

SUMMARY

Social profile

SOCIAL EVOLUTION IN BARCELONA 1981-1994

This article offers a selection of the most relevant social indicators for observing the evolution of the city in recent years. Among them are demographic indicators (steady population decrease, negative natural growth and net emigration in the metropolitan area); population structure (steady population ageing, greater number of people over 65 than under 14 years of age); and changes in family structures (decreasing size of family nuclei, fewer children, later, and increase in one-person and one-parent homes). The article also analyses socioeconomic indicators (above-average GDP growth for the State, steady increase of available family income and high unemployment rates, though lower than the average for Spain as a whole), and the main indicators of health, education and sport, as factors which have helped to improve quality of life in the city.

Radiography

ANALYSIS OF THE NORTHERN ZONE OF THE NOU BARRIS DISTRICT OF BARCELONA: ACTION PLAN FOR THE TORRE BARÓ, VALLBONA AND CIUDAD MERIDIANA QUARTERS.

The article analyses data from a survey of the social situation in the Northern Zone of the Nou Barris district, carried out to form the basis for the development of an integral action programme drawn up in the first half of 1994 by Barcelona City Council. The objective was to carry out a first approximation to the context which would allow strategic objectives and priority lines of action to be defined for the urban, economic and social transformation of Torre Baró, Vallbona and Ciudad Meridiana. These are peripheral areas of the city bordering on other districts of the metropolitan area of Barcelona, inhabited largely by immigrants who flocked here in the 1960s and 1970s from other parts of Spain in search of work and better living conditions. The zones grew up, and selfbuilt houses and blocks of flats were constructed in an unurbanised zone which did not have even the basic services. This is a physically isolated zone which has accumulated deficits since its beginnings and which is economically and socially depressed, with unemployment of 20% and low levels of schooling. Moreover, it is a zone with a young population, as children up to the age of 14 make up 18% and young people from 15 to 25 represent 22% of the population. Compared to average social and health indicators for Barcelona as a whole, the inhabitants of the Northern Zone have a lower life expectancy, the death rate is higher and there is greater incidence of certain illnesses due to living conditions.

All these circumstances combine to make the efforts of the local authorities since the first democratic election insufficient to overcome the endemic problems and needs which have affected the zone from the first and makes additional impulse necessary, integral, intense action on the part of all those involved with the zone. An action plan for regenerating the River Besos, around which the Torre Baró, Vallbona and Ciudad Meridiana quarters are located, is currently at the project stage, and measures are being taken to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of the quarters of the north-west of the city of Barcelona.

Dossier

THE PRODUCTION OF PERSONAL SERVICES IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Since 1979, with the restoration of democratic local authorities, these have developed a wide, growing offer of social services and facilities in response to needs which had accumulated up to then, and to new demands. After the stage of great expansion of services, the author describes the present situation, of pause for reflection and work in order to systemise, organise and rationalise the production of these services through a period of planning, production and evaluation. In the future, more rigorous action should allow: a) the structuring of services according to the priorities of the citizens; b) local authorities to place themselves in a good position to comply with their commitments as regards competencies; c) maximum efficiency in the production of municipal personal services; and d) maximum quality of the personal services offered.

MUNICIPAL PERSONAL SERVICE FACILITIES IN BARCELONA

Since 1979, year of the first democratic local elections after the dictatorship, Barcelona City Council has developed an extensive network of 451 centres containing a total of 787 facilities for the provision of personal services. This network is highly diverse, including civic centres, social service centres, leisure centres, young people's centres, hospitals, vaccination clinics, schools, nursing homes for the elderly, museums and libraries, sports facilities, etc. The study classifies these centres by area (sport, social services, culture, education, participation and health), analyses them according to sector receiving services and maps their distribution in the ten districts of the city.

PLANNING SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

This article describes the planning framework for social welfare services at Barcelona City Council and the Catalogue of Services, as a direct pro-

duct of this planning. Efforts to rationalise, order and clarify take into consideration the situation regarding competencies, the different programmes of action, the sectors receiving services, the territory and the resources available. Numbers of services provided are analysed by area (education, social services, culture, sport, health, etc) and by sector of population receiving services (children, young people, the elderly, the disabled, etc). Costs of personal services in 1993 are also analysed according to the type of competency involved (obligatory, voluntary, delegated and services in which the local authority does not have competency).

