

Participatory research in Stella - Guidelines

(Document submitted to the research team of Stella, meeting of May 28, 2003, L. Toupin)

I - When Stella's participation in research projects is sought; some guiding principles should be respected:

A- On the part of the researchers:

- 1 - Enable the active participation of Stella in every part of the research process.
- 2 - Respect the *Statement of Consensus on Community-based Research* established by the International Network of Community-based HIV / AIDS (document attached), specifically in the following dimensions:
 - a) The research must be seen as community development tools; in this case, this research will provide Stella with knowledge which will improve the situation of sex workers, recognize their concerns and promote their points of view.
 - b) Research activities should aim to empower and develop capacity for action in women working in sex work and, in particular, the participants of Stella.
- 3 - Respect the objectives of Stella, including respect for the diverse realities of sex work.
- 4 - In no case may researchers not referred by Stella accompany our support workers in the field.
- 5 - Guarantees of confidentiality and anonymity must be strictly established and respected, in light of the fact that research subjects are marginalized and stigmatized.

B – On the part of Stella:

- 1-Determine the relevance of research in terms of Stella: What is Stella's interest in the research?
 - a) Stella is in a position to meet the research needs in terms of resources (Stella personnel and sex workers)?
 - b) The proposed research would address some of Stella's needs?
 - c) What would benefit Stella's people who would participate in such research in terms of development potential (empowerment)?
 - d) What does Stella gain in return for possible participation:
 - How will the results of research contribute to improving the situation of sex workers?
 - How do they help to recognize the concerns of sex workers and to assert their views?

After determining the interests of Stella to participate in such research and after acceptance by the researchers of Stella's philosophy in research, as described above:

2 - Need for a clear definition of roles and tasks for Stella in the proposed research.

When this definition, these tasks and roles are identified and established:

II - A collaborative agreement is written on the clear definition of roles and tasks of each party: the "researchers" and "Stella"

A-Clarifying roles and tasks of the researchers

B-Clarifying roles and tasks of Stella

C- Clarifying Stella's participation at different stages of research.

As appropriate, participation in:

1 - the development of the method of data collection (interview guide, etc.) and integration of Stella's comments;

2 - the recruitment of respondents (taking into account the limits of Stella in this regard);

3 - the interviews themselves;

4 - analyzing the results:

a) development of tools for data analysis (categories etc..) and integration of Stella's comments;

b) data interpretation and integration of Stella's comments. (In some cases, access to some preliminary data from the research based on specific needs of Stella could be specified);

5 - reading the research report;

6 - the integration of Stella's comments at this stage;

7 - the final revision of the research report before printing integration of the latest comments from Stella.

8 - Dissemination of results

Explicit mention of the participation of Stella in research funding should be clearly specified.