



**Barcelona  
Supercomputing  
Center**  
*Centro Nacional de Supercomputación*

# Digital Twins for industrial applications

Fernando Cucchietti

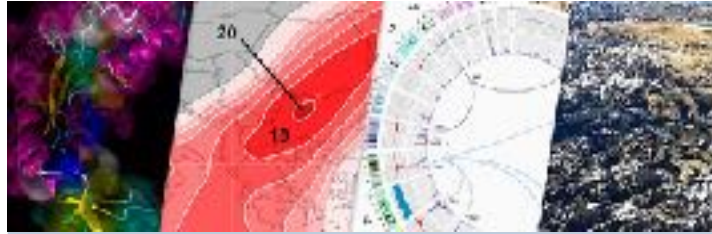
Barcelona Supercomputing Center



**Barcelona  
Supercomputing  
Center**  
*Centro Nacional de Supercomputación*



Supercomputing services  
to Spanish and EU researchers



R&D in Computer, Life, Earth  
and Engineering Sciences



PhD programmes,  
technology transfer  
and public engagement

BSC-CNS is a **consortium** composed of

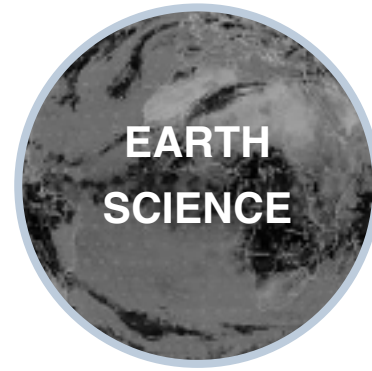
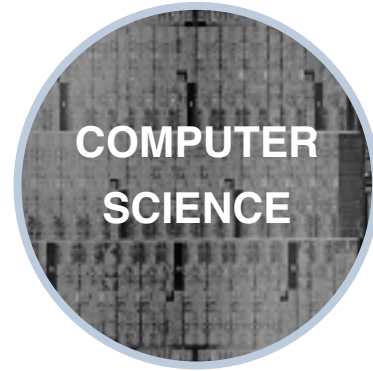
- Spanish government (60%)
- Catalan government (30%)
- Polytechnic University of Catalonia - UPC (10%)

# MareNostrum 5

Accelerating science  
to 314,000 trillion  
calculations per second.



# Scientific departments BSC



Computational Applications  
for Science and Engineering

# Data Analytics & Visualization Group



Fernando Cucchiatti



Paula Szewach



Patricio Reyes



Carlos García



Laura Roldán



Guillermo Marín



Sol Bucalo



David García



Jerónimo Calderón



Marzieh Karimi



Marta Esteban



Paula Fernández



Marc Heras



Raquel Barrachina



Adria Espinoza

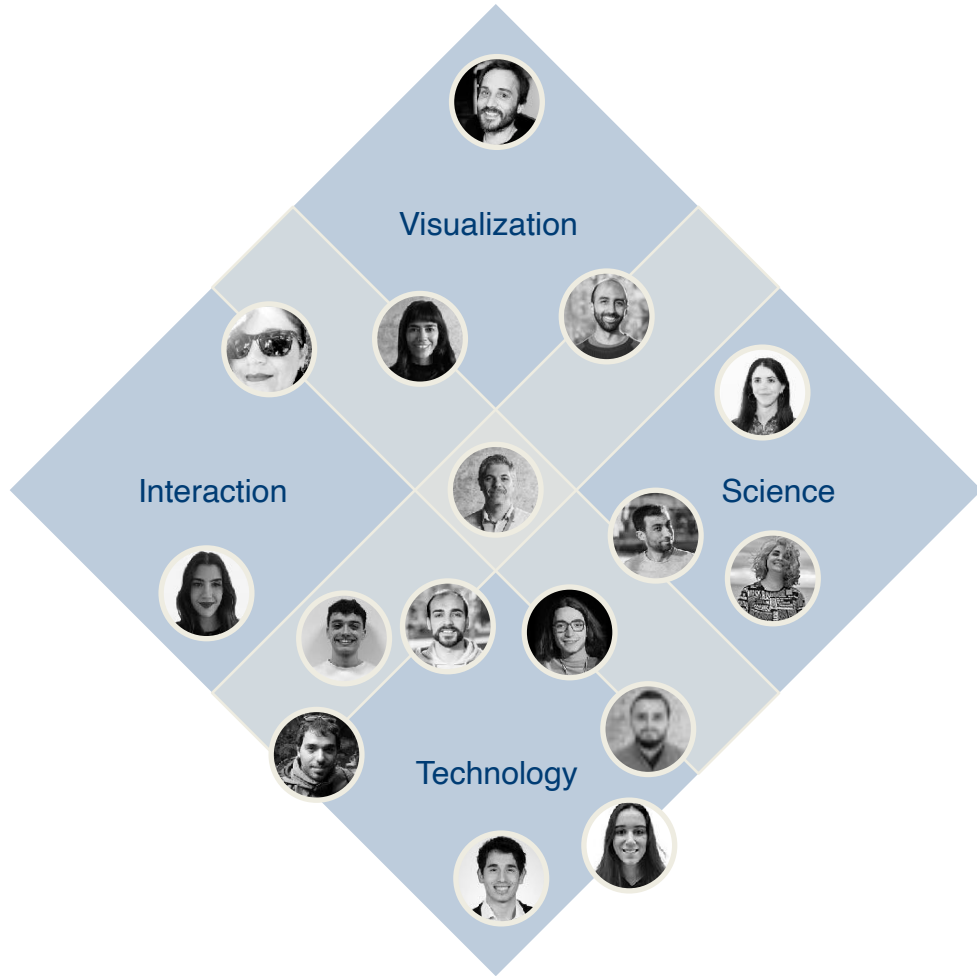


Roger González



Alex Gil

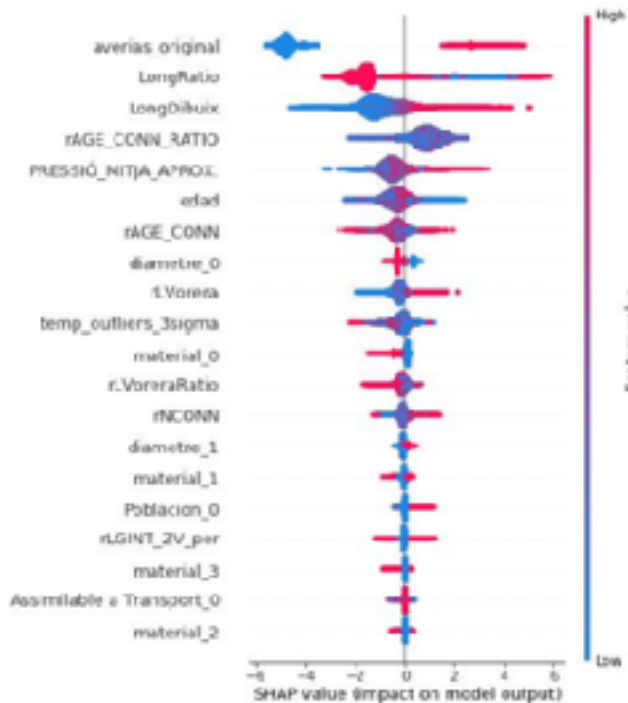
# Talent connection



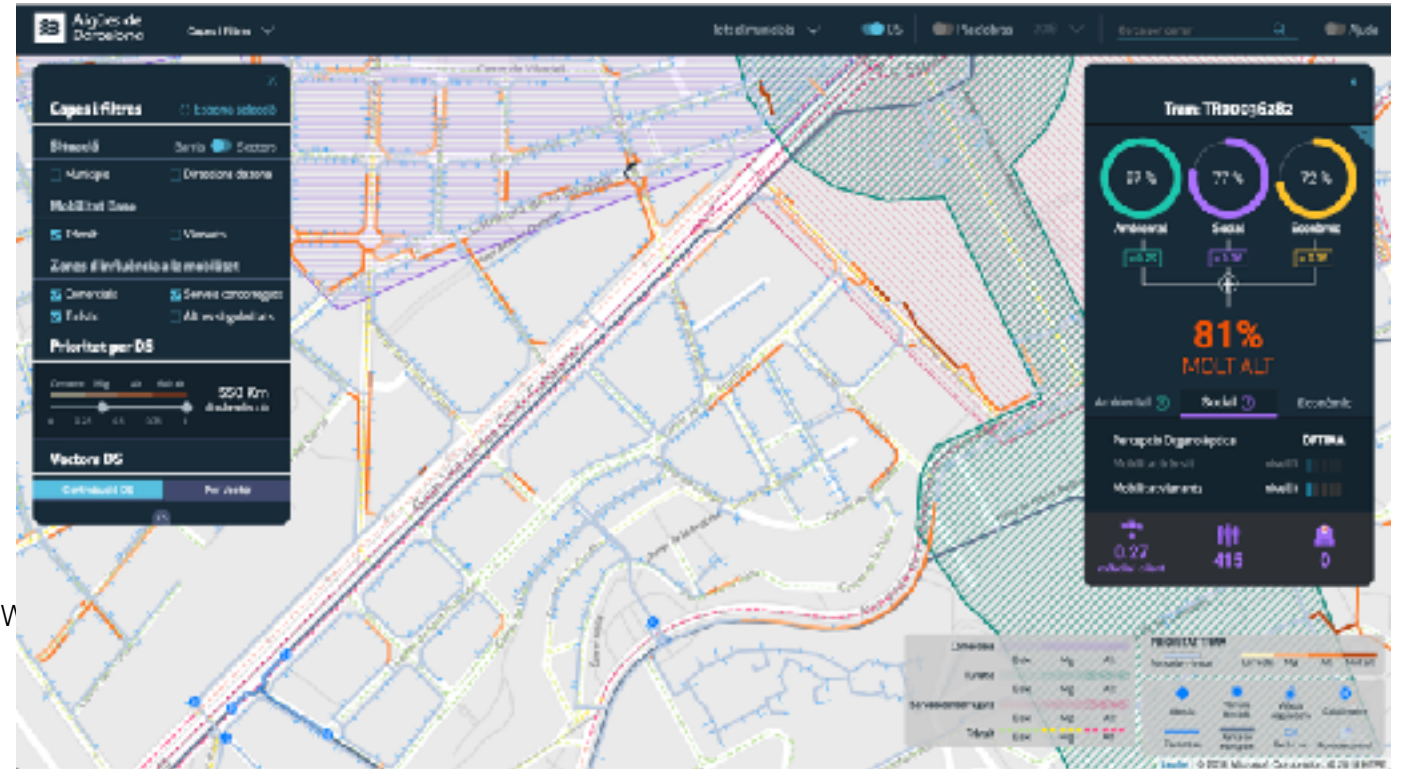
- Scientific Visualization and Storytelling
- Interactive Data Visualization
- Industrial AI and Digital Twins
- Art+Science Driven Innovation
- Urban Data Science

# Predictive Maintenance

**Result:** Hierarchical model with **4x more accuracy** than previous models

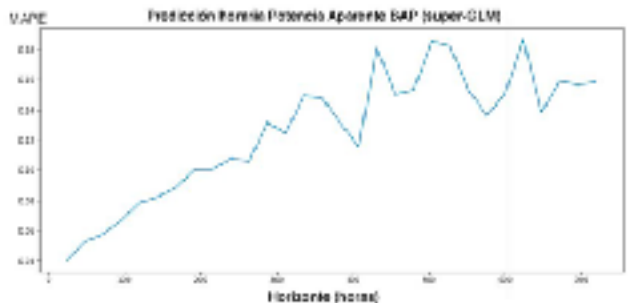
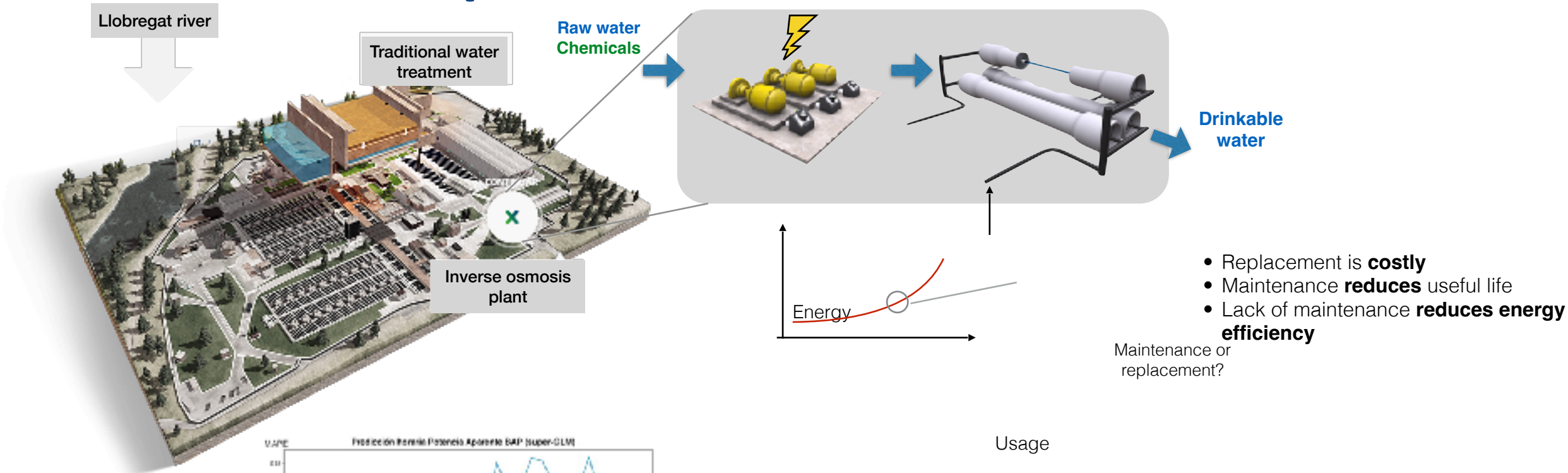


