



WP4 REPORT

FINAL MEETING

“Transforming Realities: Experiences and Challenges in the Fight against Gender-Based Violence”

ORIGINAL TITLE: “Transformando realidades: experiencias y desafíos en la Lucha contra la Violencia de Género”

Altea, Spain

30 May - 1 June 2024

INVITACIÓN
CEREMONIA DE CLAUSURA



★ **TRANSFORMANDO REALIDADES: EXPERIENCIAS Y DESAFÍOS EN LA LUCHA CONTRA LA VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO**

El excelentísimo Ayuntamiento de Altea os invita a participar a la clausura del proyecto europeo *EnEnWomen*.

El acto tendrá lugar el **viernes 31 de mayo de 2024, de 9:15 a 11:30h, en el Centro Social del Ayuntamiento** situado en la calle Marina Baixa, 2, de Altea.

Con la participación de:

- Anna Lanuza Berenguer, concejala de Bienestar Social del Ayuntamiento de Altea.
- Verónica Oca Menacho, coordinadora Centro Mujer Denia.
- Joaquim Devesa Crespo, concejal de Participación Ciudadana del Ayuntamiento de Altea.
- Angélica Martínez Jiménez, representante de Cruz Roja Altea.
- José María Borja Ivars, concejal de Comercio y Emprendimiento del Ayuntamiento de Altea.
- Yolanda García Henarejos, representante de la Asociación Las Kelly's de Benidorm y la Marina Baixa.

Funded by the European Union
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme



Hosting partner: Ajuntament d'Altea

INTRODUCTION

The final conference served as the apex of our two-year project, bringing together all the efforts and achievements into a comprehensive discussion with the local community. It involved **all 4 project partners**, each international partner travelling with 3 participant women and 1 local staff, local experts, public authorities including the major; relevant local associations and the community.

Aims

- To summarise and report to the citizenship the final results of the project
- To involve local citizenship in discussions on the main topics of interest during the various project activities
- To give voice to the testimonies of the women who took part in the project, protagonists of some of the topics discussed
- To acknowledge the importance of the project actions and the efforts of the partners by co-engaging authorities and decision-makers, and presenting to them the conclusions and recommendations elaborated
- To foster the exchange of outlooks and good practices between local associations, organisations and other entities in the area with the other international partners
- To consolidate the relations created between the working staff and the women participating in the project and strengthen the creation of alliances between associations and organisations
- To create a strategy for future collaboration, also after the end of the project

Objectives related to the topic:

- To make visible the situation of discrimination that women still suffer in the economy and in the public participation
- To raise awareness of the fact that gender violence has its origin in the inequality that women suffer due to sex.
- To point out how the sexual division of labor, the caring role of women, is one of the main causes of inequality
- To point out the empowerment of women as one of the lines of action of the administrations to end with the vulnerability of women to poverty

Moreover, with this conference, project partners conclude two years of work with the intention to continue with the creation of new international plans. Indeed, it paved the way for continued cooperation, ensuring that the partnerships and initiatives initiated will extend well beyond the project's official conclusion.

Discussions were held on:

- Gender Violence
- Gender Gap participation in public life
- Gender Gap in Employment

organised in a series of round table discussions, which included the following panellists:

- Desk 1. Mrs. Anna Lanuza Berenguer, councilor for Equality and Social Welfare; Mrs. Veronica Oca Menacho, Coordinator Women’s Center in Denia
- Desk 2. Mr. Joaquin Devesa Crespo, councilor for Citizen Participation; Mrs. Angelica Martinez Jimenez, Volunteer from Red Cross Altea
- Desk 3. Mr. Juan Jose Oliver, employment technician of the municipality of Altea; Mrs. Yolanda Garcia, activist and representative of the room cleaners (The kellys) in the hotels of Benidorm and the region Marina Baixa.

