

HRYO

D'ANTILLES ET  
D'AILLEURS



**EVERY  
WOMAN  
IS AN ISLAND**



**PROJECT  
HANDBOOK  
HANDBOOK  
HANDBOOK  
HANDBOOK**



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Every Woman is an Island is a project co-founded by the Erasmus+ program which involved two associations:



HRYO (Human Rights Youth Organisation), is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in Palermo in 2009 and aimed at strengthening and protecting Human Rights at a local and global level. The organisation has been committed to implementing educational youth projects at local and international levels since its inception. At a local level seminars, workshops, and other didactic courses promoting human rights and other democratic, European values are offered. The organisation prioritises the continuous training of the facilitator's of young people's learning – for either a short period of time ( through workshops, youth exchanges, trainings) or a longer one (through EVS, Erasmus placement, ENPI CBC Med project mobility - work placements for youth workers and unemployed youth etc.).

D'Antilles et D'Ailleurs, is dedicated to promoting and forging cooperation and development, civil rights and youth through three centres of activity: youth cooperation, gender equality and migration and has a Citizen Laboratory. It is an association based in Fort-de France but has a presence in the various islands of the Lesser Antilles.

The association develops and follows up projects on four major lines : training, cooperating, creating pathways towards mobility and employment, and raising awareness.

The project consisted of a Job Shadowing of two months developed in Fort-de-France, Martinique, a French overseas department located in the Lesser Antilles. The project's main activity involved four participants, two from Palermo, Italy and two local participants from Martinique. The mobility goal was to acquire capacities and abilities in the field of women's rights and women's empowerment of victims of violence based on gender. The participants got involved in the daily tasks of the local association, D'Antilles et D'Ailleurs, observing, supporting, and implementing activities aiming to support the target goal in the territory. The association shared the methodologies and good practices with the participants whom increased their capacities and knowledge in the field thanks to this project.



# MARTINIQUE SOCIODEMO- GRAFIC ANALYSIS

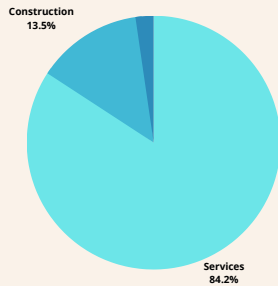


Martinique is a Caribbean island located in the Lesser Antilles and its culture reflects a distinctive blend of French and West Indian influences. Martinique is an island with the status of an overseas region and department of France, forming an integral part of the French Republic and the European Union as an outermost region.

Martinique has 368 783 habitants according to data from 2018. The official language is French although the vast majority of the population speaks Creole.

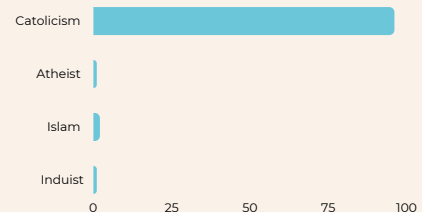


**368 783 habitants**  
data from 2018



Martinique's economy is highly tertiary. Indeed, in 2010, services accounted for 84.2% of the produced wealth, compared to 13.5% for industry and construction, and 2.3% for agriculture, fishing and aquaculture. The island has a great potential for tourism but the lack of infrastructure hinders the country's sustainability in this sector.

96.5% of Martiquesans profess some form of Christianity, with the Catholic Church being the most important one. 2.3% of them are atheists or have no religion. While 0.2% of Martiquesans profess Islam and the same percentage are Hindu.



**24,9% monoparental families**

This population is characterised by a significant proportion of single-parent households. It represents 24.9% of families (INSEE - 2015 study) compared to 8.6% in metropolitan France.

# TARGET GOAL

## WOMEN IN PROSTITUTION MARTINICA STUDY 2020

In order to understand better the situation of women in prostitution in Martinique we will base our research on a study made in 2020 by the Martinique Mouvement du Nid office, a French feminist, secular, and abolitionist association which has an office in each French department. Furthermore, Mouvement du Nid collaborates actively with D'Antilles et D'Ailleurs on a local basis, developing programs and activities towards the same goal.

This research was carried out through surveys with open and closed questions to women who were involved in the prostitution sector in Martinique at the time of this research. A total of 96 women answered these questions through phone calls due to Covid-19 restrictions. The study concluded various aspects of the women's profile, including the following:



### 01. NATIONALITY

Most of the women came from the Dominican Republic (78.1%), followed by Venezuelan (11.5%) and Haitian women (4.2%). Then, French and Colombian women accounted for the same proportion (3.1%).

### 03. MATERNITY AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN

73% of women have dependent children. In 83% of these cases, at least one of the minor children was born in a French territory and declared by a father of French nationality.

