

Copyright: Patio13 – School for Street Kids Printing trainer, Peter Kollenz, teaches scholarship-holders of the Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg Nataly Gómez Muller, Alejandra Maria Castano Palacio and Elizabeth Ramirez, on how to use platens.

Established in December 2001 by the University of Education Heidelberg, the Escuela Normal María Auxiliadora in Copacabana/Columbia and Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG, "Patio 13" is both research project and best practice. It bridges the gap between school/educational training and the street by investigating the situation of street children prior to offering opportunities for change.

In particular, the project aims to fight increasing illiteracy in Colombia. A competence centre has now been founded at the University of Education in Heidelberg which coordinates the work of all participating universities in Baden-Württemberg. Each year a number of Columbian students and future teachers from the Escuela Normal María Auxiliadora study in Heidelberg, aided by the Baden-Württemberg-SCHOLARSHIP. This year's students will also attend an internship at the company Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (Printing Machines). "On our return to Colombia, we will immediately work in small groups to apply our new knowledge", says student Elisabeth Ramirez Rivera.