**Press Release**

**Barcelona will host the European Mentoring Summit 2020**Between the 18th and 20th of March, the city will become the European capital of Social Mentoring

*Barcelona will be hosting the European Mentoring Summit 2020, a leading event in Europe that places the city as the capital of the Third Sector, volunteering and, especially, of Social Mentoring. The Congress brings together academia, professionals, volunteers, public administrations, foundations and private companies in a major debate around mentoring as a tool for social inclusion. Coordinadora de Mentoria Social, a benchmark entity for mentoring in Spain, will be the host of this third edition. The Summit will be held from the 18th to the 20th of March at the Ciutadella Campus of the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF).*

The European Mentoring Summit 2020 (<https://mentoringsummit.eu/>) is the third biennial mentoring congress to be held at the European level. The event seeks to connect people and projects from Europe and around the world working in the field of mentoring, in order to establish connections between academic research and hands-on experiences. The Summit brings together people from the fields of professional practice, research, mentor volunteering, public administrations and civil society who represent the mentoring movement, as well as foundations and private companies.

The Summit is, therefore, a place where participants can strengthen their connections, learn about the diversity of the mentoring scene, and explore new areas of action and research in this fast-growing sector. The main topics explored at the European Mentoring Summit 2020 will be the association between academic research and practice, sociocultural diversity, mentoring with a gender perspective, and methodologies and ethics in the field of mentoring, all introduced under this year's motto: Mentoring for Social Inclusion.

During this edition, attendees will be able to enjoy the presence of world-renowned experts; academic and practical workshops; various spaces designed for the exchange of knowledge and tools; a Philanthropic Track where organizations can make themselves known to potential sponsors; an exclusive networking dinner; as well as cultural activities where you can explore Barcelona and some of its social projects by bicycle. Furthermore, to facilitate access to people who work or are interested in social mentoring in Spain, this year the Summit has opted to offer an itinerary of activities exclusively in Spanish: from the simultaneous translation of the keynote speeches until workshops presented in Spanish by local mentoring professionals.

Following the editions of Leeuwarden (2016) and Berlin (2018), the Summit arrives in Barcelona co-organized by Coordinadora de Mentoria Social (<http://mentoriasocial.org/>), a leading mentoring entity in Spain and based in Barcelona. Coordinadora de Mentoria Social is a network of organizations that work with mentoring as a tool for social intervention for people in vulnerable situations to reduce marginalization and social exclusion and strengthen the commitment of citizenship with collective affairs. The European Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring (<https://www.ecebmentoring.eu/>) and the Generalitat de Catalunya are co-organizers of the Summit. The European Mentoring Summit 2020 is possible thanks to the sponsorship of Obra Social “La Caixa” and the collaboration of Coca-Cola, Fundació Nous Cims, Fundació Naccari Ravà, Riccoh and Ajuntament de Barcelona.

Mentoring promotes relationships between people who volunteer to provide support to another person who is at risk of exclusion, with the supervision and accompaniment of a professional who supervises the entire process. The main groups targeted by mentoring prrojects are migrants, refugees, tutored and former tutored youth, migrant youth and youth at risk of exclusion, as well as newly arrived women or those who have suffered from domèstic violence. Research has shown that this formula has a very positive impact on the mentees, and hence that social mentoring has grown exponentially throughout Europe, and especially in our country, in recent years. So much so that even in some cases it has become public policy to favor the inclusion of vulnerable people.

Therefore, the European Mentoring Summit 2020 represents this sweet moment of mentoring, and hence an opportunity for the city of Barcelona to establish itself as a pioneer in promoting a methodology aligned with the principles of equality of opportunities and social cohesion, as well as a benchmark for social mentoring in southern Europe.