

Barcelona

The leading solidarity city
in Spain and Europe.

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1. Abstract & Takeaways

Key Takeaways:

1

Close collaboration between city administration and civil society in developing the "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan, which bundles up concrete measures to provide necessary services and guarantee the rights of refugees.

2

Active networking with other Spanish Cities within the framework of the network Ciudades Refugios, and with many European cities within the Solidarity Cities framework.

What is unique about the city?

Municipalist role model since 2015: Barcelona has been known as a leading Solidarity City in Spain and Europe since the municipal movement Barcelona en Comú (BComú) won the 2015 municipal elections. The importance of Barcelona's solidarity city politics lies in its status as an initiator, role model, and discourse marker for municipal pro-migrant politics. The "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan bundles up concrete measures to prepare the city to receive and assist refugees, provide necessary services, and guarantee refugee rights.

What is the focus of local migration policies?

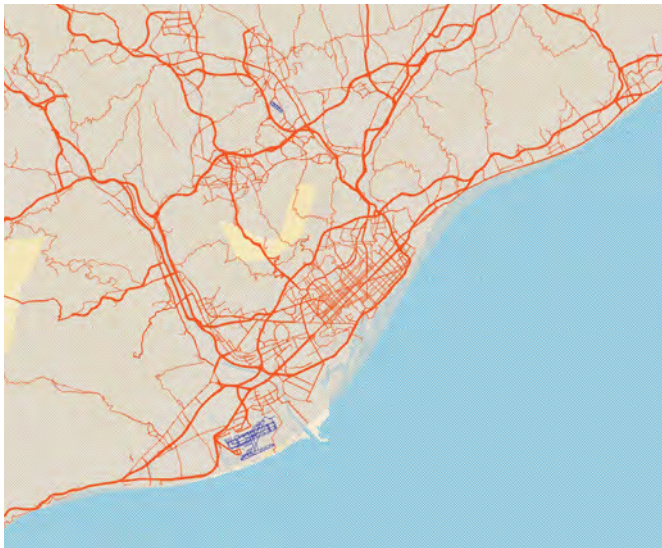
A coherent reception programme: The municipal reception programme Nausica lies at the centre of Barcelona's local solidarity policies. It is also at the heart of the "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan. A second focus of solidarity politics is the documento de vecindad (neighborhood document), a kind of municipal ID, created for people without proper documents.

What are the key factors?

Innovative administration meets local activism: When the Barcelona en Comú (Bcomú) minority city council took office in spring 2015, migration became a key topic in the city's urban politics. The overall 2015 election programme contains a number of concrete proposals regarding migration and flight. Another important factor is the close collaboration between city administration and local civil society initiatives in designing migration policies.

Political activities and advocacy beyond the city level?

The municipality of Barcelona has been a member of many institutional city networks within the framework of EU institutions for many years. From 2015 on, Mayor Ada Colau, initiated and took leadership of the Spanish network of Solidarity cities – the *ciudades refugios*//*ciutats refugis*. Colau and the city government additionally have also worked to put Barcelona into more European and international solidarity city networks.



Population

1,650,358¹

Location/ region

Capital of the autonomous community of Catalonia

Mayor (party)

Ada Colau (Barcelona en Comú)

2. Local background and context

In spring 2015, Barcelona en Comú (BComú) won the municipal elections. Madrid, Valencia, Zaragoza, and Cádiz also saw municipalists enter city governments. These cities are also called "Fearless Cities."² Welcoming refugee politics are central to municipalist movements in Spain, since the participatory municipal approach to politics aims to avoid new exclusions by leaving non-citizens out.³ Thus, when BComú minority city council took office in Barcelona, migration became a key topic of urban politics.⁴ The overall 2015 election programme contains a number of concrete proposals regarding the topic of migration and flight.⁵

