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“GOL”, LEÓN OBSERVATION GROUP

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Summary: León Observation Group, "GOL", is one of the devices that constitutes Accem observatories network in Spain. It studies the socio-economic situation of immigrants in a particular territory, Leon. Based on the study results, it aims to plan and develop policies in order to facilitate the social insertion of immigrant people in their host communities, local, community and sustained development.

Key words : observation, analysis, territorial intelligence, participation, partnership, sustained development.



LEON OBSERVATORY DEVICE

LEÓN TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

Autonomous Community: Castile and Leon. Autonomous Region made up of 9 provinces, the largest in Spain, with little industry and strong depopulation in rural areas. The number of immigrants with residence permit was 156,530 on 31 March 2008. (Source: *Permanent Immigration Observatory. Ministry of Labour and Immigration*)

León is one of the mining tradition provinces, now in decline, which received immigration in the 70's and now lives a new immigration process that has increased as from 2000. According to data from the National Statistics Institute (January 2007), the total population of the province is 497,387 inhabitants, of whom 51.1% are women and 48.8% are men. According to data published on March 31st 2008, the number of immigrants in León with residence permit was 24,815, amount that means a 4.9% over the total population. (Source: *Permanent Immigration Observatory. Ministry of Labour and Immigration*)

Municipalities: Leon, San Andrés del Rabanedo and Villaquilambre. Three municipalities in the metropolitan area of the province's capital. Here is the largest number of immigrants from across the province. Thus, one of the network richness is that members of the Leon Observation Group belong to these three municipalities.

European Union	9.124
Europe not Community	640
Maghreb	2.934
Rest of Africa	819
Central America	2.002
North America	142
South America	6.193
Asia	950
Oceania	13
Stateless	2
Total	22.819

*Foreign Residents in 2008 in León, classified by nationality continent
(INE Source: Preliminary results of the Municipal registry till 1st January, 2008. Provisional data).*

"GOL", LEÓN OBSERVATION GROUP

Regarding the evolution of the León Observation Group, in May 2006 the group set up with the aim of creating a partnership structure (made up of third sector entities, governmental institutions, unions and business sector) to on the socio-economic situation of immigrants, so as to plan and develop combined actions that tend to promote the insertion of immigrant people at all levels in their host communities, from the perspective of local, community and sustained development.



At the beginning, the network had 15 members: 3 Municipal Centres for Training and Employment, 4 Associations, 4 Schools, 2 Unions, 1 Business Federation and an Entity in charge of different Health Centers. In 2006, the observation group collected data from a total of 734 questionnaires. In April 2007 made the first presentation of quantitative data.

Since then it has been conducted the second analysis of quantitative data from 787 observations in 2008, while the group has consolidated through working in understanding the concepts and according a common language, thereby improving the quality of data collected over the first year. Furthermore, the partner network has been expanded considerable: the existing network partnership is constituted by 35 members, among them are 4 local authorities, 5 non-governmental organizations, associations and foundations, 2 unions, federations 1 business Associations, 6 schools and 17 health centers belonging to the Primary Care Management of Leon.

At the end of May 2008 a press conference was hold for presenting the 2007 results.

GOL network structure: The partnership structure of GOL is made up of 35 partners, named: local government, NGOs, associations and foundations, unions, schools, 17 health centers belonging to the Division of Primary Care and federations and business sector.

The Observation group is made up of the following entities:

- Ildefe(Municipal Center for economic development, training and employment of Leon City Council)
- Cemfe ((Municipal Center of Training and Employment of San Andrés del Rabanedo City Council)
- Ciami (Municipal Center for Information and Advice for Women and Equality of Villaquilambre City Council)
- Cemai(Municipal Center for Immigrant Care of Leon City Council)
- Accem (Spanish catholic comision association on migrations)
- Adavas(Association who works with women victims of assault and domestic violence)
- León Charity Association
- Isadora Duncan Association for Single Mothers
- Asociación Aldaba (Association for school support to immigrant children)
- CITE – CCOO, worker´s union
- FOREM – CCOO, worker´s union
- La Granja Public Primary School
- La Palomera Public Primary School
- Quevedo Public Primary School
- San Isidoro Public Primary School
- Antonio González de Lama Public Primary School
- Ordoño II Public Secondary School
- Cistierna Health Centre
- Condesa Health Centre
- El Crucero Health Centre
- Armunia Health Centre
- José Aguado Health Centre
- La Palomera Health Centre
- Eras de Renueva Health Centre
- La Bañeza Health Centre
- San Andrés del Rabanedo Health Centre
- Ribera de Orbigo Health Centre
- Valencia de Don Juan Health Centre
- Valderas Health Centre
- Astorga Health Centre



- Cuenca del Bernesga Health Centre
- La Magdalena Health Centre
- La Pola de Gordón Health Centre
- Santa Maria del Páramo Health Centre
- CEL (León Business sector Circle)

The final diagnosis has been made on the basis of information collected from the immigrant population attended by members of GOL during the year 2007, from a total of 787 observations.

Of those interviewed with the script, 56% were women compared to 44% of men. The predominant age bracket was that between 25 and 45 years old, and no one over 65 years old happened to be interviewed.

