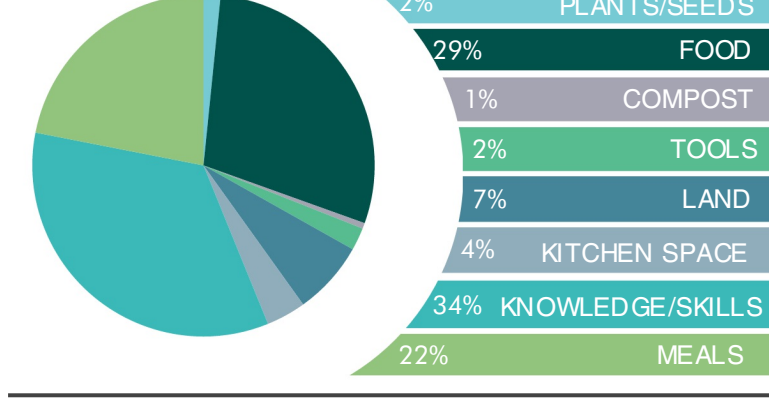


# BARCELONA

Barcelona is ranked 6th in the SHARECITY100 Database of global ICT-mediated food sharing, with 106 initiatives currently active in the city.

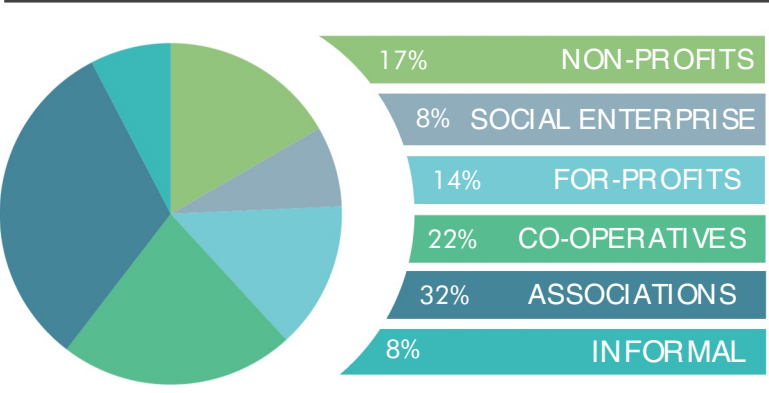
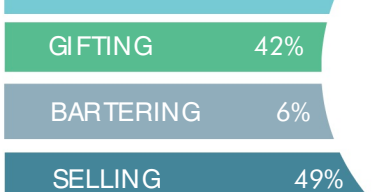


## WHAT IS SHARED

77% of food sharing initiatives in Barcelona share multiple things. Knowledge and skills are most frequently shared, followed by food (including fruits, vegetables, meat, fish and food products) and then meals. Compost, then plants and seeds, and tools are least shared in Barcelona.

## HOW IT IS SHARED

Selling is the most common form of food sharing in Barcelona, followed closely by gifting. Collecting and bartering are relatively infrequent modes of exchange. Only 8% of initiatives share via multiple methods, the most common combination being gifting and selling.



## SHARING ORGANISATION

Associations (including clubs and networks) are the most common form of food sharing enterprise in Barcelona, followed by co-operatives, and nonprofits (including charities). Few initiatives are social enterprises or informal groups. 32% of Barcelona initiatives use more than one form of organisation in their operations.



## GEOGRAPHY & POLITICS



Barcelona is Spain's second largest city located along the Mediterranean coast in north eastern Spain. It has a population of 1.7 million people and a population density of 16,000 people per square kilometre, increasing to a population of 3.2 million people in the wider metropolitan area. This makes Barcelona one of Europe's most densely populated cities. Spain consists of seventeen autonomous communities and two autonomous cities. Barcelona is the capital city of the autonomous community of Catalonia. The Catalanian region represents 16% of Spain's total population (1).

The Kingdom of Spain is a hereditary monarchy with a democratic parliament that is ruled by King Felipe VI. The government is divided into legislative, executive and judicial sectors with elections held every four years. There is currently a strong independence movement in Catalonia and Barcelona. Following General Franco's death in 1975, the Catalan language and culture is being revived and celebrated. Catalonia now has its own parliament and executive with extensive autonomy. Barcelona is the seat of the Catalan government and is governed by a city council elected for a four-year term (2).

## ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Barcelona is considered a global city. It represents the major Mediterranean seaport for Spain, and is a centre of commerce, tourism, art, architecture, sports, science, and culture. Barcelona is ranked 39 in the 2016 Mercer Global Liveability Ranking (3).

The Autonomous Region of Catalonia contributes nearly 19% to Spain's total GDP. Catalonia has a diversified economy that includes tertiary (67%), manufacturing (26%), construction (10%), and agriculture (2%). Barcelona has a high level of cultural diversity with 17% of its residents born abroad, with immigration a key driver for recent economic and population growth (4). New arrivals to Catalonia (from highest to least) are from South America, the European Union, Asia and Oceania, Africa, and North and Central America (5).

Since 2008, Barcelona has suffered from economic austerity and uncertainty due to the global economic crisis. There have been declines in both employment and GDP per capita. In 2016 Spain's unemployment rate fell to its lowest level in six years with an unemployment rate of 19.7% while more than 20% of people live below the poverty line (2012) (6) (7).



## FOOD, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Barcelona is striving to be both a sustainable and socially just city, including an initiative to transform vacant plots into vibrant spaces, and a Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Plan 2020 (8). There are aspirations to make the municipality wants to become the capital of the solidarity economy with already some 5,000 enterprises employing approximately 8% of citizens in Barcelona (9). Barcelona is a signatory of both the United Nation's Global Compact Cities Programme and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

The Catalanian culture has a rich history of cooperatives, collectives, alternative economies, and commons (10). 1,700 families participate in 59 agro-ecological cooperatives in the city, with the most cooperatives found in Gracia with 12 initiatives (20%). Between 2013 and 2015 the number of cooperatives grew by 47.5% (11). Barcelona is also home to Fab Labs (including the Green Fab Lab) and participates in the Maker Spacer movement.

Cultural terms that refer to food sharing include: 'sobremesa', to acknowledge the time spent after a meal enjoying each other's company, and 'porrón', a traditional drinking vessel that is passed around from person-to-person, creating a sense of cohesion and equality that is considered a 'a symbol of our land' (12).

## TECHNOLOGY

Barcelona is described as an upcoming digital innovation hub of Europe. Since 2011 Barcelona has been considered one of Europe's leading smart cities. Barcelona is striving to become a creative city.

Barcelona's citizens are highly connected to the internet, but with differences occurring across suburbs, income, age, and educational level. On average 84% of residents have internet access at home and more than 85% of residents are online every day (12).



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