

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES  
BIRMINGHAM 15 –18 JUNE 2003. Draft Version 4**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

Transnational participants in particular are invited to participate in Birmingham Refugee Week activities over the weekend; all UK participants are welcome to this too but are invited to arrive at latest by Sunday evening to start first thing Monday

2.00 – 5.00 Transnational participants will be given a tour by asylum seekers where they will see and participate in Refugee Week activities

8.00? *A evening meal in a restaurant for transnational guests*

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2003 - Presentations and Workshops**

09.30 Introduction by Chair (Anna Reisenberger)

09.45 Presentation on “Equal Opportunities: the Northern Ireland model”: Patrick Yu of NICEM

10.05 “An introduction to the e- learning environment”  
Ebba Traskelin- KOA

*10.30 -11.00 Tea-Coffee Break*

**Workshops: participants are encouraged to choose one theme and to follow it through the day.**

11.00 –1.00 Part A

*1.00 – 2.00 Buffet lunch in IBIS hotel*

2.00- 4.00 Part B continuing after lunch

*4.00 -4.30 Tea-Coffee Break*

4.30 -5.00 Consolidation session on planning further transnational activities in Years 2 and 3

## WORKSHOPS

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### **PART A**

##### **EQUAL Opportunities Policy and its Implementation**

- Focus on the ASSET UK Equal Opportunities Policy document in their EQUAL programme and its implementation, led by Deng Yai and Saba Khan of British Refugee Council

**Discussion and planning further planning of transnational activities**

#### **PART B**

##### **The Danish and Irish Approaches to Equality Issues**

- The Danish approach to gender equality issues led by the Danish Red Cross
- Irish programmes for interculturalism in education led by Dublin VEC

**Discussion and further planning of transnational activities**

### WORKING WITH EMPLOYERS

#### **PART A**

##### **Working with Employers**

- How can employers help asylum seekers? How to influence employers to work with asylum seekers? Led by Kirsten Gelting of the Danish Red Cross. Input from a representative from the Association for the Integration of New Danes into the Labour Market and UK business representation

**Discussion and planning further transnational activities**

#### **PART B**

##### **Exchanging Information on Working with Employers**

- Exchange of experience about approaches under EQUAL in Denmark, Sweden and the UK. [work experience/skills audit/promoting refugees as assets]

**Discussion and planning further transnational activities**

### ASYLUM SEEKERS AS VOLUNTEERS

#### **PART A**

##### **Asylum Seekers as Volunteers in the Workplace**

- Asylum seekers as volunteers in refugee organisations and the private sector, led by Eamon Scanlon of British Refugee Council.
- Input by British Refugee Council Volunteer Coordinator, Nigel Williams. Input from Jason Berger from LASAR EQUAL DP Liverpool. Input from Danish Red Cross on supporting asylum seekers as volunteers and volunteering and work experience in the culture house. CD Rom. Presentation by Mohammed Adel Al-Bayati.

**Discussion and planning further transnational activities**

#### **PART B**

##### **Asylum Seekers as Voluntary ESOL Teachers**

- ASSET UK EQUAL Project, using asylum seekers as volunteer ESOL teachers. Led by Eamon Scanlon & Katie Evans of the British Refugee Council Training and Employment Section/TES. Input from Sheffield College

**Discussion and planning further transnational activities**

- 6.00 – 7.30 Reception for transnational visitors and EQUAL partner representatives in Birmingham City Council Lord Mayor's Suite  
Light buffet and drinks.
- Welcome by the Lord Mayor, Councillor John Alden
  - Brief responses by Margaret Lally - British Refugee Council;
  - Karin Inger Thorsen - Danish Red Cross ;
  - Rashid Chowdhury – Kista Open Academy; and by
  - Tanya Ward – Dublin VEC

8.15 *Conference Dinner*

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2003 - Presentations and Information Sessions**

9.15 – 9.30 Chair: Karin Inger Thorsen; Want2 Work

9.30 –10.15

Brief report back from Monday's workshops (Lynda Lawrence-ASSET UK).

Presentation of reports on key transnational work to date

- Good practice and ESOL-a report back and lessons from the Dublin conference in May 2003 (Tanya Ward/Dublin VEC )
- Summary of the work on skills audit and report back from the Bornholm conference in May 2003– (Sue Waddington / NIACE )

1015-12 45 Three working groups for transnational partners' information exchange and future planning, with coffee break timed to suit each group

**ESOL-Basic Skills:** workshop facilitated by Pauline Moon of London Language and Literacy Unit.

- Input on language learning on line from Sheffield College and KOA.
- Demonstration by LLLU on teachers package.
- Basic skills input by BSA and KOA

**Orientation, Information, Advice and Guidance [IAG]:**

workshop facilitated by Azar Sheibani of RAGU

- The development of online methods to aid delivery of information and advice, with input and demonstration by Sue Davenport [RAGU] of online information and advice packages for asylum seekers.
- Input from Ebba Traskelin of KOA

**Skills audit workshop** facilitated by Danish Red Cross and NIACE and Want2Work

- Information and demonstration on skills audit on-line model, with CD Rom from the Bornholm Conference. Exploring links with IAG

*1245 – 2.00 Lunch at Chinese restaurant “The Big Wok”*

2.00 –3.00 Planning the future of transnational work for Years 2 and 3

3.00 to 3.30 Plenary and end of session.

*3.30 – 3.45 Tea - Coffee Break*

3.45 –5.00 A Refugee Week Open Event: “Learning from each other: model strategies for the integration of asylum seekers and refugees”

- An open debate on the UK, Danish, Swedish and Irish models of reception and integration of asylum seekers and refugees.
- Initial presentations from Karin Inger Thorsen (Danish Red Cross); Agneta Berner (Stockholm Municipality); Tanya Ward (Dublin VEC); Dick Williams (British Refugee Council)
- discussion

**Day 4 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2003**  
**The UK asylum process**

Some delegates to spend the day visiting Asset UK projects in Birmingham this includes:

- Refugee Council’s Birmingham office: A “walk through” the UK asylum process and a visit to an accommodation provider in Birmingham