The question of refugees and migrants became incredibly important. The central issue at the time (2015) was the non-arrival of Syrian refugees in Barcelona. However, enormous refugee solidarity mobilisations by civil society pressured the new city government to express solidarity and develop welcoming and reception plans. Thus, the politicisation of the right to asylum and municipal welcoming was a product of the new city council's will to mobilise against the central government's refusal

¹ Ayuntamiento de Barcelona (2019): La població estrangera a Barcelona. La població de Barcelona nascuda a l'estranger. Gender 2019. Informes estadístics 79. (www.bcn.cat/estadistica/catala/dades/inf/pobest/Pobest19/pobest19.pdf).
² <http://fearlesscities.com/en/>
³ <https://www.bdwi.de/forum/archiv/uebersicht/10250840.html>.
⁴ <https://barcelonaencomu.cat/>.
⁵ Programa electoral – municipales 2015 (https://barcelonaencomu.cat/sites/default/files/programaencomun_cast.pdf).

to receive refugees. The city council responded to a powerful wave of solidarity by developing tactics to challenge national policy and the legitimacy of the central government, as well as border closures at the EU level.⁶

Ignasi Calbó, the former head of the ciudad refugio office, points out:

“Without them [civil society organisations], we wouldn’t have been able to carry out most of the projects. Many of them were there before the plan and have really enabled support to be provided for all different human and socio-economic profiles, whether mistreated LGBTI people, families with young children or others, in a way which suits their specific circumstances.”¹⁹

"Barcelona, Refuge City": Cooperation between the municipality and civil society

Social movements, NGOs, and other civil society organisations have been crucial in developing the "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan. The 2015 election campaign migration workgroup, made up of regular citizens, activists, researchers, municipal, and NGO workers prepared the final document.⁷ Based on this, the "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan launched in September 2015 with a clear focus on social rights.⁸ The plan itself involved, among others: "Dialegs de la dona", a migrant women’s organisation⁹, the catholic organisation "Fundación Migra Studium"¹⁰, "Centre Exil"¹¹, an association providing support to persons who have suffered torture and human rights violations, the "Catalan Refugee Aid Commission" (CCAR)¹², the "Cooperative Jamcop", the Federation of Latin American entities in Barcelona (Fedelatina)¹³, the Catalan Association for the integration of LGBTI+ migrants and refugees (ACATHI)¹⁴, the "Consortium for the language normalisation" (CPNL)¹⁵, the trade union driven migrants’ association for mutual aid (Amic-UGT)¹⁶, the lawyers organisation "Col.legi d’Advocacia de Barcelona" (ICAB)¹⁷, the international welfare and development organisation "Red Solidaria", and the transnational criminal justice Organisation "International Criminal Bar"¹⁸.

The "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan bundles up concrete measures and initiatives in order to gear the city up to receive and assist refugees, provide the necessary services and guarantee their rights. At the heart of the "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan, lies the municipal reception and social inclusion programme Nausica (chapter 3)²⁰

However, before the plan came into force, as the refugee movement swelled in the summer of 2015, new social movements and civil society organisations were formed in Barcelona, like the citizen platform for refugees and migrants’ rights movement "Stop Mare Mortum"²¹, and the sea rescue NGO "Pro Activa Open Arms"²². Ada Colau reacted to these mobilisations by issuing a missive to President Mariano Rajoy announcing that Barcelona would transform into a city of refuge.²³

6 See Hansen 2019: 58f (<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40039/solidarity-cities-in-eu-ropel>).

7 „Eje Migraciones" (https://barcelonaencomu.cat/sites/default/files/pdf/02_migraciones-cast.pdf).

8 <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/plan>

9 <http://dialegsdona.org/es/>

10 <http://www.migrastudium.org/es>

11 <http://www.centroexil.org/>

12 <http://www.ccar.cat/>

13 <http://fedelatina.org/>

14 <https://www.acathi.org/>

15 <https://www.cpnl.cat/>

16 <http://www.associacioamic.cat/web/>

17 <https://www.icab.cat>

18 <http://www.bpi-icb.com/en/organization/icb/history>

19 https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/bombers/en/noticia/the-barcelona-refuge-city-plan-like-all-spending-on-migration-invests-in-social-cohesion-and-citizens_777241.

