

Network of climate shelters in Barcelona

What, when, why, how.

European Heat Adaptation Community. Webinar
(Jan 15, 2026)

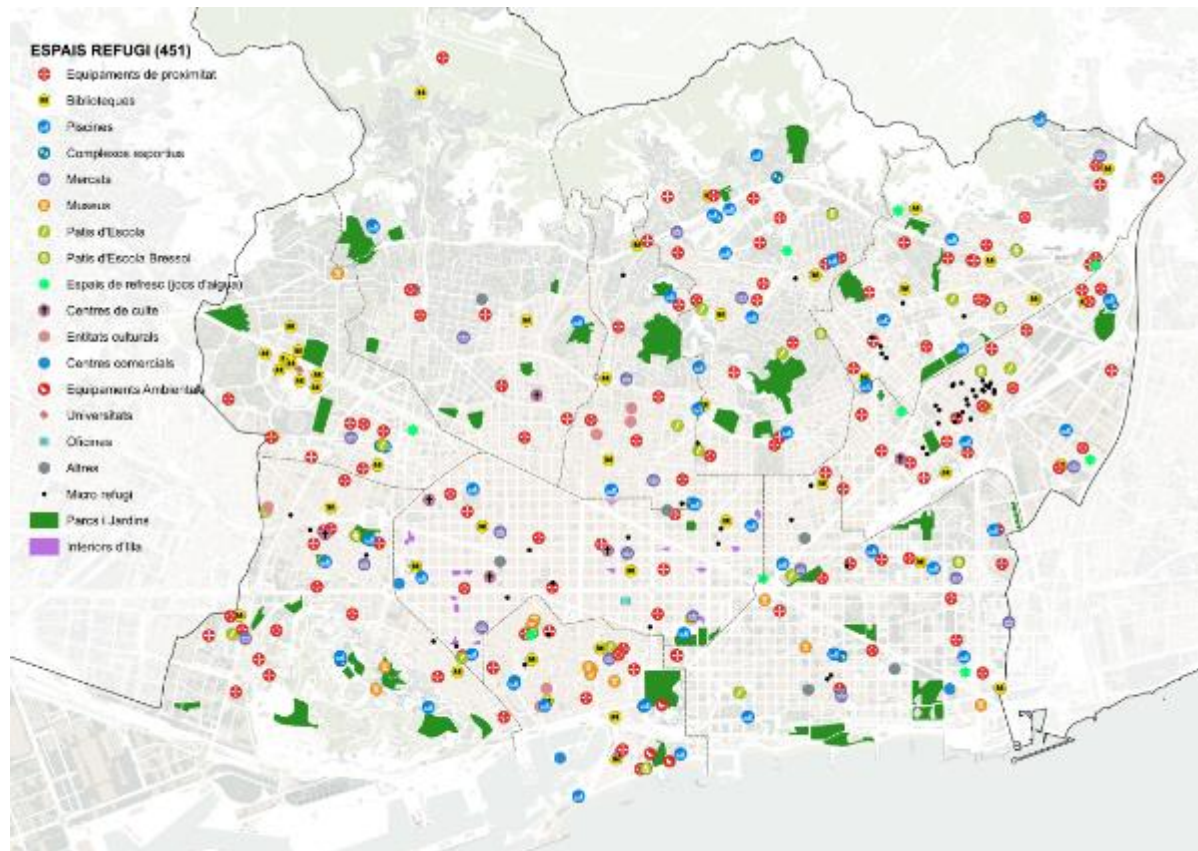
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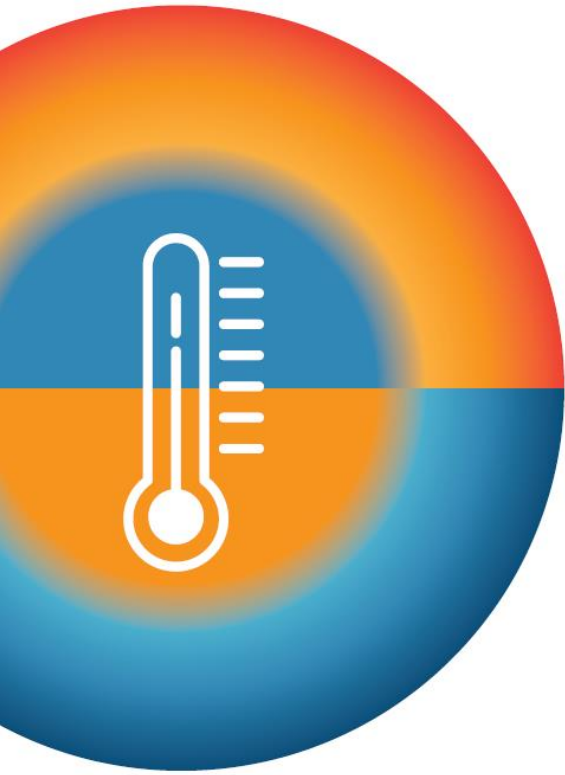


