

Metropolitan area of Terrassa

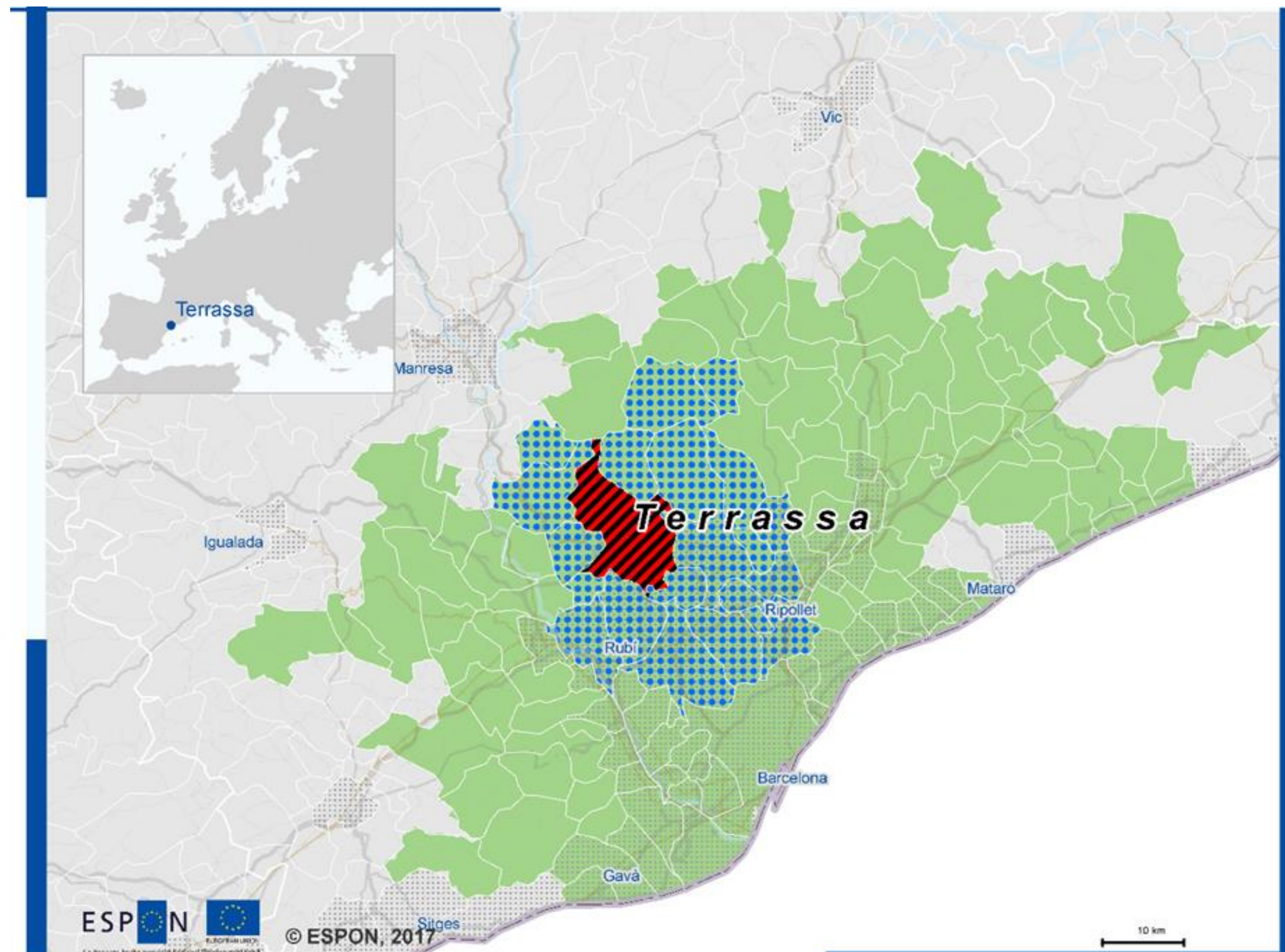
Spatial dynamics and strategic planning

The Metropolitan development of Terrassa

The Metropolitan area of Terrassa (TMA) is part of the Metropolitan region of Barcelona, occupying a central place in its second industrial ring. Located in the Valles Occidental the area is a gateway of the strategic axis between Barcelona and Toulouse. It offers opportunities for creating regional networks for strategic economic development and institutional collaboration. The TMA represents a functional urban area of 11 municipalities with about 430 000 inhabitants. Being one of the former industrial engines of Catalonia, nowadays the area development focuses on strengthening innovation processes and competitiveness by promoting creativity, education, social inclusion and business activities. The area is characterised by increasing population growth and employment tendencies and a potential for increasing quality of life.

