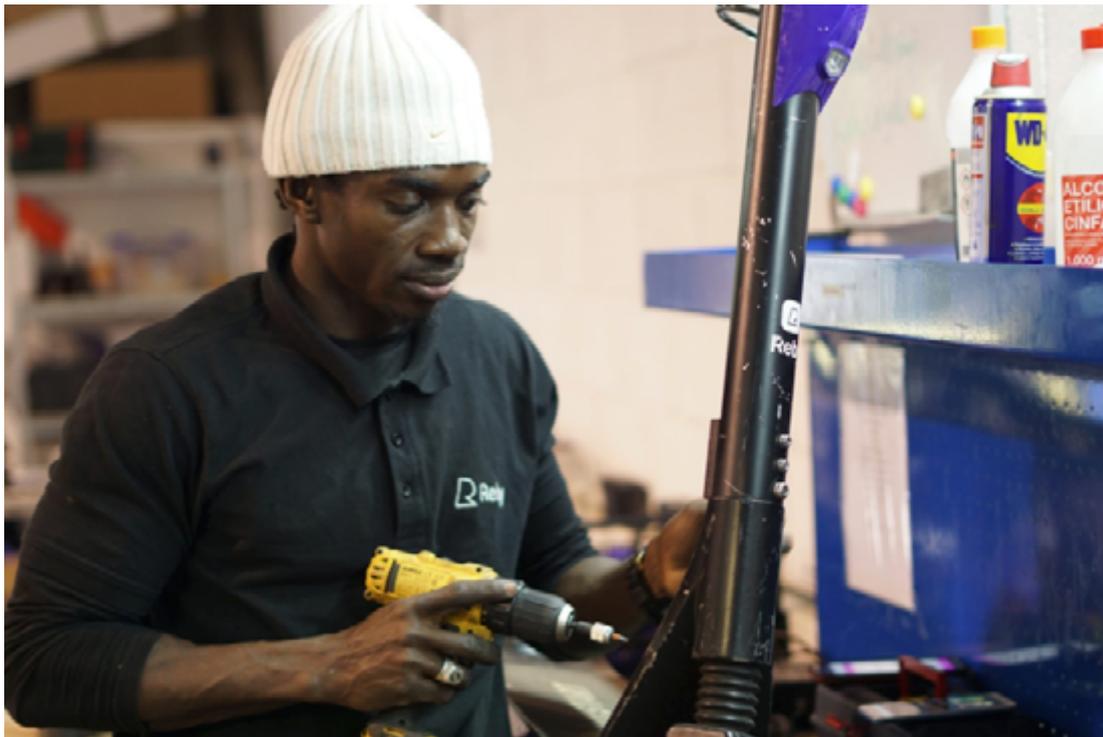


## A new opportunity with electric scooters

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Electric scooters are undoubtedly a mobility solution that is booming. It is increasingly common to see people using them, and moving around on bike lanes and on the streets of our cities. This new way of sustainable mobility, is a real revolution with many benefits: it is environmentally friendly (zero CO2 emissions), comfortable and easy to drive and allows you to get everywhere quickly and safely, even to places where public transport is not available, such as metro or bus, and without having to worry about finding a parking space for your private vehicle.

Additionally, users do not need to buy an electric scooter; there are more and more micro-mobility companies that allow, to find and use the scooter in the city whenever you need it, through a mobile application. In short, an option that is gaining more users and supporters every day, and represents a rising sector that is growing, with impetus and popularity.

Behind this real boom, there are also companies and projects that work to make the cities a place that is closest and habitable, favoring cohesion and with social responsibility. A good example is a project that started in November 2019, of 'Fundacio de l'Esperança' in partnership with 'Reby', a start-up born a year ago in Barcelona in 2018, and that has more than 400 electric scooters in the city.

### **Learn to repair scooters to return to the labor market**

In the district of El Gornal, in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, there is a large workshop behind a metal blind; Inside, at first glance, one could count about 300 Reby' scooters. It's 10:30 am on a Thursday, and Amparo, Raúl, Vicente, Mohammed and Bemba have been working for half an hour. With the help and instructions of Jerson, their course facilitator, they have learned how to repair, and how to do the maintenance of the Reby electric scooters.

Through these lessons, participants understand, and learn the operation and mechanics of electric motors; For Reby, the goal of these lessons and partnership, is to have a real impact on the development of the life skills needed to reinsert them into society and escape from a vulnerability.



When seeing how highly skilled Amparo is with the wrench and the electric screwdriver, it is hard to believe that the course started only three days ago: “At home my husband always tells me that I am the hand-woman”; She affirmed with a smile and without stopping to look at the cables of the scooter’s controller. Before this course, Amparo had done several jobs, being the last one in a telemarketing agency, and she did not like to be all day working in front of a computer. “I like what I do here. Now I feel much more accomplished and every day I learn something new” she states. By her side we find Vicente, who helps her when manipulating the scooter as it weighs about 23 kg, and it’s easier when two people work together to manipulate it: “Little by little I’m gaining trust with the tools” he says. “I have worked as a taxi driver, as a bus driver and as a messenger; this is a new world for me and a new opportunity that I truly like,” he says.

Carolina Cortés, who is responsible for Human Resources at Reby, explains how collaborating with ‘Fundacio de l’Esperança’ has been: “We seek to make our contribution towards the cities where we operate, and want to ensure that we provide with job opportunities to those who need them the most. For participants to be part of the training, we do not seek people with a specific set of skills or experience; Instead, we try to combine people with a different set of skills, while simultaneously providing different minorities with the opportunity to be part of this project, such as single-parent families,” she explains.



Among the noise of the tools and the hard work in the workshop, some rhythms of reggae music are heard in a corner: ‘Stand up for your rights’ sings Bob Marley from a cell phone. “I love Music; it helps me to concentrate” says Bemba. He helped to repair cars and motorcycles at the workshop of his father in Senegal, where he is from. He has been living in Barcelona for eight years now and after having performed several temporary jobs as a store assistant, he now hopes to find a job with the skills that he has learnt, repairing electric motors, either for scooters, bicycles or a seegways.

Upon the finalisation of the training, whoever wishes to continue being part of this program, can go to practice Reby, without the help of Jerson. “In a short period of time they have learnt quickly how to disassemble a scooter from the top to the bottom, and how to repair the steering, the lights and/or the engine; “With what you have learnt you can have a career in a growing sector; I see the participants very motivated” he says.

