



Thera van Osch (1951), mother of two children and grandmother of one child, is founder of OQ Consulting BV and of the Foundation for the Economy of Care. She is an economist who has written articles and books about development issues, gender and economics, the informal sector, women in the trade union movement, child labour, good governance, the economy of care, unpaid labour and gender budgeting.

She graduated at the Business School in Eindhoven (1972) and at the University of Tilburg in the Netherlands (1980). As a junior she worked at the Development Research Institute of this university (1979-1980) before taking off to Latin America.

In Honduras (1981), Nicaragua (1982-1984) and Colombia (1986) she taught economics, agrarian reform, economic survival strategies, methods and techniques of action research.

She has been working as an officer for income generating policies for poor women at the regional UNICEF office in Latin America and the Caribbean (1984-1986).

As co-coordinator of the Central American Training Programme on Agricultural Research, she was managing 3 schools in Nicaragua (1986-1989).

She worked for the Solidarity Fund of the Confederation of Trade Unions (FNV) of the Netherlands, supporting projects worldwide to promote Trade Union-rights, equal rights and opportunities, combat child labour, and capacity building of the Trade Union-movement (1990-1995).

In Central America she was attaché for 'Women, Gender and Development' at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Costa Rica (1995-1999), responsible for a regional Women's Fund and for gender mainstreaming in Dutch development cooperation in the Central-American countries.

She was the director of the Women's Alliance in the Netherlands (1999-2004), an umbrella organisation which promoted economic independence for women and redistribution of paid and unpaid labour.

Since 2005 she is an independent consultant and entrepreneur.

Throughout her career she has implemented more than 100 short missions to several countries: Barbados, Bolivia, Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Surinam, Tanzania, Turkey, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.