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PERMANENT OBSERVATORY OF IMMIGRATION IN ASTURIAS ODINA

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Summary:
The Permanent Observatory of Immigration in Asturias (ODINA) is a group formed by entities and institutions (goverment agencies, private, NGOs, trade unions, associations) that work in the region, directly and also crosswise with the immigrant community with the aim to integrate and to promote immigrants social welfare (through Health, Training, Education, Employment, Housing...).
One of the ODINA main targets is making a dynamic study and assessment of the Immigrants socio-economic background. This group deals of starting and developing the Observatory through cooperative survey and participative evaluation methodology (Catalyse), territorial diagnoses, territorial indicators, and agents repertoire.

ODINA promoters are Accem and the Social Affairs Council of the Government of the Principality of Asturias. ODINA is framed within an Accem Observatories Network.

Keywords: territorial intelligence, participation, partnership, sustainable development, networks, learning, immigration, local development, observation, cohesion.

PERMANENT OBSERVATORY OF IMMIGRATION IN ASTURIAS- ODINA

1. TERRITORIAL CONTEXT IN ASTURIAS

Asturias is an Autonomous community on the northern coast of Spain formed by 78 municipalities. According to population data from the municipal census of January 1st , 2008, Asturias has 1,079,215 inhabitants, which means 0.4 % growth with respect to the previous year, equivalent to 4,353 more people than in 2007. Of the total inhabitants of 1/1/2008, 561,354 are women (equivalent to 52 %) and 517,861 are men (equivalent to 48 %), fact attributable to women's life expectancy—eight years longer than men. To indicate, in this regard, that one of the demographic characteristics of our community is the decrease and aging of the population.

According to the latest Municipal Census of the National Institute of Statistics, there are 40,171 Immigrants residing in Asturias (equal to 3.7 % of total population). Making Asturias the fifth Community as far as immigrants added to the census (22.8 %).

Foreigners living in Asturias in 2008 according to continent of nationality. (Source: Municipal Census Projection, 1/1/2008. Provisional Data. National Institute of Statistics (INE))

European Union	14.346
Non – EU	1.375
Africa	3.738
Central America	2.886
North America	772
South America	15.677
Asia	1.340
Oceania	33
Stateless	4
Total	40.171

On the other hand, the number of foreigners registered in the Asturian Social Security System on 05/31/2008 was 16,550, of which 68.43 % are under the General Plan, followed by 13.31 % under Special Plan for self-employed and a 12.90 % under the Special Plan for domestic service.

Just as the migration phenomenon tends to have a certain profile, job migration in Asturias has a profile with the following characteristics, according to the quantitative diagnosis made by the Permanent Observatory of Immigration in Asturias ODINA in 2007 with a population sample of 2,451 immigrants:

a) Mostly women (58%)
b) Aged between 25 – 29 (56 %)
c) Come mainly from Rumania (15%), Ecuador (12%) & Brazil (11%).
d) Geographically concentrated in Oviedo, Gijón & Avilés.
e) People searching for a job, especially in Services Scheme (45 %) & Construction Scheme (10 %)

According to INE data from the Survey of Active Population, in the 1st quarter of 2008 Asturias had a working population of about 471,000 people, of which 444,500 were employed, meaning an unemployment rate of 8.49 % (equivalent to 41,200 unemployed people). The Service Sector, with 65 %, has the highest employment rates, and the Primary Sector the lowest, with 4.3 %. The Industrial Sector has a rate of 14.9 %, and Construction a rate of 11.7 %.

In terms of economic structure, Asturias is a region with an industrial tradition in decline (mining, iron and steel industry, naval industry), which has suffered several restructurings and adjustments. Nevertheless, the importance of the industrial sector in the regional production system is still strong (greater than the national

average). The region is characterized by a structure of private businesses, functioning fundamentally in small and medium sized companies.

From the perspective of social cohesion, Asturias is a community with a high level of social organization and effective trade unions.

2. BACKGROUND

The Permanent Observatory of the Immigration in Asturias (ODINA) is framed within a pilot project promoted by ACCEM and financed since 2000 by the Social Affairs Council of the Government of the Principality of Asturias, with the purpose of forming and developing a permanent mechanism for cooperative observation and shared evaluation of the socio-economic situation of the immigrant community in Asturias.

A brief trial of the observational mechanism was instituted 1999 within the framework of the community initiative "*Integra plural – resources for employment*" developed by ACCEM and financed by the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs (IMSERSO) and the European Social Fund. At present ODINA functions in a regional and local observation network made up of two Local Observation Groups (Gijón & Oviedo) and by eight Municipal Observation Points (Avilés, Candamo, Grado, Langreo, Las Regueras, Navia, Valdés and Villaviciosa).

3. ANALYZED POPULATION

Refugees, Immigrants & Asylum Seekers in Asturias.

