



EQUITABLE ACCESS BY WOMEN AND MEN TO PUBLIC SERVICES

Opinion Articles



EU-CELAC and the Economic Empowerment of Women in the Dominican Republic

Alejandrina Germán
Minister for Women, Dominican Republic

In recent decades, Latin America and the Caribbean have occupied a leading role in various international forums relating to gender equality, culminating in the design and implementation of national and international public policies. In the Dominican Republic, President Danilo Medina has taken this mission to the heart of his government's politics by adopting a series of laws and measures that benefit Dominican women, in order to overcome the obstacles that limit development and empowerment. New goals have been set out by Medina for the period 2016-2020, which can be achieved through the EU-CELAC partnership, through experience-sharing projects and oversight committees, toward the promotion of the economic independence and equality of women.

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Equality Between Men and Women is a Precondition for Effective Democracy

Věra Jourová
European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers & Gender Equality

Whilst the EU has worked endlessly to advance gender equality over the past few decades, many challenges still exist. The European Commission is determined to change this and has been focusing on several priorities and key actions for 2016-2019. These include increasing equal economic independence, reducing the gender pay gaps and combatting gender-based violence, as well as protecting and supporting victims. This should also be included in the political and policy dialogue with Latin American and Caribbean countries through peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of experiences to promote good governance principles. After all, equality between men and women is a precondition for an effective democracy.

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Equality of Public Services Access Among Women and Men

Claudia Pascual
Minister of Women and Gender Equality, Chile

The Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, founded under President Michelle Bachelet's second term in office, has taken several positive measures with regards to gender equality, protection, and the empowerment of women at national level. Moreover, Chile has pioneered several international initiatives, including a leading role in the inclusion of the chapter on gender on the CELAC-EU Action Plan whose goal is to promote dialogue and different policies that strive for a better quality of life and bridging the gender gap, in the hope that these good practices get replicated across the whole region. The role of the EU-LAC Foundation is fundamental in encouraging dialogue and reflection between both regions on a key topic with the purpose of promoting just, equitable, and inclusive societies.

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Well done so far, challenges ahead; Women's access to public services in Finland

Anne Lammila

Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues and Gender Equality, Finland

The Finnish tax system has laid the groundwork for an equal and guaranteed access to public services. There is an awareness of the connection between taxes and public services, where the legitimacy of tax paying is crucial in order to ensure tax collection. In Latin America and the Caribbean, civil society, parliament and the media can play a positive and active role in increasing legitimacy and boosting tax collection. Finland can assist in the bi-regional cooperation by sharing best practices. Domestically, the country is faced with challenges related to unpaid care work, geography, economic uncertainty and a negative population growth. The increasingly ageing population especially affects women negatively. In light of these challenges, the bi-regional cooperation and the collaboration through international channels is of utmost importance and mutually beneficial.

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Latin American Women in Pension Plans: Advance their rights; shatter discriminations

María Nieves Rico

Director for Gender Affairs, ECLAC

The low quality of pensions systems, and their inaccessibility, powerfully reflect the gender inequality faced by women in Latin America. The exclusion of many women in these systems can be explained by two related factors. Firstly, there is a lesser possibility of women regularly contributing to social security and of them contributing as much as men. Secondly, the pension systems lack a gender perspective, which is visible in the openly discriminatory formulas used to calculate pensions. Various areas of cooperation between the EU-CELAC can be identified in order to tackle this. The interregional exchange of knowledge derived from the implementation of policies, and a dialogue on information sources and indicators of inequalities, are but two examples on how to advance towards a sustainable development that includes gender equality and shatters discrimination.

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Early Childhood Education and Care: Gender changes in a public service rendered almost exclusively by women

Christian Hoenisch

Deputy Head of Unit, Gender Equality Policy for Boys and Men - Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) is a public service employing almost exclusively women. Recently, Germany has taken up a new societal and political discourse on men in caring professions. There are several good reasons for raising the number of men in women-dominated professions. However, this is a change that takes time, not only due to the time needed for training and qualification, but also due to the necessity to overcome gender stereotypes. The project More Men in Early Childhood Education and Care is one of two projects that Germany has launched to overcome gender disparities in ECEC.

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Health, Gender and Social Determinants in Mexico

Benno de Keijzer
Institute of Public Health - Veracruz University; Steering Committee of MenEngage Alliance Latin America, Mexico

In the context of gender, the Mexican health sector has carried out some important changes in recent years. Among these are the incorporation of proposals from the feminist movement, and programs for sexual and reproductive health. Nevertheless, the system has not been able to prevent gender-linked diseases nor secure an effective right to healthcare from an equality perspective. In order to advance further, it is necessary to develop an inclusive healthcare system for both men and women. This has to be accompanied by a number of well-founded policies originating from other sectors such as the public sector, the private sector and the civil society.

