**OpenLIVES Spanish Émigré interviews – Emilio Madruga 2**

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| Interviewee: | Emilio Madruga |
| Interviewer: | Dr. Alicia Pozo-Gutierrez |
| Interview date: | 29 March 2008 |
| Location: | Miralbueno, Zaragoza |
| Duration: | 00:06:19 |
| Countries of migration: | Germany |

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** OpenLIVES materials are interviews with individuals and describe the personal memories, perspectives, and knowledge of those individuals. English synopses for OpenLIVES were created by students working on the project. The idea behind the synopsis is to give a broad outline of the content NOT to give an exact translation of an interviewee’s words. In some cases, there were sections which were difficult to hear or summarise and which we have been unable to clarify. These areas are highlighted in red. If users of this material do further work in contextualising this testimony, please share your work with the world through the HumBox!

**Synopsis:**

[00.30 – 06.19] Benefits he brought back to Spain from working in Germany

Since many Spaniards had returned from Germany, Spanish industry has changed as a result, because they have brought lots of technology and ideas with them. This has been very interesting for their employers. All these people coming back from having worked in German and French industry contributed to the innovation and development of Spanish industry. They helped in two ways; by sending money back to their families (he sent 800,000 German Marks[[1]](#footnote-1) back to Spain every month) and by gaining work experience. That was a lot of money back then.

Before returning to Spain he was taking a course in Germany to train to become a welder to go and work building rail bridges in India. Having met his wife he had to abandon his plans to go to India. He had wanted to go to India, Canada or Australia to travel and see the world a bit. But then they got married and started to think about buying a flat and having kids.

Now that he is retired he doesn’t know what to do. He has a social life, sometimes he goes on a little trip. When your wife was alive did you think about returning to Germany on holiday? During holidays his wife always wanted to go back to her home town. He shows the interviewer a picture of the place. They used to have a house in that town, but they don’t have it any more. They used to rent it but came to a point where they could no longer afford to keep it.

Finish the interview. Interviewer says she is interested in interviewing a broad range of Spaniards to be able to draw overall conclusions from their experiences. Emilio says that not all Spaniards would have the same opinion.

Emilio gives permission for the interviewer to use the interview for academic purposes. He doesn’t require anonymity.

He is satisfied with his overall experience of immigration.

1. ***German Mark*** - was the official currency of West Germany (1948–1990) and Germany (1990–2002) until the adoption of the euro in 2002. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)