4. OBSERVATIONAL STRUCTURE TARGETS :

-Dynamic study and assessment of the Immigrants socio-economic background.
-To establish co-operation processes among the different social agents operating within the territory.
-To establish immigrant participation and accessibility processes at the definition, planning and development of the different action programmes.
-To design and develop common actions.
-To create tools for the commonly agreed design of indicators on the group and territory socio - economic situation.
-To provide information that allow to analyse in a more specific and updated point of view the immigrant community situation.

5. ODINA NETWORK STRUCTURE

The observational ODINA – Network structured is made up by entities and institutions (government agencies, private, NGOs, trade unions, associations) that work in the region, directly and also crosswise with the immigrant community with the aim to integrate and to promote immigrants social welfare (through Health, Training, Education, Employment, Housing...). This network develops the Permanent Observatory of Immigration in Asturias, methodology, diagnoses, territorial indicators, agents repertoire and starting integration actions.

At present ODINA functions in a regional and local observation network made up of two Local Observation Groups (Gijón & Oviedo) and by eight Municipal Observation Points (Avilés, Candamo, Grado, Langreo, Las Regueras, Navia, Valdés, and Villaviciosa).

ODINA – Network configuration:

a) Local Observation Groups:

The Local Observation Groups have a local network structured and are formed by entities and institutions that make the survey in a particular place, they take charge of dealing with their clients accompaniment and diagnoses (people who come to their offices, an also gather information from the accompaniment and test activities).

They also check the local diagnoses (related to the obtained information from the territorial observational context of each group) and the regional diagnoses (related to the information from the different observational context of the local groups and observational points).

b) **Observation Points:**

They do not have a local network structure and they are constituted by an institution that works in a specific territorial context. They observe and gather information from their clients.

c) **Action workshops**:

Formed by the ODINA – Network entities and institution that belong to any of the three workshops (Education Workshop, Socio – Economic guidance Workshop and Social Marginalization Workshop).This group has to analyze in depth the diagnoses (groups, trends, profiles) and to propose concrete actions related to the needs and diagnoses realized (local and regional).

ODINA Partnership structure is formed by 47 associates:

Public Institutions:12

- Social Affairs Council of the Goverment of the Principality of Asturias (Sponsor associate)
- Education and Science Council of the Principality of Asturias (collaborator associate)
- Town hall of Gijón (Municipal Foundation of Social Affairs)
- Town hall of Oviedo (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Avilés (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Candamo (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Grado (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Las Regueras (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Villaviciosa (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Valdés (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Grado (Social Affairs Council)
- Town hall of Navia (Social Affairs Council)

ASOCIATIONS/ NGOs: 10

- Accem (NGO)
- Asociación Pro Inmigrantes de Asturias (APIA) (NGO)
- Asturias Acoge (NGO)
- Asociación Pro inmigrantes Intervalo (NGO)
- Centro de Iniciativas, Solidaridad y Empleo-CISE (NGO)
- Cruz Roja Asamblea Local de Gijón (Red Cross)
- Cruz Roja Asamblea Autonómica de Asturias (Red Cross)
- Fundación Albergue Covadonga (Shelter)
- Movimiento por la Paz Asturias (MPA) (NGO)
- Proyecto SICAR-Hermanas Adoratrices (Catholic organization)

TRADE UNIONS: 2

- Unión General de Trabajadores (U.G.T.)

- Unión Sindical Obrera (U.S.O)

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: 15

- Los Campos (Gijón). (School)
- Ramón de Campoamor (Gijón). (School)
- San Lorenzo (Gijón). (School)
- San Miguel (Gijón). (School)
- Ursulinas de Jesús (Gijón) (School)
- Calderón de la Barca (Gijón) (High School)
- Rosario Acuña (Gijón) (High School)
- El Llano (Gijón). (School)
- Menéndez Pidal.(Gijón) (School)
- EOEP de Atención Temprana de Gijón (Team of Educational and Psycho –pedagogical guidance)
- Sagrada Familia (Oviedo) (School)
- Amor de Dios (Oviedo) (School)
- Pando (Oviedo) (High School)
- Pérez de Ayala (Oviedo) (High School)
- Llanes (High School)

HEALTH CENTRES: 8

-SESPA: Primary Asistancy Management. Gijón (Área V);

- Health Centre of Contrueces
- Health Centre of Coto
- Health Centre of El Llano
- Health Centre of Laviada
- Health Centre of Natahoyo
- Health Centre of Parque-Somió
- Health Centre of Puerta la Villa
- Health Centre of Zarracina

6. ODINA NETWORK WORKSHOPS AND ACTIONS (2006 – 2007)

ODINA Network target is getting through the diagnoses in order to start on specific actions related to the identified needs and diagnoses. The workshops matters depend on the diagnoses and they are the following:

1. ODINA Education Workshop. The action axes are: external compensatory; awareness raising in the school environment and transition from school life to mature life. The third axe has been prioritized, crosswise and permanently maintaining the others. A Seminar called *Youth and immigration: new educational and social challenges* was organized into this action axe. As for spreading actions, at the same time as the Seminar on youth and immigration, the diffusion fulfilled of the second Education Workshop Bulletin, and at present they are working on the third.