Predictive importance of features



**Predictive Maintenance:** Developed algorithms to forecast yearly probability of failure of elements in water distribution network (all hidden assets), leading to improved renovation investment and better understanding of causes of failure

# Optimisation of resources



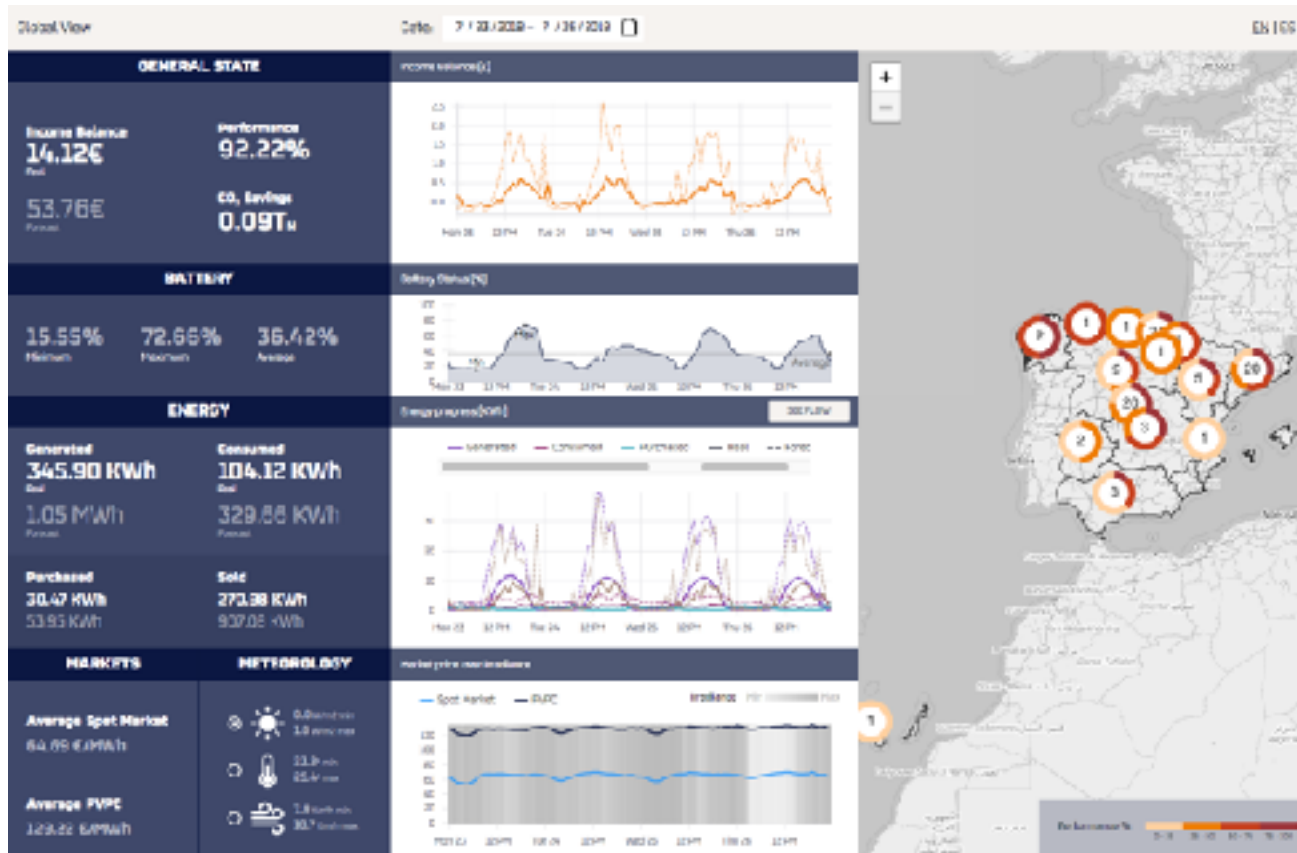
➔ Recommendations on maintenance and operation procedures ➔ **7.5% reduction** of energy consumption

**Energy Efficiency:** Developed forecasting algorithms of a water treatment plant dynamics, leading to optimisation strategies that reduced total energy consumption



# Optimal operation

Control panel of operation of multiple energy plants



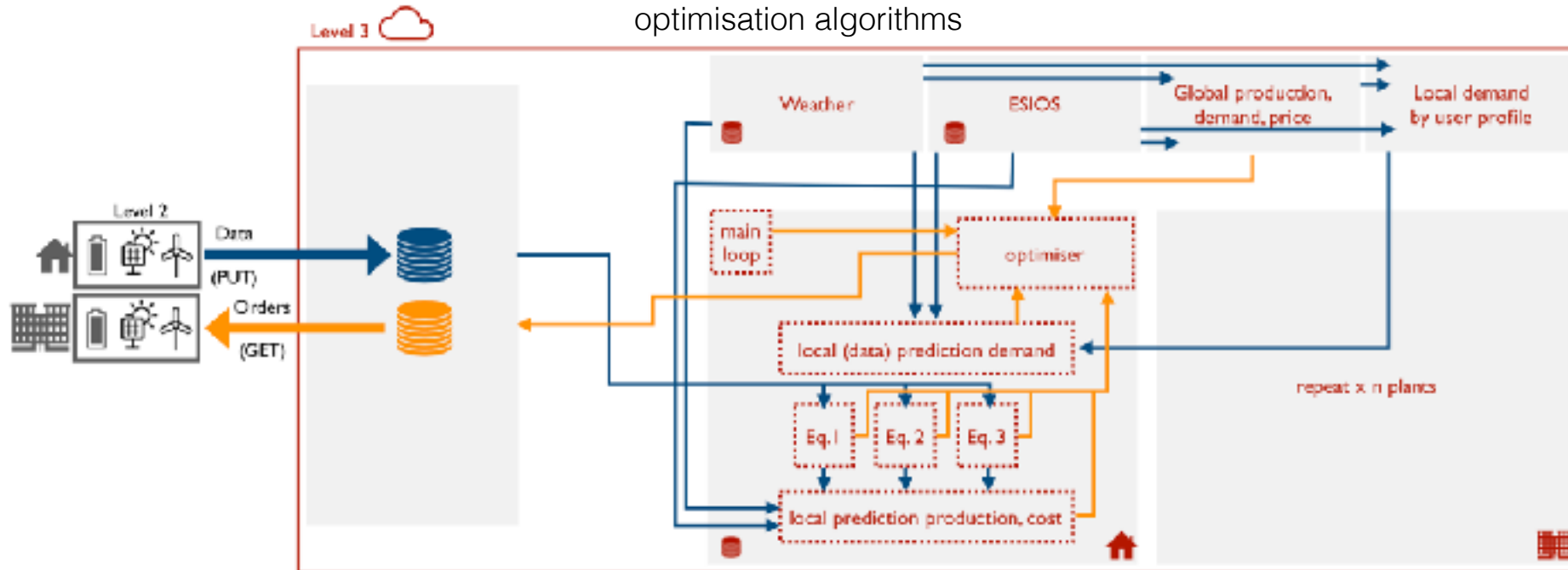
Distributed power producing sites coordinated by central AI



**Virtual Power Plants:** Developed forecasting algorithms (local production and consumption, global energy demand/offer and bid price), optimisation algorithms, a visualisation platform for monitoring, and a digital twin for development and testing.

# Optimal operation

Central AI relies on forecasts and optimisation algorithms

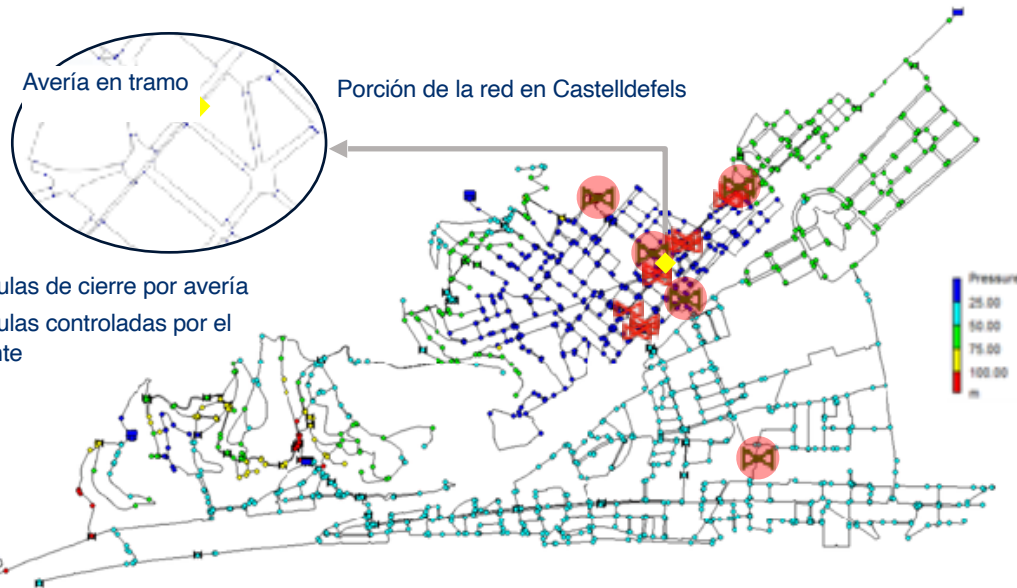


Global operations (level 3) over **10% gain** compared to local control (level 2)

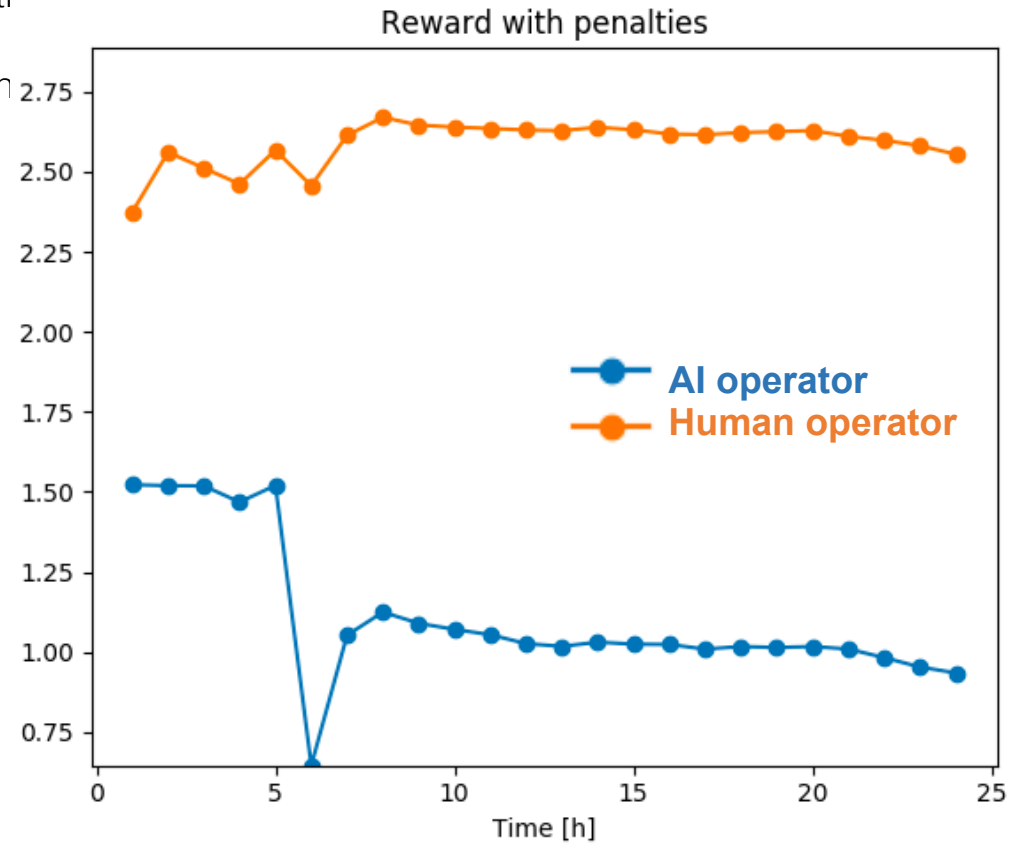
**Virtual Power Plants:** Developed forecasting algorithms (local production and consumption, global energy demand/offer and bid price), optimisation algorithms, a visualisation platform for monitoring, and a digital twin for development and testing.