Monographs

BENEFICIARIES OF THE PINK CARD

The Tarjeta Rosa Metropolitana (Metropolitan Pink Card) allows free or subsidised access to public transport in the Barcelona Metropolitan area. This is a social provision aimed at increasing the mobility of people over 65 or with disabilities whose income is below or less than double the minimum salary. In July 1995, the Card was held by 185,067 people, of whom 174,299 were over 65 years of age. The article analyses the profile of the over-65 sector by age group, district and type of card. The results show that the older the age group, the more users of the free card there are, and that this type is more frequently used in the less socially and economically favoured districts. Generally speaking, those using the service are those with lower incomes from all over the city.

SUBSTITUTIONARY SOCIAL SERVICE IN BARCELONA (1984-1994)

The legal and administrative development of Article 30.2 of the Spanish Constitution is a key element for understanding the change of attitude undergone by the young regarding military service. With the entry into force of Law 48/1984 of 26 December, in accordance with Decree 20/1988, regulating substitutionary military service for conscientious objectors, social service truly became an alternative for military service in Spain.

This article analyses the evolution of conscientious objection and the development of substitutionary social service in Barcelona, within the context of Spain and Catalonia. It pays particular attention to its introduction on the part of Barcelona City Council from 1989, when the first conscientious objectors were brought in, until 1995, when an agreement was signed with the Ministry of Justice to offer 500 substitutionary social service places within the municipal services. Whilst assigned to the City Council, the young people carry out social attention and promotion tasks at municipal centres and services (information centres, social service centres, social centres, etc) and ta-

ke part in special actions in the field of international co-operation, solidarity and the voluntary movement.

The figures show that Catalonia is one of the autonomous communities with the most conscientious objectors in absolute terms: 6,545 in 1994 and 9,350 in 1995. In relative terms and as a proportion of the population resident in the territory, the Basque country has the highest percentage of objectors. There were 5,000 conscientious objectors in Barcelona province in 1994 and 7,144 in 1995, a large proportion of them in Barcelona city. A study of a sample of 394 of the 648 5,002 conscientious objectors who have carried out substitutionary social work in the municipal services shows that the average objector collaborating with the City Council is 24 years old, was born in Barcelona, works or combines study with work, has a university education (60%) and is employed in a technical capacity.

SOCIAL EMERGENCIES: THE PERMANENT SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE

Social situations requiring immediate action often arise in cities: missing persons, assaults and domestic violence, homeless persons, as well as accidents such as fires, the collapse of houses, etc, which, beyond the action of protection and rescue services, have social consequences which have to be resolved by the community. These are, then, diverse situations whose very nature admits of no delay, and it is for this reason that the Permanent Social Services Office provides a 24-hour service all the year round. The Office includes the municipal social emergency and urgency services and liaises with the Primary Attention Social Services for subsequent monitoring of the situation. This article analyses the functioning of the Office and of the 13,163 requests for intervention it received in 1994.

EVOLUTION OF SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA 1982-1992

This article deals with the salient aspects of the evolution of the provision of sports facilities in the city over the decade from 1982 to 1992, during which the staging of the Olympic Games had great impact. The article analyses the overall offer of sports facilities, in which are included centres specifically for sport and not pertaining to schools, as well as school facilities, comparing the evolution of the public and private sectors as regards the availability of such facilities. A notable point indicated in the analysis is the large increase in the overall number of sports facilities in the city, from 1,415 in 1982 to 3,122 in 1992, a global increment of 120.6%. The article points out the relation between this increase and the evolution of demand on the part of the population, which demands more and better sports facilities. It is clear that sporting practices have changed in recent years, and that sport has be-

come popularised as an element in health, personal wellbeing and quality of life. Also noted is the general increase in the offer of sports complexes and specialised centres, including gymnasiums and bodybuilding rooms, as well as the rise in the number of indoor swimming pools. The increase in such facilities is connected to a great extent to the impulse sport has received as a profitable economic activity and to the important role played by the private sector in the provision of new sports centres. Over the period, public facilities more than doubled in number, from 309 to 672, with particularly notable increases in numbers of indoor pavilions and tracks and a decrease in numbers of football pitches. Analysis of the overall offer of facilities shows that there is a tendency towards territorial equilibrium between the different districts of the city, though the existence of highlypopulated areas and a shortage of sites for constructing sports facilities makes it difficult at present to make the offer completely balanced throughout the city.

