



PROJECT:

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THE SOCIAL ECONOMY TO
LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE**

REPORT OF WORKPACKAGE 4:

BASELINE LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES: DATA COLLECTION

**LOCAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE FOR LA VALL D'EN BAS -
CATALONIA, SPAIN**

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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE
OF "LA VALL D'EN BAS"**

CONSCISE PROJECT

GABINET D'ESTUDIS SOCIALS

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report is a part of a research project called Conscise supported by the European Commission within the 5th Framework Programme and the Key Action Improving the Socio-Economic Knowledge Base.

This project is led by a transnational consortium coordinated by the University of Middlesex in London and aims to analyse how those social organisations or enterprises within social economy contribute to the growth of Social Capital¹ with a view to local development.

The project lays the stress on studying the socioeconomic actions and activities undertaken by a sample of social enterprises which are able to produce and reproduce social capital in their respective territories. These social enterprises are located in the following European Union regions and towns: London, Berlin, Scotland, Catalonia and North of Sweden.

In each one of the localities or territories where these social enterprises operate, one of which is the Cooperativa La Vall d'en Bas which is located in the Catalan municipality of the same name, the local socioeconomic background is also analysed in order to:

- ✓ put each initiative into its more immediate socioeconomic context;
- ✓ try to detect and analyse the effect and impact of each initiative on its respective territory; and
- ✓ study to what extent certain local socioeconomic conditions influence or condition the creation and dynamics of social enterprises.

Therefore, this socioeconomic diagnosis of la Vall d'en Bas is a part of the specific objectives of the Conscise project. In order to carry it out, we have used quantitative and qualitative methods and primary and secondary sources and have ensured the active

¹ Social Capital can be defined as the potential which populations and groups store and is made up of values such as trust, reciprocity, shared rules of behaviour, the sense of involvement and belonging, formal and informal networks and channels of information. This potential may be used profitably by both individuals and groups in order to promote actions in their favour.

co-operation and involvement of a number of key actors (local authorities, leaders and technicians of the most relevant local institutions and local experts). They have jointly constituted the Monitoring Committee of the research project in this territory and have consequently advised the writing team, supplied information and commented and clarified when necessary the data that were being collected for the purpose of carrying out this report.

This report consists of eight chapters plus this introduction. The first three chapters analyse respectively the territory, the population and the economy basically from the available bibliographical and documentary sources and from the most recent demographic and economic statistics published on these subjects. It is worth mentioning that some of the data and information has been clarified and even widened by the members of the Monitoring Committee.

The fifth chapter, titled "Social Economy", is essentially focused on the description of the only two social enterprises present in this territory. The information related to them has been collected through specific interviews and surveys addressed at those responsible for them.

The next chapter, called "Local Social Infrastructure", is a description of the education facilities and of the situation in the fields of housing, health and transport, while the seventh one, named "Local Society", depicts community and voluntary organisations. This same chapter also studies and analyses the level of participation and commitment of the local population in politics and civil society, its degree of religious involvement, delinquency, safety and the information and communication networks. Most of the data included has been collected from the interviews held with those technicians and professionals directly involved with each one of these subjects as well as from the available statistics and documentary sources. The Monitoring Committee also contributed with information, comments and amendments of its own to the final text.

The eighth chapter, which is called "Local Social Capital", quantifies and assesses the current social capital of this municipality from the application of a specific questionnaire completed by 100 local inhabitants.

The last chapter summarises the main results achieved and particularly those most closely related with the essence of the Conscise project, that is, the contribution of Social Capital to the development of local economies and above all social economy.

2. THE TERRITORY: SOME NOTES ABOUT THE GEOGRAPHY AND RECENT HISTORY OF THE MUNICIPALITY

La Vall d'en Bas extends over 90,5 km². Mountains, full of Mediterranean plants such as the evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*) and the oak (*Quercus pubescens*), which grow in the low areas, cover a great deal of its territory.

In the highest areas -between 700 m. and 1500 m- one finds Central European species such as the beech (*Fagus silvatica*) and the common oak (*Quercus robur*), as a result, basically, from a wet climate (an annual rainfall of around 1000/m²).

The combination of these climatic elements has given rise to a cool and at the same time dry land which favours harvests. Therefore, it produces good crops of corn and other grains which for the most part are devoted to the nourishment of the stock.

Although today there is a steady balance between the industrial and the service sectors, la Vall d'en Bas has always distinguished itself for being an agricultural area and agriculture and stockbreeding are still important activities with a strong standing and competitiveness.

Three major items have influenced in the agricultural vitality of this small Catalan place:

- a) The land concentration.
- b) The merger of four villages into a new only municipality (la Vall d'en Bas).
- c) The creation of the agricultural co-operative.

A. THE LAND CONCENTRATION

The land concentration happened in 1966 and involved 1.842 hectares, 597 owners and 4.738 original plots, which were assembled in 897 identical pieces. Today the number of plots amounts to 600. This concentration also speeded the construction of a network of roads and channels which have provided the valley with an optimal infrastructure from which it has been able to develop still further. Nevertheless, at the beginning, the land concentration provoked some minor problems. The change of ownership saddened some of the land owners for sentimental reasons but the outcomes have proved so positive that today not even the initially most reluctant ones question the great profits derived from that land concentration.

B. THE MERGER OF THE VILLAGES

Practically at the same time, in 1968, the four villages of the valley (Sant Esteve d'en Bas, La Pinya, Joanetes and Sant Privat d'en Bas) merged in to only one: la Vall d'en Bas. This process brought about a broader and more dynamic administration, which consequently proved able to launch much more important projects and actions, something which would have been impossible otherwise. This alliance could not avoid creating some reticence although it was conducted with a full respect for the traditions and customs of each village. After 33 years, practically everyone agrees that the results have also been extremely positive.

C. THE CO-OPERATIVE

The co-operative was founded in 1971 with the same spirit of a common initiative which had distinguished the two previous actions.

The co-operative was started by 20 persons. Today it has more than 400 members, half of whom come from other villages or even from other counties. From the agricultural perspective, the co-operative has been an extremely useful tool in helping its members to adapt themselves to the new times, methods and markets.

In recent times, the dairy sector has completely changed: it has evolved from the 200 herds of cows which existed only ten years ago and produced about 16.000 litres of milk per day to a figure of merely 30 herds which produce 30.000 litres of milk per day and an average output of 7.500 litres per cow and lactation. The co-operative has also pigs, oxen, cows and sheeps and is involved in other kinds of agricultural production as well.

At the beginning, the co-operative basically dealt with services such as the sale of seeds and fertilizers, the production of feed and the drying of corn. In a second stage, it moved towards the commercial distribution of its harvests: corn, oats, wheat and other cereals. Later on, it included among its activities the commercial distribution of milk with its own brand name and finally, in 1993, it created the "AGROSHOPS", vending points through which the co-operative started to sell its products directly to consumers.

The "AGROSHOPS" were an enthusiastic gamble, trying to meet the wishes of the producers who wanted consumers to get to know their goods at close hand. Through this procedure, farmers also achieved a share in the economic value of the enterprise, something they were much in need of as profit margins in general and in agriculture and stockbreeding in particular are traditionally very narrow and often inadequate.

The "AGROSHOPS" intend to offer an additional and different service which is halfway between traditional small businesses and big companies. They pursue getting consumers familiar with a wide range of typical products which are difficult to find given their singularity, reduced availability, craft manufacturing and distribution.

The "AGROSHOPS" also aim at increasing the co-operation and commercial exchanges between different co-operatives. They are small-sized selling points (from 100 m² to 150 m²) where the goods of the co-operative and of other co-operatives are directly sold. These articles have two things in common: their high standard of quality and the scarcity in the conventional market.

At present, the co-operative has opened several "AGROSHOPS" in other municipalities of the same county where it is located and even outside of it. This has meant an investment of 80 million ptas (0,5 million Euros) and the creation of 16 new employment

areas. Some 120.000 persons use their services and its turnover almost reached 240 million ptas (1,5 million Euros) in 2000.

In short, the creation of the co-operative allowed those responsible for it to change radically the work organisation of the valley's farmers. They would not have been competitive without the co-operative and its influence has not stopped in the economic area. Today, it has a staff of 35 workers and its turnover exceeds 1.300 million ptas., which make it one of the most important medium-sized enterprises in the municipality.

3. THE POPULATION

3.1. EVOLUTION AND RELEVANT SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC TRAITS

According to the last available data (municipal census of 1 January 1998), the number of inhabitants of the valley is 2.501. Bearing in mind that the municipality has an area of 90,5 km², it means that its density of population is 28 hab/km², a very low one if compared with the average figure in Catalonia as a whole, which exceeds very much the value of 100 hab/km².

As it is shown in Table 1, the local population is experiencing a certain stagnation or even regression. The valley is less populated now than 20 years before. Nevertheless, it must be said that this is far from being an exceptional fact in rural areas, most of which are losing population and almost in all the cases with a greater intensity than in la Vall d'en Bas.

TABLE 1.				
CHANGE OF POPULATION.				
Years	1981	1991	1996	1998
Total Population	2.640	2.531	2.542	2.501
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Local population censuses.				

Among the causes of this stagnation of the population are that there is a low birth rate (7,2 ‰), a lack of any positive migratory balances and a gradual ageing of the population, all of which result in a negative population growth. As it is shown in Table 2, the

percentage of those under 15 years is declining, whilst those over 65 years are growing in both absolute and relative terms.

TABLE 2.			
LOCAL POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS IN %.			
Age Groups	1981	1991	1996
From 0 to 14 years	16,6	15,7	13,3
From 15 to 64 years	69,0	64,6	62,5
Over 65 years old	14,1	19,7	24,2
Unknown	0,3	-	-
TOTAL	100	100	100
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Local population censuses.			

As also is the norm in practically all the Catalan rural areas, most of the local population is native. The inhabitants of la Vall d'en Bas have been born either in the municipality itself (65,5%) or in the rest of Catalonia (31,2%). Only 2,7% of its inhabitants have been born in Spain and only 0,5 are foreigners.

3.2. STRUCTURE OF HOUSEHOLD UNITS

The family model which is still typical of la Vall d'en Bas is the so called nuclear one, understood as one made up of the couple either with children or not. Both the extended family (that is one made up of grandparents, parents and children, which was the prevailing model only a few years ago, especially in rural areas) and the new family units or models (lone-parent families, people living alone, etc., which have been rising in the most developed societies in recent times) are very rare in this municipality.

Therefore, as it can be seen in Tables 3 and 4, family units with a single nucleus, made up of a couple with or without children, are the most usual and represent nearly 70% of the total number of households (1996). In that same year, the households made up of only one person nearly reached 15% while lone-parent families amounted to 8%. Anyway, since 1991 one-person households and lone-parent families have proved to be the most quickly expanding family models.

TABLE 3. TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS.								
Year	One/two person households			Family households				TOTAL HOUSE HOLDS
	One person	Two or more pers.	Total	With no head	With one head	With two or more heads	Total	
1991	96	0	96	17	594	67	678	774
1996	115	1	116	17	615	66	698	814
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001								

TABLE 4. ONE-HEAD HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE.			
Year	Couples with or without children	Lone-parent Families	TOTAL
1991	541	53	594
1996	552	63	615
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001			

4. THE ECONOMY

4.1. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

4.1.1. Macromagnitudes and non-agricultural economic activity

Although la Vall d'en Bas is a basically rural municipality, as it has happened in the majority of similar places of the so called rural Catalonia, services and industries have been gaining ground for a long time and both their size in the economy as a whole is gradually increasing in comparison with the primary sector, which in la Vall d'en Bas is mainly the farming. This does not mean at all that the farming sector has lost importance in absolute terms. What this exactly means is that the other sectors have experienced much higher increases so the relative size of the farming sector has decreased.

