



Foto: Anne Le Maignan

Género y urbanismo: estado de la cuestión

**I Simposio Internacional infraestructuras
para la vida cotidiana, bienestar social y
nuevas métricas para la toma de decisiones
EUWIGeN**

**Universidad de Murcia
11/06/2026**

Inés Sánchez de Madariaga

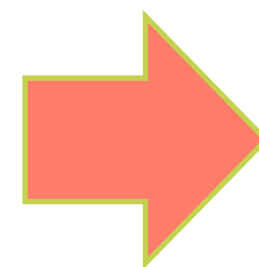
UNESCO CHAIR GENDER IN STI

www.gendersteunescochair.com



- Research Group *Generourban* created 1999
- Transformed *UNESCO Chair* 2016
- Departament of Urban and Regional Planning ,
School of Architecture, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

- Postgraduate level course: ***Gender, diversity and planning*** since 2010
- 6 PhD dissertations & 30+ Master thesis on gender and planning
- Taylor-made professional training courses
- 10 toolkits, 10+ books in leading academic publishers
- 130+ articles in academic journals and edited books
- 5 special issues in leading national & international journals
- 500+ lectures & panels, 55+ countries
- 100+ plans and projects



1. Gender and Planning
2. Scale: Land-use and Transport Planning, Domestic to Regional
3. Analytical Framework
4. Tools and Experiences
5. Looking into the Future

1. Gender and Planning

THE ORIGINS OF MODERN PLANNING



Early 20th century:

- Experimentation housing typologies
- Funcionalism zoning
- Housing policies
- Athens Charter

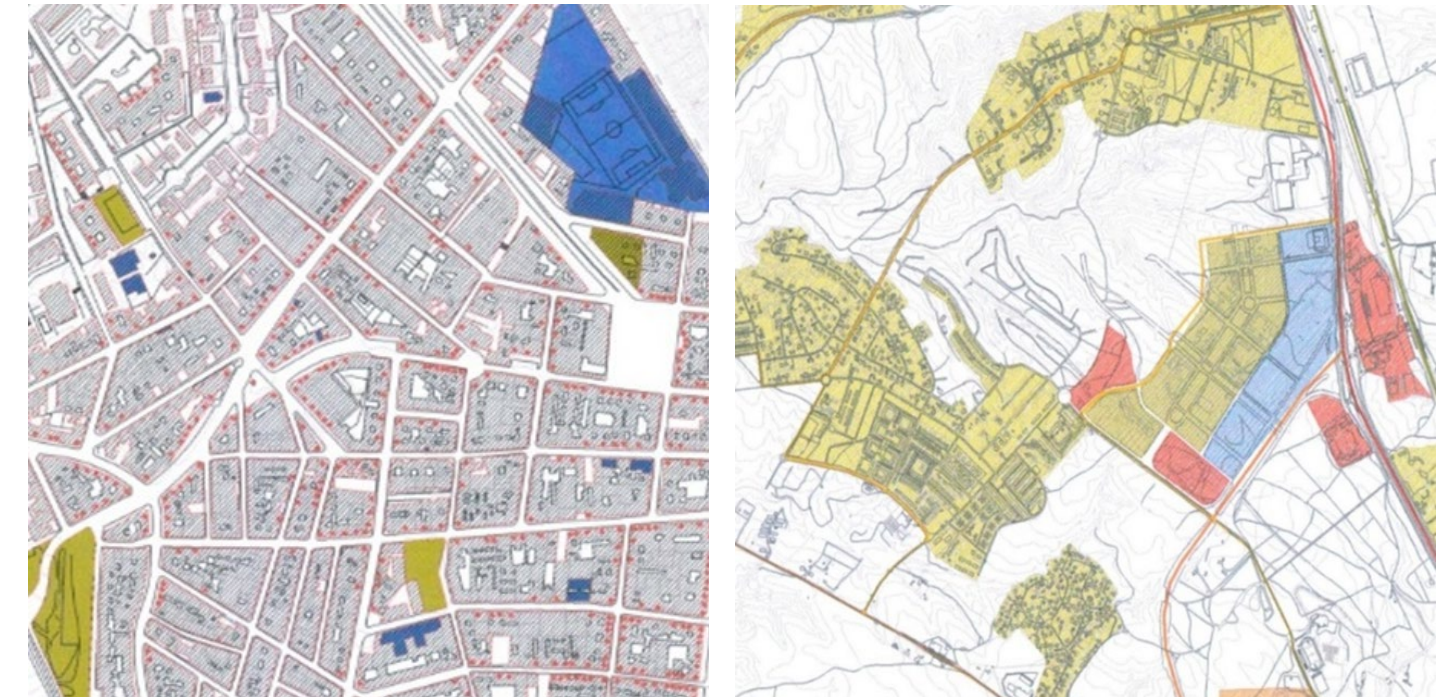
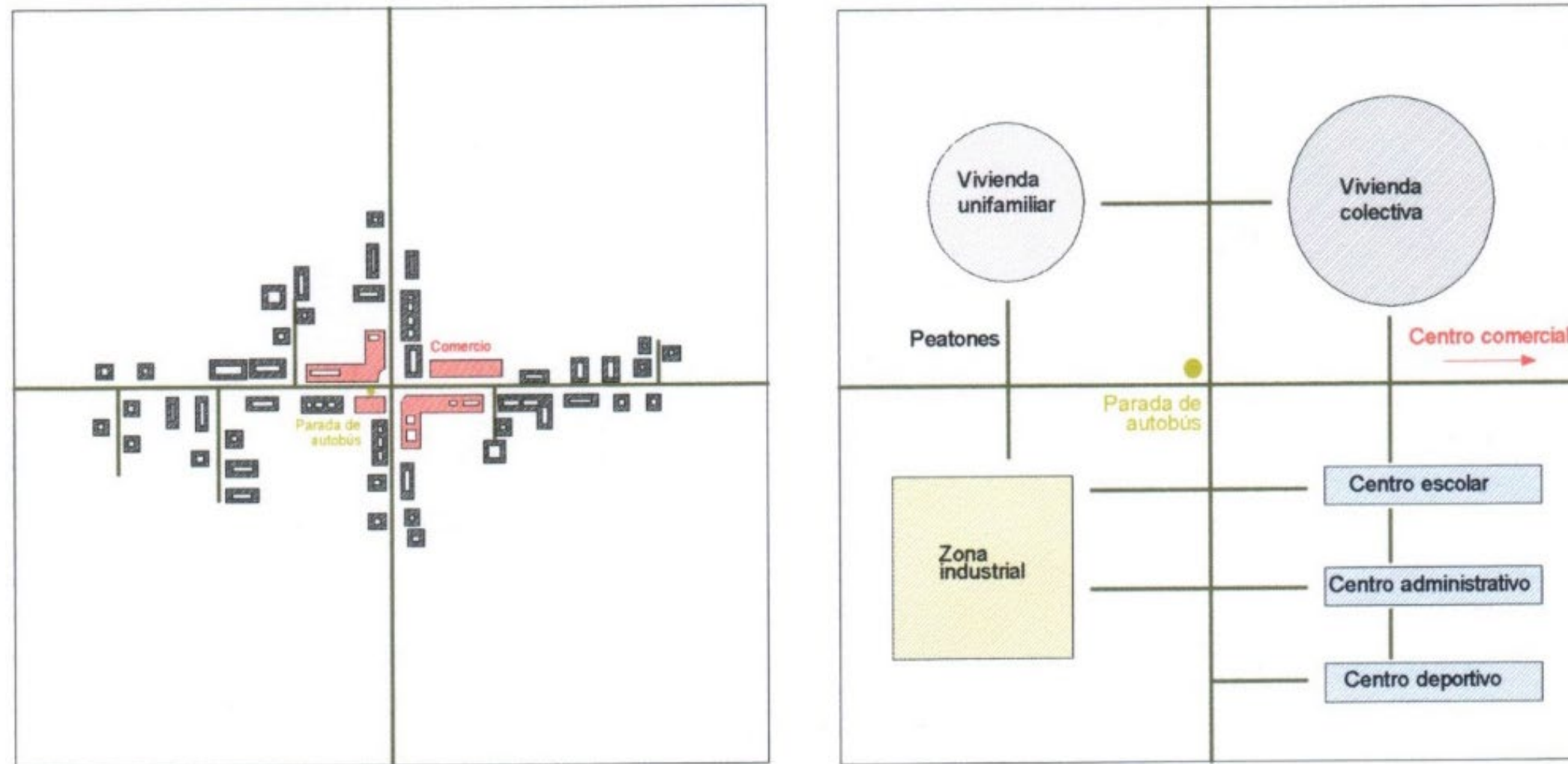
ZONING, KEY PLANNING TECHNIQUE

Post WW II:

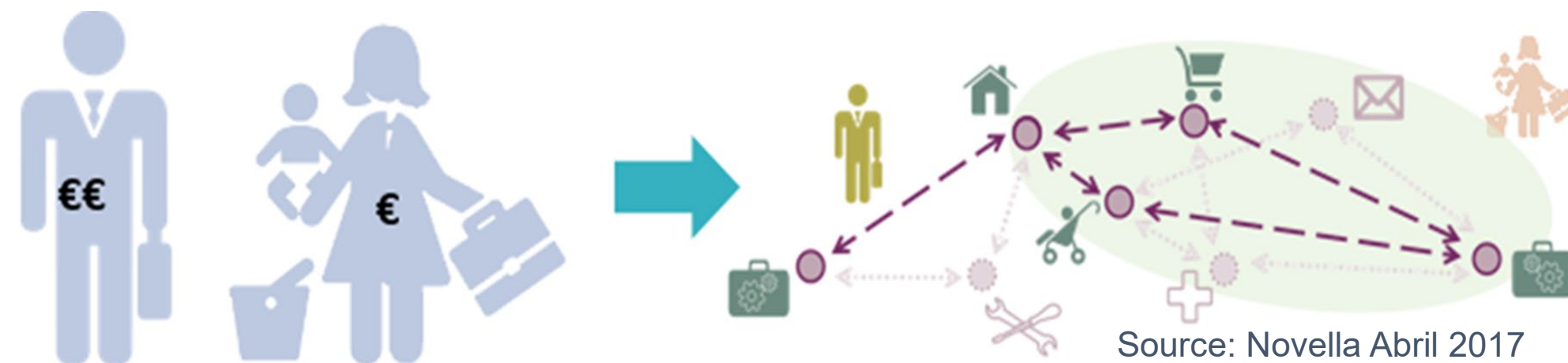
- European planning machines
- Key element of welfare states
- Quantitative response, average citizen – male by default
- Post war reconstruction & greenfield
- Facilities: education, health, leisure, sports, culture
- Basic infrastructures & services not covered today in many parts of the world



URBAN STRUCTURE & GENDER



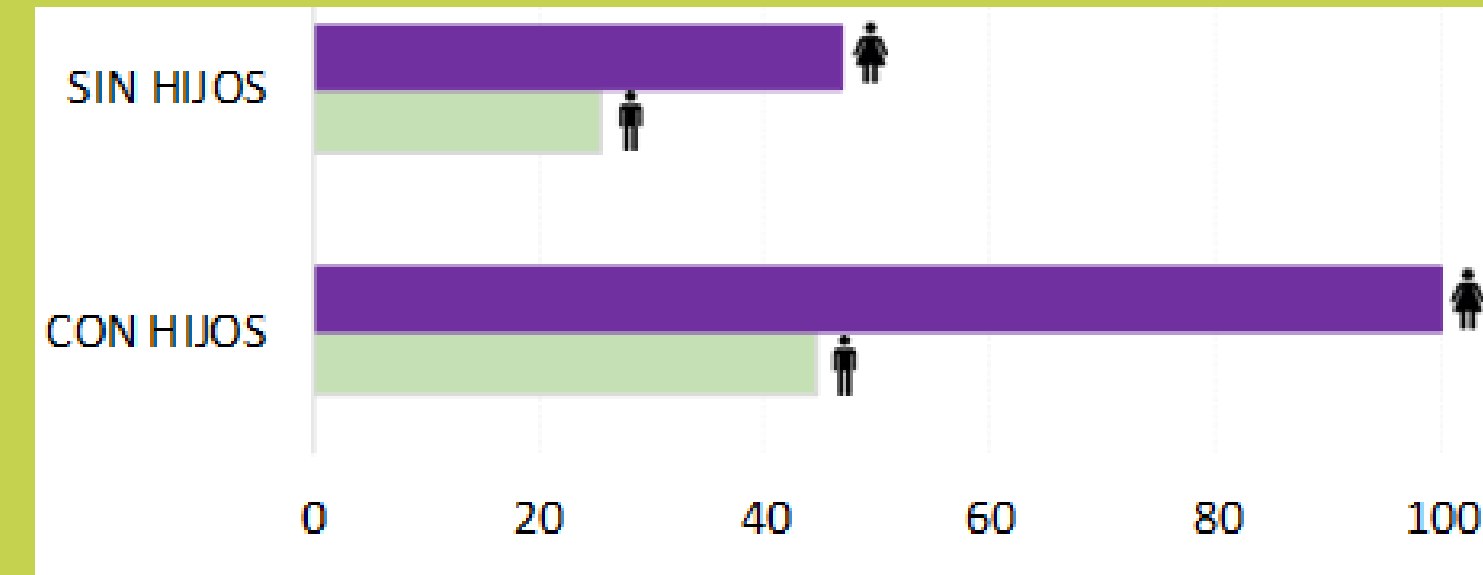
Mix-use, dense, transit-oriented vs.
 Segregation, low-density, and sprawl
 Source: Sánchez de Madariaga, 2002



