



STORIES FUTURE



#GIRONA
ISSUE
JULIOL 2030



5

NOVES
MIRADES

"THE YOUTH FROM GIRONA WANT A CITY..."

...more friendly and welcoming,
without barriers: neither cultural nor economic.

**...more accessible
and decongested,**
with more sustainable and
shared mobility options.

...more conscious and healthy,
where we can take care of our well-
being emotional and mental.

**...more sustainable
and self-managed,**
in the fields of energy, consumption and waste.

...more pluralistic and open,
with leisure and cultural activities
for the citizens, by the citizens.

**We help you imagine it,
can you help us build it?**

SUSTAINABILITY

GIRONA 2030: A BRIDGE TO A NEW AGE

It has been five years since the City Council began implementing new measures to achieve a green and sustainable city. Today, the city is a world reference in terms of eco-social transition, because it has managed to **find a balance between citizens and nature through a sustainable economy.**

Today, a **30% reduction in waste and responsible management of plastics** has been achieved in the Autonomous Waste Management Premises, from where plastic pellet boxes are distributed around the world, recyclable. In addition, **agricultural cooperatives supply 75% of the population of Girona.** Buildings are increasingly following a sustainable, green and self-sufficient architecture. Urban gardens have improved the physical and mental health of the population and increased local consumption. The electricity consumed in the city is completely renewable and free of carbon footprint. Even the trend in urban mobility has tilted enormously towards public transport, the Girocleta and walking.

But how did it all start? We start with the **renovation of the Pont de les Peixateries Velles**, a bridge that has wanted to represent modernity and has been adapted to the new times. In this article we rediscover this icon that has marked the new Girona that we all needed, after the renewal of 2025.

At the beginning of the decade, **a group of young people from Girona proposed a new model of bridge, which included the environmental ideals they wanted to transmit for the future.** This renovation consisted of creating a new urban space that could both generate renewable energy and give rise to the coexistence and health of citizens. To do this, a floor was installed that generated electricity with pedestrian crossings and wind turbines that are respectful of biodiversity, along with an urban garden that received water from a rain collection system.

'Water collector system'

Another action was the installation of a one-square-meter stormwater collector and reuse system. In the city of Girona there is an average annual rainfall of 749 mm³, so the water collected by this system covers 50% of the irrigation of the orchard installed on the bridge throughout the year.

'Urban garden'

With the installation of hanging pots along the railing of the bridge, an urban garden managed by the residents was built. Crops range from endive, onion, or bean, using the same bridge structure for climbing. The crops are irrigated through the water collection system installed on the bridge. Agricultural production on the bridge is an alternative to the mass purchase of packaged food by local residents.

'The floor'

To carry out the first action, a pioneering technology was used at the time, which made it possible to collect the energy generated with the footsteps of the people and transform it into electrical energy.

Estimates estimate that on average each pedestrian takes about 65 steps across the bridge, where one million people pass each year. In this way, every year the new bridge tiles generate enough energy to illuminate an LED bulb for 550,000 hours or, alternatively, illuminate the bridge every night and that still exceeds 80% of the energy generated, for deposit on the public network.

'Wind turbines'

The next intervention in order to generate energy, was the installation of a series of wind turbines at the bottom of the bridge, so that they did not involve any visual impact, nor should the structure be modified. of this. Gorlov turbines were used, specifically designed to harness wind energy in a non-aggressive way by flying birds thanks to the shape of their propellers.

CULTURE

THE FIRST PILOT USERS OF 'COOLTURA' APP

INTERVIEW ZIDRU

'He is 32 years old. He was born and lives in Monells. He has a polyamorous relationship and has two children aged 5 and 7 years. He is an agri-food engineer, he likes techno and indie music.'

How did you find out about the launch of the Cooltura app?

Last month I went to a concert in Girona and the organizers offered me to be part of the pilot group of users of the initiative.

... And what did the pilot test consist of?

I had to download the Cooltura app, sign up and live a normal life. The app collects information about my artistic tastes.

Do you know for sure that he only takes this data? Do you feel safe?

Yeah yeah! This is not like in 2020, now I can always know who is making use of them. I feel very safe, as the latest data protection law allows me to report it very easily if they use it without my permission.

Do you think it was because of the law that came into force in 2025?

Yes, I think it has been one of the triggers that has allowed cultural, social, technological and architectural accessibility in Girona.

Today you lived the experience for the first time, how did it go?

All right, I came to the Girona metropolitan area this morning and when the app detected that it was inside the area, it notified me that there was a children's concert in La Devesa Park.

And how did you come up with a children's concert?

