

EUROPEAN CITIES' ACTIONS AND CHALLENGES IN IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

BARCELONA

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European Union (Directive 2008/50/EC)

Supranational level

Central Government (Spain)

National level

Government of Catalonia

Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB)

Regional level

Metropolitan Transport Authority (ATM)

Barcelona City Council

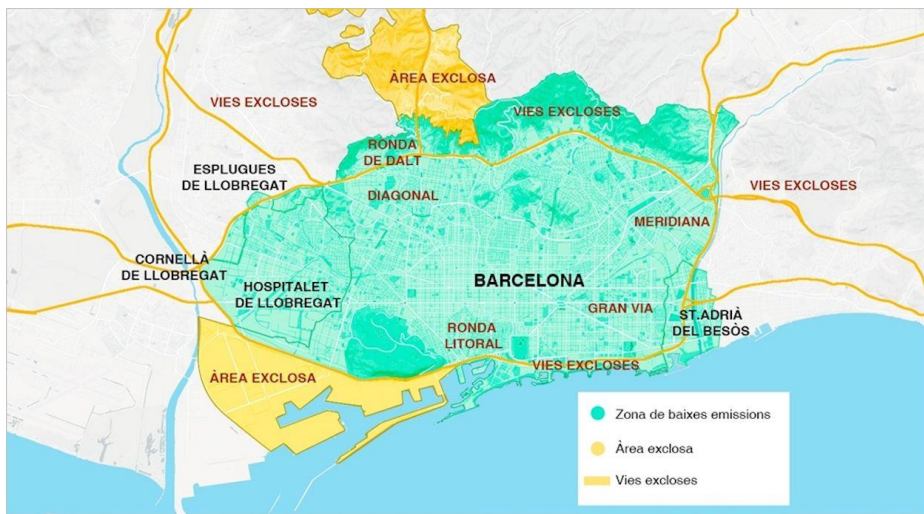
Local level

Barcelona Public Health Agency

- Legal challenges in EU exceeding legal limits (Directive 2008/50/EC).
- New WHO guidelines.
- Alignment between different departments, agencies and governments around air quality targets.
- Avoid possible fines from European Commission when exceeding legal limits (NO₂ in the case of Barcelona).
- Deliver impactful and integrated actions on air quality at a regional level to manage transboundary pollution.
- Improvement of public transport outside Barcelona (Note that only 30% of fined vehicles in the LEZ are registered in the city).
- Limited financial support, specially for small municipalities.
- Deal with Stakeholders. COVID-19.
- Communication campaigns, very important in order to raise awareness on air quality.

THE LOW EMISSION ZONE

The LEZ was implemented in December 2020 as a result of vertical integration with the Catalan Government, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, the Metropolitan Transport Authority, Barcelona City Council, other small municipalities, etc.



- ✓ Weekdays, Monday to Friday, 7 am to 20 pm.
- ✓ Wide range of authorized vehicles.
- ✓ Managed by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

Challenges solved :

- ✓ Lack of financial and technical support (small municipalities).
- ✓ Manage transboundary pollution
- ✓ Enlargement of the LEZ at a regional level.



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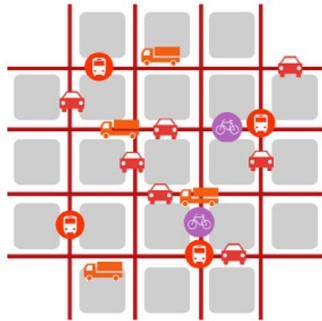


To highlight: the Spanish law 7/2021, of 20 May, on climate change and energy transition.