Metropolitan Development Area (MDA)

Map of the MDA of Terrassa



- Core city municipality
- MUA of the core city (ESPON 2013 Database)
- Surrounding MUA's (ESPON 2013 Database)
- Metropolitan Development Area (MDA)
- FUA of the core city (ESPON 2013 Database)
- National border
- Railroad
- Motorway
- Primary road
- Other road
- rivers

Territorial level: LAU2 (version 2011)
Source: Geographical information system of the Commission (GISCO), 2017
Origin of data: EUROSTAT, 2011
© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries

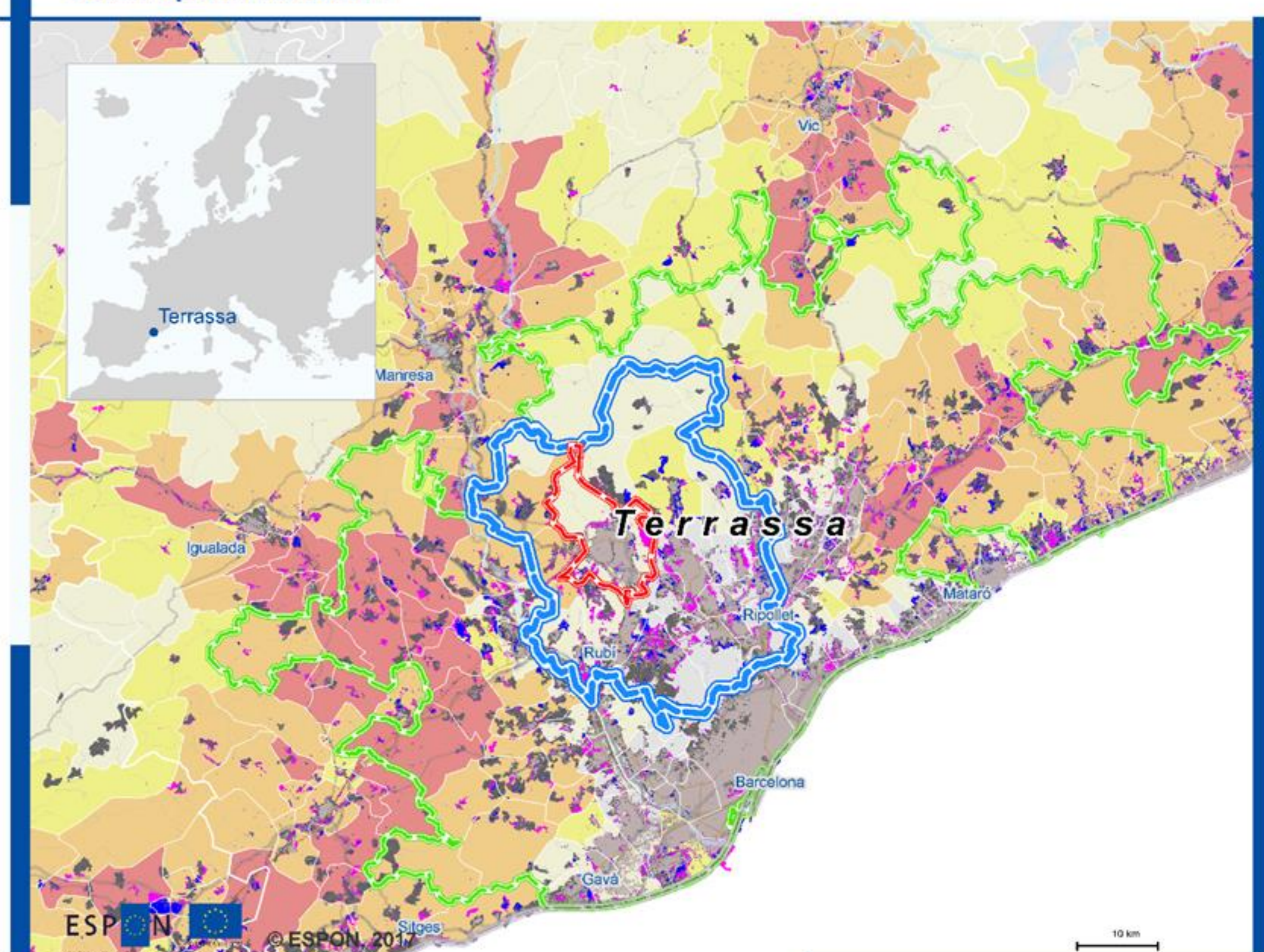
- The Metropolitan Development Area of Terrassa represented by the extend of the TMA covers a territory of 584 km² and about 430 000 inhabitants.
- The MDA is based on an informal association of the 11 municipalities and it is not a formally instituted area. Since 90s a number of collaborative initiatives have been undertaken by the mayors of the municipalities.
- The MDA of Terrassa is part of the polycentric spatial structure of Barcelona and shows a strong connection with the urban trends of Barcelona.
- The MDA of Terrassa is part of the large FUA of Barcelona. The area has uneven urban sprawl characterised by rapid population growth influenced by the proximity to Barcelona. The highest urbanization trend is observed in the marginal zones of FUA.

