

## SPAIN

### GENDER AND TRANSPORT PLANNING IN PAMPLONA

*The introduction of gender considerations in the planning of the regional transport system is vital to ensure that transport services meet the needs of all users. The processes of addressing the particular transportation needs of women can also lead to a growing awareness and sensitivity of women's participation in town planning processes.*

Pamplona, the capital city of the Province of Navarra in northeastern Spain, has a population of nearly 170,000 inhabitants. The city is presently undergoing relatively fast growth and urban development. In the planning of services and infrastructure needed to accommodate this growth, women were being excluded, and as a result, their particular needs and priorities were ignored. Due to the lack of adequate channels and structures for participation in the design and development of the city, the participation of women's groups was impaired.

To address this exclusion, the gender and transport planning initiative was initiated in 1998. It aims to address the lack of women's involvement in town planning processes in Pamplona and its surrounding area by promoting the participation of women in drawing up the Regional Transport Plan. To this end, the initiative worked for the active participation of women of all ages and from all cultural backgrounds, whose proposals were compiled in a 'statement report' to be presented through the legal channels for citizen participation. Until then such channels had remained oblivious of women as a collective interest group. The objectives of the initiative were, first, to identify the transportation needs and priorities of women and draw useful proposals for the elaboration of the Regional Transport Plan, and, second, to reduce the gap between available institutional frameworks and the social reality of women in Pamplona.

Work was initiated by means of a consultation process that involved women belonging to various social organisations. Specific proposals were drawn up and were compiled in the 'statement report', which was presented to the Regional Association of Pamplona (the entity responsible for transport policy) and to other governmental bodies concerned with transport, both at the local and regional levels. Once the Regional Transport Plan was drawn up, the initia-

tive also included an evaluation of those measures that were integrated, and a follow-up to those not incorporated. The team leading the work was made up of personnel from the Department for Women and from the Public University of Navarra. Throughout the process, more than 300 women participated by expressing their opinion about their mobility needs in the different neighbourhoods of the city and their surrounding areas.

The participation of women in the process had three types of focus: 1) social aspects, which incorporated women individually and as part of social organisations in the decision-making processes; 2) technical aspects, which incorporated women as professionals in the research team that articulated women's proposals; 3) political aspects, which incorporated women as leaders since the initiative was made possible by the Municipal Council for Women. Moreover, women's responses to the initiative were very important, both quantitatively and qualitatively, beginning a process that established a focus on women's contributions to town planning as a norm.

The transportation needs of women have also been served by means of the initiative. Of the 57 proposals comprising the 'statement report', 21 were included in their totality in the Regional Transport Plan (eg planning of routes, frequency and payment systems), while two were included partially (eg bus design), some more proposals are being considered for inclusion in the near future (eg bus-stop design and quality indicators for drivers' performance).

Above all, the initiative has led to a growing awareness and sensitivity to women's perspectives in the planning processes among politicians and government officials. The contribution of women in these processes is gaining increasing recognition and has begun to be considered as the norm. This has been helped by the growing mass media coverage to these issues. The sustainability of this process is being guaranteed by the creation of the forum for 'Town Planning and Gender' which encourages the social, technical, and political participation of women in all processes concerning the growth and urban



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