

The Case Study

Toolbox for empowering just transitions in cities

Vol. 04/04

FEM•GREEN

Vol. 04/04: The Case Study

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THE GENDEREDCITY clearqció.

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01

INTRODUCTION

The València case study marks the first implementation of the project in a specific local context.

The València case study marks the first implementation of the project in a specific local context. The aim of this local testing phase is to apply the conceptual and methodological approach developed by FEM.GREEN to a particular place and community, in order to identify challenges, opportunities and improvements that can help evolve the framework.

To make this possible, a workshop was held in València featuring spaces for dialogue, knowledge-sharing and hands-on engagement among professionals, citizens and local government staff. The goal was to transfer knowledge, gather feedback, and explore how the FEM.GREEN approach could contribute to València's urban transition.

02

València

CASE STUDY CONTEXT

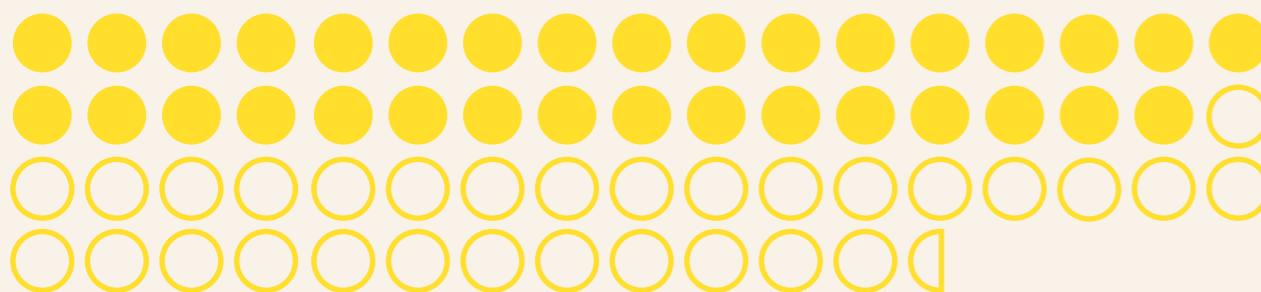


Population

825.948 inhabitants



1.586.670 inhabitants (metropolitan area)



6.134 inhabitants/km²

2nd denser city in Spain after Barcelona

47,5% male **52,5%** female

Urban structure

134,6 km²

The city

19 districts **17** parishes



The metropolitan area

44 municipalities



Sustainable transport

161,4 km of public transport network



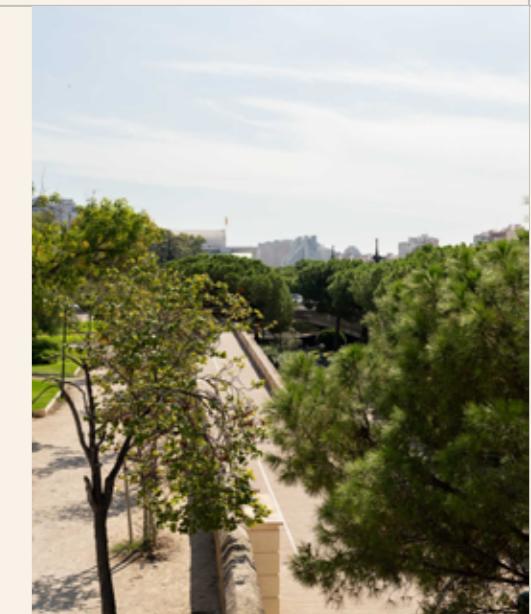
95,7M of travellers/year in public transport

223,35 km of segregated bike lanes.



Green infrastructure

8.761 Ha Green areas



Jardí del Túria
is the biggest park (136 Ha)



Important Green infrastructure assets

Two natural parks
L'albufera and the Túria River

L'horta
is the periurban agricultural green belt of the city.

1

A Mediterranean city with **high urbanisation and climate vulnerabilities**



Valencia is the third largest city in Spain (with nearly 800,000 inhabitants), located on the eastern coast of the peninsula. Its Mediterranean climate and coastal position make it especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as heatwaves, droughts, and increasingly frequent floods.