OUTLINE

Climate shelter spaces network in Barcelona:

1. What
2. Why
3. When
4. How





1. What

Type of climate shelter spaces in Barcelona city (2025)

A. Outdoor “Climate shelters”. Minimum space 5.000 m².
Public

B. Indoor “Climate shelters”. Minimum space 50 m².
Public or private

C. Indoor “Micro-shelters”. Space can be smaller than 50m².
Private



Outdoor climate shelter in Park Creueta del Coll.
Source: AjBCN



Indoor climate shelter in Barcelona Centre of Contemporary Culture. Source: AjBCN



Climate micro-shelter at the Pharmacy Torres

What are climate shelters in Barcelona?

They are spaces to protect from excessive **heat or cold**, especially for people that do not have homes adapted to thermal comfort.

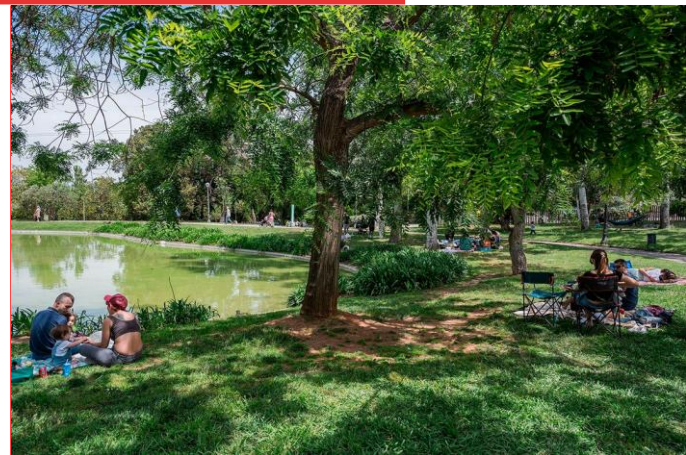
They are **previously existing** spaces that keep his **usual use**.

They can be **indoor** spaces, like libraries, civic centres or museums. Minimum space of **50m²**.

They can be **outdoor** spaces, like parks or inside blocks of buildings (only during the summer). Minimum space of **5.000 m²**.

All are free except the municipal swimming pools, that have fixed public prices and discounts for vulnerable people.

They can be **public or private**.



Outdoor climate shelter in the Parc de la Ciutadella. Source: AJBCN



Climate shelter at the municipal swimming pools Bernat Picornell. Author: Paola of Grenet

What are climate shelters in Barcelona?

Preferably, they need to have good **accessibility**, **chairs** or banks to seat , **toilets** and availability of drinking water.

In indoor spaces, it is recommended to keep a temperature of **26°C** during **summer** and of **21°C** during **winter** .

They are recommended for **vulnerable people** to heat or cold, like babies, elders or people with chronic diseases, whenever they do not require medical attention.

Some climate shelters **can close on weekends or on August**.
Opening hours can be freely checked at barcelona.cat/refugisclimatics or dialing the free phone number 010.

