

EC Partners

ALTER VIDA Center of Studies and Training for Eco-Development

Latin America and the Caribbean Women and Habitat Network

79 institutions involved

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: € 640 000 (80% of the project)
- Duration: 2006-2009
- Beneficiaries: 303 women and 2091 family members



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Gender equality

Regional initiative for the equality of women in employment in Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru

"The project has generated long term impacts through media campaigns and coordinated work with public and private institutions. We succeeded in emphasising the importance of gender equality in the region and starting the construction of a common agenda at national level."

Team Pares/Altervida, Paraguay
(Regional Coordinator of the Project)



Context

In South America, both high unemployment and the lack of a coordinated employment policy have had a negative socio-economic impact. Women receive less income than men and gender mainstreaming does not facilitate access to professions such as office work. Poor working conditions and low wages continue to affect women's labour, whilst the initiatives at municipal and departmental level for the insertion of women workers in non-agricultural jobs are scarce.

Objective

- Establishing policies on gender and employment as well as set gender issues as priorities in the agendas of public institutions.
- Increasing public awareness by exposing the problem of gender equality in employment through media campaigns, publications, short videos and seminars.

Impact

- 10 public institutions at national level and 14 institutions at municipal level implemented programmes and strategies for gender equality.
- 46 Paraguayan public and civil society organisations have been involved in the process of the construction of priority agendas.
- 7 pilot projects improved the living conditions of 303 women, 2 091 family members and 20 trade unions.
- Audiovisual material was presented at the "Encuentro Feminista Latinoamericano y del Caribe" conference in Mexico and Paraguay, and the short video *Partida* participated in international film festivals.

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The experience of Mellizza Valdez, a Paraguayan domestic employee

"I am part of a group of maids and we are training to set up a trade union in order to know more about our rights and obligations. The Association of Maids of Paraguay's primary objective is to inform and train domestic employees. We want this profession to be considered as a job equal to others; to be a profession of choice and not just a job of necessity because of lack of other options. We want to receive our salary, receive our Christmas bonus, have the right to healthcare and to be paid for any overtime hours worked, just like anyone else.

As a member of this Association, I receive one-day training workshops and have frequent meetings where I can ask questions and get useful advice in relation to my situation. Slowly I have become familiar with the laws regarding maids in Paraguay.

When I first started working at the age of 13, I was earning less money and I was not aware of my rights. Since I became a member of the Association of Maids of Paraguay, I now earn what my work is truly worth. Now I am better informed about my rights and I receive better treatment for more money. I can guarantee a better quality of life for me and my family and I look forward to the future with hope."



Workshop on "Women and Political Power"