As it is also the general norm in most rural areas, the economic development of la Vall d'en Bas is slower than in the most industrialised regions. As it can be seen in Table 5, the economic development of this municipality is slightly under the county average. This fact does not imply, however, that the income of its inhabitants is lower than that of other people in the area. As we will see in a later section of this report, a significant share of the municipality's labour force is employed outside of it, whilst the opposite situation is far less frequent.

TABLE 5.			
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT MARKET PRICES. 1991.			
	Municipality	County	Catalonia
	1991	1991	1991
GDP (million pts.)	2.898	68.255	10.327.188
GDP per inhab. (thousands pts.)	1.144,9	1.481,9	1.704,3
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Basic macromagnitudes of local and regional economy. 1991.			

As has already been said, industries and services are the sectors with more weight in the municipality, although, as it can be seen in Table 6, the primary sector still plays a very remarkable role. According to the last available data, in quantitative terms the input of the agricultural sector nearly reaches 12% of the local economy. In comparative terms, the size of agriculture in this municipality is much larger than in the county as a whole, a difference which is still more notorious if compared throughout Catalonia.

TABLE 6.			
DISTRIBUTION OF GROSS ADDED VALUE BY SECTORS (%).			
Sector	Municipality (1991)	County (1991)	Catalonia (1991)
Agriculture	11,9	3,6	1,6
Industry	57,6	42,0	30,6
Construction	6,2	9,1	8,3
Services	24,3	45,3	59,5
Total	100	100	100
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Basic macromagnitudes of local and regional economy. 1991.			

In la Vall d'en Bas, the non-agricultural sectors, as also the case in the rest of the county, consist of rather small and medium-sized enterprises with few workers. Table 7

shows that in la Vall d'en Bas there are over 200 businesses and that the total number of employees is under 1000, so the average staff of these companies is less than 5 workers.

TABLE 7. BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONALS BY MAIN ECONOMIC SECTORS.						
	Municipality		County		Catalonia	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
Industry	39	38	730	730	59.514	59.932
Construction	48	55	771	846	52.961	59.941
Retail Trade	30	39	960	1.029	120.052	119.501
Services - except retail trade	60	67	1.400	1.540	211.202	224.608
Professionals and artists	11	16	469	482	76.747	79.231
Total businesses	188	215	4.330	4.627	520.476	543.213

Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Typification of economic activity from business tax (IAE).

As can be seen in Table 8, the Vall d'en Bas' industries employ almost 400 individuals, half of whom live in the municipality. Industrial firms are usually the ones with a higher number of employees: taking into account, as shown in the last table, that in la Vall d'en Bas there are 39 industrial enterprises it means that the average company employs more than 10 workers. In this municipality the most relevant industries (Table 9) are food companies followed by textile and dressmaking and household furniture. By examining Tables 5 and 6 one can see that the average company employ less than 2 workers.

TABLE 8. NUMBER OF LOCAL JOBS BY MAIN ECONOMIC SECTORS AND THE LIVING PLACE OF THE EMPLOYED (1996)			
Sector	Jobs in the municipality	Jobs taken by individuals living in la Vall	Jobs taken by individuals living outside la Vall
Agriculture and Stockbreeding	159	141	18
Industry	412	210	212
Construction	75	48	27
Trade	64	40	24
Other Services	139	80	49
TOTAL	849	519	330

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

TABLE 9.						
NUMBER OF SELLING POINTS OF INDUSTRIAL FIRMS.						
	Municipality		County		Catalonia	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
Food articles	13	14	137	139	4.947	4.913
Textile and Dressmaking	9	9	149	146	12.041	11.822
Edition and furniture (*)	9	8	155	148	14.154	14.162
Other	8	7				
Total selling points	39	38	730	730	59.514	59.932
(*) In la Vall d'en Bas, nearly all the establishments in this sector manufacture household furniture.						
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Typification of economic activity from business tax (IAE).						

Tables 8 and 10 also shows how in la Vall d'en Bas the number of jobs is lower than the number of the employed population who live in it. That is, the employment offered does not cover the entire active population. Therefore, a portion of its inhabitants must work outside the municipality, a highly common situation as it affects almost half the employed in la Vall d'en Bas. This fact shows obviously the strong integration of the municipality within its environment. Industry is the sector which both in absolute and relative terms forces more people to move as almost half the work-related journeys are linked to this sector.

TABLE 10.	
EMPLOYMENT LOCATION FOR THE INHABITANTS OF LA VALL (1996).	
Place	Number of jobs
Within the municipality	519
Outside the municipality	507
TOTAL EMPLOYED	1.026
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.	

Another remarkable fact (see Tables 11 and 12) which is derived from the existing pool of jobs in la Vall d'en Bas when compared with the employed population who live there is

that its inhabitants have professional qualifications beyond those needed by the jobs the on offer. This can be looked at two ways. On one hand it can be said that the jobs supplied by this municipality are of a low standard, but it could also be said that the working population of la Vall d'en Bas has a level of professional qualification over the "needs" of the different economic sectors located there. Anyway, it is to be highlighted that these higher professional qualifications are quite an exceptional feature in rural areas as they have been historically the territories where the levels of qualification and training have been the lowest.

TABLE 11.
NUMBER OF LOCAL JOBS BY PROFESSIONAL STATUS AND THE LIVING PLACE OF THE EMPLOYED (1996).

Professional Status	Jobs in the municipality	Jobs taken by individuals living in la Vall	Jobs taken by individuals living outside la Vall
Managers, technicians and other similar status	175	98	77
Skilled and semi-skilled employees and workers	625	403	222
Unskilled workers	49	18	31
TOTAL	849	519	330

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

TABLE 12.
INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN LA VALL WORKING OUTSIDE THE MUNICIPALITY ACCORDING TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL STATUS (1996)

Professional Status	Employed outside the municipality
Managers, technicians and other similar status	210
Skilled and semi-skilled employees and workers	274
Unskilled workers	23
TOTAL	507

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

4.1.2. The agricultural sector

Although, as it has been said in the section above, the size of this sector has decreased a lot in comparison with the other ones, it is also true that today almost everyone agrees that the maintenance of a certain level of agricultural development in rural areas has an importance which is beyond the mere economic view.

In this regard, it has been pointed out that the medium-term and long-term social, economic and cultural profits derived from agriculture are much more important than its costs, however difficult they are to measure being as they frequently are of an intangible nature. Avoiding, for instance, rural depopulation by trying to readjust the territorial distribution of the population; preventing ancestral activities, values, customs and ways which shape the local culture from disappearing; preserving the environment by combating mass urbanisation, etc., are assets which are gradually being praised by the main economic and social players as well as by the general population.

In the previous sections it has been seen how the agricultural sector still maintains a remarkable economic weight in this municipality compared with the local economy as a whole, with the rest of the county or throughout Catalonia. But it has not achieved this permanence without proceeding through a number of changes. In fact, this is an economic sector which is very dependent on all sorts of provisions and competition as well as influenced by other economic sectors and by interests many at times alien to it. All this means it has a very narrow leeway but above all that is constantly faced with a need for transformation and modernisation in order to not disappear.

In this regard, the Table 13 shows the important changes that the sector is experiencing. The number of plots is still decreasing so the trend started 30 years ago with the land concentration is still in operation while the number of farms is also dropping. Both facts seem to suggest that farms and plots are still readjusting, mainly to find the most optimal size for the economic and social survival of these activities while improving the living and working conditions of farmers and their families.

TABLE 13.			
FARMS, PLOTS AND AGRICULTURAL AREA COVERED BY CENSUS.			
Year	Number of Farms	Number of Plots	Total area (HA)
1982	442	1.103	7.872
1989	418	1.241	9.946
1999	230	784	7.168
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.			

The decrease in the number of farms and plots does not seem to be affecting the turnover. In fact it is the opposite, if the data in Table 14 is to be considered reliable. One can see that the number of heads of livestock of the most important species from the economic viewpoint has increased significantly, particularly if the most recent available data are compared with those of 20 years ago, when the number of cultivated hectares was practically the same as today.

TABLE 14.					
NUMBER OF HEADS OF LIVESTOCK FOR THE COMMONEST SPECIES					
Year	Total	Number of cows	Number of sheep	Number of goats	Number of pigs
1982	16.502	3.170	2.655	67	11.000
1989	23.057	4.584	3.644	268	14.561
1999	23.564	6.132	2.394	173	14.865
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.					

To those responsible for the different farms, which in practically all the cases it means the population employed in this sector as in this type of family farms there are practically no salaried workers. This sector has very recently experienced a number of quite important changes, one of them being an acute decrease in the labour force involved. In ten years (Table 15) such decrease has been over 50% and has equally affected women and men. If any, as this table shows, such decrease has been even proportionally higher among men than women.

It is worth noting that despite this extreme reduction of the labour force in this sector, there is still a significant share of it (more than one third) that is involved in other profit-making activities in addition to agriculture.

TABLE 15.			
DISTRIBUTION OF FARM MANAGERS BY SEX.			
Year	Men	Women	Total
1989	340	70	410
1999	163	36	199

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001

Another remarkable fact within the agricultural sector and which is judged as very worrying is the reduced presence of young people, which in the relatively near future can result in a serious lack of manpower. Table 16 shows that today's employed population is acutely an aged, a situation that in the last 10 years has not improved significantly. There is only a slight rejuvenation of the population due to a higher presence of the 30-50 age group individuals, which in 1989 represented only a fourth part of the total labour force in the sector and which in 1999 raised to a third part.

TABLE 16.		
DISTRIBUTION OF FARM MANAGERS BY AGE GROUPS IN %.		
Age	1999	1989
Under 29 years old	1,5%	3,2%
30-39	15%	8,3%
40-49	16,6%	13,4%
50-59	20,1%	28,5%
Over 60 years old	46,8%	46,6%
TOTAL	100%	100%

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

As a likely consequence of this continuing reduction of the labour force in the sector, which we have already seen has not resulted in a decrease in land cultivated, one can finally see in Table 17 that the number of hectares rented has increased considerably. This is probably due to the fact that when farmers reach retirement age without any of their offspring taking their place they do not sell their land but rent it out.

TABLE 17.
DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL AREA BY TENURE STATUS.

Year	Hectares owned	Hectares rented	Hectares in partnership	TOTAL
1982	6.365	1.195	118	7.872
1989	7.968	1.659	312	9.946
1999	3.748	3.416	5	7.168

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

4.2. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

La Vall d'en Bas, the same as most of the other rural municipalities in its county and throughout Catalonia, has had a very low unemployment rate for long. In the last 10 years, it never exceeded 10% of the active population and in the last year of the millennium, as it is shown in Table 18, the number of the unemployed was the lowest over the decade.

TABLE 18.	
UNEMPLOYED POPULATION (1990/2000).	
Year	Unemployment
1990	71
1991	61
1992	54
1993	50
1994	75
1995	61
1996	54
1997	44
1998	60
1999	51
2000	36

Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

In fact, it is said that in la Vall d'en Bas there is no unemployment and that everyone who is willing and able to work can find a job. This does not mean, however, that everybody can find a job suited to his/her training and to his/her qualifications or that all the workers are satisfied with their working conditions.

