UPDATED PROGRAMME ONLINE

The programme will be continuously updated on our website:

europa.eu.int/comm/equal

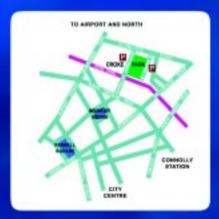
We advise you to visit the What's New and Asylum Seekers sections regularly to find information on the programme, speakers and key documents.

OPENING

The official opening of the European Conference and the Exhibition will be from 19.00 - 21.00 on 31 March 2004, which includes a welcome cocktail and buffet with snacks and refreshments offered by the European Commission.

LOCATION

Croke Park is located in the north of Dublin, approximately five minutes drive from the city centre and 20 minutes from the airport.



Hogan Suite Croke Park Croke Park Stadium Jones Road Dublin 3, Ireland www.crokepark.ie

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

For more information, or for expressing your interest in participating in the conference, please mail to:

empl-equal-etg5@cec.eu.int



Organised by the European Commission DG Employment & Social Affairs EQUAL

Asylum Seekers in the EU: the Challenges of Integration

APRIL 1 2004 - DUBLIN



the conference

PURPOSE:

EQUAL has funded a wide range of partnerships across all Member States, to develop innovative approaches which enable the social and vocational integration of Asylum Seekers.

This European conference seeks to draw together the most promising practice from EQUAL and examine the potential contribution to asylum processes across the EU.

Given the timing, this event also sets the scene for the future development of the Common European Asylum System, and takes account of the perspective of an expanded European Union.

THE CONFERENCE WILL:

- Discuss the main challenges of integration and reintegration and the approaches taken in different national contexts within the EU
- Illustrate the benefits of activities encouraging the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers and the merits of EQUAL practices
- Provide an opportunity for the new Member States to learn from the experiences of existing Member States

PARTICIPANTS:

Policy players from national and international organisations, experts in the field of asylum, new Member States representatives from the administrations and the NGO sector, will debate and learn from current practice.

The event will be illustrated by the work on the ground, with practitioners taking part in the panel discussion. An exhibition will showcase promising practices within the EQUAL Asylum Seekers theme from across the Member States and through transnational partnerships.

draft programme

HOST: Miriam O'Callaghan - Radio Telefís Éireann (RTE)

MARCH 31ST: 19.00 RECEPTION AND OPENING OF EXHIBITION

APRIL 1st: 8.30 - 16.00

SESSION 1: ASYLUM PROCESSES IN EUROPE TODAY

Presentations and debate to map the context of asylum at national and EU levels, covering:

- Trends in asylum seekers within the EU, their characteristics and prospects.
- Opportunities and limitations on the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers in different national contexts.
- The progress and impact of the current legislation approved within the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

SESSION 2: THE SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL INTEGRATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN EQUAL

A panel discussion to highlight the promising practices in the EQUAL Asylum Seekers theme and to identify their relevance to policy. Questions addressed will include:

- What practices work, what are the benefits, are the promising practices transferable?
- What are the benefits and constraints on providing a range of integration options for asylum seekers?

Panel discussion in response to interventions from EQUAL practitioners across the EU

SESSION 3: THE FUTURE OF ASYLUM: THE SECOND ROUND OF EQUAL, ACCESSION AND THE CEAS

Presentations and debate to consider future EU policy and programmes

- Messages for the second round of EQUAL
- Opportunities and implications for the new Member States
- Further milestones for CEAS

Key speakers include (to be confirmed):

Marieluise Beck Parliamentary State Secretary and

General Secretary, European

Council on Refugees and Exiles

Odile Quintin

Director-General for Employment and Social Affairs, European Commission

Andrew Geddes

Professor of European Politics at the University of Liverpool

Claude Moraes

Member of the European Parliament

Friso Roscam-Abbing

DG Justice and Home Affairs, European Commission



 Federal Commissioner for Migration,
 Employment and S

 Refugees and Integration (Germany)
 European Con

 Peer Baneke
 Andrew G