Current spatial development challenges

- The key challenge of Terrassa is to achieve an urban regeneration process based on compact and sustainable development of the area.
- Due to the decentralization of spatial planning there is an emergent need to develop a coordinated spatial planning approach between the municipalities and within the region of Catalonia and the General Metropolitan Plan of Barcelona.
- Strategic issues within the area need to be coordinated between the municipalities, based on a common vision on improving public services, mobility and accessibility, and more efficient land use.
- Key issues of the spatial development of the TMA include urban renovation, upgrade of the transport infrastructure, waste management, immigration and social equity, landscape conservation in agro-forestry areas and restoration of ecological connectivity.

Map of the Urban Sprawl in MDA, FUA and MUA of Terrassa

Urban Sprawl 1975-2014



Increase in Night Light Intensity 1992 - 2012



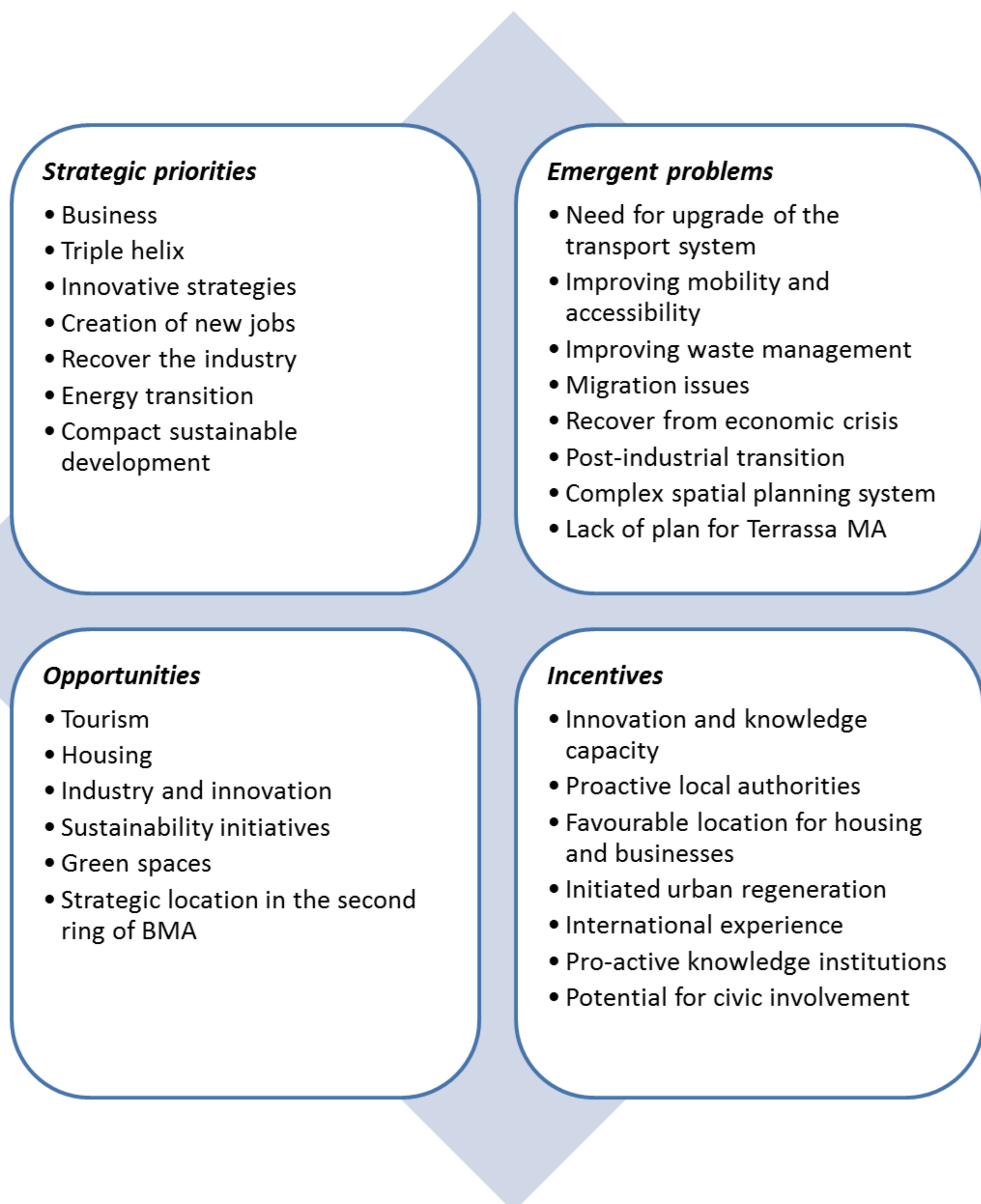
Territorial level: LAU2 (version 2011)
Source: Geographical information system of the Commission (GISCO), 2017
Origin of data: EUROSTAT, 2011
© EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries

- MUA of the core city (ESPON 2013 Database)
- Metropolitan Development Area
- FUA of the core city (ESPON 2013 Database)
- National border
- Railroad
- Motorway
- Primary road
- Other road
- rivers

