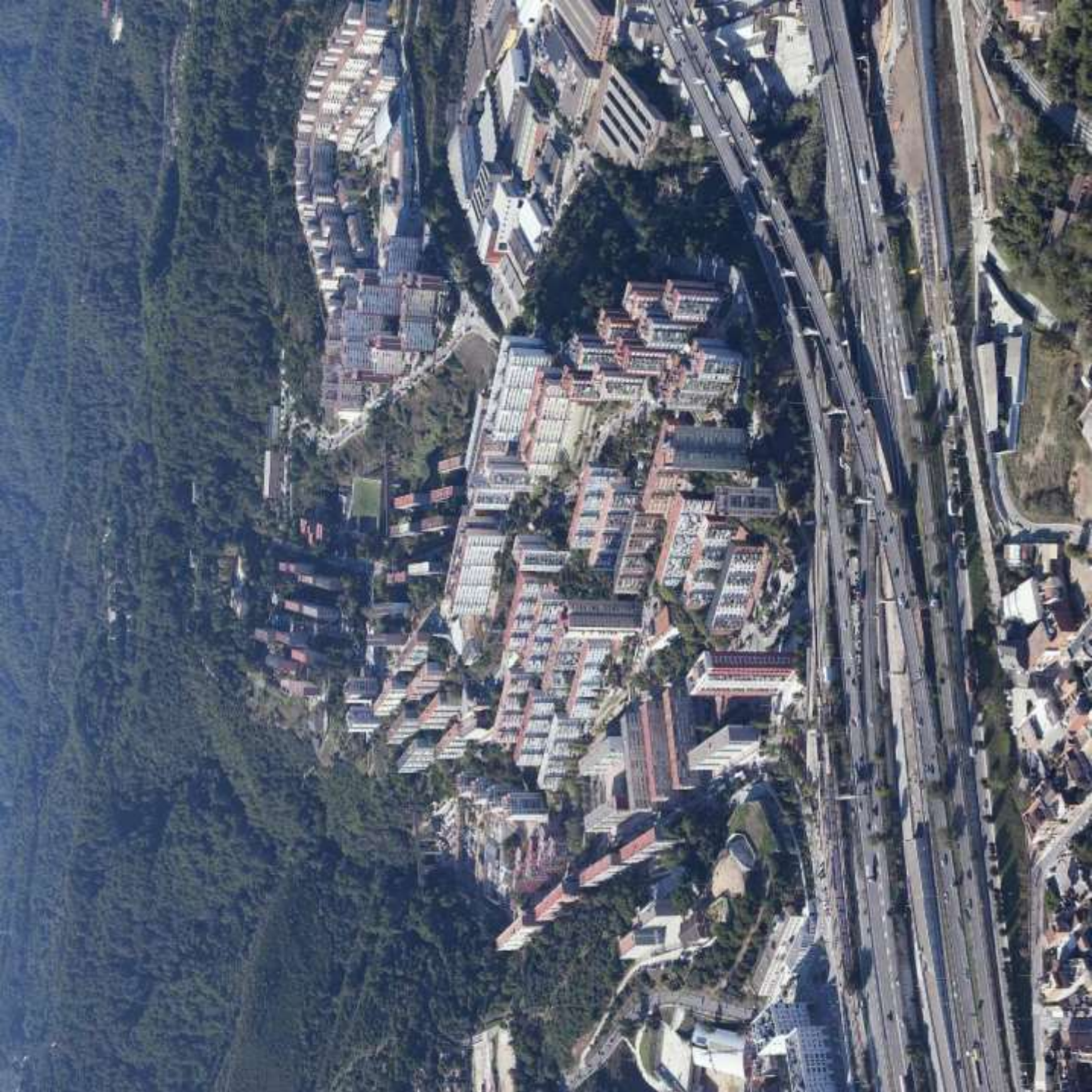
AhlulBayt News Agency

Interaction:

- Heterogeneous Participation networks**
- Anti rumor strategy fight prejudice that can brake common trust between neighbors.**
- Urban planning: mix planning of neighborhoods with proximity shops, mixed uses of land for residential, work, retail, services...avoiding urban segregation.**
- XEIX project Economic fostering of a Fort Pienc neighborhood. (Awarded by the Council of Europe)**

Participation of civil society/ Civic engagement

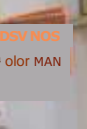
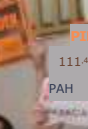
- **Example of civil society engagement:**
- **Association like PAH (platform of people affected by evictions) all working class people, from many origins, fighting together against the evictions of the big banking corporations.**
- **Create social bonds and social capital (Putnam) among diverse working class people in disadvantage neighborhoods**







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Ada Colau: the Mayor of Barcelona



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Thank you!

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