

# Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers

## Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation

The presence of immigrant women in recent migration flows in EU countries is becoming increasingly visible. Many of them work under precarious conditions as cleaners, house-keepers and care-givers. How can their integration into the labour market be fostered? How can their participation in society be facilitated?

Addressing these complex issues, MIGS in collaboration with Intercollege, and a consortium of 4 other European organizations is coordinating a transnational project entitled “Integration of Female Migrant Domestic Workers: Strategies for Employment and Civic Participation”, funded under the INTI Preparatory Actions 2005, Integration for third- country nationals of the European Commission.

The project aims to develop recommendations for an integration model responding to the specific needs of female migrant domestic workers in the five partner countries.

## The Aims and Objectives of the project

- To stimulate European teamwork involving a wide range of actors, including domestic workers themselves;
- To disseminate information and lessons learned, exchange of policies, best practices in integration methods and processes;
- To put forth strategies that can be adapted to the different contexts of the partner countries and other EU member states.

## Project's partners

The European Organizations that are implementing this project are:

- **M.I.G.S., Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies** is a non-profit organization, closely affiliated to Intercollege, the largest academic institution in Cyprus. The Institute aims to act as a main contributor to the intellectual, political, and socio-political life of the region as this relates to issues of gender and to do so using a multidisciplinary approach and in collaboration with other institutions. The Institute further recognizes the multilayered levels of discrimination against women and accepts that this discrimination takes different forms. It is committed to the elimination of this discrimination using a combination of research, advocacy and lobbying, as well as trainings, conferences, and other activities. For more detailed information please refer to: [www.medinstgenderstudies.org](http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org)
- **CREA (Centre of Research in Theories and Practices that Overcome Inequalities) University of Barcelona (Spain)**. The CREA team includes university professors, researchers and professionals from different disciplines:

anthropology, biology, communications, economics, engineering, history, pedagogy, political sciences, psychology, sociology, and more. One of the main objectives of CREA is to provide scientific evidence to overcome social exclusion from a social and educational perspective using a dialogic approach. The centre researches and seeks to identify approaches to education, methodology and strategies of social and educational intervention to promote equal opportunities for everyone to be able to participate actively in all spheres of life. CREA has different lines of research (cultural groups, gender, active citizenship, etc.) and is currently carrying out different projects that deal with the topic of the other women and dialogic feminism. The other women are those who do not come from an academic background, and who fight to have their voice heard in different spaces and forums of debate. For more detailed information please refer to: [www.pcb.ub.es/crea](http://www.pcb.ub.es/crea)

- **ISIS, Institute for Social Infrastructure** is a private social science research and consultancy institute located in Frankfurt am Main (Germany). ISIS aims at facilitating the implementation of innovative measures in the field of labour market and social policy by bringing together the expertise of policy makers, practitioners and social scientists. Key themes are the qualification and employment particularly of women and the social participation of elderly people, particularly of older migrants. For more detailed information please refer to: [www.isis-sozialforschung.de](http://www.isis-sozialforschung.de)
- **LAI-MOMO** is a non-profit co-operative, constituted in 1995 by a group of researchers, teachers and scholars in order to favour intercultural knowledge, particularly between Italy and Africa. Lai-momo undertakes different activities: publishing of the quarterly journal Africa and Mediterraneo; projects aimed at intercultural dialogue; European researches on immigration and North-South relations; organisation of conferences and exhibitions. All these activities share the same basic idea: culture can be a means for development, peace and justice between peoples. For more detailed information please refer to: [www.laimomo.it](http://www.laimomo.it)
- **The Filipino National Workers Association (Cyprus)** is a non profit organization inaugurated in 1993 in order to help Filipinos who are employed in Cyprus. The association undertakes different activities: raising money to help Filipino workers when necessary, applying pressure on the Immigration to enforce certain governmental rules that are not always implemented, such as laws relating to deportation and in some cases providing temporary asylum premises to sexually harassed migrant female domestic workers.

## Project Activities

The project will encompass the following activities:

a) A **'Mapping Survey'** by five partners in Spain, Greece, Italy and Cyprus using a questionnaire to collect information on existing integration services and policies, best practices and strategies adopted in all partner countries in relation to the target group, particularly in the areas of employment and civic participation.

b) **Five four-day study visits:** One in each partner country for the exchange of information, Best Practices and Strategies.

**c) Three two-day meetings** in Cyprus amongst experts in order to highlight and evaluate best practices and lessons learned, analyse strategies for the development of integration models and compare the results from the mapping survey

**d) One training workshop in each partner country** to raise awareness on existing policies, best practices and strategies among key stakeholders including policy makers, governmental and NGO officials, and trade unionists and to provide a platform for female migrant domestic workers and employer associations to voice their views and experiences.

**e) Parallel awareness campaigns:** using leaflets and posters the dissemination of information and awareness campaigns through the publication of leaflets, posters,

**f) Publication of a resource book** which will incorporate the activities of the project including the best practices and integration models of each country and policy recommendations and strategies for the future,

**g) Final conference** involving THE participation of all relevant stakeholders with the main theme that of developing an integration model responsive to the particular needs of female migrant domestic workers.