WORKING AGENDA

The final international meeting was a **one-day event** with an initial reception of participants the day before, and included different activities such as

- public arthorities' interventions,
- conferences, presentations by experts,
- testimonials from female representatives of local women's associations and witnesses (who were also participants in the project),
- interactive discussion activities that analysed both the phenomenon and the project itself,
- and cultural and touristic visits from a female perspective.

Working agenda day 1: Thursday 30 May

Time	Venue	Activity
All day	Altea – City centre	Arrival and accommodation of participants
20:00	Restaurant “Ca Pere” Adress: Costera Pont del Montcau, 15, Altea. Tlf: 633325840	Welcome dinner

Working agenda day 2: Friday 31 May

Time	Venue	Activity
9:00	Social Centre – Municipality of Altea	Gathering of participants
9:10 – 9:30	Social Centre – Municipality of Altea	Participants Registration
9:45 – 10:00	Social Centre – Municipality of Altea	<p>Welcome Speech and presentation of the agenda and activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diego Zaragoza Llorens. Mayor of Municipality of Altea • Germán Manjón Castillo. Councillor for European Projects
10:00 – 11:15	Social Centre – Municipality of Altea	<p>Presentations and debate</p> <p>Thematic block I. The effects of the pandemic on women. Strategies for awareness-raising, prevention and attention to gender violence from the Equality Offices and from the Social Services Department of the Municipality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Lanuza Berenguer. Councillor for Social Services Department. • Verónica Oca Menacho. Coordinator at the 24H Women's Centre of Denia. <p>Thematic block II. The impact of the Covid 19 crisis on the right to citizenship. Proposals from the local level to reduce the gender gap in participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joaquín Devesa Crespo. Councillor for Citizen Participation Department. • Ana Beltrán Corraliza. Social worker at Association Red Cross Altea. <p>Thematic block III. The effects of the pandemic on the labour market. Public employment policies and their effects on women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José María Borja Ivars. Councillor for Commerce and Entrepreneurship Department. • Yolanda García Henarejos. Representative of Association "Las Kelly's" of Benidorm and la Marina Baixa.

		<p style="text-align: center;">Closing speech</p> <p>Presentation of the own experience in the field of gender violence by a woman attending the Social Services Department of the Municipality of Altea (name to be confirmed).</p>
11.00 – 11.30	Social Centre – Municipality of Altea	Coffee break
11.30 – 13.15	Social Centre – Municipality of Altea	<p>Workshop. Building the “EnEnWomen Tree”.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Roots. Analysis and evaluation of the initial situation, (prior to the start of the project), according to the 3 thematic blocks of the presentations. Trunk. Competences and experiences gained, challenges faced and lessons learned
13.30 – 15:00	Restaurant “La Clau” Address: Garganes, 8. C.P: 03590, Altea.	Lunch
15.15 - 16.45	Social Centre – Municipality of Altea	<p>Workshop (continues)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Crown. Planning for the continuity of the project; new proposals. <p>Final. Sharing and preparation of the recommendations document for policy makers and related organisations.</p>
17.00 – 18.45	Altea	<p>Guided cultural tour: “Altea is a woman’s name”</p> <p>Meeting point: Social Centre – Municipality of Altea</p>
18.45 – 19.45	-----	Free time
19:45	Restaurant “Calu” Address: C/ La Mar, 1. C.P: 03590, Altea.	End-of-project dinner

Working agenda day 3: Saturday 1 June

Time	Venue	Activity
All day	-----	Baggage packing and departure

Welcome greetings

- *Mr. Diego Zaragozi, Mayor of Altea*

Mr. Zaragozi thanked the attendees and especially the women from Molfetta (Italy), Paris (France) and Bucharest (Rumania) who had participated in this project and had shared their knowledge and experiences with the women of Altea. The mayor thanked also that the European Union makes projects such as EnEnWomen available to women, which end up becoming the compass that guides public policies, incorporating the views and experiences of women, in this case especially on the issue of gender discrimination.