The city has a dense urban structure, with a consolidated historic core, and a transforming periphery where established neighbourhoods coexist with recent growth areas and an extensive but weakly connected metropolitan region.

3

Public policies with **innovative attempts but structural discontinuity**

Over the past decade, Valencia has been recognised as a reference in urban innovation, citizen participation, and climate transition. Initiatives such as the **Fundació València Clima i Energia**, the **VLC City Lab (Las Naves)**, **EDUSI Cabanyal**, and the **VLC2030 Climate Mitigation Mission** have charted a transformative path.

However, the lack of consensus and the difficulty of scaling up and institutionalising these initiatives have led to the reversal of some of them. This highlights institutional fragility and dependence on temporary alliances instead of stable, structural frameworks.

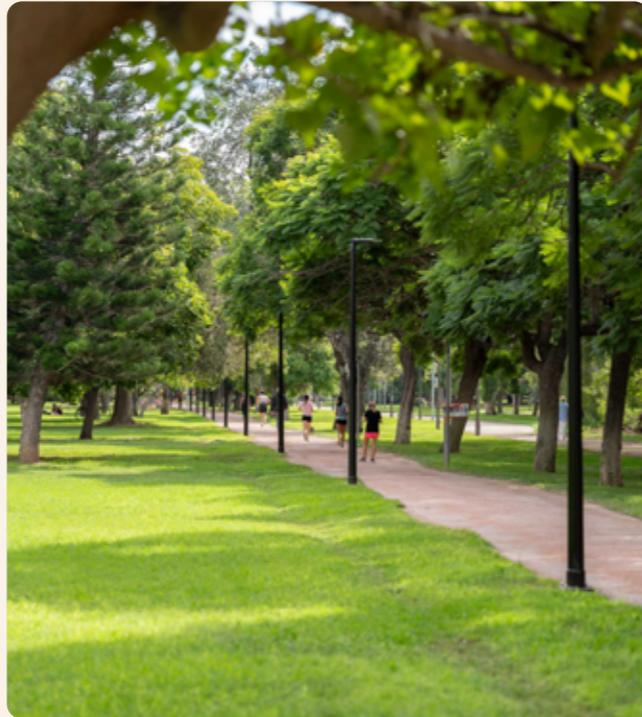


2

Strong tradition of **citizen mobilisation and urban environmentalism**

Valencia's urban history is shaped by citizen mobilisation. Spaces such as the **Turia riverbed**, **El Saler**, and **I'Horta** have been preserved and redefined through neighbourhood collective action. This social and political capital remains alive in many parts of the city.

Benimaclet, El Cabanyal, and Campanar are current examples of active neighborhoods with capacity for self-organisation, territorial defence, and participatory processes guided by feminist, environmental, and inclusive approaches.



4

A **fragmented and unequal metropolitan environment**



Valencia is part of a metropolitan area made up of 44 interconnected municipalities, but it lacks an effective metropolitan governance structure. This limits the ability to respond in a coordinated way to shared challenges such as climate change, mobility, or health.

This fragmentation translates into significant territorial inequalities: lower-income neighbourhoods face worse environmental conditions, reduced access to services, and greater social vulnerability. Moreover, these inequalities have a clear intersectional dimension—of gender, origin, or age—that reinforces exclusion processes and hinders a just transition.