THE SUPERBLOCKS STRATEGY

SUPERBLOCKS MODEL

Current Model



Superblocks Model



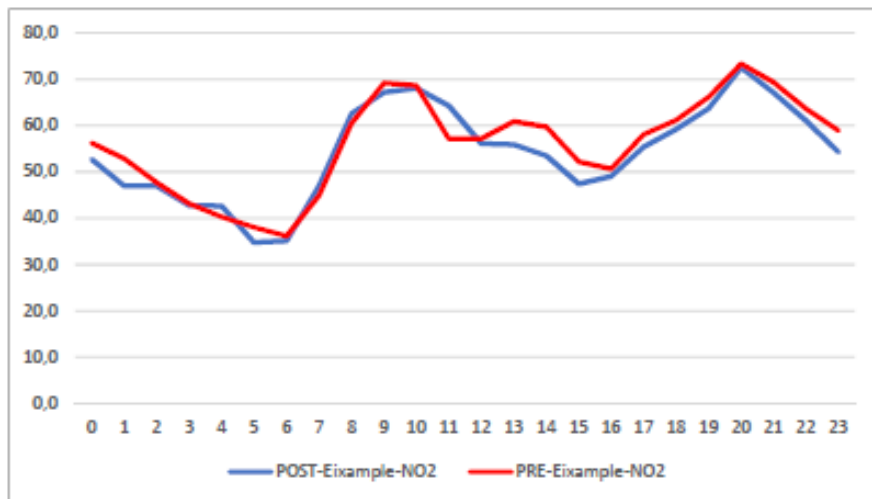
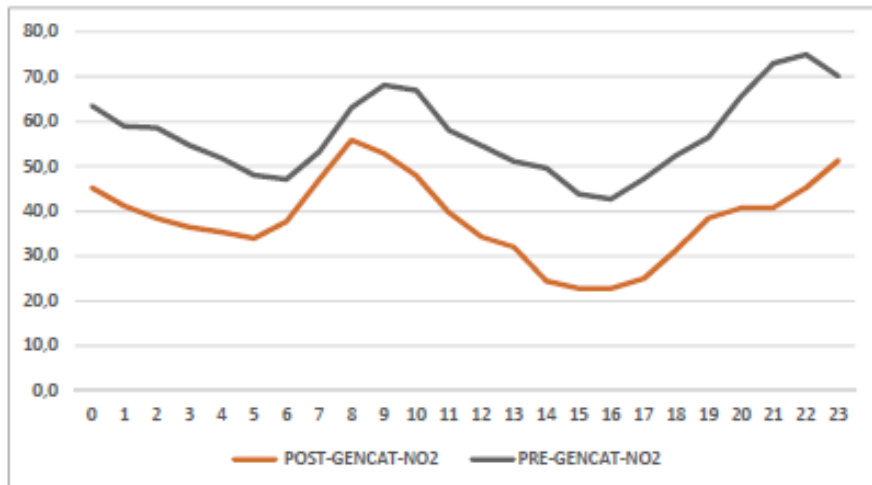
The Superblock programme is taking a step ahead and becoming the street transformation model for the entire city, with the aim of reclaiming for citizens part of the space currently occupied by private vehicles.

The goal is to create a healthy, greener, fairer and safer public space that promotes social relations and the local economy.



THE SUPERBLOCKS STRATEGY

Perfil diari de NO₂ (en µg/m³) per als períodes pre i post-implantació



THE SUPERBLOCKS STRATEGY

The Superblocks strategy in the central district of Barcelona:



