

SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CITIES



BARCELONA A CITY FOR ALL

THE BARCELONA CENTRE FOR IMMIGRATION, ASYLUM, EMIGRATION AND VOLUNTARY RETURN

Due to its 2,000 year history as a port city, and as its current status as a leading European city for trade, culture and innovation, Barcelona has a long and growing tradition of migration. Today the foreign population of the city stands at 17.4%, a figure which has quadrupled over the past decade.

Barcelona's popularity among migrants has helped the city develop economically and culturally. It also presents a number of challenges. The vast majority of the city's migrants are from outside Europe and can have diverse needs and often find it difficult to access essential services to help their situation.

The city created the Service Centre for Immigrants, Emigrants and Refugees (SAIER) to provide any citizen living in the city with information and advice on migration, asylum and voluntary repatriation. Barcelona City Council jointly manages this free, specialist service with several associations.

SAIER has enjoyed a high level of success in its goals of assisting migrants and contributing to their integration into society. The specialisation of the service and the new coordination mechanisms put in place has also improved the overall work of the city's social services.

