

Spreading the Word.....

Welcome to issue No 4 of the Equal e-zine produced by the team at the Equal Support Unit. 2007 will be a busy year and Development Partnerships are at the forefront of exchanging ideas and experiences around Equal. You will find links to DP success stories in this issue of the Equal e-zine such as exciting visits across Europe. DPs have had the opportunity to share good practice with other Member States on topics such as racial discrimination and empowerment models to build bridges between vulnerable groups and employers. At a National level, currently labour market policies will be influenced by the findings and recommendations from the **Leitch Review**.

Reducing Re-Offending through Skills and Employment: Next Steps and the **Social Exclusion Unit's: Reaching Out Programme**. Equal DPs are well placed to inform the ensuing debates and provide practical solutions to on-going issues. The Equal Support Unit is working closely with the **Commission for Equality and Human Rights Transition Team** who have been very interested in learning about the pilot activities developed under Equal in all areas of diversity and discrimination.

With the Equal e-zine reaching around 1600 people it is an ideal platform to share news. You can use the Equal e-zine to inform others of success stories, products, publications and information on events you are organising. If you want to be in Issue No 5, please send news items to ezine@ecotec.com **30 April 2007**. The next publication date is **21 May 2007**.



Barbara Orthodoxou

Just to remind you! – the next Thematic Networking Group called 'Skills Equal Work' will take place on 27 March 2007 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London. The plenary session will include an update on the Leitch Review by Andy Westwood from CESI, who was a member of the HM Treasury team. The day will also consist of lively roundtable discussions on key points from the Leitch Review which will lead to conference findings being disseminated to key government departments who are co-ordinating consultations on Leitch later this year.

The Equal Support Unit will also be making further announcements about Equal Works 2007 final conference to take place on 10 and 11 September 2007 at the Birmingham International Convention Centre and how DPs and policy makers can get involved.

News from www.equal-works.com

Live on-line debate 1.00 pm on Wednesday 21 February on Equal-Works

Social enterprise focuses on activities of long-term benefit to the community – citizens, employees and consumers. The Big Issue founder and editor-in-chief, John Bird, will be debating the present and future of social enterprise online at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 21 February on Equal-Works. John Bird is probably the most successful and influential social entrepreneur in the UK. His views on the potential scope of social enterprise, the government's role in promoting and resourcing it, and the community's role in supporting it will be uncompromising and challenging. The debate is open to everyone and will be archived on Equal-Works alongside the first debate, which featured Trevor Phillips, Chairman of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. All participants wishing to take part must register in advance. To register and find out more, [click here](#)

The Equal-Works team would like to thank all DPs who participated in the very successful 'Talking Heads' production days in London, Scotland, Wales, Manchester and Birmingham. The footage will soon be available on www.equal-works.com if you require copies of material please contact Daisy Chatterton. We are also pleased to announce that there are some new features on Equal-Works designed to help you with your networking, dissemination and mainstreaming activities: [click here](#)

Wanted! Case Studies

Thanks to all those Development Partnerships who responded to the Equal Support Unit's request for case studies. The case studies enable the team to promote your DP at programme level (particularly when requests for nominations are received from other member states) also for press and for publicity materials produced by the Equal team. You can download the case study template here . [Click here for more info](#)

Publicity offer for DPs

The Equal Support Unit will have sponsored features in New Start magazine throughout 2007 to help disseminate findings from the programme. In return New Start is offering a 20% discount to all DPs throughout England, Scotland & Wales. To take advantage of this unique offer contact Ryan May on 0114 2816130 or you can email ryan@newstartmag.co.uk

The Equal DP Ensuring Positive Futures is the winner of the Guardian Public Service Awards



Andrew Little, EPF programme director (centre), accepting the award from Kirsty Wark of the BBC.

At an award ceremony on 6 December, Ensuring Positive Futures received the coveted Guardian Public Service award in the 'service delivery for long term conditions' category.

Andrew Little, from EPF lead partner, the UK Coalition of People Living with HIV and Aids, who received the award, commented:

"I feel very proud that the partnership's work has been recognised at such a high profile event. With today's medical advances, people living with HIV can enjoy successful careers, but all too often they face ignorance and prejudice. EPF has worked hard to support people living with HIV and this award will help us to put HIV on the public agenda." [Read all about it here](#)

Blue Sky is an enterprise working to provide work placements for ex-offenders. Mick May the founder discusses the benefits of working with ex-offenders.

