



# Spain (Catalonia)

## Territorial Employment Pacts (TEPs)

### Framework and setting

**Geographic scale** The TEPs are established within municipalities and districts (Comarques) of the Province of Barcelona in the Autonomous Region of Catalonia. The population of the Province is 5.1 million.

**Policy framework** The nineteen Catalan TEPs (Pactes Territorials) of the Province of Barcelona are implemented within the framework of the policies for economic promotion of the Diputació de Barcelona, an umbrella government organisation serving approximately 300 municipalities of the Province. The wider policy framework includes the Catalan Strategy for Employment, the National Employment Action Plan for the Kingdom of Spain and the European Employment Strategy.

### Partnerships at work

**Rationale** The EU employment policy (launched in the mid 1990s and based on economic promotion through concerted actions at local level) was the motivation and starting point for the creation of partnerships in Catalonia.

**Objectives** The general objectives of partnerships are to promote integrated territorial development of employment initiatives of the separate municipalities, to facilitate social cohesion and business competitiveness and to encourage collaboration and co-ordinated planning.

**Functions** The TEPs' functions are developing strategies for planning and co-ordination in the respective territory, mobilising and coordinating resources available behind an agreed strategy, improving employability through training and education, ensuring equal opportunities on the labour market, promoting entrepreneurial spirit, creating and supporting new businesses, SME's and new merging areas and promoting assessment and the use of indicators for follow-up projects.

**Policy areas** Labour market policy, Social policy, and Economic development

**Policy tools/ Instruments** The main policy instruments are labour market studies, territorial diagnosis, training and education activities, and assistance to new businesses, strategic planning, financing of concerted actions for priority groups as well as mainstreaming of best practices.

**Timeframe** There are annual agreements signed between the partners within the mandate of the Diputació (2002 – 2005).

**Partners** The local municipal and district authorities, unions, employers associations, the voluntary sector and the Diputació act as partners of the TEPs.

**Contracts** The partnerships are governed by a contract signed between the partners and the Diputació.

**Legal status** No legal status; the participation is based on statements of good intention on behalf of the stakeholders.

**Sources of Financing** Members of the partnerships are entitled to apply for funding of particular actions from the Diputació de Barcelona and the Generalitat de Catalunya (Autonomous Government). The Diputació funds the Unit for Promotion and Development (UPD) that provides technical assistance to the partnerships.

**Results** There are no statistics available assessing the overall performance of the pacts. Various indicators are used and evaluations are made on the level of each action.

## Partnerships' highlight

- Programme/Project** The Promotion and Development Unit (UPD): Technical assistance for the Territorial Pacts for local development and employment
- Timeframe** On a yearly basis (2002 – 2005)
- Objectives** The objectives are to encourage and support a model of co-operation at the local level, based on strategic planning, and to promote local economic development and employment.
- Activities** Technical assistance is provided to the institutional, economic and social organisations through direct support in four strategic lines of action: territorial action, training, information and methodology. UPD directly supports the territory in terms of technical assistance in order to help the partnerships in their collaboration. As regards the first strategic line of action, the “territorial action”, UPD designs programmes and projects, adapted to the needs of the territory and arising from a strategic diagnosis made of its necessities. In terms of “training” UPD designs and implements actions aimed at reinforcing the competencies of the staff in the territory, as well as stimulating exchanges of experiences between different pacts, incorporating the principles of benchmarking and bench-learning. UPD provides the Pacts with information needed to carry out their tasks of planning and executing the policies of local development (strategic line “information”) and develops tools and instruments to help the process of planning, follow-up and assessment of the Pacts (strategic line “methodology”).
- Results** The Unit employs 15 technicians amongst the 19 Pacts of the Diputació to support the work in the territory and provides 6 employees more to support the strategic lines of action established by the Unit.

## Contacts

### Partnership co-ordination on national / sub-regional level

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