Operator in control room receives recommendation



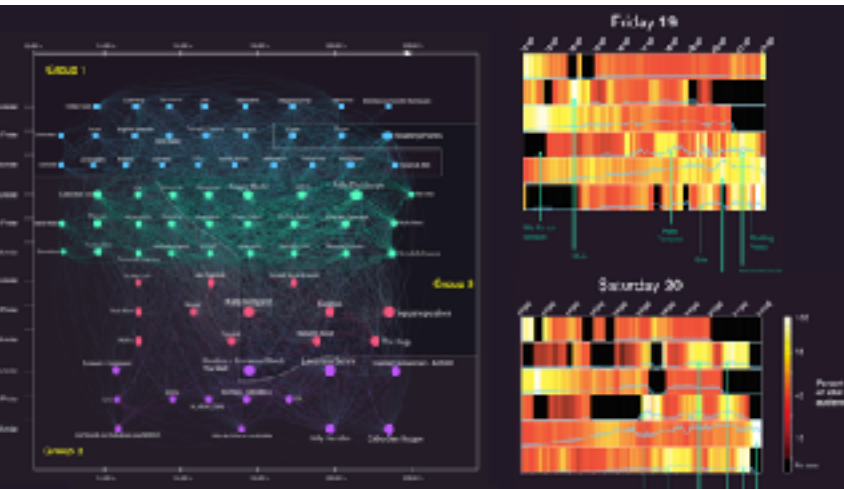
Digital twin simulates behaviour of distribution network



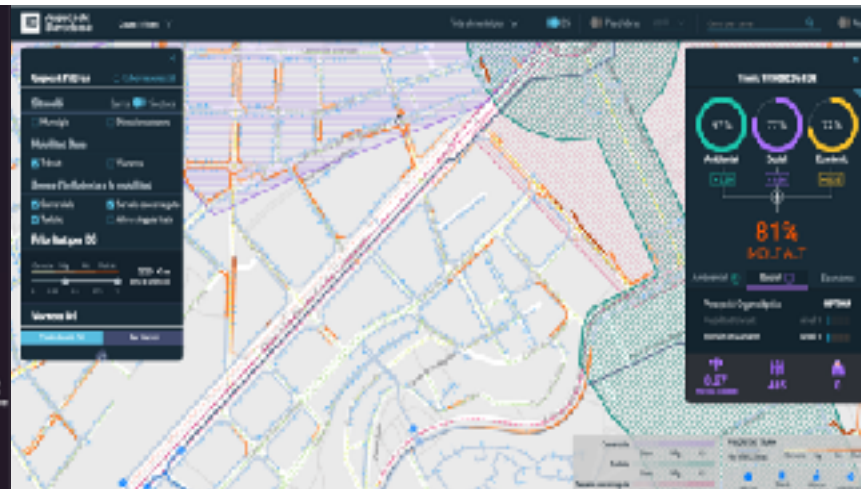
Reinforcement learning based AI controls the network and obtains higher metrics than human designed operation schedule

**AI driven automated control:** AI control of industrial plants or machinery to optimise sequences of tasks using Reinforcement Learning techniques

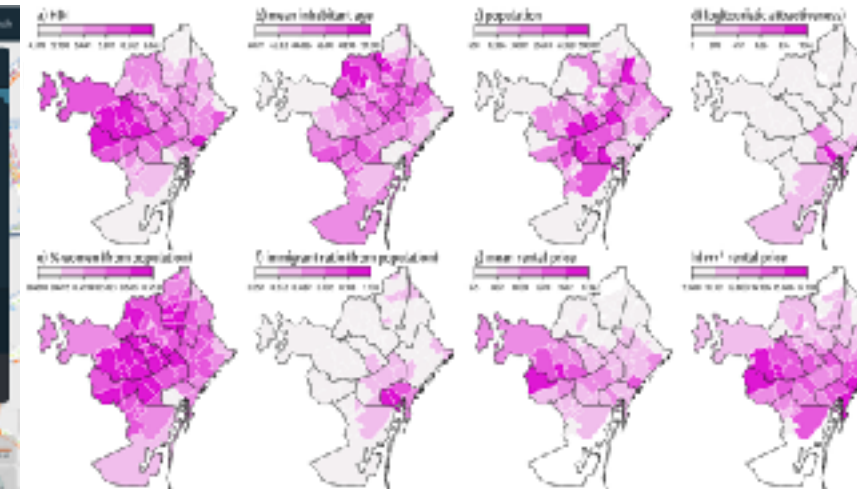
# Since 2015: getting started



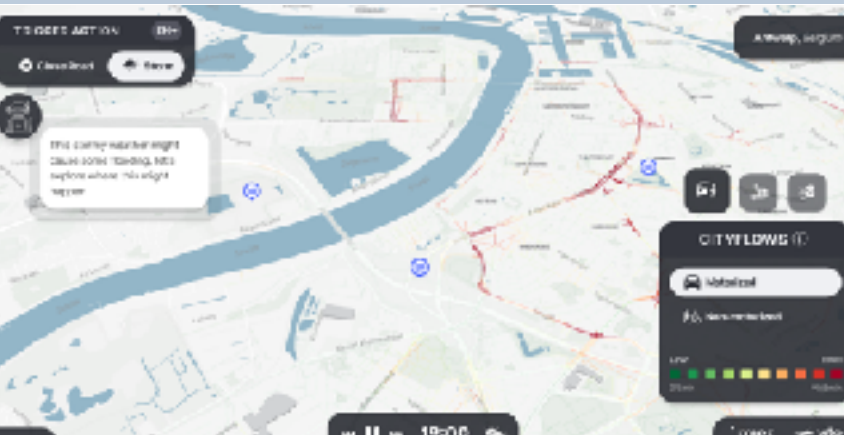
We know what you did last Sónar



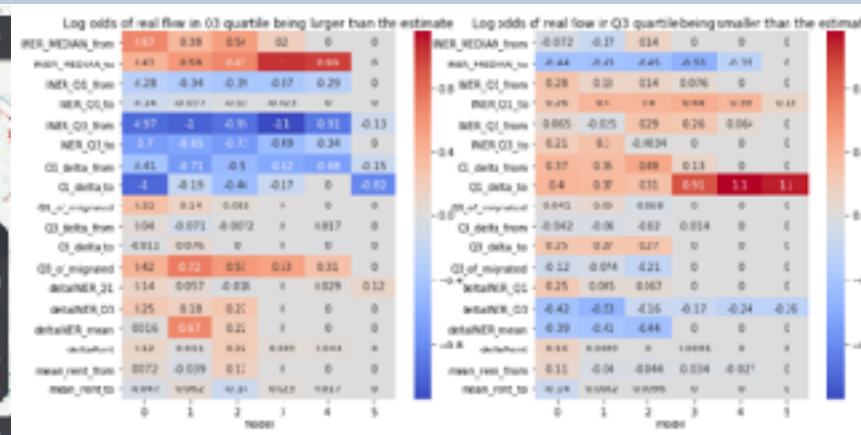
Aguas de Barcelona



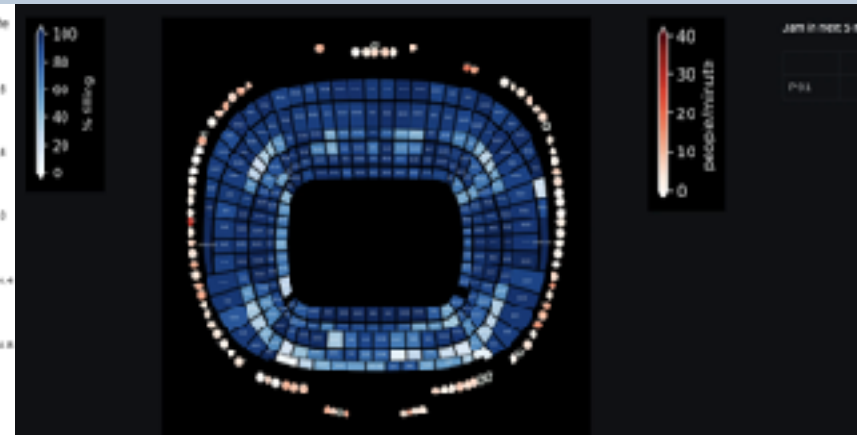
Accessibility



PRECINCT

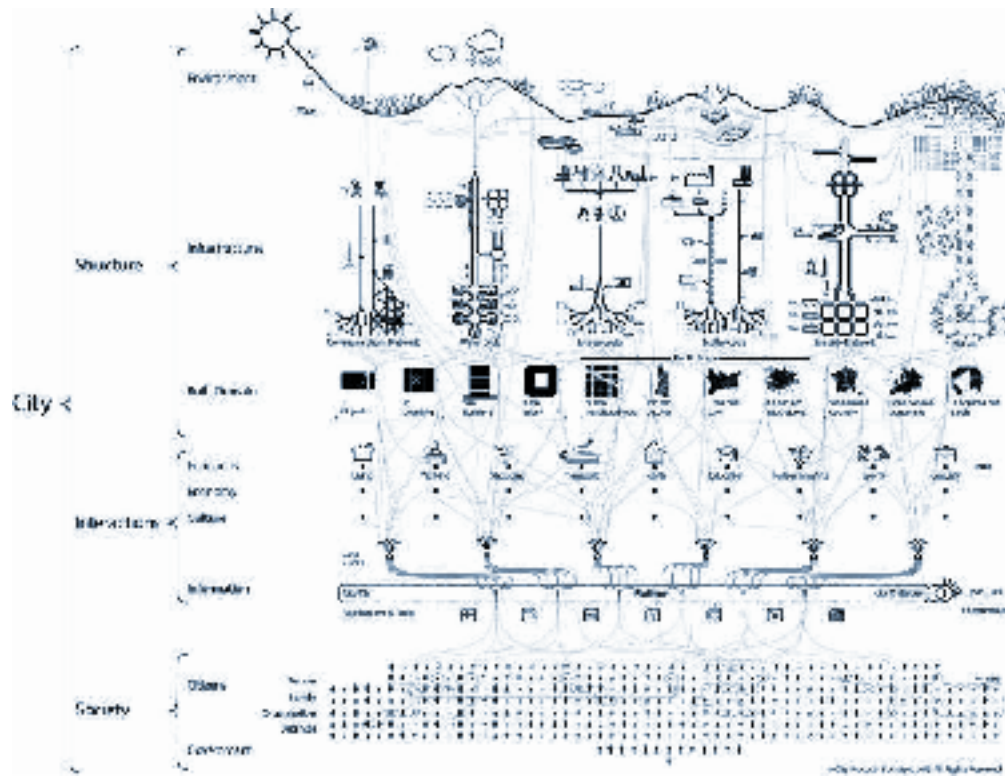


Gentrification



IOTwins

# From anatomy to physiology of the city

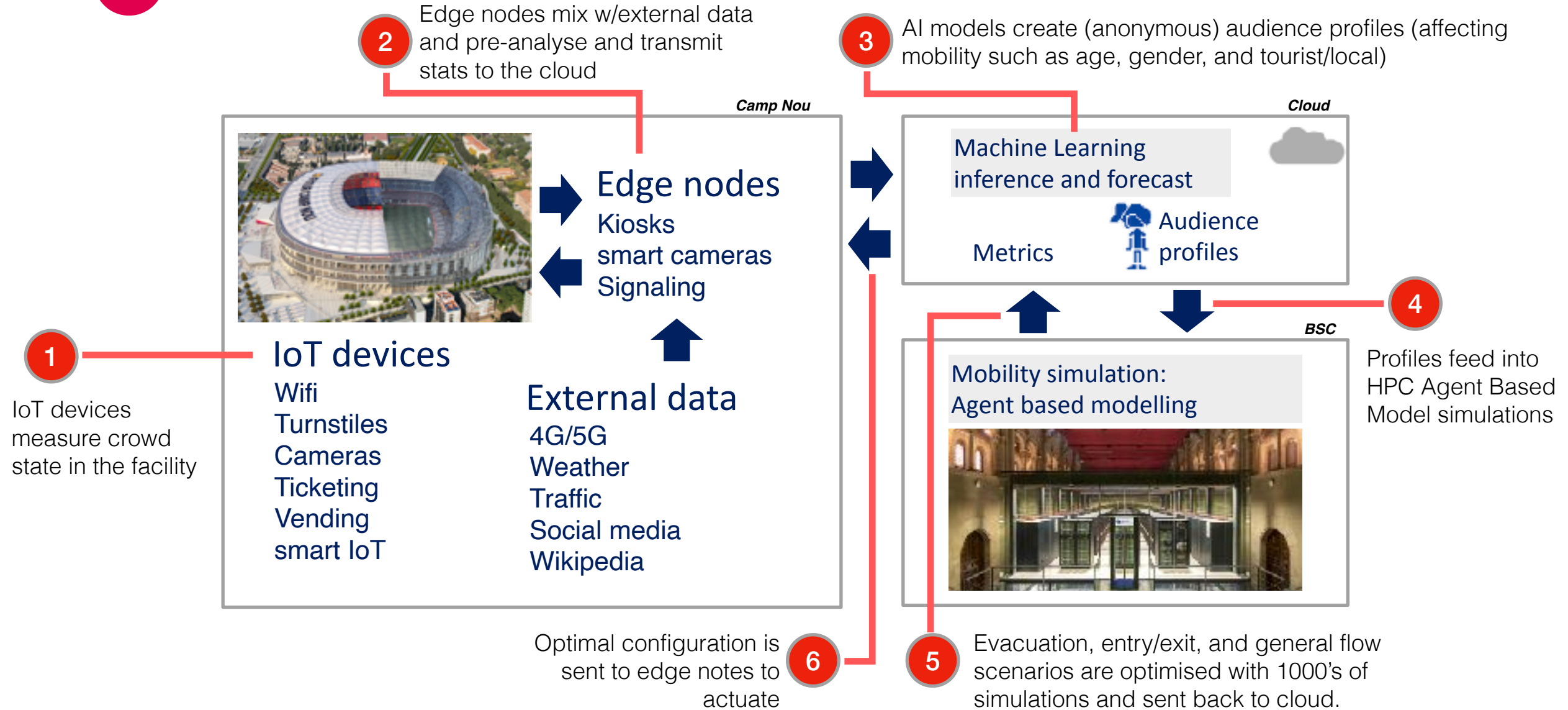


**Theoretical framework  
on how to simulate a  
complete city**



Meta, I., Cucchiatti, F. M., Navarro-Mateu, D., Graells-Garrido, E., & Guallart, V. (2022). *A physiology-inspired framework for holistic city simulations*. *Cities*, 126, 103553. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2021.103553>

