



**Diputació
Barcelona**

Local Governments and international relations: the case of the Province of Barcelona

Seminar: Promoting innovative and effective methods and models of conducting international cooperation activities

Torun, 13 December 2014



**Diputació
Barcelona**

Preliminary statement

- In today's global context it is difficult, if not impossible, to set out local policies and to manage a city without taking into account what is going on in the world
- The majority of local governments now operate internationally

But

- Are they making the most of their international efforts?
- Are they maximizing opportunities associated with the internationalisation of business, universities, sport and culture in their territory?



Index

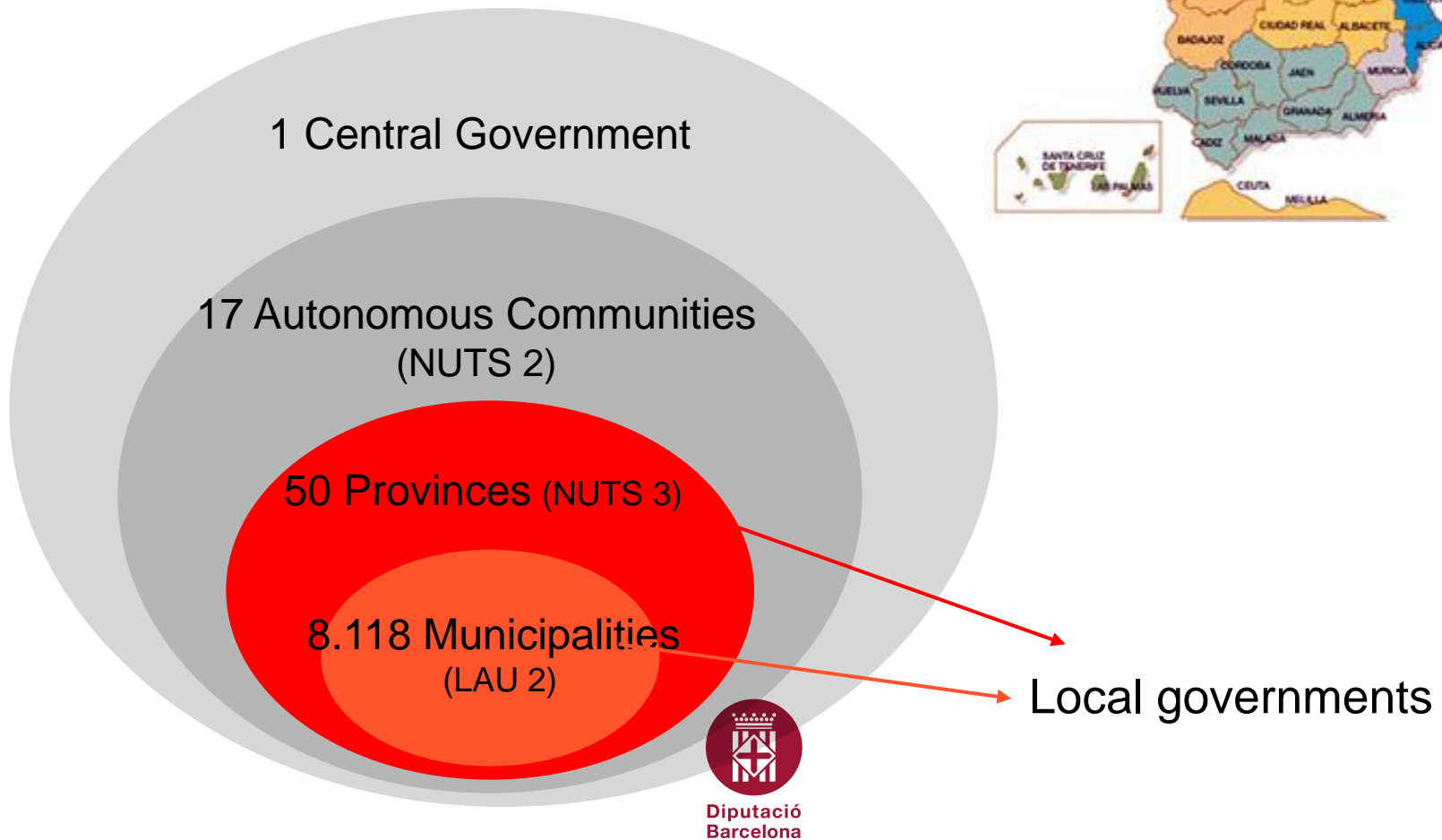
- The Government and the Province of Barcelona
- The Department of International Relations
- The support to the strategic planning of city's international relations