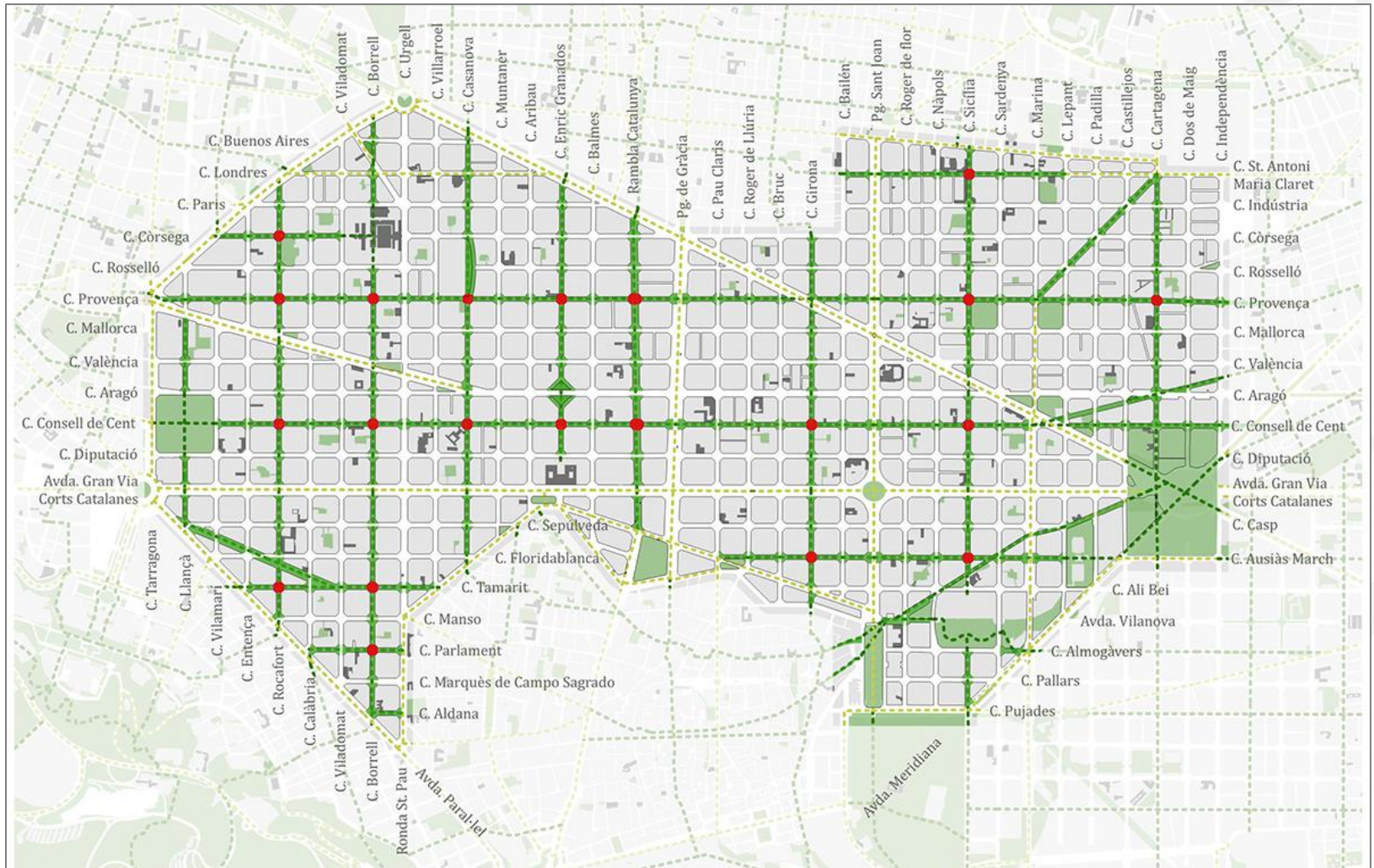
Key factors related to air quality:

- 1) In the Eixample district there are the highest levels of NO₂.
- 2) Exceedances of UE limit values (Directive 2008/50/EC).
- 3) A crowded district, with a lot of traffic and lack of green spaces.

The goal is to create a healthy, greener, fairer and safer public space that promotes social relations and the local economy.

THE SUPERBLOCKS STRATEGY

The Superblocks strategy in the central district of Barcelona:



CHANGES IN URBAN SPACE

On April 25, 2020, the measure for a new sustainable mobility in a new public space was presented.

This government measure presented the actions to be carried out, in the short term, to ensure the safety of mobility for citizens in the phases of progressive easing the COVID-19 lockdown.

At the same time, all these measures are being monitored and studied from the point of view of mobility and air quality, with the intention of becoming structural and helping the much needed reduction of traffic emissions.

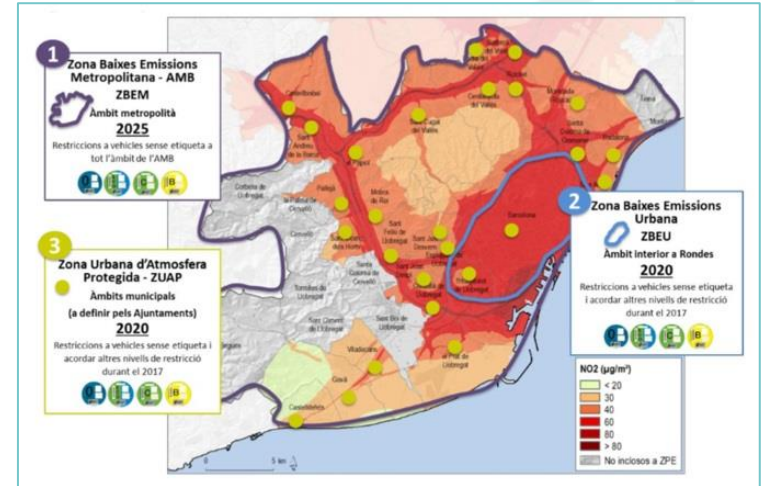


Let's protect the schools project



NEW WHO GUIDELINES

MEASURES AT A REGIONAL LEVEL



OTHER CASE STUDIES

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**Ajuntament
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