

PUA women case study

Focus groups information

Date of fieldwork: September 2016

Country: Greece

Geography: Lamia (central Greece) and Patra (Peloponnese)

Method of data collection: 2 Focus groups with women that took part in the project
Promotion and Strengthening of Women's Participation in Trade Unions and their Representation Bodies

Language: Greek

Kind of data: field notes/ summaries

Population: In the first focus group in Lamia participated 5 women working as cleaners in secondary schools in the region, aged from 40 to 55 years old. In this group also participated the scientific responsible for the implementation of the project at the region. In the second focus group in Patra (Peloponnese) participated four women aged from 40 to 50 years old as well as the scientific responsible for the implementation of the project at the region. The participating women were working as cleaners (2) and at the local Casino (2).

Sampling: Random, both focus groups were organised with the help of the stakeholder members

Number of units: 2

Key words: women, trade unions, Greece, crisis, social investment

Summary: The focus groups we conducted were part of WP4 and more particularly of the evaluation process of the project: “Promotion and Strengthening of Women’s Participation in Trade Unions and their Representation Bodies”. The focus groups were conducted with women who participated in the programme, both in the seminars and the workshops after discussing this with our contacts in the two regions. The preliminary contact with the scientific responsible in the two regions was feasible with the help of the stakeholder in Athens (INE/GSEE). We faced no serious difficulties in recruiting our interviewees and we managed to get information on women’s experience from their participation in the programme under evaluation. However, the focus group in Patra, although or because of the fact that took place via Skype gave us more information compared with the one in Lamia, where most of the participants were hesitant to express their views and they needed incentives from the part of the scientific responsible who was attending. The focus groups helped us in the evaluation process especially on the implementation and the impact the programme had, despite the fact that the programme ended when we started conducting them. This had also an impact on the information we collected during the focus groups, because some of the women, in Lamia in particular, could not remember many details also because since the end of the programme they had attended other programmes as well. As all the programme staff mentioned in our interviews and informal discussions, they already knew that women are less participating and less represented in trade unions through their personal contacts with the federations and the labour centres around Greece. What also came out from the conducted focus groups was that there was a small change in the target population included in the proposal. Since the programme started in the beginning of the economic crisis it came out that there was a huge interest among women on such a programme which included special information on worker’s rights, legal support, social security knowledge and of course seminars and workshops for the empowerment of women. Another important aspect that came out of the focus groups conducted was that women – participating or not in trade unions – despite any initial hesitation to attend the programme they expressed very positive attitudes and considered it as a great experience.