6

ENHANCING SOCIAL COHESION AND LOOKING FOR EQUITY

SPECIFIC GOALS

6.1. REDUCE THE RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN DISADVANTAGED URBAN SETTINGS.

6.2. STRIVE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF GENDER, AGE AND DISABILITY.

In general, towns, cities and urban areas have historically been spaces for social relations, where the variety, density and proximity of people, activities and urban structures have allowed for the joint construction of the human experience, access to communication and knowledge, as well as to innovation. They have also been the spaces in which social relations have built a social order and organisation, one that has often been unequal and contentious. In fact, the social segregation that takes place in certain areas creates problems of instability, such as insecurity or marginalisation, which tend to be entrenched among the most vulnerable populations if not given appropriate attention. Inequality in access to basic services, housing, education, health, employment opportunities, etc., has repercussions in socio-economic, environmental and political terms.

In a very special way, cities are the driving force behind social progress, economic growth, coexistence and the development of democracy. In contrast, the absence of integrated approaches and territorial strategies generates significant imbalances and dysfunctions, which always sacrifice the most in the social aspect: ageing populations that are isolated in the territory, that do not have access to the same services as the rest, towns that disappear or that subsist with very little population, infrastructures and investments that are not adequately spread through the territory, absence of educational or professional opportunities, etc.

The urban habitat is therefore a key factor in the processes of integrating or excluding people and social groups, and is essential to pursuing equality of treatment and opportunities, as well as to guaranteeing economic progress, because this progress and the evolution of a society is not only generated through material or institutional well-being, but also through the possibilities that this habitat offers to all its individuals.

It is proven that towns and cities, regardless of their size and situation, will be the driving force behind social progress, economic growth and the development of democracy to the extent that they are able to maintain social balance by protecting cultural diversity, mixing incomes, genres, cultures, ages and

professions and ensuring high-quality services of a predominantly urban nature. One of the fundamental weapons lies in the so-called integrated urban regeneration, which can be used to coordinate actions to regenerate the most vulnerable neighbourhoods through social, economic, urban and environmental activities.

This Agenda, therefore, pursues a territorial and urban model that seeks social cohesion, equal opportunities and fairness. Any of the aspects that is addressed must be preceded by the necessary social approach, because people come first. And to this end, both territorial and urban policies must pursue social balance, protect cultural diversity, mix incomes, genres, cultures, ages and professions and guarantee an adequate quality of life.

SPECIFIC GOAL
6.1. REDUCE THE RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN DISADVANTAGED URBAN SETTINGS.

LINES OF ACTION

- Promote a city of **complexity and proximity** that is based on safe neighbourhoods with good facilities and that are well connected to the city and territory.
- **Identify those neighbourhoods or urban environment**s that exhibit a greater degree of social, economic and environmental vulnerability as areas of preferential action to promote equality in urban development and fight against pockets of poverty, social exclusion and inequality. Vulnerable Neighbourhoods Observatories are useful tools for these purposes.
- Promote **integrated urban renewal and regeneration,** especially in disadvantaged urban environments or neighbourhoods that are more vulnerable. Integrated and comprehensive plans could be devised for this purpose.
- Include, in the **social plans and programmes** that are developed and approved, measures to implement the principle of equal opportunity and treatment between women and men, and specific commitments to engage in measures to combat the negative effects and obstacles that women face as a result of multiple forms of discrimination.
- Promote the creation or improvement of **social services** aimed at people at risk of social exclusion and promote campaigns to make the existing services known to the citizens. Adapt the systems to shelter **vulnerable individuals and households** to current needs, including migratory flows.
- Promote the **accessibility of municipal services** for the most vulnerable groups.
- Promote and favour **economic and commercial activity** in these urban environments as a means of revitalising neighbourhoods and creating jobs locally.
- Reduce levels of **inequality,** the risk of poverty and social exclusion through measures that seek to address spatial and residential segregation.

- Promote the use of **public spaces** and citizen coexistence as elements of social cohesion. Turn streets into squares, not only as common areas to share and enjoy, but also as inclusive public spaces. Guarantee their universal accessibility.
- Promote **non-profit community initiatives** that make it possible to use public spaces.
- Reinforce the sense of **belonging** to a place as a sign of identity and knowledge of one's local environment.
- Develop **policies involving public safety and the prevention of crime and violence, avoiding the stigmatization** of vulnerable groups.
- Adopt measures to keep students from dropping out of school.
- Take specific steps to **reduce inequality, the risk of poverty and social exclusion by eliminating underhousing and slums.**
- Adopt job **training and placement measures.**

SPECIFIC GOAL
6.2. STRIVE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF GENDER, AGE AND DISABILITY.