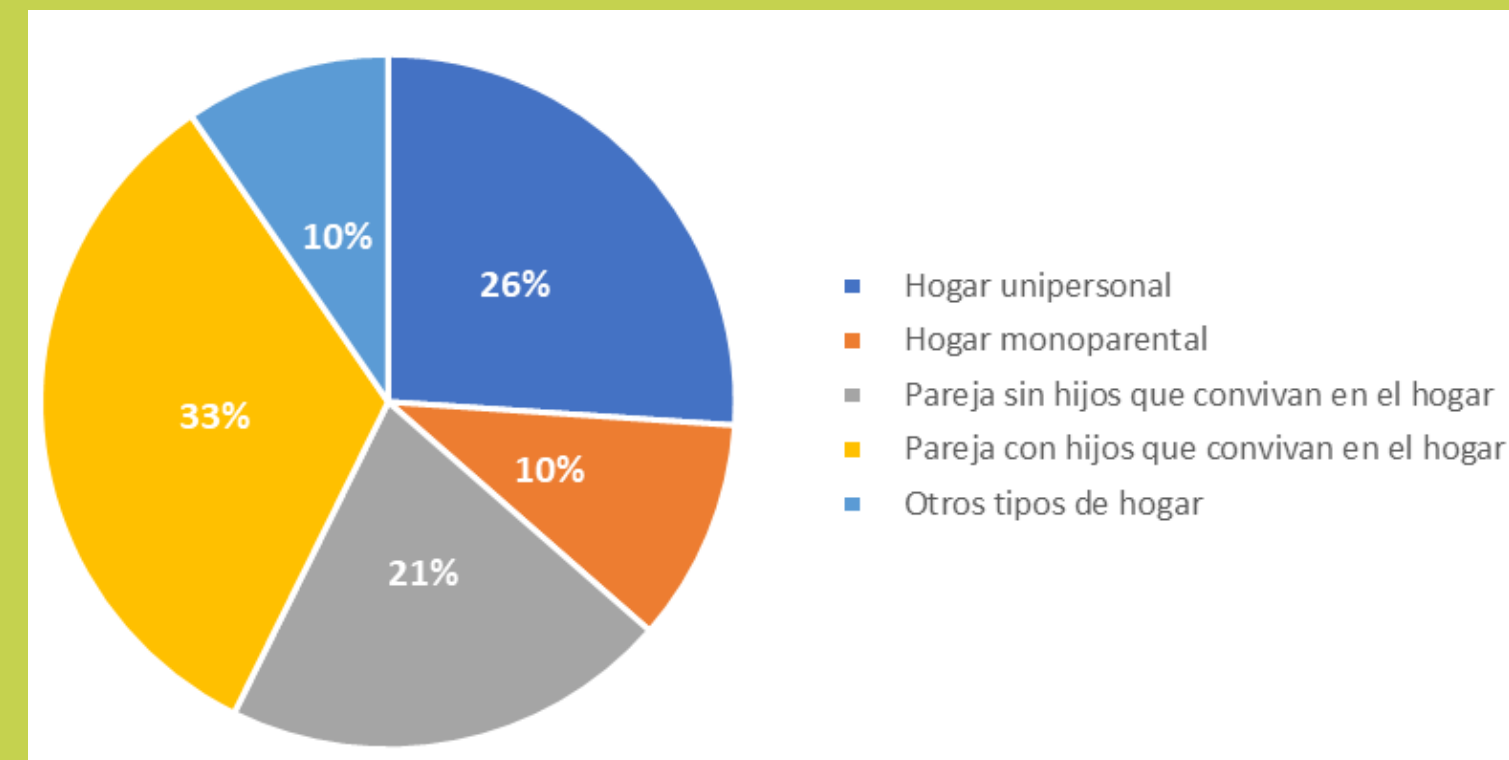
Source: Novella Abril 2017

ZONING,
 the core planning technique,
 does not support care work

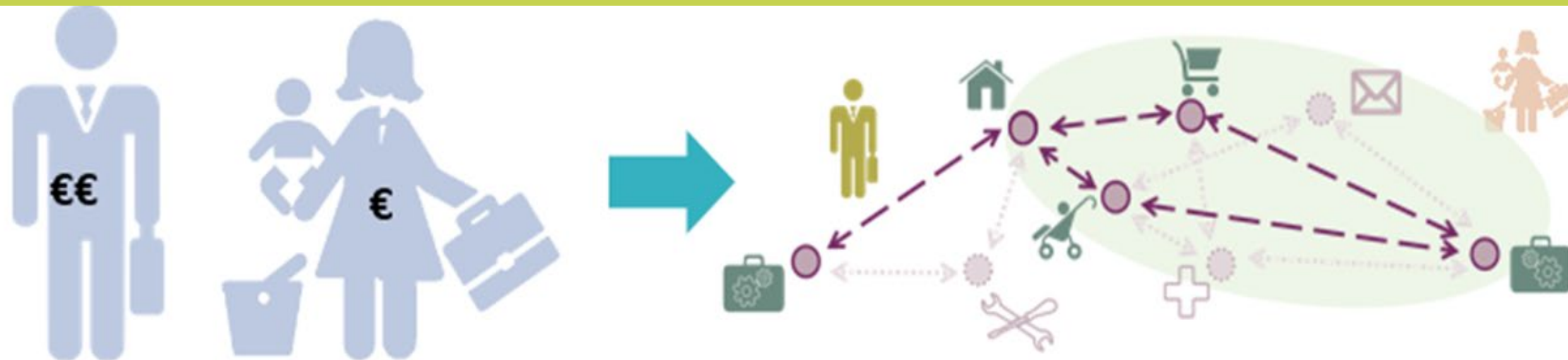
- Household composition
- Changes in life cycle
- Low fertility rates
- Aging
- Gender divisions of labor
- Double workload
- Productive and reproductive spheres
- Intersectionality
- **CARE, a key concept for planning**



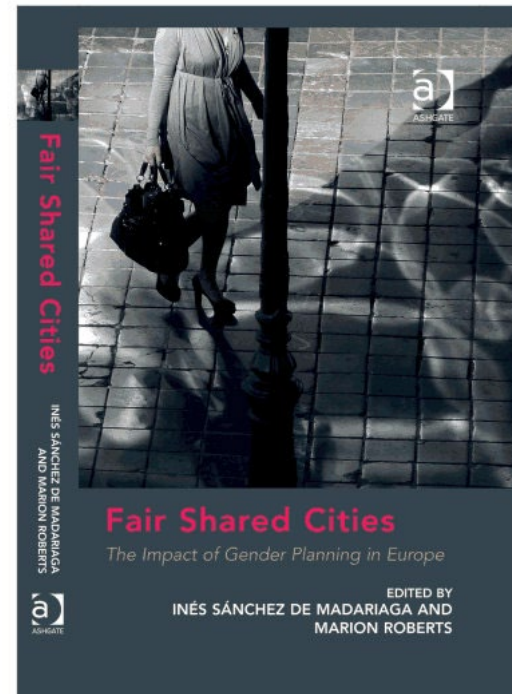
Unpaid care work, hours per week, by sex and children. Spain, INE, 2018



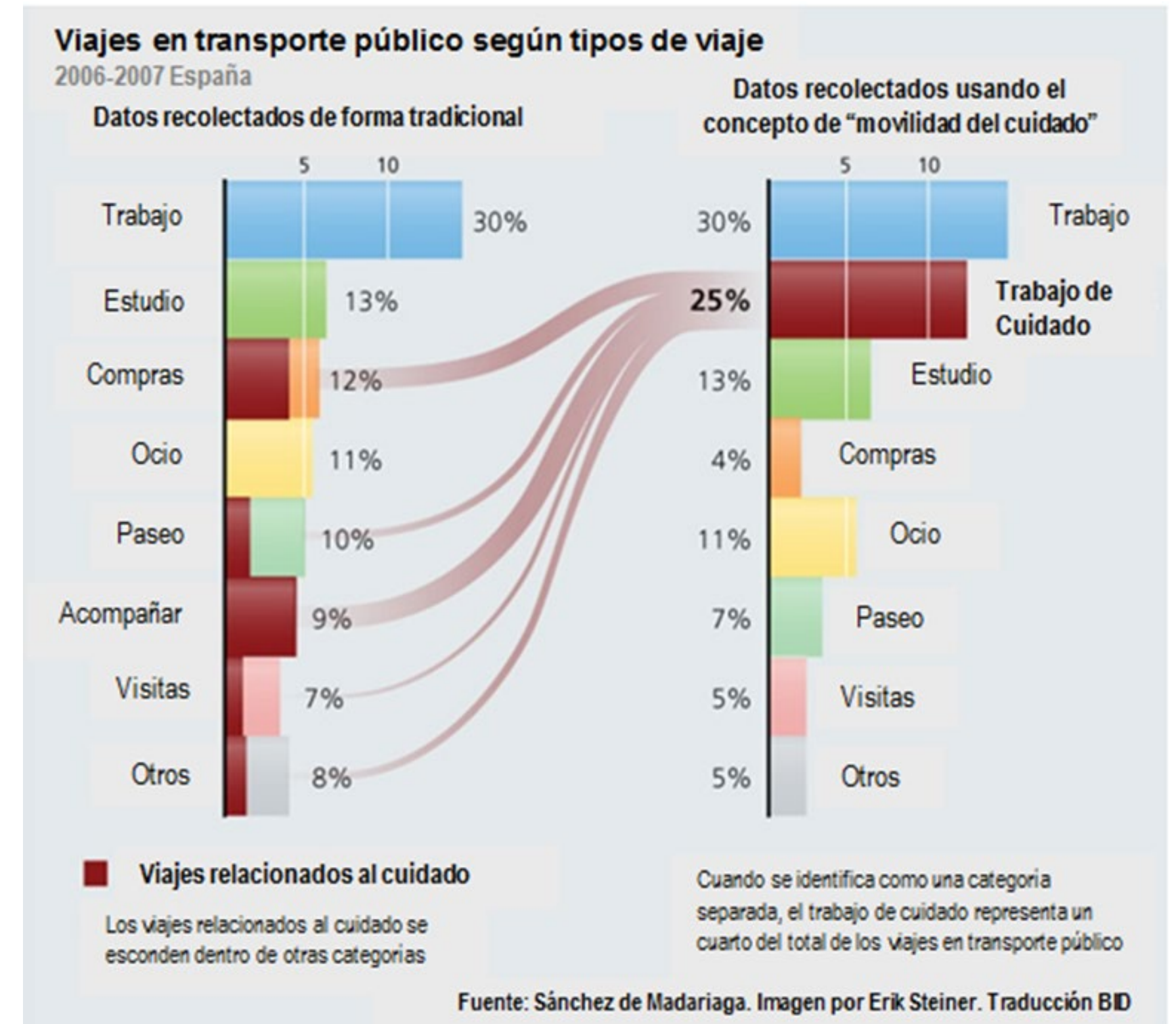
. Household types, percent. Spain, INE, 2018



CONCEPTUAL INNOVATIONS: MOBILITY OF CARE (2008)



- Provides a **conceptual framework** for the analysis of (im)mobilities related to care work
- An operational category for **quantifying and making visible** trips made for care purposes, currently hidden or not counted
- Existing databases do not allow to measure care trips because of **bias and omissions** in data collection
- Care trips can be short or long, and have to **be compatible with employment**



Sánchez de Madariaga, Inés «The mobility of care. Introducing new concepts in urban transportation», in *Fair Shared Cities. The Impact of Gender Planning in Europe*. Ashgate, NY, 2013

Sánchez de Madariaga, Inés: *Urbanismo con perspectiva de género*, Fondo Social Europeo- Junta de Andalucía, Sevilla, 2002-4.

