Context: An objective of the meeting should be to define and share a concrete topic of study where to focus our research collaboration. One of the elements that all the partners of the network share is the interest for medium and small sized cities, specially those with a rich territorial context (regional diversity, potential for local development, active stakeholders). These cities can be defined by dimensional features and functional relations, like the intermediary role between the surrounding region and global centres. In this sense, we can call them intermediate cities. Even more, we share a specific kind of intermediate city, this “well-connected” with international transport nodes (airports, HSR) and with a close big city. This singular and supposedly favourable territorial context should give research opportunities in different fields.

In the Girona meeting we are interested to explore opportunities and challenges in relation with tourist activities, as tourism is becoming a controversial phenomenon of contemporary cities and territories. Tourism is reshaping previous economies and social relations, also in medium-sized cities, through positive tendencies like economic development of places, valorisation of heritage, synergies with quaternary economy, but also with negative effects like gentrification, loose of authenticity, social conflict. We would like to reflect about opportunities and alternatives of tourism activities in medium-sized cities and take in account particular features of our territorial context: between urban and rural, strong role of cultural and natural heritage, urban context with low density, proximity to regional resources, fragility of urban centres, etc.
Program

5th July 2018
15:00. Meeting at Faculty of Arts and Tourism. Room SD2
16:00. Conversation with an invited expert. A disruptive vision of tourism.
18:30. Guided walking tour in Girona
20:30. Evening meal

6th July 2018
9:00. Conference and discussion. Topic: bicycle in Girona as changing paradigm of tourism
11:00. Conference and discussion. Topic: urban conflicts and tourism
13:30. Lunch
15:00. Conference and discussion. Topic: Landscape and spatial capital as driving forces for s-Low tourism
17:00. Discussion of future projects of the network

7th July 2018 (optative)
Excursion to la Vall d’en Bas (la Garrotxa county). Landscape and local resources.