

You're out! Educational opportunities for precariously employed women put to the test

Maria talks about her everyday life: The 34-year-old is a single mother of a three-year-old son. The father does not care. Since she claims financial child support obligations, he suddenly doesn't even have a car anymore. When the little one is in kindergarten, she works from 8-14:30 in a drugstore. Twice a week, the grandma takes care of the child in the late afternoon. Then Maria works for a cleaning company and cleans the corridors and rooms of a primary school. Her employers are of the opinion that she is "not flexible enough" and demand more commitment in the "off-peak times". She fears for her jobs. She is not in a trade union. She is afraid that membership on her payslip will mean the end of her work.

No time, little money, hard to reach. Exactly the target group to which we feel committed as an educational institution that operates with the motto "work and human dignity". With strong partners at our side, we will put this target group at the center of our work in the coming years as part of our Erasmus+ project "Work at all costs?" At our second European meeting in Bressanone, we had numerous questions about our own offers: How can we, as an association of educational institutions and trade unions, improve the living and working conditions of women in precarious employment? Are our offers findable, affordable and easily accessible for her? Who do we need to train so that these women can get "by the way" the information, assistance and services they need? Do her topics receive sufficient attention in our offers? How can we also motivate other institutions and organizations to get involved with these women or to take a better look at their concerns? We have recorded the first standards for a target group- and gender-equitable offer, which hopefully now quickly ends up directly with our network partners and, of course, with the women.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners in the project for the good and creative ideas and the great commitment to the women: Arbeiter-, Freizeit- und Bildungsverein (Bolzano, Italy), SOLIDARUMAS (Vilnius, Lithuania), PODKREPA (Sofia, Bulgaria) and Fundajca Nowy Staw (Lublin, Poland). We would like to thank Sigrid Schraml, Secretary General of the EZA (European Centre for Workers' Questions), for her participation in the meeting. EZA, with its 70 member organizations in 29 European countries, is our central partner for the political and practical implementation of the project.

Questions about the project or would you like to participate? Please contact Karin Reisige (karin.reisige@nbh.de or 02406 – 9558 12)