

# We've got news for you

Welcome to the second edition of Equal 'e-zine'.

This is my first contribution in my new role as Senior Support Manager (Dissemination) for the Equal Programme. This will be a challenging and exciting time to be working with you as we look to mainstream the positive messages and outcomes from Equal.



If you have any exciting ideas or burning suggestions about networking, dissemination and mainstreaming for Equal, I'd really like to hear from you. As plans to implement the new Structural Funds Programmes (2007-2013) get underway Equal has a pivotal role to ensure a legacy remains.

The Equal themes by nature cover a myriad of activities and keeping up to date with latest news and policy is a large task for anyone... this issue brings together news, resources and happenings from DP's and further afield brought together by the team at the Equal Support Unit and are structured around the following headings

- Employability (in particular for those at greatest risk of disadvantage in the labour market)
- Entrepreneurship (including Social Enterprise)
- Adaptability (of the individual as well as businesses)
- Equal Opportunities (for men and women)
- Support for Asylum-seekers

Our selection of items to feature is entirely arbitrary and reflects no editorial policy other than to simply make information accessible. Most of the information we link to from this e-zine is held on external websites, over which we have no editorial control.

If you have seen any useful resources and publications, or are organising any events relating to the Equal then please send feedback and content to [ezine@ecotec.com](mailto:ezine@ecotec.com). We aim to include as much as possible, but reserve the right to edit.

I hope you enjoy it!

Barbara Orthodoxou

## COMING SOON.....New Equal Guidance Notes

The Equal Support Unit is producing four policy guidance notes which will draw on learning from the Equal programme in GB and Europe.

The guidance notes will reflect the good practice from Equal and will inform the implementation of four leading principles within the new European Structural Fund programme 2007 – 2013.

The leading principles are:

- Innovation
- Partnership working
- Equal Opportunities and Empowerment
- Mainstreaming / having an impact.

The guidance notes will be available on the Equal website in the Autumn.



Find [equalworks.com](http://equalworks.com) to see all the products and policy outcomes from Equal



## FOCUS ON: Young People

The **What Makes the Difference? DP** is testing the theory that the participation of young people in service planning, development and delivery, alongside skills and training provision, correlates directly with improved outcomes for Care Leavers and higher quality services.

WMTD is keen to develop Service User Involvement across as many Local Authority Leaving Care Services as possible. In order to start this process off successfully, they held a work planning day in March 2006.

To find out more about the DP and their forthcoming activities contact:

**John Hill at Rainer:** [john.hill@raineronline.org](mailto:john.hill@raineronline.org)

### Other Publications:

#### Welfare Reform Green Paper Response

The DWP has published a response to the consultation on its Green Paper 'A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work' – and its response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee report on 'Incapacity Benefits and Pathways to Work'.

Both documents set out the DWP's proposals for welfare reform and reflect the consultation feedback from over 600 organisations. Both reports are available on the web.

[Click here for more info](#)

#### NIACE interim report on English for Speakers of other Languages (May 2006)

A review of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision in England which makes recommendations on improving quality and quantity of provision.

[Click here for more info](#)

#### Future Skills Wales 2005: sector skills survey main report

Presents an overview of Welsh employer and workforce characteristics, looking at the nature of establishments, number of employees, sectors, size of establishment.

[Click here for more info](#)

### Reports & Publications on young people

#### DG Employment and Social Affairs at The European Commission thematic study on policy measures concerning disadvantaged youth:

Summarises a report analysing policy measures in EU states relating to disadvantaged youth (aged 16-25), focusing on access to employment.

[Read all about it here](#)

#### DfES Young people and the labour market: evidence from EMA pilots:

Investigates young people's labour market experiences in order to assess the effect of two years of post-sixteen education on their initial position and subsequent progression within the labour market.

[Read all about it here](#)

#### Learning from three local LSC Partnerships working to tackle levels of young people not in education, employment or training:

Identifies good practice in bringing young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) into learning.

[Read all about it here](#)

## Creative Enterprise Awareness



At the **Breathing Space** DP Creative Enterprise Awareness is a programme specially designed for women and BME groups that uses creative methods to give participants awareness about enterprise and business.

