

SUMMARY

Social profile

SOCIAL CHANGES IN BARCELONA IN THE 1980S

The aim of the Barcelona Social Profile section is to integrate different sources of statistical information to allow politicians and professionals in positions of responsibility, researchers and experts, to have an overall view of certain closely interrelated social tendencies or phenomena.

The section is based on an integrated information system which brings together a selection of those indicators considered most relevant for the planning of state administrative policies. These indicators provide informations about different aspects of social reality: demography, economics, health, education, housing, sport and culture, social participation, social protection and public security. They are territorialy structured and thus allow comparisons to be made between the city, the districts, the neighbourhoods and smaller statistical areas. They also allow comparisons between other territorial units: Catalonia, Spain and Europe.

In the first issue, there is an overall view of the social evolution of the city over the last 10 years, highlighting the important changes in the structure and size of the city's population, the changes in the structure and size of households, the improvement in the educational levels of the citizens of Barcelona, the positive changes in the labour market, the economic recovery beginning in 1986, and the start of the economic recession and the slight increase in unemployment which began in 1991.

Radiography

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONDICIONS OF THE LIVES OF THE WOMEN OF BARCELONA

According to the council census of 1991, 867,554 women live in Barcelona, which represents 52% of the total inhabitants of the city. These women have needs, interests and ways of life which are different according to their age, social background and life cycle. The study describes the characteristics and social conditions of these women, and reflects the situations of inequality to which they are subjected under the headings of domestic labour, economic resources, education, opportunities to become part of the labour market, and working conditions.

It also reveals the processes of change being produced, especially in the younger generations, and which can be seen in the transformations of the educational levels and the employment rates, but especially in family structures and social roles.

Dossier

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE OF RESIDENTS O THE CITY OF BARCELONA

The question of the aging of the population is raised, not as a problem but rather as an achievement and a privilege of modern industrial societies, which is to say, as the successful result of the continual battle against mmortality and to improve the quality of life. Beginning with an analysis of change throughout this century of the age pyramid ofr the inhabitants of Barcelona, it analyses the important growth in the population over 65 years of age, which has taken place in the last five years, and gives details of the differeces which wixst between the districts of the city. For the first time in the history of the city, there are more people over 65 (17% of the population) than there are under 15 (14.41%), according to the census data from 1991. Barely five years ago, according to the municipal census, the situation was the opposite (14.85% over 65, 17.63% children). This transformation has been caused by a progressive increase in life expectancy, and a decrease in immigration and the birth-rate which have led to a negative growth since 1985. To provide a context for the case of Barcelona the data for the city are compared with those for other contexts (Catalonia, Spain, Europe, the world).

INDICATORS OF SOCIAL NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE IN BARCELONA

The notion of need is discussed as something dynamic and changing, conditioned by society. Although there are basic needs which can be considered universal, these are manifested in different ways according to the different cultures, and the different historical, economic and political conditioning factors. The idea of old age and the specific needs of this age group influence the definition and selection of indicators. The main problems of old age are: those derived from previous precarious situations which become worse with retirement and old age (lack of economic resources, solitude, social marginality, etc); those derived from the psychological and physical deterioration which accompany the aging process; and those which appear as a cosequence of generational change and replacement (retirement, change and loss of social roles, decrease in activity, lack of social, economic and cultural space). Data is given on the aging index in each neighbourhood and its accentuation in the areas of oldest settlement (where it is more than 20% of the population), about the proportion of those over 75 about who have 65 or more (about 40%), about the important numbers living alone (around 29%), and the high proportion of women in the elderly population.

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY IN BARCELONA

A brief summary is given of the economic situation of the elderly in Barcelona. The main sources of income are the Social Security pensions, and the averages for 1991 are discussed.

with details of the distribution throughout the different districts of the city.

Other income is that from capital, but the information sources for this are few. The author uses spending on certain goods as indirect data. Lastly, social benefits are discussed which can be considered as complementary social salary for the elderly. It is, therefore, a study which brings together and synthesises some of the studies and sources of records which exist in a field of great importance for planning public administration policies, and of those services which must have greater distributive character.

RETIREMENT AND FREE TIME IN THE POPULATION OF BARCELONA

On the basis of the results of a survey carried out among 800 persons aged between 50 and 70, the article highlights some of the most changing aspects of retirement. From the study, it can be seen that there are more people who retire earlier than they had expected, and many more that do so before the retiring age of 65. This fact, together with the increase in life expectancy, gives greater importance to the need to have a life project for this stage in life, which is characterised by a large amount of free time.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF SENILE DEMENTIA: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT BARCELONA

Senile dementia is a condition which appears with greatest frequency in at advanced age of a person's life so, paradoxically, the more people's lifespans are extended, the commoner it becomes. For this reason, in Barcelona the number of persons affected by senile dementia is also increasing. In this article, some of the contents of a study done for the Barcelona City

Council by ICESB in 1992 are summarised. The study, on the basis of other research and using bibliographic sources, analyses the different kinds of senile dementia and looks at its treatment from health, social and legal perspectives.