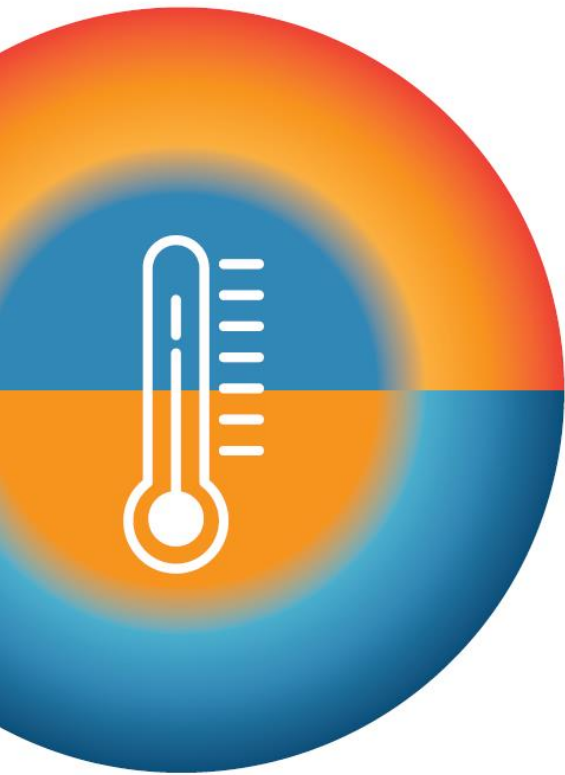
Novelty 2025: **micro-shelters** which can have **less than 50m²**.



Outdoor climate shelter in Museum Frederic Marés. Source: AJBCN



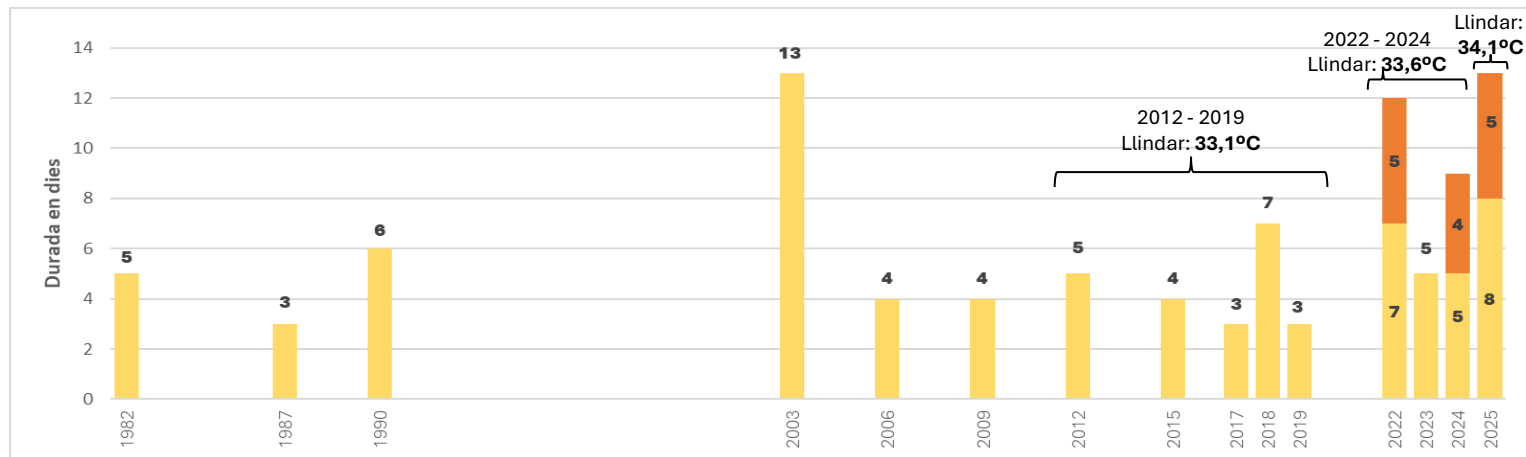
Climate micro-shelter in Bookshop Alibri



