

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
TIME, CITIZENSHIP AND CITY

24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2006

CONCLUSIONES  
GENERALES



**GENERAL  
CONCLUSIONS**



# INDEX

## 1. Reading of Conclusions

- Ms. Imma Moraleda. City Councillor, New Usage of Time  
Barcelona City Hall
- Ms. María Ángeles Durán. President, Scientific Committee

## 2. Roundtable Conclusions

- Area 1. Time Policies. The State of the Issue and Trends
- Area 2. Time in the Organisation of the City and Public Space
- Area 3. The Adaptation of Services to People's Time
- Area 4. The Value of Time and Social Changes

## 3. Proposals for the Future



## 1. Reading of Conclusions

**Ms. Imma Moraleda i Pérez**, *City Councillor New Usage of Social Time, from the Barcelona City Hall, and Delegate President of the Office of Equality and Citizenship of the Diputació de Barcelona.*

### Introduction

First of all, I would like to thank everyone on the scientific committee for the efforts they have made over the course of these three days to make it possible to deal with the density of all of the ideas and experiences that have been set out, debated, and compared, and special thanks go to its president, Ms. María Angeles Durán.

I think that after the intense time shared by all of the people participating in this conference we can say that together we have established some of the most essential issues for talking about the New Social Usage of Time.

### Basic Conclusions on the Social Uses of Time

The first conclusion is, perhaps, the most obvious. Time has become a scarce resource. Secondly, time is one of the foundations of people's physical and psychological balance. It is a pillar of health.

We have also seen that not being able to manage our time, not feeling it to be our own, is a factor in the social and economic discrimination that especially affects women, due to their substantial difference from men, who dispose of an unlimited credit or time for social activity, in a society where the rules of the game are still sexist. Changing them involves changing social and personal attitudes regarding the value of the usage of time, and, more importantly, considering the usage of time as a social question. It is a question of social responsibility.

### Considering Time as a Right of Citizenship: A New Cultural Revolution.

From a progressive point of view, another of the issues that has become very clear is the need for public administrations to set up and develop Public Policies regarding the Social Usage of Time. These policies must consider time and its usage and



management as a right of citizenship. Considering time as a right of citizenship opens the door to a new cultural, social, and economic revolution. It means reconsidering the design of our cities and the structure of our society, putting the focus on people and their need to use time, depending on their stage of life, social role, and gender.

### **Challenges and Focuses of Action**

Developing Public Policies of the Social Usage of Time involves certain main focuses of action, and challenges that must be faced with the participation of all social agents, using a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary approach:

- Rethinking our cities and towns so that the focus of urban planning and the planning of public and private services and facilities is on people's time.
- Working to make changes in social and personal attitudes, which are sexist and discriminatory insofar as they place emphasis only on the economic value of time.
- Promoting parity and equal opportunities, no longer considering time management as a "women's problem."
- Analysing and showing new realities and social needs regarding the balancing of working, family, and personal time.
- Considering the balanced usage of time as a basic element of daily well-being, social cohesion, and balanced economic development.
- Favouring and promoting good practices, supporting pilot programs in towns, cities, and neighbourhoods in order to be able to incorporate them into municipal actions and planning as a whole.
- Making the relationship between personal, working, and family life harmonious, placing people's time at the heart of a new model of social structure.
- Contemplating the possibility of implementing measures of positive discrimination that favour men's using their time to do the unpaid tasks and work that facilitate personal relationships and people's physical and psychological well-being.
- Favouring the use of TIC, and their democratic, and therefore generalised implementation, as a tool facilitating the usage of personal, working, and family time in a more egalitarian way, at the same time making a slower, more sustainable rhythm of life possible in our towns and cities.



I think that what is set out is a synthesis of the wealth of ideas that have been brought together in Barcelona.

I hope that you take with you a fond memory of our city and a lot of ideas for making cities, towns, and countries with policies of people's time as a main foundation a possibility. I also hope that this conference helps to extend the Network that was set up from the Diputació de Barcelona a year ago, to bring together cities that work from a progressive, gender perspective, not only to conciliate timetables, but rather also to place people and their right to manage their time at the centre of a new social change. The goal, that is to say, is to develop Public Policies of the Social Usage of Time that will help us build a more egalitarian society, with more equal opportunities, with greater social well-being and with more benefits for everyone.