As can be seen in Table 19, male unemployment is very low and only affects 2% of economically active men. In contrast, women are more frequently unemployed as more

than 7 out of 100 economically active women are jobless. This means that the female unemployment rate is three times the male one.

If unemployment data is considered quite positive, this cannot be said of the other side of the coin, that is, the employment situation. The same Table 19 shows clearly that the overall employment rate is rather low and that, as it happens with unemployment, women are far more affected than men. This low employment rate is partly due to the above mentioned ageing of the local population, a significant percentage of which is already retired. Looking at Table number 20 it can be seen that pensioners are certainly the dominant group among the inactive population and that the number of inactive individuals (1467) is almost twice the number of the employed.

TABLE 19.					
EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED POPULATION. 1996.					
Sex	(1) Population over 16 years old	(2) Employed	(3) Unemployed	(4) Employment Rate $4=2/1*100$	(5) Unemployt Rate <math>5=3/(2+3)* 100</math>
Men	1.110	652	14	58,7%	2,1%
Women	1.057	374	30	35,4%	7,4%
TOTAL	2.167	1.026	44	47,3%	4,0%

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

TABLE 20.						
ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE POPULATION BY PERSONAL SITUATION.						
Sex	Retired	Disabled	Students	House Work	Other situations	Total inactive
Homes	327	21	243	1	30	622
Dones	355	9	244	194	43	845
TOTAL	682	30	487	195	73	1.467

Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

Table 21 shows that most of the employed individuals work in the industrial sector. In 1996, 40% of the employed were involved in it. This sector was not distantly followed by the service sector, which covered 35,2% of the whole employed population. The sectors with least employment were agriculture (14,5%) and construction (8,2%).

In the same table it can be seen that in recent times there has been a tendency towards a strong drop in the number of those employed in the agricultural sector (in 1996 it employed 14,5% of the total population; this figure had been 30,4% in 1986) and towards a significant increase in employment in the service sector. In fact, this is quite a common trend as it is also being observed throughout the county and in Catalonia as a whole.

In spite of this common framework, it can be seen that the decrease in the number of individuals employed in agriculture during the above mentioned period has been more acute in la Vall d'en Bas than in the rest of the county and Catalonia. According to reliable sources from the local town council, however, a significant share of the individuals who appeared as employed in this sector in 1986 were no longer active, a situation particularly frequent among women. They were affiliated and contributed to the sector only in order to have access to the retirement pension. This would mean that the real decrease in the number of the employed in the agricultural sector would be lower than what the "official" data would be suggesting.

TABLE 21.						
EMPLOYED POPULATION BY ECONOMIC SECTORS IN %						
Sector	Municipality		County		Catalonia	
	1986	1996	1986	1996	1986	1996
Agriculture	30,4	14,5	8,2	4,9	3,7	3,2
Industry	40,2	41,5	52,7	46,7	35,7	32,1
Construction	7,6	8,8	6,0	7,7	5,3	7,0
Services	19,2	35,2	30,4	40,7	45,6	57,7
Unknown	2,6	-	2,7	-	8,5	-
Total employment	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total number of the employed	1.185	1.026	17.878	18.709	1.839.097	2.204.652

Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Local population censuses. 1986, 1996.

As far as the professional situation of the employed living in la Vall d'en Bas is concerned, it is worth mentioning the high number of entrepreneurs with no employees (i.e self-employed), which as it is shown in Table 20 amount to nearly 25% of those in work. This is basically due to the peasants of the relatively small farms, either owners or employees, being registered as such. As it is usually the norm, permanent salaried

workers are the prevailing group among the employed, while casual salaried works (around 12% of the total) are rather uncommon, bearing in mind that in Catalonia as a whole they nearly amount to 25% of the total.

It may seem strange that in la Vall d'en Bas there does not appear to be any worker co-operatives. This is due to the fact that the Cooperativa la Vall d'en Bas is not registered as such but as a "Societat Agrària de Transformació", which although very similar in form it is not legally a co-operative.

TABLE 22.			
EMPLOYED POPULATION BY PROFESSIONAL SITUATION (1996)			
Professional situation	Men	Women	Total
Entrepreneurs with employees	59	15	74
Entrepreneurs with no employees	187	62	249
Co-operative partners	0	0	0
Family support	1	2	3
Salaried on a fixed basis	341	232	573
Salaried on a casual basis	60	62	122
Other situations	4	1	5
Total	652	374	1.026
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Local population censuses. 1986, 1996.			

4.3. POVERTY

Despite the lack of local statistics specifically devoted to poverty, from the available general social and economic data it may be inferred that in la Vall d'en Bas poverty must be non-existent or very rare. In fact, taking into account the low percentage of unemployed individuals and that this indicator is one of the most used to reveal a situation of poverty, it can be said that there must be very few poor individuals, if any, in the municipality.

This assumption was also confirmed by the municipality's social worker who recently carried out a survey of her own and detected that it is scarcely possible to speak of poverty in la Vall d'en Bas. According to this exploration, there would only be about 15

households made up of "impoverished" individuals. Most of them would consist of people over 70 years old (singles, widowers or widows who live alone, some couples), almost in all the cases with no relatives, some of them with a background of psychic disorders and with low economic resources although not so low as to be considered "officially" poor. According to this social worker, nobody in la Vall d'en Bas is currently being granted the PIRMI (a minimum income schema for families and/or persons with very low economic earnings or no earnings at all).

Nevertheless, though *senso stricto* it is not possible to speak of poverty it is indeed true that a number of the population suffer from a certain economic precariousness or inadequacy, particularly among the retired or among those disabled and unable to work and who consequently depend on pensions which are very low, above all in the case of agricultural, non-contributory and assistance pensions, some of which are much under the minimum interprofessional wage (SMI) (Table 23).

TABLE 23.						
AGRICULTURAL, NON-CONTRIBUTORY AND ASSISTANCE PENSIONS.						
VALL D'EN BAS.						
Type of Pension	Non-contributory Pensions (31/12/2000)		Assistance Pensions (31/12/2000)		Agricultural Pensions on one's behalf (1) (average 1999)	
	Number of recipients	Average pension as a % on the SMI	Number of recipients	Average pension as a % on the SMI	Number of recipients	Average pension as a % on the SMI
Retirement	7	53,1%	0	0	d.n.d (*)	71,0%
Disability	3	57,4%	2	41,2%	d.n.d (*)	63,0%
(1) Data for Spain as a whole						
(*) d.n.d.= unavailable data						
Sources: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001 and Central Ministry of Labour's website: http://www.mtas.es/Estadisticas/anuario99/PEN/pen08.html . Consultation made on the 24/4/2001.						

It must be stressed that pensions by themselves, and particularly the lowest ones, would be absolutely inadequate to meet the basic needs of the most disadvantaged in the population and that the social situation in la Vall d'en Bas would be far less positive but for a number of circumstances such as mutual solidarity between relatives and neighbours, who frequently help each other when there is need of this; that most

families are owners; that people and particularly old people spend very little and have saved much, etc.

All this leads to speculation about what may happen in a not very distant future, when certain social changes that are just surfacing now (an increase in spatial mobility, family evolution, the new role of women,...) modify the current situation and old and new social problems and needs appear or reappear without an adequate provision of tools or answers to alleviate them.

4.4. TRADE AND SERVICES

As has been seen in the first section of this chapter, in this municipality the service sector has a rather low importance if compared with the county and Catalonia as a whole. In fact, this is far from surprising. The majority of small rural villages which are not too distant from medium-sized or big cities have few services and commercial establishments. Shops and services have been concentrating in particular locations over a long time owing to the high level of mobility which most people enjoy today. It is no longer necessary to find everything in a small village since practically everyone has the means and possibilities to move to bigger places and buy there what they need.

In spite of this, if we compare the number of retail trade establishments and other service companies between 1995 and 1997 we will see that this period was not negative in this regard (Tables 24 and 25), as both types of enterprises increased.

As can be seen, it is the number of retail trade establishments which experienced the maximum increase, particularly in the field of food goods as a likely result of the important development of tourism in recent years. As for the increase in service companies, it was more modest. Only the number of those in the fields of transport, communications and personal services experienced a slight increase.

TABLE 24. ESTABLISHMENTS OF RETAIL TRADE ENTERPRISES.						
	Municipality		County		Catalonia	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
Food articles	16	24				
Clothes and shoes	2	2				
Household goods	1	2				
Books and newspapers	2	1				
Chemical products	5	6				
Transport materials	0	1				
No classified	4	3				
Total selling points	30	39	960	1.029	120.052	119.501

Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Typification of economic activity from business tax (IAE).

TABLE 25. ESTABLISHMENTS OF SERVICE ENTERPRISES.						
	Municipality		County		Catalonia	
	1995	1997	1995	1997	1995	1997
Wholesale trade	12	11				
Hotels	18	19				
Transports and Communications	8	11				
Financial mediation	3	4				
Services for enterprises	0	0				
Personal services	15	17				
Property companies and other	4	5				
Total establishments	60	67	1.400	1.540	211.202	224.608

Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. Typification of economic activity from business tax (IAE).

4.5. QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

We have said above that the level of professional qualification of the inhabitants of la Vall d'en Bas is quite high and that on average those employed in local enterprises have qualifications beyond the "needs" of those companies.

This fact is somewhat confirmed by other data such as the education level of the population of la Vall d'en Bas, which Table 26 shows to be higher than in the rest of the county and even in Catalonia as a whole as far as some indicators are concerned. In

fact, according to the data from the last census (1996), in this municipality the people over 10 years old with the lowest education level (without any qualification) amounted to 12,2% its whole population, nearly 6 points under the county's average and 5 under that of Catalonia.

In addition, the percentage of inhabitants of la Vall d'en Bas with secondary education is much higher (39,5%) than the average value in the county (28,7%) and also slightly over the Catalan average (36,6%). As for the percentage of inhabitants (7,4%) with further education, it is quite similar to the county's average (7,3%). But in this case, la Vall d'en Bas and its county as a whole are placed well below the Catalan average percentage of people with further education, which according to the last available data, is 10%, that is, more than 2 percentage points above the local values.

But it has to be highlighted that the the local situation concerning education has improved considerably only in relatively recent years. The same table 18 shows how in the 1991-1996 period, la Vall d'en Bas registered a large decrease in the percentage of individuals with no qualifications (from 17,7% to 12,2%), a slight increase in the number of persons with secondary education and an impressive rise in the percentage of local inhabitants with further education, from 3,4% in 1991 to 7,4% in 1996; an increase of over 100% in only 5 years. This development, if compared with both the county and Catalonia as a whole, is quite favourable to la Vall d'en Bas.

TABLE 26.						
EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE OVER 10 YEARS OLD IN %.						
Level	Municipality		County		Catalonia	
	1991	1996	1991	1996	1991	1996
With no qualifications	17,0	12,2	19,8	18,8	19,1	17,7
Primary	43,5	40,9	44,8	45,2	36,7	35,7
Secondary	36,1	39,5	30,6	28,7	37,8	36,6
Further	3,4	7,4	4,8	7,3	6,4	10,0
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

Sources: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. 1991's population census and 1996's population statistics.

As for any gender differences in the education level, Table 27 shows them not to be too acute. The greatest disparities are to be found in the extremes; that is, in the lowest and highest education levels. In general terms, there are more women than men who have

the lowest educational levels, although further education is also more common among women than among men.

This pattern, which is to be found to a greater or lesser extent throughout Catalonia, arises from the fact that in general terms past generations did not consider it necessary for women to have a conventional education the same as men. As the majority of women were or thought they would be housewives, studying was regarded as a waste of time. In recent years however, this distinction between men and women is no longer in operation, as women like men tend to enter the labour market and therefore need similar training. This shift has meant that in the younger generations there are more female university graduates than male ones, particularly in the rural areas, where men are more likely to work as farmers, an activity which does not demand further education, and women can choose jobs which certainly require a university degree.