03

FEM.GREEN CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES

3.1 Inclusive public spaces, urban green infrastructure and sustainable mobility

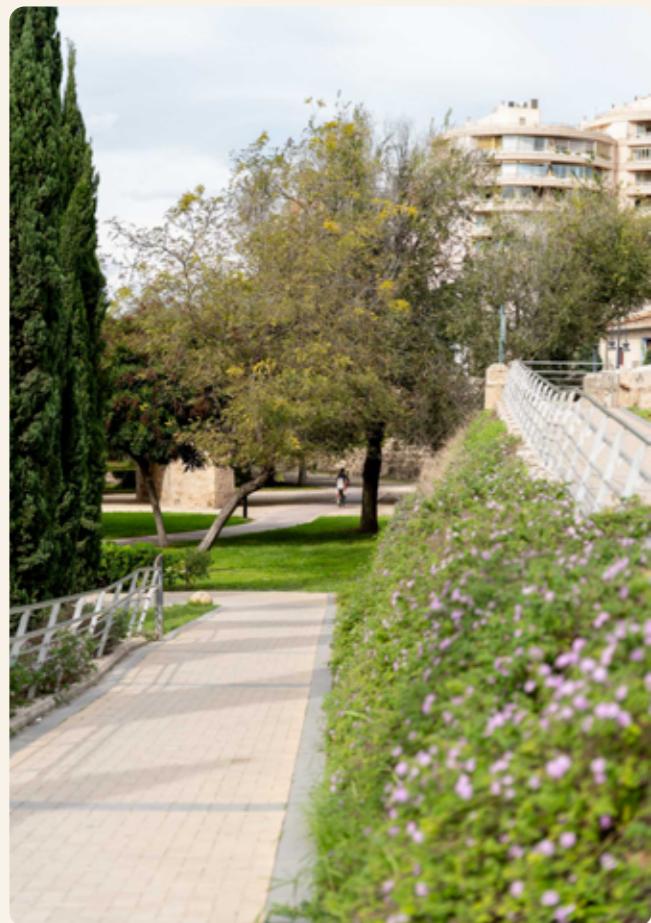
Challenges

Correcting inequalities in access to green spaces and ecosystem services

The city shows significant inequalities in access to quality public spaces and green areas. There is a clear lack of nearby green spaces in urban environments with higher levels of socio-economic vulnerability. These neighbourhoods are also often more exposed to high levels of environmental pollution and the effects of the urban heat island phenomenon.

Available spaces frequently lack quality standards, a gender perspective, and inclusive design. This situation negatively affects the autonomy, mobility, and physical and emotional well-being of women and other vulnerable population groups.

● “In Valencia, there are many differences in access – across districts – to green spaces and to sustainable services. Lower-income areas are often exposed to lower-quality buildings, lower-quality public spaces, more pollution, and also to extreme heat, because the homes are not efficient.”



Achieving a multi-scale urban green infrastructure: from metropolitan parks to tree pits

There is a clear tension between the concentrated investment required for large city parks or green zones and the need for a more equitable distribution of these spaces across neighbourhoods. The planning and implementation of green infrastructure must anticipate and reconcile different scales to ensure its presence throughout all city districts and for all residents.

Promoting the use of public facilities as climate shelters

Rising temperatures and their severe impact on the city demand the creation of new infrastructure to address energy poverty. These facilities must be both accessible and fairly distributed across the territory. In recent years, the Fundació València Clima i Energia has launched pilot initiatives to develop a network of climate shelters, but these efforts have proven far from sufficient.

The activation of public facilities and other infrastructures—such as libraries or public schools—is essential to guarantee comfortable, climate-resilient spaces for the population as a whole, especially for people in vulnerable situations. Achieving this goal requires sufficient public resources to secure their operation.

● “We’re still advising people to stay indoors during the hottest hours – even when many experience energy poverty (...) for me, this is a clear example that we haven’t adapted to the new era we are facing. It shows that this logic is still not truly integrated.”

Reversing displacement processes caused by urban improvements

In recent years, the city of Valencia has undergone significant urban renewal processes. These interventions have improved the quality of certain public spaces and green areas, while also transforming the mobility model, particularly through the expansion and adaptation of the cycling network. However, the city has shown limited capacity to control the dynamics of displacement and speculation linked to these processes.

The revalorisation of the city has driven phenomena of touristification and gentrification, which displace residents from their neighbourhoods. At the same time, these processes lead to the

gradual erosion of community networks and a weakening sense of belonging among the population that remains.

● “There’s a growing problem, which is the gentrification of neighbourhoods due to tourism. Tourism is starting to be a problem here in Valencia as well – if you look at areas like Forest, which is relatively far from the city centre, you can see that almost all the ground floors are touristic flats. One after another. It’s starting to look like Barcelona – not quite at that level yet, but it’s heading in that direction.”

Adapting metropolitan mobility to care-related routes and schedules

In Valencia, metropolitan mobility is organised in a radial scheme, centred on the capital, with insufficient connections between secondary nodes. This model does not correspond to mobility patterns linked to care, which are polygonal, do not follow fixed schedules, and require different routes and frequencies from the pendular commuting patterns of work.