I would hate to end my talk without rendering special homage to two women, two scientists of the scope of Ms. María Angeles Durán and Ms. Teresa Torns, who had already begun to research, discuss, and identify the different factors involved in the problems arising from the management of time from the perspective of gender, long before people began to speak of the Social Usage of Time. Many of us here today have benefited from their wisdom.

Finally, I would like to point out that Barcelona, as the city that has organised this First International Conference on Public Policies for the Social Usage of Time, responds to the desire of the people who are here today, representing different cities, to create a European Network of cities that put these policies into practice. Policies that, considering time as a right of citizenship, may only continue to advance under two necessary conditions, political leadership and the development of proximity policies. You may rest assured that Barcelona will make every effort to help make the work that has been suggested over the course of these days of the conference into a reality in all of the towns, cities, and neighbourhoods of Europe with progressive governments, which will work to make the usage of time a right of citizenship and a basic value in our society.



**Ms. María Ángeles Durán**, *President of the Scientific Committee of the Conference and research sociologist with the Higher Council of Scientific Research.*

Well, it is my job to carry out the nearly impossible task of synthesising the synthesis, giving a last view of what has been said these days. 240 participants, whom we would like to thank for what has really been a constant dialogue, not so much because of a lack of time just after the talks, but because due to the short time during breaks and the visual dialogue, the mere presence, which is also a form of dialogue. There have been 40 presenters who have come from the far corners of Europe, whom we would like to thank because their presence here has greatly enriched us.

I think that if I had to define the conference in some way, I would say that it is the first step of a long path that begins here, but which has a long way to go. We are beginning, we are clear that we are very young as a group, and although it is a relatively dispersed and heterogeneous group right now, it is a group that at times takes the shape of a social movement. I don't think that those of us who are here today have come mainly to get a new title to add to our curriculum vitae or to promote our work because we are showing a new ability. I think that most of us who are here today, on both sides of the table, are here because we feel like participants in a social movement that has a hope, and this hope is to make our daily lives better, more fair, more free, with greater potential.

It all began with the opening speech, which was such an honour for me to give, which was above all an effort to understand what time is and how we experience time. This is what I tried to do, and I saw that many of us think that the beginning is to understand what we are and what we want to be, and to understand that we are made of time as well as space, and if we don't understand our past, our present, and what we want our future to be, then we are not worth very much.

After this came a very big effort, with many presentations and talks aimed at measuring time. It is an effort of research, an effort that, as Ms. Sabadini's closing speech said, requires that we prioritise how we use our resources. If we don't spend our money to find out what we are like, it will be very difficult for us to be different, which is the way that we would like to be. We have made a big effort to measure ourselves, but notice how we have measured ourselves not only in the traditional way, which says that I have spent three hours or five minutes doing this or that. We have even had talks that



have spoken of the city and expectations over time to improve our sensory impressions of the city—I am not going to quote the name, because if I quote one person, I would have to quote all forty and those that have spoken, so I'm not going to quote, but there have been talks that even mention the smell of the city, the colours of the city, the lighting, the risk in transportation, the feeling of speed, all of these things, so measuring is something that begins one day and we never know where it will end. There are so many things that must be understood and measured.

Then we have had another type of collaboration dedicated to proposals, presentations that are more specific, more practical, but the presentations on proposals have also been quite varied.

We have heard references to legislative proposals, where there are countries that have been making important legislative proposals over the last fifteen years, to improve our usage of time and the way we live our lives, taking into consideration how men and women, for example, but also other social groups, currently have different possibilities for living their time, time for themselves, time for others, expropriated time, their own time.

We have spoken of proposals, and evidently there have been very different institutions; we have spoken of proposals at the state and national level, but also of proposals at the level of autonomous communities or regions, from France we have heard proposals for large regions or metropolitan areas, from Italy for example. There have also been more modest proposals from a territorial point of view, very interesting ones, at a local level, a neighbourhood level, the level of specific institutions: a ministry, an agency, a website, all of these initiatives that propose small solutions that fit into the puzzle of a new way of offering citizens ways to experience time.

