



Bicis para todas (Bikes for everyone): A recovery project in the Spanish province of Valencia

In a nutshell

By salvaging discarded bikes, *Bicis para todas* provides vulnerable individuals with essential transportation, promoting social inclusion and reducing waste. So far it has recovered and refurbished over 1,000 bicycles, embodying sustainability, solidarity, and sustainable mobility. The project is run by volunteers, and it includes a social workshop in the Xenillet-Torrent neighbourhood, addressing broader community issues such as education, social exclusion, and environmental awareness.

OBJECTIVES

- Promote sustainability through material recovery.
- Provide a sustainable means of transport to economically vulnerable individuals.

ACTIONS

- Hire local staff for bicycle repairs and administrative work.
- Expand workshop capacity for increased demand.
- Offer daily bike repair services with fixed schedules.



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RESULTS (IMPACT)

Bicis para todas is a compelling example of how circular economy principles can be translated into impactful, community-driven action, transforming waste into opportunity for individuals facing economic vulnerability. What began as a circular economy initiative has evolved into a community project addressing mobility, inclusion, and social resilience. The Xenillet-Torrent workshop has become more than a repair space: it hosts a children's programme that has become a crucial entry point for mothers seeking connection, mutual support, and a safe community environment.

While originally focused on sustainable mobility, the project has had to adapt to complex social realities. Through direct dialogue with participants and a growing network of collaborators, it has developed creative ways to meet these evolving needs. A key shift has been the realisation of the importance of consolidating operations structurally, such as hiring local staff and expanding workshop capacity, to sustain and scale its impact.

Though official data on social impact is still limited, the project's social footprint is increasingly being recognised. Nevertheless, challenges persist, particularly the insecurity surrounding the workshop's physical space, provided by the municipality, but not guaranteed. Despite this, the team remains committed to the project's long-term consolidation.



GOOD PRACTICES | POLICY LESSONS

By recovering and refurbishing over 1,000 discarded bicycles, the project has not only provided sustainable mobility solutions to vulnerable groups in Valencia, Spain, but also fostered social inclusion, skill-building, and environmental awareness.

The project's strength lies in its integration of repair, reuse, and solidarity. Bicycle repair workshops, run with the help of local staff and volunteers, provide both practical services and a platform for deeper engagement, from schools to social inclusion workshops. Valuable lessons were drawn from exchanges with similar initiatives, including strategies around waste management, logistics, and the creation of strong project narratives. Ideas like 'repair cafés' and 'libraries of things' (shared community spaces for borrowing tools or appliances) were also brought up during a study visit to Biciclot and Caixa d'eines i feines.

A key lesson is that circular economy projects can bridge multiple policy areas — social, environmental, and economic — and must be reflected in holistic, connected public frameworks. With proper support, community-led initiatives like this one not only fill critical gaps, but they also embody what effective public policy can look like when rooted in real lives and local knowledge.