ALL DOMAINS & SCALES OF PLANNING TO BE GENDER MAINSTREAMED

KEY ISSUES:

- Impact of gender roles in the built environment & viceversa
- Subjective perception of safety & urban design for safety
- Relative poverty of women & children
- Intersectionality

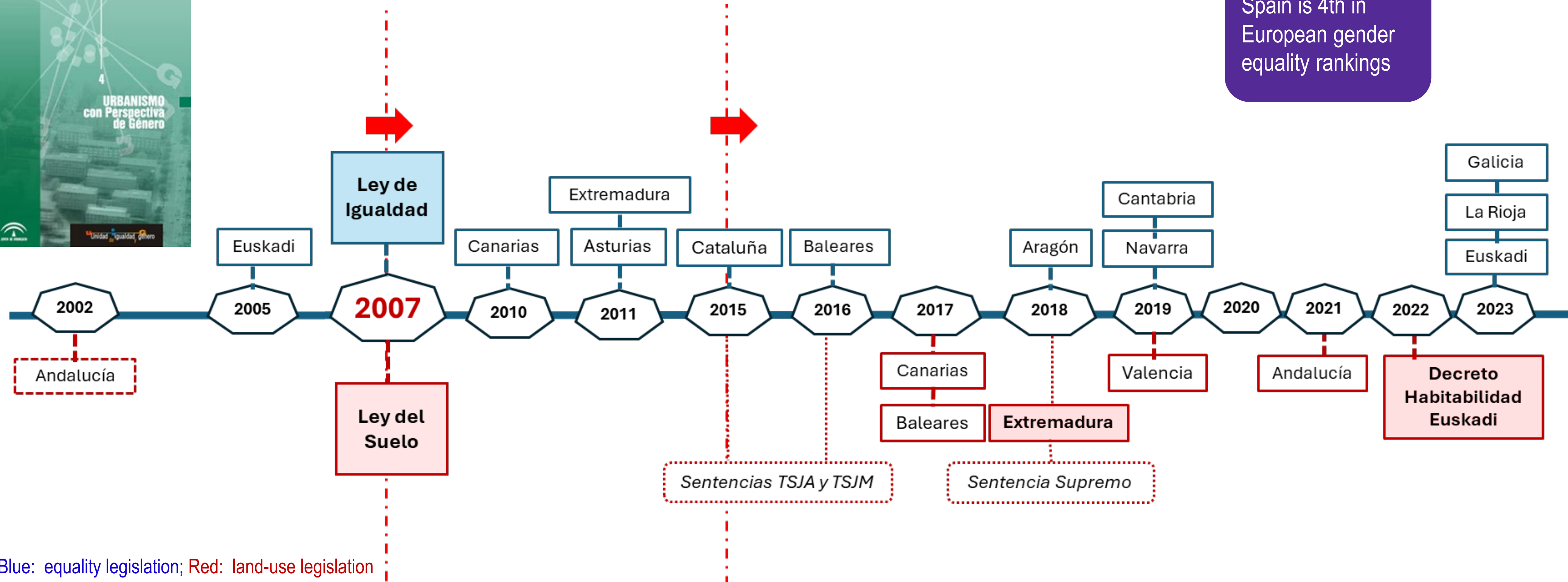


- Diversity, design, affordability & location of housing
- Transport and mobility: accessibility, reliability, availability, convenience, safety & affordability
- Quality and safe public space
- Mix of uses
- Economic activities: formal & informal
- Commercial
- Culture, leisure and sports
- **Basic infrastructure: water, sanitation, energy**
- **Specific facilities for care**

LEGISLATION IS KEY

Chronology of Spanish legislation on gender & planning, 2002-2026

Spain is 4th in European gender equality rankings



Source: Sánchez de Madariaga, Inés "La igualdad efectiva en las políticas de vivienda y en el planeamiento urbanístico: el impacto de la ley de igualdad de 2007 en el urbanismo español" en Ventura Franch, A.; García Campá, S., *El derecho constitucional a la igualdad efectiva de mujeres y hombres. Una evaluación del segundo decenio de aplicación de la Ley Orgánica 3/2007*, Thomson Reuters-Aranzadi, 2026.

EXTRACTS LEGISLATION: GENDER & PHYSICAL LANNING

La [LOI 2007](#), capítulo II sobre *Acción administrativa para la igualdad*, artículo 31, *Políticas urbanas, de ordenación territorial y vivienda*.

1. Las políticas y planes de las Administraciones públicas en materia de acceso a la vivienda incluirán medidas destinadas a hacer efectivo el principio de igualdad entre mujeres y hombres. Del mismo modo, las políticas urbanas y de ordenación del territorio tomarán en consideración las necesidades de los distintos grupos sociales y de los diversos tipos de estructuras familiares, y favorecerán el acceso en condiciones de igualdad a los distintos servicios e infraestructuras urbanas.

2. El Gobierno, en el ámbito de sus competencias, fomentará el acceso a la vivienda de las mujeres en situación de necesidad o en riesgo de exclusión, y de las que hayan sido víctimas de la violencia de género, en especial cuando, en ambos casos, tengan hijos menores exclusivamente a su cargo.

3. Las Administraciones públicas tendrán en cuenta en el diseño de la ciudad, en las políticas urbanas, en la definición y ejecución del planeamiento urbanístico, la perspectiva de género, utilizando para ello, especialmente, mecanismos e instrumentos que fomenten y favorezcan la participación ciudadana y la transparencia.

El Decreto Legislativo [1/2023, de Euskadi](#), que actualiza la ley de 2005, en el Artículo 50, Medio ambiente, ordenación del territorio, urbanismo, vivienda, transporte y medio rural

1. Los poderes públicos vascos arbitrarán los medios necesarios para garantizar que se integre la perspectiva de género en el diseño, ejecución y evaluación de sus políticas, normas, planes y programas en materia de ordenación del territorio, urbanismo, transporte y vivienda, considerando, entre otras, cuestiones como:

a) El fomento del conocimiento de las diferentes necesidades de mujeres y hombres en cuanto a la movilidad y la utilización de espacios, infraestructuras y servicios relacionados con las políticas de vivienda, transporte y urbanismo, incrementando y mejorando a tal fin los diagnósticos y estudios, así como la disponibilidad de datos estadísticos desagregados por sexo e indicadores específicos relativos a la igualdad de mujeres y hombres en dichos sectores.

b) El fomento de espacios seguros para garantizar una vida libre de violencia machista contra las mujeres.

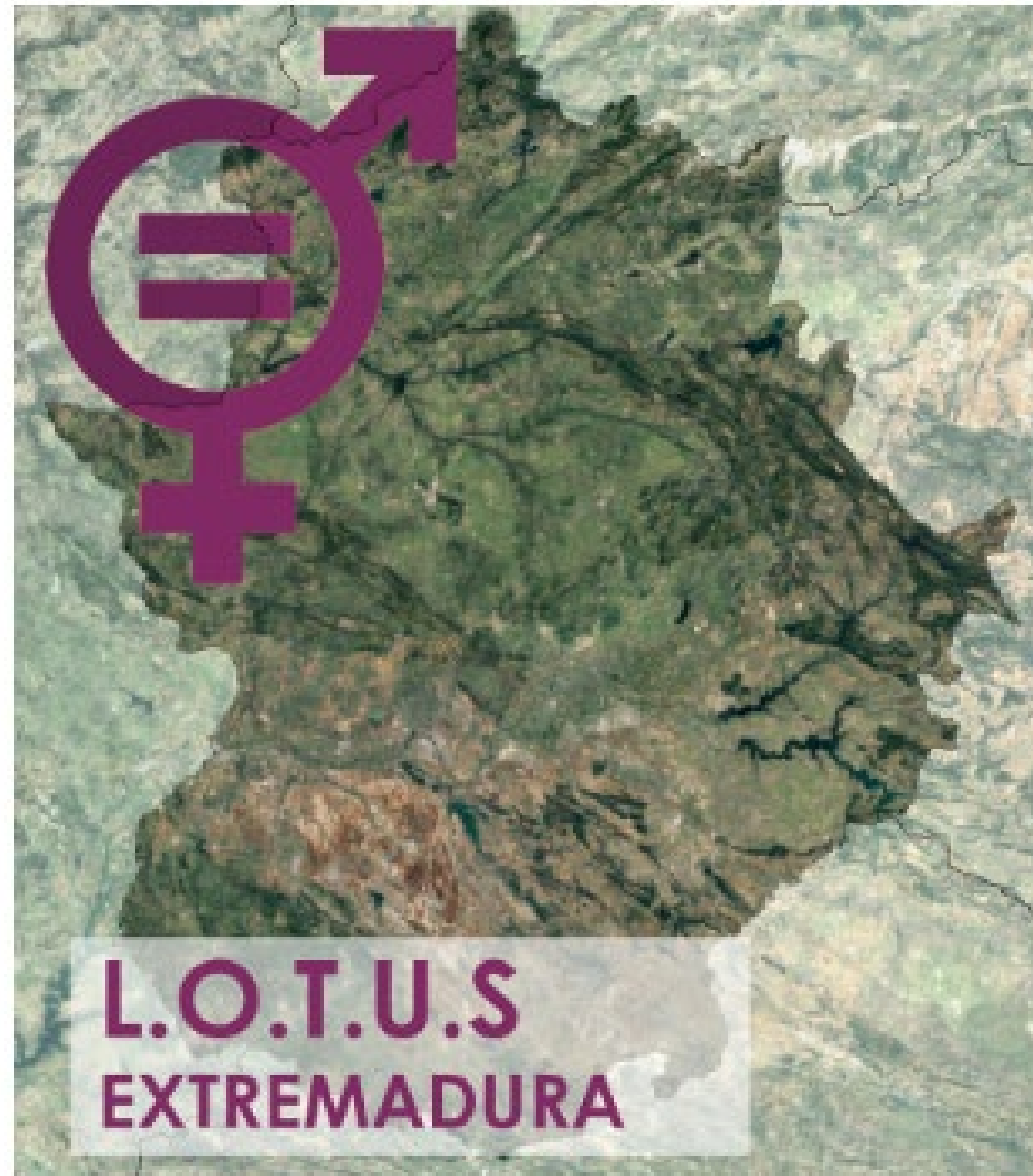
c) La promoción de espacios y territorios socialmente cohesionados que contribuyan a mejorar la calidad de vida de mujeres y hombres y que favorezcan un acceso a los servicios e infraestructuras en condiciones de igualdad, teniendo en cuenta especialmente la situación de las mujeres en las que concurren los factores referidos en el último apartado del artículo 3.1.

d) El favorecimiento de la realización del trabajo doméstico y de cuidado de las personas y la conciliación corresponsable de la vida personal, familiar y laboral y, en general, la consideración de las necesidades generadas en el ámbito productivo y reproductivo con el objetivo de facilitar la sostenibilidad de la vida.

e) El fomento de la formación en igualdad dirigida a profesionales del sector.

f) El fomento de la transparencia y de una mayor visibilidad y participación de las mujeres en el diseño y ejecución de las citadas políticas y programas; en particular, de aquellas mujeres en las que concurren los factores referidos en el último apartado del artículo 3.1

LAND-USE LEGISLATION



**Gender in the Land-Use
and Territorial Planning
Law of Extremadura
(LOTUS)**

**TECHNICAL CODE ON GENDER
30+ PAGES**

**All scales
All planning instruments
Content of technical documents
Checklist**



HOUSING POLICY, REGULATION & PROJECTS



PRE-NORMATIVE REPORT ON GENDER DIMENSIONS IN HOUSING

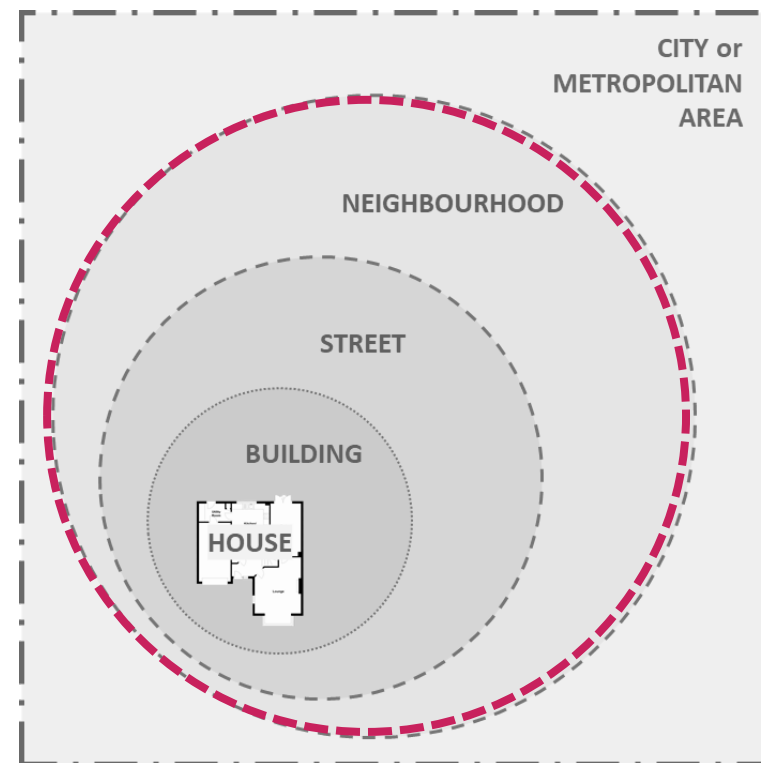


- **GENDER IN HOUSING BUILDING CODE:**
 - STANDARDS: HIGHER MINIMUM SIZES
 - VERSATILITY
 - STORAGE
 - SPATIAL RELATIONS & VISIBILITY
 - SAFETY
 - HOUSING AS INFRASTRUCTURE
 - PRIVATE SPACE PER UNIT



- PILOT PROJECTS Juries
- CRITERIA IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR HOUSING PROJECTS
- TOOLKIT
- SUMMER COURSES & TRAINING PROGRAMS
- CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

BEYOND DOMESTIC SCALE TO THE URBAN TO THE REGIONAL



Sánchez de Madariaga, I
& Novella Abril, I
Toolkit from Extremadura Region:

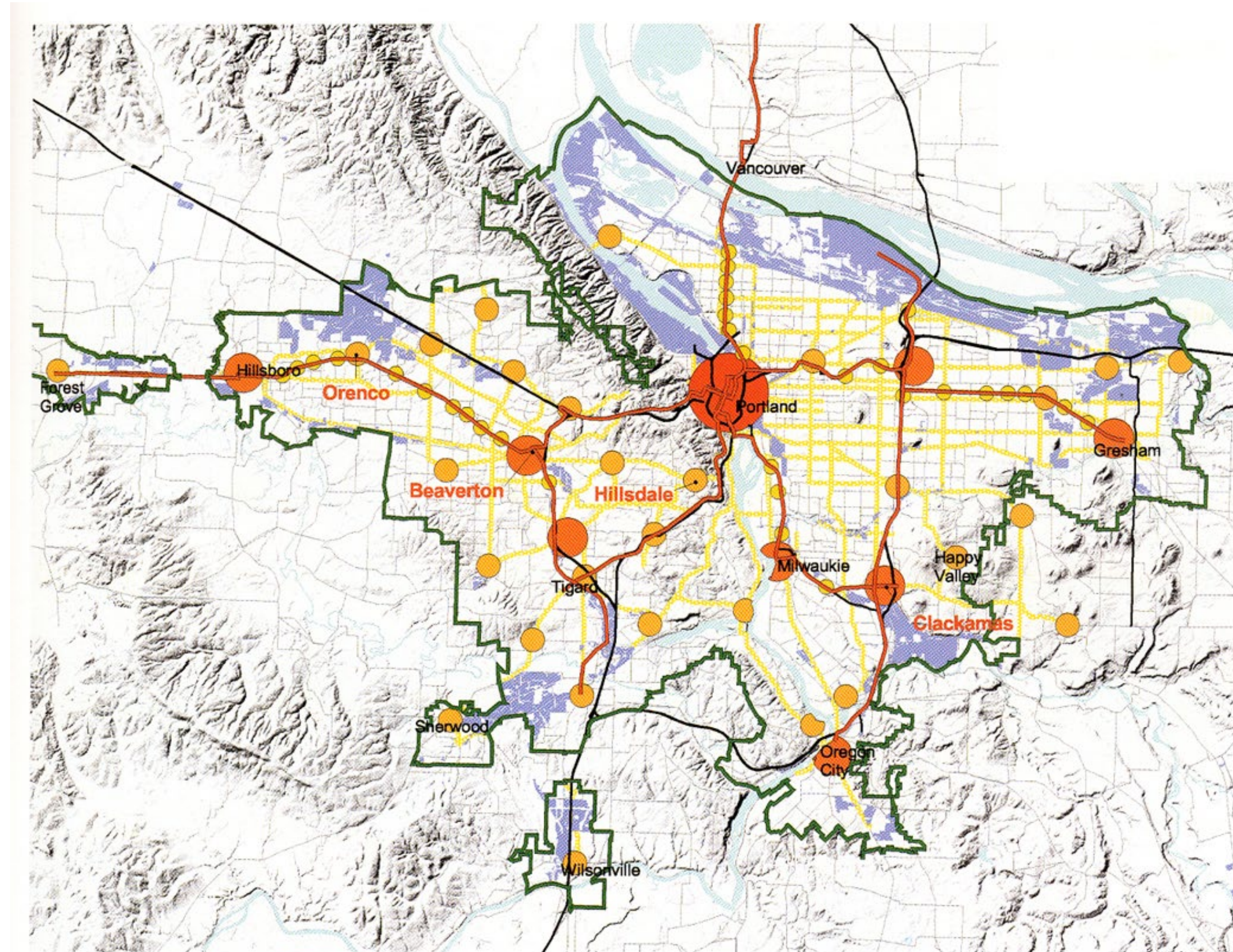
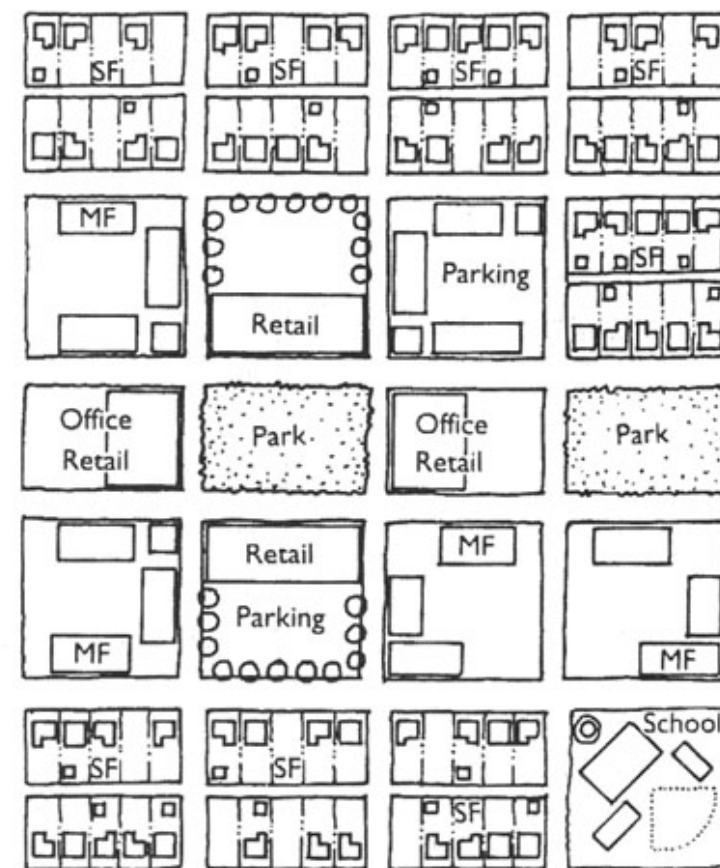
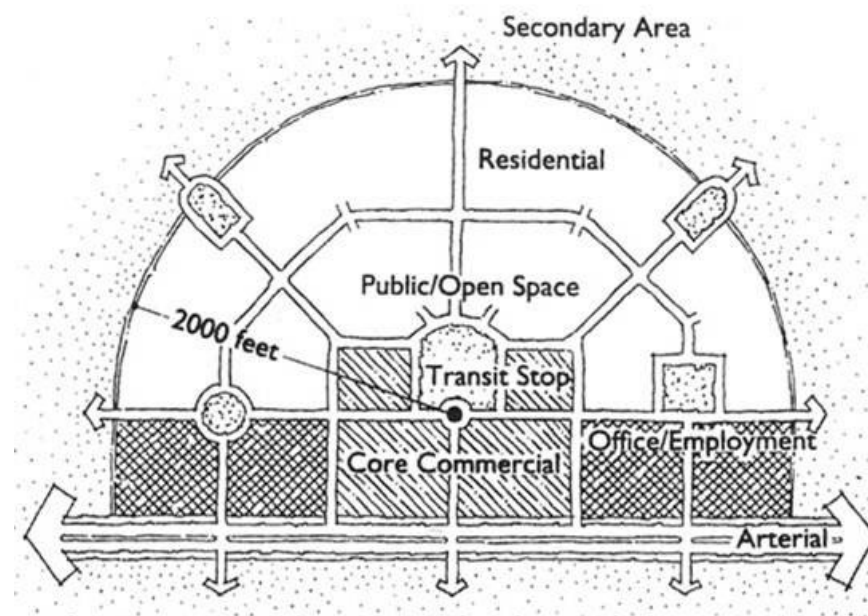
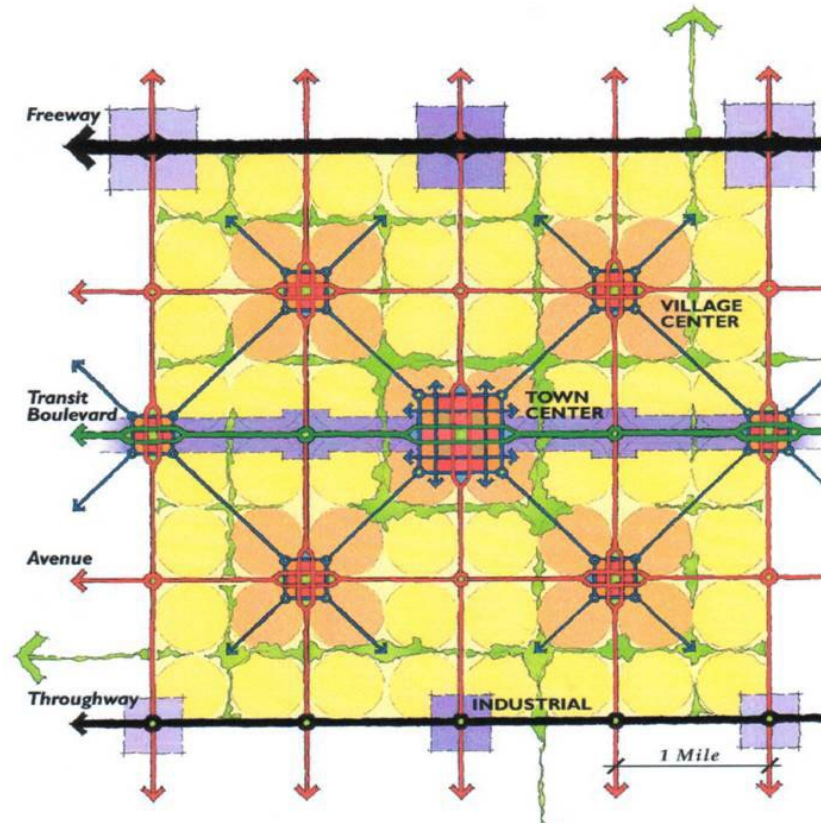
http://sitex.gobex.es/SITEX/pages/web/narguiagenero_enlaces

	VELOCIDAD A PIE	TIEMPO PARA RECORRER 1km	DISTANCIA CUBIERTA EN 10'
A 	1.8 km/h (aprox.)	33 minutos	300 m
B 	2.5 km/h (aprox.)	24 minutos	420 m
C 	4.0 km/h (aprox.)	15 minutos	660 m
D 	4.7 - 6.1 km/h (apr.)	9-13 minutos	780 m-1.020 m
E 	6.5 km/h (aprox.)	9 minutos	1.080 m

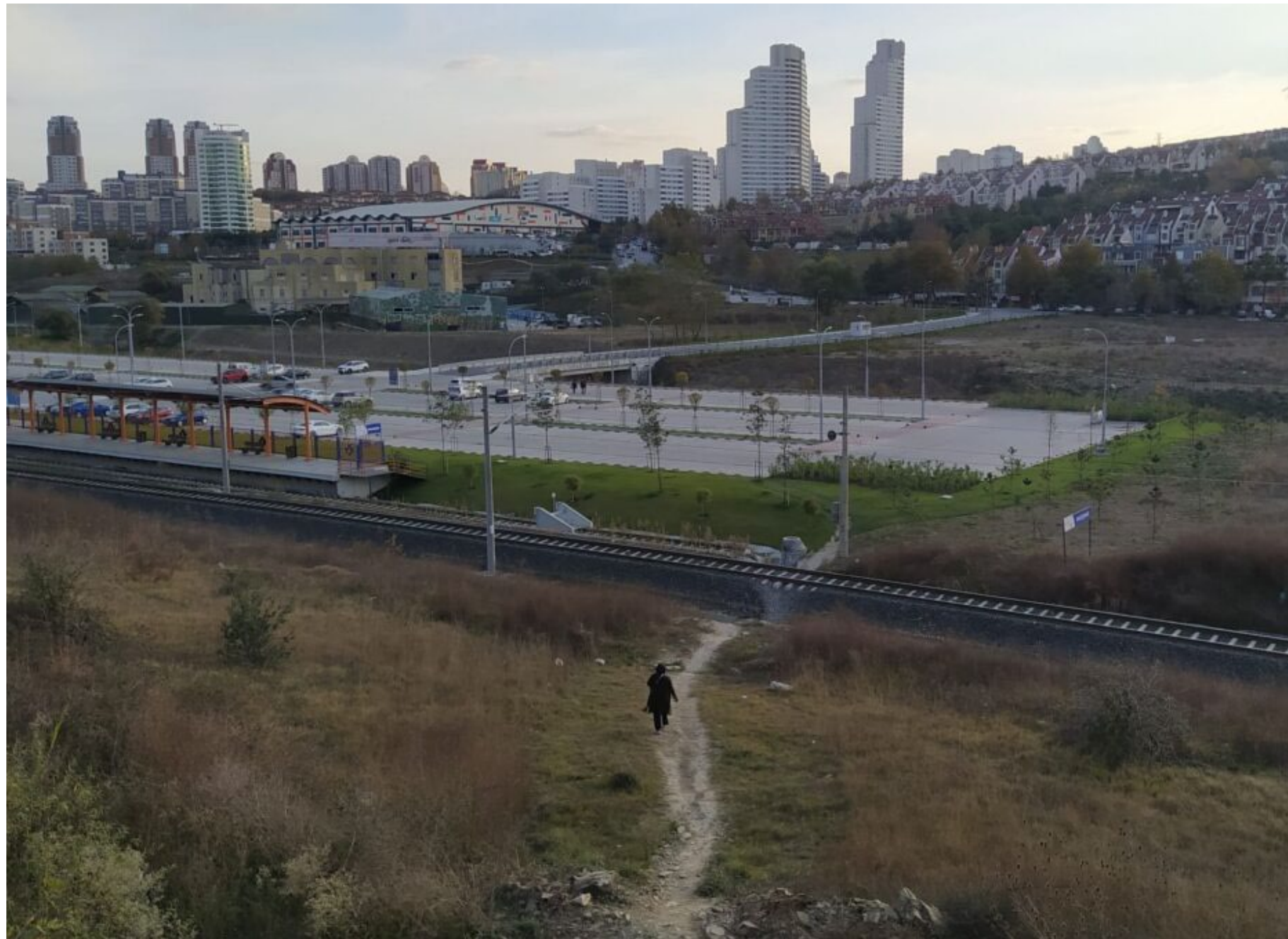
Fuente: "Gender Mainstreaming in der Stadtplanung und Stadtentwicklung", Urban Development Viena, 2013



