



CASE STUDY

Transformem els patis



"We want to transform the city's schoolyards to make them greener, co-educational, and open to the whole community"

Marta Carranza,
Secretary of the Barcelona Education Council



PROFILE SNAPSHOT

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Country	Spain
Main sector	Public
Uforest thematic discipline	Urban landscape planning
Stage of development	Pilot



By reducing health risks related to the lack of urban green infrastructures.



By fostering playground co-education with no gender disparities and guaranteed accessibility for people with disabilities.



By creating safe, inclusive and accessible climate shelters for local residents.



By increasing urban habitats for biodiversity.





START-UP

Transformem els patis (Let's transform the schoolyards) started in 2020 as an experimental project of the Barcelona City Council Pla de Joc (Play Plan) to transform schoolyards into nature-friendly, diverse and inclusive community spaces. This initiative is filling Barcelona's public schoolyards with nature and new educational dynamics.



TRANSFORMEM ELS PATIS' GOALS:

- To implement the physical and educational makeovers of Barcelona's public schoolyards taking into account:
 - Accessibility to spaces and playing facilities.
 - Playing diversity.
 - Socialisation and interaction dynamics.
 - Greenification.
 - Thermal comfort.
 - Use of facilities during and outside school hours.
- Contribute to defining a new school-centered urban model with gender perspective, social meeting points and climate shelters.



INITIATIVE MODEL

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

What does Transformem els patis do?

- International benchmarking and expert research to define criteria for an adequate schoolyard.
- Co-creation of new schoolyard-transformation projects.
- Physical improvements to beneficiary schoolyards (renovation, greenification, etc.).
- Programme evaluation.

BENEFICIARIES:

Who benefits from Transformem els patis's activities?

1. **Pre-primary, primary and secondary school students**, including children with special needs, who are able to enjoy stimulating and healthy environments to learn and play.
2. **Local residents**, who have socially enjoyable climate shelters in their own neighbourhoods.
3. **Teachers**, who find green schoolyards better places to work. They also receive an accredited 25-hour training.
4. **Schools**, which get full funding, support and resources for transforming their playgrounds according to the project's criteria.

PROMOTION:

What is Transformem els patis's promotion strategy?

The project's communication strategy is based on two main channels:

- **The Unified Educational Programme Call**, a digital platform where schools can apply to the programme each year.
- **Dissemination sessions** for the educational community.

GOVERNANCE:

How does Transformem els patis implement its activities?

- **The Open City Board** is made up of experts and entities that contribute to improving the project. They meet once every six months.
- **The fostering team** promotes the project. It is composed of different City Council departments and administrative boards, and other municipal bodies and programmes linked to this initiative. The team meets once every three months.



- The school's coordination team, made up of the school's educational community, executes the co-creative process.

FINANCES:

What are Transformem els patis' main resources?

The main resource is represented by **public funding** from the Barcelona City Council. This funding foresees an annual €2-2.5 million budget, limited to €200,000 per school.

POLICY AND STANDARDS LEADING THE INITIATIVE:

Barcelona City Council plans:

- [Pla de Joc \(Play Plan\)](#)
- [Pla del verd i de la biodiversitat 2020 \(Green spaces and biodiversity plan 2020\)](#)
- [Pla Clima \(Climate Plan\)](#)



UNIQUENESS

What makes Transformem els patis a one-of-a-kind project?

- It promotes the co-creation of schoolyard transformation that not only **engages the whole educational community** - teachers, parents, students, supervisors - but also **diversifies the uses of each space** so that game, sports, learning, and leisure activities are balanced.
- It tackles each transformation as a **holistic process** that takes into account different spheres, such as community, co-education, nature and climate, gender, etc.



EXPECTATION

By **2025**, Transformem els patis aims at improving the process of greenifying playgrounds to offer better spaces for promoting health and wellbeing and strengthening community bonds.

By **2030**, this initiative seeks to transform every schoolyard located in Barcelona's pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, including special-needs centres.

What does Transformem els patis need to be successful?

- Involvement, commitment and a long-term vision from the entire educational community.
- Balanced and diversified spaces.
- Manage and maintain the new transformed schoolyards.

What are today's main challenges?

- Limited available space, which is below the minimum required for each student, and mostly occupied by sport tracks.
- Limited budget.

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