

Tot Raval promoting social cohesion in a district of Barcelona



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Tot Raval is a community-based foundation working on numerous projects to improve the quality-of-life and social cohesion among the inhabitants of Raval, one of Barcelona's most disadvantaged districts.



The Raval district of Barcelona is one of the neighbourhoods with the highest population density in Europe: 50 000 people live in an area of just over one square kilometre almost half of whom are of foreign origin. The socio-economic situation of the population is among the lowest of the city.

On the other hand, the community has a vast network of services, associations and collectives that for a number of years, have invested and worked to improve the area and adapt to its constant evolution and diversity. Its model of evolution serves as a demonstration for other territories and European cities that share similar challenges.

Mutual respect

The Tot Raval foundation's main activities are focused on the development of community work in various areas including social, educational, cultural, occupational, economic and commercial. Key priorities are to promote mutual respect among the different communities living or working in the community and, importantly, to fight against any perceived xenophobia.

Tot Raval pursues its shared community work (e.g. in 2012 it ran 25 projects and sponsored 55 others) with innovative strate-

gies to contribute to the local development and generation of a social economy through the involvement of everyone in the neighbourhood. For example, in one year alone (2012) more than 300 organisations and over 5 000 people were directly involved in its projects. An estimated 39 000 people benefited from these activities.

Quality-of-life

Among various actions, a priority objective is the improvement of the quality-of-life of Raval's children and teenagers, and in particular, fighting educational failure. This is an activity that brings together more than 30 groups working jointly in areas such as improving reading and supporting schools.

Enhancing job opportunities is another focus. Here a work network, "Xarxa Laboral del Raval" has been established involving over 50 businesses and/or potential employers. The aim is to encourage job placements and mentoring etc.

Among others, the foundation places great emphasis in steering the dynamics and social cohesion of the community through participation in the design and execution of various cultural activities. A notably success is the Raval culture festival "Festival de cultura".

The foundation also places a high priority on inter-cultural work through work groups and, for instance, the shared celebration of different religious festivals.

Finally, another important focus is on improving healthcare in the community. Here, the foundation is working on the development of an action plan promoting healthcare for Raval's residents. More than 350 healthcare professionals are involved in this initiative.

Tot Raval Foundation

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