



ROUND TABLES/DEBATES REPORT

December / January 2013

- *Partner: Bartın Directorate of National Education*
- *Target group: Unemployed women*

The meeting started with participation of 18 people from different working areas such as university lectures, doctors, members of third sector organizations, physiologists, officers of social services, inspectors, decision makers, directors and project coordinators.

The following topics were discussed, the problems were analyzed, and solutions for those challenges were looked for. Also, the participants gave their opinions about how social mediation and popular education promotes equal opportunities, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

Let's do it better project is based on educational and training competences of the participants, in order to become promoters of their own social emancipation and social integration.

Round tables and debates based on interviews with the beneficiaries are an inspiration both for beneficiaries and professionals to think about how popular education and social mediation promote social and political empowerment of target group.

Please describe - according to the beneficiaries -

1. how popular education and social mediation contribute to valorize beneficiaries as professionals in terms of:

o equal opportunities :

Popular education and social mediation provides beneficiaries a chance to express their inner worlds, feelings, opinions and expectations for future life because unemployed women as our target groups of the project are involved in debates and discussions.



During these debates they are able to get in touch with other women with the same conditions and they find out that they are not the only ones who suffer from various problems such as violence, lack of education, income and affection, social exclusion or being underestimated.

Also, the more they share the more they empower because they learn their rights, what to do, where to apply and how to manage legal procedures in case of any trouble. They feel more secure, get more conscious, and increase motivation and interest to be more active in society. They try to discover their abilities, improve their skills for personal development and then look for opportunities to get a job.

What's more, they have an easy and free access to get qualifications and training in terms of popular education and social meditation. So, all these are regarded as equal opportunities for everyone by the participants of the round table debates.

o social inclusion:

Unemployed women who are involved in social mediation and popular education are encouraged to be active members of the society. Instead of staying at home as a housewife, they are stimulated to improve their skills, get a job and earn their own life. Economical freedom is the first step to go beyond borders that will be followed by self-confidence, self-help and self-development.

In addition, the women enjoy being a part of a group, develop communication skills and self-expression skills during the project activities and all these contributes to reduce social exclusion.

o intercultural dialogue

As the projects gather people from different background and lifestyles such as inhabitants of rural areas and city center, professionals and amateurs, well-educated and uneducated people, officers and members of third sector organizations, it increases the volume of the dialogue and communication among beneficiaries. The participants get to



know each other closer and better, realize different lifestyles, improve a different perspective towards them, so the project contributes intercultural dialogue.

2. how the practices of active citizenship and equal opportunities promote a process of target group's social and political empowerment

As Bartın is a rural city, most of the inhabitants live in villages. Although the women in rural areas are in social and economical life, they are not aware of how to ask for their legal rights. The practices of active citizenship and equal opportunities help them beware of their rights and make use of these rights.

When the women learn their rights, responsibilities, opportunities and competences, they become more conscious and they feel the necessity to be more active citizens. They begin to use their political and social rights. As a consequence, they have become socially and politically empowered.