We must not forget to mention a very interesting table dedicated to the media, because if making proposals is important, it's also very important to know how to sell proposals to the public, and those of us who are not trained to relate to the media know that it is absolutely necessary to be able to count on the media. Here there was a table to debate possible ways of getting across the need for change to the public.

Finally, what really brings us together here is a desire for change, and it has been said that there should be a time usage survey at least every five years, that this could be the



first conference and perhaps Barcelona could carry the banner of proposals from cities organised to study together and come up with joint measures for improving the usage of time.

I believe that each of us, within our profession and within our area, are linked by a desire for social change, a social change because we are starting from a set of values that is deeper than average, but which is never measured unless there is first an agreement that there is something worth measuring. So I think that this conference is a first stage, but a first stage that is clearly a bid to make social changes in our respective surroundings.

*Nota: texto transcrito de la intervención durante la presentación de conclusiones del congreso*



## 2. Roundtable Conclusions

### Area 1. *Time Policies. State of the Issue and Trends*

**Mr. Jean Yves Boulin**, member of the Scientific Committee and sociologist from the University of Paris– Dauphine.

***“Conciliating individual-group time, work time–leisure, time for others, while looking out for equality of opportunities.”***

What is understood by time policies and what experience is there accumulated now in Europe? The table has gone into the strategic dimension of time policies and their horizon, this being a moment of great interest, common to many societies and cities in Europe, with comparative analyses and future trends.

Currently, we are thinking about how we want to experience our time and our space, both from the perspective of the individual and as a group.

#### ***The theoretical-methodological framework:***

- Basing the development of time policies on the method of research and action, involving universities and social agents to research, culminating in practice in order to research again.
- Insisting on the varied nature of time policies as an axis for articulating everyday life: the space-time dimension and conciliation (working time, personal time, social time, family time, public and private services).
- Women are the ones who most notice differences in the distribution of time. The feeling of group injustice leads to the mobilisation of feminism to call for the right to personal time and to the promotion of time policies.



### **Experiences work in 4 directions:**

- Knowledge / observation / analysis.
- Consciousness-raising, sharing responsibility (private and public area)
- Participation (in the labour area –public and private sector—the providing of services, equal opportunities, etc.)
- Participation/involvement of all social agents in the design of public time policies. The experiences of other European countries show that for the success of time policies, there must be local political support for participative democracy.

### **Main Ideas:**

- Balance individual and group times, work/ leisure time, one's own time and time for others, watching out for the equality of opportunities.
- Integrating time policies into social, economic, and political planning.
- Integrating time policies and planning into city spaces.

## **Area 2. Time in the Organisation of the City and Public Space**

*Mr. Luc Gwiazdzinski, member of the Scientific Committee and a geographer with the University of Technology of Belfort-Montbéliard.*

***“Sustainable development should be conceived of taking the issue of time into account”***

So far, experiments in the application of time policies have lagged behind urban planning. How can we get time to be placed ahead of urban planning?

### **Recommendations:**

- Let political and technical partnership emerge through specific applied projects.
- Sustainable development must be conceived of including the issue of time.



- It is necessary to formalise the engineering of time questions in order to teach this know-how.
- Mobility is not only transport, but also involves accessibility, time.
- The concept of proximity has been significantly changed by the TIC. These new approaches must be incorporated into political reflections.
- Don't forget the pleasurable aspects of the city (the pleasure of being together) without mixing desires and needs.
- Show an interest in bringing together the city and public space in urban production: in management and planning, in architecture, transport, lighting, etc.
- Formalise a network of European cities that works on time and for time (parallel to the work of universities) and that gives more weight to European debate over national debate.

***Main ideas:***

- Rethink the notion of "proximity"
  - As a good belonging to the city, not only geographically and statically, but also transformed by technology and mobile services, in constant expansion.
  - As a particular dimension of space that can serve as positive repair for the "new nomads," but as a hiding place for the "excluded."
- A political question: We must know how to give time to time in terms of integrating it into public policies.
- A desire for the future: a future conference and Barcelona as a leader in a European network on the usage of time.



### **Area 3. The Adaptation of Services to People's Time**

*Ms. Teresa Torns, member of the Scientific Committee and sociologist with the Autonomous University of Barcelona.*

***“...the perspective of gender as a foundation for time policy work, to achieve well-being for people”***

***“...the need to make social services one of the pillars of the new time policies”***

Time policies must be aimed at achieving the well-being of all people in their daily lives. There is a clear concern with social services, particularly those of proximity and caring for people, in which women are the ones who have the greatest need, and also a paradox/problem: the individualisation of time (which is hard to reference) and some regulatory norms that do not allow individuality to emerge.

Main ideas:

- The perspective of gender as a foundation for time policy work, to achieve well-being for people. This implies
  - Being aware of how conventional social policies forget caring services, in which women play the most important role.
  - Understanding time from the complexity of the double presence of women.
- Promoting educational time through fomenting the participation of educational agents.
- Putting social and personal services at the centre of time policies. Offering services that attend to people.

Experiences are presented that illustrate the ideas working in different areas:

- Mother Centre, child-raising time, with proximity services adapted to mothers' and children's special rhythm needs, offered by people who are not experts.
- Neighbourhood time, shared educational time, in Barcelona
- The adaptation of public services to citizens, such as the case of taxes in the United Kingdom.



Other projects prior to Time Policies that were carried out by the Barcelona City Hall were also recalled. Work and time, from the perspective of gender, also formed the basis of the 1990 “Women Change Time” project.

An example of good practice: Neighbourhood time, shared educational time. Based on a totally participative methodology (created from the ground up, from the knowledge and participation of the area’s educational agents), analysing the demands and needs of the territory (Research-Action).



#### **Area 4. The Value of Time and Social Changes**

*Ms. Josune Aguinaga, member of the Scientific Committee and sociologist with the Autonomous University of Madrid.*

***“Changing the differences between men and women means changing discourses and values.”***

In our country, the information shows that the decrease in domestic time is owed not to taking joint responsibility, but to outside solutions (washing machines, dishwashers, driers, etc.)

The power of the discourse of patriarchy, assimilated uncritically by society, explains why women have taken on an unequal and discriminatory role without questioning it. This fact implies women's own resistance to change.

The segmentation of the category of “the elderly” has been a great advance. Analysing the usage of time of young people allows us to observe social changes and make a prognosis of the future.

The main differences have been seen in the usage of night time (concentrated at the weekend) and the presence of young women in schooling and training centres.

#### **Changes and Differences:**

Changes in the usage of time are very slow because they depend on structural changes. If there aren't any, changes remain unseen, or only very small changes are observed.

The difference between Nordic and Mediterranean countries with respect to women's workloads is due to a lack of co-responsibility for domestic tasks.

The values to be found at the bottom of electronic administration are time saving, access to service, putting the citizen at the centre, communication, transparency of information, and the reduction of costs.



The paradox stands out: time is considered a value, but practice indicates that time is not used efficiently (Spain is the country that spends the most time at work, and yet it is one of the least productive countries). In the working world, a change from the culture of presence to the culture of efficiency is proposed.



### 3. Future Proposals

*Within the framework of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Time, Citizenship, and the City, organised by the Office of New Usage of Time of the Barcelona City Hall and the Area of Equality and Citizenship of the Diputació de Barcelona, held on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 2006, in which 240 people from 7 European Union countries participated – Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Finland, Holland, and Germany, as well as people from the 9 Autonomous Communities of Spain. A wide representation from the areas of research, academics, politics, social agents, and experts and professionals from local, autonomous, and national public administrations have presented a series of conclusions and proposals that are summarised in this document.*

1. It is proposed to continue working in the line of collaboration, exchange, and research begun at this conference, and to promote new encounters in the European framework to allow us to move ahead in the definition and implementation of time policies.
2. That Barcelona promote and lead, as a continuation of this first conference, the creation and setting up of a network or European platform with the most wide-ranging and heterogeneous participation possible, to create and support spaces for research and exchange regarding the usage of time.
3. To develop common strategies through cooperation between countries within the framework of the different projects supported by the European Union.
4. To promote the exchange of information and documentation about successful experiments and good practices that can be applied to other areas, cities, or countries with similar characteristics.

Definitively, the group of proposals arising from the Conference of Time, Citizenship, and the City seeks to explore and to promote actions and good practices that generate new elements in the area of the New Social Usage of Time, full of opportunities to make time a right of citizenship that generates greater social cohesion, well-being, and quality of everyday life for the population of today and tomorrow as a whole.

