



**Title:** Social transport equity by planning for proximity

**Acronym:** STEPP

**Project leader:** Oriol Marquet

**Host organisation:** Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambiental (ICTA), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

**Main purpose of the project:**

To understand how planning for proximity through "superilles", 15-minute city programs, and similar initiatives can reduce transport disadvantages. We will examine the potential of urban intensification policies and built environment interventions in creating equal and just access to opportunities in Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Valencia, and Palma de Mallorca.

**Design/methodology/approach:**

To calculate what are the real effects of proximity on achieving travel behavior change, the project will use a triangulation of quantitative methods. Using GIS accessibility mapping, GPS and accelerometry tracking, and a telephone survey we will assess the capacity of proximity environments to foster short-distance walking and biking trips.

**Potential results:**

The project will test whether proximity policies have the potential to create more equal transportation systems, whether current political approaches to proximity creation are well-calibrated, what the effects of these policies on the most vulnerable population groups are, and what is the acceptability of these policies among the local population.

**Social relevance of the research:**

The project's outcomes will inform municipalities and policymakers to improve the design of current policies aimed at planning for sustainable transport and transportation equity. For the first time, we will have empirical data on the efficiency of spatial built environment policies to create short-distance sustainable travel.

**Originality/value of the project:**

The STEPP project will be the first to examine the diversity of spatial intensification policies in Spanish cities. We will benchmark the underlying assumptions of policies like the *15-minute city*, or the *superilles/superblocks* concept. To do so we will employ high spatial resolution proximity indexes and advanced tracking techniques.