[Click here for more info](#)

Events

CESI – INCLUSION DP

Inclusion is running a series of Master classes on the Leitch Review on Skills to provide an in depth explanation of the detail and approach undertaken by the review.

21 February 2007 - London

8 March 2007 - London

28 March 2007 - Sheffield

[Click here for more info](#)

NOMS National Conference - Employment and Skills of Offenders in the Community – 'Working it Out'

To be held on 22 March 2007 at the Jury's Inn Hotel, Birmingham.

Contact: Olubusola.Shokan@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk by 28 February 2007 at the latest.

[Click here for more info](#)

Move On With Equal (MOWE) is managed by Tribal CTAD. Their work programme aims to support EQUAL Development Partnerships in helping to reduce some of the barriers to employment arising from low skills. We are planning to contact DPs soon to update them on our progress and to give them the opportunity to help shape what we do. There will be a series of workshops which we think will be of interest to all DPs.

[Click here for more info](#)



Publications

The national framework for active learning for active citizenship The Take Part learning framework. This is a practical resource available to anyone seeking to enable adults to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence to make a difference in their communities.

[Click here for more info](#)

DFES and DWP: a shared evidence base - the role of skills in the labour market.

Presents a shared Department for Education and Skills and Department for Work and Pensions interpretation of the evidence on the role of skills in the labour market and their impact on productivity.

[Click here for more info](#)

NEON NEWS

The second edition of the NEON newsletter contains, News, Case Studies, policy updates and Events.

[Click here for more info](#)



ACBBA selected to deliver public services

ACBBA has been selected as one of 6 partnerships from across the country that illustrates best practice in partnership, working to deliver public services. The panel were very impressed by ACBBA's submission and felt that ACBBA have some excellent learning points which would be useful to disseminate and also worthy of some celebration of the achievements.

ACBBA has presented its work at the 3rd Sector Delivery 4 Communities Conference held on the 13 February at Queen Elizabeth Hall London. The event was chaired by the Leader of London Councils, Cllr Merrick Cockerill. ACBBA's presentation at the conference involved giving a 7-10 minute case study as an illustration of the project's work and the details of the ACBBA good practice case studies will be made available to the Treasury and the Office of the Third Sector who are keen to see the kind of work going on in this area so that it can help shape future policy.

Ex-Cons to ICONS.....

In November 2006 the Euro Enterprise Evolutions DP took a group of 10 beneficiaries to The Netherlands to gain inspiration for a more positive future. Many of the group were gang members and offenders seeking to make a big change in their lives through starting a business.

[Click here for more info](#)



News

Commission of Unclaimed Assets to invest in Third Sector?

The Commission on Unclaimed Assets (CUA) is an independent committee set up to recommend uses of monies left dormant in UK bank accounts. The UK has no legal framework which provides recommendations on the productive use of such assets.

The initial report saw the CUA suggest major investment in the third sector; to support these proposals, the CUA are keen to learn more about social enterprise, its current issues and likely future funding needs. The CUA has thus designed a questionnaire which explores organisational structure, access to resources and funding priorities and allows social enterprises to voice their views and feed directly into the final priorities that are set.

Social Enterprise Coalition (SEC) Chief Executive Jonathan Bland is a member of the Commission's advisory council. The SEC is eager to ensure that the needs of the social enterprise sector are reflected in the final report. Individuals involved in the third sector are thus encouraged to complete the survey.

[Click here for more info](#)

A Network of Inspirational Women Entrepreneurs

[Click here for more info](#)

Events

Skillset Audio Visual Entrepreneurship DP Mentoring Event Wednesday 28 February & Thursday 1 March 2007 BBC Training & Development, Conference Centre 35, Marylebone High Street, London, W1U 4AA.

[Click here for info](#) [Click here for Booking Form](#)

Publications

Subscribe to the Office of the Third Sector newsletter:

[Click here for more info](#)

Office of the Third Sector website:

[Click here for more info](#)

The ACBBA Newsletter:

[Click here for more info](#)

The SIED Newsletter:

[Click here for more info](#)

EQUAL Quarterly Bulletin - SEC national mainstreaming programme:

[Click here for more info](#)

New Deal for Communities National Evaluation: An Overview of Change Data.