Broad goals as defined by the beneficiaries on the project were;

- To gain understanding of what's involved in setting up business.
- To gather information to consider how to set up a business and find out what's involved.

Evaluation of the programme has demonstrated how successful the programme has been with 100% of beneficiaries stating that their goals were met.

Please contact **Lynn Wernham** at Breathing Space on 01905 795185 for further details

## News

### Transforming Communities

The Social Inclusion in Enterprise Development Equal Partnership is pleased to announce the website for their transnational partnership Building Entrepreneurship is now up and running at:

[Click here for more info](#)

### Entrepreneurship meeting in Europe.....

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/equal/news/200605-etg2-adam\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equal/news/200605-etg2-adam_en.cfm)

This is a link to the Europa website with an article on the Equal meeting on Entrepreneurship organised by the Dutch Managing Authority. Contacts for further info Jo Hawley & Jag Pabla at ECOTEC

[jo.hawley@ecotec.com](mailto:jo.hawley@ecotec.com) or [jag.pabla@ecotec.com](mailto:jag.pabla@ecotec.com)

[Click here for more info](#)

## Events

### Through Enterprise

A two-day conference presented by the Social Inclusion in Enterprise Development Equal Partnership and led by the London Borough of Islington Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th September 2006 to be held at Regent's College Conference Centre Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS There will be an online booking form and programme available shortly.

[Click here for more info](#)

Bectu's "Move on Up in Radio" event takes place on 27th October at the TUC, Great Russell Street, London, WC1. The event is part of the Audio Visual Entrepreneurship Development Partnership, and is aimed at BME professionals or new entrants who wish to develop their careers in radio. The day will involve workshops and one to one sessions with key decision makers from across the radio industry. Deadline for applications is 1st September 2006. For further information please visit

[www.bectu.org.uk](http://www.bectu.org.uk)

## Train to Gain

A new service designed to help businesses get the training they need to succeed.



Train to Gain is being rolled-out nationally by the Learning and Skills Council across England and has been developed from the highly successful Employer Training Pilots. It can help businesses improve their productivity and competitiveness by ensuring that staff have the right skills to do the best job.

### What is Train to Gain?

One of the key goals of the service is to make sure that both the training and the skills advice are impartial, flexible, responsive, and offered at a time and place to suit businesses. This marks a cultural shift in how skills training will be delivered, and will ensure that the delivery of training is much more responsive to the needs of every business.

For more information check out:

<http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/>

### Welfare Reform Bill

The Government published its Welfare Reform Bill on 4th July 2006, which builds on the Welfare Reform Green Paper 'A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work' and the subsequent consultation report. The measures in the Bill, together with the other welfare reform measures, are intended to enable the Government to realise its aspiration of an 80 per cent employment rate for people of working age and an inclusive society where there is opportunity for all. These proposals continue to build on those outlined in the **DWP Five Year Strategy** published in February 2005.

[Click here for more info](#)

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL** was first published in 1999. Seven years on the annual strategy takes stock of steps taken to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It uses a series of indicators and on 15th August 2006 interesting information on the variances between employment rates amongst local deprived wards were published using information from the Labour Force Survey.

[Click here for more info](#)

## Publications

Opportunity Age is the Government's strategy for an ageing society. The strategy aims to end the perception of older people as dependent; ensure that longer life is healthy and fulfilling; and that older people are full participants in society. It was first published in 'Opportunity Age: Meeting the challenges of ageing in the 21st century' in March 2005.

[Click here for more info](#)

## Events

The National Research and Development Centre (NRDC) was established by the DfES as part of Skills for Life, the national strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy skills. NRDC is dedicated to conducting research into adult literacy, numeracy, ESOL and ICT. <http://www.nrdc.org.uk>

### The NRDC are organising Skills for Life conferences 2006

These will take place in London on 3rd November, Birmingham on 21st November and York on 27th November. These conferences will be attended by 1,300 people in total and will provide an ideal opportunity for dissemination of lifelong learning messages.

A booking form will be available in early September 2006. To ensure you receive notification when the booking form is available, please register on the NRDC site.

## 2007: European year of Equal Opportunities



Following the approval by the European Parliament and the Council, 2007 got the green light to be the 'European Year of Equal Opportunities for All'. The year will aim to demonstrate how diversity makes the EU stronger. A total budget of €15million will be allocated to promote equal opportunities for the 12 months' activities to tackle four themes: rights, representation, recognition and respect.

