

Abstract

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Organisation : Barcelona Provincial Council (Catalonia, Spain)

Short description:

Barcelona Provincial Council is a local entity which operates at a supramunicipal level in the province of Barcelona with the aim of working for the interests of the 311 municipalities in the province. This province is located in central Catalonia (north-east of Spain).

Area: 7,719 km²

Population: 5,487,935 inhabitants (2009).

Distribution of active population: Agriculture: 1%;
Industry: 33%; Services: 66%

Presentation title: Barcelona Provincial Council's action against climate change and co-operation between levels of government.

Executive Summary of your Abstract: Barcelona Provincial Council is a supporting structure of the Covenant of Mayors. More than one hundred municipalities in the province are working in this framework. It is clear that co-operation between levels of government is needed.

Abstract:

The resolution of global problems often requires a local approach. A clear example is the fight against climate change and the Covenant of Mayors initiative promoted by the European Union. The establishment of clear objectives and a close time horizon allows implementation of specific and effective action plans, with participatory processes and monitoring indicators. The case of Barcelona Provincial Council is presented in the session, with the accession of 150 municipalities in the province, and demonstrates the feasibility of a model based on co-operation between local and regional governments in the context of the initiative of the European Commission, a work in network that leverages the synergies for the achievement of the objectives (environmental, economic and related to employment) and the optimization of the investments.

There are several levels of government in Spain (local –including provincial-, regional, national). Each level has different competences on environment but sometimes there are overlaps. Good communication and co-operation is needed for an optimum environmental management and for having and implementing effective public policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Resumé:

Dr Ferran Vallespinós Riera holds a PhD in Biology. He has been lecturer in the Universities of Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca and Technical University of Catalonia. He develops scientific research in the CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas). He has directed many projects dealing with sustainable management of the environment especially in the coastal area.

He was Mayor of Tiana from 1995 to 2007. Since 2007, he has been the Coordinator of the Environment Area of Barcelona Provincial Council.

Recommended reading:

Website of the Covenant of Mayors: <http://eumayors.eu> (in 23 languages)

The province of Barcelona as supporting structure of the Covenant of Mayors:
http://eumayors.eu/support_structures/structure_2/index_en.htm (in English)

Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the province of Barcelona. Preliminary results (September 2009):
<http://www.eumayors.eu/mm/staging/library/SEAPsBarcelona.pdf> (in English)

El Pacto de Alcaldes y Alcaldesas (The Covenant of Mayors): <http://diba.cat/mediambient/es/pactealc.asp>
(in Spanish)

El Pacte d'Alcaldes i Alcaldesses (The Covenant of Mayors): <http://diba.cat/mediambient/Pactealc.asp> (in
Catalan)