COMPACT CITY IN POLYCENTRIC REGION



SIZE, SPATIAL SEGREGATION, & GDP



Domestic workers in Istanbul:
Walking from home to catch the bus &
Arriving by minibus in a gated community.
Source: Beyazit, 2017

genderSTE
Science, Technology, Environment

 COST is supported by the EU RTD
Framework Programme

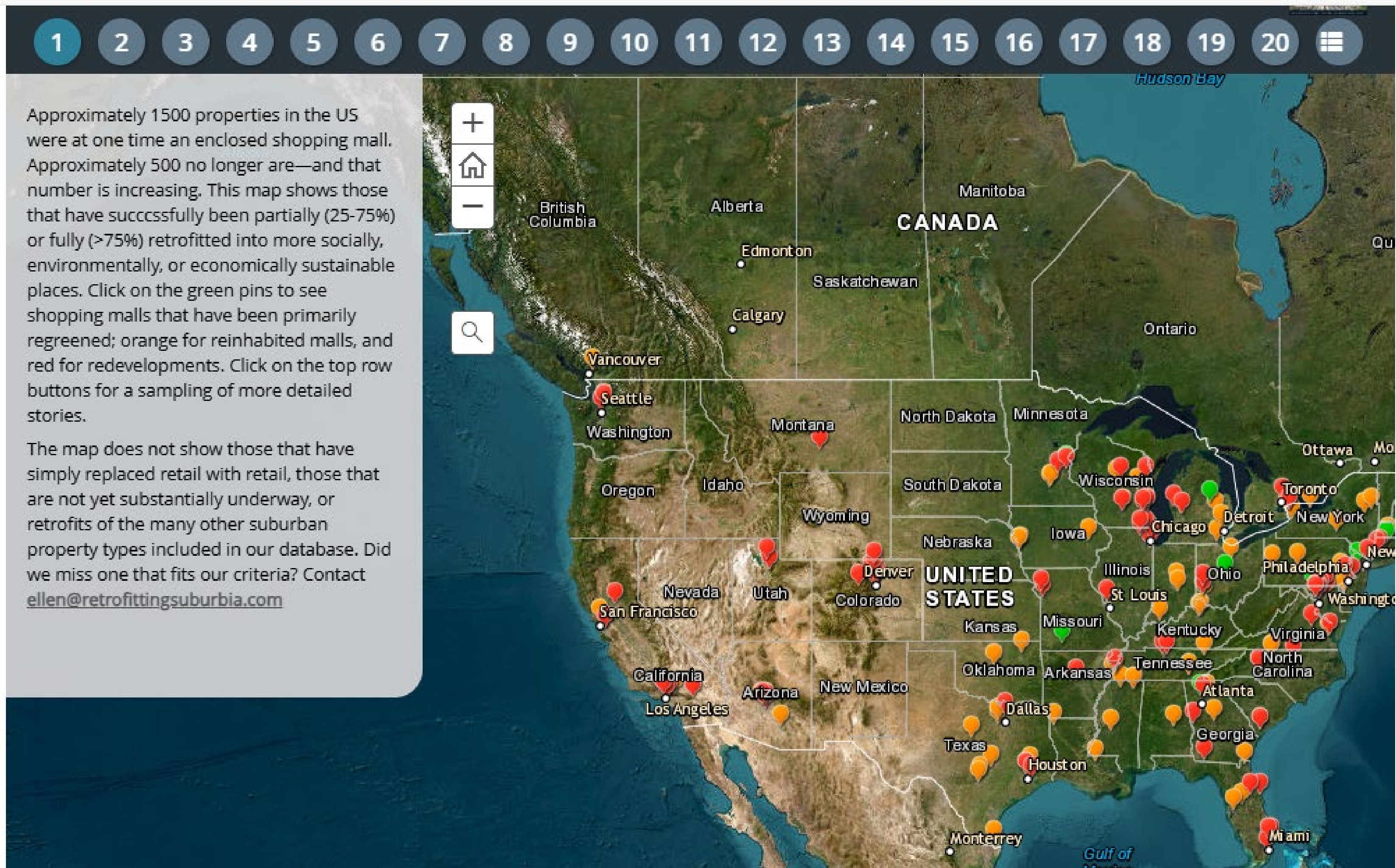
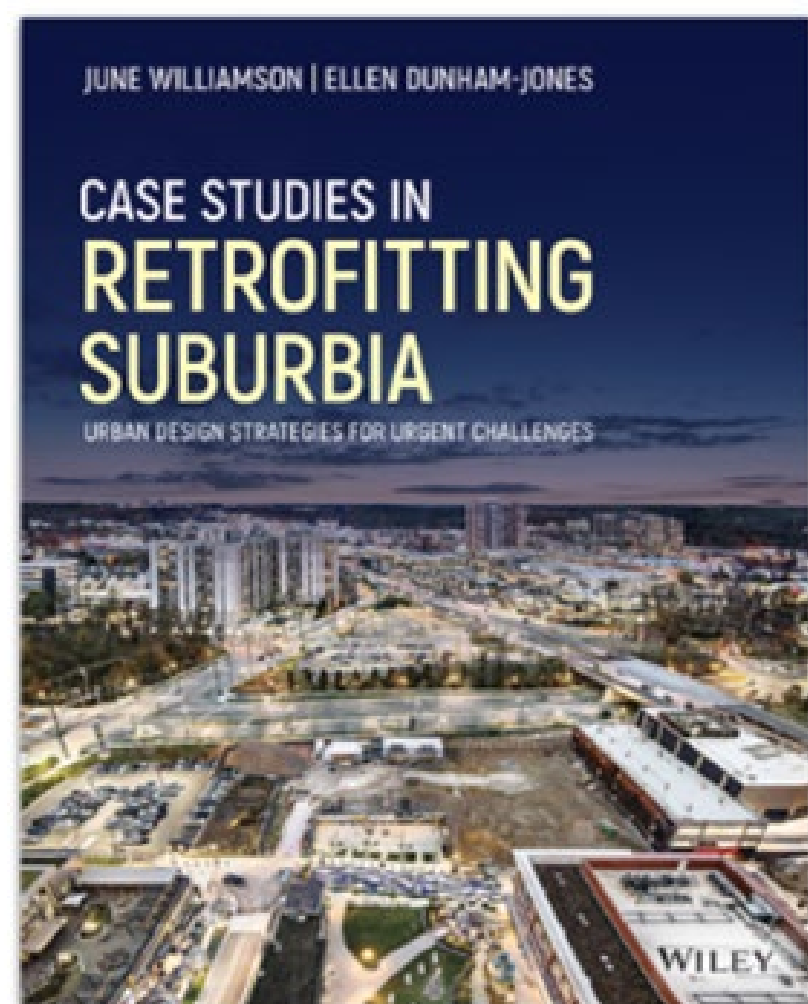
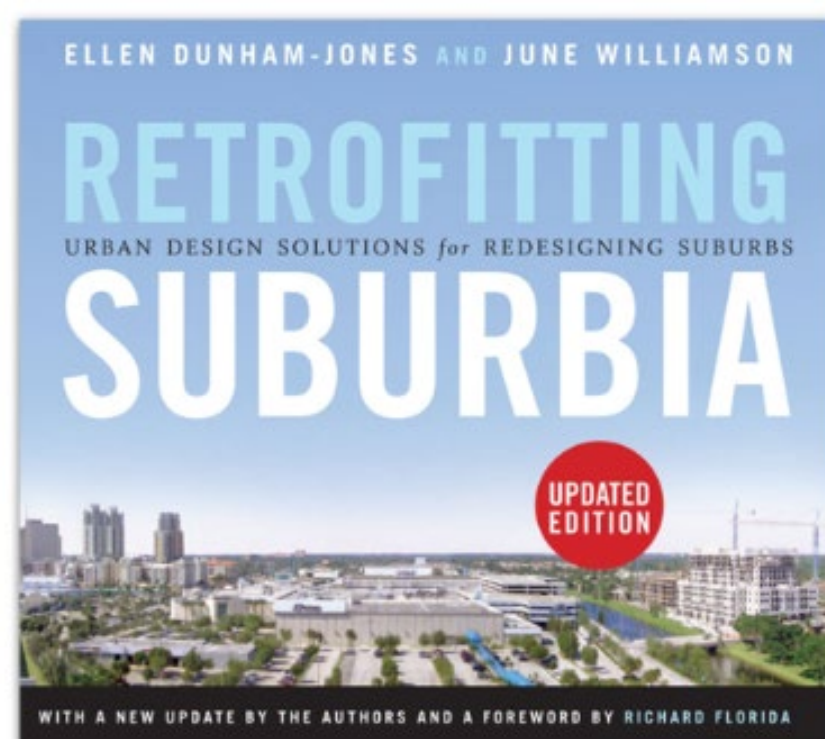
In many countries,
domestic work is women's
main source of employment

In India, women participation in the
labour force is 22%.
The average one-way commute is
63 minutes for 19 km.
Source: Chaudary 2025

**Affluent mid-sized European cities
vs
Spatially segregated great cities in Global South**

In Nairobi's Matatu,
women make one more trip per day,
for care purposes, after or before work.
Care trips range from 34-48 minutes
Source: Sánchez de Madariaga
& Agudo Arroyo, 2018