The 2007 European year for Equal Opportunities will focus on the grounds for discrimination that can be addressed within EU law: discrimination linked to gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Most activities will be co-ordinated by the Member States in respect of the subsidiarity principle. The €7.6 million dedicated to national, local and regional activities will be matched by co-financing from national public and private sources.

[Click here for more info](#)

### News

#### European Institute for Gender Equality

During the recent meeting of the Employment and Social Affairs Council, EU Ministers unanimously agreed to create a European Institute for Gender Equality. The purpose of the Institute will be to support EU institutions and Member States in collecting, analysing and disseminating data and comparable statistics in addition to encouraging gender mainstreaming and awareness-raising. For the period 2007- 2013, the overall budget of the Institute is €52.5 million.

#### EOC response to DTI consultation

At the end of May 2006, the Equal Opportunities Commission responded to the DTI consultation: Work and Families: Choice and Flexibility - Additional Paternity Leave and Pay. Read more about it at:

<http://www.eoc.org.uk>

#### Annual Conference of Community Action programme to combat discrimination in Warsaw.

The Annual Conference of the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination took place on 24-25 April in Warsaw, Poland. The theme was 'Anti-discrimination & Diversity Training: Good Practices & Future Needs'. The Conference report is available at:

[Click here for more info](#)

### Publications

#### Research on British people of different background.

The CRE has recently published a report investigating British people of different ethnic backgrounds living in England, Scotland and Wales. This report should be read in combination with a previously-published report, 'What is Britishness?'

[Click here for more info](#)

#### Reports on Equality between Women and Men in the European Union

With a view to accelerating progress towards real equality, on 1st March 2006, the European Commission adopted a Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men covering the period 2006-2010. This publication is available at:

[Click here for more info](#)

## European Conference in Crete:

### Getting Asylum Seekers into Employment – Challenges and Opportunities

Over 100 participants from across the EU, including representatives from all four GB Round 2 DPs in Theme 1, along with some Round 1 DPs and the Equal Support Unit, attended an Equal Exchange Event 'Getting Asylum Seekers into Employment - Challenges and Opportunities' in Chania, on the beautiful island of Crete (Greece) on 1st-2nd June 2006.

The event provided the opportunity for DPs from the first and second rounds of Equal who have implemented projects aimed at supporting asylum seekers into eventual employment to meet, and identify, discuss and exchange their experiences and the good practice they have developed.

The recommendations from the workshops are now available and will be used to inform the development of the next policy conference, which is due to take place in Malmo, Sweden in November 2006. This will be a three day event targeting policymakers, and will include an exhibition from DPs across the EU. The Thematic Network Group are currently planning how the GB DPs will contribute to this event and which policymakers should be invited.

[Click here for more info](#)

For up to date news and information on the asylum issue from the Guardian website:

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/asylumseekers/0,,382055,00.html>

## News

### Home Office Consultation on the new Qualification Directive

The Asylum Qualification Directive is a key element of a package envisaged at the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997). The Treaty committed Member States to a range of measures designed to establish minimum standards for asylum procedures and policies across the European Union as a first step towards a Common European Asylum System.

[Click here for more info](#)

### 'Health and social care for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers' 1st November 2006, London and 07 November 2006, York

The Refugee Council's conference will examine the restrictions to access and entitlements to health and social care that can have a devastating impact on already vulnerable refugees who have come to the UK for protection.

[Click here for more info](#)

## Publications

### Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate Review

Fair, Effective, Transparent and Trusted: Rebuilding Confidence in our Immigration System. The Home Secretary John Reid presented the findings of the Review of IND to Parliament on 25th July.

The paper setting out the Home Secretary's vision on how the Government can work to improve the way IND tackles immigration in the 21st Century, was unveiled today.

The document sets out four key objectives, these will build on the Government's five year strategy for asylum and immigration. It will also develop proposals to strengthen our borders, fast track asylum decisions, enforce our immigration law and remove the most harmful people first, and boost Britain's economy.

For further information see:

[Click here for more info](#)

Home Office Asylum and Immigration Statistics for first quarter of 2006:

[Click here for more info](#)