TABLE 27.			
EDUCATION LEVEL OF LOCAL POPULATION BY SEX IN %. 1996.			
Level	Men	Women	Total
Illiterate	0,6	1,0	0,8
With no qualifications	10,0	12,9	11,4
Primary	40,9	40,8	40,9
Secondary	42,7	36,2	39,5
Further	5,8	9,1	7,4
TOTAL	100	100	100
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the population statistics carried out in 1996 by the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya.			

As we have seen above, the level of training of the local population has been improving. This means that in general younger generations receive a more thorough training than was the norm in past generations. Table 28 shows it quite clearly.

The vast majority of people aged between 20 and 34 years have secondary education and quite a respectable percentage (16,2%) have achieved a further degree. As for the generation immediately older, those individuals aged between 35 and 49 years, its situation is not as good; more than half of them have secondary education (55,1%) but only 10% further education. With regard to people over 50 years old, only 1 out of 5 have

secondary or further education. Most of them only achieved primary education and 1 out of 10 have no qualifications at all.

The worst situation is found in the oldest generation. Nearly 1 out of 3 individuals have no qualifications and 2 out of 3 only finished primary education. Only a minority (6%) has secondary education and 1 out of 100 has further education.

TABLE 28.					
EDUCATION LEVEL BY AGE GROUPS IN %. 1996.					
Age groups	With no qualifications	Primary Education	Secondary Education	Further Education	TOTAL
20/34 years	1,1	6,3	76,4	16,2	100
35/49 years	0,2	31,9	55,1	12,8	100
50/64 years	10,8	69,2	15,9	4,1	100
Over 65 years old	29,6	63,1	6,0	1,3	100

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the population statistics carried out in 1996 by the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya.

5. SOCIAL ECONOMY

5.1. INTRODUCTION

Although strictly speaking, a picture of the social economy in la Vall d'en Bas only includes two enterprises (the co-operative and the nursery school), it is not less true that the scope and the social and economic impact of one of them (obviously the co-operative, a fact which does not mean any sort of scorn for the other enterprise, which carries out its work very well) is far beyond what the "mere" economic data point out in terms of turnover and number of employees.

First, more than 80% of the local farmers are active co-operative members. They are the co-operative's producers, customers and users of its services. So they take advantage of the products and goods that the co-operative manufactures or sells at cost-price. They also distribute a substantial part of their agricultural and stock production through the co-operative and therefore see reduced intermediary costs. They also profit from the information and the technical, economic and strategic advice that the co-operative has set in motion for its members. They also make use of the meeting points that the co-operative has arranged in its own premises. But the most utility of the co-operative is showing, and making people gradually aware of it, that joint co-operative work is a source of social and economic benefits, for the individuals as well as for the group and the community, which otherwise would not have been achieved, at least in this proportion.

There is a certain consensus around the fact that it is the co-operative's influence that has allowed la Vall d'en Bas to maintain an agricultural and stock activity of such an importance which is well over the county's average. In addition, this is a sustainable activity from the socio-economic viewpoint as well as from the environmental one and the sector has been able to modernise and adapt to external change in a balanced manner while becoming more attractive for new generations; the only way to ensure survival.

In this regard, the peasants living in la Vall d'en Bas who are associated to the co-operative represent around 200 household farms. In practically all the cases they are small or medium-sized farms where a family can live decently. So about 200 families or 600 individuals (almost one fourth of the total number of inhabitants of la Vall d'en Bas) can be said to "depend" on and take part in this social initiative which undeniably constitutes the core of the local social economy. Therefore, it could be said that the real dimension of the social economy in la Vall d'en Bas is given by this fourth part.

5.2. A DESCRIPTION OF THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN LA VALL D'EN BAS

If one merely focuses on the most specific and measurable data concerning what is technically known as Social Economy, the picture that emerges, although of a lesser magnitude than what we have pointed out above, is far from showing a negligible importance both quantitatively and qualitatively.

As we have said before, in la Vall d'en Bas there are two social enterprises: the co-operative and the nursery school.

5.2.1. La Cooperativa la Vall d'en Bas

Both from the social and economic perspective, this co-operative is the most important social enterprise in la Vall d'en Bas and probably in all the county. Its activities employ directly 35 individuals, most of whom live in the municipality. Its overall turnover exceeds 1300 million ptas (7,8 million Euro) and in the last 3 years has created 8 new jobs.

It is an enterprise made up of farmers who have opted to work in common in order to improve social and economic profitability and contribute to increase the social welfare of the population living in la Vall d'en Bas and its nearby areas.

Among the **main economic and social activities** carried out by the co-operative, it is worth mentioning the following:

- Production or purchase of articles and materials which its members are in need of for agricultural, stock or forestry reasons.
- Commercial distribution in the Agroshops of the farm and forestry products manufactured by co-operative members.
- Loan of machinery to co-operative members.
- Advice and strategic and technical guidance for the farms associated to the co-operative.
- Administrative and management services for co-operative members.
- Promotion of the technical and cultural training of co-operative members.
- Promotion of any improvements for the rural areas and the environment.

All these activities give rise to a very fluent and deep relationship with most of the co-operative members (which are the main co-operative providers and customers), particularly for a very significant number of them (around 160), the annual turnover of each of them exceeds 500.000 ptas (3.005 EURO).

The co-operative also keeps commercial relations with the main local enterprises and is in regular touch with local and regional administrations in order to promote and strengthen the local economy. In this regard, it encourages the creation of new activities and enterprises by offering its "know how" and economic support if necessary. In the last three years, it has promoted the creation of 4 new small enterprises which have resulted in 8 new jobs. The co-operative provides these new enterprises with technical assistance and money (around 30% and 60%).

The co-operative also supports the most active local associations and organisations by sponsoring recreational and cultural events carried out in the municipality.

As has already been said, the co-operative has 400 members, half of whom live in la Vall d'en Bas. The General Assembly, made up of all the partners, is the supreme body through which the social expression is channeled. The Assembly elects democratically the members of the Board of Management.

The co-operative members, and particularly those who live in the municipality, play a very active role in the co-operative affairs. More than 80% usually attend the two yearly assemblies (one general and one extraordinary) and take part in the social events organised by the co-operative.

The Board of Management is the body for the governance, ordinary administration and representation of the co-operative. As such, it has the broadest powers to manage the co-operative and execute the decisions of the General Assembly. It is made up of 12 members (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and eight) all of whom are elected among all the co-operative partners through the secret voting of a complete candidature. The work they develop for the co-operative is not remunerated, that is, it is carried out on a voluntary basis.

The day-to-day management and direction of the co-operative is undertaken by a General Manager who acts on behalf of the Board of Management, to which he is obliged to report periodically.

It must be said that the co-operative could legally distribute profits among its members. But it has never done this, so in practice it must be considered a non-profit making social enterprise. Profits have traditionally been reinvested in new activities and services for the co-operative members and the entire community. The most profitable co-operative activities, such as the agoshops, cover the deficits of certain services - counselling, training, recreational and cultural activities - or products - feed - which are considered to be necessary for the social and economic well being of co-operative partners and the rest of local inhabitants.

5.2.2. The school nursery

The school nursery is the other non-profit making social enterprise in la Vall d'en Bas. It is a kindergarten where 1-3 year old children of the municipality or from outside of it if there are any vacancies are cared for and raised. The maximum number of places is 21.

The school nursery has currently 18 children, two of whom come from outside the municipality, which means that at present it is able to cover all the demands in la Vall d'en

Bas, at least as far as children of such an age group are concerned. In contrast, there is no local school nursery for 0-1 year old children, whom some parents take to similar services in nearby municipalities.

The management and organisation of the school nursery is in the hands of the "AMPA", made up of the children's fathers and mothers. This association, whose number of members is currently 37, also represents the interests of the 3-5 year old children who attend the public kindergarten.

The AMPA is directed by a Management Board made up of 7 members (5 parents and 2 nursery workers) and deals with staff management and the organisation of supplementary or extraordinary activities carried out in the school nursery. In this regard, it supervises the workers' overtime, the school catering service and summer activities.

The school nursery has two full-time assistants, one on a part-time basis and 7 volunteers, who are AMPA's members. All three assistants live in the municipality.

This association was created 6 years ago (1995) by a number of parents who aimed, in their own words, to defend the educational rights of the local children and promote, favour and improve the development of the educational activities for the under 6 year old children.

In order to attain such aims and to encourage the participation of the childrens' fathers and mothers, the AMPA meets regularly with all its members so as to collect their suggestions and complaints, if any. This procedure opens the way to readjusting when necessary the activities and tasks carried out in the school nursery and at the same time is a sort of evaluation of what is being done there. It must be also stressed that the AMPA is on good terms with the local town council, a condition seen as essential for its members in order to be able to develop optimally their work.

6. THE LOCAL SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1. SCHOOL AND CULTURE

As happens in most small municipalities of the county, in la Vall d'en Bas it is only possible to study primary education, which goes as far as 12 years. The public kindergarten for children 3-5 years old and the public school Verntallat for 6-12 years old ones are the only two local teaching institutions. Secondary and vocational training schools are located in Olot, the county's capital, which is between 6 and 8 km. far away. A free of charge public school transport system, efficient enough according to the majority of sources, answers the travelling needs of the local students to attend such level. As for further education, it is necessary to leave the county and move to Girona or Barcelona, which are respectively located 50 km. and 130 km. far away. Only students with grants receive some support for such travel.

La Vall d'en Bas also has a public library of a general nature. All the other educational and cultural resources are concentrated in Olot.

6.2. HOUSING

According to the last housing census, reflected in Table 29, in la Vall d'en Bas there were at the beginning of the nineteen-nineties 1.233 dwellings, of which only a few more than half of them were 'first dwellings'; i.e. lived in all the year. As for the so called second dwellings, that is, those which in general are only used on weekends and holidays, almost one out of five is of this character. This percentage shows the high level of attractiveness of this municipality as a place for tourism and recreation where it is possible to enjoy the views in peace and with all the necessary services. The percentage of empty dwellings is also very high, a little over that of "second dwellings", a consequence of past migrations and of the difficulties involved in restoring such houses, many of which, as we will see below, are very old.

TABLE 29.		
TYPE OF DWELLINGS. LA VALL D'EN BAS, 1991.		
Household Dwellings		
First	774	62,8%
Second	220	17,8%
Vacant	239	19,4%
TOTAL	1.233	100%
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001		

Most dwellings are buildings of only one flat (Table 30). They are usually one-family isolated or semi-detached houses, whilst buildings made up of 2 or more flats are quite rare.

TABLE 30.		
FIRST DWELING BY THE NUMBER OF FLATS IN THE BUILDING. 1991.		
First dwelling		
1 flat	682	88,1%
2 flats	62	8,0%
3 and more flats	30	3,9%
TOTAL	774	100%
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.		

Table 31 features another remarkable fact. The majority of the dwellings in la Vall d'en Bas (71,4%) have been purchased and in practically all the cases they have already been paid for. Although ownership as a major trend is also the norm throughout Catalonia and Spain, it is less common to find that such a high percentage of dwellings have already been completely paid for. Only 2% of the total number of dwellings have not been fully paid for as yet in la Vall d'en Bas, a percentage than in Catalonia as a whole raises to 20%. Taking into account that the expenses derived from paying a mortgage or renting a flat usually mean a strong constraint on family budgets, it is obvious that the fact that a great deal of

local families are free of such burden is another element of wellbeing and tranquillity for all the persons and families living in la Vall d'en Bas.