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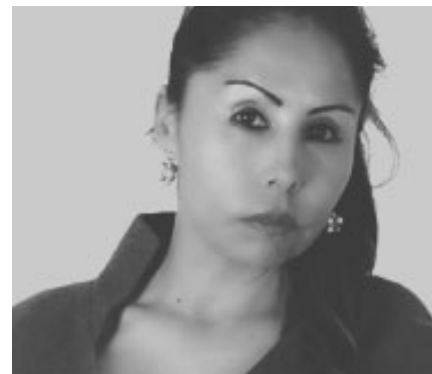


DECIDES: Cultural rights to promote development and health

Mercedes Giovinazzo
Director, Interarts

Interarts is a non-governmental organisation that operates in the field of international cooperation and it bases its activities around culture as a driver for sustainable human development. And since 2007, it has implemented the DECIDES Programme which addresses the issues of development and health, in particular of sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, with a focus on culture and cultural rights as positive and constructive instruments to foster individual well-being. It aims at improving the health and wellbeing of people through cultural cooperation as an instrument for development and the design and implementation of public policies. Its field experience has demonstrated that there is a connection between culture and capacity building which, if duly fostered, allows for optimum conditions for all in the exercising of their sexual and reproductive health rights.

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Gender Equality and Cultural Knowledge: A vision of the value of the Bolivian contribution to the EU-LAC cooperation

Patricia Bustamante
Director, CECASEM

CECASEM is a non-governmental organisation that works with rural development and gender equality in the more isolated indigenous and peasant villages of Bolivia. The director of CECASEM, explains that in the process towards equality, the political participation of women, reproductive health, economic empowerment and eradication of gender-based violence constitute the most important issues. She asserts that Bolivia can contribute to the bi-regional cooperation with its valuable knowledge of different cultures and its respect for various lifestyles. In return, the European Union provides financial support and an exchange of knowledge, thus establishing a mutualistic cooperation.

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Union of Women’s Producer Cooperatives “Las Brumas” - Jinotega, Nicaragua

Marling Haydée Rodríguez
President of the Administrative
Council, Las Brumas

This cooperative trade union seeks to empower women who work in the production of coffee, grains, vegetables and livestock. Aiming to overcome the various legal obstacles that Nicaraguan women workers face, it is especially committed to alleviating their struggle to become landowners. Whilst facing these challenges, the women promote the practice of sustainable farming, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result of their international ties, the advocacy work of Las Brumas with local governments has improved, allowing them to continue in their fight to reduce hunger and guarantee women access to land ownership.

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International Collaborations Matter: Why working together across cultures improves STEM education

Andrea Bandelli
CEO of Science Gallery
International

Informal science education initiatives - that is, the learning experiences that happen outside of the formal school system - play a fundamental role in advancing equitable access to STEM education. In 2008, Trinity College in Dublin took an innovative approach to this by opening Science Gallery, a space where art and science collide. Science Gallery’s participants come from very diverse schools and socioeconomic backgrounds, and with a 50:50 split between genders. It is active at a European level, developing coordinated approaches to address gender equity and balance in science and to develop shared resources and understandings.

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Umana: A platform for accessing health services

Paula Cardenau
Director and Co-founder, Umana

Umana is a platform that generates access to quality health services on a massive scale. Today we know that many deaths and diseases can be avoided through information and healthy lifestyles. More than a fourth of the Latin American population does not have regular access to basic health services, nor the necessary information about disease prevention. Disregarding the primary health care imply neglecting the possibility of solving 80% of the health care that a person needs on an average during the lifetime. Umana has a special focus on women for two reasons. First, in low-income households, the woman has a guardian role of the family health and can influence best practices in terms of healthy habits for the whole group. Secondly, Umana aim at strengthening the feminist protagonism with the objective to equate the gender opportunities.

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Confronting the ‘Coloniality of Gender’ in Gender Equity Work & Public Discourse: Considerations for EU-LAC relations

Halimah DeShong
Lecturer, University of West Indies

The effects of colonialism and of the enslavement and exploitation of minority groups in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to reverberate throughout the region today. The quest for gender equity and justice is pursued with the focus on the unequal distinctions between men and women, but in order for EU-LAC relations to be mutually beneficial, diverse intersections of race, gender, class, sexuality, nationality and ability must be taken into account, as there still exist many examples in both regions of how individuals of different intersections are oppressed in different ways. Amongst other things, EU-LAC cooperation on gender equity and justice should begin with a historical and geopolitical unpacking of the very way in which the term ‘gender’ is mobilised as an analytical category in policy, practice and the popular.