2. Why

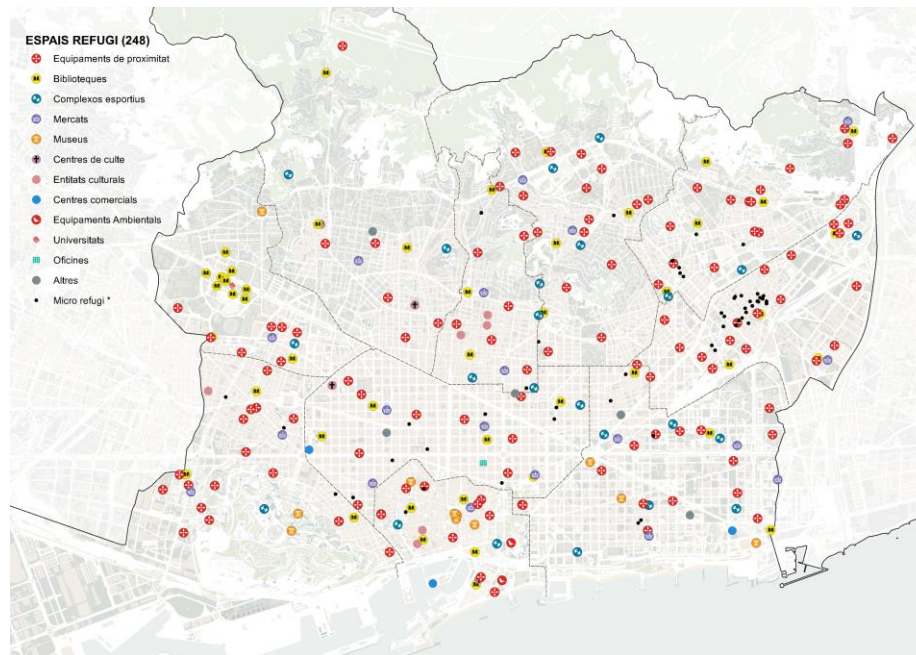
2. Why

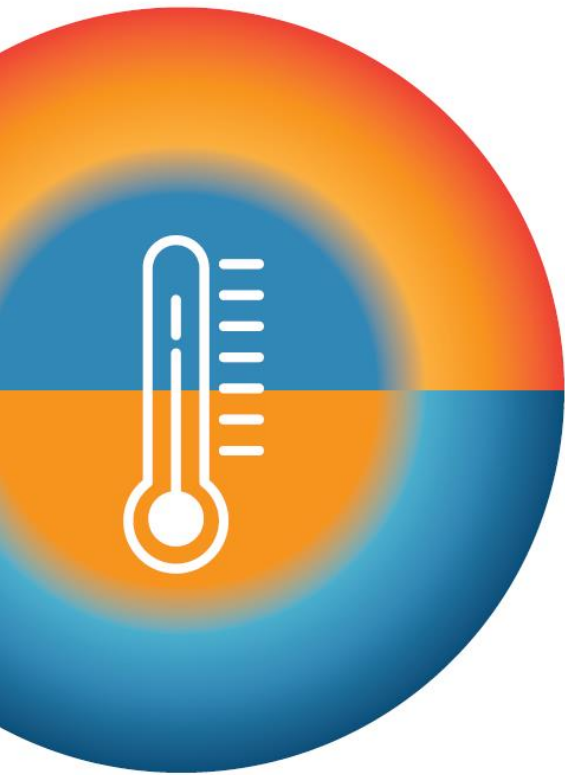
- Climate projections: Heatwaves in Barcelona city getting more frequent and lasting longer in the last decade
- Barcelona wrote first Climate Plan in 2018, and included adaptation measures, not only mitigation
- Idea from C40. Cool cities network. Adapting necessity with opportunity in Barcelona.





- Cold periods in the city also impact on citizens health: climate shelter network open also in winter (currently 296 indoor spaces)