Some results to emphasize of the diagnosis had been that the highest percentage of immigrant population resides in District 7 of Leon (El Crucero- La Vega) with 29% of observations, followed by District 2 of San Andrés del Rabanedo (Trobajo del Camino) with 13%.

A high proportion (28%) of people attended are from Morocco, followed by a 15% from Colombian and 12% from Dominican Republic. As for the distribution by country and gender, it highlights men when referring to Morocco, Senegal and Algeria and female for countries like Colombia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic and Brazil.

The handling of health card is a requirement that satisfies the majority, but we also found 11% of the population under study that has not handled it.

Only 35 people declared to be currently suffer illness, which is physical in 33 cases and mental in 2.

Workshops / GOL Actions: The last quantitative analysis of data has yielded information on the situation of the group of people attended and interviewed by the ones in charge of the observation process. It is also important to note that the information has been recorded by technical personnel of entities that carrying out a real fieldwork, which facilitates the access to relevant information (health, housing, education, employment ...) on the attended population. Moreover, the actions planned from the reflections on the diagnosis obtained, may be developed by the own institutions members of the observation device, optimizing by this means the network resources.

Finally, it has to be noticed that this work attempts to initiate group actions and proceedings, but attempts as well to influence the actions that will be launched at administration level, to improve the economic, social and labour situation of the immigrant population living in Leon.

The actions more widely requested to the observation group were:

- Information and social orientation for the registration in the city hall, for the knowledge of resources and services in the area.
- Improvement of coexistence, reception centres and advice for rental housing.
- Information to handle the health card and to know about the Spanish health system.
- Information for the processing of work and residence permits, as well as the regularization, asylum and monitoring of the dossiers.



- Information for access to the formal and occupational training, as well as to the language and to the general services.
- Information / pre-employment training formation in Spain: context knowledge, employment guidance, active job search, labour exchange, employment training devices.

In order to combine these actions to optimize their impact, the León Observation Group has launched two working groups that discussed the results achieved in the year, so they can establish and define lines of action that can contribute to the social insertion of the studied collective in specific areas for each group.

So, initially, two major areas of work have been identified:

Social Inclusion working group

The workshop is organized into four specific areas: Education of Children, Women, Health and Housing. The main objectives pursued by the different areas are:

- Education: to inform and guide on the Spanish educational system, together with the alternatives available after completing compulsory education, trying to promote equal opportunities in education
- Women: to inform and guide women on their rights and duties, to guide and support to prevent gender-based violence and access to health benefits
- Health: to guide and inform the handling of the health card and the national health system, to develop activities that can promote access to health benefits
- Housing: to block the barriers that prevent or hinder immigrant population from accessing to housing, as well as to raise awareness to prevent abuse and racist and xenophobic attitudes
- General: to raise awareness about the reality of immigration in all areas: education, health, administration, housing ...

Training and Employment working group

Working Group on Training and Employment has the aiming to coordinate the work between the entities to solve the different needs, related to employment and training, identified after the diagnosis.

The working groups forming the operative observation group has been underlined.

- In 2008 has changed the diagnostic and evaluation tool, "Pragma". Therefore, once the script was developed and adapted to the computing device, "Pragma", the new tool has been installed in all the entities, accompanying and advising those technicians concerned about the modifications, and reviewing the use of tools for we all to perform an adequate data collection.

It has to be taken into account the accompaniment and training with the newly incorporated entities in the use and handling of the observational device tools.



- The operational group has consolidated on working the understanding of the concepts and the common language/ code for a better understanding of the meaning of the data for all those involved in analyzing and improving the quality of data collected over the first year.
- Quality control and clean up of data, locating in the questionnaires any trace of incomplete, with many gaps, or unanswered questionnaires. The correction of mistakes is carried out with the reference technician.
- Discussion Group for the analysis of results of 2007 data. Identification of needs through the results obtained during the year 2007 for the best knowledge of the socio-economic situation of immigrants and working on possible future actions.
- Working to prepare the press conference for the presentation of the data from 2007 diagnosis. It was accorded the scheme to follow during the press conference, the data delivered to the press, the place, the diffusion through the media, image, people intervening and general development of the press conference.
- Discussion groups with immigrants and immigrant associations.
Thanks to permanent contact with the direction board of the various schools participating in the León Observation Group. Permanent contact with immigrant associations.
- . This Council is made up of 32 entities from different sectors, both public and private, and a wide representation of immigrant associations . One of these associations show interest and asked for being included in the Observatory.
- Throughout the year 2007 was constituted the Leon Immigration City Council, being members of GOL 6 of them: ACCEM, Adavas, CEL, Isadora Duncan, ELCI and CITE. It was agreed at a meeting with all GOL members to lend the summary of the project, evolution , objectives and a summary of the data from the 2007 diagnosis.
- Collaboration with the Villaquilambre Town Hall to launch combined actions to the insertion of the group of immigrants through the CIAMI and especially with women. (Point for data collection)
- Signing of agreement with León County Council to give information and guidance for the integration to asylum seekers and immigrants in the municipalities of the province. (Point for data collection)
- Collaboration with León County Council and Castile and Leon Autonomous Government Office in conducting activities to promote health in relation to the immigrant population in the province. (Point for data collection)