- *Mr. Germán Manjón, Councilor for European Projects of the Municipality of Altea*

Mr. Manjón highlighted the work that his department is doing, involving the municipality to participate in projects that allow Altea to be visible in Europe. He mentioned the importance of the EnEnWomen project because it puts Altea in Europe in terms of human rights and the fight against violence, especially that one which is committed against women in any state of the life (culture, education, economy, public participation) and that arises from inequality.

Thematic panel debates

Three tables had been designed with topics related to the subject of the debate, that is, the situation of women before and after the covid 19 crisis in relation to gender violence and their empowerment, in the way to achieve the equality in all the areas of life. (ODS number 5, Agenda 2030).

Thematic block I. Gender Violence

“The effects of the pandemic on women. Strategies for awareness-raising, prevention and attention to gender violence from the Equality Offices and from the Social Services Department of the Municipality”

Conducted by:

- *Mrs. Anna Lanuza Berenguer, Councilor for Equality and Social Welfare;*
- *Mrs. Veronica Oca Menacho, Coordinator of the Women's Center in Denia*

Purpose: to explain the response that the local and regional administration gives both to Gender Violence and to the women victims of it and their daughters and sons.

Key points and outcomes of discussion:

The Equality councilor pointed out that her department works all year round on co-education, co-responsibility, egalitarian masculinities, the eradication of gender violence and raising citizen awareness on equality. Mrs. Anna Lanuza indicated that there are two dates on which the equality department carries out great work to raise citizen awareness on equality and against sexist violences, such as March 8, International Women's Day, and November 25, International Day for the Eradication of Violence against women.

Actions include:

- campaigns in educational centers on emotional sexual education from equality,
- training for women to reduce the digital gender gap,
- violet points to avoid sexual assaults in festive spaces,
- or the municipal play library to facilitate work-life balance for families and contribute to co-responsibility.

Next, the coordinator of the Denia women's center, Mrs. Veronica Oca, took the word. Outside the work of the local administration, the Women's Centre of Denia, a free regional resource was explained; who gives care, advice and support to women victims of gender violence and their daughters and sons.

- The center operates from Monday to Friday, and the rest of the time there is a telephone line where the women can call for information or help. The line operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and attends in different languages.
- The women's center is staffed by professionals who provide psychological and legal care and inform women about housing resources and financial aid entitled for them; ensuring confidentiality, provide information on the rights of these victims and what services may be most useful to them.
- In addition, they give prevention talks to professionals or the population in different fields. The experts from this Center also collaborate with the municipalities of the area and with the educational centers in the prevention of gender violence.

Thematic block II. Gender Gap participation in public life

“The impact of the Covid 19 crisis on the right to citizenship. Proposals from the local level to reduce the gender gap in participation”

Conducted by:

- *Mr. Joaquin Devesa Crespo, Councillor for Citizen Participation*
- *Mrs. Angélica Martínez, Volunteer of Altea Red Cross*

Key points and outcomes of discussion:

Mr. Devesa said that in Altea, the associative life thrives on the work of hundreds of women. Despite their heavier workload, they continuously propose and organize activities for the common good. However, they constantly face the need to prove their worth in associations and groups from which they have traditionally been excluded.

- As a democratic society, it is fundamental that the governments promote gender parity in all areas. As a public administration, they have the responsibility to ensure equality.
- The inclusion, visibility, and dignification of women's roles are fundamental in designing effective public policies, understood from the grassroots level, that is, bottom-up policies, and for this it is necessary to guarantee an active role for women in the design of these policies so they reach the entire society and reflect the true sentiments of the citizens who contribute to the development of well-being and material and legal security.

Next, Mrs. Martinez, explained the work that the Red Cross does with vulnerable women and at risk of social exclusion.

- The pandemic aggravated the situation of these women and since then they have been working on the issue of empowerment, improving their social skills and promoting healthy habits, as well as to help them to find a job.
- She also pointed out that women are the main volunteers that the organization has in Altea. Indeed, over time, the number of volunteers (of Red Cross) has gone from a greater representation of men to a majority of women, reaching 55% in 2023, and they also represent the majority of the people assisted by the organisation*.