20 <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/>

21 <https://stopmaremortum.org/>

22 <https://www.openarms.es/en>

23 https://www.barcelona.cat/infobarcelona/en/colau-calls-on-the-spanish-state-to-help-respond-to-the-taking-in-of-refugees_233763.html

Another example of the close cooperation between the municipalist city government and civil society organisations in Barcelona was a proposal, included into the election programme, to close the notorious local pre-deportation detention centre (Centro de Internamiento de Extranjeros, CIE). By doing so, BComú responded to one of the explicit migration solidarity initiatives, namely Tanquem els CIEs²⁴ (close the detention centres), a civil society campaign. Tanquem els CIEs started in January 2012 after the death of Idrissa Diallo at the Barcelona CIE. Since BComú has been in charge, the municipality "helped create awareness of the injustices faced by people in the detention centre."²⁵ The city, however, was ultimately unable to shut it down.

The limits of participatory processes

The persistently difficult relationship between the municipalist city government and the street vendors (*manteros*) in Barcelona shows more clearly the limits of participatory processes involving municipality and civil society: When BComú took office in 2015, the question of the 300-400 street vendors, most of whom are sub-Saharan migrants without papers, became a central issue. While the struggle of street vendors was scandalised by the right and mainstream media as a criminal act of "illegal migrants squatting public space to sell illegal, counterfeit items," BComú tried to occupy an "impossible position" between the demands of the *manteros* and refugee rights movement on one hand and a "concert of media and political opponents"²⁶ on the other. In August 2015, Mor Sylla, a *mantero*, died following a fall that took place during a police raid in a town outside Barcelona. No police officer was made responsible, and the death was followed by demonstrations of *manteros* and their supporters. It was in this tense situation that the *manteros* formed the "Popular Union of street vendors"²⁷ to counter rumours and racist stereotypes, and to negotiate with local authorities and police. The BComú city government attempted to recognise the Popular Union in talks with the police and business organisations were sabotaged business organisations. After a confrontation between the *manteros* and the city government due to a city-wide campaign in the summer of 2016 which, among other things, encouraged tourists and locals not to buy the goods of *manteros*, the Popular Union, having a stake in negotiations with the city, adopted a less dismissive approach and agreed to the city-supported formation of a cooperative of *manteros*, DiomCoop²⁸ in 2017. There were also spots provided for *manteros* trading city fairs and markets. However, the cooperative only offers jobs to 40 of the hundreds of street vendors, and only to those with access to work permits. Today protests against police repression and violence continue, and BComú concessions have ultimately failed to satisfy their political opponents. In general, the situation of those living with precarious and undocumented legal statuses persists, and becomes more challenging year by year, with BComú adopting an approach focused on regularisation (e.g. cooperatives, work permits). However, since the 2019 electoral campaign, BComú is increasingly focusing on the policing of the *mantero* trade.²⁹

24 <http://www.tanquemelscie.cat/>

25 See Hansen 2019: 60 (<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40039/solidarity-cities-in-europe>).

26 Hansen 2019: 58f (<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40039/solidarity-cities-in-europe>).

27 https://www.eldiario.es/catalunya/barcelona/estigma-luchamanta-sindicato_1_2442393.html