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Women’s Access to Higher Education and Labour Markets in Latin America and the European Union

John A. Garrido Ardila
Affiliate Professor, University of Malta & career staff teacher-Ministry of Education, Spain

The Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) finds that some Latin American countries are on similar levels of gender equality to those in the European Union. Nonetheless, some Latin American countries register equality levels that are considerably lower. GGGI data shows that equal access to higher education does not necessarily guarantee an equal access to the labour market. Sweden and Mexico are examples that show two different approaches. Measurements that facilitate family conciliation, and more specifically those related to maternity, have a considerable impact on the levels of equality. Countries in Latin America and the EU should share their good experiences in gender equality policies in order to improve the access that women have to the labour market worldwide.

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Actividades de la Fundación EU-LAC



Science, Innovation & ICTs

President Fernández was the keynote speaker at the ECLAC Ministerial meeting in Costa Rica.

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China, the CELAC and the EU: a triangular relationship?

Report of the workshop event held in Hamburg was published.

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Convocatoria abierta para proyectos de investigación



Carlos Ciosa Montero, Stefano Palestini Céspedes, Pablo Castillo Ortiz

Organizaciones Regionales y Mecanismos de Protección de la Democracia en América Latina, el Caribe, y la Unión Europea

Publication

Launch of the study winner of the Open Call of the second semester of 2014.

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Intra-Industrial Trade EU-LAC

Presentation of report at the Santiago de Compostela University.

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CEISAL

President Fernández closes the annual conference.

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III CELAC – EU Academic Summit

President Fernández opens the Santo Domingo preparatory meeting.

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Latin American and Caribbean Week in France

Conference “Capitalizing on managerial and cultural ties between Europe –Latin America and the Caribbean, to promote sustainable development”.

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Open Doors Evening

The EU-LAC Foundation opens its doors to the public in Hamburg's annual event.

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V Meeting of the Strategic Triangle Latin America – Europe – Africa

The EU-LAC Foundation participates in the Portuguese annual event.

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Fundación Altiplano – Hamburg Ethnologic Museum Collaboration

The EU-LAC Foundation connects the two entities from Argentina and Germany.

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Photography Exhibition

The EU-LAC Foundation presented in Hamburg "Out of Many, One Jamaica".

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Young Researchers

- Katrina Cohen Cosentino

Keeping the momentum against femicide in Latin America: 'Machismo' in Latin America has allowed gender violence for far too long, it's time for a change

Femicide, and general violence against women are prominent and rising issues all over Latin America. The purpose of this paper is to identify how this persistent violence against women is a result of years of the culturally engrained notion of male power and superiority through the concept of 'machismo'. It focuses on Argentina, and specific cultural trends associated to machismo, such as 'piropos', or cat-calling, as well as the atrocities committed against women, which led to the 'Ni Una Menos' movement in June of 2015, taking a stand against female violence and murder. More and more people are taking a stand against the violence through protests, but the violence continues. 'Ni Un Menos' spread all over Argentina, and Latin America, but the fight continues. The article sheds light on major issues for the movement to have an impact, which is a change of mindset, and ceasing the practice of victim blaming, and putting the blame on the attackers, not the victims.

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The selection of the Young Researcher project is done through a call published on the EU-LAC Foundation social networks and website.

Publicaciones



EU-LAC FOUNDATION

Closa Montero, Carlos, Stefano, Palestini Céspedes & Castillo Ortiz, Pablo. (2016)

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EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

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China, Latin America, the Caribbean & the European Union: a triangular relationship?

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

ON EU-LAC RELATIONS

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The Journal of Politics 2016 78:3, 670-686.

Céspedes, Catalina & Robles, Claudia. (2016)

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United Nations Publications: Santiago.

de Castro, Fabio, Hogenboom, Barbara & Baud, Michiel (eds). (2016)

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Palgrave Macmillan UK.

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Política y Gobierno 2016 Vol. 23, nº. 1.

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América Latina en UNGASS 2016: un impulse restringido, una cumber anodina en 'Guerra contra las drogas': ¿se puede modificar el paradigma internacional?

CIDOB, Barcelona.

Events of the Foundation



21 September - 21 December

Festival Lateinamerika Herbst (in German)

Hamburg, Germany

22 September

Inauguration of the Lateinamerika Herbst

Hamburg, Germany

3 October

EU-LAC Bridge 2016 Run

Hamburg, Germany

INFO@EULACFOUNDATION.ORG

HAGEDORNSTR. 22 20149 HAMBURGO, ALEMANIA //

T: +49 (0)40 80 60 11 45-0

Edition: Ana Sofia Bäumberg

Edition Team: Chantal Kijak, Daniel Felipe Mullen

& Jessica Johansson

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