

Madrid, Inclusive City

Background

Madrid has positioned itself as a leading example of inclusive urban planning by integrating gender equality, accessibility, and social inclusion into its city development strategies. The initiative, known as “Madrid, Inclusive City,” is part of a broader municipal effort to create a safer, more equitable, and accessible urban environment for all residents, particularly women, youth, and people with reduced mobility.

The project is spearheaded by the Madrid City Council, with support from urban planners, social organisations, and community groups. It responds to the growing recognition that urban spaces often reflect and reinforce social inequalities. By rethinking how public spaces are designed and used, Madrid aims to foster a more inclusive and participatory city.

The initiative includes a wide range of actions, from redesigning public spaces to improve safety and accessibility, to implementing participatory planning processes that involve underrepresented groups. It also promotes gender-sensitive urban design, ensuring that the needs of women and other vulnerable populations are considered in all stages of urban development.

Key Activities

- Redesign of public spaces to enhance safety and accessibility.
- Implementation of gender-sensitive urban planning principles.
- Community engagement and participatory planning workshops.
- Awareness campaigns promoting inclusion and equality in urban life.

Impact

- Improved accessibility in public spaces for people with reduced mobility.
- Increased sense of safety and belonging among women and marginalised groups.
- Greater civic participation in urban planning processes.
- Recognition of Madrid as a model for inclusive urban development.

Challenges & Solutions

- **Challenge:** Addressing deeply rooted social and spatial inequalities.
- **Solution:** Adopted a cross-sectoral approach involving multiple stakeholders and continuous community dialogue.
- **Challenge:** Ensuring long-term commitment across political cycles.
- **Solution:** Institutionalised inclusive planning practices within municipal frameworks.



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Tips for Similar Projects

- Use data and community input to identify and prioritise areas of intervention.
- Incorporate gender and accessibility audits into urban planning processes.
- Foster partnerships between government, civil society, and academia.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in implementation.

Resources

- [Madrid, Inclusive City](#)
- [Accesible Tourism Guide to Madrid. Resources](#)
- [Madrid accessible to you](#)

Partners



Identified Limitations/Weaknesses

Implementation may vary across districts depending on local leadership and resources. Moreover, measuring social impact can be complex and requires long-term monitoring.