In addition, people living in a rented dwelling amount to a little more than 20%. This percentage is very similar to the average one for Catalonia as a whole.

TABLE 31.		
FIRST DWELLING BY TENURE STATUS. LA VALL D'EN BAS. 1991.		
First dwelling		
Owned and paid for	316	40,8%
Owned but not paid for yet	13	1,7%
Inherited	224	28,9%
Total Owned dwellings	553	(71,4%)
Free	44	5,7%
Rented	177	22,9%
TOTAL	774	100%
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.		

Such a big percentage of dwellings on an ownership basis which have already been paid is likely to be linked with an aged housing park. The older a dwelling is, the likelier it is that it has been inherited or already paid for. Table 32 shows how the majority of the dwellings in la Vall de Bas are certainly very old. Nearly half of them were built more than 100 years ago and only a little over one third of them have less than 30 years.

TABLE 32.		
FIRST DWELLINGS BY YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION. VALL D'EN BAS. 1991		
First dwelling		
Before 1900	347	44,9%
Between 1901 and 1930	51	6,6%
Between 1931 and 1950	29	3,7%
Between 1951 and 1970	67	8,5%
Between 1971 and 1991	281	36,3%
TOTAL	774	100%
Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001		

Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that in recent years there has been a strong increase in the construction of new dwellings. According to the information obtained from the website of the Catalan Statistical Office, in the year 2000 35 new dwellings were finished while the local town council reported that other 26 had just been started.

As for the characteristics of these dwellings, it can be said that they are usually much bigger than in the rest of the county and in Catalonia as a whole. As it is shown in Table 33, practically 2 out of 3 of the local dwellings have an area over 100 m², whilst in the rest of the county only 1 out of 3 dwellings is so large. As for the Catalan average, dwellings are still smaller as only 1 out of 5 is so big.

TABLE 33.			
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAIN DWELLING			
BY USEFUL AREA IN %. 1991.			
Area M²	Municipality	County	Catalonia
Less than 49	0,6	1,4	5,5
Between 50 and 69	4,5	9,0	25,4
Between 70 and 99	30,9	51,7	46,1
Between 100 and 119	24,9	18,4	10,8
Between 120 and 149	16,1	10,2	6,1
More than 150	23,0	9,3	6,1
TOTAL	100	100	100
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. 1991's housing census.			

In contrast, concerning housing facilities and services, the situation in la Vall d'en Bas is not as good as in the rest of the county and in Catalonia. As it can be seen in Table 34, the basic facilities of local dwellings is under the average in the rest of the county and Catalonia.

TABLE 34.			
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAIN DWELLING BY			
FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN %. 1991.			
Facilities and services	Municipality	County	Catalonia
Hot water	90,8	93,3	91,2
Channelled gas	6,8	14,0	50,3
Bath or shower	93,0	96,4	97,6
Telephone	83,1	81,8	84,5
Heating	71,6	94,5	92,2
Cooling	2,5	13,1	16,4
TOTAL	100	100	100
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya. 1991's housing census.			

6.3. HEALTH AND LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

In the last 10 years, the average mortality rate in la Vall d'en Bas has been 10%. In Catalonia as a whole this percentage is a little lower (around 9%). If one recalls the acute ageing of the local population this greater mortality rate was to be expected so it does not indicate that its inhabitants have poorer health condition than other Catalan citizens.

Despite the lack of specific statistics on mortality at the local level, the information provided by a general practice doctor working in the basic health area of this region seems to state that the morbidity rate of la Vall d'en Bas is not radically different of the county and the Catalan averages. The above mentioned differential should consequently be attributed to the higher ageing in the municipality if compared with the rest of the county and Catalonia.

In general, the type and prevalence of the diseases in the Vall d'en Bas do not differ due to its environment. This means that the most serious and mortal ones are cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Although less fatal, digestive problems and mental illness have also a particular incidence in this municipality as well as in the rest of the county. Despite the lack of comparative data, mental problems and above all depressions seem to be commoner in la Vall d'en Bas and in all the county than throughout Catalonia. According to the above mentioned doctor, based on a number of reports and studies, this is a typical trait of relatively isolated regions which are distant from any important population centre, as is the case of this county.

Another indicator which can give a certain idea of the health condition of the inhabitants of la Vall d'en Bas in comparison with the rest of the county and Catalonia is the percentage of individuals legally recognised as psychically or physically disabled. As it can be seen in Table 35, this indicator shows a rather positive image of the municipality particularly when compared with Catalonia, where the percentage of disabled individuals is nearly twice that registered in la Vall d'en Bas.

TABLE 35.
INDIVIDUALS LEGALLY RECOGNISED
AS DISABLED. 2000.

	Number	% total population
Municipality	53	2,1%
County	1.164	2,5%
Catalonia	245.943	4,0%

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001.

As for health services and resources, as happened with educational centres, most of them (clinics, hospitals, etc.) concentrate in the county (Olot) and provincial (Girona) capitals. In the municipality there is only a service of primary assistance, although in recent months what is called a Basic Health Area (ABS) has been set up there, which certainly means an improvement and an important increase in the number of health resources.

Some years ago in la Vall d'en Bas there were only family doctors; now the establishment of the ABS has resulted in the constitution of a team made up of 3 general practice doctors and one paediatrician, 3 nurses, one paediatric nurse and 2 administrative officers. The ABS consists of two centres which are located in the two most populated villages in the Vall d'en Bas (Sant Esteve d'en Bas and Sant Privat d'en Bas), which are open on weekdays, the former mornings and evenings, the latter mornings or evenings on alternate weeks.

It must be said that Health Basic Areas are a part of a broader health system which encompasses all the modalities of health assistance in order to offer overall comprehensive care. In the case of la Vall d'en Bas, the ABS is dependant on the Hospital of Olot, which is responsible for the planning and management of health at the regional level.

La Vall d'en Bas also has a chemist's located in the village of Sant Esteve d'en Bas where three chemists work. This chemist's has also a small branch in the village of Sant Privat d'en Bas.

6.4. TRANSPORT

As private means of transport are becoming the norm for all the social strata, public or collective transport are losing ground. This is particularly so in scarcely populated municipalities far from the big roads, where the latter can hardly be expected to be economically profitable. As is obvious, this development has also occurred in la Vall d'en Bas, where collective transport, save for school reasons, has practically disappeared. Only Sant Esteve d'en Bas, the biggest of the 4 villages in the valley and the only one of them located on an important road between Olot and Girona, can be said to be fairly well served by public transport. From 7h. in the morning to 20h. or 21h. in the evening, there is a bus connecting the village with Olot each hour or even each half hour on rush-hour time on a daily basis. But the other three villages currently lack any kind of public transport on a regular basis.

As we were saying above, this situation is basically due to the proliferation of private vehicles, either cars, motorcycles or vans. There is practically no home without a vehicle of its own, which in most cases are more than one. This is indicated in Table 36, which allows us to compare the number of vehicles with that of families and individuals and achieve very high rates (nearly 8 vehicles per 10 individuals and 2,4 per household).

TABLE 36. CAR PARK. 1998.	
Private cars	1.262
Motocycles	181
Lorries and Vans	472
Industrial Tractors	14
Buses and others	44
TOTAL	1.973
Source: Generalitat de Catalunya. Departament de Política Territorial i Obres Públiques.	

As is obvious, such a high level of private motorisation is also explained by a similarly large percentage of journeys which require a vehicle of one's own. Table 37 is a proof of this when showing that 8 out of 10 work-related journeys use a private vehicle whilst public or collective transport is only used in 1 out of 100 cases.

TABLE 37.						
MOBILITY DUE TO NECESSARY HOME-WORK JOURNEYS BY SEX.						
	Total			Means of transport		
	Total	Men	Women	Collective	Private	Other
Internal journeys	519	342	177	0	311	208
External journeys	507	310	197	10	496	1
TOTAL	1.026	652	374	10	807	209
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 13/9/2000.						

The individuals who make an intensive use of collective transport are those who lack any private vehicle of their own for age reasons; that is, basically the school population who have to travel from the valley to attend their classes. As we have already mentioned, the existence of a free of charge public school transport which connects the different villages and hamlets in the valley with the school centres inside and outside the municipality has become the most used public transport system. This is what Table 38 shows: that most school-related journeys resort to collective transport, although the use of a private vehicle is far from negligible (40%) and it is likely to target the oldest students who already have a car of their own.

TABLE 38.						
MOBILITY DUE TO NECESSARY HOME-SCHOOL JOURNEYS BY SEX.						
	Total			Means of transport		
	Total	Men	Women	Collective	Private	Other
Internal journeys	167	84	83	130	18	19
External journeys	320	159	161	133	186	1
TOTAL	487	243	244	263	204	20
Source: Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 13/9/2000.						

7. LOCAL SOCIETY

7.1. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

When consulted in order to carry out this survey, the majority of the most active social actors in la Vall d'en Bas have stated that having in mind the small size of this municipality the number and variety of community and voluntary organisations must be considered very high.

In fact, it has to be said that in la Vall d'en Bas there are certain organisations (the Employers' Association, the Hostelry Association, the Bas Cycle Club, etc.) which are not usually found in villages of such a reduced size but only in towns and bigger villages.

According to data provided by the local town council which are collected in Table 39, in la Vall d'en Bas there are currently 26 organisations which can be included under the heading above, that is, community and voluntary organisations. They comprise 4 residents' associations, 7 festival committees, as many as the number of the most important villages and hamlets in the valley, 3 sport organisations, 4 football clubs and 8 other diverse associations or organisations among which the AMPA and the Old Age Centre, which look after the interests of these two populations, or "Salvem les Valls" (Let's Save the Valley), an environmental association opposed to the construction of a large transport infrastructure.

It must be said that all these organisations are based on voluntary work which has arisen from a civil society much eager to carry out joint actions without looking for economic profit. None of the individuals who lead or devote part of their time to the activities undertaken by these organisations is paid for their work, which does not mean that certain of these activities do not involve expenses. In fact, the budgets of several of these organisations are considerably large. As an example, the festival committees in organising the local festivals which commemorate the patron saint of each village usually recruit very popular musical bands or famous spectacles which are quite expensive. This is also

the case of some sport organisations which organise runs and races in which many people take part.

Most of these organisations are subsidised by the local town council. In some cases, this contribution is practically their only source of income; examples include the hostelry and residents' associations and the employers' organisation. In other cases, local town grants co-operate to pay for the activities that these organisations undertake, some of whose expenses are partly or wholly paid for by those who take part in them. This is particularly the case of the recreational and sport activities developed by the festival committees, the sport organisations and the football clubs.

Some of these associations, for instance "El Ratolí", carry out a great variety of activities. "El Ratolí" is located in Sant Esteve d'en Bas and deals with local children (recreational activities on Saturdays' evenings, Easter and summer camps for school children), the organisation of popular festivals for all age groups (Carnivals) and the delivery of courses (cooking courses) and co-operates with other local associations such as the Theatre Group and the Festival Committee. This association is also used to handling an important budget as recreational activities and camps for children usually involve contracting out specific staff. A great deal of the expenses involved in these activities are nevertheless contributed by the participants themselves, to which the local town council adds its own subsidies. It is worth mentioning that all the activities undertaken by this organisation, save for the temporary recruitment of camp leaders, are based on the voluntary work of 4/5 persons.

