ABSTRACT

EQUALITY OR RESISTANCE AND EMPOWERMENT

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I will present the research project carried out by “Orlando” Association, in collaboration with “Centro Documentazione Donna”, in order to build up a “Gender Strategies Institute” in Emilia Romagna. The project was funded by Emilia Romagna Region and FSE.

The central issue of this research project has been to explore the reasons of the low presence of women in the public sphere, both in institutional representative bodies and in political civic society, particularly evident in the Italian context.

The first step was a comparative research about the European context. We analysed five case–studies (France, Spain, Greece, Germany and Nederland) and constructed a model of comparison based on these items: a) the relationship between the different political cultures and feminisms; b) the institutional machineries; c) the features of centres and women’s associations; d) the difficulties about gender policies and the positive practices.

The second one was the collections of data about the regional context: gender statistics, interviews to migrant women, interviews to the women in public institutions and in autonomous women associations.

The third one was the planning of an Institute with the aim to improve the presence, the visibility and the effectiveness of women and political gender strategies in institutions and in society.

The focus of the paper will be on the results of the researches and the description of Institute’s model, functions and programs.