28 <http://diomcoop.org/>

29 Hansen 2019: 64ff (<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40039/solidarity-cities-in-europe>).

Communal reception, social rights and residence security

On municipal reception and social inclusion of refugees and migrants, the municipality of Barcelona has built its communal reception policies around the free municipal service, the "Service Centre For Immigrants, Emigrants And Refugees" (SAIER) since 1999. SAIER is managed by City Council together with specialised local bodies. The entity offers general services to all non-EU residents who need them, such as assistance in the legal processing of immigration papers, accommodation, and subsistence for the most vulnerable. Together with the Red Cross, SAIER is the point of entry to the reception programme for people seeking international protection in Spain. It also covers any shortfall in the state-driven programme, as it takes care of basic needs and assistance for the most vulnerable, until they access the state programme.³⁰ To name just one example: out of the asylum seekers attending SAIER in Barcelona, 23% are homeless. The SAIER and regular municipal social services finance temporary shelter to asylum seekers. In 2017, for instance, the municipality allocated one-off funds of 1.9 million Euro to shelter migrant and asylum seekers (OECD 2018).³¹

Compared to cities in Italy and Greece, even the current number of arrivals in Barcelona is still moderate. But since the Spanish state has not devoted the necessary resources, the pressure on municipal infrastructures and those responsible for reception and integration, has been significant (Hansen 2019: 62). Thus, the increase in asylum seekers has squeezed SAIER capacities. In order to coordinate the implementation of the "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan and to support SAIER services, the Barcelona City Council created the Ciutat Refugi-office, an additional municipal infrastructure, which opened in 2015.

The 2015 electoral campaigns' migration work group also pledged to ease the process of empadronamiento (registering with the municipality) for migrants and refugees who reside in Barcelona but do not have proper documents. Thus, the migration work group proposed to accept rental contracts or similar documents as accepted proof for the empadronamiento. This would ease access to municipal social services and – over the long term – to proper residence permits. The 2017 introduction of the documento de vecindad (neighborhood document), which is thought to protect undocumented people from detention and deportation, is explained in detail in chapter 3.

³⁰ <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/reception-accommodation-and-care>

³¹ "Migration Snapshot of the city of Barcelona", in Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Barcelona, OECD Publishing, Paris.

3. Selected local approaches

3.1 The Nausica programme: A holistic approach to communal reception and social inclusion

The main focus of the "Barcelona, Refuge City" plan is the municipal reception and social inclusion programme Nausica. Nausica started in April 2016, and aims at bolstering SAIER services and offers protection and assistance to asylum seekers already in Barcelona.³² The integrated approach means that participants are seen as whole persons with interrelated needs. It also allowing the different municipal organisations and NGOs involved in the programme to coordinate their efforts (Hansen 2019: 63).

Like other areas of municipalist politics in Barcelona, Nausica was developed with the participation of a number of NGOs, civil society groups, and municipal bodies (see Fact Box). Although refugees and those seeking international protection with no resources of their own can technically access the state programme, many are excluded for different reasons. This can be because they were returned to Spain through the application of the Dublin Regulation, because they belong to a certain social group, or their state of health or sexual orientation make it inadvisable for them to stay in group accommodation.³³ Nausica is, therefore, a parallel reception and inclusion programme that aims to holistically cushion state.

Nausica offers temporary accommodation services and specialised intervention for people or families who have requested international protection, and who are still in a situation of vulnerability and social exclusion.³⁴ The programme includes integrated help with housing, legal aid, job, and language training. Nausica is a communal reception project as well as a social rights programme.³⁵ Two independent evaluations in 2017³⁶ and 2019³⁷ show that, even though the programme only reaches a few of those in need, the programme has been successful in improving social and economic autonomy, as well as Spanish language skills (see fact box). The 2018 OECD report even recommends the Programme as a model for other cities.³⁸ Valencia, Zaragoza, Sabadell, Sant Boi de Llobregat and El Prat de Llobregat are even already applying similar programmes.

A persistent problem of the programme is underfunding. The numbers for 2016/2017 show a total cost of 1,198,676 Euro. The funding has come from different municipal departments, however, the municipal Citizen Rights and Diversity department has funded the largest part of the programme, namely 87.2% (1,045,521 Euro). The rest has come from the city government. Although Spain's EU funding for local integration of refugees and asylum seekers amounts to 330 million Euros (2014-2020), not a single euro has been transferred from the central government to Spanish cities and municipalities so far.³⁹

³² <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/plan>

³³ <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/reception-accommodation-and-care>

³⁴ <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/reception-accommodation-and-care>

³⁵ See Hansen 2019: 63 (<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40039/solidarity-cities-in-europe>).