Public Administration Profile in Spain

Spanish Constitution 1978

Administrative levels



The Government and the Province of Barcelona

- 5.5M inhabitants
- 311 municipalities, including the city of Barcelona
- Barcelona Provincial Council: local body composed of an association of municipalities with full power and autonomy.
- Responsibilities:
 - to ensure the principle of solidarity and inter-municipal balance
 - Legal, economic and technical cooperation and support to cities
 - Delivery of supra-local services



Inhabitants	No. municipalities
> 100,000	7
50,000- 99,000	12
20,000- 49,000	25
5,000 - 19,000	85
< 5,000	182

Department of International Relations

- **Mission:** to strengthen the international action of the local governments and the Government of the Province of Barcelona.

- **Fields of work:**

- European Action (+ Office in Brussels)
- Development Cooperation
- Internationalisation

Smart city	Climate change mitigation
Energy efficiency	Attention in the elderly
Heritage tourism	Art factories

- **How we do it:**

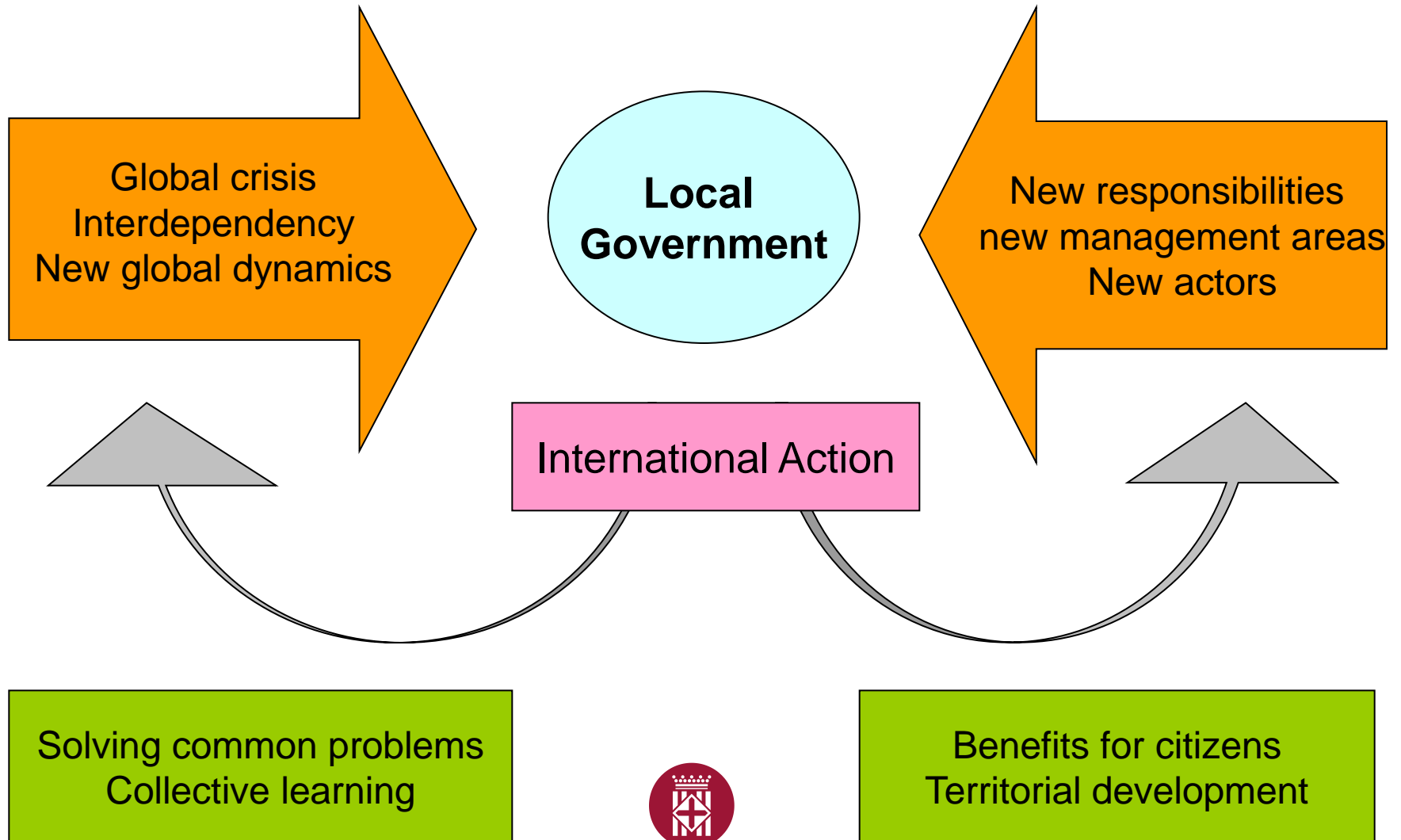
- Technical and financial support (participation in transnational networks; European projects; Decentralised cooperation.)
- Coordination of the international activities of the Barcelona Provincial Council (access to funding; lobby in Brussels; partnerships development.)
- Synergies with the Catalan institutions and the economic and social actors of the Province (information exchange; definition of common strategies; joint actions, funding NGOs)