It must also be stressed that the events and activities promoted and developed by the majority of the active organisations in la Vall d'en Bas are very well attended by their members and the general population. It is also remarkable that some of these organisations (the Cycle Club or the G.E.C.A., a Scout association, for instance) have a strong influence not only among the local inhabitants but also among the population of the nearby municipalities.

TABLE 39.						
VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS IN LA VALL D'EN BAS.						
Name and contact address	Main activities or tasks	Other activities	Number of Partners		Active volunteers involved	Level of participation in the organisation's activities
			Local	External		
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS						
La Pinya Afores, s/n Joan Comes Tel.972.6693548	Those typical of residents' associations					
Joanets Afores, s/n Josep M ^a Serrat Tel.972.690434	Those typical of residents' associations					
Grup Verge Olletes Santiago Rossinyol, 4 Josep M ^a Berga Tel.972.693286	Those typical of residents' associations	Organisation of the neighbourhood's annual festivities	47 Families		5 members	High participation of the members in all the events
Els Hostalets Pl.M. dels Hostalets, 7 Miquel Font Tel.972.690362	Those typical of residents' associations					
FESTIVAL COMMITTEES						
Puigpardines Roure, 9 Joan Fageda	Organisation of the village's main festivities					
Sant Esteve d'en Bas Mas Pipaire David Font Tel.972.693140	Organisation of the village's main festivities					
Els Hostalets Vic, 14 Rosa M. Soy Tel.972.690220	Organisation of the village's main festivities	Organisation of the Sant Grau's festivities	15 persons (aprox.)		2/3 persons	A great deal of the village's inhabitants take part in the activities held
Joanetes Pere Molas Tel. 972.690126	Organisation of the village's main festivities					

Name and contact address	Main activities or tasks	Other activities	Number of Partners		Active volunteers involved	Level of participation in the organisation's activities
			Local	External		
El Mallol Jordi Coll	Organisation of the village's main festivities					
Sant Privat de Bas Les Soques Eudald Llagostera Tel.972693488	Organisation of the village's main festivities					
La Pinya Afores, s/n Joan Comas Tel.972.693548	Organisation of the village's main festivities					
SPORT ASSOCIATIONS						
Club Ciclista Bas Cal Pipaire Josep Font Tel.972.690086	Bycycle trips once a week	"Terra de Remences", an annual bycycle tour	50 (aprox.)	50 (aprox.)	8/10	Weekly trips 30/40 Persons <u>Annual tour:</u> 850 last edition (2000)
G.E.C.A Crta. Sta. Coloma, 29 Joan Pujolriu Tel.972.690399	* Hikes twice a month for adults and once a month for youngsters	"Lletisonada" (Annual popular march)	150 (aprox.)	150 (aprox.)	14/25 Membres of the Board	Monthly hikes: Adults: 40/50 partic. Youngsters: 20 <u>"Lletisonada"</u> 950 last edition (2000)
CEP Joan Maragall, 14 Ernest Grabulosa Tel. 972.691027						
FOOTBALL CLUBS						
Sant Esteve d'en Bas Joan Maragall, 11 Jaume Plana Tel.972.690416	Organise, participate and compete in football championships and leagues					
Els Hostalets Vic, 34 Lluís Batallar Tel. 972.690095	Organise, participate and compete in football championships and leagues					

Name and contact address	Main activities or tasks	Other activities	Number of Partners		Active volunt. Involved	Level of participation in the organisation's activities
			Local	External		
San Privat de Bas Pere Mercader Tel.972.690095	Organise, participate and compete in football championships and leagues					
Joanetes Jacint Verdaguer, 24 Francisco Prat Tel.972.690137	Organise, participate and compete in football championships and leagues					
OTHER						
Associació d'Hostaleria Creu, 7 Gaspar Hernández Tel.972.690292	*Annual gastronomic fair *Participation in the Sant Nicolau Fair		35		½	High participation of the members in all the events
Amics del Vescomtat de Bas Afores, s/n Jordi Alentorn Tel. 972.693110	Promote the research, the maintenance and the rehabilitation of the historical heritage of la Vall (information, annual prizes, painting competitions, etc.)					
Casal d'Avis Crt. Sta. Coloma, s/n Josep Torras Tel. 972.690067						
Associació Empresaris La Vall Joan Maragall, 32 Daniel Bosch Tel.972.690173	*2/3 annual meetings and 1 annual lecture-supper aimed at providing the associated employers with interesting information		50/60	20	4/5	High participation of the members in all the events (the last annual supper was attended by 80 persons)
A.P.A Parvulari Joan Maragall, 8 Josep M. Juanola Tel.972.691052						
A.P.A Verntallat Mas Can Paraquel, 15 Pilar Pujol Tel. 972.690133						
El Ratolí Rosa Comas Tel.972.690467	*Recreational activities for children *Camps for children	*Organisation of Carnival *Cooking courses *Collaboration with other local organisations in recreational and cultural events	This organisation has no associated members		4/5	High participation of the members in all the events

Salvem les Valls Jaume Cabañes Tel.972.690479	Events and manifestos against the construction of the Bracons tunnel	*Popular protest actions *Collaboration and coordination with other social organisations	40 aprox.	40 aprox.	8/10	High participation although people are somewhat afraid to demonstrate against the tunnel as local authorities are in favour of it.
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7.2. PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIL SOCIETY AND POLITICS

If, as we have already seen, the local population is quite committed to the work of the organisations of la Vall d'en Bas, the same can be said of their involvement in local politics, at least from what can be deduced from levels of participation in the elections at the local, regional and national levels. This is what Table 40 shows: that the percentage of participation in the three most recent elections at the local, regional and national levels was quite higher than in the rest of the county.

TABLE 40. PARTICIPATION AND ABSEENTISM IN ELECTIONS.				
Elections	Municipality		County	
	Participation	Abseentism	Participation	Abseentism
Municipal (1999)	76,59	23,41	66,09	33,91
Regional (2000)	72,58	27,42	67,06	32,94
National (2000)	69,42	30,58	66,46	33,54

Source: Calculations of our own from the data obtained through the Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya's website. Consultation made on the 22/3/2001

Another remarkable fact typical of la Vall d'en Bas is that the degree of political participation is higher as the closer the geographical level of the election is to its citizens. That is, local elections have a higher level of participation than regional ones and those more than national ones.

7.3. RELIGION

As in most Catalan rural areas, the majority of the inhabitants of la Vall d'en Bas have been born in Catalonia or Spain. Since the ejection of arabs and jews in the period of the Catholic Kings 500 years ago, the vast majority of the native population is formally catholic. But the fact of being catholic does not mean that all these citizens practice their religion. In fact, the number of practicing catholics has been radically decreasing for long both in Catalonia and Spain so at the moment, despite the scarcity of data, it is well known than practicing catholics are fewer than non-practising ones.

An indirect indicator of this trend is the number of individuals who in their income statement choose the Catholic Church over lay social organisations to devote a fixed percentage (0,5%) of their taxes. According to the last available data in Spain, less than half its population earmarks this percentage for the Catholic Church and in Catalonia only a fourth part. Although these data cannot be considered to be a reliable reflection of religiousness, they certainly show which is the concern that people feel for the Church.

If one takes into account that in this regard la Vall d'en Bas is not likely to differ very much from Catalonia as a whole and one adds to this consideration the low presence of the "faithful", particularly young people, in the most important religious ceremonies held in la Vall d'en Bas as well as in most Catalan municipalities and cities, it is easy to infer that the practice of the Catholic faith is currently very minor and even decreasing.

7.4. DELINQUENCY AND SAFETY

Although there are no specific data concerning these subjects, from what has been said by the municipality's mayor and other representative local individuals it does not seem that these are issues of great concern. According to the same sources, both in the municipality and in the rest of the county, the level of delinquency or the number of offences registered are not very high particularly if compared with the figures in urban or more populated areas. Broadly speaking it seems up till now that la Vall d'en Bas is far from suffering from any social alarm considering the number as well as the type of offences.

In general, the above mentioned interlocutors comment that la Vall d'en Bas is a very quiet place to live in where the few offences registered -above all factory and housebreaking- are committed by people from outside the municipality. The arrests recently carried out by the police have confirmed this assumption as most of the offenders do not even have Spanish nationality.

7.5. NETWORKS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

The same as in the previous section, there are no statistical or other data related to this subject. Nevertheless, the interviews held with the municipality's mayor and with other persons involved in some of the most significant local organisations point out that the networks of information and communication which exist in la Vall d'en Bas as well as their levels of use and audience are probably very similar to what may be found in the rest of the county or throughout Catalonia.

It can also be said that in la Vall d'en Bas, as is the general norm in Catalonia, people know about general events at the regional, national or international levels mostly from television. It would be certainly very difficult to find a household with no television. It is surely the most important media for people to know about general information and includes public and private national and regional chains where news are approached in a more or less superficial way as their main aim is usually to entertain rather than to inform and have viewing figures and advertising targets very much in mind. Only a minority of the local population uses the printed press to keep informed of general events.

The households with parabolic aerials are still very few although they are on the increase. Cable television does not exist yet in the municipality and the households with Internet are also still very few, of which the youngsters are the major users.

8. LOCAL SOCIAL CAPITAL

A social capital survey was carried out using "proxy" statements to examine the characteristics of trust; reciprocity and mutuality; shared norms of behaviour; shared commitment and belonging; formal and informal social networks; and effective information channels. The questionnaire is included as Appendix 1. The full results with the other CONSCISE Locations are included in Appendix 2.

The questionnaire was completed by 100 local residents of La Vall d'en Bas. It consisted of two parts. The first 22 questions related to the six elements of social capital; while the remaining 12 asked questions about the circumstances of the respondent.

In this section on local social capital we shall, firstly, consider the profile of the residents who responded to the questionnaire; secondly, analyse their responses to the six elements of social capital using an index for social capital; and highlight the main issues to emerge from the survey so far. Further analysis will be carried out in the future, in particular to examine the variations in the local

social capital index according to demographic characteristics. It should be noted that the Local Socio-Economic Profiles are meant to be 'live' documents and it is expected that they will continue to be built upon and amended over the life of the CONSCISE Project and beyond.

8.1 Profile of Respondents to the Survey

The main points from the demographic section of the survey are that:

- Just over a half of respondents were male (52%).
- Over a half of the respondents (54%) were aged over 45 years of age, indicating an age spread mainly towards older people in the sample, which reflects the actual resident profile for the locality. The rest of the respondents were evenly spread between the age groups 16-24 years, 25-34 years and 35-44 years.
- Over a half (55%) have either no (8%) or only school level (47%) educational qualifications, and only 9% hold university level qualifications. This reflects the more elderly age structure among respondents. i.e. they are more likely not to have received higher education.
- Almost 62% of the respondents are married and a further 8% divorced. A further 29% of respondents are single persons and, there are no recorded widows or widowers among the respondents.
- A very large proportion (86%) own their own home and only 9% privately rent their home, there being no state housing provision in the locality.
- Most of the respondents have lived at their current home for over 31 years (52%) and only 7% of respondents have lived in their current home for less than 5 years. This not only reflects a very stable community, but also the generally low turnover in the area.
- Around three quarters of the respondents (75%) have lived in the locality for over 31 years representing a very settled and stable community and locality.
- A good proportion (45%) of the respondents live with their partner (16%) or partner and children (29%), and a further 24% live in their parental home. Although 32% of respondents

live with either their partner and children (29%) or just with their children (3%), only about 23% of respondents have children under 15 living with them. The household circumstances of respondents reflect an ageing community profile, but also one that is very stable and closely networked. Only 10% of the respondents live alone.