RENEWAL OF SCHOOL COUNCILS IN STATE SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA

This report contains data on participation at the fifth elections for the renewal of the school councils which took place at 233 of the 246 state schools in Barcelona at which such councils exist during the last term of 1994. The elections were called by the Department of Education of the Generalitat of Catalonia in accordance with the provisions of the Organic Law of Educational Rights (LODE). The data analysed were gathered from the 130 municipal representatives on the 246 school councils at state schools. Emphasis is placed on the role of the school councils at schools as a key element in the process of institutionalising the state school which, with the participation of all the sectors of education represented, teachers, parents and students, have to defend the rights of citizens to an egalitarian education of quality. In the case of teachers, participation at the last elections was high, 90% at primary schools and 85% at secondary schools, whilst for students it was 91% and only 51% respectively. The data reveal very low participation on the part of parents, 15% at primary schools and just 2.6% at secondary schools. The document points to the need to adopt measures aimed at increasing the participation of all sectors and at all levels of education, so that school councils can take on their fundamental role of helping to spread and consolidate the culture of participation in the educational community, as a school of good citizenship, and in the definition of the lines of action of each school through the Educational Project.

SOCIAL SERVICES INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Barcelona City Council and thirteen of the city's institutions (administrations, universities, official colleges, unions, business people and social as-

sociations) joined forces to draft a plan for developing the social services of the future, forming a social analysis of the city and the main forming a social analysis of the city and the main lines of action to be followed. This plan was brought about through the participation over a year of 125 city associations, which brought their knowledge and experience to the task. The final objective of the plan is to make a more integrated and integrating city based on the active solidarity of citizens. In order to reach this aim, the plan proposes the construction of a model of social services in the city based on public responsibility, providing a framework for public and private co-operation, promoting civil action and optimising the management of social resources. In this article, the authors outline the outstanding features of the process, as well as the strategic lines established under the plan.

References

BARCELONA DRUGDEPENDENCY INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIDB).

The Municipal Plan on Drug Dependencies (PMAD) was set up in 1988 in order to provide a more effective global approach to the problem of drug dependency in the city of Barcelona. In order to provide an instrument for gathering information and monitoring drug abuse in the city, the same year saw the creation of the Barcelona DrugDependency Information System (SIDB), following the general framework proposed in the National Drugs Plan for Spain and the Generalitat of Catalonia's Drug Dependency Plan. This article describes the objectives and main results of this system for data gathering on illegal drug abuse, designed in order to evaluate the magnitude of the phenomenon and its evolution in the city. The system was conceived as a basic instrument for planning, monitoring and evaluating the different actions in the field of drug dependency carried out in Barcelona, especially as regards illegal drug abuse. Given the nature of the phenomenon, it was necessary to gather data from various social and sanitary sources of information and to have recourse to indirect information from different assistance centres, among them data on hospital emergencies related to drug use, requests for specific treatment for drug dependency, tuberculosis and AIDS diagnoses, as well as information about drugabuserelated morbidity and mortality. Amongst other results, the SIDB has allowed it to be known, for instance, that, since 1988, some 11,094 different people have contacted assistance centres due to problems related to drugs, as well as permitting a description of the sociodemographic profile of drug dependents to be drawn up and revealing a stabilisation in mortality rates due to overdoses and a tendency for hospital emergencies related to drug abuse to decrease.

THE MUNICIPAL PLAN FOR PRIMARY ATTENTION OF THE BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL'S SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

This article describes the principal objectives, proposals and recommendations of the political and administrative document defining the methodological and organisational model for the functioning of the public social services network for primary attention in Barcelona. The primary attention social services are described in Law 26/1985 as those services which are in closest proximity to citizens, the social environment and the family and where they can obtain information, guidance and advice, social promotion services and home

attention, and from where suitable specialised services will be brought in. In order to organise and rationalise its network of primary attention social services, Barcelona City Council approved this plan and the proposals for its development in late 1993 and early 1994. The article describes the main points of the plan, particularly as regards the distribution of competencies, coordination between primary attention services and specialised, or secondary attention services, professional profiles and the functions to be developed by staff at the Social Service Centres, the distribution of human resources in the different zones of the city according to particular indicators and ratios, and the role of research and institutional cooperation in the field of social services.