*Most of these women are immigrants, elderly, unemployed or in vulnerable situations, which has led the organisation to develop activities to promote equality and prevent gender violence.

Thematic block III. Gender Gap in Employment

“The effects of the pandemic on the labour market. Public employment policies and their effects on women”

Conducted by:

- *Mr. Juan Jose Oliver, Employment technician of the Municipality of Altea*
- *Mrs. Yolanda García Henarejos, Activist and Representative of the room cleaners (The Kellys) in the hotels of Benidorm and the region Marina Baixa*

Key points and outcomes of the discussion:

Mr. Oliver pointed out the difficulties that women still have in entering to the labour market and this is mainly due to the care and domestic burden that women carry due to their role as housewives, and on the other hand to the economy of the area. An economy very precarious and that places women in the lowest paid and least considered jobs: cleaning and care do not yet have social recognition.

The Employment department is working to improve the employment situation of these women through professional training courses.

Mrs. García recounted the struggle that the maids in Benidorm hotels began in 2006, demanding decent working hours and wages, and that has taken them to the European Parliament. The precariousness of women is global and therefore everyone uniting to combat it is necessary.

Indeed, with regard to the sector of cleaners (kellys), one of the most precarious, complaints were recalled that they have in their sector and that eight years later, are still unresolved, such as the workload, precariousness and illnesses derived from their job. It was pointed out that many of the women in this sector are in a situation of vulnerability that makes them endure more than is advisable. They are migrant women, single mothers, separated or simply women who have no other work option.

Closing speech: Testimonial from a gender violence survivor

- *María Jaramillo, female participant from Altea to “EnEnWomen” project activities*

Mrs. Jaramillo sought to show the lessons behind the situation she suffered. She highlighted the importance of public policies and resources such as those she found in the social services of Altea that listened to her, accompanied her and helped her to get out of the circle of gender violence. Moreover, she advocated the need for trained professionals with a feminist perspective.

Regarding her experience in the project, Mrs. Jaramillo pointed out its importance, since it had allowed diverse women to meet and share their knowledge and experiences - creating a “safe and supportive space”; but, above all, learn to value themselves, overcome fears and become visible as survivors of situations to which most women have to deal with throughout their lives - but they can get out of it.

Quotations:

- ‘Regardless of where we live, women's problems are similar, especially for those who are or have been in situations of vulnerability,’
- ‘We have all had stones along the way, and we have highlighted the importance of emotional intelligence and the need to weave support networks, which are always essential, but even more so to get out of a cycle of violence.’

Workshop: “Building the EnEnWomen tree”

The final part of the morning was devoted to a workshop aimed at bringing together the **conclusions** of the project.

Participating women from the different partner associations shared and captured on stickers all the feelings, expectations, knowledge and desires that the EnEnWomen project in its different phases had given them.

Organised into three working tables, participants specifically analysed

- the **starting point** of the project (initial input and questions, preliminary contribution of the partners to the subject matter, planned means of collaboration...),
- the **lessons learned** along the way, including common points and differences on how to tackle the issue from different perspectives, best practices acknowledged;
- and what the ‘fruits’ are, that is, brief summary of the **results** in terms of women’s empowerment, knowledge-transfer, new partnerships and transformation of local communities and partner organisations

- all symbolised by a tree displayed on the walls of the Social Centre hall.

Furthermore, they put in common all the good practices.

Conclusions:

- The women participating in the project expressed their wish that the European Union continue working on projects of this type that make women's problems visible but at the same time they are counted on to find the solutions, through their work, experiences, activism or knowledge.
- All participants pointed out the importance of weaving networks to work not only on personal empowerment but also to put an end to inequality.

As a **final outcome**, participants drafted a document for policy-makers and related organisations including recommendations on how to contrast the still-lasting effect of the pandemic on women’s rights, with specific actions and measures to take.

