*City limits at work:*

*planning facing metropolitan challenges*

International workshop

**Introduction and presentation**

The dimension and territorial scale of urbanization processes in the metropolitan region of Barcelona is one of the most relevant challenges for local urban planning at the present moment. The cities of Sabadell and Terrassa, two main urban centres articulating functional relationships and integration in the Barcelona region, are specifically concern about this main challenge which simultaneously underlines some problems but also some potentials in regard with future urban planning defined on a metropolitan basis.

**Metropolitan context**

Sabadell (208.246 inhabitants in 2016) and Terrassa (215.121 inhabitants in 2016) are two metropolitan cities accounting a global population of 423.367 inhabitants. They constitute the main urban fabric and urban centrality in the context of the Vallès, in the north area of the Barcelona metropolitan region.

Despite the fact of the physical proximity, the two cities have been characterized by defining planning strategies and priorities without stablishing common agreements and objectives to be shared in the long-run.

At the same time, the nature of so many different urban phenomena, such as mobility, economic location of activities, collective use of open spaces, and new new urban projects, are obviously and progressively defined on the basis of the centrality characterizing the urban system defined by both cities.

The opportunity for rethinking the city limits between Sabadell and Terrassa from an analytical and projectual perspective is on the basis of the workshop proposal.

**Projects orientation**

The workshop will be oriented following 5 main inspiring ideas:

* The emerging values of the city limits as an analytical and projectual laboratory for rethinking urban policies and strategies defined on a metropolitan basis.
* The potentialities of the existent empty spaces (urban and metropolitan voids) located in between both cities for hosting urban collective uses and redefining the typology and role of facilities when conceived in a metropolitan basis despite the fact of their urban location.
* The opportunity represented by new issues such as ‘metropolitan agriculture’ or ‘climate-proof urban policies’ to incorporate new urban functions to be shared by the two cities in specific locations in the urban limit fringe in-between.
* The public capability of landscape (‘landscape publicness’) in terms of a new value to be identified regarding the open spaces system in-between cities. In this sense, open spaces will be considered as future catalyst of urban life.
* The capability of the ‘ordinary landscapes’ characterising the areas in between the two cities as potential containers of new metropolitan uses and activities representing a benefit for both urban areas.

**Main goals to be achieved by the workshop projects**

Taking into consideration these aforementioned ideas, the definition of the projects to be developed by the international groups participating in the workshop would be defined as follows:

* The projects to be developed during the workshop will activate different urban values regarding the urban limit fringe in-between the cities of Sabadell and Terrassa; they will also explore new possibilities for economic and social development based on innovation and creativity, understanding urban landscape and the open spaces system as containers, drivers and catalysts for defining strategic proposals with the final ambition to articulate a common urban agenda for both cities in the long-run.