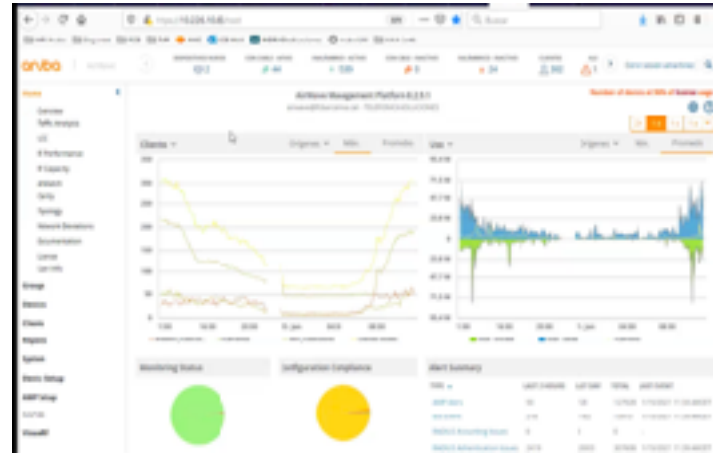
# Use Case: The Camp Nou Digital Twin



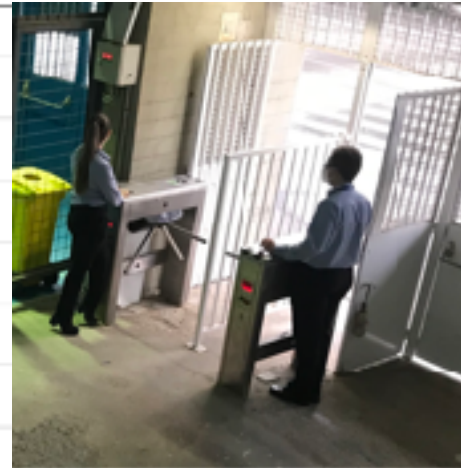
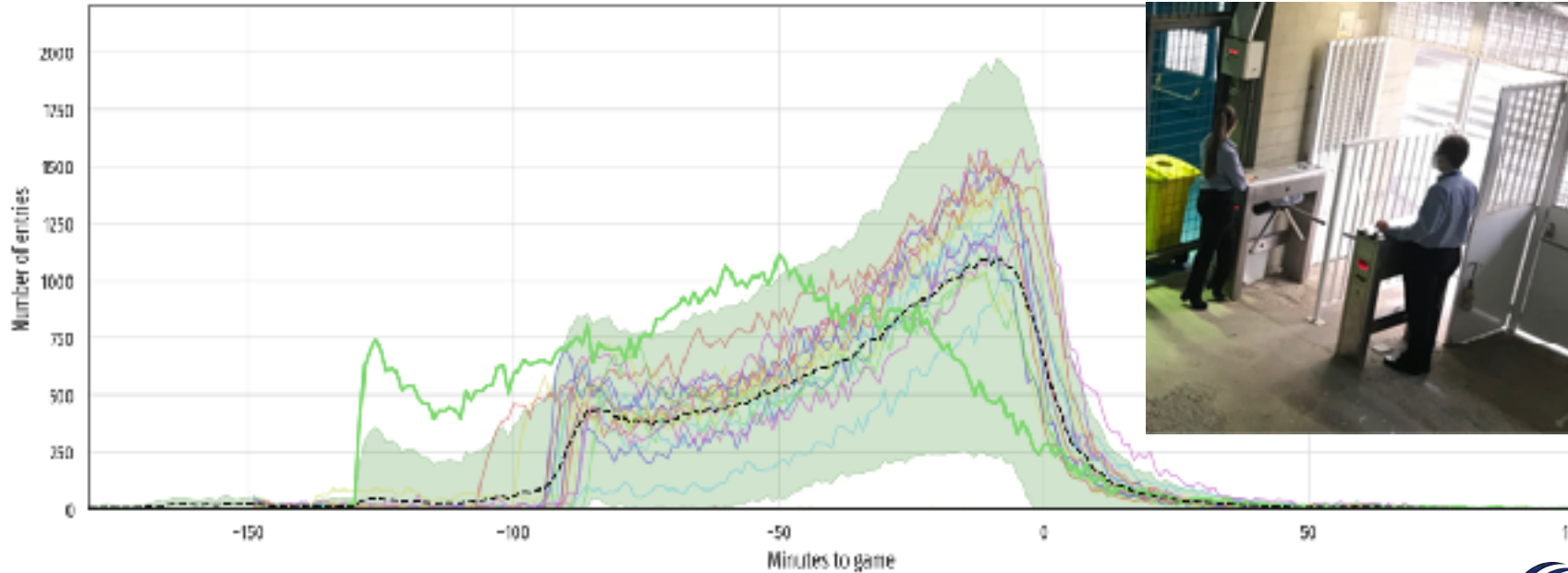
# Sensors and IoT devices

## API

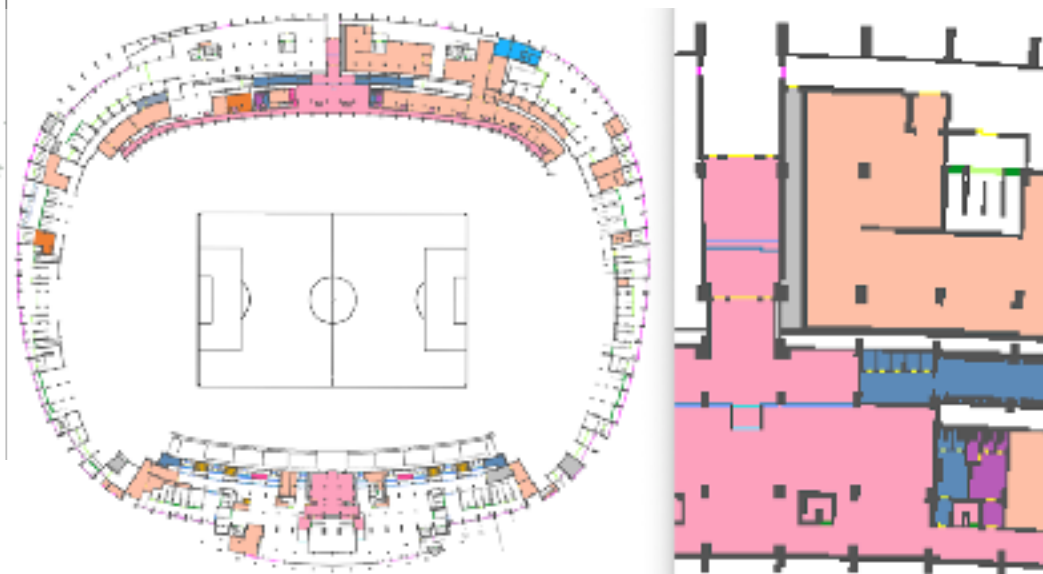
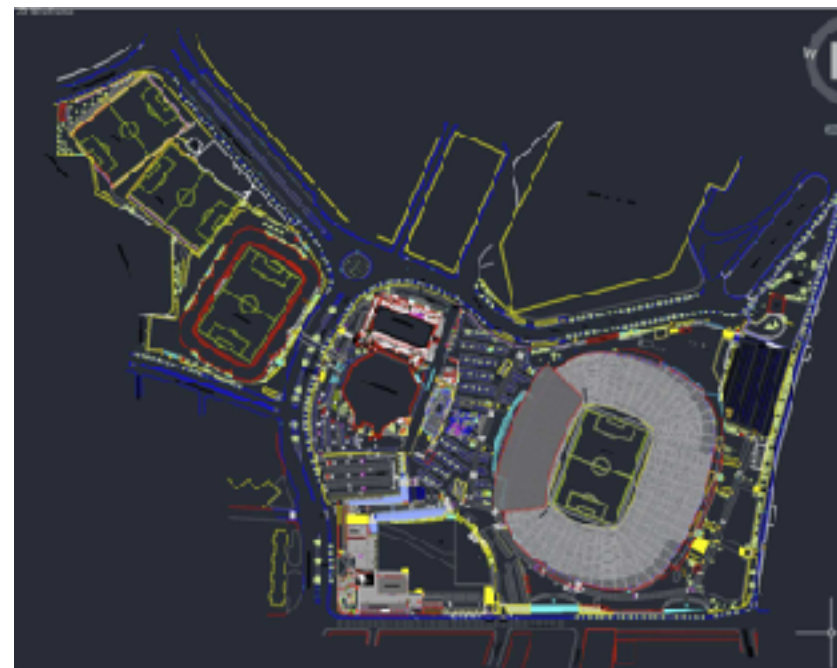
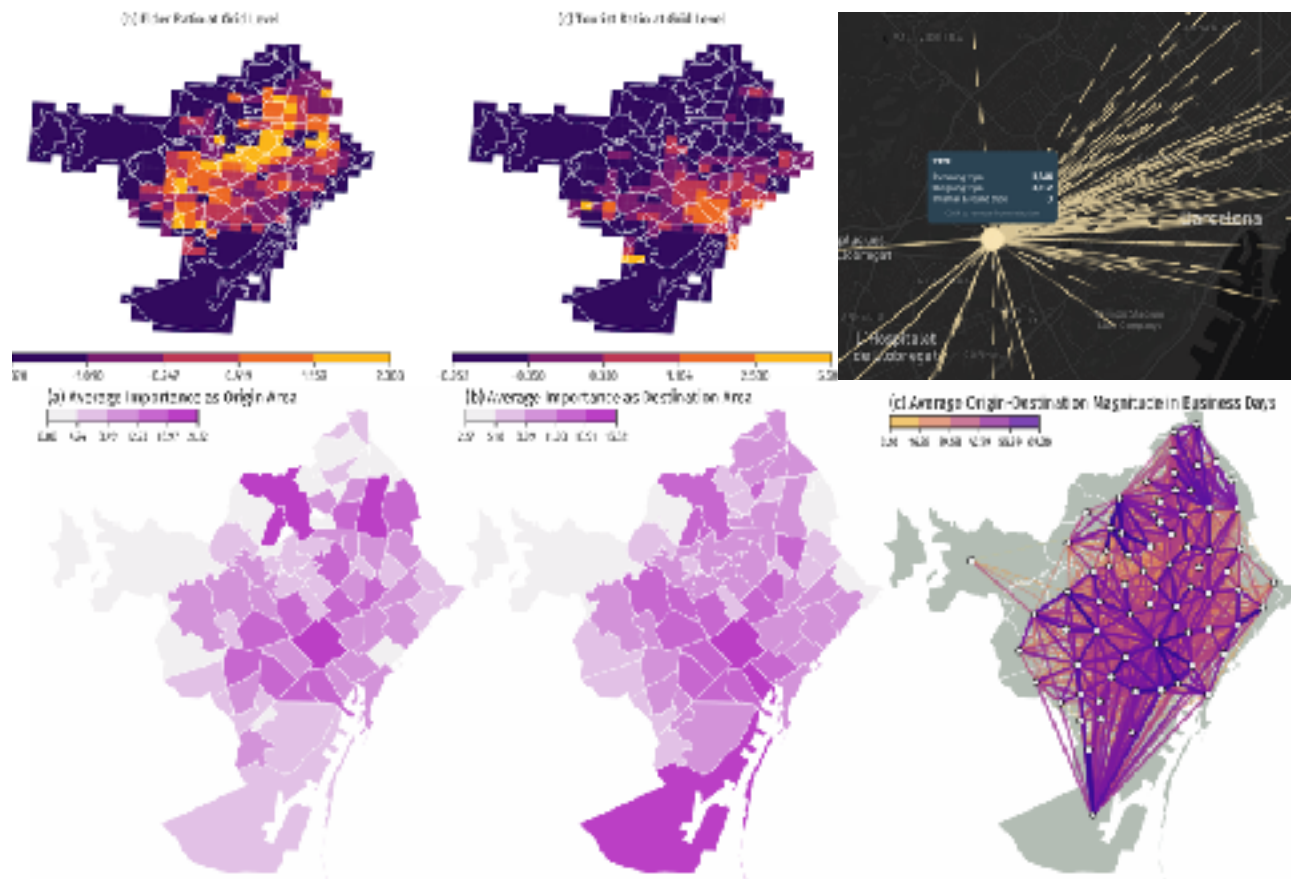
- Coming from FCB edge
- Anonymised WiFi APs data
- Sensors (turnstiles etc.)
- Cameras (delayed)