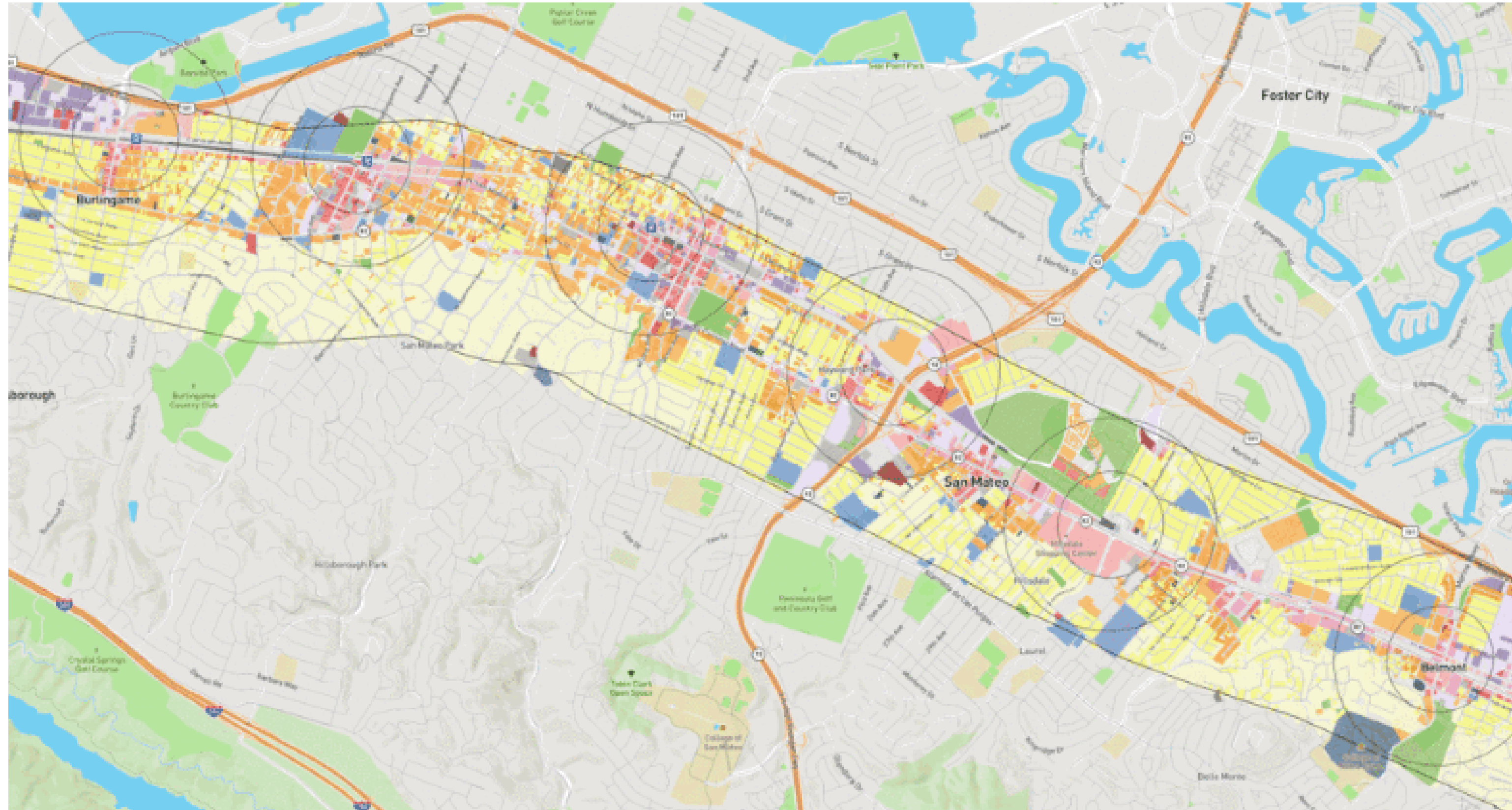




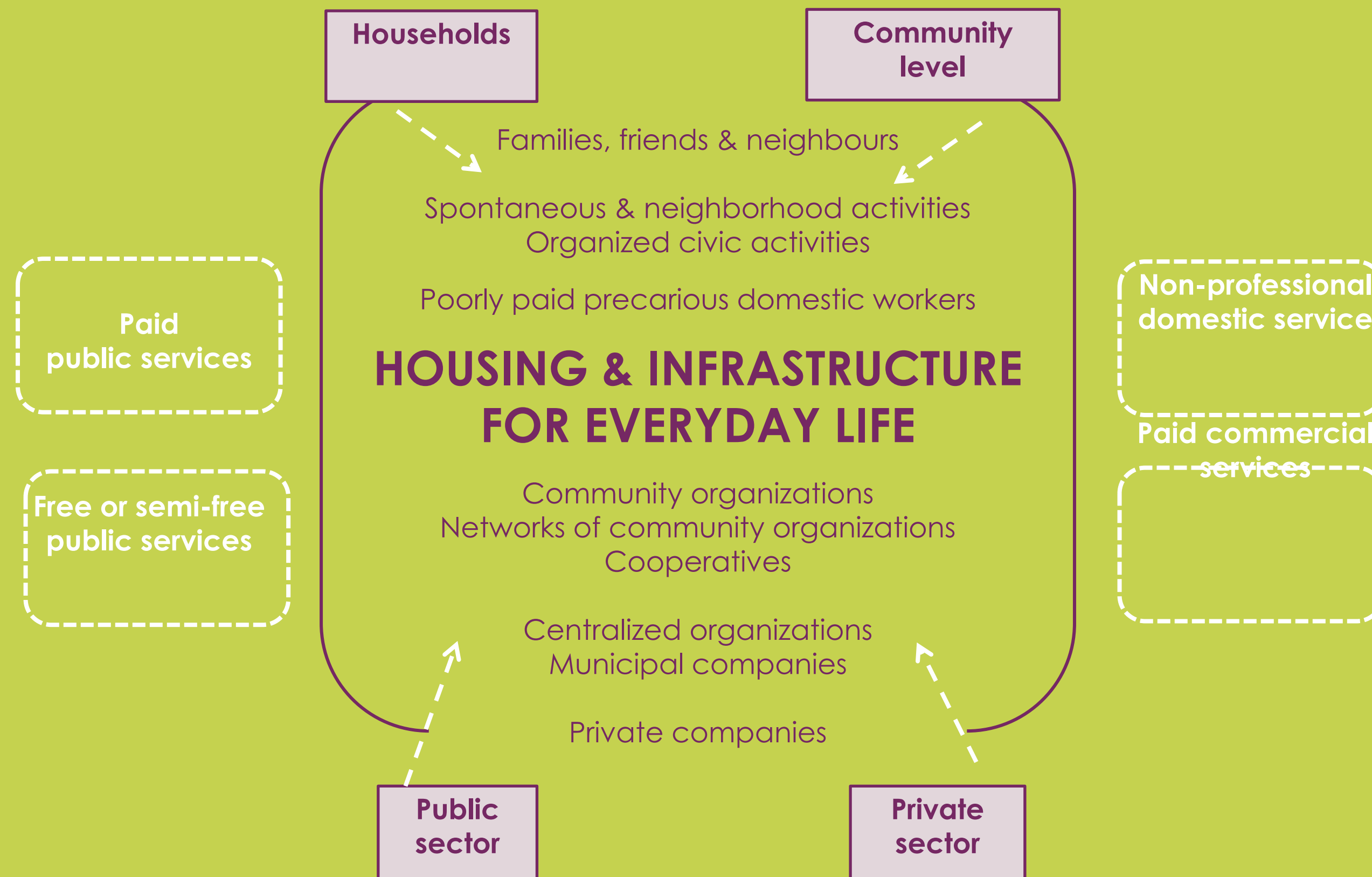
Modelo para el Corredor de la Bahía de San Francisco

UrbanFootprint (Peter Calthorpe) – aplicaciones de nuevas tecnologías

- Densificación 250,000 nuevas viviendas
- Sistema de Transporte Colectivo Rápido Autónomo (ART)
- Evaluación de varios escenarios de densificación y nuevas centralidades a lo largo del corredor El Camino (emisiones, km recorridos, consumo agua, energía, etc.)



3. Analytical Framework



DILEMMAS OF EQUALITY AGENDAS

EQUALITY: focus employment

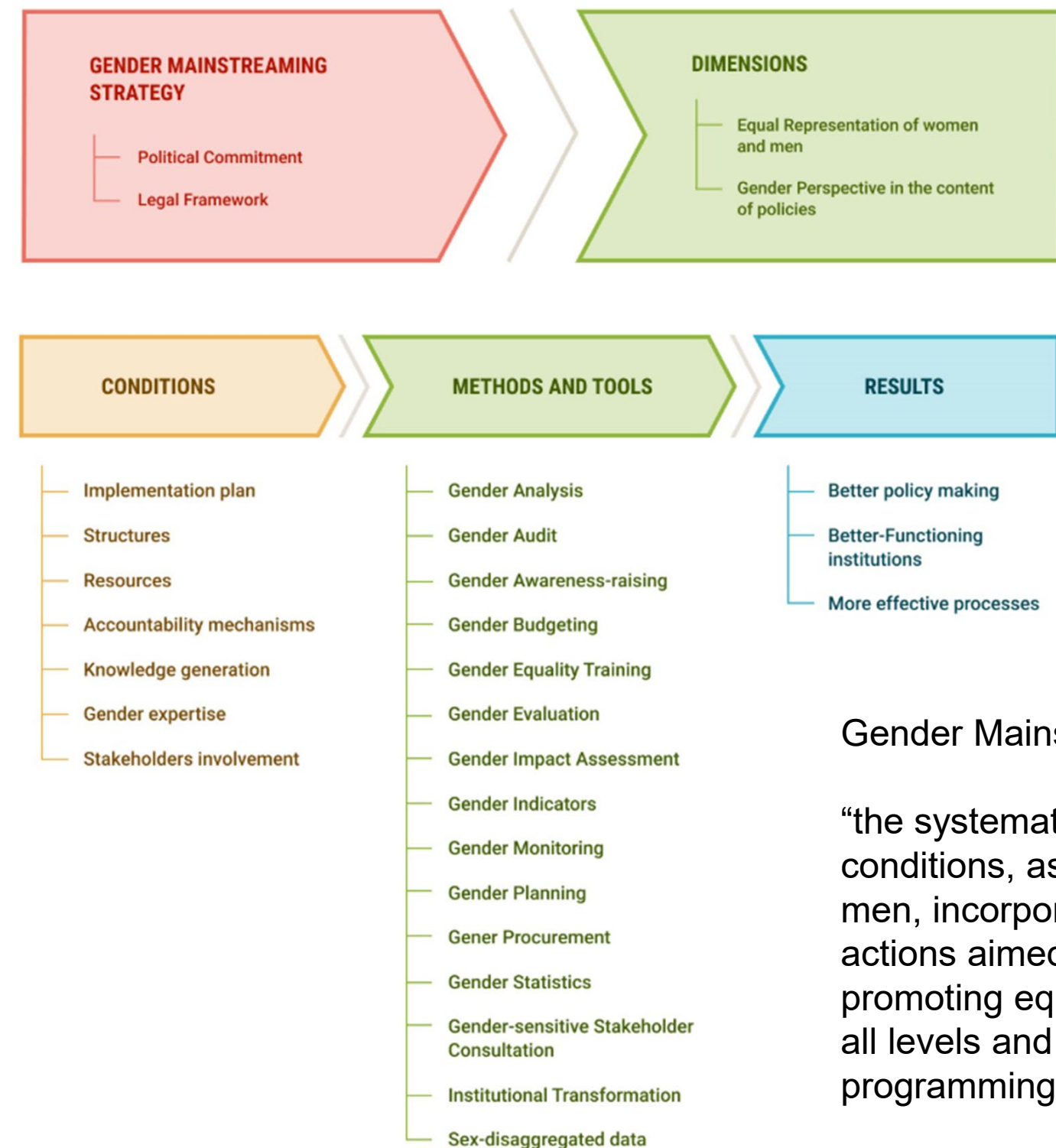
REDISTRIBUTION: material living conditions

DIFFERENCE: focus care

RECOGNITION: visibility, appreciation, & status

GENDER MAINSTREAMING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

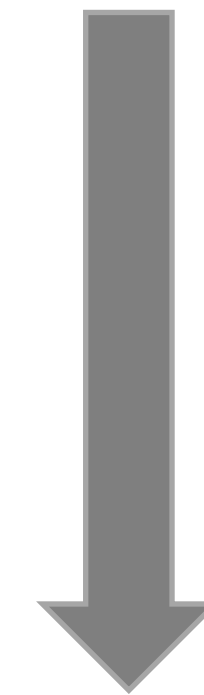
COMPONENTS OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACCORDING TO EIGE



Gender Mainstreaming:

“the systematic consideration of the situations, conditions, aspirations, and needs of women and men, incorporating specific objectives and actions aimed at eliminating inequalities and promoting equality in all policies and actions, at all levels and in all phases of planning, programming, implementation, and evaluation”

TPOLOGY OF PLANNING TOOLS ACCORDING TO THE PLANNING POWERS OF THE STATE



- **VOLUNTARY**
- **INCENTIVES / DISINCENTIVES**
- **REGULATORY**
- **DIRECT PUBLIC INTERVENTION**

Source: Sánchez de Madariaga, I. “Planning Powers, a Methodological Framework for a Gender Transformative Urban Agenda. Application to the Spanish Case 1990-2025”, *Town Planning Review*, 2025.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING & PLANNING TOOLS

Less impact

• VOLUNTARY

- Sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators
- Research grants
- Academic and professional networks
- Professional and academic conferences, congresses, manuals, publications
- Trainings
- Awards and recognition schemes
- Participatory processes: exploratory safety walks; workshops with women
- Demonstrative pilot projects: housing, stations, women centers
- Recommendations (non-binding as opposed to normative)
- Advisory bodies: external, internal or mixed

• INCENTIVES / DISINCENTIVES

- Financial or other incentives and subsidies for the integration of gender aspects in urban planning or local regulations.
- Can address lower-level public bodies, private organizations, and individual citizens

• REGULATORY

- Urban planning clauses in equality laws
- Equality clauses in land-use laws
- Urban and transport plans
- Sectoral plans (housing, facilities, etc) at all scales
- Technical standards annexed to legislation on how to integrate gender dimensions into plans
- Zoning ordinances addressing gender relevant issues
- Gender budgeting
- Public procurement including gender criteria for design and composition of teams
- Gender Impact Assessments,
- Standards for land reserves for gender-relevant uses such as child and elderly care
- Innovative zoning regulations assimilating affordable housing to urban facilities

More impact

• DIRECT PUBLIC INTERVENTION

- Infrastructure, open space, and public facilities.
- Interventions on land and real estate markets (i.e. public land banking and public land development using eminent domain or land readjustment mechanisms)
- Housing production that goes beyond pilot projects
- Scale of pilot projects through public procurement & other means

4. Tools and Experiences

SECTORAL THEMES /TOPICS ADDRESSED

- TRANSPORT, MOBILITY AND ACCESIBILITY
- HOUSING
- URBAN REGENERATION/RENEWAL
- SAFETY IN PUBLIC SPACE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
- QUALITY OF PUBLIC SPACE AND SCHOOL PATHS
- URBAN FACILITIES
- PUBLIC FACILITIES ADDRESSING WOMEN'S NEEDS
- INFRASTRUCTURES, MULTI-MODAL STATIONS AND TRAIN RAILWAYS
- SOFT-INDUSTRIAL AND TERTIARY URBAN USES
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FEMALE EMPLOYMENT
- RURAL AREAS
- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
- SOCIAL PROTECTION
- CLIMATE CHANGE

PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

- REGIONAL PLANNING
- URBAN/CITY PLANNING
- MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES
- SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY PLANS (SUMPS)
- URBAN PROJECTS
- INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (CIVIL WORKS)
- URBAN AGENDAS (REGIONAL AND NATIONAL)
- HERITAGE CATALOGS
- URBAN REGENERATION/RENEWAL PROJECTS
- PROJECTS IN TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURES AND STATIONS
- LEGISLATION / REGULATION
- GENDER ACTION PLANS FOR PROJECTS AND PLANS
- GENDER EQUALITY PLANS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

(Source: Sánchez de Madariaga, I. "Planning Powers, a Methodological Framework for a Gender Transformative Urban Agenda. Application to the Spanish Case 1990-2025", *Town Planning Review*, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.3828/tpr.2025.31>)

MODEL: BASQUE EXPERIENCES, by type. Selection

Title	Type of instrument	Organism and team
Urban Agenda Butzazu	Voluntary: soft law	Basque Government, UNESCO Chair UPM
Gender sensitive statistics	Voluntary: data	Basque Gov. and various subregional govts
Safety audits & participatory workshops	Voluntary: participatory process	Municipalities, various consultants
Manuals & toolkits on numerous topics	Voluntary: recommendations	Basque Gov., various consultants
Recommendations for housing design	Voluntary: recommendations	Projekta Urbes, Basque Government
Research on women architects	Voluntary: knowledge	COAVN and academic teams
Pilot housing projects	Voluntary: pilot projects	Various municipalities & Basque Gov.
Gender indicators (mobility of care)	Voluntary: data	Irún
Awards and recognition schemes	Voluntary: recognition	Various Basque administrations
Competitive grants by regional government	Incentives	Basque Gov., several municipalities
Regional land-use legislation	Regulatory: land-use	Basque Government
Directrices de Ordenación del Territorio	Regulatory: regional plan	Basque Government, UNESCO Chair UPM
Gender criteria in housing legislation: Decreto de Habitabilidad & Ley de Vivienda	Regulatory: sectoral	Basque Government, UNESCO Chair UPM
Gender in Regional Sectoral Plans	Regulatory: land-use	Basque Government
Mugi card, transit pricing mechanism	Regulatory: non-plan	Diputación of Gipuzkoa
Local plans and ordinances	Regulatory: plans	Municipal teams & external consultants
Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans	Regulatory: transport plan	Irún
Vía Irún Redevelopment Project	Regulatory: master plan	Irún, Typsa, UNESCO Chair UPM
Strengthening application of legislation on women’s ownership of explotations	Regulatory: leg. on agricultural holdings	Basque Government
Gender Impact Statements	Regulatory: implementation	Basque Government
Gender in public procurement	Public intervention:	Basque Gov., diputaciones
Bidasoa Activa, TML and digital retail	Public intervention, ec. dev.	Bidasoa Activa, UNESCO Chair UPM
Pilot project, Atotxa Station, San Sebastián	Public intervention: pilot to scale	ADIF, UNESCO Chair UPM

Source: Sánchez de Madariaga, Inés “La igualdad efectiva en las políticas de vivienda y en el planeamiento urbanístico: el impacto de la ley de igualdad de 2007 en el urbanismo español” en Ventura Franch, A.; García Campá, S., *El derecho constitucional a la igualdad efectiva de mujeres y hombres. Una evaluación del segundo decenio de aplicación de la Ley Orgánica 3/2007*, Thomson Reuters 2026.

