

## **The preservation of industrial heritage through cultural reuse in a dynamic city and in a deindustrialized region: the cases of Barcelona and the Llobregat Valley.**

Catalonia was the first and most important industrial region of Spain. During the past two hundred years, several industrial landscapes were set up in different territories and today they are part of the cultural heritage of the country. Many assets of this heritage have been preserved and reused in order to keep them as physical evidences, which are essential to understand the history of the region and to promote its economy. Industrialization has shaped its culture and the industrial heritage is part of its identity. The re-use of industrial buildings in new cultural centres has been one of the most common destinations of many of them.

This communication will focus on two completely different cases of preservation of industrial heritage. In one hand, the preservation of industrial heritage in Barcelona, a city with a great economic and cultural dynamism. It will be emphasised the case of "Poble Nou", the area where during a hundred and fifty years there was the greatest concentration of industries of Catalonia. Besides, it was chosen to build some of the 1992 Olympic Games infrastructures and, since then, it has undergone a great transformation. The neighbourhood claimed for preserving a hundred industrial buildings and constructions as a testimony of its industrial history, many of which host a cultural activity.

On the other hand, the communication will analyse the situation of the deindustrialized Llobregat River Valley. A large number of industrial company towns were created. However, during the second half of the 20th century they were gradually closed. In recent years, an effort has been made to revitalize the area and to stimulate industrial tourism. Part of Colònia Vidal, one of the 17 existing company towns in the northern section of the river, has been turned into a museum, receiving private investment with the purpose of strengthening its position and becoming a regional reference of industrial heritage.

Eusebi Casanelles  
Vicepresident Museum Colonia Vidal  
Live President TICCIH

## **The preservation of industrial heritage through cultural reuse in a dynamic city and in a deindustrialized region: the cases of Barcelona and the Llobregat Valley.**

Catalunya fue la primera y más importante región industrial de España que ha creado unos paisajes que forman parte del patrimonio cultural del país. En diversas regiones se ha conservado y reutilizado los elementos patrimoniales de la industrialización con la finalidad de salvar unos testimonios que son esenciales para comprender su historia. La industrialización modeló su cultura y el patrimonio industrial forma parte de su identidad. La reutilización de los edificios industriales como nuevos centros de cultura ha sido uno de los destinos más comunes.

En esta comunicación se tratará de dos territorios completamente diferentes. Por una parte se explicará la preservación de elementos del patrimonio industrial en Barcelona, una ciudad con un gran dinamismo económico y cultural. Especialmente se expondrá el caso del barrio del "Poble Nou" donde hubo la mayor concentración de industrias de Catalunya. Fue el lugar escogido para construir la Vila Olímpica de los Juegos Olímpicos del 92 y desde entonces ha sufrido una gran transformación. La gente del barrio se manifestó para preservar un centenar de edificios y construcciones muchos de las cuales albergan una actividad cultural.

Por la otra parte se explicará la situación del Valle de Llobregat donde se crearon una gran cantidad de colonias industriales que a finales del s.XX fueron cerrando siendo considerada oficialmente como una zona desindustrializada. Durante estos últimos años se ha realizado un esfuerzo para revitalizar esta zona y fomentar el turismo industrial. La Colonia Vidal una de las 17 que existen en el tramo norte del río ha funcionado como museo y actualmente se está invirtiendo para crear un museo que se convierta en el centro del conjunto industrial.