2019-2020 curves of attendance



# External data input

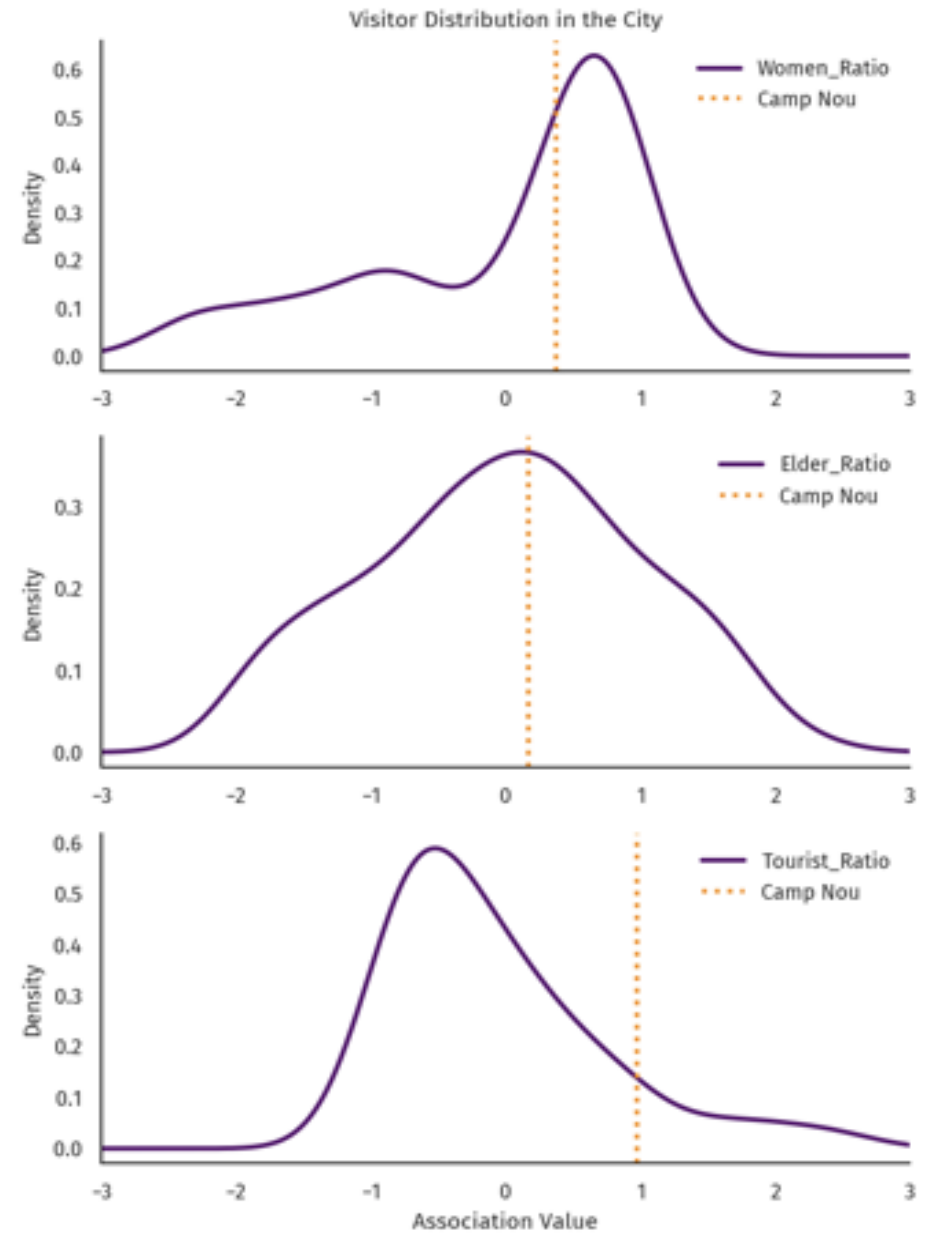




# Machine learning models

## Visitor profile (related to mobility)

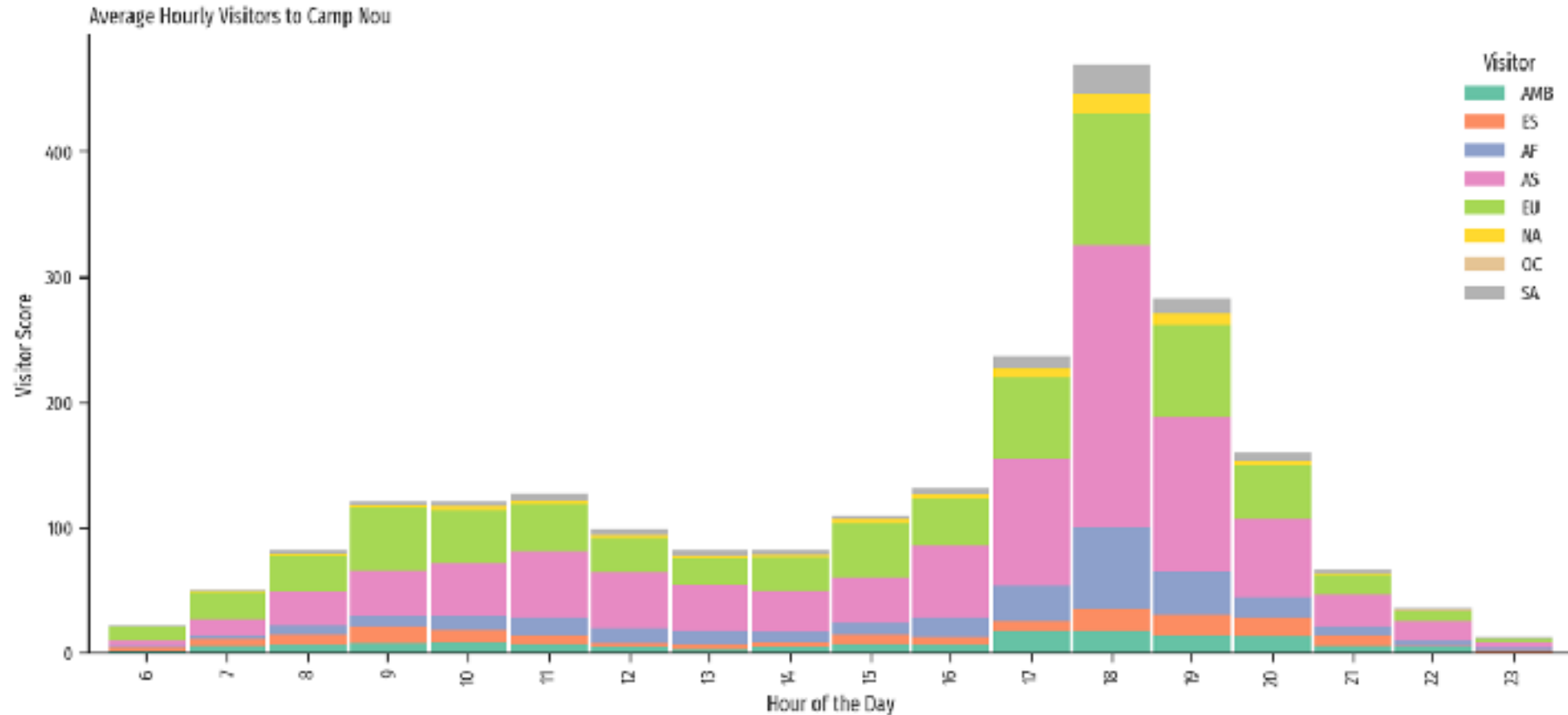
- Origin
- Gender
- Age bracket
- Cameras



# Machine learning models

## Visitor profile (related to mobility)

- Origin
- Gender
- Age bracket
- Cameras

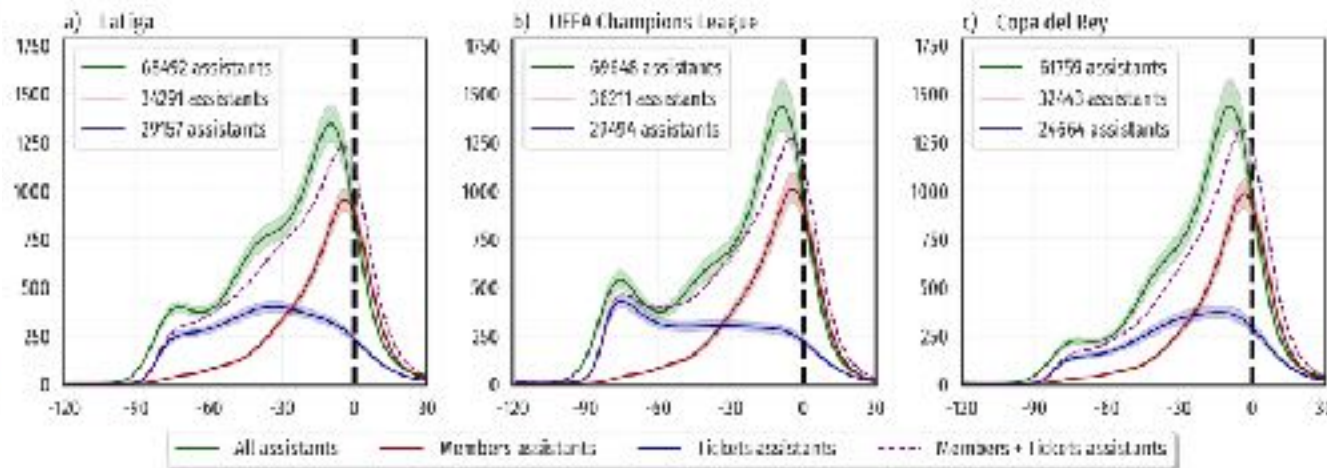
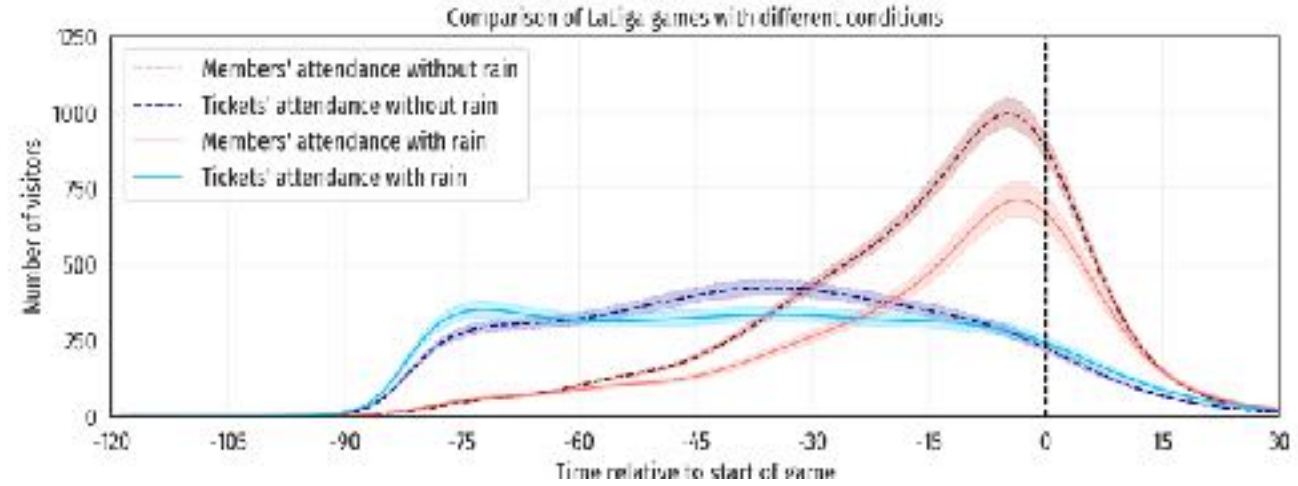
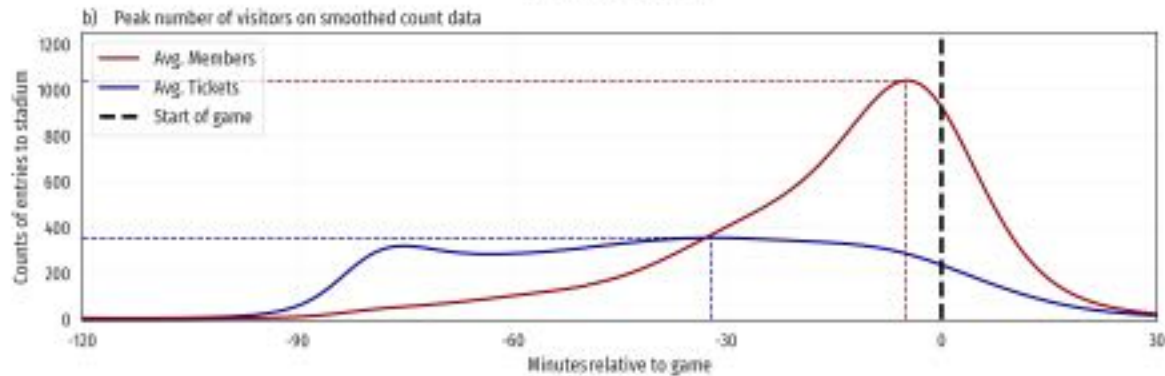
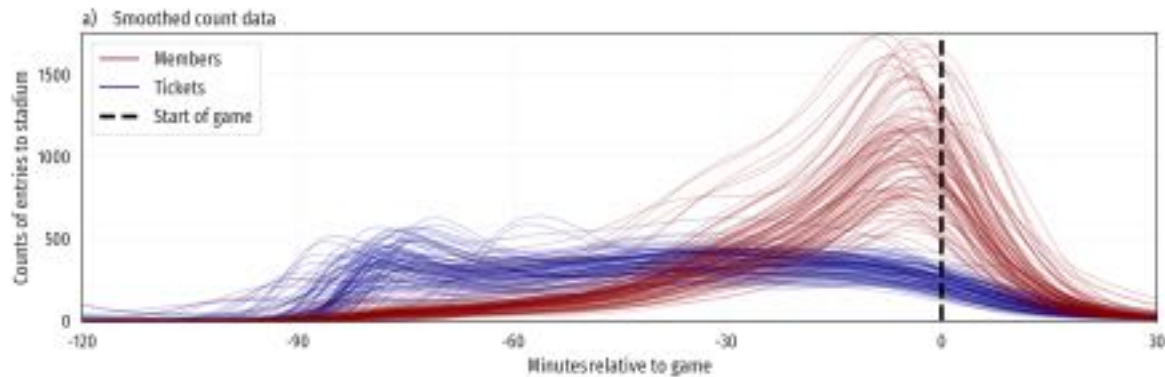


