

## **SUMMARY**

### **Summary of Report 13/2020, relating to municipal services and environmental management in boroughs with a population of more than 10,000 inhabitants, year 2017**

*Barcelona, 16 September 2020*

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 13/2020, relating to municipal services and environmental management in boroughs with a population of more than 10,000 inhabitants, financial year 2017, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by Board Member Mr Joan-Ignasi Puigdollers, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 21 July 2020.

The aim of the assignment was to analyse environmental measures undertaken by the entities and also to analyse the running of municipal public services in terms of their influence on the environment.

The audit was able to analyse data from one hundred and twenty town and city councils, all those targeted by the study except Argentona, which did not submit its documentation before the deadline.

The report has been structured in two sections: the first one focuses on general measures of environmental management with repercussions for each borough as a whole and on measures involving the activities and organisational arrangements of the one hundred and twenty councils; the second one looks at a selection of councils and their specific undertakings in relation to air, noise and light pollution.

From the information obtained it was clear that all of them, to a greater or lesser degree, were carrying out measures relating to the environment. However, they were not using all the tools available for the purpose.

The most significant findings arising from the work carried out, as explained in section 3.1 of the report, can be summarised as follows:

**As regards their activities as a whole, as they relate to environmental management:**

- Of the town and city councils 86% stated that they had signed the Aalborg Charter and had signed up to the Local Agenda 21 initiative. However, only six of these councils had fully developed the management tools required by these commitments..

**Implementation levels of the different Local Agenda 21 phases**

Aalborg Charter and Local Agenda 21 sign-up	Environmental diagnosis or assessment carried out	Inclusion of these measures in an environmental action plan	Committee for monitoring purposes	System of indicators set up	Environmental declaration issued	Town and city councils			
103	85	64	23	18	6	Granollers, Mataró, Mollet del Vallès, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Vila-seca			
						12	Badalona, Barcelona, Blanes, Caldes de Montbui, Gavà, Igualada, Molins de Rei, Montgat, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Sant Cugat del Vallès, La Seu d'Urgell, Tarragona		
					5	1	Vilafranca del Penedès		
						4	La Garriga, Lleida, Parets del Vallès, Terrassa		
					41	36	13	Cambrils, Canet de Mar, Castell - Platja d'Aro, Cornellà de Llobregat, Figueres, Lloret de Mar, Manlleu, Sant Andreu de la Barca, Sant Andreu de Llavaneres, Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Sant Just Desvern, Sant Vicenç dels Horts, Santa Coloma de Farners	
								23	Arenys de Mar, Banyoles, Calonge, Castellbisbal, Castelló d'Empúries, Cunit, l'Escala, Esparreguera, Girona, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Lliçà d'Amunt, Montornès del Vallès, Olesa de Montserrat, Palamós, Palau-solità i Plegamans, Pallejà, Salou, Sant Adrià de Besòs, Sant Pere de Ribes, Sant Sadurní d'Anoia, Vic, Viladecans, Vilanova del Camí
					5	5	Berga, Calafell, Castellar del Vallès, Martorell, Ripollet		
							21	2	1
					19	7			
							12	12	Pineda de Mar, Torroella de Montgrí
		18	1	1	1	Malgrat de Mar, Mont-roig del Camp, Olot, Palafrugell, Roses			
						1	1	1	1
		1	1	1	1				
						15	15	15	15
		17	10	2	2				
						7	7	7	7
		8	8	3	3				
						7	7	7	7
		103	95	69	27				
						17	25	51	93
120	120	120	120	120	120				
						120	120	120	120
Accomplished	Unaccomplished								

- The establishment of environmental management arrangements within the organisation structure, which had been certified or could feasibly be certified, had occurred in twenty-two local authorities. Of these twenty-two, only eleven councils had a fully developed system in place.