Monographs

"THE SITUATION OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE CIUTAT VELLA DISTRICT"

On the basis of data from social services centres, in-depth interviews

and case studies, an analysis is made of the situation of ethnic minorities or, more exactly, of those ethnic minorities which live in the "Ciutat Vella" district. The social and urban characteristics of the old part of the city attract immigrants from Morocco, The Philippines, Pakistan, India, Central Africa and other countries, in somewhat precarious living conditions. Normally there is a majority of young single men and a lesser number of families.

The main difficulties faced by immigrants are analysed. Economically, this immigration, being cheap labour as is usual in the "Ciutat Vella" district of Barcelona, has few professional qualifications, comes from poor areas, not necessarily rural, and has great difficulty in integrating into society. The main difficulties are legal ones, because of the difficulty of obtaining a work permit and residence permit in Spain, and socio-cultural ones, because of the difficulty of integration and because of the autonomous population's difficulty in accepting the differences which are part of the phenomenon of immigration.

SURVEYS CRIME VICTIMS AND PUBLIC OPINIONS ON PUBLIC SECURITY

The Technical Commission on Public Security was asked in 1983 to establish a system which would produce a description of the situation of crime in the city. Since then, a survey has been carried out each year which gathers information about the objective aspects (victims of crime) and the subjective aspects (opinions on urban security) of the phenomenon of insecurity in the streets. So at present, information is available on street crime in Barcelona over a whole decade, which allows us to know how victims of crime and public opinion have evolved over these years. It can be seen that the crime rate has fallen from 20.8 in 1983 to 16.6 in 1992, that there is a tendency for the different districts of the city to be more similar in their crime rates, that the crime rate is greatest in the central "Ciutat Vella" area, that a distorted image exists about crime in certain districts and neighbourhoods, and that the rate of reported crime has risen from 38.0 in 1983 to 43.3 in 1992.

THE YOUNG HOMELESS: ITINERARIES OF THE POOR

This is a preliminary study, via observation and case studies of the young people who live in the streets of Barcelona, without a home. Its aim is to allow the necessary thinking about this hidden reality which will make it possible to draw up suitable programmes of social reintegration. The study analyses the situation of a group of young people, numerically few but socially important, who as a result of the deficiencies, lacks and continual breaks in the process of their social integration, find themselves now on the outskirts of and alienated from social life. The study reveals how weak and conflictive social-family relations and the resulting distancing or radical break

with the family and primary social networks are a common element in the majority of the lives they have lived; how the urban context and the public space force the young person to redefine the guidelines of his/her daily life, and the way in which the experience of being perceived as an outsider influences their roles and personal expectations. The study also shows the different profiles and backgrounds in which combine leaving home, unemployment, economic scarcity, drug consumption, and other social and health problems.

THE SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF THE CULTURAL SECTOR IN BARCELONA

This article is a summary-synthesis of research carried out by the Comedia Consultancy (London) and INITS (Barcelona) companies, for the Cultural Department of the Barcelona City Council. The study analyses cultural production as a sector of the city's economy, and thus the potential and weaknesses in the different phases of production, distribution and consumption. It analyses specific aspects of these in each sector (performing arts, plastic arts, music, the audio-visual industry, craft, design, etc), as well as the roles played by the public sector, organised civil society, and companies and professionals in this sector. It is published in Catalan for the Barcelona City Council with a full summary in Spanish and English.

THE SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY IN THE "SANT MARTI DISTRICT"

This article describes the main conclusions of a survey carried out among 750 people aged 50 or more in the municipality of "Sant Martí" (Barcelona), in 1991. The survey included global aspects such as economics, housing, personal relations, mobility, etc. The results allow three large population groupings to be distinguished according to their age groups, and their characteristics. For those aged 50-65, the activity rates are relatively high, although with a steady downward tendency. The 65-75 age group, in which labour activity tends to disappear, has full functional autonomy, and is very active with respect to personal relations. As from 75-80 years of age, physical dependency increases and thus the level of personal relations and activity.

ATTITUDES OF BARCELONA CITIZENS TOWARDS IMMIGRANTS FROM OTHER CULTURES

This study was done for the municipal Social Welfare Council, with the aim of describing the opinions and attitudes of the population of Barcelona towards those persons who have immigrated from other countries and cultures. The conclusions are based on the analysis of a survey carried out among 900 residents of the city, in May and June of 1991. However, the results are

conditioned by the small number of immigrants (compared to other European cities), since according to the 1991 municipal census there were 23,329 foreigners resident in Barcelona, 1.4% of the total inhabitants. The analysis of the answers shows whether the citizens of Barcelona believe that immigration will increase in the future (66.5% affirmative), their opinions on what causes migration (mostly economic crises) and the advantages and disadvantages of immigration, as well as a discussion of the stereotypes and views on the different groups, according to where they came from.