

# SUMMARY

## THE POPULATION OF CIUTAT VELLA

The evolution of the population of what is now the Ciutat Vella district over the last one hundred years shows growth in the first half of the century followed by a decline after 1955, accentuated over the last fifteen years. Average number of members of households, 4.2 people in 1910, reached almost 5 in 1945, falling to 2.3 in 1996. This average, which is partly explained by the high number of homes occupied by one single person (35%), is the lowest of all the districts of Barcelona at present.

As regards natural movement, this was balanced up to the year 1951, births outnumbered deaths from 1951 to 1970, whilst since 1971 the death-rate has been higher than the birth-rate.

Over the last 50 years, there have been two broad stages with regard to migratory movement in Ciutat Vella: immigration was predominant between 1950 and 1966, whilst this trend has been reversed since 1967.

These last 25 years of negative migration figures, along with low birth-rates and high death-rates, do not suggest the likelihood of any change in the short term unless one or more of these components is reversed.

## THE URBAN TRANSFORMATION OF CIUTAT VELLA: 1988-1998

The urban transformation of Ciutat Vella over the last two millennia can be summarised in three periods: the “superimposition” of structures up to the past century, the abandonment and neglect of the historic city centre between 1854 and 1976, and urban regeneration and citizen participation, a phase still in progress.

Despite the heterogeneous nature of the neighbourhoods and areas which make up the Ciutat Vella district, the problems it faces are common to most, characterised by demographic decline, affluence of marginal population and population ageing, combined with degradation of infrastructure and housing and a shortage of public facilities and services.

After the definition in 1983 of the integrated rehabilitation areas (“ARIs”) with the object of improving and regenerating urban zones by coordinating public authority action and promoting private initiative, a regeneration plan was drawn up for the district, presented as the Integrated Action Plan (“PAI”), becoming established as a model for intervention.

The project was finally launched in 1988 with the creation of the mixed municipal enterprise Promoció Ciutat Vella SA (PROCIVESA) which engages in land management, financing and promotional activities and the organisation of incentives for private initiative. In 1990, the Office for the Rehabilitation of Ciutat Vella was set up to inform the public about the rehabilitation process, promote the renewal of housing and to boost the property market for empty housing

Development activity in Ciutat Vella is divided into three areas. In the medieval city, besides the regeneration of public spaces, new city and neighbourhood services and facilities have been established. In the Raval neighbourhood, large “container buildings” have been rehabilitated as public services and the Pla Central (a new public space in the centre of the neighbourhood) is being created, though without forgetting the need to make housing action a priority. In the Barceloneta neighbourhood, whose isolation from the rest of the city has been broken in the last ten years, and whose coastline has been rehabilitated, there is still an issue pending: the modernisation of housing.

Reflection on the action taken over the last ten years shows a need to continue recuperating consolidated squares, to complete the opening up of new axes and to create new spaces in the interior of the denser sectors, rehabilitating the buildings around them. As regards housing and the rehabilitation of buildings, the rehabilitation, maintenance and replacement of housing is important in order to offer a new scenario (environment, public spaces, streets, accessibility...). Finally, heritage and facilities for activities should be organised not as isolated elements but as parts of the whole.

## ECONOMY OF URBAN REGENERATION IN CIUTAT VELLA

This article summarises the study *Anàlisi econòmica de les actuacions urbanístiques a Ciutat Vella*, led by Professor Ferran Brunet as part of a research agreement between Promoció de Ciutat Vella SA and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

The social and economic objectives of urban development action in Ciutat Vella are: to improve living conditions in the district, to promote rehabilitation and to foment a reduction in population density by opening up new urbanised spaces. The investment of Barcelona City Council, the local authorities, the central and regional governments and, in recent years, the European Union, are devoted for the most part to public spaces, municipal facilities and housing and total some 747 million pesetas. Private investment, which has begun to take over from public action in recent years, is led by companies and organisations, domestic economies playing very much a secondary role. Private investment in economic activity between 1988 and 1995 was 90,260 million (devoted, basically, to services and the retail trade) whilst in rehabilitation activity an enormous increase has been registered since the launching of the Rehabilitation Office in 1990.