REGIONAL PLAN (DOT) Basque Country, 2016

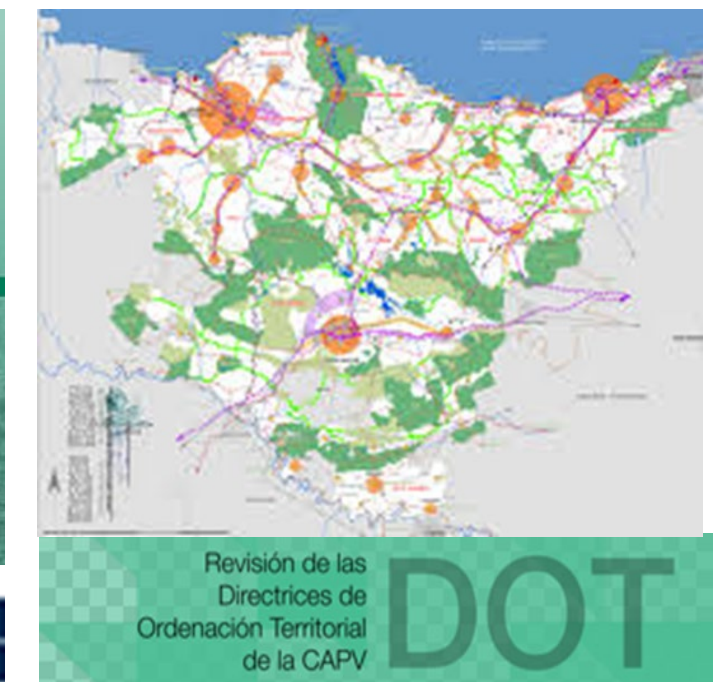
“Se plantea abordar desde la ordenación del territorio la **perspectiva de género** en ámbitos como el del **urbanismo del cuidado**, la movilidad, la accesibilidad, los equipamientos, incluidos los comerciales, la vivienda, el hábitat rural y el urbano, o la participación, entre otros”.

“Las personas tienen distintas necesidades y aspiraciones en relación al territorio y al espacio urbano y rural derivadas de los **roles de género** que asumen en su **vida cotidiana**. La inclusión de la **perspectiva de género** en la Ordenación del Territorio permite garantizar a **hombres y mujeres el acceso a todos los recursos en igualdad** de condiciones”. (10.2, **Memoria** de las DOT)

Objetivos:

1. Promover una planificación que integre la **perspectiva de género tanto en la actuación territorial como en la urbanística**, y que se pueda consolidar en el tiempo.
2. Contribuir a través de la introducción de la **perspectiva de género** a las bases del modelo territorial que se propone alcanzar, en particular, para construir un territorio sostenible, inclusivo, inteligente y participativo.
3. Promover un territorio que, en sus diferentes escalas **dé respuesta a las necesidades de cuidado**; mediante la incorporación del ejercicio de un **urbanismo del cuidado** tanto en la planificación territorial como en la urbanística.
4. Contribuir a **alcanzar el objetivo de la igualdad** y a generar territorios y ciudades que contribuyan a mejorar la **calidad de vida de toda la ciudadanía más allá de cualquier eje de diferencia (sexo, edad, nivel socioeconómico, etnia, raza, etc.)**. (10.2. **Perspectiva de Género**, Memoria de las DOT)

Legally binding; Strong language on gender equality, care & intersectionality, throughout: Preamble, Objectives, Territorial Indications & Application Norms



REGIONAL PLAN, DOT, Basque Country

Territorial Orientations (Norms to be applied by all planning instruments)

1. Plan for **location of uses** in ways that the need for **car trips is reduced**, or at least their time is reduced, particularly for **care-related trips**.
2. Promote a **polycentric territorial structure**, supporting mid-size cities
3. Promote a complex city of **proximity**, based in **safe neighborhood with good facilities**, connected through **transit** to other parts of the city and region.
4. Promote **public spaces** that sustain their **social functions**
5. Promote a sufficiently **dense** urban model allowing **mixed uses**
6. Introduce a **gender perspective in transportation** planning and operations
7. Promote **mobility of care**, ensuring that **care trips** can be efficient, safe and affordable, and in **combination with employment**
8. **Safety in public space** as a fundamental right in urban and territorial planning



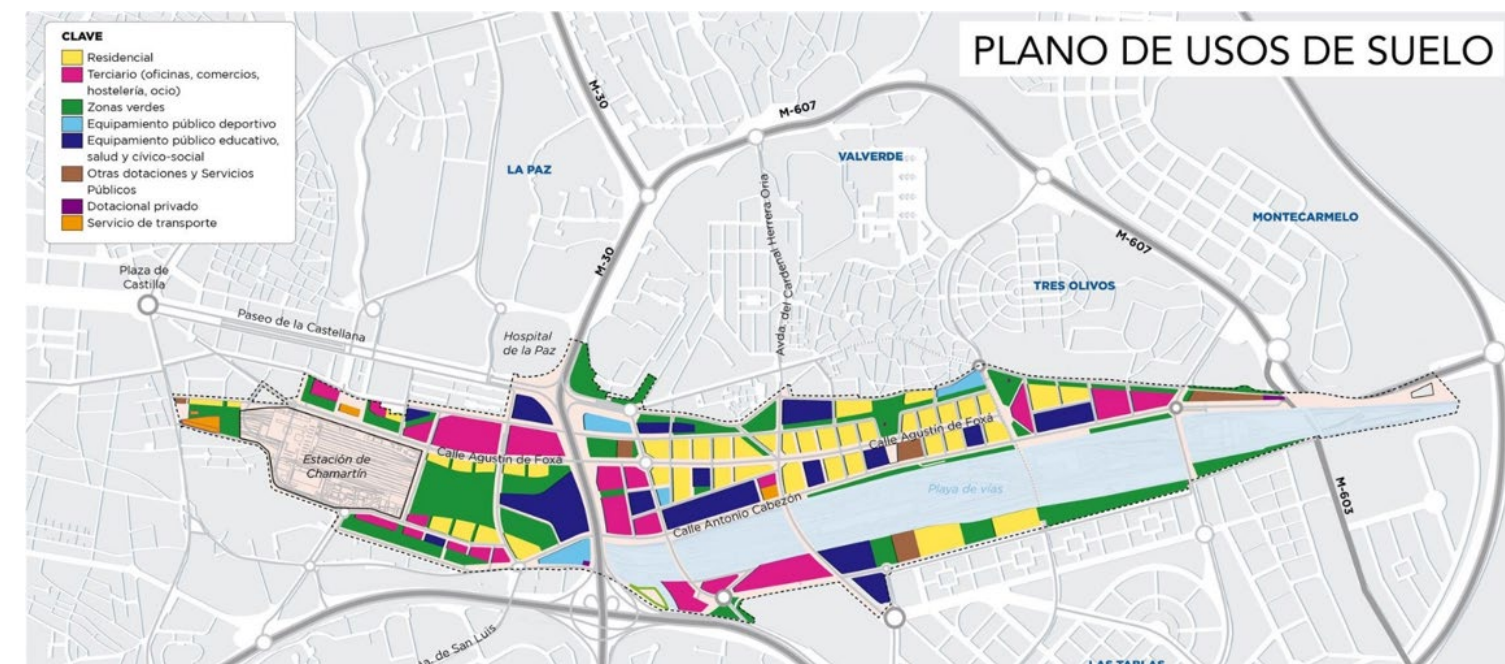
Sánchez de Madariaga (dir.) Perspectiva de Género en las Directrices de Ordenación Territorial del País Vasco. Propuestas de acción, Cátedra UNESCO UPM- Gobierno Vasco, 2016. ([Microsoft Word - Perspectiva G\351nero DOT \ISdM\](#)).docx)
[Directrices de Ordenación Territorial \(DOT\)](#)
 - [Planificación territorial y urbanismo](#) -
[Euskadi.eus](#)

MUNICIPAL LEVEL PLANNING



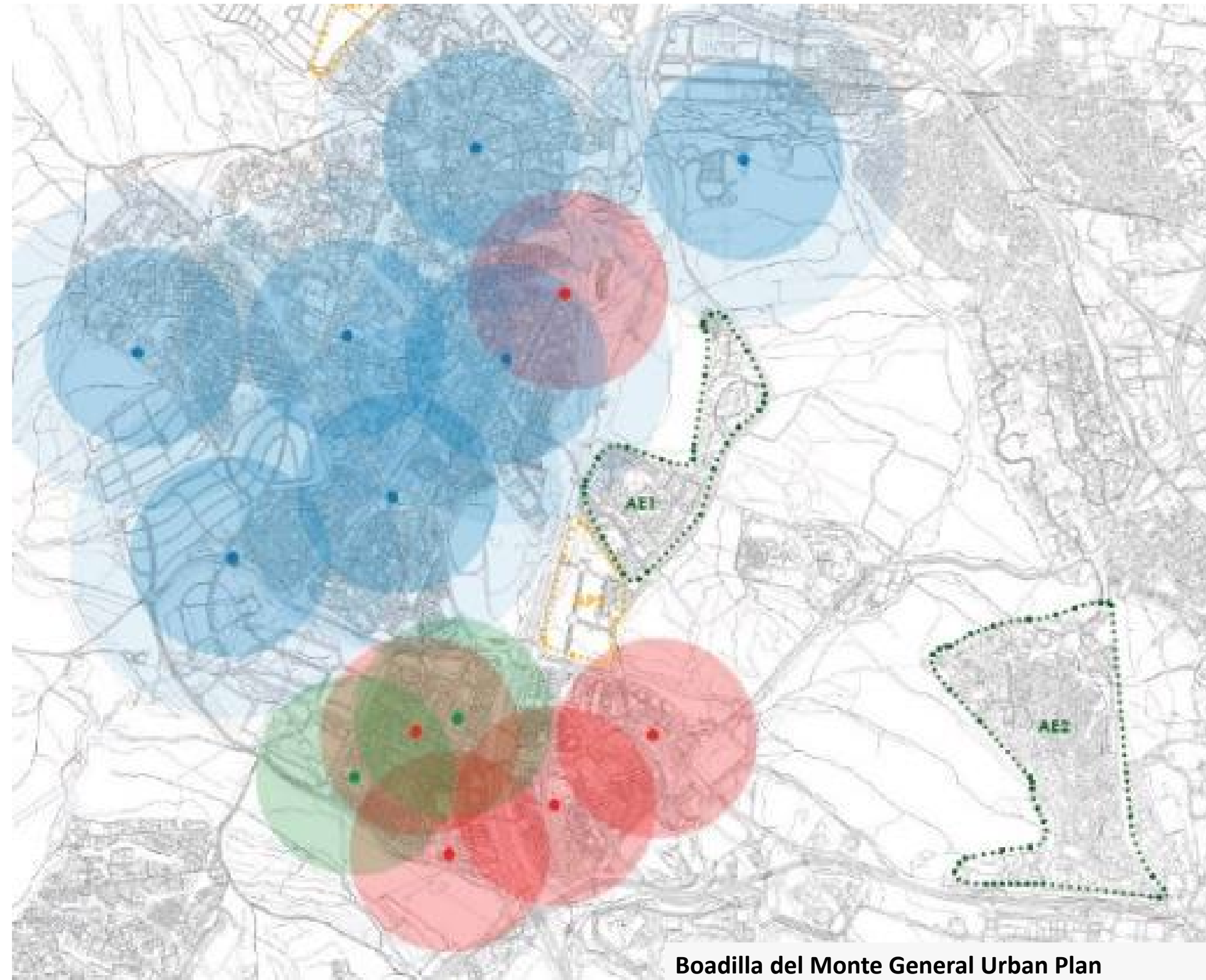
MADRID NUEVO NORTE PROJECT

- 10.500 housing units (at least 20% social housing)
- 80% of trips based on public transportation
- 2.357.449 sqm floor area
- 1.050.000m² housing floor area
- 5 new subway stops
- New main transport hub in Madrid
- New CBD and park



- Technical assistance since the start of design process
- Gender Impact Assessment of the Modification of the General Urban Plan of Madrid
- Exploratory safety audits with women in surrounding neighborhoods
- Participatory design with teenagers on public space
- Ad hoc training of decision makers and technical staff
- Toolkit

