

CHALLENGE	La Botiga How could we transform food distribution policies in order to guarantee the needs of the most vulnerable groups?
CHALLENGE FACILITATOR (LOCAL AGENT AND TEACHING TEAM)	Local agent: City Council of El Prat de Llobregat, Welfare and Development Association, and Espigoladors of El Prat de Llobregat Teaching team: Xavier Gabarrell, researcher at the Institute of Food Science and Technology (ICTA), José Luis Molina, professor at UAB, Jordi Verdú Tirado, professor at UAB
TOPIC	Food and sustainability
OFFER (local/ECIU)	ECIU
CREDITS	3
STUDENTS (number and affiliated universities)	3 (Hamburg University of Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, University of Trento)
STUDENTS' FIELDS OF STUDY	Health Sciences, Human Sciences, Experimental Sciences and Technologies, Social Sciences
STUDY PERIOD	September 2021 – December 2021
STUDY FORMAT	Blended (blended learning): includes real-time online sessions and in-person activities at UAB Barcelona
METHODOLOGY and FORMAT	<p>The students worked in interdisciplinary teams, dedicating an average of 6.5 hours per week over a three-month period. Their work culminated in a 30-minute final presentation delivered collectively by each team at the closing event.</p> <p>The project was developed using the Design Thinking methodology, which placed strong emphasis on the prior analysis and study of the problem from a humanistic perspective. Throughout the process, students integrated insights from fieldwork and incorporated feedback from both the affected community and the technical staff of the City Council of El Prat de Llobregat.</p>

<p>PROPOSED SOLUTIONS</p>	<p>The teams developed organizational proposals from social, environmental, economic, and legal perspectives, engaging the entire local ecosystem connected to food, the economy, cooperativism, and social care. Their ideas addressed key challenges such as self-sufficiency, sustainability, the circular economy, cooperation, participation, and education.</p> <p>The proposed La Botiga model guarantees universal access to food, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, through an agroecological production system that prioritizes local food production and market networks. It also ensures fair prices for both producers and consumers, reduces packaging waste, and minimizes environmental impact by promoting km0 distribution, advancing zero-waste practices, and strengthening the local economy.</p> <p>Beyond food access, the initiative encourages healthier lifestyles and diets, fosters equality, inclusion, and social participation, and promotes environmental education.</p>
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