Employment has risen significantly in Ciutat Vella, but the situation is expect to continue to improve over the coming years thanks to the resources invested in the district since 1988. In any case, due to the low qualifications

generally found amongst the inhabitants of Ciutat Vella, jobs created in the district tend to go to workers from other areas.

The progress achieved in Ciutat Vella includes outstandingly improved infrastructure and municipal and district facilities (creation of the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, location of the Pompeu Fabra University, reform of thoroughfares); restriction of criminal and marginal activities; the construction of new housing and the rehabilitation of a greatly deteriorated housing park (subsidised and managed by the Rehabilitation Office); the launching of activities to restore the image of the neighbourhood; the high level of private investment, particularly in new service activities; promotion, conservation, extension and increased tourist use of cultural and historic heritage; improved collective perception of the neighbourhood; inter-institutional agreement and co-ordinated action for a global project; and, finally, a mixed economy, the fruit of agreement between public institutions and private enterprise.

#### HEALTH IN CIUTAT VELLA

In this article, the state of health of the population of Ciutat Vella is described through its five basic health areas ("ABSs"), which do not always show homogeneous results.

The social and demographic characteristics which affect the health of the population of Ciutat Vella are the high proportion of people older than 64 years (28%), the high number of people over 74 years who live alone (35.9%) and average family purchasing power below that of the city as a whole. As regards maternal-infant health, 13.1 per 1,000 of the girls in the district are mothers between the age of 15 and 19 years, a percentage which has tended to decrease in recent years. Moreover, new-born babies tend to be premature and underweight.

The morbidity of serious illnesses such as Aids and tuberculosis is significantly higher (2 to 7 times) in Ciutat Vella than in the city as a whole. The Gothic quarter registers many cases of malaria, an illness linked to immigration. Figures for diseases for which vaccinations are available, hepatitis B and meningococcal meningitis are not alarming. Mortality is also higher in Ciutat Vella than in the city of Barcelona as a whole.

Widespread use is made in Ciutat Vella of public health services, and home visits are frequent due to the conditions of the elderly here. This district continues to have the largest number of illnesses linked to exclusion, drug addiction and violence. The health situation is homogeneous in all the ABSs except Raval Sur, which has the worst health indicators in the district. Action launched in the 1980s to palliate health problems have had positive results. Current policy and programmes are aimed at combating new health problems (tuberculosis, drug addiction, etc).

#### EDUCATIONAL ACTION IN CIUTAT VELLA

Educational levels in Ciutat Vella present important inequalities with respect to the average for the city as a whole. Nevertheless, these have gradually improved in recent years. This article provides an overview of this process, looking at the local educational facilities —state and subsidised schools — and describing education support and promotion programmes implemented by the public institutions in the district. For example, illiteracy in Ciutat Vella fell from 7.8% in 1986 to 0.8% in 1996, whilst for the city as a whole the decrease over the same period was from 3.9% to 0.3%. Over the same period those obtaining high school qualifications in Ciutat Vella rose from 3.1% to 5.5%, compared to an overall increase of from 6.9% to 9.9% for the city of Barcelona. We can see, therefore, that the district is tending to converge with the city as a whole in terms of education level indicators.

As regards obligatory schooling, for the 1998-99 academic year there are in Ciutat Vella 4,638 pupils from 3 to 12 years and 2,664 from 12 to 16 years at state and subsidised schools. There are in Ciutat Vella five nursery schools for children aged from 0 to 3 years run by Barcelona City Council.

The public administrations are intensifying their educational action in Ciutat Vella as a decisive factor in ensuring equal opportunities, and the article discusses particularly the role of Preferential Attention Centres (whose human and economic resources have been increased), grants for books and school meals, schools health programmes (which, covering 90%, provide greater cover than the average for the city as a whole), the fight against truancy and the various promotional initiatives launched at schools by the Municipal District authorities.

#### SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE USERS IN CIUTAT VELLA

In 1997, the Personal Services of Ciutat Vella promoted a study of the characteristics of users in this district. In 1996, these services attended some 10% of the population of Ciutat Vella. The largest user group is made up of people who live alone. Half those attended are adults, one-quarter aged over 65 years, and the other quarter young people (a percentage which is falling in benefit of younger people). Some 21% were not born in Spain, and education levels are rather low, though tending to increase. The fact that only one person in four at employable age is in work shows the severe unemployment problem of the district.

The problems of users are, in this order: economic (low income and payment of occasional debts), health, social, employment and housing, followed by problems regarding social psychology (relations within the family), legal issues (conflicts between landlords and tenants, lack of work permits) and schooling (truancy and educational backwardness).

## SPORTS PROMOTION IN CIUTAT VELLA

The sports programme currently being implemented in the Ciutat Vella district is divided into three broad blocks of action. On the one hand, work continues to improve and modernise municipal sports facilities, managed under license (currently 10 facilities with a total of 24,000 users). A second block of action concerns the provision of support for district sports associations and their participation in the management of facilities and the organisation of activities.

Thirdly, the programme also works in the field of the management of sports promotion activities. The roots of this activity go back some fifteen years, when Barcelona City Council set up sports schools for beginners in all the districts of the city. Particular attention was paid in Ciutat Vella to children, particularly neglected, and it was taken into account that none of the local parents associations were capable of generating extra-curricular activities. The promotion of sports for children, who make up 83% of participants in the programme (2,547 in 1997), includes the organisation of physical education activities during school time, as well as extra-curricular schools sports activities. Activities are developed in co-operation with parents association and social workers, with participation in educational aspects and control of quality of the service and information offered, amongst other areas. For the elderly, who make up 14% of users, swimming and keep-fit activities are organised.

## EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC SECURITY IN CIUTAT VELLA AND ITS PERCEPTION

Since 1984, the Directorate for Prevention Services has been carrying out regular surveys of victimisation and opinion of security in order to ascertain the public perception of violence. The rate of victimisation (citizens declaring they have been the victims of aggression) in Ciutat Vella has fallen in recent years, and has remained steady at between 15% and 20% since 1989. Incidents of victimisation are distributed throughout the day, whilst spring is the most conflictive season. The reporting of incidents has increased between 1987 (20.3%) and 1995 (49.3%), though the latest survey (1997) shows it decreasing again to 37%. Perceptions of security in the zone of residence are improving, as in 1985 this was rated at 3.6 out of 10, whilst in 1997 this score had risen to 5.01. Those surveyed attribute delinquency to drugs, unemployment, lack of education, authority neglect, unemployment amongst immigrant, leniency of sentences, unjust social structure, rising prices and police inefficiency, in this order.

The central zones, with greater levels of commercial, leisure and service activity, tend to be the most conflictive, and it is in such historic districts as Ciutat Vella (with shortcomings in town planning) where it is clearest that insecurity is more a social construction than an objective reality.

## CIUTAT VELLA 1900-2000: A CENTURY OF ASSOCIATIONS

Interest in associations is growing all the time, and non-profit-making associations are becoming established all over Catalonia. In this article, a review is made of the Ciutat Vella district's wealth of associations due to the function of city it carries out.

Ciutat Vella is a model of a plural society marked by constant migratory processes (immigration from the rest of Spain but also from foreign countries) and the expression of different, sometimes opposing, interests (groups of workers or bosses, or people in favour of or against the church, for instance). Historic events such as the Spanish Civil War or the First World War led to the creation of associations promoting solidarity and of an ideological nature. Some vindications which may appear modern, such as the equality of the sexes, popular education, housing, information or dietary habits have forerunners going back to the late-19th century.