2. ODINA Social Marginalization Workshop. An awareness campaign has been raised in cooperation with the Town Hall of Gijón (Housing Council) and VIPASA (the Housing & Social Affairs Council of the Government of the Principality of Asturias).
The campaign is aimed to owners of empty housing. It is focused on encouraging renting this housing through different Central Administration housing devices (Public Society of Renting), local and autonomous.

This campaign has consisted in making leaflets and posters reporting on the advantages of the different programmes of the Rent of Housings Promotion for owners. The motto of the campaign is " *An empty housing does not produce anything, set your housing to produce, set it in rent* ". The campaign was officially presented to the media in Gijón. There have been printed numbers 1 and 2 of the Bulletin of the Social Marginalization Workshop, and at present they are working on the edition of a Guide of Access to the Housing aimed at owners and tenants.

3. ODINA Socio – Economic guidance Workshp (training & employment).This workshop has developed a campaign called "*Fight against asylum seekeres, refugees and immigrants discrimination in the labour market"* . Campaign aimed, on one hand, at overcoming the prejudices and reticences for the contracting of these people, and on the other hand, at promoting the equality of treatment in the work among the migrant population and the autochthonous one.

This campaign has consisted in making a photo-booklet showing immigrants professional occupations in Asturias and several companies of different sectors of economic activity, which in a voluntary way have been involved in the content and development of this campaign. The campaign was officially presented with the representatives' presence of the autonomous, local administration, associations, unions and mass media in Gijón and Oviedo in April, 2007. The Workshop has also edited its first Bulletin .

7. OBTAINED OUTCOMES.

7.1. Strengths

a) Related to observation:

- A more concrete and dynamic knowledge of the needs and problematic identified and felt by the group of immigrants and their socio-economic background.
- A better knowledge (quantitative and qualitative) of the phenomenon of the immigration from an integral and cooperative perspective, and from a territorial and local boarding.
- A more precise, dynamic and optimized visibility of the social available resources in the territory to attend to the needs of the group.

b) Related to partnership:

- A reinforcement in the processes of development of the partnership between public, private institutions / entities, social and economic agents, for the mobilization of all the available resources, which facilitate dynamics of social and labour insertion for the group of migrants and in a crosswise way for the autochthonous group.
- A joint planning of the actions aimed at improving integration processes of the group, from a cooperative diagnosis between the entities and institutions involved in the Observatonal Device.
- An improvement of information exchange processes, data, surveys, and publications on the knowledge of the group, between different agents of the research area.

7.2. Weaknesses.

a)-Related to observation:

- The limits of the secondary information sources.
- The information management from the cartographic dimension.
- The information management related to the territory organization.

b) Related to partnership:

- Lack of cooperative work culture, networking, distrust, suspicion, fear feelings between the agents.
- The plurality of the individual agents interests.

- The context (social, political, economic...) relevancy to promote the partnership building up; time needs and search for the right time to start the process.
- The adequacy to the different paces and resources of the agents involved in the process for the joint of the partnership.
- The reorganization of the human, technical and material resources.
- The precedents of conflict between the different actors.

8. ODINA NETWORK AND ITS METHODOLOGY ADDED VALUE.

- The enhance of resources and actions between the public entities and the third sector.
- Accessibility of the information to immigrants and general public.
- The improvement of the participation processes and decision-making of the immigrants in programmes and projects planning and development for social integration in the host society.
- The reinforcement of the living together between the foreign population and the host society, through mechanisms and mixed spaces of participation.
- The integral and collective management of the problems and answers (reinforcement of the solidarity and participation mechanisms between the agents / spaces of responsibility and power distribution and strengthening of the social territorial cohesion)
- "Bridge" / "mediation" effect in dialogue processes, conflicts negotiation and agents relationships.
- Action crosswise opposite to the compartmentalization of the social policies.
- The complementarity and optimization of the resources (human, economic, technological…) of the territory.
- The improvement of the participation processes and decision making of the different agents in the planning and development of the actions (equality reinforcement between the agents).
- Provides the construction of a common language and target between the agents on different aspects (social, economic).

9. ODINA NETWORK PUBLICATIONS AND MONOGRAPHIC RESEARCHES

Besides Observatory diagnoses and Workshop publications, there have been also made publications, surverys and monographic researches where asked for local and autonomous Administration.

9.1. Publications.

- " ***Immigrants in Asturias; associate Guides for the community orientation*** ", 2003 (made for th Housing & Social Affairs Council of the Goverment of the Principality of Asturias).

9.2. Researches.

- ***Immigrants Training Needs ",*** 2001 (made for the Town hall of Gijón)
- " ***Action - Research on the situation of the Ethnic Minorities of Eastern Europe's Countries in the municipality of Gijón*** ", 2005 (made for the Town hall of Gijón).

- ***" The Management of the Cultural Diversity in the Asturian Companies*** ", 2007-2008 (Attorney General of the Principality of Asturias).