- The response to the question about ethnicity is spurious as a large number of respondents may have misinterpreted the question. The area is ethnically homogenous.
- Almost 55% of respondents are in full or part-time work (50% full and 4% part time) while a large proportion over 1 in 4 (27%) regard themselves as retired. Surprisingly only 1% are on long-term sick or disabled benefit and unable to work, and only 2% are unemployed, although 9% regard themselves as homemakers. These figures suggest that a respondent profile in keeping with the local population profile as a whole.
- Under a half (38%) of respondents indicate being a member of a local community organisation. This is perhaps not surprising given that involvement in local co-operatives is not regarded in terms of 'membership' as such.

8.2 LEVELS OF LOCAL SOCIAL CAPITAL

- a) Trust; Reciprocity and Mutuality; Shared norms of behaviour; Shared Commitment and Belonging; Social Networks; and Effective Information Channels

The following table summarises the elements of trust, etc. as calculated using an index (details of the calculation are included in Appendix 2). An index score of 3 is the mid point – less than that (i.e. 2 and 1) indicates higher levels of trust, etc. and more than that (i.e. 4 and 5) lower levels of trust, etc.

Element of Social Capital	Overall Index	Index For males	Index for females	Index for people with children < 15	Index for people <u>without</u> children < 15
Trust	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9
Reciprocity /mutuality	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.1
Shared norms	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.3
Shared	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8

commitment					
Social networks	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5
Information	2.4	-	-	-	-
Overall (av.)	2.18	2.19	2.11	2.20	2.12

The main points from the above table are:

- Overall there is a very “positive” level of social capital in the area. It is difficult to assess this without a comparison. The table in Appendix 2 shows comparison with other areas in the CONSCISE project.
- There are higher levels of social capital in the elements of trust and shared commitment than in shared norms and reciprocity / mutuality.
- There are lower levels of social capital in terms of the characteristics of social networks and information channels. This is not significant however, since the indices again display a relatively high level of local social capital on this component.

b) *Effective Information Channels*

The main points from the survey results are that:

- Almost half the groups listed in the survey on local associations (i.e. 9 out of the 19) had been heard of by over 75% of the respondents. Even the least heard of group (CEP) had been heard of by 33% of the respondents. This suggests good local information channels and very high awareness of local activities.
- Membership of such groups was obviously less and only clubs de futbol and the Coop de la Val den Bas showed a density of membership among those who had heard of the groups above 25% (i.e. 39% of those who had heard of clubs de futbol were also members and 26% of those who had heard of the Co-op de la Val Den Bas were also members).
- A very high proportion of respondents (72%) mainly rely on talking to neighbours (50%) and the community newspaper (22%) for their main sources of local news. This suggests a heavy

reliance on local social capital in this respect as well as a high capacity for local social capital to be further generated in this way.

- Most respondents rely on information from family to make important decisions (67%). This was the case in other localities, however there was quite a high reliance recorded for professional agencies as well (21%) and a very low reliance on friends (6%) for such information. This might suggest the extent to which family comes first rather than any distrust in the importance of friends for such purposes.

8.3 KEY ISSUES ON LOCAL SOCIAL CAPITAL IN THE AREA

- The sample size for the survey in La Vall d'en Bas was very high and enabled some generalisations on the levels of social capital in the area. This however was not the primary intention of the survey, it being part of a wider profiling methodology and serving as a mainly heuristic device. The survey and its indices are indicative and could be used as a baseline for future methodological development and research.
- The high levels of local social capital indicated in terms of all the six characteristics, would appear to be in keeping with both the relatively isolated, well settled, socially and ethnically homogenous and small rural character of the locality. The key social enterprise, Cooperative de la Val den Bas, has emerged from the roots of a tight knit and stable community with apparently high stocks of local social capital.
- Most of the respondents had heard of most of the community and voluntary associations listed.
- Family, and neighbours and the local community newspaper figure highly in providing local information. Less prominent as information channels are meetings and local posters. Family are the ones mainly relied upon in a crisis, which appears to be very characteristic of the locality.

9. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

From the administrative point of view, la Vall d'en Bas is a rather new municipality. In fact, it has only existed for the last 35 years, as a result of the merger or aggregation of the previously existing 4 municipalities. These municipalities included other smaller population units like villages or hamlets scattered over an area amounting to nearly 100 km², some of which had also been independent municipalities in a remoter past, and their total number was 7.

It was a territory with a very marked peasant or rural tradition where accordingly most of its inhabitants lived off the land. They were farmers who either owned their land or were leased small plots, which were usually far from one another as a result of inheritances, marriages between members of the same community or other circumstances. Towards the end of the sixties, land was so fragmented and plots worked by a same person or family so distant, farms so small and farmers so isolated and poorly connected that practically all of them agreed that this situation was seriously hampering any prospects of local economic growth. This was not a feasible model which was forcing local people to migrate towards towns where there were factories where they could work with better prospects.

But at the end of the sixties and the beginning of the seventies, a number of things happened that changed radically the local situation. First, taking advantage of a law enacted during Franco's time which promoted agricultural development, it took place what has been known as **land concentration**, a process by which plots were exchanged between their owners in order to constitute new units and end fragmentation. Second, there was **the merger of the 4 municipalities into only 1** and third, **the creation of the co-operative** by a number of local farmers.

All these changes, led by the local population and the grass-roots organisations, in just a five-year period (from 1966 to 1971), ensured the feasibility and thus the survival of agricultural and stockbreeding activities, laid the ground for a regular modernisation and updating of farms, stopped or at least reduced significantly the migratory exodus and, perhaps the most important thing, made local farmers recover the trust, the hope and the self-esteem they had lost.

Thirty years later, it is obvious that those events and changes have been enormously positive for the region and for all its inhabitants. Agricultural and stockbreeding activities have been kept alive and the region has not been spoilt by any massive industrial and urban transformation. The local population

is not declining because there are enough jobs so no one is forced to migrate. There are practically no unemployed individuals and although the number of peasants has certainly decreased it has been in a much less acute way than in other similar regions. The existence of the co-operative has been an important asset in this regard.

This co-operative is now one of the biggest companies in the municipality and certainly the most important social enterprise according to the impact of its activities on the local social and economic development. More than 200 local farmers, which are the heads of 80% of the farms in the municipality, are co-operative members. This co-operative is also both the main provider and customer of these farms and supplies them as well with key data, agricultural services and the essential counselling that these kind of farms need. This is what basically explains the high number of individuals still employed in agriculture in this municipality, whose percentage exceeds the figures of other similar areas of rural Catalonia. The direct and indirect economic size of the co-operative in the overall local economy has been estimated to be close to 25%, so this is the percentage that can be ascribed to social economy in this area.

As for the strictly social dimension, as a likely result of the above mentioned merger of municipalities, la Vall d'en Bas has a social infrastructure (school and cultural facilities, social and health services, transport) which most of the local actors interviewed² consider appropriate to the municipality's needs.

Most of the local actors also agree that in spite of the historical period (Franco's Dictatorship) when the events that have resulted in the present situation happened (the land concentration, the merger of municipalities and the creation of the co-operative), they were assumed by most of the local inhabitants who took an active part in their implementation. The land concentration and the creation of the co-operative in particular required many meetings and involved many discussions and debates between those affected in order to reach the necessary pacts and agreements to make such a step forward. This dialogue led to an increased relationships and to mutual knowledge between a significant number of the inhabitants of the different villages and hamlets which today constitute la Vall d'en Bas, so it was probably from there that the increase and improvement of what is known as Social Capital took its roots.

This process is also likely to explain the emergence of a number of local community and social organisations (cultural, sport, recreational, etc.) and guilds which has to be considered as very important both from the quantitative and qualitative outlook in comparison with other places of a similar size. It is also worth mentioning the high level of participation of the local population in the activities carried out by these organisations. It is a very likely hypothesis that successful experiences such as the land concentration, the merger of municipalities and the creation of the co-operative and the high level of popular participation and shared work through which they were undertaken were the necessary seeds and encouragement to launch new joint initiatives and increase the levels of mutual trust and thus to produce and reproduce Social Capital.

Consistent with what is said above, the level of participation and involvement of the local population in politics is also higher than in other similar places as for instance the rest of the county. In this regard, the inhabitants of this municipality take a more active part in local elections than in regional and national elections, just the opposite of what happens in most of the similar municipalities of this county. This is another fact that reinforces the hypothesis that the creation of Social Capital produces more Social Capital. If one agrees that the recent history and evolution of this municipality has favoured the creation and the increase of Social Capital it is logical that people rely particularly on those who are nearer and acquainted with and know from experience that by working with others achieve more personal and social benefits than doing things on an individual basis.

² Monitoring Committee for the Local Socioeconomic Diagnosis, whose members are the mayor, the town council secretary and ex-secretary, the President of the Employers' Association, the Manager of the co-operative and one social researcher specialised in the local reality.

Appendix 1: Local Social Capital Questionnaire
CONSCISE: ESTUDIO SOBRE EL CAPITAL SOCIAL DE LOS RESIDENTES. Municipio de la Vall d'en Bas.

La intención de esta encuesta es saber cómo te sientes viviendo en tu localidad. Su objetivo principal es el de medir lo que se conoce como "capital social"; los niveles de confianza y de relaciones sociales entre la población local. Como la medición del capital social no es fácil, se han creado una serie de indicadores de los 6 elementos más relevantes del mismo. Estos elementos son los que constituyen la confianza, la reciprocidad/mutualidad, las normas de conducta, el sentimiento de pertenencia y compromiso compartido, las redes sociales y los canales de información. La respuesta a las preguntas de este cuestionario nos permitirá evaluar los grados de capital social en tu área local.

La encuesta finaliza con una sección en la que se solicita información personal, la cual será tratada con la más estricta confidencialidad ya que, como se puede observar, no se solicita ni el nombre ni la dirección.

Por favor marcar el recuadro que corresponda a vuestra respuesta.

1. En términos generales, es éste un lugar seguro para vivir.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. En general, se puede confiar en la mayoría de personas de este lugar.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Si estuviera al cuidado de un niño y en caso de emergencia tuviera que salir un rato ¿confiaría en mis vecinos para cuidar de él?

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. La mayoría de políticos locales anteponen las necesidades de la localidad a a sus propios intereses.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. A la larga, ayudando a los demás te ayudas a ti mismo.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Si veo algún envase o basura tirada en este municipio normalmente los recojo aunque no los haya tirado yo.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. En este municipio la gente tiende a ayudarse.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. En general mis valores coinciden con los de la mayoría de esta localidad.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Puedo expresar libremente mi opinión sobre un tema específico aunque ésta no coincida con la del resto del vecindario.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. La presencia de distintas culturas en una zona hace que ésta sea un buen lugar para vivir.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Si llegase algún extranjero al vecindario sería aceptado sin problemas.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. En general, me siento muy satisfecho con el vecindario que tengo.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

13. Siento que también tengo cierta responsabilidad en lo que se refiere al futuro de esta localidad.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

14. Siempre suelo defender la reputación de mi localidad si alguien hace comentarios desfavorables sobre la misma.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

15. Constituye un deber de todos los residentes votar cuando hay elecciones.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

16. Muchos de mis familiares residen en esta localidad.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

17. La mayoría de mis amigos residen en esta localidad.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

18. La mayoría de personas con las que me relaciono también residen en esta localidad.

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

19. La mayoría de las personas del vecindario se relacionan entre sí

<i>Totalmente de acuerdo</i>	<i>De acuerdo</i>	<i>Ni de acuerdo ni en desacuerdo</i>	<i>En desacuerdo</i>	<i>Totalmente en desacuerdo</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. A continuación se relacionan 20 asociaciones locales [*X de las cuales son organizaciones sociales]. Marcar el recuadro correspondiente a aquellas de las que hayas oído hablar o de las que seas miembro.