Internationalisation programme

- Evolution: from project driven to **strategy** driven
- Strategic planning of international relations.
- Mapping of the positive and unique aspects of the province of Barcelona, along with the shortcomings and weaknesses.
- Territorial marketing tools.
- Hosting foreign delegations.

The image shows a screenshot of the website for the Barcelona International Region. The header includes the logo of the Diputació de Barcelona and the text "Barcelona International Region". Below the header, there are navigation links for "Presentación", "Actualidad", "Boletín B+", and "Contacto". A search bar is also present. The main content area features three featured articles: "Igualada 4D Health", "Fira Mediterrània de Maresa", and "Món Sant Benet + Fundació Aícia". Below these are categories like "Igualada Innovación Salud URBACT", "Ciudadanía Maresa Mediterráneo Turisno", and "Cultura Gastronomía Sant Pere de Bagas Turisno". A "Abrir mapa" link is visible. Below the main content, there is a "Presentación" section with a brief description of the virtual space and a "¡Suscríbese al Boletín B+!" section with a subscription form. At the bottom, there is a large photo of a marathon start with a red inflatable archway and the text "Cultura y deporte". The footer contains the copyright information: "© Diputació de Barcelona 2012 | Contacto | Aviso legal".

A renewed approach to LG international relations



City internationalisation strategy

- An instrument to guide the international action of a local government.
 - According to the specificities and needs of its territory and stakeholders.
 - So as to maximize opportunities associated with internationalisation
 - It can enable a city to identify partners more effectively
 - Ensure an integrated approach between the city's educational, business, government, and cultural partners.
 - Promote the involvement of various stakeholders in the local government's international activities.
 - Encourage civic organisations and the public take a closer interest in international issues and open up to such matters.