# ML models: Predicting attendance

Attendance influx

By gate and by minute

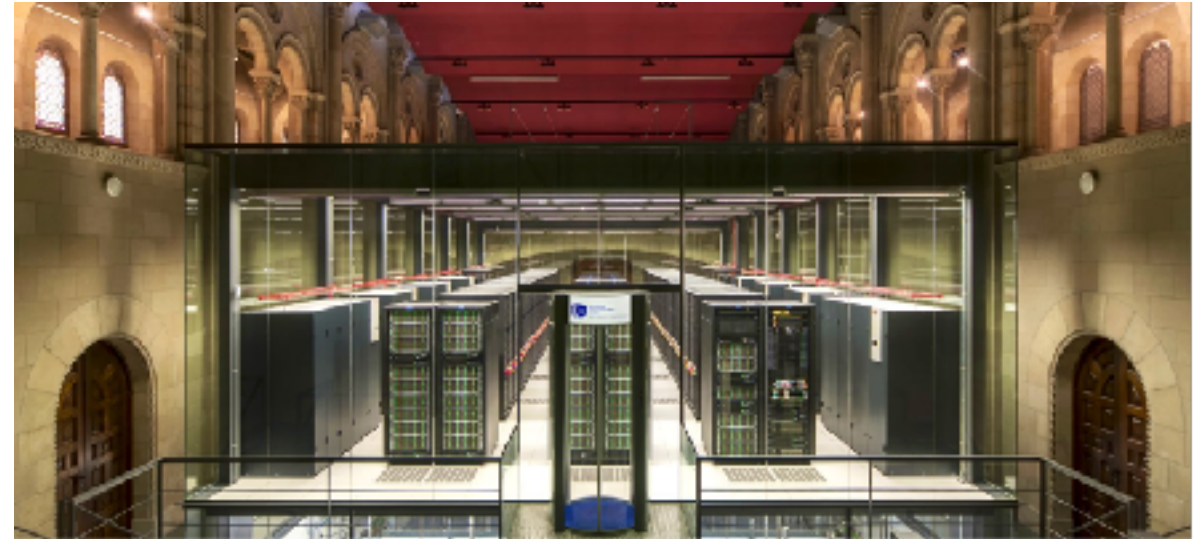
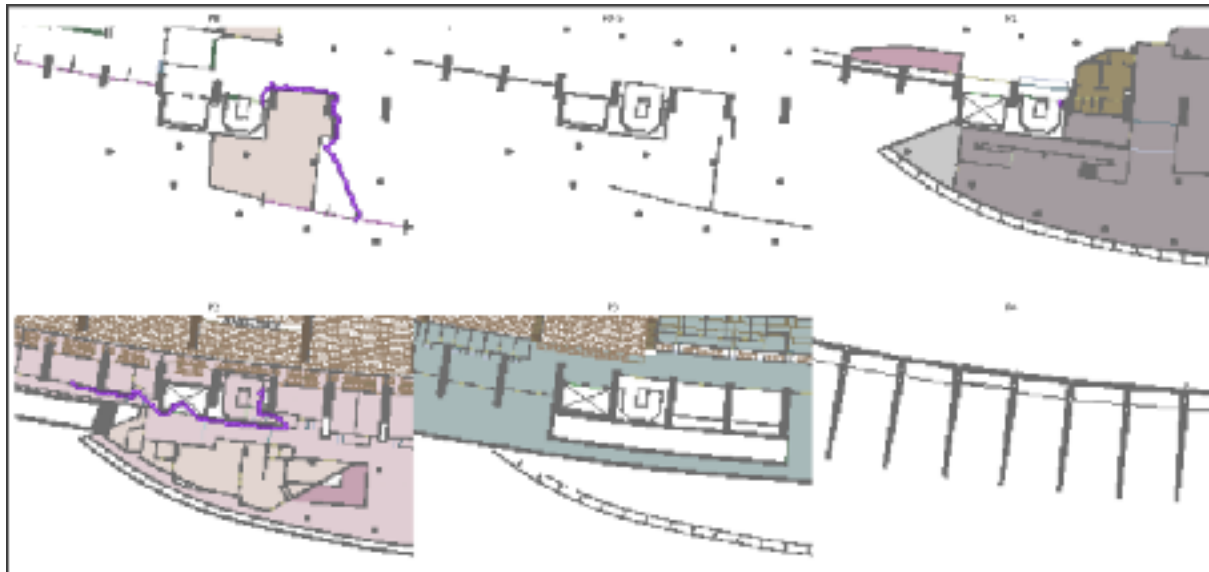
Including profile



# Simulation

## • Pedestrian Modeling

- Collision avoidance
- Profiles of behavior
- Path finding with local information



## • HPC simulation

- Marenostrom IV
- Pandora



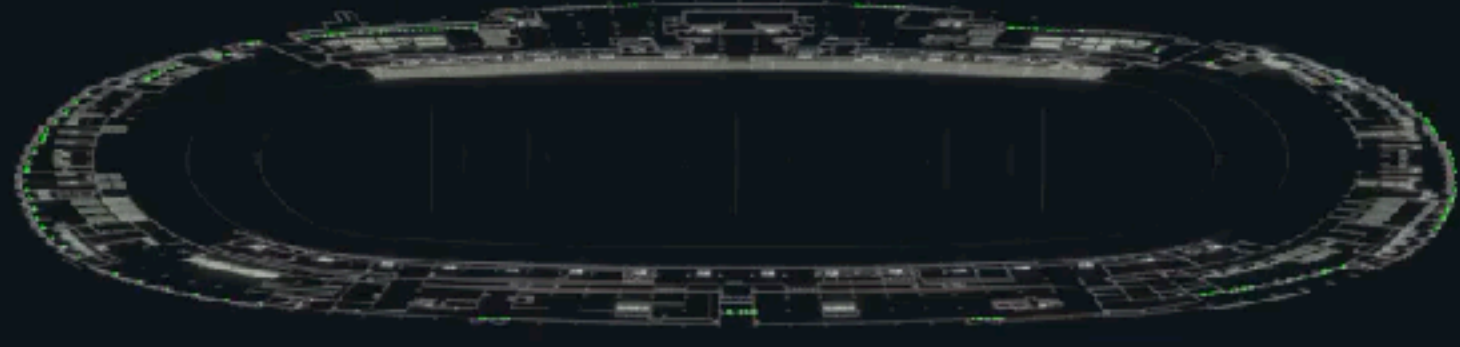
P2



P1



P0.5



PB

# Urban Data Science

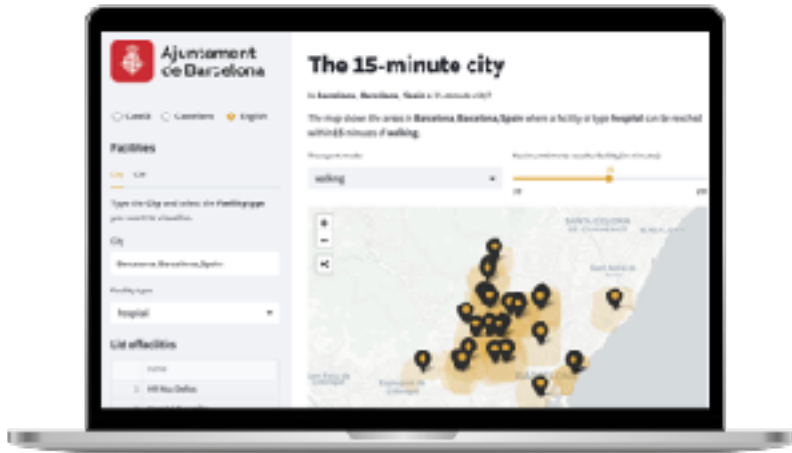
We aim to

- Influence urban regulations to improve the quality of life in cities.
- Help policy makers make evidence-based and people-centred decisions.
- Help citizens interact with their city by proposing better interventions that respect individual privacy and ethical principles.

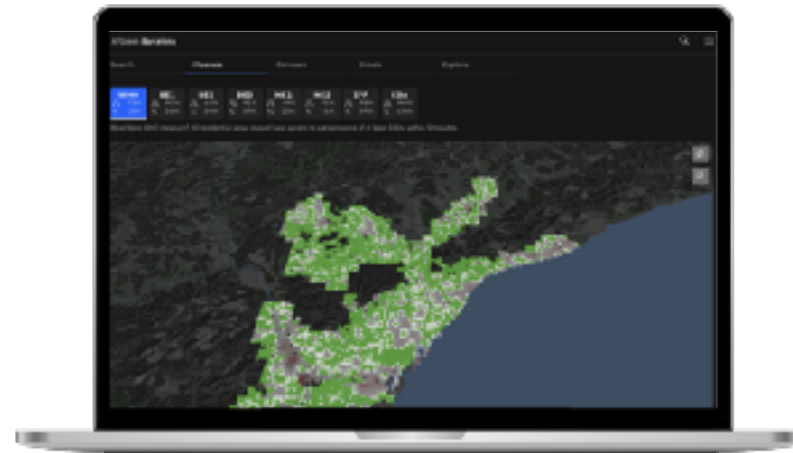
We use data to study the **interactions** that take place in cities: between their **inhabitants** and their **environment**.

# Recent projects

Pilots for applicability in different areas



THE 15-MINUTE CITY



AT GREEN (GREEN INDEX)



CIRCULAR CITY INDEX



# Ucity

A human-centric platform for Urban Digital Twins



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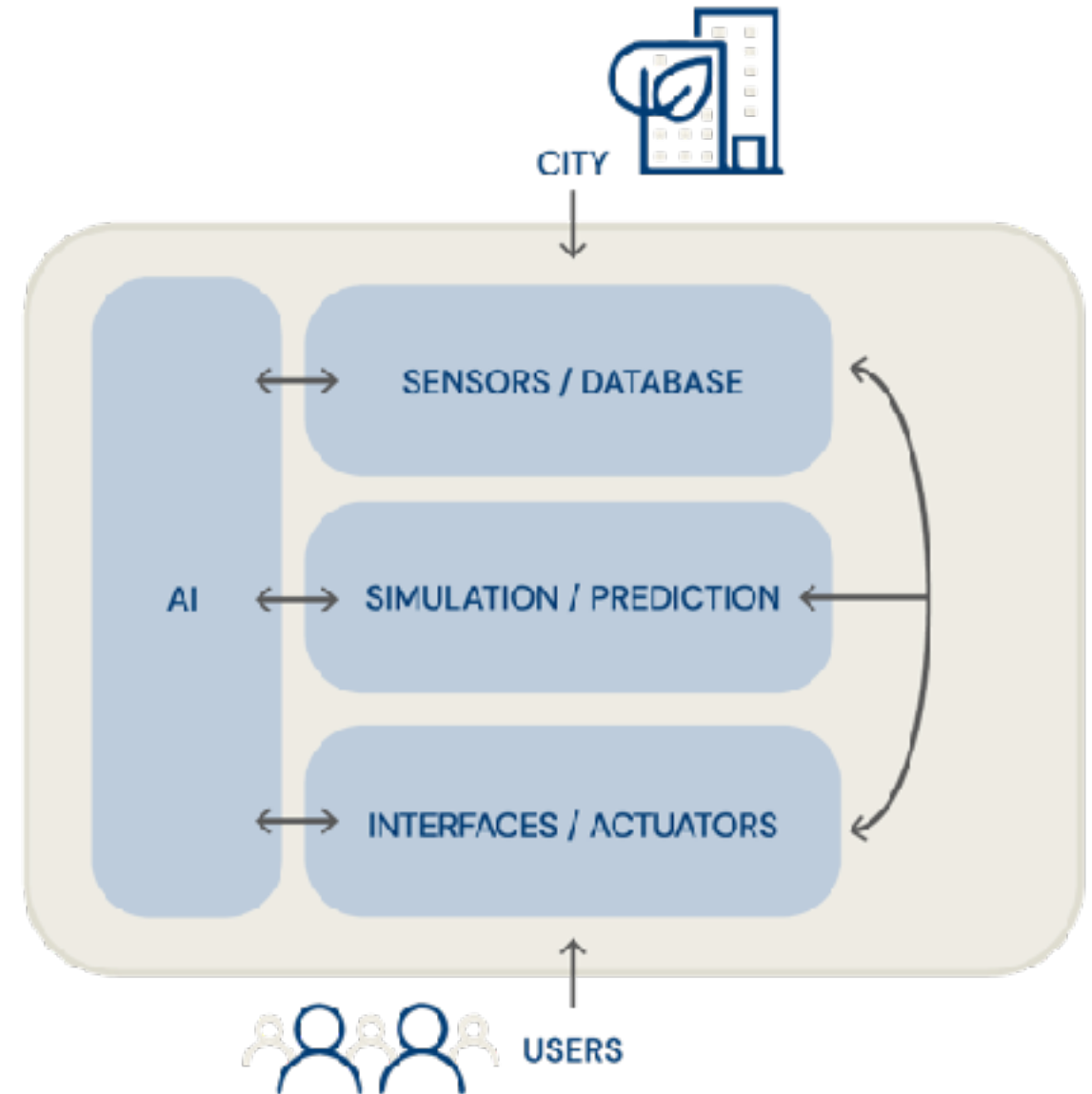


An Urban Digital Twin (UDT) is a tool to improve the process of designing and implementing Urban Policies.

It involves three connected components:

- A data collector and organizer.
- A set of simulators and models of the different parts of the city.
- Interfaces that allow users to visualise and control the results.

Together, the UDT allows for improved city management and planning by analysing the past, monitoring the present and predicting the evolution of future scenarios.



## An example of why a GDU is useful

Developing strategies to  
reduce extreme heat in  
cities.

### Context

- Between 1983 and 2016, exposure to extreme heat in urban environments grew by 200% globally.
- Total urban warming increased by 52% above proportional population growth.

Different spatial patterns require different local strategies to reduce heat. Multiple factors influence urban warming, often with interrelated effects.

### Solution effective, but complex

The most effective strategies are those that combine approaches, applying a holistic approach and tailoring policies to the needs of each city.

city



virtual

"vCPU", virtual versions of a physical "CPU"

# Mission

To provide a human-centric platform for Urban Digital Twins that supports the growth of fairer and more sustainable cities, ready to adapt to whatever the future brings.

# Vision

A growing network of cities developing through data-driven decision making based on the needs of the people who live in them. vCity will be an inspiration and a reference of the potential of the Urban Digital Twins at social, political and economic levels.

# Pilares



## Human-centric

We adopt a socio-technical approach to developing UDT, incorporating human values into the design process.



## Honest

A platform has the potential to influence society must always be transparent, traceable and auditable.



## Modular

The software must be compatible with an unknown future; it will be reusable and adaptable to new urban environments and the different actors that accompany them.



## Human-centric

- **Designed to address people's problems**  
Focus on impact on people
- **Support for evidence-based policies with participatory democracy**  
Considering that there are different stakeholders
- **Co-designed with end-users**  
Considering that there are different stakeholders
- **Usable/Comprehensible**  
Some knowledge exists,  
but people cannot/do not know how to use it.