[Click here for more info](#)

Social Enterprise Coalition Website:

[Click here for more info](#)

The OWEN DP

(Older Workers Employment Network) successfully facilitating the return to the labour market

The OWEN project teamed up with East Riding of Yorkshire Council business services to match OWEN beneficiaries with vacancies through the Bridlington Business Centre. The OWEN project has helped almost 60 people find jobs.

Susan Major-Blagboro joined the project in July 2006.

Susan said:

"I had been unemployed, though actively seeking work for some time. I had sent off lots of CVs and application forms, and although I felt that my work history and experience were good, I did not receive many replies. This knocked my confidence. It was suggested to me that I should contact the OWEN Project. A meeting was quickly arranged with an excellent advisor from the project, and within a short time I was contacted with details of a vacancy and asked to submit my CV. I was so pleased to get the job."



Euroskills Preview, 15-16 March 2007 – Ahoy Rotterdam Conference focusing on new ways of promoting skills in Europe.

Contact Skills Netherlands at info@euroskills2008.nl or at 00-31-172211120

Consultation

Delivering World-class Skills in a Demand-led System

[Click here for more info](#)

ESocial Footprints Symposium 11 December 2006 at the ICC

Over 500 people from across the UK and Europe attended the Symposium at the ICC to gain information and insights into aspects of Work Life Balance (WLB) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Representatives of the organisations and projects funded by Adjust the Balance created a lively "Market Place" to provide information about the projects funded through Equal and BBC presenter John Humphrys chaired a "Question Time" debate.

[Click here for more info](#)



The Age Diversity Issue - Have you got it right?

More and more companies are realising the benefits of encouraging a more age diverse workforce, but how well does the theory work in practice?

The Age Driver is a performance management tool that puts the spotlight on age diversity in the workplace and helps companies to assess how well they are performing internally and externally.

[Click here for more info](#)

Events

A Legacy of Learning: sharing global experiences of learning in later life

9 -11 May 2007, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.

[Click here for more info](#)

Publications

Ageing and employment: identification of good practice to increase job opportunities and maintain older workers in employment - final report

[Click here for more info](#)

Over 50s Outreach Pilot: qualitative research (Department for Work and Pensions research report no 401)

[Click here for more info](#)

Life through learning: strategy update 2006 (Scottish Executive)

[Click here for more info](#)

National Adult Learning Survey (NALS) 2005 (Research report 815) (Department for Education and Skills)

[Click here for more info](#)

European skills symposium: skills for the future - making better places in Europe (Academy for Sustainable Communities)

[Click here for more info](#)

New Website for 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities

The website for the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All is now online. It includes information on the themes and objectives of the Year and a wealth of practical information on how it will be organised.

To find out more about the European Year of Equal Opportunities in the UK go to the Department for Communities and Local Government or the Commission for Equalities and Human Rights websites.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1123181>

www.cehr.org.uk

For further information across Europe:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm

www.stop-discrimination.info

Board for Refugee Integration in London (BRIL)

On 15 February 2007, the Amnesty International Centre was the venue for a funding review day for refugee integration. The event, part sponsored by EQUAL was organised by the Greater London Authority and the London Funder's Group. Delegates included refugee community organisations, service providers for refugees as well as a number of funders including the London Boroughs Job Centre Plus, Learning and Skills Council and other stakeholders.

The event, chaired by Lee Jasper, had been organised in response to significant financial difficulties experienced by organisations supporting refugee integration in London. More information about the outcomes of the event will be available in the next Equal e-zine.

European Platform on overcoming discriminatory practices for ethnic minorities

A European platform has been set up to look at the experiences of EQUAL DPs in tackling discrimination in employment. The aim is to learn from each of the member states as to how they are trying to overcome discriminatory practices concerning minority ethnic groups with the goal of reconciling policy initiatives and practices.

France, Germany and Sweden are leading this initiative through a series of Peer Review Seminars which will culminate in making recommendations to a policy forum in Paris in November 2007. So far Great Britain has nominated four DPs to participate. They are **CEED** and **B-Equal** for the first seminar in Paris, and **All Wales Ethnic Minority Association (AWEMA)** and **Scottish Further Education Unit (SFEU)** for the seminars in Germany in March.