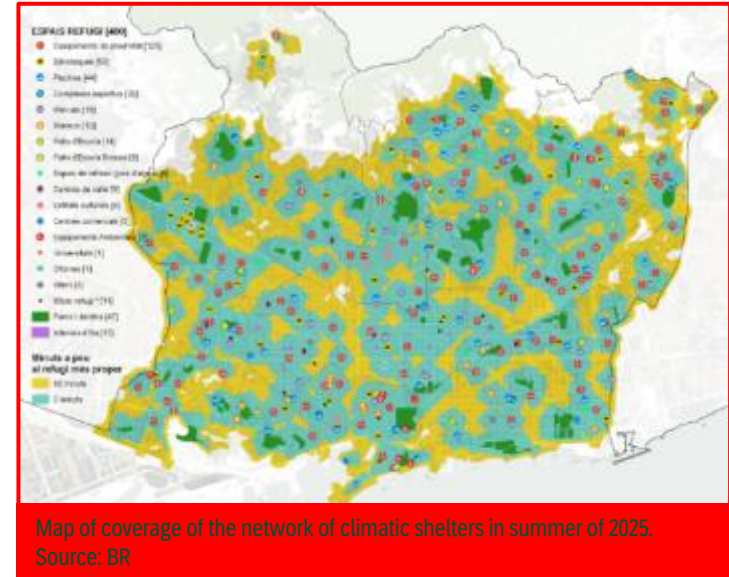
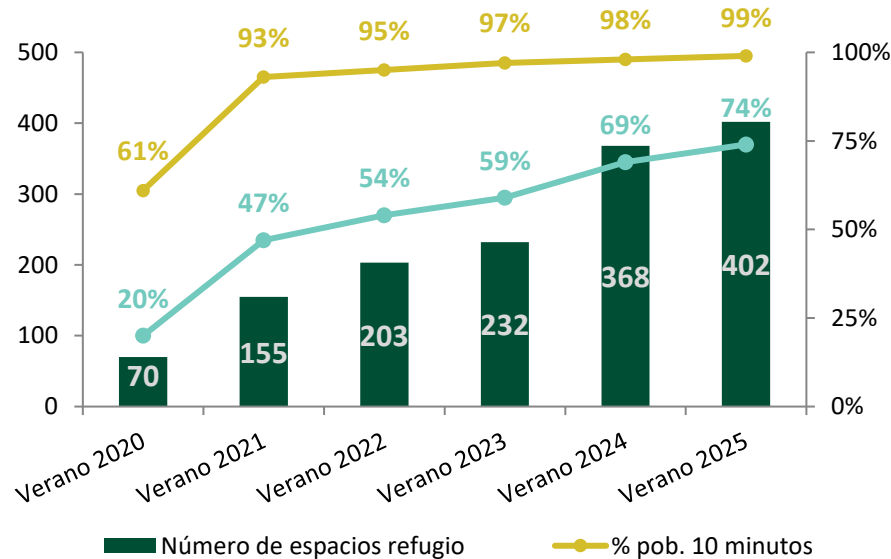


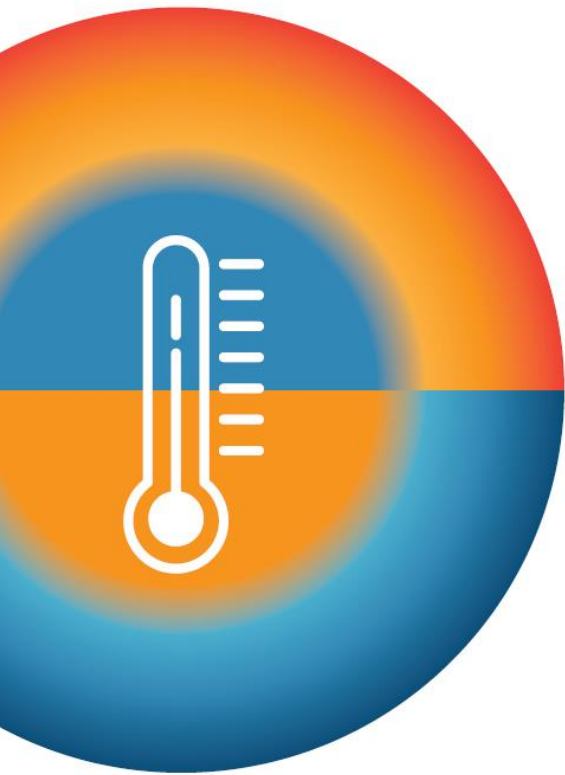


3. When

3. When

- Started in 2020 with 70 shelter spaces, with no extra budget to run the network (currently over 400)
- Number of climate shelter spaces and population served within a **5 minute** and a **10 minute** reach on foot





4. How

4. How

■ Governance:

- Coordination team “OCCS” (few civil workers) + district staff + shelter type referents + shelter workers (usual activity, no extra staff)
- Communication protocol: meetings twice per year, extra partial meetings
- Coordination with regional authorities and initiatives

■ Usually, **no extra budget to open spaces** (only internal public resources):

- each shelter has its own usual function, plus allowing usage by citizens in need up to the maximum agreed space (from dozens to 1 seat)
- extra expenses: communication campaigns and elements, extra technical support from “Barcelona Regional” (public company)



Indoor climate shelter in a municipal market.

