

CULTURE, KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY: INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF LIBRARIES

Good practices workshop

1 Entity data

- Library name:

Library Services Management Office in collaboration with the Centre for Cultural Studies and Resources of Barcelona Provincial Council (CERC).

- Full address:

Library Services Management Office
C/ Comte d'Urgell, 187. Recinte Escola Industrial, Edifici Annex al Vagó
08036 Barcelona

- Territorial sector, thematic area and population:

The public library is a municipal service. Barcelona Provincial Council, through the Library Services Management Office, supports municipalities in public reading initiatives and manages Barcelona Provincial Council's Municipal Libraries Network (Xarxa de Biblioteques Municipals, hereinafter XBM), promoting consistent high-quality service standards and ensuring regional balance in access to public reading services.

Currently, the network includes 235 libraries (managed in partnership with local municipalities) and 12 mobile libraries.

- Name of the responsible person and position:

Esperança Paños. Head of the Library Services Department.
Office of Services for the Library Network.

- Contact details of the person responsible:

Email, phone and web:

panosge@diba.cat Tel. 607 98 00 75

<https://www.diba.cat/web/biblioteques/qui-som>

www.diba.cat/biblioteques

2 Type of presentation

• Oral presentation
• Digital presentation X

3 Good practices project

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title of the project <p>Municipal reading plans: support from Barcelona Provincial Council for their implementation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General description (300 words) <p>Through this project, the Library Services Management Office supports the implementation of municipal reading plans and assists municipalities in creating a public reading policy by establishing objectives, methodologies, and strategies that enable them to coordinate actions and share resources.</p> <p>The municipal reading plans aim to promote reading and improve the reading comprehension of the municipality's residents. The municipal reading plan is a strategic tool at the municipal level that aims, in the medium and long term, to increase reading rates among the population. Having a reading plan provides municipalities with a powerful strategic planning tool for the development of their community.</p> <p>The public library is a fundamental pillar of the reading plans. We have a consolidated network that covers 98.7% of the population, providing public reading services throughout the province of Barcelona. Nonetheless, promoting reading habits is the shared responsibility of society as a whole. The success of this objective also depends on collaboration among various stakeholders and the coordination of cultural, social, and educational policies: it is essential to strengthen joint programmes and actions.</p> <p>We challenge municipalities to promote reading through the multitude of cultural and social agents and spaces that make up their community, encouraging them to approach the task from a holistic perspective that includes a wide range of stakeholders.</p> <p>Creating reading plans at the local level allows for a more focused approach to identifying needs, making it easier to detect shortcomings and more efficient to organise efforts to address them. Being close to the community offers an understanding of the local situation of residents that requires intervention and allows us to identify what should be prioritised. It facilitates direct contact with stakeholders and helps reinforce strategies, collaborations and alliances.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recipients

Municipalities with more than 5,000 inhabitants that have at least one library affiliated with the XBM.

- Location and coverage (neighbourhood, district, city, town, country)

The resource was first made available in 2023; reading plans are currently being drawn up in the municipalities of Bigues i Riells (9,944 inhab.), El Prat de Llobregat (65,409 hab.), Tiana (9,220 hab.) and Vic (48,235 inhab.). Between four and six reading plans will be implemented annually in various rent municipalities of the XBM.

- Activities and tasks

The project is carried out in different phases.

- **Preliminary phase:**

Support documents have been drawn up and are offered by Barcelona Provincial Council to municipalities looking to implement their plan:

- The ***Orientaciones para la elaboración de Planes de lectura municipales (Guidelines for implementing municipal reading plans)***, is a theoretical document that discusses the significance of the reading experience today and is based on reflection about the act of reading. It outlines the rationale for why a municipal or local plan can be highly beneficial and valuable for citizens, as well as the impact it can have. General guidelines are provided to support the individuals and organisations that will implement the plan.

- Based on this theoretical foundation, a guide has been developed in the form of a practical tool: ***Guía per elaborar un pla de lectura municipal: 10 passos a seguir*** (Guide to designing a municipal reading plan: 10 steps to follow).

It is a practical guide, summarising the main reflections and recommendations derived from the *Orientacions* document; it proposes a methodology intended to serve as the basis for developing a reading plan. It describes the elements that make up a reading plan and offers resources for designing one: the analysis of the initial situation, the responsible agents and their organisation, the target audience, and the formulation of objectives; the programming, financial resources, assessment, and dissemination.

- **First steps: pilot test and publication of the resource in Barcelona Provincial Council's Catalogue of Services.**

Following the completion of both documents, a pilot test was suggested to verify the knowledge gained and to confirm that the proposed procedures were valid and beneficial for the various types of municipalities in our region. Thus, in 2023, the methodology was tested with a medium-sized municipality (Piera, 17,196 inhabitants), serving both as a pilot and as a validation of the proposed steps and methodology.

Since 2023, the resource has been available through Barcelona Provincial Council's Catalogue of Services (with a forecast of 4 to 6 reading plans per year), allowing municipalities interested in establishing their own plans to request support in the development process. This is a permanent service that aims to serve as the foundation for the progressive implementation of reading plans in the region.

- **Support for each municipality:** the action to be carried out with each municipality are organised into different stages or steps:
 - Diagnosis and starting point. Diagnosis to identify the drivers and learn about the cultural reality. Time for building alliances.
 - Sectoral tables and participatory workshops. Each chosen line of work is addressed in specific sectoral tables. This is complemented by participatory workshops to identify objectives and actions, engaging as many organisations and individuals as possible who are aligned with the plan.
 - Design and drafting of the plan. The strategies, lines, objectives, and specific actions to be developed according to the schedule set by each municipality are defined.

The Library Services Management Office provides support throughout the process with scheduled meetings, models and templates, facilitation of the sessions, and ongoing monitoring.

- Resources (human, material, infrastructure, economic)

Human resources:

For drafting the documents:

- Contacting and hiring reading experts and conducting interviews. Hiring for the coordination and drafting of the documents.
- Staff from the Management Office to monitor drafting of the documents.
- Design and layout of the documents.

For designing the reading plans:

- Hiring a company specialising in cultural management and participatory processes.
- Staff from each municipality for the various steps and tasks involved in drafting the plan and creating working groups for each territory.
- Staff from the Management Office to monitor the entire process.

Dissemination and promotion:

- Communication campaign and dissemination of support documents for municipalities and staff: through the websites of the libraries as well as presentations in staff seminars.

- Promotional materials of each municipality: posters, leaflets or various graphic materials to promote the plan among citizens.

Publishing platforms

- Library Services Management Office website: For publishing the support documents and resulting plans.
- Municipal websites of the participating municipalities: to promote the project within each municipality.

Infrastructure

- Meeting rooms, logistics for the presentations, materials, etc. provided by each municipality.

Budget

- Fees for the expert collaborators involved in the content of the support documents.
- Fees for the design and development of each municipal reading plan (€84,000 per year).

- Scope (check 1 of the following 3)
Sustainability
Reading X
Democracy

- Insert QR code (with the website and links to videos or photos)

General information on the project:

<https://diba.cat/web/biblioteques/plans-de-lectura-municipals>

Document 1. *Guidance for the elaboration of municipal reading plans:*

https://www.diba.cat/documents/d/biblioteques/orientacions-elaboracio-plans-lectura_vf

Document 2. *Guia per elaborar un pla de lectura municipal: 10 passos a seguir:*

<https://www.diba.cat/documents/d/biblioteques/guia-per-elaborar-un-pla-de-lectura-municipal-diba-2024>