The conclusions derived from these seminars will be presented at the final Policy Forum which will bring together European and national decision makers to discuss strategic recommendations that can inform the implementation of the 2007- 2013 ESF programme and the main EU employment, anti-discrimination and inclusion policies.

Disability Agenda

On 14 February 2007, the DRC launched its Disability Agenda. It sets out what the DRC believes to be the chief public policy challenges for the coming decade and the action needed to meet them.

To find out more, visit the Disability Agenda website and let them have your comments and suggestions on how to turn the Agenda into a reality. [Click here for more info](#)

Publications

A case study of staff development training carried out at Hull College

[Click here for more info](#)

A new report produced by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) findings suggest that both men and women want flexible working hours

[Click here for more info](#)

Events

JIVE North West Business Case for Women in SECT

23 February 2007 10.30am -3.00pm
Burnley Football Club, Turf Moor,
East Lancashire.

[Click here for more info](#)

Evening Reception for Skilled Women

14 March 2007 at 6.30pm at The
Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great
George Street, London

Hosted by Claire Curtis-Thomas MP, the event is designed to ensure that young women have the opportunity to share and exchange their experiences and to build links and network with similarly minded women.

If you wish to attend can you please email [Elizabeth Rowley](mailto:Elizabeth.Rowley@ice.org.uk) at Claire Curtis-Thomas' office.



Svenska ESF-Rådet

European Asylum Policy Forum in Sweden – 22-24 May 2007. The city of Malmö will host the forum for Development Partnerships, politicians, civil servants and NGO representatives. Development Partnerships from theme I will have the opportunities to embark in the Policy Forum and have the chance to exhibit their achievements as well as deliver presentations. An update on this event will follow in the next Equal e-zine.....

[Click here for more info](#)

EASI DP

Adding to and Learning from Exchanges

Comprising fourteen organizations the Empowering Asylum Seekers to Integrate (EASI) Development Partnership (DP) supports asylum seekers to acquire skills in preparation for the labour market. In a transnational partnership called EXCHANGES with the FAAR DP from France, and ESÉLY from Hungary, EASI has focused on the integration of asylum seekers at three levels, these are:

- Orientation and preparation for the labour market
- Capacity building and Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs)
- Language, teaching and learning.

EASI's person-centred approach benefits the individual, the partnership and strengthens the community. For example, while a member of the EASI Advisory Group (AG) waited six months for a decision, he took ESOL classes and developed skills through the AG's role in the EASI partnership. Today he has refugee status, is working, and speaks good English. The AG is a representative group of asylum seekers who provide advice and consultation to EASI partners on their programmes and inform the partnership's policies.

EASI also produces a newsletter called Refugee Employment in Europe that focuses on reception and integration issues in Europe. If you would like to receive this bulletin or would like more information about the DP contact skhan@itn.org.uk.

EASI has had many successes', look out for future articles on our work!

New orientation guides from RAGU

RAGU (Refugee Assessment and Guidance Unit) has produced 2 new comprehensive guides for refugees and asylum seekers on education, training and employment. They are available to download from the RAGU website at: www.londonmet.ac.uk/ragu and the advice-resources website at www.advice-resources.co.uk. They are regularly updated to allow for changes to legislation and in response to feedback from users.

The guides cover issues around education, training, volunteering and employment with some further information on the rights and entitlements of refugees and asylum seekers. The first guide is for adult refugees and asylum seekers and has been translated into 9 community languages – Arabic, Farsi, French, Kurdish Sorani, Pashto, Somali, Turkish, Tigrinian and Urdu. The second guide is for advisers and will be particularly useful for advisers in mainstream organisations.

The guides have been used as awareness-raising tools with potential employers as well as in workshops with mainstream advisers and staff from refugee community organisations. Both guides will also be of interest to policy makers and for European partners engaged with Equal projects interested in finding out more about systems in England.

These guides were commissioned by advice-resources who provide a range of resources for people working in information, advice and guidance (IAG) services in the UK. This means that the guides have already been successfully mainstreamed, appearing on a national website for IAG practitioners. Any feedback on the guides is welcome and should be sent to e.saunders@londonmet.ac.uk.