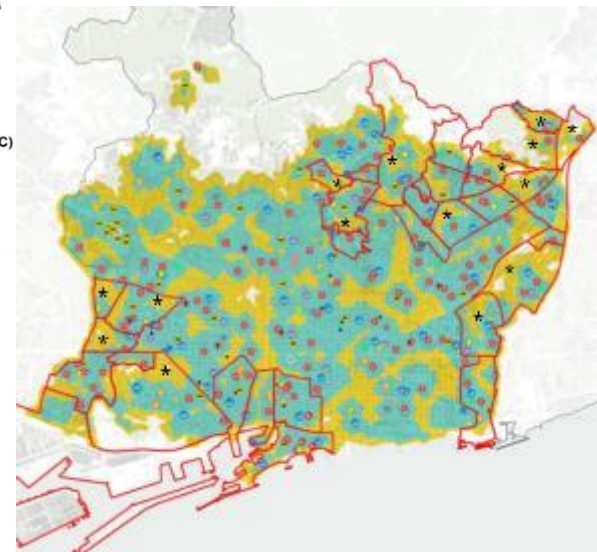
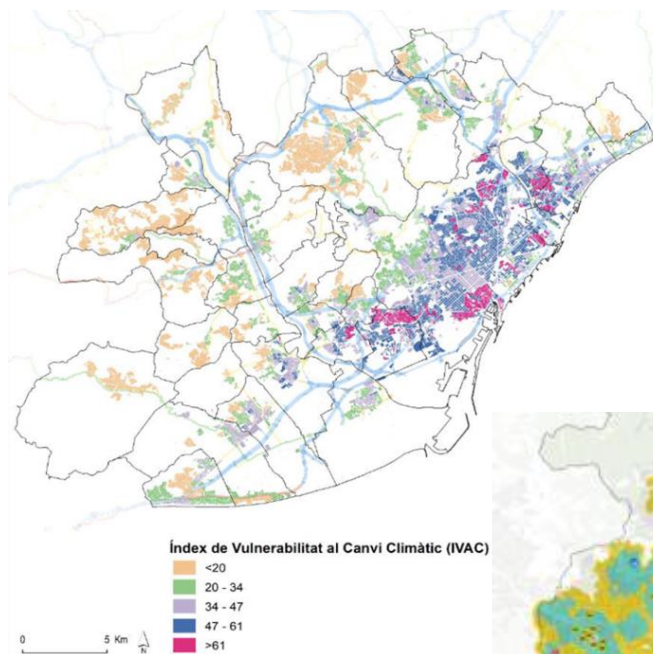
Source: AjBCN



Outdoor climate shelter in Park Güell
indicating cooler areas

Source: AjBCN

- Seeking **annually how to improve** network in **most vulnerable** areas with low coverage, **new agents**, ...
 - **Public** climate shelter spaces get joined to the Network through the referent of its district or of its equipment type (libraries, municipal sport centers, schools, markets, regional government, etc).
 - **Private** ones and the micro-shelters can join the Network filling up a form in the municipal web
- 2025: **spending exceptional extra budget** to increase coverage opening more public shelters in august



- **Communication campaign**

Web and app “BCN a la Butxaca”

Signaling in shelter spaces + welcome kits

Campaign in media and social networks

2025 pilot: informing squad at the street

Self-printing sheets for each climate shelter space

Diffusion: health & social centres, markets, etc.

- **Feed-back** from citizens: web form. Very useful for issue detection

- **Field work** to assess the network of climate shelter spaces

- **Protocol of internal communication**

- What climate shelter spaces have to do
- What the managing team of the network have to do

- **Training** to care workers from the Home Care Service (S.A.D.)





Lessons learned

- Help people commit to the project. Create Community
- A project-leader team helps
- Good GIS analysis, and consider also weekends & holidays
- Outdoor spaces might not provide expected climatic confort when temperatures too high
- Take into account vulnerability (people, areas, buildings ...)
- Good digital support tools required
- Communication dept. deeply involved in the project
- Work side by side with Social Rights Division and Urgencies and Emergencies center
- Side effect: provide job to “occupation plans” for field work: join onboard people needing to join market labor, ...

Thanks!

<https://barcelona.cat/refugisclimatics>

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Barcelona 