Considering gendered perceptions of safety in the implementation of active mobility measures

When designing infrastructure for active mobility, it is essential to apply criteria that address diverse perceptions and experiences of safety. The ways different social groups—especially women, older people, or individuals in vulnerable situations—experience and interpret public space can determine the effective use of mobility infrastructure.

An inclusive approach makes it possible to ensure that sustainable mobility becomes a truly accessible



and equitable alternative for the entire population. This requires promoting mobility networks that enhance personal autonomy, care, and collective well-being.

Avoiding the imposition of mobility infrastructure on l'Horta and the loss of compatible land uses

The development of new mobility infrastructure often overlaps with l'Horta, creating incompatibility between these projects and the preservation of productive land as well as the continuity of the metropolitan green belt.

There is a clear need to adapt these infrastructures to the contexts in which they are implemented. This involves prioritising speed reduction, coexistence, and respect for the territory, ensuring alignment with the framework of a just climate transition.

● “ser més imaginatives en el disseny de les infraestructures i no sols tendir a la segregació dels carrils i a passar per damunt de les infraestructures de l'Horta”.



Opportunities and inspiring practices

Citizens mobilised for the defence of the city's green spaces

In Valencia, many green spaces have survived to the present day thanks to neighbourhood struggles and community organisation. The preservation of El Saler or the transformation of the old riverbed of the Turia river into a public garden are perhaps the most iconic examples, alongside the movement to defend l'Horta de València. These processes show a citizenry that is both environmentally conscious and mobilised, demonstrating its capacity for transformation and empowerment towards climate transition.

- ↗ Exhibition: el Saler per al poble, Ara!
- ↗ Archive: A hores d'ara. Experiències i memòria de la defensa de l'Horta a través del seu arxiu

l'Horta de València as a living infrastructure for ecosocial resilience

l'Horta de València is a unique agrarian system in Europe, located on the edge of the city and closely tied to its history and territorial identity. Beyond its heritage and landscape value, it represents a productive infrastructure that is essential for ecosocial transition.

It contributes to climate resilience thanks to its thermoregulation capacity, natural drainage, and provision of locally produced food. Its traditional



irrigation canal system (sèquies) ensures efficient water use and links the city with a sustainable agrarian culture. Protecting and revitalising l'Horta is essential to guarantee food sovereignty, territorial justice, and climate adaptation.



The case of El Cabanyal as an example of integrated urbanism

The neighbourhood of El Cabanyal is a significant example of how an urban strategy can result in concrete transformations of public space. Through EDUSI Cabanyal, a strategic plan has been implemented that integrates neighbourhood participation, a gender perspective, and sustainability criteria into all stages of planning.

This process has moved "from the plan to the tree pit," meaning from strategic planning to its physical materialisation in public space. The case of El Cabanyal illustrates how urbanism can become a genuine tool for spatial justice when it connects all levels of governance, design, and community action.

3.2 Feminist and climate-just urban governance

Challenges

Promoting transversality and sectoral integration in public institutions

Public administration is marked by departmental fragmentation resulting from the division of competences. This makes it difficult to integrate cross-cutting issues such as gender, climate, and citizen participation into sectoral areas like urban planning. The lack of stable mechanisms for interdepartmental coordination limits the effectiveness of public policies and reduces the capacity to generate comprehensive responses to complex challenges.

For this reason, it is necessary to promote transversality and sectoral integration within public institutions. This would allow progress towards more efficient governance and support the development of urban strategies grounded in inclusion and climate resilience.

- “There's this segmentation of different items, in an administration like Valencia that is a city big in terms of administration scale. The neighborhood administration is very small and it has not power. Es muy difícil que estos temas sean algo transversal, tanto temáticamente como en la escalas de la administración. Hace que sea difícil... the climate and gendered issue is not transversal in departments.”

Fostering decentralised, stable, and decision-making participation mechanisms

The institutional structure of the Valencia City Council is hierarchical and centralised. Intermediate bodies, such as District Boards or Councils, lack binding decision-making power and have little influence in the different phases of public policy. Although the city has experience with participatory processes for designing policies and urban spaces, these are often poorly connected to actual capacity



for intervention or to meaningful transformation of the urban environment.