Strategic priorities, opportunities and incentives

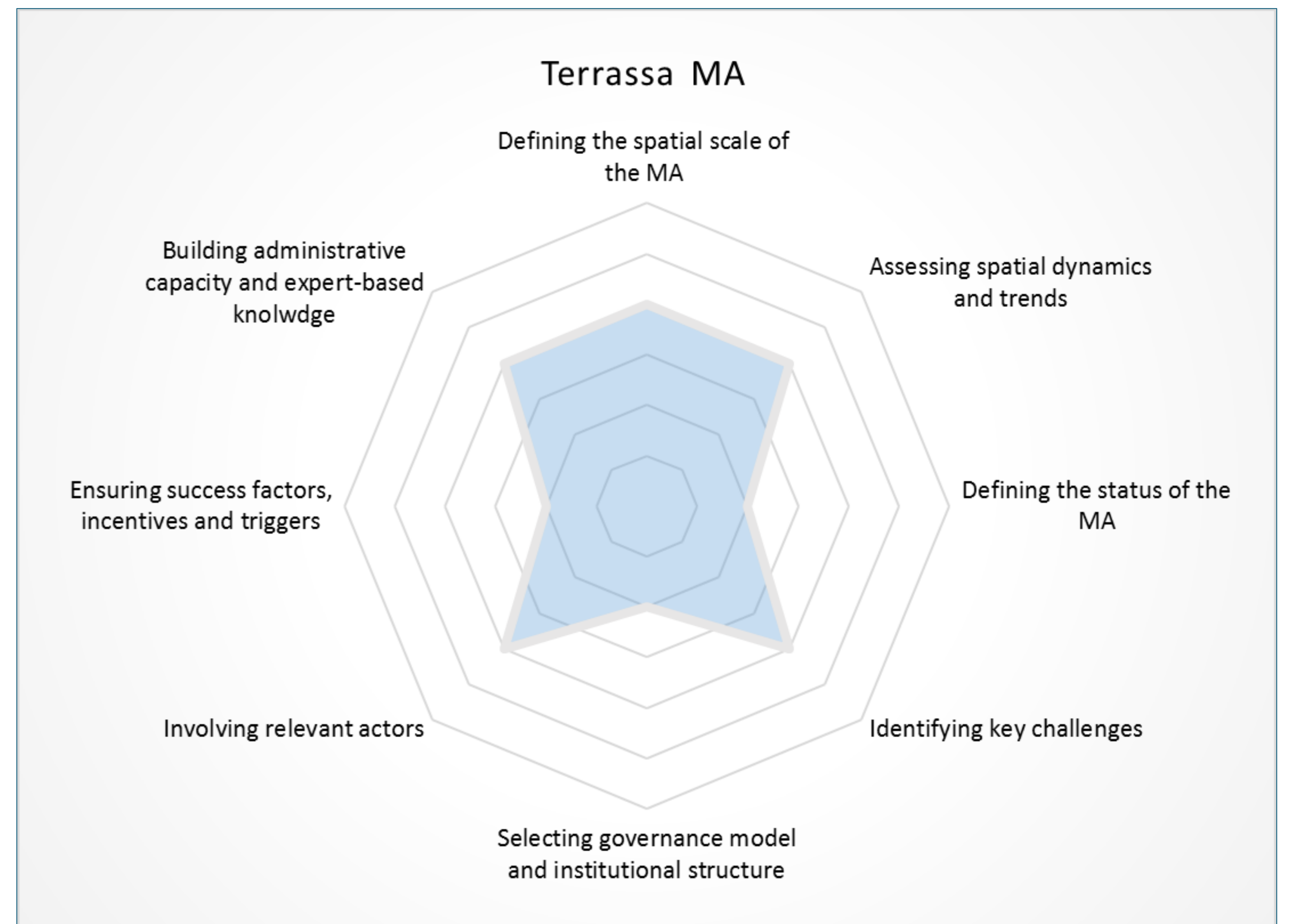
- A key strategic priority for the local authorities in the TMA is to favour urban regeneration and renovation in the urban areas and preserve ecological connectivity and agroforestry. To achieve this TMA plays an important role in enhancing the coordination of the complex spatial planning processes between Barcelona and the eleven municipalities in the area.
- Local authorities are considering improvements of tools in the field of spatial planning, including plans and procedures and in the communication process between planners and urban envelopment experts and local politicians.
- The key incentive for building up a joint vision and a strategic spatial development plan for TMA is the proactive role of the local authorities in the area in developing bottom up initiatives for collaboration in urban developments.
- The available knowledge capacity within the local academic institutions provides a strong basis for innovation in regional development projects.

SOEI matrix of the Metropolitan city of Terrassa



Key recommendations and relevant policy tools

Progress in Metropolitan Planning Approach within eight action areas



- Most of the actions areas towards a metropolitan planning approach in TMA are still in development. There is currently some progress achieved with regard to the assessment of key challenges in the development of the area that provides a basis for a future vision.
- There is a good degree of understanding on the ongoing urban trends and the potential spatial scale of the TMA.
- Via bottom up initiatives a number of relevant actors have been involved in the discussions about the establishment of the TMA.
- Further progress is needed in all action areas, particularly in the areas of identification of the formal/informal status of the MA, the institutional model for a shared-governance and in ensuring success factors, triggers and incentives for long-term planning process at metropolitan scale.
- An important issue is developing a shared vision about the area's development that is agreed by the regional and local authorities, NGOs, academics and businesses.
- The most relevant policy tools for Terrassa in implementing MPA include collaborative, coordinative and strategic policy tools.
- Considerations could be made for the establishment of a coordinating body with a bottom up management structure and competences delegated by the municipalities. Such body can have facilitating role in developing a joint MA strategy and for the implementation of the MPA, including provision of budgets and experts.



Ajuntament de Terrassa

References:

SPIMA final report <https://www.espon.eu/metropolitan-areas>