Most of the above-mentioned initiatives were eliminated by the Franco dictatorship, though associations did not cease to exist. In 1964, residents' associations were made legal, and this led to the establishment of a model for associations not based on particular sectors but determined by territory (activities were not addressed only to members, but to the population as a whole). There are at present in Ciutat Vella 23 residents' associations and a total of 338 associations of various types. The fact that organisations linked to international co-operation (charity and immigrants' associations), along with social participation and support associations make up almost 40% of the total based in the district, we can deduce that the population of Ciutat Vella does not enjoy the best living conditions in the city. It is interesting to note the presence of 12 professional colleges and 41 second-level organisations (federations and co-ordinators) in the district, which to a certain extent continues to play the role of city. For a great many years now, Ciutat Vella has given birth to social organisations and protest groups, which often played a pioneering role.

Over the last twenty years, associations have become accustomed to receiving resources from the public administrations. Moreover, the associative movement is now much more a model for action than for reflection, and aims to take action over specific problems. Finally, it is pointed out that the distribution of associations by sector is not a recent phenomenon, but is a constant throughout its history.

## CIUTAT VELLA, MIGRATION PAST AND PRESENT

The question of migration has nowadays become practically inescapable in political and social discourse and in the media. The immigration which once came here from the rest of Spain has given way now to a cons-

tantly increasing foreign population. Ciutat Vella is the district with the largest foreign presence, though this has increased throughout the city. Ciutat Vella has always been the port of entry of immigration to the city, considered in the 1960s as a short-stay city by foreign workers from North Africa, whose final destination were other European cities.

For the most part, Ciutat Vella receives immigrants from developing countries. The foreign presence in Barcelona is characterised by the growing protagonism of the family as an element of social insertion. The spatial insertion of new populations can be explained by the economic factor (districts where housing prices are lower receive population with few resources), but the community factor must also be taken into account (previous presence of members of the group in a particular area) as well as the employment question (explaining the foreign presence in well-off districts). Municipal housing registers show a tendency to spatial concentration on the part of certain national groups. In the case of Filipinos, Indians and Pakistanis and Dominicans, this tendency to spatial accumulation has grown constantly, often centring on areas in Ciutat Vella. In the case of Moroccans, on the other hand, there is a gradual dispersion towards other areas and districts of the city.

#### THE HEART OF THE CITY, GREAT CULTURAL FOCUS

Barcelona is internationally famed as a cultural city due to its creativity and to its two thousand years of cultural history. And Ciutat Vella is its heart. Thanks to the construction of cultural facilities and the regeneration of social, artistic and cultural activities, Ciutat Vella has been rejuvenated and is now a place of integration and cosmopolitan co-existence. Its five neighbourhoods are impregnated with traces of the past in the form of recently-created cultural centres (MACBA, CCCB), universities (Pompeu Fabra and Ramon Llull), theatres (Principal, Poliorama, Romea), street art (installation of contemporary sculptures) and an infinity of cultural, artistic and commercial manifestations.

#### CIUTAT VELLA: DEGRADATION, CRISIS AND REGENERATION

Since the city walls were demolished (1854-1856), urban changes in Barcelona followed the dynamic of a city in expansion in which Ciutat Vella was characterised by both its central position and its degradation. Between 1859 and 1940, town planning policy in Ciutat Vella, which was always laid down as part of a general plan for Barcelona, was characterised by the use of new thoroughfares to make partitions (such as the opening up of Via Laietana) and the lack of recognition of its specific urban elements. Though the gradual political democratisation brought with it a change of approach towards rationalisation and sanitation, plans were never fully implemented

in Ciutat Vella due, amongst other factors, to the technical and social costs entailed. The Republican government (1931-1934) presented the Macià Plan (based on the proposals of the GATCPAC), proposing to improve the housing conditions of the population of Ciutat Vella, but the plan was never implemented.

