

## **We participate in the second international meeting of the European project 'MEWA' in Poland**

During the week of **September 26th to October 2nd**, 2022, 6 women activists over 55 years of age and 2 educators from the Por Ti Mujer Association have traveled to the city of Wroclaw (Poland) to participate in the second international meeting held within the framework of the European project '**MEWA - Activation of Older Adult Women-exchange of experiences of activists over 55 years of age from Wroclaw and Valencia**'.

This project, initiated in March 2022 within the framework of the **European Union's KA2010-ADU** call for projects, has been co-developed by the Por Ti Mujer Association together with the **Fundacja Wspierania Organizacji Pozarządowych "Umbrella"** (Umbrella Foundation)<sup>1</sup> of Wroclaw (Poland), who, on this occasion, served as the host entity of the meeting.

The event was presented taking as a precedent the first international meeting of the project that took place in Valencia, organized by Por Ti Mujer last July. This space for learning and exchanging experiences showed the strengthening of the ties between the participants from Valencia and Wroclaw through work around the concept of ageism and the need to break stereotypes of people's ages.

In this second international meeting in Poland, the participants of Por Ti Mujer had the opportunity to learn more about the work that the Umbrella Foundation has been carrying out, especially with regard to strengthening the networking of the group of older adult women 55 years as a strategy to promote their social and community empowerment in accordance with the objective of 'MEWA'.

During their stay, they also had an approach with the social and associative fabric of the city of Wroclaw through the visit to entities and resources for the comprehensive care of refugee migrants, women victims of gender violence and LGBTBI people, such as the Centrum Praw Kobiet (Center for Women's Rights), Kultura Równosci (Culture of Equality) or the information and reception point for Ukrainian refugees.

In this way, the second international meeting of the 'MEWA' project leads us, on the one hand, to reaffirm the importance of the existence of "umbrella" foundations, such as 'Umbrella', dedicated to supporting organizations of scale and with more difficulties to obtain financing as a tool to strengthen the associative fabric of the small neighborhoods and cities that we inhabit, especially when they are the main response to a humanitarian crisis such as the one that occurred on the border between Ukraine and Poland.

On the other hand, the exchange of experiences between women activists over 55 years of age has highlighted the need to promote the design of public policies that

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<sup>1</sup> "Umbrella" is a Wroclaw Non-Governmental Organizations and Social Initiatives Support Foundation. Since 2007, it has helped more than 130 organizations through 90 projects and the implementation of training, consulting and information activities, as well as making our facilities and equipment available.

encourage active aging and community empowerment focused on this group from a gender, intercultural and social perspective. intersectional.

Finally, learn about the work of the third sector that is developed in Poland thanks to funds allocated to non-democratic countries by other European governments, echoes the importance of consolidating cooperation between States at a European level to guarantee equality in diversity and existence comprehensive care resources for people who suffer multiple violence and discrimination for reasons of sex, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.