

Cepsa Foundation and CEAR in the Canary Islands collaborate to promote the social integration and autonomy of migrants

- **The project to support Personalized Itineraries for Autonomy, winner of the last edition of the Social Value Awards, facilitates their access to public and private resources.**

Promoting the social integration of refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons and migrants by facilitating access to existing public and private resources in the social sphere, primarily and indirectly in areas of the law, health, education and training, is the objective of the project developed by the Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid (CEAR) in the Canary Islands, which received an award at the latest edition of the Cepsa Foundation's Social Value Awards.

The head of the Cepsa Foundation in the Canary Islands, Belén Machado, together with the project's godmother, Amayra García de la Cruz, held a meeting with the head of Inclusion of CEAR in the Canary Islands, María Victoria Marrero, to learn at first-hand about its progress and share assessments. The meeting, held at the NGO's headquarters in the capital of Tenerife, was also attended by its regional coordinator, Juan Carlos Lorenzo.

Belén Machado emphasized that "the 'Itinerary' project supports the counseling service already provided by CEAR, favoring the social integration and independence of the group. It is based on personalized itineraries, which are vital for them to achieve real autonomy, by facilitating their participation in society as citizens right from the beginning."

María Victoria Marrero pointed out that "thanks to this project, it has been possible to help the members of the program to continue with their social and labor insertion itineraries." And she stated that "the support for the project from Fundación Cepsa allows the objectives and actions proposed to be achieved, as the aid is entirely dedicated to satisfying the needs that cannot be covered by the organization's own resources."

The ongoing project, which will directly benefit 120 people, has already covered the needs of a total of 73 people, 60% of whom are women. Regarding their country of origin, the majority are from Colombia, followed by Venezuela, Cuba, Morocco and Senegal.

The project involves initial reception actions, a study of the situation of the users of the service, the preparation of a Personalized Itinerary for Autonomy (PIA), the provision of information on specific resources that meet their real, specific needs, the completion of applications to be submitted to government services, and coordination and networking actions with the social agents involved.

In order to achieve the objectives, it is also necessary to meet certain expenses, including medical and health, food, transportation, expenses relating to obtaining documents, support for rental housing at the beginning and at specific times, and other urgent expenses not covered by the public social services system, among others.

The methodology of the 'Itinerary' is based on an itinerary divided into two parts. The first part takes into consideration the initial situation, with a diagnostic interview at which the different aspects that the person requires are explored, as well as the resources available to him/her. In the second part, the intervention situation is established with the Personalized Itinerary for Autonomy, which is a process of socio-legal labor insertion, with a complete, participatory work methodology, which requires active agents, including the interested party, and must be used in the field of socio-labor insertion itself.

These are, therefore, personalized, individual, participatory, and communication actions, with constant feedback, support, and assistance, aimed at making the person independent and autonomous.

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