Construction instigated by the Franco political apparatus (1940-1953) coincided with the contradiction between industrial expansion, causing strong waves of immigration, and the incapacity of the construction sector to satisfy the growing demand for housing. These factors explain the increasing population density of the district and the spread of the practise of subletting and the partition of houses. Between 1953 and 1976, the development of an urban model based on the logic of production and consumption was due to three factors: an extensive-peripheral territorial model, and industrial model in the sphere of production and an expansion in property development. Urban policy during this period of development was implemented within a framework of the rupture between the unitary macro-decision-taking process (regulatory, rationalising and progressist) and the plurality of micro-decision-taking processes corresponding to each sector policy.

It was not so much in the 1953 Barcelona Organisational Plan as in the partial plans of 1956-1959 in which the reigning town planning concepts (such as partition based on thoroughfares and the replacement of fabrics and residents' collectives) are laid down. The development and authoritarian regime opted for freeing land and physical restructuring, not to create new, socialising urban space but to adapt the offer of land. In Ciutat Vella, the implementation of these plans was a failure, and a crisis was sparked off by the combination of the run-down of services, property degradation and falling living conditions. These factors, in turn, led to a process of depopulation in the district between 1950 and 1970, accompanied by an influx of immigrants attracted by the offer of marginal accommodation and informal labour opportunities.

In the second half of the 1970s, a period marked by the process of local democratisation, Ciutat Vella was characterised by density of economic activity, the fragmentation of such activity, the predomination of traditional trade, industrial decay and a partial and concentrated switch to the service industry. The depopulation of the district was accompanied in this period by ageing of the population. There was a clear predomination of working classes, and per capita income was the lowest in the city. The district also suffered high unemployment levels. The housing crisis was determined by vertical ownership and rent laws.

After 1979, however, urban policy in Ciutat Vella began to be reversed. The new policy of regeneration aimed at the rehabilitation of the district as a multi-functional space and at improving living conditions and the urban consumption of the collective of residents. But the management model was

bureaucratic and the requirements for the implementation of urban policy were not complied with.

From 1987-1988 onwards, the contents of the regeneration policy were reoriented: concepts and instruments for action were revised, management systems were overhauled to overcome the blockage in policy implementation and territorial strategies were changed. The urban management model for this period (1987-1993) was pluralist and post-bureaucratic, with the intervention of three key factors: the district municipal council, the management committee of the Integrated Rehabilitation Area (which co-ordinated the work of the institutions involved in the process) and the mixed capital company PROCIVESA, which managed to unblock the financing question and to manage the public development programme in a flexible, effective manner. Between 1993 and 1998, the "urban pact" continued to produce excellent results, also coming up with a number of innovative measures: increased presence of private capital, promotion of sociosanitary and socio-cultural policies, economic support on the part of the European Union and maintenance of housing policy in sector policies.

In the late-1990s, depopulation continues in Ciutat Vella, but in a sustained way in absolute terms and in relation to Barcelona. At the social and employment level, education levels have improved and the negative differential in unemployment is being reduced. On the other hand, family income is clearly falling. The housing market is still tending to rise. As regards public

expenditure, inter-institutional in nature, an explosion was noted between 1988 and 1990 and consolidation leading up to 1996. This public investment has served as a lever for the expansion of private investment, though this is still low in the field of rehabilitation, where returns are not immediate.

#### **BOOKS TALK: 19 YEARS OF CHANGE IN CIUTAT VELLA**

With the return in 1979 of democratic local authorities, citizen participation and the transformation of the different areas began, and 1979 is the starting-point chosen for the bibliography presented in this article with the aim of providing a vision of the changes undergone by Ciutat Vella over recent years. The classification responds to the name of the district itself, Ciutat Vella, and the four Great Statistical Zones (ZEGs): Barceloneta, Parc, Gòtic and Raval.

The information was compiled from the bibliographic resources of 26 centres and is organised according to social, historic and town planning criteria. Literary production, monographs on Barcelona in general and sound and video productions have been excluded. The bibliography contains monographs, reports, programmes, memoirs, magazine articles and periodical publications. Barcelona City Council's General Library (e-mail: bibliog@mail.bcn.es) will supply all those interested with information on the location of the documents listed.