# Honest

- **Open? Free?**  
Unlimited
- **Transparent**  
Security and joint assessments
- **Traceable and auditable**  
Data lifecycle is key to compliance
- **Respectful**  
GDPR is just the beginning





# Modular

- **Adaptable**  
Every city is a universe
- **Reusable**  
Software inspired idea
- **Compatible**  
With other actors in the city
- **Future-proof**  
Simple and open standards



Allows:

- Urban planners to simulate different scenarios and combinations of strategies and visualise the results in a simple way.
- Technicians with specialised knowledge to have a centralised tool to experiment with comparable indicators.
- Politicians and citizens to review the summarised information.

**vCity** is a **integrated platform** that allows you to **build different scenarios** linked to each other.

# Living Labs

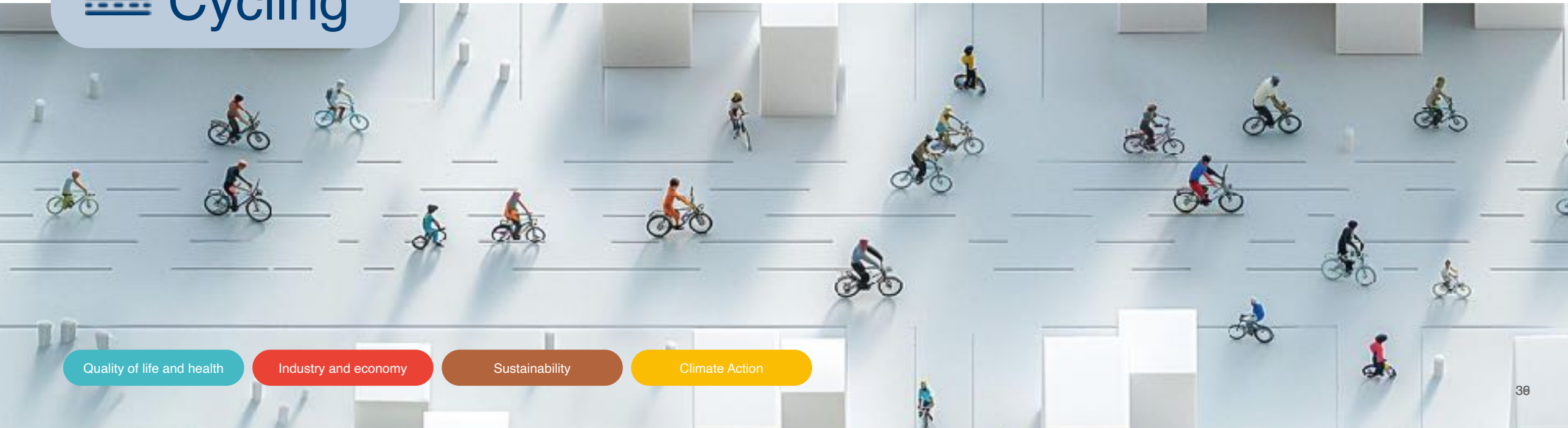
# Plan and implement an efficient network of cycle lanes.

To meet the challenge of shifting to more sustainable transport, with a focus on reducing pollution and improving public health, a concerted effort has been made to promote cycling.

This vCity demonstration will provide a system for creating and expanding the cycleway network in an economically efficient way, taking into account people's needs.



## Cycling



Quality of life and health

Industry and economy

Sustainability

Climate Action

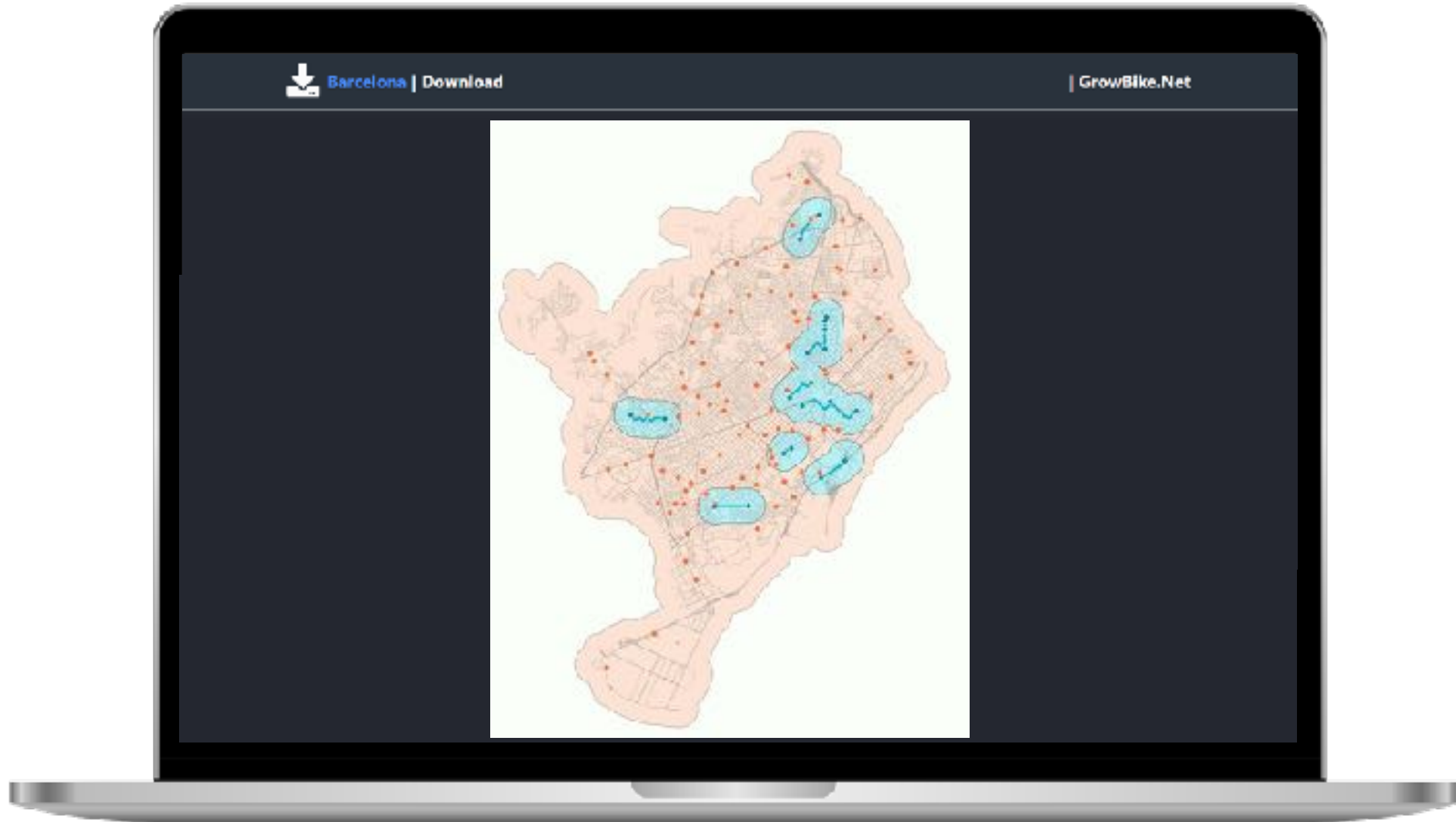
# Technical aspects

- What data do we consider?
  - Cycleway network
  - Demographic layers
  - Points of interest
- What functionalities can we develop?
  - Adjust needs and growth constraints
  - Adapt bike system parameters
  - Filter by demographic and/or interest group
- What results can we expect?
  - A proposed new extension and associated costs
  - Impacts on the affected population
  - Calculation and view of global and/or local metrics



# Cycling

Example



Source: [GrowBike](#)

## Rapid prediction of air quality due to urban interventions.

Through simulations, vCity will provide rapid predictions of air quality and, more importantly, how it affects people living and working in the intervention area.

In this way, the application will suggest optimal urban interventions to improve air quality (renaturation).

### تنفس Breathing



Quality of life and health

Climate Action

# Technical aspects

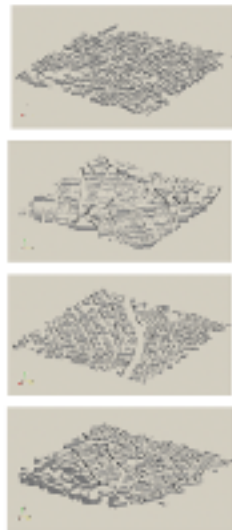
- What data do we consider?
  - 2D and 3D mapping (height of buildings, trees, type of terrain, etc.)
  - Emission sources
  - Demographic layers
- What functionalities could we develop?
  - Select areas of the city and change their typology.
  - Filter by demographic and/or interest group.
- What results can we expect?
  - A new air quality map, absolute values and differentials with respect to current status
  - Calculation and view of global and/or local metrics



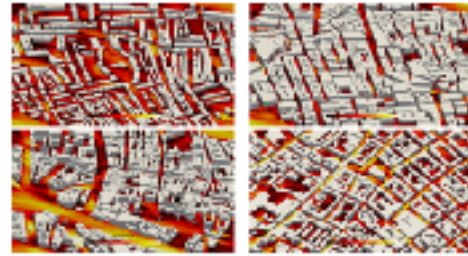
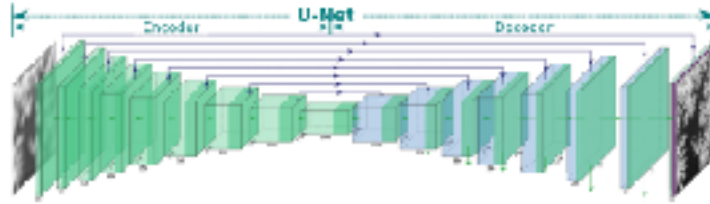


# Breathing

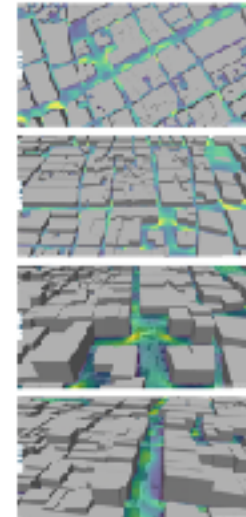
Example



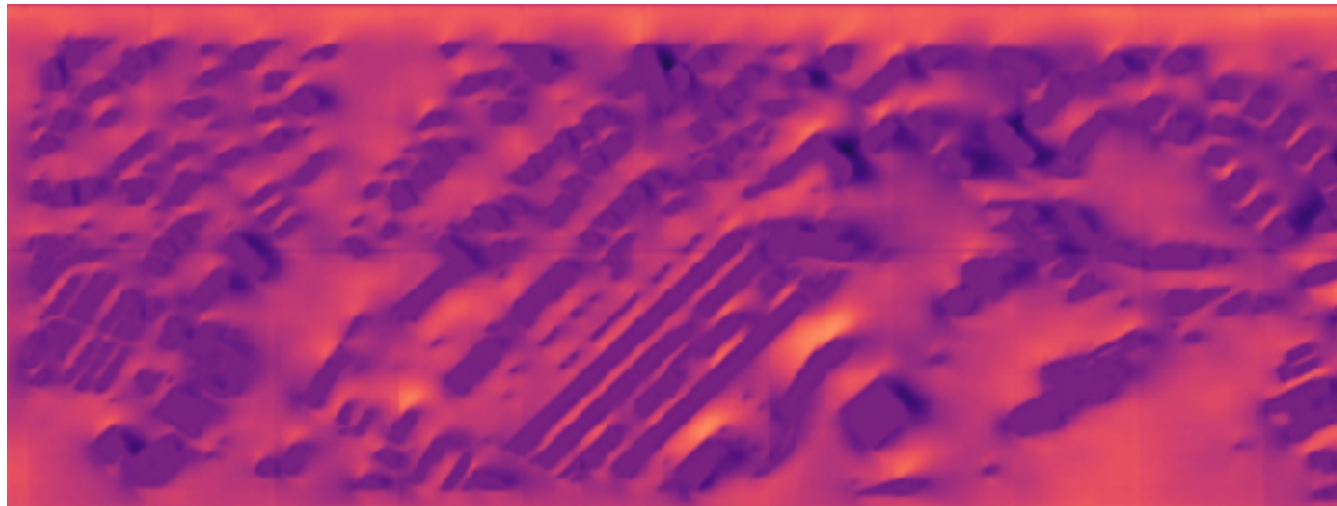
Input: Geometry



CFD-based training dataset



Output: Wind Field



Source:  
Large-scale Computational  
Fluid Dynamics (LS/CFD)  
CASE - BSC.

Investigate the environmental and social impacts of different dimensions of multimodal transport.

The introduction of new, more sustainable modes of transport can have diverse and unexpected social and environmental impacts.

Based on real city data, this application will simulate the complex transport system with its wide variety of mobility modes, allowing city planners to test different changes to the system and choose the best solution for citizens.



## Mobility

Quality of life and health

Industry and economy

Sustainability

Reduction of inequalities



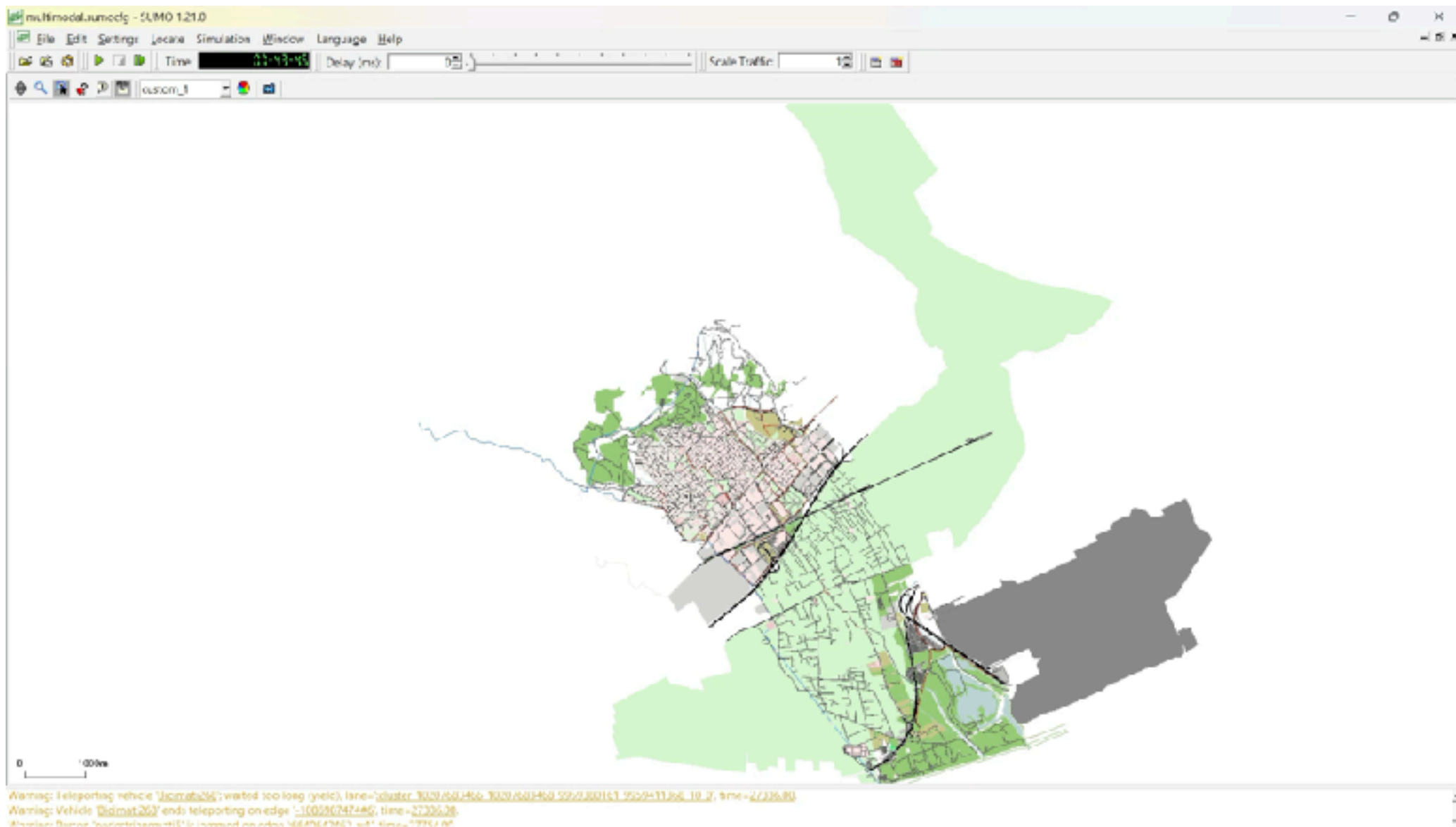
# Technical aspects

- What data do we consider?
  - Traffic on streets
  - Demographic layers
  - Points of interest
- What functionality can we develop?
  - Delineate areas for traffic shifting
  - Adjust incentives/penalties and compare changes in traffic mode
  - Filter by demographic and/or interest group
- What results can we expect?
  - The evaluation of classic mobility metrics (flows) plus the impact on demographic and transport mode layers.
  - Calculation and overview of global and/or local metrics



# Mobility

Source:  
vCity (own elaboration)



## Extend the circular economy index to high resolution for cities.

A city's Circular Economy Index scores components such as digitalisation, energy, climate, mobility and waste.

This application demonstrates how the vCity platform can calculate the index score to drive specific strategies for sustainable urban development, promoting circularity and advancing the green transition.



## Sustainability

Quality of life and health

Industry and economy

Sustainability

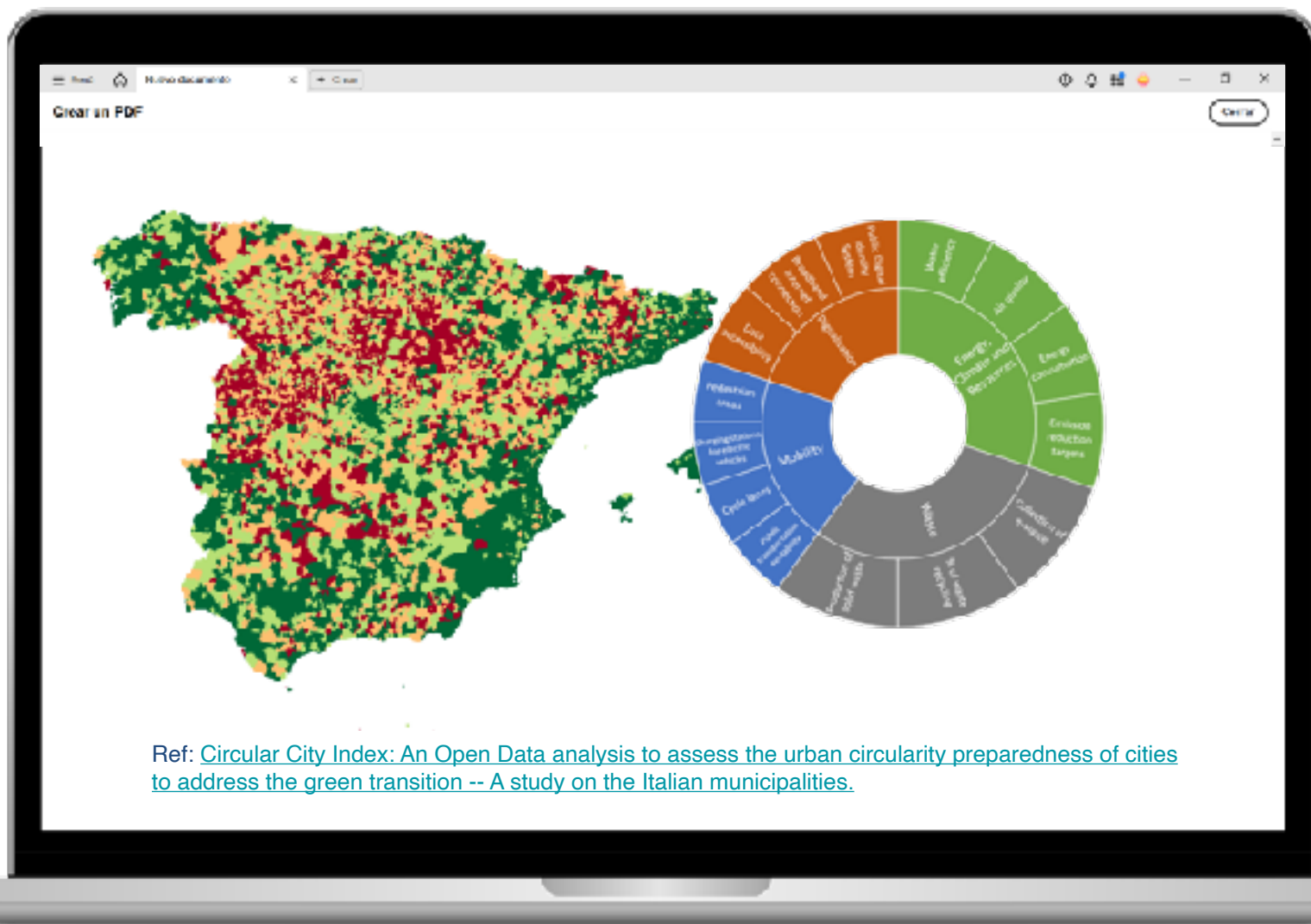
Reduction of inequalities



# Technical aspects

- What data do we consider?
  - Indicators by region/area
  - Points of interest
  - Demographic layers
- What functionalities can we develop?
  - View the circularity index of each neighbourhood
  - Remove and/or add points of interest
  - Adjust global and/or local parameters of the areas to be analysed
  - Filter by demographic and/or interest group
- What results can we expect?
  - Suggestions on how to improve each neighbourhood index
  - Recalculation of the local index
  - Maps of influence of each area on the global index
  - Calculation and view of global and/or local metrics

# Sustainability



Source:  
[Rens van Wijk, Master thesis](#)

Ref: [Circular City Index: An Open Data analysis to assess the urban circularity preparedness of cities to address the green transition -- A study on the Italian municipalities.](#)

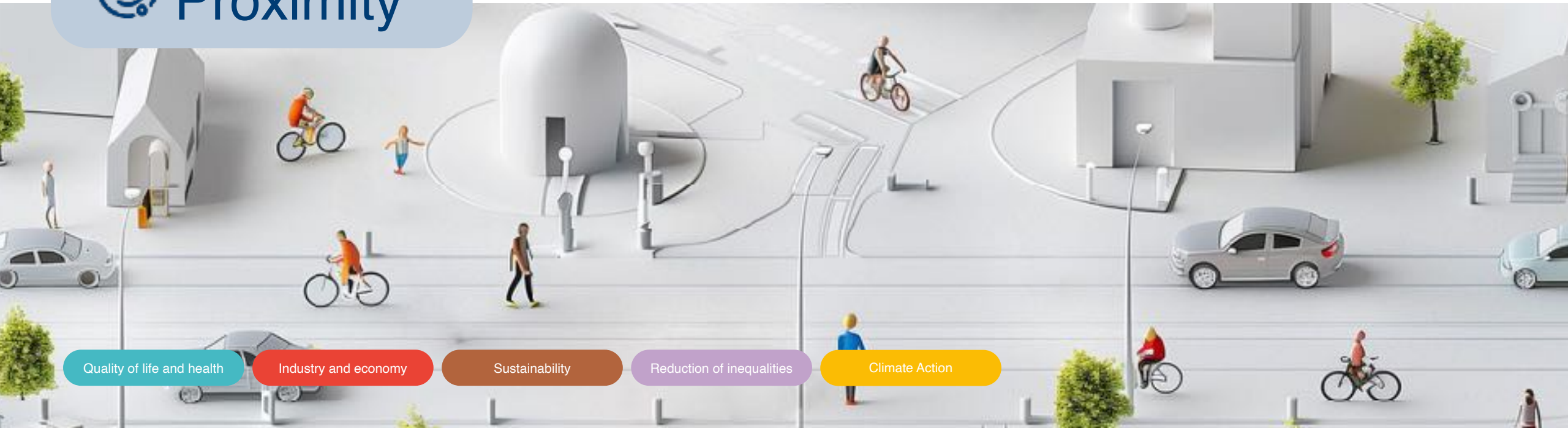
Promote the proximity of services or points of interest to reduce transfers.

vCity will help to analyse cities from a proximity perspective, visualising the level of accessibility of public services to citizens.

With this tool, urban policy makers can easily identify the need for facilities in each neighbourhood.



## Proximity



Quality of life and health

Industry and economy

Sustainability

Reduction of inequalities

Climate Action



# Technical aspects

- What data do we consider?
  - Points of interest
  - Demographic layers
- What functionalities can we develop?
  - Remove, add and/or move points of interest
  - Adjust global and/or local parameters
  - Filtering by demographic or interest group
- What results can we expect?
  - Recalculation of proximity/accessibility areas
  - Calculate and view global and/or local metrics

# Climate shelters in Barcelona



Proximity

Climate Shelters are public spaces that provide shelter from extreme temperatures. This network is particularly important to support the most vulnerable populations (the elderly and children).

This study investigates and analyses a key question: do these groups have adequate access to shelters during heat waves?



<https://www.vcity.tech/studies/shelters>

08

# Partner cities

# Advisors



**Ana Freire**

*PhD in Computer Science*

Design of a methodology for transparency in the use of DT



**Andy Kirk**

*Data Visualisation Expert*

Dashboard design



**Federica Bordelot**

*Director of Policy and Impact*

Design of bias reduction methodology in DT



**Francesca Bria**

*Professor of Innovation*

Designing policies and strategies for DT implementation in cities



**Francisco Rowe**

*Lead of the Geographic Data Science Lab*

Design of applications and interfaces for citizenship



**Michael Szell**

*Associate professor*

Designing applications and interfaces for citizenship



**Rossano Schifanella**

*Associate Professor and Researcher*

Use Case Architecture Design



**Tania Marcos**

*Head of Quality & Smart Sustainable Cities*

Designing bias detection policies



**Thais Ruiz de Alda**

*Digital & Tech Expert*

Gender perspective on Technology

# Visitors



**Serena Mombelli**

*Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,  
Grupo GEMOTT,  
Spain*



**Luca Liebscht**

*Universitat Politècnica de  
Catalunya (UPC), Spain*



**Paula Benito**

*Universitat Politècnica de  
Catalunya (UPC), Spain*



**Fabián Hernández**

*TEC Monterrey,  
Mexico*



**Alex Capilla**

*Universitat de Barcelona, Spain*



**Yohsuke Murase**

*Riken,  
Japan*



**Miguel Carrasco**

*University of Los Andes,  
Chile*



**Tomás Andrade**

*Universitat de Barcelona,  
Spain*



**Carmen Cabrera**

*University of Liverpool,  
UK*



**Giovanni Mauro**

*ISTI-CNR, IMT Alti Studi Lucca,  
Italy*



**Pablo Villar**

*NIC Chile Research Lab,  
Chile*



**Eduardo Graells**

*Universidad de Chile,  
Chile*

Support

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The UNICO-GDU-HPC project, part of the UNICO I+D Cloud programme, has the Ministry for Digital Transformation and of Civil Service and the EU-Next Generation EU as financing entities, within the framework of the PRTR and the MRR.

# Collaborators



300.000 Km/s	ARUP	CARTO	CETAQUA	DECIDIM	DigitalFems	Domestic Data Streamers
Eurocities	Festival Cruilla	Festival Sonar	GeoSolutions	Guadaltel	Guallart Architects	IAAC
Idealista	INTRA	iThinkUPC	LIS Data	Logicalis	MCrit	Memorandum
MongoDB	Taller Estampa	TC-Street	TomTom	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	University of Bologna	University of Liverpool
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya	Universidad Pompeu Fabra	University of Torino	Urbanly	Wizzie	Yonder	



# Thanks!

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