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANS



Boadilla del Monte General Urban Plan

MODERNISATION OF PLANNING SYSTEMS



**Recommendations for
Mainstreaming Gender in
the process for the
modernisation of the
Uzbekistan planning system**

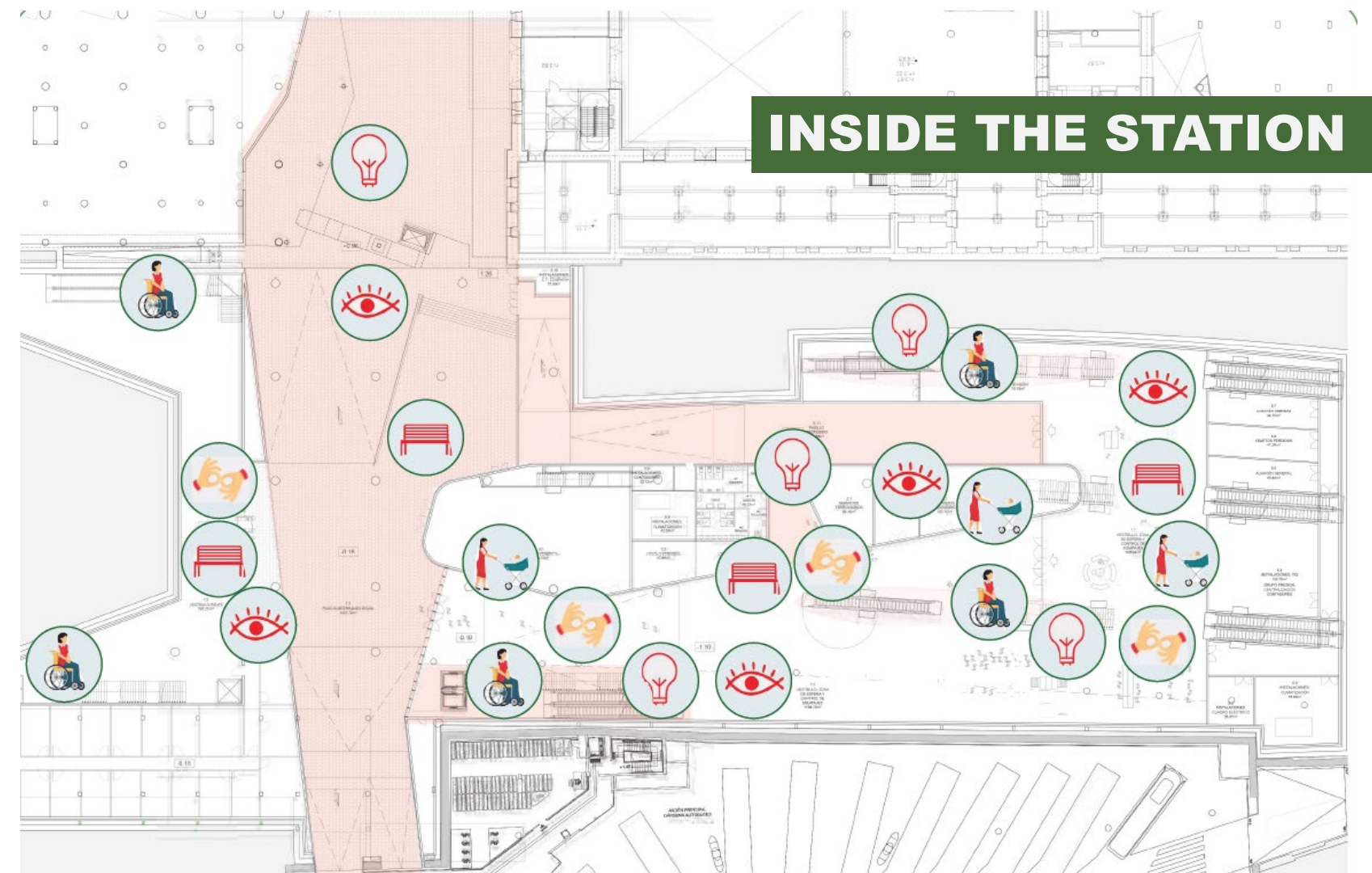


TRAIN STATIONS



(National Rail Infrastructure
Owner & Manager)

- 3 pilots 2019
- Gender criteria & gender expertise in teams
- Public Procurement
- Scale: 200+ stations in 2023
- Today: all projects



INSIDE THE STATION



PUBLIC SPACE



PLATFORMS

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING INTEGRATION IN THE PROJECT FOR
THE NEW HIGH-SPEED TRAIN STATION OF
ATOTXA – SAN SEBASTIÁN**

MEASURING MOBILITY OF CARE



Mobility of Care in Buenos Aires Region with IADB



Mobility of Care in the Matatu system in Nairobi, Kenia, with UN-Habitat



Mobility of Care in DC transit, with MIT Transit Lab & WMATA



Gipuzkoako
Foru Aldundia
Diputación Foral
de Gipuzkoa

Mobility of Care in Guipuzcoa Province



Mobility of Care in the City of Irún



Comunidad
de Madrid

Mobility of Care in Region of Madrid



Gender in Irún Plan for Sustainable Mobility (PMUS)

SAFETY AUDITS



INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH



PUBLIC SPACE & URBAN DESIGN



Brujas Square (Valencia)



**Cabanyal neighbourhood
(Valencia)**

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT & INFILL



VIAIRUN Redevelopment (Irún)

MASTER PLANS: RESIDENTIAL



NEW NEIGHBORHOOD

Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan for Tacumbú Re-settlement
(Asunción Paraguay)

MASTER PLANS: INDUSTRIAL



NEW INDUSTRIAL AREAS

Gender in Modification of Industrial
Area Planning to Gigafactory
(Sagunt, Valencia)

MANUALS

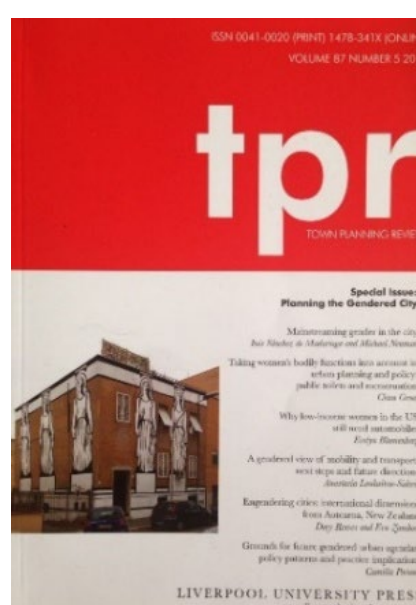
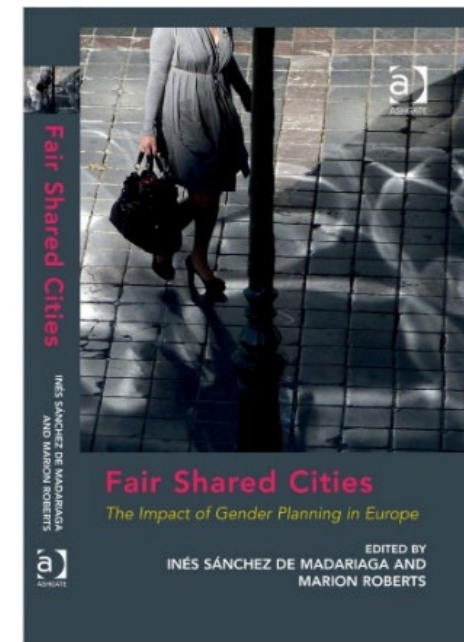
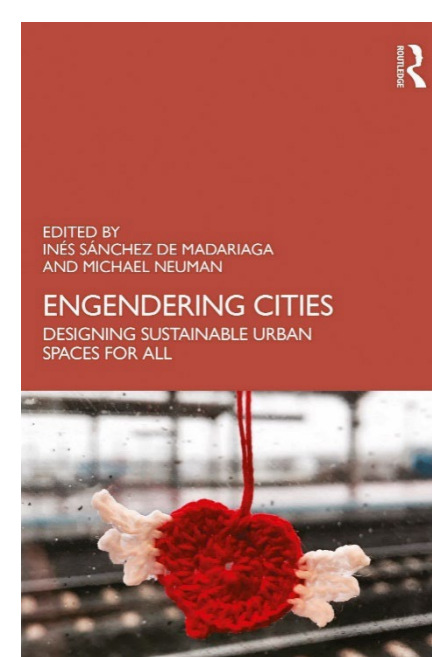
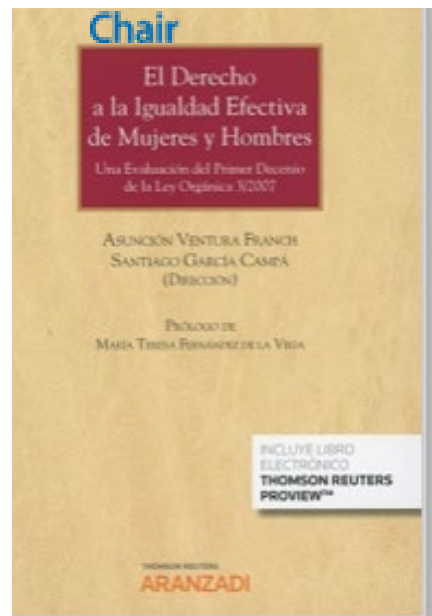
know how:
Toolkits at all
scales
commissioned by
governmental
bodies & other
stakeholders



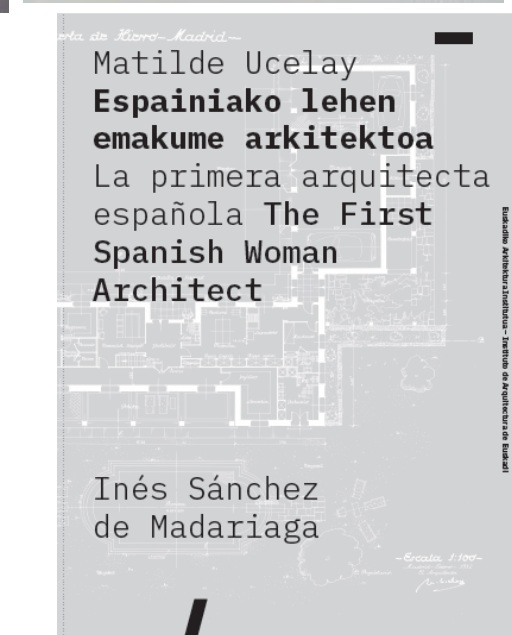
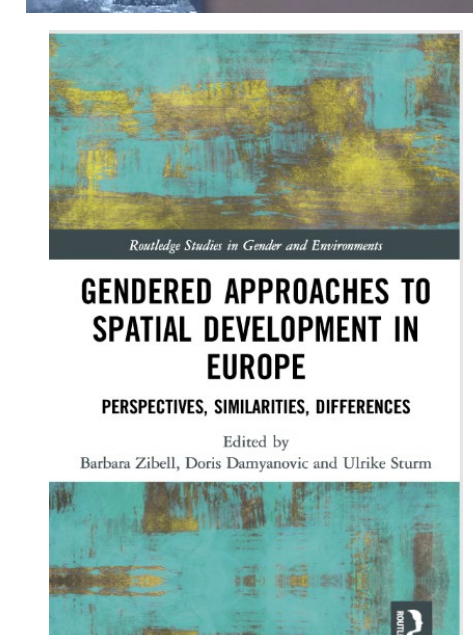
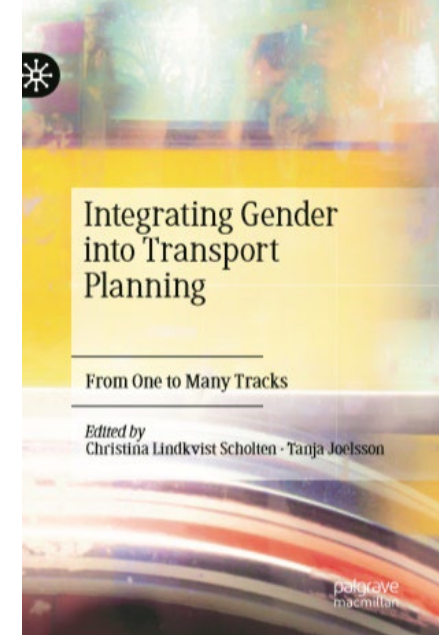
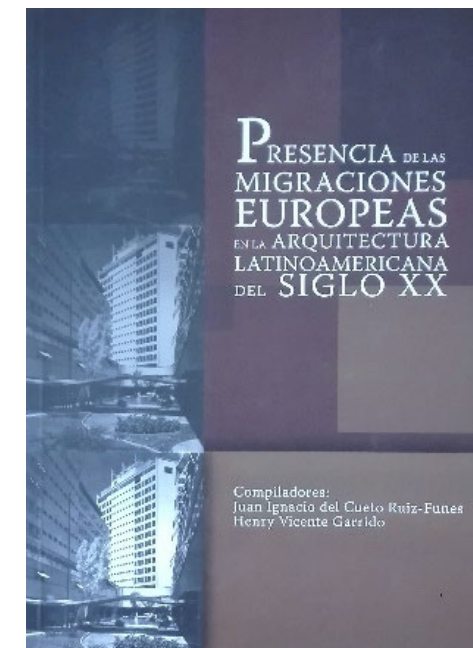
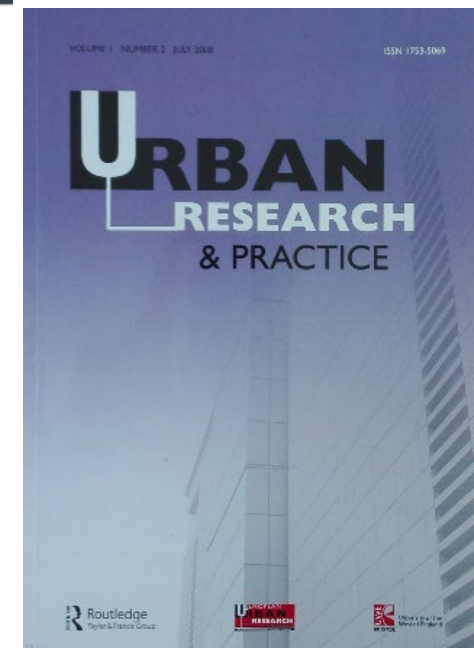
GENDER EQUALITY PLANS for INSTITUTIONS & GOVERNMENTS



5. Looking to the Future. Lessons Learnt



THANKS



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