

EU Partner

Initiatives for Identity and Inclusion, A.C. (INICIA)

Facts and Figures

- EC Contribution: € 85 000 (74% of total)
- Duration: 2008 - 2010
- Geographical Zone: State of Chiapas



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Civil Society

Guaranteeing labour rights of young people in Chiapas (Mexico)

"The association 'Initiatives for Identity and Inclusion' (INICIA) is an organization that, since its foundation, has focused on issues related to youth. We intend to promote a strategy aimed at responding to the issue of labour for youth in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, due to the high poverty index."

Tajín Villagómez, 'Initiatives for Identity and Inclusion'



Context

Employment in Mexico is a topic that presents severe difficulties. Growing unemployment among young people is a very serious issue. Those who manage to get a job often face inadequate conditions and limited labour protection. In the State of Chiapas, between 27% and 37% of young workers receive less than 150 dollars a month. This project was launched by the association "Initiative for Identity and Inclusion", which seeks to guarantee labour rights for young people in Chiapas, and has been financed by the European Union.

Objectives

- To promote the enforcement of young people's labour rights in Chiapas through the design of youth-oriented policies.

Impact

- Over 200 young individuals belonging to civil society organizations, employers, and government employees have been trained in evaluation of labour conditions of young people in San Cristobal, Chiapas.
- A program has been created to facilitate the participation of civil society in the construction of the public agenda on Human Rights for Youth in Mexico City.

Guaranteeing labour rights of young people in Chiapas (Mexico)

The story of Jacinta

"I come from Yamula, in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. It is a town with rough dirt tracks, it is pretty because there are many trees, it is big, a lot of people live there, and word has it we will finally have access to drinking water. I used to go to school. I finished middle school, and then stayed home helping my mom.

To be honest, before I started working, I was afraid because I had never worked before, and I didn't know what it was going to be like. It was tiring because I started to work in a shoe store where I had to dust and move things to their place. The store has a tin-roof, so it was unbearably hot. After a while, I was moved to the sales department. I could not quit my job since I was helping my mom and my sisters who continue studying.

I am the one who helps the family because my dad left when I was little, and my sisters' father migrated to the United States, but we have not heard from him in seven years. I earn 800 pesos (approximately 45 €) a week. Everything is very expensive, and the money I earn is not enough, I give 200 pesos (approximately 11 €) to my mom, and I help my sisters with school expenses. I have run out of money on several occasions.

My boss unjustly accused me of stealing equipment worth 11 000 pesos (approximately 620 €). I decided to quit and I found a new job. I would like to keep working to help my sisters."



EU-Chiapas