Asociación	He oído hablar	Soy miembro de
1 GECA		
2 CEP		
3 CLUB CICLISTA BAS		
4 ASSOCIACIÓ EMPRESARIS		
5 ASSOCIACIÓ HOSTELERIA, COMERÇ I TURISME		
6 ASSOCIACIÓ PARES D' ALUMNES (APA)		
7 CASALS D'AVIS		
8 CLUBS DE FUTBOL		
9 ASSOCIACIONS DE VEÏNS		
10 AMICS VESCOMPTAT D'EN BAS		
11 COMISSIONS DE FESTES		
12 SALVEM LES VALLS		
13 PATRONAT MUNICIPAL TURISME		
14 EL RATOLÍ		
15 EMISSORA MUNICIPAL		
16 GRUP DE TEATRE BAS		
17 ESPLAI LA PALLOFA		
18 COOP DE LA VALL D'EN BAS		

19 LLAR D'INFANTS		
-------------------	--	--

21. La mayoría de informaciones sobre los acontecimientos importantes del municipio las obtengo a través de:

(Marcar un recuadro solamente)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Hablando con los vecinos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Tablón de anuncios del Ayuntamiento</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Carteles</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Asistiendo a reuniones de los grupos locales / asociaciones</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Boletín informativo local</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>El periódico local</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>La emisora de radio local</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Otras fuentes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>[Indicar cuál]</i> | |

22. Si necesito información para poder tomar una decisión importante relacionada con el trabajo, la vivienda, el cuidado de mi familia, etc., prefiero conseguirla a través de:

(Marcar un recuadro solamente)

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Familiares</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Compañeros de trabajo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Amigos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Agencias profesionales</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Otras fuentes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>[Indicar cuál.....]</i> | |

INFORMACIÓN PERSONAL:

Marcar el recuadro según corresponda.

23. Género: Hombre Mujer

24. Edad: (.....)

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <i>15 años o menor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>16 - 24</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>25 - 34</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>35 - 44</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>45-64</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>65 y +</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

25. Educación:

[Indicar nivel de estudios conseguido – marcar sólo un recuadro]

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sin estudios | <input type="checkbox"/> | Estudios primarios (nivel EGB) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Estudios secundarios (Nivel Bachillerato o FP 2º Grado) | | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Nivel universitario	<input type="checkbox"/>	Formación profesional	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Estado civil:			
[Marcar un recuadro indicando tu estado actual]			
Casado/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pareja de hecho	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soltero/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	Divorciado/a	<input type="checkbox"/>
Viudo/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	Otros	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Indicar.....)			
27. Tu vivienda es:			
De propiedad	<input type="checkbox"/>	De alquiler (propiedad privada)	<input type="checkbox"/>
De alquiler (propiedad municipal o estatal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alquiler (ni propiedad estatal ni municipal)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otros	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Indicar	
28. Tiempo de residencia:			
¿Cuánto tiempo hace que vives en tu domicilio actual?			
0-5 años	<input type="checkbox"/>	6-10 años	<input type="checkbox"/>
11- 20 años	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-30 años	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toda la vida	<input type="checkbox"/>		
29. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que vives en esta localidad?			
0-5 años	<input type="checkbox"/>	6-10 años	<input type="checkbox"/>
11- 20 años	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-30 años	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toda la vida	<input type="checkbox"/>		
30. Situación familiar: ¿Vives ...			
con los padres?	<input type="checkbox"/>	con tu pareja?	<input type="checkbox"/>
con tu pareja/hijos?	<input type="checkbox"/>	con tus hijos?	<input type="checkbox"/>
en familia extensa	<input type="checkbox"/>	con amigos/otros	<input type="checkbox"/>
solo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Otros	<input type="checkbox"/>
[Indicar			
31. Hijos:			
¿Tienes hijos de 15 años o menores de esta edad viviendo contigo?			
(Indicar sí o no)	Sí <input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

32. Grupo cultural:

¿Te consideras un miembro del principal grupo cultural de este vecindario?

(Indicar sí o no) Sí No

33. Situación laboral:

Marcar el recuadro que mejor describa tu situación laboral actual:

- Trabajo a jornada completa
- Media jornada
- En paro y buscando empleo
- Jubilado
- Estudiante a tiempo completo
- Larga enfermedad / discapacidad o incapacidad laboral
- Ama de casa a tiempo completo
- Otros [Indicar]

34. Implicación con la comunidad:

¿Eres miembro de alguna de las organizaciones locales de la comunidad?

(Indicar sí o no) Sí No

En caso afirmativo, indicar de cuál.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

GRACIAS POR TU COOPERACIÓN
DEVOLVER ESTE CUESTIONARIO A:

.....
.....

Appendix 2: Local Social Capital Commentary

GENERAL COMMENTARY:

1. SURVEY:

A survey of residents of the 8 selected fieldwork localities was carried out using the Local Social Capital Survey questionnaire devised in Workpackage 2. This questionnaire involved two main sections:

1. A **Local Social Capital survey section** examining social capital via responses to 22 questions covering 6 agreed characteristics of social capital as follows:
 - 1.1 Trust: Questions 1 - 4
 - 1.2 Reciprocity: Questions 5 - 7
 - 1.3 Shared Norms: Questions 8-11
 - 1.4 Shared Commitment: Questions 12-15
 - 1.5 Social Networks: Questions 16-19
 - 1.6 Information Channels: Questions 20-22

2. A **demographic section** containing 12 questions about the respondents - gender, age, education, marital status, housing status, length of residence (at current address and in locality), household composition, children in the household, dominant ethnicity, employment and community involvement.

The following localities were surveyed and produced the according number of completed survey forms:

3.	Kreuzberg, Germany	58
	Wedding, Germany	52
	La Mina, Catalonia	104
	Val den Bas, Catalonia	100
	Natsanjo, Sweden	84
	Umea, Sweden	69

Benarty		156
Of which	Lochgelly	56
	Benarty prop	100
Waltham Forest, England		52

2. INITIAL ANALYSIS:

All survey questionnaire data from each of the 8 localities has been input for analysis on to SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The analysis carried out to date has been as follows:

Indices of Local Social Capital: (for total population of each locality)

The data for each locality has been analysed to generate local social capital indicators for each of the characteristics of social capital (1.1 to 1.6 - see above). For the *first five characteristics* (Questions 1-19) an index of local social capital has been generated where the scores correspond to levels of local social capital:

Very high level of local social capital	1
High level of local social capital	2
Medium level of local social capital	3
Low level of local social capital	4
Very low level of local social capital	5

Question 1-19: Indices for each of the 5 characteristics were generated by multiplying the number of responses to each question clustered by its strength factor (i.e. Strongly agree x 1 through to strongly disagree x 5) and then dividing this by the overall number of responses to the question (or in this case cluster of questions). This derives an index for each question (or cluster of questions in a characteristic) ranging from 1 to 5 as above.

For the characteristic of Information channels the data was not collected in the form of the attitudinal scales used for questions 1-19. It was therefore decided to analyse the data for each of the 3 questions in the cluster as follows:

Question 20: This asked respondents to indicate which of a pre-selected list of 20 (or in the case of Benarty 32) local associations they had heard of and which they were members of. To derive this index it was decided to take the total number of instances where respondents had heard of the local

associations listed expressed as a proportion of the maximum possible numbers of respondents who could have heard of all the local associations listed (i.e. total sample size x number of listed associations). This would produce a ratio of 0 to 1, which could then be converted / inverted to generate a 1 to 5 scale corresponding to very high local social capital (equivalent to where all respondents indicated that they had heard of all the local associations listed) and very low local social capital (equivalent to where all respondents indicated that they had NOT heard of any of the local associations listed).

Question 21: This asked respondents to indicate where they get most of the news about important events in their locality. It was decided that it would indicate very high levels of local social capital if the majority of respondents were indicating they got such news from either talking with neighbours, attending meetings of local groups / associations or from posters in the locality. The total number of responses in these 3 categories were then expressed as a proportion of total responses to question 21 and this was then converted / inverted to generate a 1 to 5 scale corresponding to very high local social capital (equivalent to where all respondents got their news about important local events from one of the three categories offered) and very low local social capital (equivalent to where all respondents got their news about important local events from ALTERNATIVE categories to one the previous three categories).

Question 22: This asked respondents to indicate where they would most likely get information from to make an important decision in their life. It was decided that it would indicate very high levels of local social capital if the majority of respondents indicated that they got their information from family and friends as opposed to work colleagues, professional agencies or other sources. The total number of responses in these 2 categories were then expressed as a proportion of total responses to Question22 and this was then converted / inverted to generate a 1 to 5 scale corresponding to very high local social capital (equivalent to where all respondents got their information to make important decisions in their life from family and friends) and very low local social capital (equivalent to where all respondents got their information to make important decisions in their life from work colleagues, professional agencies or other sources).

For each locality we can then derive a local social capital index (ranging from 1 to 5) for the total population responding for each of the 6 characteristics of local social capital. By averaging these 6 index scores we can of course derive a crude overall index of local social capital for each locality.

Further analysis can be carried out by interrogating the responses to questions 1-22 of specific sections of the total population (i.e. by gender, age, level of educational attainment, marital status, housing tenure, length of residence at present address or in the locality, type of household, with / without children, whether self-regarded as part of main local ethnic group or not, employment status, and level of community involvement). Or even by combinations of these demographic variables.

3. ANALYSIS:

The Local Social Capital indices for the *total* population responding to the survey for each locality have been calculated and are provided as Table 1.

4. FURTHER ANALYSIS:

As indicated earlier, further more detailed analysis can be carried out to examine the local social capital variables for variation by independent demographic variables (e.g. gender, age, education, marital status, housing status, length of residence (at current address and in locality), household composition, children in the household, dominant ethnicity, employment and community involvement). Some limited analysis has been carried out in terms of variation by gender and the presence or absence of children in the household.

LOCATION	Number of respondents	OVERALL LOCAL SOCIAL CAPITAL INDEX	Trust (Q1-4)	Reciprocity (Q 5-7)	Shared Norms (Q8-11)	Shared Commitment (Q.12-15)	Social Networks (Q16-19)	Information Channels (Q20-22)	Local Associations (q.20)	Local News (q.21)	Important Information (q.22)
Kreuzberg, de	58	2.68	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.2	3.2	3.0	4.4	2.5	2.3
Wedding, de	52	2.85	3.1	2.7	3.0	2.7	3.4	2.2	3.5	1.6	1.5
La Mina, Es	104	3.03	3.3	3.2	3.5	2.7	3.0	2.5	3.1	2.4	2.0
Val Den Bas, Es	100	2.18	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.8	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.1
Nastsanjo, se	84	1.88	1.9	1.5	2.2	1.7	2.2	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.7
Umea, se	69	2.36	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.9	3.0	4.1	1.5
Benarty, UK	156	2.33	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.9	3.6	3.3	1.7
Benarty proper	100	2.26	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.8	3.7	3.0	1.7
Lochgelly	56	2.33	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.9	3.6	3.5	1.7
Waltham Forest, UK	52	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.5	2.3

TABLE 1: INDICES OF LOCAL SOCIAL CAPITAL