### 05. PATERNAL SITUATION

The women interviewed were living with situations of **paternal irresponsibility**, both at the economic (81%) and the affective or emotional level (75%).

### 02. MIGRATORY PROCESS

Only 11% of these women migrated deliberately from their country of origin to Martinique. For the rest of them, this island was only supposed to be a stage in their migration trajectories. 67% of them aimed to go to a territory with French ancestry (mainly French Guiana and Guadeloupe).

### 04. AGE

55% of the women interviewed were between 30 and 47 years old, although there are no defining elements to affirm that women exercise prostitution at a specific moment of their lives.

### 06. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

64.5% of the women interviewed had **not finished the secondary school**. 6% of them had started a higher educational scheme and 6% had finished studies of this level.

# GOOD PRACTICES

## LANGUAGE SUPPORT

01.

Most of the organization's women beneficiaries came from Spanish-speaking countries and the language barrier was one of the biggest obstacles they faced upon their arrival in Martinique. The organization is, aware of this problem and offers French lessons of different levels to migrant women in order to facilitate their integration in the host country. This service not only meets the educational needs of the beneficiaries but also facilitates the creation of networks and relationships.

## BUREAUCRATIC SUPPORT AND COUNSELLING

02.

Due to the high percentage of women whom do not know the language nor the bureaucratic procedures to access social resources, the organization also offers their beneficiaries a service of individualized attention and accompaniment. Through this program, they have access to the informations regarding the procedures and regulations for foreigners as well as social resources offered by the french government.

This service aims to respond to the beneficiaries needs by providing also a comprehensive support during their process of social and economic integration in Martinique.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

03.

On a weekly basis, the organisation receives donations from food banks and other foundations which they then distribute among the women and families in situation of vulnerability. Most of the women who comes to the food distribution are mothers of children and live under the risk of poverty and/or social exclusion. For this reason, basic necessities for children are also donated.

# GOOD PRACTICES

## **AWARENESS-RAISING AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES**

04.

The organization develops awareness-raising and sensibilization activities through:

- Informative discussions on women's health: these talks aim to inform and raise awareness among women in the field of health. The speakers are normally health professionals or inspirational women.
- Workshops on sex education: these workshops aim to provide participants with up-to-date information and encourage responsible and risk-free behaviors.
- Workshops on gender roles and stereotypes: these workshops aim to make participants reflect on gender roles and stereotypes through non-formal education activities.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTIVITIES**

05.

The association organizes weekly activities and workshops on various themes for the beneficiaries in order to offer leisure alternatives and create safe spaces that are conducive to their socialization:

- Clothes exchange: this event consists in the donation of each of the participants of some clothes that they no longer use so they can be used by others, making exchanges between them. Through this activity, in addition to strengthening the links between them, awareness is raised about sustainability and environmentally friendly practices.
- Movie night: screening of films with themes of interest to the beneficiaries, in their native language. This activity takes place in the organization's garden, a safe space where women can feel comfortable and share common interests.
- Intercultural exchanges: participants exchange food and traditions from their countries of origin with the rest of the group.



# CON CLU SIONS

Overall, most of the good practices identified can be replicated in Palermo, Sicily, such as linguistic and bureaucratic support. Although, some considerations must be taken into account regarding the differences of the target goals in each country, such as the cultural background or the religion. Moreover, the migration process to arrive to Italy presents more traumatic situations. Therefore, migrant women on their arrival have even less trust nor willingness to communicate with locals, organisms, and organizations. That is why activities related to inclusion and socialization can be more challenging to replicate in Palermo due to this cultural backgrounds. The empowerment activities implemented by the D'Antilles et D'Ailleurs organization can also be replicated in Palermo. Although it would be necessary to adapt these activities to the women in Palermo fields of interest. The goal will be to create a community in Palermo as it has been created in Martinique with women helping women. The participants shared a mutual learning experience and learned firsthand about the opportunities and barriers of women facing a situation of vulnerability just for the fact of being a woman.

In addition, thanks to this project, the participants understood and put into practice interventions which helped to improve the quality of life of these women. The objective of the project, empower the participants with skills related to this sector, was achieved and the sharing of good practices between associations was fulfilled. Further collaborations are expected between these associations in the future thanks to this project.

On a personal level, the participants had the opportunity not only to get to know another culture but also to improve their French language skills and the ability to handle sensitive situations abroad.

"It was a lifetime experience in so many different ways. Personally, I not only improved my capacities in the intervention with women with difficulties who migrated to Martinique but also I discovered and exploited personal skills. I will definitely continue working with this target in the future".

Abril, 27

"This experience has been a great opportunity both professionally and personally, it has allowed me to learn about the reality of many women and to acquire new skills and tools for my professional development".

Samara, 30





# EVERY WOMAN IS AN ISLAND

Learn more about  
the project on  
youtube



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