Creating participatory structures and channels through a feminist lens

The current institutional framework does not encourage the emergence of alternative leadership and tends to reproduce hierarchical and exclusionary power dynamics. This creates barriers to the participation of diverse voices, including groups that are often invisible or lack real spaces for influence. Added to this is the difficulty of ensuring continuity in participatory spaces, which generates distrust and disengagement towards institutions.

- “Fins i tot quan promovem processos participatius, moltes vegades la manera com es traslladen les idees o els resultats d'aquests processos no és feminist. És a dir, acaba sent algú —normalment un home— amb accés directe al poder qui agafa el que s'ha deliberat i ho porta a la taula de decisió.”

Sustaining and scaling up community processes and innovative practices

There are community practices and pilot projects of great interest that nevertheless face difficulties in sustaining themselves autonomously, scaling up, and consolidating within the institutional framework. Although their work is documented and guided by recommendations, these processes still depend on individual leadership and funding tied to specific projects, without guarantees of continuity or long-term stability.

- “When you go to a territory, you create a core group of people — the community champions — along with the key stakeholders who are going to collaborate (...) But we're struggling to find ways to sustain those structures so that they can work autonomously after the initial phase.”

Building consensus and strategic projects for the FEM.GREEN transition

The rise of positions opposed to global agreements on gender equality and ecological transition highlights the importance of reinforcing institutional frameworks and shared governance. This institutional and participatory strengthening is key to safeguarding the progress achieved in these areas and preventing setbacks that have undermined essential initiatives such as the **Pla de l'Horta**, gender-sensitive housing regulations, or the

application of a salutogenic perspective in public policies, among others. A stable and participatory institutional framework also enables the creation of consensus and the promotion of strategic projects that go beyond political cycles, ensuring continuity and resilience in a green, feminist, and just transition for the city.

Promoting effective metropolitan governance

The urban and policy transformations needed for an effective FEM.GREEN transition require a supramunicipal perspective. People's daily lives—where they live, work, and socialise—often unfold across different municipalities, as do the effects and risks of climate change, such as pandemics, floods, or heatwaves.

The Valencia metropolitan area lacks governance and planning structures capable of addressing this reality, which hinders the design and implementation of effective policies that integrate both climate and feminist perspectives.

- “We need this new perception and management of risks, also beyond the municipal territory — from a metropolitan perspective — to address future pandemics, climate change risks, environmental disasters, and so on.”



Opportunities and inspiring practices

Municipal programmes to promote social and urban innovation

In recent years, Valencia has developed public instruments that support grassroots experimentation, such as the Grants for Social and Urban Innovation Projects. These calls have enabled the launch of pilot actions with real impact, in which communities—supported by technical expertise and associations—were able to design and implement transformative projects autonomously.

At the same time, initiatives such as the City Lab of Las Naves and the municipal SandBox have positioned the city as a testing ground for social and technological solutions in controlled environments. This ecosystem has generated practical, replicable, and useful knowledge to guide innovation towards real impact and transformation in the city.

- “Aquell projecte va transformar de manera molt real perquè era totalment vinculant: les comunitats, amb el suport de les tècniques i de les associacions, podíem dur-lo a terme des del principi sense dependre de ningú.”

Strengthening participatory budgeting as a tool for transformative deliberation

<https://vlcparticipa.valencia.es/>

Valencia's participatory budgeting has been one

of the most significant tools for fostering citizen participation in the city. However, its impact could grow if improvements were made in the quality of the deliberative process.

There is an opportunity to reinforce the intermediate stage between citizen proposals and technical evaluation by creating spaces for shared deliberation and co-design of solutions. Another step forward would be to introduce qualitative criteria that value proposals arising from collaborative processes or broad social consensus, beyond the final voting stage. These improvements could deepen participation, foster a more horizontal democratic culture, and orient projects towards a more inclusive, just transformation aligned with the FEM.GREEN framework.

Schoolyard transformation: co-creating green spaces and community

<https://fentestudi.com/es/naturalment/>

The schoolyard transformation initiative led by Fent Estudi is an inspiring example of pedagogical and feminist urbanism applied in education. The project combines participatory diagnosis, collaborative design, and physical intervention in schoolyards by adding vegetation, shade, furniture, and new uses. When schools already have established participatory

structures, the process can unfold more deeply and meaningfully.

