

## 053 Barcelona (Spain)

4.4 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

### 1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km <sup>2</sup>	Density, people/km <sup>2</sup>
Barcelona	*1,578,546	3.69 %	100.4	15,724
Barcelona Metropolitan Area	*3,031,832	7.10 %	633	4,785
Barcelona Metropolitan Agglomeration	**4,103,470	9.60 %	1,575	2,604
Province of Barcelona	*5,117,885	11.98 %	7,728	654
Catalonia	*6,813,319	15.95 %	31,930	210
Spain	***42,717,064	100 %	504,783	84.6

\* According to the *Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya* for December 2004.

\* The Barcelona Metropolitan Agglomeration used was defined by Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona in their work "Grans Aglomeracions Metropolitanes Europees" published at *Revista Papers*, number 37. This research defines 50 European Metropolitan Regions based fixed criteria on density, conurbation and total population.

\*\*\* According to *Instituto Nacional de Estadística* for January 01/2003.

## 2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
<b>Barcelona</b>	<i>Barcelona</i>	1 Municipality ( <i>Municipi</i> ) 10 Districts ( <i>Districtes</i> ): Ciutat Vella, Eixample, Sarrià-Sant Gervasi, Gràcia, Horta-Guinardó, Les Corts, Sants-Montjuïc, Sant Martí, Sant Andreu and Nou Barris.
<b>Barcelona Metropolitan Area</b>	<i>Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona*</i>	35 Municipalities ( <i>Municipis</i> ): Badalona, Badia del Vallès, Barberà del Vallès, Barcelona, Begues, Castellbisbal, Castelldefels, Cerdanyola del Vallès, Cervelló, Corbera de Llobregat, Cornellà de Llobregat, Esplugues de Llobregat, Gavà, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Molins de Rei, Montcada i Reixac, Montgat, Pallejà, Papiol, Prat de Llobregat, Ripollet, Sant Adrià de Besòs, Sant Andreu de la Barca, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Sant Climent de Llobregat, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Sant Joan Despí, Sant Just Desvern, Sant Vicenç dels Horts, Santa Coloma de Cervelló, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Tiana, Torrelles de Llobregat and Viladecans.
<b>Barcelona Metropolitan Agglomeration</b>	<i>Aglomeració Metropolitana de Barcelona</i>	93 Municipalities ( <i>Municipis</i> )
<b>Barcelona Metropolitan Region</b>	<i>Regió Metropolitana de Barcelona</i>	164 Municipalities ( <i>Municipis</i> )
<b>Province of Barcelona</b>	<i>Província de Barcelona</i>	1 Province ( <i>Província</i> ) 11 Comarcas 311 Municipalities ( <i>Municipis</i> )
<b>Catalonia</b>	Autonomous Community of Catalonia <i>Comunitat Autònoma de Catalunya</i>	1 Autonomous Community ( <i>Comunitat Autònoma</i> )** 4 Provinces ( <i>Províncies</i> ): Barcelona, Girona, Lleida and Tarragona 41 ( <i>Comarques</i> ) 946 Municipalities ( <i>Municipis</i> )
<b>Spain</b>	Kingdom of Spain <i>Reino de España</i>	17 Autonomous Communities ( <i>Comunidades Autónomas</i> ) and 2 Autonomous Cities ( <i>Ciudades Autónomas</i> ) 52 Provinces ( <i>Províncias</i> ) 8,108 Municipalities ( <i>Municipios</i> )

\* Barcelona Metropolitan Area is composed by 3 institutions which cover different territorial areas: the *Mancomunitat de Municipis* (31 municipalities), the *Entitat Metropolitana del Transport* (18 municipalities) and the *Entitat Metropolitana del Medi Ambient* (33 municipalities).

\*\* In 2005 the Government of Catalonia (*Generalitat*) started considering a major institutional reform for the territorial structure of Catalonia. With this reform a new territorial level in between provinces and comarcas, known as *begueries*, are anticipated. The new 7 *begueries* will perform most of the competences of both provinces and comarcas. The *begueria* located in the Metropolitana Area of Barcelona, called provisionally *Àmbit Metropolità*, coincides approximately with the area of the Barcelona Metropolitan Region.

## 3. Institutional framework and political powers:

### Barcelona

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#### **General Aspects**

The 1998 Barcelona Municipal Charter attributes the following powers to Barcelona City Council (*Ajuntament de Barcelona*): urban development: planning, land use and management; housing: planning and management of public housing; economic promotion; managing the public services of other administrations; public transport; traffic; telecommunications infrastructures; the environment; public health; consumer affairs and health; the provision of personal services: education, culture, sports, social welfare; and public security. City Council develops many of these powers through a network of autonomous organisations (13) and public companies (19).

#### **Mayor, *Alcalde***

Chairs the Municipal Corporation and Council; leads the municipal government and administration (executive structure). Also administers and manages the municipal budget. Appointed by a majority vote in the Municipal Council following the municipal elections held every four years. The Council can remove the Mayor from the post through a censure motion approved by an absolute majority.

#### **Municipal Council, *Consell Municipal***

The organisation that represents citizens politically. Functions include: the political promotion of the city; the control and inspection of the other municipal organisations; approving local regulations and standards; approving binding strategic documents: plans of action, investments, the financial program; urban planning and land management through the general territorial plan, the general plan and municipal town planning regulations. The 41 councillors are elected by directly elected by the public every four years under a proportional system applied to a single electoral district for the municipality of Barcelona.

#### **Districts, *Districtes***

The 10 districts are the territorial bases of municipal administration. Within their territory they have authority over: urban development, public roads, infrastructure maintenance and services for the people. Each district has a district council comprised in proportion to the results the parties obtained in the district during the municipal elections. Administrative management is exercised by a manager appointed by the Mayor.

#### **Public Companies in Barcelona**

##### ***Barcelona Gestió Urbanística***

Private company of municipal ownership whose aim is the promotion, execution and management of urban development activities as well as urban works and the promotion of housing.

##### ***Barcelona d'Infraestructures Municipals***

Private company of municipal ownership whose function is to execute urban development, infrastructural and building activities in the city of Barcelona as commissioned by the different public administrations.

## **Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)**

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### **General Aspects**

In 1997, following the dissolution of the Barcelona Metropolitan Corporation, three sectorial institutions were created in the metropolitan sphere, which city councils in the Barcelona area may join on a voluntary basis. Because affiliation is voluntary, the territorial sphere of the three organisations is different.

### **AMB County Council, *Mancomunitat de Municipis de l'AMB***

Voluntary association of municipalities in the metropolitan area whose goal is to bring a common metropolitan perspective to those jurisdictional areas decided upon by the municipalities. Acts in the area of planning and the improvement of metropolitan infrastructures, public space, housing and land, the latter through the public company IMPSOL.

### **AMB Metropolitan Transport Organization, *Entitat Metropolitana del Transport (EMT) de l'AMB***

Voluntary organisation made up of 18 municipalities from the metropolitan area. Authority over areas such as: the organisation, management and planning of the public transport system; the provision of the subway service in seven municipalities; the organisation and control of the taxi system and traffic and road-network programming.

### **AMB Organization for the Environment, *Entitat Metropolitana del Medi Ambient de l'AMB***

Voluntary organisation made up of 35 municipalities responsible for: the construction and maintenance of hydraulic infrastructures; water supply; drainage and wastewater and the treatment of urban and industrial waste. All of this sectorial activity is carried out in co-ordination with the respective municipal services.

## **Barcelona Metropolitan Agglomeration**

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### **General Aspects**

No political or administrative institution with responsibilities specific to the territory defined as the agglomeration of Barcelona was identified.

## **Barcelona Metropolitan Region**

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### **Metropolitan Transport Authority**

A consortium made up of public administrations that owns the public transport services in the Barcelona metropolitan region (City Council, Generalitat, EMT). The aim is to cooperate and co-ordinate services, funding and infrastructures. Responsible for the planning of transport infrastructures and for preparing the master plan for infrastructure in the metropolitan region.

## **Barcelona Province**

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### **General Aspects**

The Provincial Council is an institution of the local system whose main function is to co-ordinate the municipal organisations to guarantee the comprehensive provision of

municipal powers across the province. It thus advises, funds and co-operates with the city councils in the provincial territory to improve general operation.

### **Provincial Council, *Ple de la Diputació***

The maximum organ of the provincial council with functions including the approval of provincial bylaws, budgets and plans. The 51 members are elected indirectly in 14 judicial parties. Each judicial party has a number of members weighted according to the resident population and the members are assigned to each political formation in proportion with the results the judicial party overall obtained in the municipal elections.

### **President of the Provincial Council, *President de la Diputació***

The President's function is to lead the government and administration of the province, choose the members that will form the government board to advise the President in his or her functions and in whom he or she delegates part of the responsibility of government. Elected by majority vote among the members following the establishment of the Plenary Council.

## **Catalonia**

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### **General Aspects**

The autonomous government of Catalonia and its administration, the *Generalitat de Catalunya*, forms part of the federal/regional structure of Spain known as the Autonomic State. Catalonia has a statute that sets out the exclusive powers of the Generalitat, which include: the organisation of the local system, management of the territory, urban development, housing, public works, highways, railroads, transport, ports and water resources. It also has shared authority with the State in matters such as economic planning, industry, security, education and health.

### **President of the Generalitat, *President de la Generalitat***

Leads and co-ordinates the action of the Executive Council (*Consell Executiu*) and has the highest representation in the Generalitat. Responsible before the Parliament, which appoints the President after its establishment at the beginning of each session. The Executive Council is the government organisation with executive and administrative functions. The President is able to dissolve Parliament and call new elections.

### **Parliament of Catalonia, *Parlament de Catalunya***

The Parliament represents the people of Catalonia and exercise legislative authority, approves budgets, promotes and controls political actions and the actions of the government. It elects the President of the Generalitat by absolute majority, is able to exercise a constructive censure motion against the President and is qualified to do the same with the Executive Council. The 135 members are elected every four years by proportional representation applied to four multi-member electoral districts (provinces) weighted according to the population.

## **Spain**

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### **Monarch, *Monarca***

Head of State whose political capacities are almost completely limited by the Constitution. Carries out symbolic and representative functions, such as opening and

dissolving the parliamentary sessions, sanctioning laws and appointing the President of the Government and the Ministers.

### **President of the Government, *Presidente del Gobierno***

The President of the Government embodies the executive power of the State. He or she leads the actions of the government, co-ordinates its functions and elects the members of government. Appointed by absolute majority in the Congress of Deputies at the beginning of each session, but retains the capacity to dissolve the session and call new elections.

### **Government, *Gobierno*,**

The Government leads domestic and foreign policies, the Administration of the State and defence. It responds jointly before the Chambers. Exercises the executive function and has regulatory authority and legislative initiative before Parliament. The ministers are chosen exclusively by the President of the Government.

### **Congress of Deputies, *Congreso de los Diputados***

Together with the Senate, the Congress of Deputies makes up the Parliament that has legislative and budgetary powers for the State. The Congress is the chamber that represents the people and is also empowered to investigate the government. Has legislative primacy over the Senate. The Congress chooses the President of the Government, against whom it can promote a constructive censure motion. Comprised of 350 members elected by proportional representation in 52 multi-member districts (provincial districts) weighted according to the population.

### **Senate, *Senado***

Shares legislative functions with the Congress of Deputies although it exercises them as the house of territorial representation. There are a total of 259 Senators, of which 208 are elected by proportional representation in 52 electoral districts with four seats each. The other 51 are directly elected by the autonomic parliaments, in a number that varies according to the population.

## 4. Relevant Websites and Documents:

Barcelona City Council <http://www.bcn.es>

Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB) <http://www.amb.es>

Mancomunitat de Municipis del Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona

[http://www.amb.es/mmb\\_cas/index.html](http://www.amb.es/mmb_cas/index.html)

AMB Metropolitan Transport Organization, Entitat Metropolitana del Transport

<http://www.emt-amb.com/>

AMB Organization for the Environment <http://www.ema-amb.com/>

Metropolitan Authority of Transport <http://www.atm-transmet.es/>

Institut Català d'Estadística: <http://www.idescat.net/>

MUNICAT <http://www.municat.net/>

Diputació of Barcelona <http://www.diba.es>

Parliament of Catalunya <http://www.parlament-cat.es>

Generalitat of Catalunya <http://www.gencat.net>

Official website of Spanish Government <http://www.la-moncloa.es>