**Implementation levels for different phases of setting up environmental management arrangements**

Environmental management arrangements exist	Environmental management policies exist	Procedures exist to determine environmental issues	Monitoring procedures have been established	Town and city councils
22	18	17	11	Calafell, Calonge, Castelló d'Empúries, Granollers, Palau-solità i Plegamans, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Torredembarra (a)
				Barcelona, Salou, El Vendrell, Vilanova i la Geltrú (b)
			6	Castelldefels, Esparreguera, Mont-roig del Camp, Premià de Mar, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Roses
		1	1	Amposta
	4	4	4	L'Escala, Pineda de Mar, Sitges, Torroella de Montgrí
98	27	18	2	Mataró, Sant Sadurní d'Anoia
			16	Canet de Mar, Castell - Platja d'Aro, Cornellà de Llobregat, Esplugues de Llobregat, Gavà, Igualada, Lloret de Mar, Martorell, Montornès del Vallès, Rubí, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Sant Vicenç dels Horts, Santa Coloma de Farners, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Terrassa, Vila-seca
			9	2
			7	Barberà del Vallès, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Montcada i Reixac, Ripollet, Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Sant Just Desvern, Santa Perpètua de Mogoda
	71	4	4	Girona, Malgrat de Mar, Olot, El Prat de Llobregat
		67	67	Abrera, Arenys de Mar, Badalona, Badia del Vallès, Balaguer, Banyoles, Berga, La Bisbal d'Empordà, Blanes, Caldes de Montbui, Calella, Cambrils Canovelles, Cardedeu, Cassà de la Selva, Castellar del Vallès, Castellbisbal, Cerdanyola del Vallès, Corbera de Llobregat, Cubelles, Cunit, Deltebre, Figueres, Les Franqueses del Vallès, La Garriga, La Llagosta, Lliçà d'Amunt, Manresa, El Masnou, Molins de Rei, Mollerussa, Mollet del Vallès, Montgat, Olesa de Montserrat, Palafrugell, Palamós, Pallejà, Parets del Vallès, Piera, Premià de Dalt, Reus, Ripoll, La Roca del Vallès, Sabadell, Salt, Sant Adrià de Besòs, Sant Andreu de la Barca, Sant Andreu de Llavaneres, Sant Carles de la Ràpita, Sant Celoni, Sant Joan de Vilatorrada, Sant Joan Despi, Sant Pere de Ribes, Sant Quirze del Vallès, La Seu d'Urgell, Tarragona, Tàrraga, Tordera, Torelló, Tortosa, Vallirana, Valls, Vic, Viladecans, Vilafranca del Penedès, Vilanova del Camí, Vilassar de Mar
22	45	39	15	<b>Total accomplished</b>
98	75	81	105	<b>Total unaccomplished</b>
120	120	120	120	<b>Total town and city councils</b>
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Accomplished <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Unaccomplished				

- Over 60% of the councils had passed regulations of some kind for the purpose of protecting the environment, had established local fees or charges which they considered to be environmental, had carried out monitoring and inspection activities, and had undertaken measures to encourage personal and social habits to help defend and protect the environment.
- More than 75% of the councils had put in place measures to improve and reduce energy consumption; however, only 35% had carried out training and awareness activities relating to environmental issues for their staff.
- Over 85% of the councils had a specific division or unit with responsibilities in environmental management and staff members with specialist qualifications. However, the same percentage of councils had neglected to establish budget indicators or objectives for their programmes for protecting and improving the environment.
- On average, the expenditures relating to protecting and improving the environment represented 0.5% of total expenditure of the town and city councils included in the audit. But they represented 10.3% if expenditures relating to waste disposal (5%) and street cleaning (4.8%) were also included.

**As regards air, sound and light pollution, the audit analysed a selection of councils, with the following results:**

- Of the councils, 85% had not passed any regulations specifically relating to air pollution, nearly half did not report on the results of the measurements undertaken and air quality, and the same proportion had not adopted any measures to help meet air quality objectives laid down in legislation. It should also be highlighted that less than 40% had carried out monitoring and inspection activities to ensure compliance with statutory regulations on air pollution.
- 33% did not have any local regulations dealing with noise and vibration in line with statutory requirements, while more than half had not taken any measures to improve noise levels in their borough.
- The councils in the selection did not have any plans for improving sound levels and only two had action plans for dealing with noise pollution.
- Resources allocated to evaluating noise pollution were manifestly insufficient. Of the boroughs selected, only one council had its own monitoring units or stations, but did not have protocols for dealing with cases of non-compliance with sound level objectives.
- More than 85% did not have any specific regulatory arrangements adapted to statutory regulations on light pollution and over 35% had not carried out any undertakings to improve energy efficiency in outdoor lighting equipment, or in regard to statutorily mandated requirements.

- Half of the selected councils did not have a strategic plan relating to light pollution and energy efficiency within their municipal borough. And of those that did have one, only one monitored achievement levels of the objectives established in the action plan to develop the strategic plan.

In section 3.2 of the report the Audit Office makes a series of recommendations on different aspects of the environmental management carried out by town and city councils for which there was scope for improvement. Since Local Agenda 21 has been updated with the sustainable development objectives of Agenda 2030, the entities ought to formalise their commitment to environmentally sustainable management practices for the activities they are responsible for, and to protecting and improving the environment, by signing up to this Agenda; they then need to fulfil their commitments and undertake the necessary measures to meet these objectives.

This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at [www.sindicatura.cat](http://www.sindicatura.cat).