The project has been made possible thanks to public funding through Grants for Social and Urban Innovation Projects, which enabled pilot actions with real impact developed from the ground up. In some cases, attempts were made to open schoolyards to the neighbourhood outside school hours to encourage community use, but regulatory and logistical barriers (such as insurance and supervision) limited this. The key for the future is to guarantee the conditions for scalability and consolidate this model as an educational, environmental, and care infrastructure within the city.



The Citizens' School for the Right to Energy: collective leadership from vulnerability

<https://escoladretenergia.com/es/>

The Citizens' school for the right to energy is a community-based educational initiative aimed at people living in energy poverty. Through monthly meetings, it addresses topics such as energy, health, and climate change from a collective, everyday perspective, fostering empowerment for people in vulnerable situations. Participants choose the themes and share experiences, creating spaces of peer support and learning.

This initiative has made visible the differentiated impacts of energy poverty by gender, both physically and emotionally, and has shown how community governance can strengthen social resilience. Although it does not have a formal role in decision-making, the School represents a transformative practice that links knowledge, rights, and care from the ground up.

Local Energy Communities (CELs): sovereignty and energy transition

Valencia currently has eleven Local Energy Communities (CELs), promoted with the support of the Community Transformation Office (OTC). These initiatives foster neighbourhood-level energy self-management, with strong participatory and cooperative components. Despite technical challenges (such as securing surfaces for solar panels), they represent a real pathway towards a more just and democratic energy transition.

In some of these CELs, women play leading roles or participate actively in core groups, bringing a transformative perspective centred on care and inclusion. Some communities have incorporated explicit social objectives in their statutes, such as “leaving no one behind,” tackling energy poverty from a collective and justice-oriented perspective. This feminist and community-based approach strengthens the potential of these structures as spaces for new climate governance.

3.3 Gender-inclusive urban health and well-being

Challenges

Reversing the underrepresentation of the right to health in urban policies and infrastructures

A health promotion and prevention approach requires cross-cutting perspectives and solutions. As noted previously with gender and climate, the excessive sectorisation of policies creates barriers to guaranteeing the right to health.

Incorporating this perspective is essential not only in the definition and design of policies, but also in assessing their health impacts and placing inequality reduction as a central objective. At present, there is a lack of monitoring systems and gender-disaggregated indicators that would allow action to be based on evidence.

- “And as you know, at the end, this concept of urban health and climate change is very transversal. But OK – the problem is complex, yet the productivity and how we design the policies... it's not aligned. I mean, at this moment, it's very siloed. There are many silos, and there's a lack of tools to approach and assign policies for such a complex problem.”



Halting regression in community public health and well-being promotion

A paradigm shift has been identified towards models centred on disease, which poses the risk of regression to biomedical, centralised, and paternalistic approaches. Such perspectives make it more difficult to integrate health as a cross-cutting objective linked to urban policies, and therefore also to the climate and feminist transition process.

- “It's like we're moving from a community-based model to a more individualised one – with more focus not on health promotion, but on medicines and treatments.”
- “This disease-centred way of providing health affects women more, I would say, because they tend to rely more on collective ways of providing care.”

The problem can be further aggravated by the impacts of climate change. In extreme situations, women often take on an even greater caregiving role, which worsens their emotional well-being. Examples include energy poverty during heatwaves or the reliance on mutual support networks in the face of climate crises.

“Les dones, especialment, pateixen molt més problemes de salut mental per la sobrecàrrega de cures, la precarietat i la violència. Però els serveis collectius per fer-hi front són quasi inexistents

Developing adequate indicators and generating sufficient data to prioritise well-being

The city's progress and performance are still measured through dominant wealth indicators such as GDP. No institutional indicators have yet been implemented that prioritise people's well-being.

There is also some resistance to placing less productivist perspectives at the centre of urban and transition policies—perspectives that ensure inclusive prosperity but do not necessarily align with market interests.

Strengthening public mental health care and promoting collective and community responses

Public mental health care is underfunded and limited, leaving access dependent on the ability to pay and therefore creating a strong bias and exclusivity. This situation particularly affects women, who face higher rates of mental health issues due to the burden of care, precariousness, and systemic violence.

Reducing territorial inequalities in access to health infrastructure and healthy urban environments

Neighbourhoods across the city still present significant inequalities that affect health and must be considered in the process of urban transformation linked to the transition. Key aspects include land uses that promote well-being, the provision of infrastructure, and local proximity networks within neighbourhoods.

Democratising and guaranteeing universal access to spaces and infrastructures that promote health is essential. It is also important to ensure that such access is supported by sustainable mobility, both active and public transport.

- “So I think this is strongly connected. Access to health and health facilities is strongly connected to mobility – and to the idea of the 15-minute city. But often, the politics of the soil and speculation – which are, to be honest, very ‘manish’ – tend to locate major health facilities far from city or neighbourhood centres.”
- “That's something that has happened here in Valencia. Access to health facilities has been a struggle for both men and women. Initially there was no public transport; now there is some, but it still takes an hour or even an hour and a half to reach your assigned hospital.”

Opportunities and inspiring practices

Community networks and mutual support as infrastructures for health promotion

In several neighbourhoods of Valencia, mutual aid and well-being promotion networks have emerged and consolidated, functioning as genuine social infrastructures rooted in the territory. Initiatives such as Vincles Benimaclet, aimed at combating unwanted loneliness, have progressively incorporated issues such as energy poverty and climate resilience. Other experiences, like Malilla Solidària, the food network, or the Tenants' Union (Sindicat de Llogateres), support vulnerable families through resource distribution, counselling, and administrative assistance, particularly in contexts of migration and social exclusion.

These structures are especially relevant in situations of crisis and emergency, and they have demonstrated continuity and adaptability despite the lack of stable institutional support.

- “So the community leaders are a key element of this community network. But to be honest, community networks for me, our key to the city in the neighbourhood. I saw it before pandemics, I saw it during pandemics.”

Addressing the housing crisis as a central health issue

Valencia is not exempt from the housing crisis affecting many European cities. Residential vulnerability among residents has a major impact on health and is identified as one of the city's key challenges for ensuring a just transition.

The residential alienation produced by this crisis poses a risk to people's emotional health. This is not only due to displacement from housing as a fundamental infrastructure for life, but also to the loss of community ties and support networks. In addition, the relocation of residents to peripheral areas increases exposure to climate risks and pollution levels, while reducing accessibility.

- “Access to housing is the main health problem. I mean, it affects people's health in every possible way. Having a roof over your head is vital – it's essential for life – and when that's threatened, it creates enormous stress that affects the entire household. It's connected to infant poverty, to so many things. It's really huge.”
- “Housing issues can destroy your health completely – they're linked to cardiovascular disease, to diabetes, they increase mortality... everything. And we're not just talking about buying property. Renting, too, is a major issue now. So yes, housing is a serious problem for the future of cities.”



LESSONS FROM VALENCIA FOR ACHIEVING CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT IN FEMINIST CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

Institutional community health structures with an ecosocial approach

[valenciasaludable2030.es/
san.gva.es/es/web/salut-publica/xarxa-salud](http://valenciasaludable2030.es/san.gva.es/es/web/salut-publica/xarxa-salud)

Within the framework of the IV Health Plan, Valencia has developed several institutional spaces working on health and well-being promotion through a community lens. Notable among them are the Basic Health Zone Councils, which bring together healthcare professionals, organisations, and residents to promote joint actions, especially in neighbourhoods with high vulnerability. These spaces have begun to integrate issues such as climate change and energy poverty as social determinants of health.

Also important is the XarxaSalut network, which involves municipal departments and social collectives, as well as the València Saludable Platform—active in neighbourhoods such as **Russafa** or **Font de Sant Lluís**—which has played a key role in creating the councils. In parallel, initiatives like Receta Cultura (Culture Prescription), where people are referred to cultural activities as part of their well-being plan, represent examples of how to advance towards a more integral, community-based, and capacity-oriented health model.