[laughs] Lately my little son keeps making me listen to his music, and I have to admit I don't dislike it and we've all gone to enjoy it. In fact, it's one of the strengths of this app, as you can have a wide variety of shows for all audiences.

And after the concert, what did you do? We went to lunch in Fontajau, next to the cinema.

Once we had finished lunch, we walked to the center of Girona and when we passed by the cinemas, a hologram appeared to me recommending a movie and we went to see it.

And how about the movie?

Buah! It flipped me! The app nails it a lot, really. In addition, he also recommended a movie for my kids and they loved it too.

And how was it that you were able to see the hologram with the sun that made it today?

It is clear that with the new technology they have applied, it does not have to be dark, in addition, they have also incorporated sound, something that is new this year.

And apart from the concert and the film, has the platform revealed to you more leisure and culture?

Well, now that you say it, we went for an ice cream in the old quarter and when we passed the Sala Planeta we saw a hologram announcing a 20-minute puppet show.

Damn, Zidru, how many things have you seen!

And that's not all! I also received a notification with a recommendation from a street artist who was performing at the time on a corner that was 20 meters away.

Ah! Does this mean that there is not only official programming?

Of course! This is what I like most, that all artists can participate in.

And if someone who has very little experience in the world of music and does a concert, also comes out?

Yes, but you can always check the experiences of other users and find out if it's really worth going there. Participation with this app is great, because even if you start it lets you be there but places everyone in a pretty realistic way.

And do artists have to sign up or can the public nominate artists?

Both artists can register and in addition, there is also a space for participation where leisure and cultural activities can be proposed in the city.

And apart from music and cinema, is there more leisure and culture on offer?

Yes, when you register and enter your tastes you can choose between: music, cinema, workshops, talks, literature, museums ...

And if I don't have the app on my mobile can I still access the holograms?

Yes! You can still see the holograms in the facilities and schools but in a non-personalized way.

So, would you recommend the platform?

Yes! To everyone who wants to enjoy an inclusive leisure and culture and within everyone's reach!

How do you see the evolution of the application?

I see it as an opportunity to create a community that improves communication and gives everyone the option to access it and live the culture to the fullest.

Personally, I think it's an app that has a lot of potential and will have a lot of track record.

Cooltura



CITIZENS

GIRONA WILL CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST AT ASSUMPCIÓ SQ. WITH CO-LIVING BUBBLES

In a few months, from Saturday 21 September to Friday 4 October, **the first Oktoberfest will be held in Girona in Plaça de l'Assumpció**, in the Sant Narcís district, with Bombolles de Convivència.

The mayoress together with the Tarlà and the Müncher Kindl will kick off on Saturday at 12 noon with the cry: O 'zapft is! (It's already open!). Then 12 salvos will be fired, following the tradition of Munich, this time in the capital of Girona.

For 18 days in a row, the square will host the German community living in the province of Girona and also all residents who want to participate and share the most important festival of the Germanic people. An attendance of 2,000 people in total is expected, that is, about 110 people every day.

'Bubbles to create optimal coexistence'

The space where the party takes place is a park where other activities take place daily, each of which will be kept inside a Coexistence Bubble. Therefore, you can find: the Oktoberfest, the playground, the rest area and the space to play petanque. The inside of each bubble will be visible thanks to the materials with which they are made, they will be transparent and ecological. The Bubbles will be set up by groups of people interested in the activities, generating spaces of trust, respect and security within the same space: the Plaça de l'Assumpció. Residents wishing to enter a Bubble will only have to ask the members who will be inside.

The Coexistence Bubbles will be given away free of charge by Girona City Council, and will allow each person individually to decide how they want to relate to the actions that take place in the square.

'A silent event for residents but festive for participants'

Each coexistence bubble has the option to "mute" and activate the sound with the application of the City Council. The decision to silence is individual, so the event will not be a reason for conflict or segregation, but a space of union, of all and for all.

During the Oktoberfest, the city of Girona will promote coexistence. It will manage to create a space where empathy, respect, conscience predominate ... in short, **a space where you can enjoy individually and collectively in harmony.** Where everyone will feel that it can be developed freely in shared spaces - which are taken care of by all the inhabitants of the neighborhood - and will promote a good coexistence.

HEALTH

"HELLO SUA-MING. I NEED TO TALK"

A prestigious study has recently been published which shows that the **percentage of people with mental illnesses such as Depression, Anxiety, Solitude and Stress has decreased by 30% compared to last year in Girona**. This is the result of the implementation of the project **"Garden-Zen: a door to reflection and care for emotional health"** promoted by the City of Girona and led by Dr. Jorge González.

The proposal was born eight months ago by the renowned psychiatrist, who has a revolutionary method that combines Eastern science with Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology.

'Zen and AI Philosophy'

Since the last 5 years, different multicultural lifestyles have adapted and merged with Girona society, however, the qualitative leap in mental health has been at the time when Artificial Intelligence was added.

The project "Garden-Zen: a door to reflection and emotional health care" consists,

on the one hand, in the use of Zen thinking as a philosophy and lifestyle, which is based on meditation and self-knowledge in spaces with a lot of vegetation and with objects with which to interact, such as a sandpit that serves for the formation of patterns and decantation of the mental commotion.

On the other hand, SAMS (Society of Mental Care for Society) has launched an AI technology for continuous learning that allows users / patients to have contact with a robot-psychologist 24 hours a day.

'Mental health, a matter of state'

It should be mentioned that, although the improvement of mental health is remarkable among the citizens of Girona, the problem continues to have an impact on society, such is the impact it has on society that it is already the second item on the political agenda of the state, only behind sustainability.

This fact allowed Dr. González to accede to a special financing with which it was possible to be paid for the construction of the space that, once finalized, happened to public ownership being the State the one that assumed the costs of maintenance and operation until today.

Thanks to this formula, free access is allowed to any of the citizens who need it.

'The result: A green space, 5 statues and connectivity'

The project consisted of the transformation of the Hospital Square to condition it as a full-fledged Zen area: lots of vegetation, different interacting structures and music that invites relaxation.

In addition, at strategic points in the same place you can find 4 mobile statues that, with their movement, represent the aforementioned diseases (Depression, Anxiety, Loneliness and Stress). They also include a QR code that connects to a web page where the users can express

themselves, share their own experiences and learn about the experiences of other people who also suffer from some form of mental health disorder.who also suffer from some form of mental health discomfort. The purpose of this function is to inspire and motivate the improvement of the emotional state.

There is a fifth statue representing a Buddha. The Buddha will be available for a few hours a day so that you can explain your problems to him and he can give you professional advice. The Buddha has a built-in microphone that puts you in direct contact with a mental health professional. If you want a more private session, you can contact the professional directly by phone using the number provided.

Finally there is a **zen garden with a rake to be able to scratch the sand.** Exercising to make shapes and patterns helps to improve concentration.

In conclusion, we have created a Zen zone in the city center so that people can take a short "break" from their daily lives and meditate and reflect on their mental problems and ailments in the hopes of improving their well-being and that of the people around him.

GIRONA MOVES FORWARD

Since the appearance of the first car in the late nineteenth century in Barcelona through its expansion and democratization throughout the twentieth century and early twenty-first, the motor vehicle has come to represent in European cities **about 70% of emissions of CO2 according to the European Environment Agency**. Emissions that have contributed and are contributing directly to global warming and pollution in cities, however, the impacts of the private vehicle go further.

The idea of individual freedom of this means of transport clashes paradoxically with the idea that **public space in cities is 60-70% occupied by roads and car parks (where it spends about 97% of its life)**, and only about 30% of people travel by car (according to ATMs). In addition, according to the DGT about 20% of urban roads absorb 80% of traffic, which leads to having highly congested urban arteries, causing serious problems of noise pollution and atmospheric to the residents and shops of these avenues in particular and the city in general.

These data show a problem of CO2 emissions and different pollutants arising from the use of this means of transport. They also stage a dissonance between the imaginary of traditional individual freedom of mobility promoted by the automotive industry and **the universal and accessible freedom of mobility** necessary to guarantee the right to mobility and habitability to the entire population of the city.

Today, in the middle of 2030, global warming and climate change is a reality that increasingly conditions our environment and lifestyle. The reconfiguration of our way of moving is, has been and will be crucial to reduce pollution in cities, improve accessibility to mixed transport uses and make **a city more livable and inclusive** for people and not for vehicles.

In this direction, the city of Girona has focused all the actions of the Urban Improvement Plan on the reduction of spaces for motor vehicles in order to promote the implementation of adequate infrastructure to ensure their use by citizens and commercial establishments, **improving their safety and reducing environmental pollution** by introducing means of transport with clean energy.

The reconversion of road transport lanes and vehicle parking areas has allowed the creation of the tram system, which provides an alternative service and more scope for the city bus service. This infrastructure is equipped with stops with the installation of solar collectors that provide all the necessary energy for the lighting and signaling carried out throughout the network.

In addition, **the road network of bike lanes has been remodeled, increasing the sum of total kilometers of track**, which allows the free movement of this means of transport by an exclusive route, avoiding conflicts with other vehicles and pedestrians. A new public electric bicycle system has been implemented, in addition to all the necessary parking spaces throughout the city.

All pedestrian areas have been expanded in order to give a **more peaceful use to the whole population, facilitating communication between destinations, avoiding points of conflict** with the means of transport and allocating the old areas of parking in recreational areas and green areas. In this sense, our pedestrian areas are currently more suitable for daily use, safer thanks to the reduction of accidents and fully inclusive thanks to all the interventions carried out that bring to our pedestrian pathways all the mechanisms apt to a universal accessibility.

With the desire to know the experience of change that the city of Girona has lived in the last decade, we interviewed on a road terrace Barcelona with Vera Cruz, a retired teacher, grandmother of 2 grandchildren and neighbor and president of the association of residents of the Eixample.

INTERVIEW

What has the reconfiguration of mobility in the city of Girona, in particular the remodeling of the Barcelona road, meant to you?

- Well, a lot of things, in general the street has more life which does not mean that there is more noise. For example, there are many more children playing on the street or for example, in the morning they hear many more birds, before they were just cars.

More birds?

- Yes, in fact, my grandson is a biologist and works in the City Council and one day speaking he told me that the variety of bird species has increased in the whole city. Also, as you can see not only the car lanes, and the tram and all that has been reduced, but also many trees have been planted and you want it not, this always gives joy, color and life, although in the fall there are many leaves everywhere. And not only is it an improvement in the quality and quantity of wildlife, but it also affects the cognitive development of our children and an improvement in the living conditions of our neighbors with intellectual, psychosocial and, in fact, intellectual disabilities. , for all of us once we get older and older, as the study by the neurology department of the hospital Josep Trueta.

Definitely if, personally, it makes me feel happier to live surrounded by these green spaces and not cars.

Do you think it has had an economic impact?

- Man, an example is that we can meet here today, before it was unthinkable to sit on a terrace on this street. At first the shops complained that people would not go, but the truth is that the opposite has happened; the people in the neighborhood shop at the neighborhood store with the lifelong cart and don't go to the big box stores on the outskirts.

Some say this is because it is now unthinkable to be able to go anywhere in the city without so many streets.

What a mess !!! This can only be said by those who have not been to Girona. It used to be a waste of time to get in the car and get stuck in traffic jams and waste time looking for parking. And much worse we had those who did not have a car, the bus service was not available to everyone. Instead, now, young people go up and down by bike and scooter, and whoever does not want to do so, has the tram and bus service. They are less and less melancholy by car in the city of Girona.

And what about those who come from outside Girona?

The implementation of the Girona railway network means that there is an interconnection throughout the territory. Faster and cheaper than the old bus service. I have family and friends who come to visit me from Lloret, Banyoles, L'Escala, Olot or even Roses and Puigcerdà.

Do they already have an alternative?

The car parks at the city entrances are never full. People in the province of Girona do not consider taking the car to come for a walk here, or to come shopping or to use the city's services. It is more convenient and cheaper to use public transport.

You told me about cycling and scooters before. Are there many incidents in Girona?

The truth is, it scared me a little at first, but since the city was remodeled, accidents have dwindled dramatically. Not only for motor vehicles, but also for different types of users.

What are the most important measures taken in this regard?

The intersections between bike lanes, sections and pedestrian areas have been very well marked. We have clear and understandable signs, sound signals and the steps have been removed to have level crossings and

ramps but the most important thing is that the different routes are properly separated.

What do you mean?

Because a system of roads has been designed where no spaces are shared between means of transport of different types or pedestrian areas, and the intersections of all these spaces have been properly signposted.

Finally, Vera, all this implementation has been a very high cost. How will citizens pay for it?

The initial cost was high, but the annual savings we will have will be more. Every day a lot of electricity is generated by solar collectors. This free energy, and the reconversion of unnecessary electricity production taxes serve to pay all the initial expenses and the maintenance of all the networks and infrastructures implanted.

Thank you so much for your time, Vera. It has been a pleasure to talk about all these issues with you during this time, and I hope that more cities will be added to this proposal that you have made in Girona.



CURATED BY:
GARAGE STORIES

**IN SPECIAL
COLLABORATION
WITH:**

**L'ESTACIÓ ESPAI JOVE
AJUNTAMENT DE GIRONA
MOBILE WEEK GIRONA**

**[GARAGESTORIES.ORG/GIRONA2030](https://garagestories.org/girona2030)
[GARAGESTORIES.ORG/GIRONA2030-APP](https://garagestories.org/girona2030-app)**