³⁶ Ayuntamiento de Barcelona (2018): Informe de gobierno: Avalucació del programa Nausica, 13/9/2018: <https://t.co/QU6SbK18qz>

³⁷ https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/dretsidiversitat/en/noticia/successes-and-forthcoming-challenges-from-the-pioneering-asylum-seekers-reception-programme-nausica_963699

³⁸ "Migration Snapshot of the city of Barcelona", in Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Barcelona, OECD Publishing, Paris.

³⁹ Ajuntament de Barcelona (2018): Informe de govern Avalucació del programa Nausica (<https://media-edg.barcelona.cat/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/08114136/Informe-de-Govern-Nausica-.pdf>).

To sum up, the programme's focus on social autonomy shows an important shift away from a purely economic conception of autonomy, towards an appreciation of the importance of group and community activities, friendship networks, and the ability to access city resources (health care, libraries, community centres, etc.) without professional guidance. However, the programme remains underfunded and is therefore unable to reach more than a small part of those in need.⁴⁰

Fact Box Nausica Programme

Number and profile of participants

The programme has 120 spots assigned for 2020. Some 84% of Nausica users access the programme as asylum seekers. At the end of 2019, one in five users were in a position of supervening irregularity. After three months on the programme, close to 75% of its users have optimal levels of personal independence, 44% of social independence and 21% economic independence. Once participants are out of the programme, one of the persistent challenges that concerns them is the difficulty in connecting with social services. Only 31% of those leaving the programme have optimal links to social services centres.

Inclusion in the labour market

Almost half of the facility's working-age population have achieved at least one employment contract, but only 2.5% have received employment contracts lasting longer than nine months. 10% of working age people in the facility have worked in the informal economy. Nearly 90% of the job placements created during the stay on the Nausica programme are linked to the services sector, a labour sector noted for its temporary and part-time employment. Only 25% of the people who have worked in it reach salaries equivalent to the minimum wage.

Language skills

In 2019, 62% of the training was in Spanish and 38% in Catalan. As they progress along the programme, practically all users manage to understand Spanish. half can speak it and ca. 45% can write it. As for Catalan, the results are very good: in 2019, more than half understood Catalan. There are, however, persistently higher levels of knowledge at the start of the programme among men than among women (Spanish and Catalan). Though, upon leaving the programme, men and women reach the same level of knowledge in Spanish.

Actors involved

The Nausica programme (like the "Barcelona, refuge city" plan as a whole) falls into the responsibility of the department of citizen rights and diversity, which directly reports to the Mayor of Barcelona. The three secretariats in this area, SAIER, the ciutat refugi office, and the secretariat of citizen rights and diversity are directly involved in coordinating the programme. Up to now, the department of citizen rights and diversity also carries the largest part of the programmes funding. Several national and local NGOs have been involved in developing and executing the Nausica programme. In 2015, Barcelona City Council

⁴⁰ See Hansen 2019: 63 (<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40039/solidarity-cities-in-europe>).

started a participative process with three civil society asylum organisations, namely the Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid (CEAR), Accem, and the Red Cross. Nausica, finally, started in 2016 out of an agreement with ACCEM and CEAR. Since then local civil society organisations like ACATHI (Catalan Association for the integration of LGBTI+ migrants and refugees), Fundación Ficat (for socio-legal advice), Fundación Benal-lar (housing projects for homeless migrants and refugees), and Iniciatives Solidàries (social inclusion projects), have also been incorporated into the programme. There are also some companies participating in the programme. However, the current coordinator of the Barcelona, city of refuge plan and head of the ciudad refugio office, Marc Serra, notes several shortcomings of the programme, due to a lack of enough companies taking part in the programme.

3.1 The Documento de vecindad (neighborhood document): Strengthening residence security

Since 2017, the documento de vecindad (neighbourhood document), issued by the city council, can help people without documented status prove their level of integration in Barcelona. The application requires that the applicant lives in an irregular situation, is at least 18 years old, can prove to have been living in Spain for at least 12 months, and is registered (empadronamiento) with the municipality of Barcelona before the application is made. The neighborhood document is valid for one year.⁴¹ It can be used as evidence in cases concerning detention and deportation and can be considered by judges and tribunals making decisions on such matters. The city certifies this document, which attests the individual's belonging to the city.⁴² In contrast to, e.g., the New York City ID, which allows for accessing public social and cultural services, the documento de vecindad is primarily used to prove residence in Spain for at least 12 months. This is the minimum time period Spanish laws require for the regularization of one's legal status. The document is, however, not legally binding on the state, so whether immigration authorities accept it remains a matter of discretion. However, the results of the documento de vecindad are undoubtedly more positive from a political and symbolic point of view. Barcelona's neighbourhood document can be considered one of the first proper sanctuary measures in Europe, following the US model of sanctuary cities.

⁴¹ <https://www.parainmigrantes.info/documento-de-vecindad-de-barcelona/>

⁴² Legal Team 2019; Ayuntamiento de Barcelona (2018): Document de veintatge: <http://legalteam.es/it/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Folleto-informativo-sobre-el-documento-de-vecindad-Barcelona-Legalteam.pdf>

Fact Box documento de vecindad

During the first year (2017), a total of 894 neighbourhood documents were issued (46% of cases resolved), 180 applications (9%) were ruled inadmissible, 622 (32%) shelved due to a lack of documentation, signature or the applicant not appearing. 233 (12%) were shelved due to withdrawal by the applicant. This clearly shows that the criteria for issuing the document have not been restrictive.

Audiovisuelles Material

- Ignasi Calbó (former coordinator of the refugee programme, ciudad refugis, in Barcelona)
 - › on the role of municipalities in dealing with the refugee crisis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISnmS4SQEyE>
 - › Ignasi Carbó, Barcelona refugee city plan, 2016: <https://www.you-tube.com/watch?v=jVD6l5bHjGA>
 - › Ignasi Carbó, Barcelona solidarity city, 2016: <https://solidaritycities.eu/press/coverage/60-barcelona-city-of-refuge>
- Kurzvideos der municipality mit Statements von Ada Colau auf Facebook
 - › Ada Colau, "Barcelona, refuge city" plan 2015: <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/plan>
- Interviews/statements from refugees:
 - › <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/reception-accommodation-and-care>
- Statements on the Nausica programme
 - › <https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/reception-accommodation-and-care>

4. Advocacy and Network Activities

The municipality of Barcelona has been a member of many institutional city networks within the framework of EU institutions for many years. From 2015 on, Mayor Ada Colau, initiated the Spanish network of Solidarity cities – the ciudades refugios//ciutats refugis. Colau and the city government have also been making strong efforts to extend Barcelona's membership in even more migrant solidarity cities networks.⁴³

We, the Cities of Europe (13 September, 2015):

<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/alcaldessa/en/blog/we-cities-europe>

In September 2015, at the height of the humanitarian refugee crisis in Europe, Barcelona's new Mayor Ada Colau made a now famous transnational statement on behalf of cities in support of refugees, called "We, the cities of Europe."⁴⁴ The letter was co-signed by the Mayors of Paris and Lesbos, and supported by the Mayors of the Spanish cities of A Coruña, Cádiz, Santiago de Compostela, and Zaragoza. It was published

⁴³ This also reflects Barcelona's orientation towards the political space of the EU, since the relations between Catalonia and the Spanish central state traditionally have been tense due to the persistent Catalan movement for more regional autonomy. ⁴⁴ <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/alcaldessa/en/blog/we-cities-europe>

one day before the EU Summit of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in Brussels to deal with the refugee crisis. The letter quickly gained attention across the world and served as a catalyst for a large mobilisation of civil society in Barcelona around solidarity initiatives.⁴⁵ The declaration primarily draws on a universal Human Rights discourse and positions supporting cities as places of refuge and shelter:

Declaration “We, the cities of Europe” (09/2015)

“Europe's credibility is currently at stake. We cannot remain indifferent while death stalks our beaches daily, while thousands of families fleeing war in Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia crowd our ports, stations, trains, and roads, waiting for a humanitarian response from Europe. This isn't about charity. This is about guaranteeing a human right, the right of asylum. [...] Our greatest responsibility is to humanity. [...] We, the cities of Europe, are ready to become places of refuge. We want to welcome these refugees. States grant asylum status but cities provide shelter.”⁴⁶

The declaration was directed to the national governments of EU member states as well as to EU institutions. It calls for support in order to take in more refugees on the municipal level. The signing cities declare their willingness and ability to realize communal refugee reception plans ensuring food, housing, and other forms of shelter and inclusion. The declaration constituted the kick off of the Spanish *ciudades refugios*//*ciutats refugis* (refuge cities) network.

Ciudades Refugios//Ciutats Refugis (since 2015):

<https://www.europapress.es/sociedad/noticia-ciudades-espanolas-of-recen-refugio-sirios-20150903192253.html>

<https://ciutatrefugi.barcelona/en/>

The Spanish solidarity city network *Ciudades Refugios*/*Ciutats Refugis*, initiated and founded by Ada Colau, and Manuela Carmen, the then mayor of Madrid, now consists of 25 Spanish cities and municipalities. The network still draws on universal and transnational discourses of Solidarity and Human Rights. It also highlights the importance of urban political spaces for progressive and inclusive migration and asylum politics – in contrast to more restrictive migration and asylum politics at national levels.

The network has repeatedly called on the Spanish central government for more solidarity and speed in its institutional response to the humanitarian refugee crisis in Europe. The Spanish government, however, was not acting on its commitments to receive refugees from Italy and Greece within the European Reallocation Scheme. In October 2016, one year into the scheme, Spain had only received 481 of the 17,680 refugees it had promised to take.⁴⁷ At the end of September 2017, the deadline expired for Spain and 24 other members of the EU to comply with the Reallocation Scheme. To that date in September 2017, Spain had relocat-

⁴⁵ See also Hansen 2019: 55 (<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40039/solidarity-cities-in-europe>).

⁴⁶ <https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/alcaldessa/en/blog/we-cities-europe>

⁴⁷ Suanzes, Pablo R. (2016): España sólo ha acogido a 481 refugiados de los 17.680, pese a los anuncios del Gobierno, in *El Mundo* (<https://www.elmundo.es/sociedad/2016/10/13/57f-f76ec46163f-0c698b45fx.html>)

ed 13.7% of the refugees it had compromised to receive. Against this background, the ciudades refugios publicly claimed it would transfer more competencies to municipalities in order to relocate and admit migrants and refugees.⁴⁸ A year later, the ciudades refugios network held a summit and published a declaration in which, again, the member cities reminded the central government to comply with its promise to admit the agreed number of refugees. The declaration reaffirms the willingness of member cities to carry on receiving people, but demands the central government give more resources to improve and dignify the reception process for migrants and refugees. This includes making available the 330 million Euros of EU funds allocated for reception purposes.

⁴⁸ <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/barcelona/20170926/25-ciudades-espanolas-piden-competencias-para-acoger-a-refugiados-6312685>

The **Moving Cities** project provides an in-depth research of 28 progressive, solidarity-based cities and their strategies in Europe, exploring their most inspiring and successful local approaches to their migration policies.

Moving Cities is a project from Seebrücke, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and Heinrich Böll Stiftung, funded by Robert Bosch Stiftung and Stiftungsfonds Zivile Seenotrettung and supported by many more initiatives.

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