Emotional well-being programmes for women and caregivers

As part of the community primary care strategy, several pilot programmes have been launched to promote mental health and emotional well-being, with a specific focus on women who bear invisible workloads and caregiving responsibilities. The Programa de Bienestar Emocional (Emotional Well-being Programme) offers emotional education workshops aimed at these women, acknowledging the cumulative impact of unshared responsibilities on mental health.

In parallel, the Autocuidados (Self-care) programme targets non-professional caregivers, providing free access to well-being activities and emotional support within health centres. Both programmes are currently in pilot phase in the Valencian Region, representing an important step towards a public health model that is more focused on care and gender inequalities. Assessing their impact will be key to consolidating and scaling them across the territory.

“There’s a programme tied to the community strategy for primary care that includes group health educational programmes, one of which focuses on emotional well-being. It is clearly addressed to women, because we know that this population is the one suffering more mental health issues — since they often have two or three jobs, including care work and being caregivers (...) And there’s another programme which targets non-professional caregivers. It’s called ‘Autocuidados’ — self-care for non-professional caregivers.”

Cuina de Barri (Neighbourhood Kitchen):

sustainable food as an ecosocial response

cabanyalhorta.es/cuina-de-bARRI/

The Cuina de Barri (Neighbourhood Kitchen) project, developed in El Cabanyal, combines social innovation, access to healthy food, and climate action. It provides vegetarian, locally sourced meals to neighbourhood families and others referred by social services, while using efficient cooking technologies that reduce energy costs. In addition, it measures the environmental impact of the process and promotes large-scale collective cooking as an infrastructure of care and food sovereignty.

The initiative not only improves the well-being of participating families but also strengthens community ties and explores a model that can be replicated in other neighbourhoods and municipalities. Cuina de Barri represents a concrete and locally rooted response to the challenges of the ecosocial transition, with a feminist, territorial, and intersectional perspective.

The aim of FEM.GREEN is to contribute to a climate transition that is also feminist and just, placing citizen empowerment at its core.

The case of Valencia has made it possible to identify both concrete conditions that foster empowerment and structural barriers and tensions that must be considered to avoid reproducing inequalities.

The lessons gathered are transferable to other contexts and provide valuable insights for guiding public policies, participatory processes, and community actions that connect gender justice with environmental justice.

A. STRUCTURAL TENSIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Throughout the dialogues, limitations and gaps have been identified that any citizen empowerment process must take into account to ensure social justice and achieve a climate transition that leaves no one behind. Empowerment does not occur in a neutral context; it is constrained by systemic barriers and structural tensions that need to be explicitly addressed:

- Structural intersectional inequalities, especially those of gender, class, origin, and age, shape health, access to energy, housing, and decision-making.

- Climate change impacts the city and its inhabitants unevenly, with the greatest effects on vulnerable groups.
- The invisibility of care, the feminisation of poverty, and digital and labour gaps deeply influence who can participate in transformation processes.

B. COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND CONDITIONS FOR CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

On the other hand, several elements can act as catalysts enabling citizens to play an active role in a feminist climate transition. In Valencia, the following factors have been identified as decisive:

- Consolidated community spaces and networks: Supporting existing initiatives, recognising their value, and ensuring their continuity with sustained funding.
- Time and care as conditions for real participation: Participation requires available time, which in turn depends on redistributing care work and recognising its social value.
- Environmental, energy, digital, and health

literacy: Providing tools that allow communities to understand and engage in transition processes. Inequalities in knowledge are structural barriers.

- Open, localised, and disaggregated data: Essential for territorial diagnosis, evaluation of public policies, and the construction of alternatives based on situated knowledge.
- Strategic alliances and ecosystems of trust: Building stable, horizontal relationships among administration, communities, civic technologies, and research, with clear roles and mutual recognition.

FEM.GREEN was created with the aim of aligning two key perspectives and agendas in the definition and management of contemporary European cities: the feminist agenda and the agenda of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The dialogue between these two agendas is a necessary factor for achieving a just urban transition in European cities.

The project addresses this challenge by generating spaces for dialogue, shared learning, and non-formal education among people interested in the FEM.GREEN approach, with the goal of fostering community empowerment and building a more informed and engaged European citizenry. The project has collaboratively gathered, together with professionals, citizens, and administrations, data, facts, good practices, tools, and key aspects for a fairer urban transition.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This website reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.