

What have we done during this academic year?

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) mandate to invite the Public-Private Sector Research Center (PPSRC) to become part of the United Nations International Center of Excellence for PPPs programs means that the Specialist Center on PPP in Smart & Sustainable Cities (PPP for Cities) will generate knowledge regarding this topic, which will then be disseminated internationally. In that respect, PPP for Cities works along two lines of activity: case studies and events.

Case studies activity

Regarding the case studies activity, PPP for Cities is devoted to generating knowledge regarding PPPs in order to help Public Administrations to improve their activity and cities around the world transform themselves into Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC). This research is mainly carried out through the development of case studies from which PPP for Cities learns best practices for the development of PPPs within urban contexts.

The first case study published by PPP for Cities was the [New Cairo Waste Water Treatment Plant \(New Cairo WWTP\)](#), issued on November 2016, on the occasion of the Second International Conference on PPPs in Cities, "Governance among partners in Public Private Partnerships, held in Barcelona to coincide with the Smart City Expo World Congress.

The New Cairo WWTP is a project developed by Orasqualia (a joint venture between Aqualia and Orascom) consisting in designing, building, financing, operating, and transferring (DBFOT) of an Urban wastewater treatment plant with an average flow of up to 250,000 m³ per day. The project was the response by Egyptian public authorities to a drinking water shortage, identified as a pressing issue for Egypt's environmental sustainability, particularly in very densely populated areas.

The project was the first successful Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project in Egypt, and led to the project receiving several awards, such as the Water Deal of the Year (Global Water Intelligence, 2010).

PPP for Cities will soon publish the following case studies:

- **Barcelona GIX**, on the integration, expansion and evolution of the Barcelona City Council IT network, in order to obtain a better, safer and customized IT service. The project introduced an innovative business model in which the concessionaire provides corporate services to the City Council, and the City Council allowed the firm to use spare infrastructure capacity to commercialize network capacity to operators on the wholesale market. This partnership will allow Barcelona City Council to have a new

generation infrastructure to support the technological evolution (5G, IoT, Connected Car, etc.) associated with a smart, sustainable city.

- **Maintenance of Barcelona Urban Highways**, with maintenance of the infrastructure used daily by more than 270,000 vehicles. The adequate maintenance of this infrastructure is essential for safety reasons and to avoid traffic congestion. The contract was awarded by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB).
- The **tramway** project consisted in designing, building, financing, operating, and transferring tramway networks in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, covering two networks, with 42 trams, 29.2 km of track, 56 stations, and close to 25 million users per year. This method of transport supports areas on the outskirts of the city of Barcelona.
- **Beach Maintenance** within Barcelona's Metropolitan Area, regarding (a) furniture and facility maintenance and conservation services, and (b) beach cleaning services for the beaches within the metropolitan area of Barcelona. The furniture and facilities maintenance service for the metropolitan beaches ensures that all elements (children's playgrounds and sports facilities, showers, walkways, benches, etc.) are kept in suitable condition, so that users can enjoy their time on the beaches in comfort and safety. The beach cleaning service (between the beachfront promenade or last built facade and the sea) encompasses the cleaning of sand, furniture, and facilities, along with all elements installed on metropolitan beaches in general. The aim of the contract is to provide an integrated maintenance and conservation service for all AMB municipalities with a beach.
- The objective of the **Barcelona Telecare** program is to improve the live standards of the elderly through the provision of telematic and face-to-face assistance to citizens with social and sanitary assistance needs.
- Analysis of **institutional and tariff integration** in the public transport system of Madrid. By creating a unique institution that controls all transport services, the government ensures a more efficient and sustainable system of delivering transport to citizens - certainly a difficult task in a city of Madrid's size.
- **El Realito Aqueduct** was constructed for the conduction and purification of water from El Realito dam to Zona Conurbada de San Luis de Potosí, a metropolitan area in Mexico. The project should limit the risks of land subsidence in the city resulting from subterranean water extraction, and avoid the problems derived from extraction of deep water (increasing cost and fluorides).

Dissemination activity

At the same time, PPP for Cities dedicates part of its activities to the dissemination of this knowledge. To that end, throughout this academic year, the Center has organized the following activities:

MAY & MARCH:

Workshop: The future of the high streets: from local commerce to integral urban economic development

Barcelona, March 21 and 29 & May 3, 2017

[More information](#)

NOVEMBER:

II International Conference on PPP for Cities “Governance among partners in PPP”

Barcelona, Smart City Expo World Congress, November 17, 2016

www.pppcities.org/conference2016/

OCTOBER:

Urban Rail PPP Workshop

Barcelona, October 24-25, 2016

Discussion on PPPs

Barcelona, October 5, 2016.

www.iese.edu/jornadagestionpublica

[READ REPORT](#) (Spanish & Catalan)

Our team has also participated in several congresses as speakers or chairmen/women during 2016-2017:

MAY:

UNECE International Forum on people-first PPPs for the Sustainable Development Goals

Hong Kong, May 9-11, 2017

www.unece.org/ppp/forum2017

FEBRUARY:

Smart City Summit & Expo 2017

Taipei, February 21-24, 2017

http://smartcity.org.tw/index_en.php

Workshop URAIA

Madrid, February 8-10, 2017

www.uclg-digitalcities.org/taller-uraia-2017/

NOVEMBER:

70th session of Working Party on Rail Transport

Geneva, November 22-24, 2016

Financing Smart Sustainable Cities Liechtenstein Forum

Ruggell, November 7-8, 2016

www.triple-a.ag/de/financing-smart-sustainable-cities/

OCTOBER:

UNECE Team of Specialists on PPPs (TOS PPP)

Geneva, October 20-21, 2016

www.unece.org/index.php?id=41789#/

SEPTEMBER:

7th Annual Congress on Investment and Financing in the Infrastructure Industry

Madrid, September 29, 2016

www.investestructuras.ifaes.com/content.aspx?menuid=4

PPP for Cities acknowledges the important role of its Sustaining, Sponsor and General Members who enable the project to continue growing. For the 2016-2017 academic year we want to thank our new members, **TEISA** (member since March 2017), **Iberdrola** (member since February 2017), the **Barcelona Provincial Council** and the **Catalan Ministry of Business and Knowledge** (members since September 2016) for their support. At the same time, the Center is grateful to **Broseta Abogados** for participation at the start of the Project until last December.