International strategy of Vilafranca del Penedès

- 39.000 inhabitants
- 50 km from Barcelona
- Wine production; medieval heritage; human tower
- 10 years of international experience (RECEVIN)

But

- Lack of coordination
- Little known internationally, missed opportunities

International strategy

- Long term vision
- Organizational culture change
- Multi-stakeholder planning
- City Committee on Internationalisation



International strategy of Mataró

- 124.000 inhabitants
- North Gate of Barcelona (30 km)
- Important assets: tourism; private university; research institutions; marina
- Serious funding difficulties
- City-twinning non active

International strategy

- Opportunity to define the future of the city
- Use of city planning documents
- Focus groups with local stakeholders, the city of Barcelona and other administrations
- Solid argument for the establishment of an international team
- Prioritize European efforts



Diputació
Barcelona

Concluding remarks

- International planning is **possible** for municipalities of **all** dimensions and capacities, not only for major cities.
- International planning is **profitable**; it translates into concrete benefits for the development of the territory.
- **It is essential**; no city can turn its back on the current context of globalisation and increased interdependency. On the contrary, by **coordinating** with local agents and citizens and **forging** strategic alliances with other territories, there is an **opportunity** to actually **influence the globalisation process**.



Thank you for your attention!

I will be happy to answer any question that you may have.

I will be also available for further information at:

Barcelona Provincial Council
Department of International Relations

Email: patonso@diba.cat

Web: www.diba.cat/ri · www.barcelonaregion.net

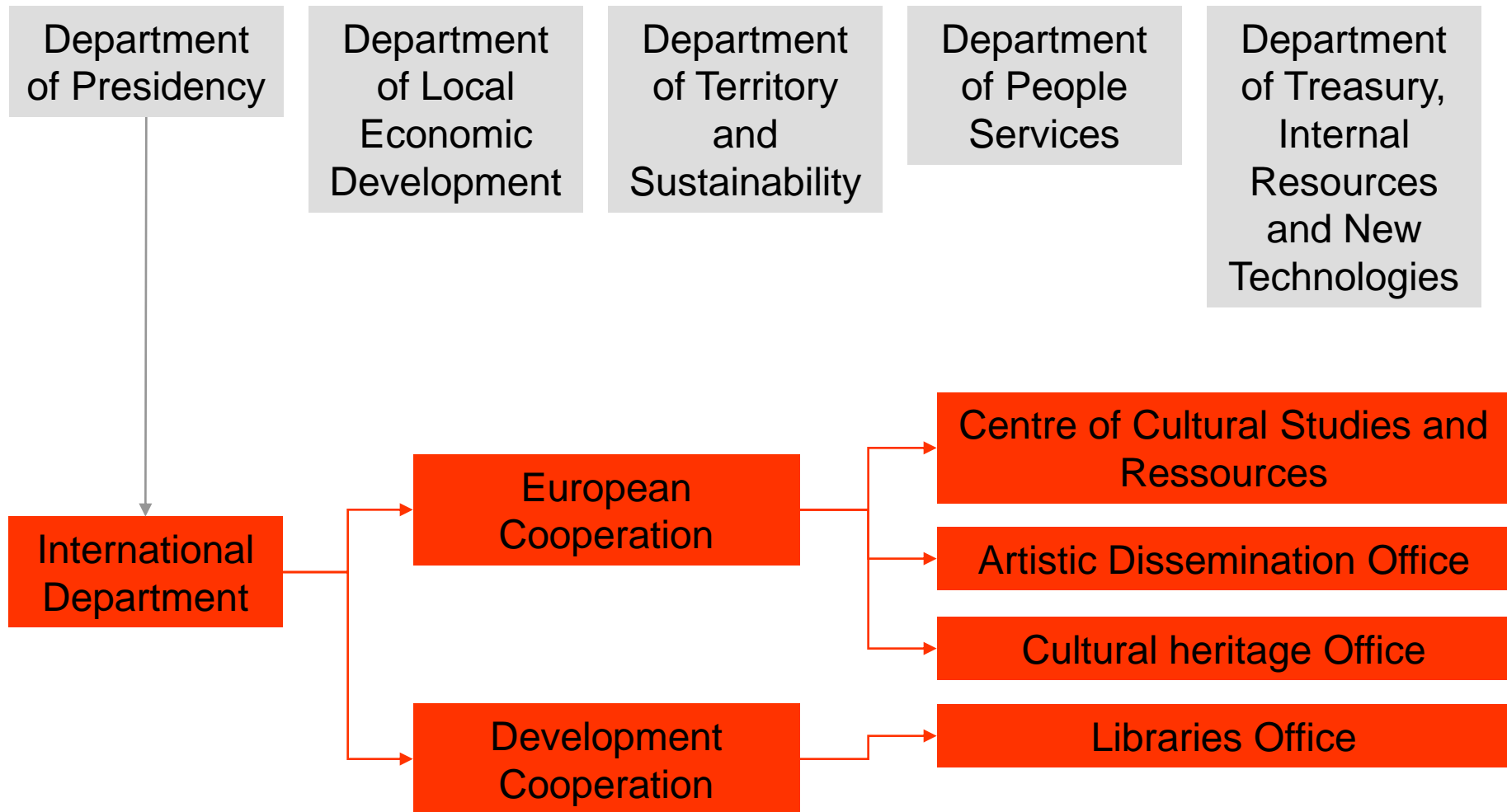


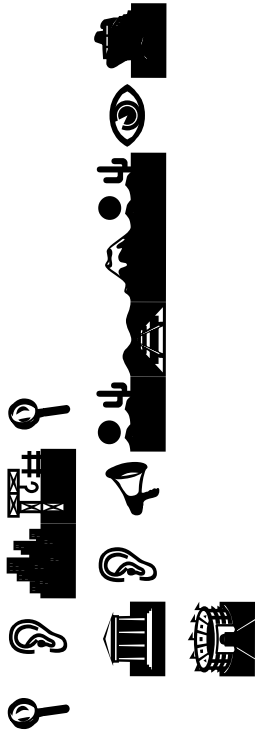
Diputació
Barcelona



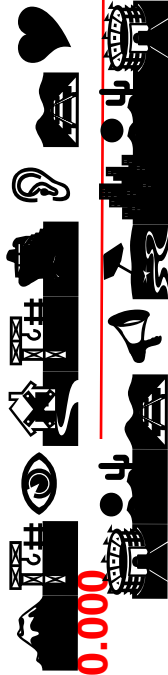
**Diputació
Barcelona**

Organization chart (BPC)





MUNICIPALITIES >50.000 Hab



MUNICIPALITIES >20.000 Hab.

MUNICIPALITIES >5.000Hab.

ALL MUNICIPALITIES

- Street lighting
 - Cemetery
 - Waste collection
 - Street cleaning
 - Home water supply
 - Sewer system
 - Access to urban centres
 - Public road surfacing
-
- Public parks
 - Public library
 - Waste management
-
- Civil protection
 - Evaluation of social needs
 - Social protection to people at risk
 - Fire fighting
 - Sport facilities of public use
 - Slaughterhouse
-
- Urban passenger transport
 - Urban environmental protection

The province of Barcelona



	Area (Km2)	Population (inhab.)	Density (inhab/km2)	Municip. (number)
Spain	505.992	46.157.822	91,2	8.116
Catalonia	32.113	7.346.078	228,7	947
Barcelona Province	7.719	5.416.44	7701,7	311

109 municipalities with less than 1,000 inhab.

168 municipalities between 1,000 and 10,000 inhab.

34 municipalities with more than 20,000 inhab.

The city of Barcelona is the capital of the province of Barcelona with 1,6M inhab. / 3,2M inhab. its metropolitan area.



Diputació
Barcelona

The Barcelona Provincial Council (BPC)

- Managed and represented by **51 provincial deputies** elected from among the mayors and councilors of the 311 municipalities of the province.
- Staff: **4.900 employees**
- Different consortiums and autonomous organisms
- Consolidated budget 2014: **740,9 M€**
- >80% of the budget from State transfers
- **Budget assigned to municipalities: >80%** of total territory investments