LINES OF ACTION

- Adopt measures through plans or strategies to guarantee **equal treatment and equal access to the labour market** and public life under conditions of equality that ensure non-discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, disability, sexual identity, sexual and gender orientation, religion, opinion or any other personal or social condition or circumstance.
- Integrate the gender, age and disability perspective into the everyday issues of cities, into administrative structures and into decision-making processes.
- Adopt measures to **detect vulnerability or social exclusion early** in relation to the processes of illegal occupation of land and buildings, and coordinate services between Social Services, Equality, Housing, Public Safety and Health to guide the most vulnerable people.
- Ensure an adequate level of **social benefits for people with disabilities and who are dependent.**
- Increase **public safety** in urban spaces by adopting appropriate urban design measures (lighting, furniture, etc.)
- Increase the number of **parks in residential areas,** frequented mainly by the elderly, women and children, and guarantee adequate accessibility, lighting and security.
- Lay out paved routes that facilitate **universal accessibility** that are appropriately lit and have sufficient shade to enjoy recreational areas.
- Support **"mobility of care"** by ensuring that travel linked to caring for other people and home maintenance can be carried out in the shortest possible time, within the required time slots and at an affordable cost.

- Promote simultaneous **expert knowledge of the gender, age and disability perspective** and urban planning and disseminate it among the public, trying to eliminate old clichés.
- Foster **volunteering programmes, social activities, etc.,** that promote interaction between people living alone and their socialisation with their local or city neighbours.
- Identify and disseminate good urban, architectural and urban and rural mobility planning practices that have a positive impact on **personal, family and work balance** and on the autonomy of people.
- Provide education on gender equality, shared responsibility and **equal treatment** regardless of racial or ethnic origin, disability, sexual identity, sexual and gender origin, religion, opinion or any other personal or social condition or circumstance.
- Promote the creation of social, cultural, and other activities that favour **intercultural integration,** from an educational and social perspective.
- Foster neighbourhood partnerships.
- Horizontally integrate the **principle of equal treatment** regardless of racial or ethnic origin, disability, sexual identity, sexual and gender orientation, religion, opinion or any other personal or social condition or circumstance, and the principle of gender equality into the drafting, execution and monitoring of regulatory provisions, into the definition and budgets of public policies in all fields and into the development of all activities, systematically considering the priorities and needs specific to women, taking into account their impact on their specific situation, in order to adapt them so as to eliminate discriminatory effects and promote equality.

The **descriptive data** related to strategic goal #6 *"Enhancing social cohesion and looking for equity",* are as follows:

STRATEGIC GOAL #6. **RELATED DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

D.01	Population change	**D.06**	Population density in urban land	**D.08**	Housing density
D.09	Urban compactness	**D.10**	Residential compactness	**D.11**	Urban complexity
D.12	Parks and facilities in green spaces	**D.13**	Public space	**D.ST.01**	Housing density
D.ST.05	Land area planned for economic activities	**D.20**	Accessibility to public transport services	**D.22**	Ageing of the population
D.23	Foreign population	**D.24**	Dependency rate	**D.26**	Number of workers
D.28	Unemployment rate	**D.39**	Urban agenda, strategic planning and Smart Cities		

The relationships between this strategic goal and the SDGs and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international projects can be summarised as follows:

SPANISH URBAN AGENDA	17 SDGS: GOALS		NEW INTERNATIONAL URBAN AGENDA	EUROPEAN URBAN AGENDA (PARTNERSHIPS)	EDUSI SPECIFIC GOALS 14–20
6.1. Reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion in disadvantaged urban environments		**1.2** Relative poverty in all its dimensions **1.3** Social protection systems **1.b** Regulatory frameworks to eradicate poverty	25; 26; 28; 40; 61; 62; 99; 103	Inclusion of refugees and migrants Poverty and urban regeneration	S.G.9.8.2. Physical, economic and social regeneration of the urban environment in disadvantaged urban areas through integrated urban strategies
		10.2			
		11.3			
6.2. Strive for equal opportunity from the perspective of gender, age and disability		**4.2** Quality of pre-school education **4.4** Job placement skills **4.5** Disparity of gender and vulnerable groups	27; 39		
		5.1 Put an end to all types of discrimination **5.2** Gender violence **5.4** Jobs in domestic care **5.5** Full participation of women and equal opportunities **5.c** Policy and laws for equality and empowerment			
		10.2 Social, economic and political inclusion **10.3** Equal treatment and opportunities **10.4** Fiscal, salary and social protection policies **10.7** Migration and migratory policies **11.3** Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation			