

Refugee Employment in Europe

**The reception and integration of asylum
seekers and refugees**

Equal

**Equal European Thematic Group on Asylum
Seekers- ETG5**

The British Refugee Council represents ECRE on the Steering Group for this EQUAL Thematic Group, looking for good practice to promote the social and vocational integration of asylum seekers in Europe.

The number of Development Partnerships (DPs) involved in the asylum seekers' theme is 39; they are involved in 15 different transnational agreements [TCAs], 8 of them including only partnerships working with asylum seekers, the others including partnerships working on other EQUAL themes.

The three priority areas selected and agreed for the work of the ETG are: Education, training and advice; employment; capacity building. The Steering Group has prepared proposals for the priority areas and activities of ETG5, setting out its policy framework.

The ETG5 organised its first "practice-oriented" event in June 2003 with a focus on Transnational Partnerships and other transnational activity. This event took place in Brussels at the Club de la Fondation Universitaire [June 17-19] and looked at "Effective Transnational Cooperation: opportunities for synergies and cooperation". The participants looked at examples of other transnational programmes and projects. They reviewed the practical processes and management issues of transnational working, with a view to improving the process, sharing good practice, and mapping the activity currently under way (including looking at Organisation, Identifying Good Practice; Information, Dissemination and Communication). They also focussed on the three priority themes: Employment, Education, Training and Advice; and Capacity Building as they related to transnational activity.

The programme included a study visit to SAMIRA, a Belgian EQUAL project for asylum seekers. Approximately 50 people participated, including representatives from all Transnational Cooperation Agreements, transnational coordinators, the Steering Group (including ECRE, DG Employment, Dutch and Swedish government representatives and representatives of the Member State governments or their EQUAL support units, GHK (the ETG5 support unit). A full report will be on the ETG5 website.



A background paper provided an update on the different TCAs, some of the potential synergies and overlaps revealed in responses to a questionnaire, and the challenges of managing, leading and coordinating TCAs.

Recommended reading on transnational working is "Transnationality Works; if you work at it!" from previous EU programmes Adapt and Employment. See http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equal/d ata/document/i8-en.pdf

ETG5 will provide new opportunities for groups from DPs and TCAs working on specific areas such as skills audits to form working groups together in October; there will also be another 'practice oriented' event [November] in the Netherlands looking at one of the key priority areas: education, training and advice.

The ETG5 also plans to hold a larger event in Spring 2004, possibly in Dublin, to show-case the good practice from EQUAL.

The ECRE link to the EQUAL website has now been further developed and will continue to be expanded over the coming months.

If you would like to know more about the ETG DP's, transnational activities, policy framework and working methodology click on to: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equal/index.cfm and then proceed to [EU Thematic Groups](#) then [5. Asylum Seekers](#).

If you would like to know more about ECRE/BRC's role in this please contact: david.hudson@refugeecouncil.org.uk

The European Refugee Fund (ERF)

The European Refugee Fund (ERF) seeks to help the EU Member States who receive refugees and displaced persons.

An ERF of EUR 216 million was created to help Member States of the European Union* to receive asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons. [* Denmark does not participate due to the Protocol on the Position in Denmark regarding measures under Title IV of the Treaty.]. It is due to operate under its present form until 31 December 2004.

Bulletin: August 2003

The preparation of a common policy on asylum is a constituent part of the European Union's objective of gradually creating an area of freedom, security and justice that is open to those who, forced by circumstances, legitimately seek protection in the European Union. The ERF fosters solidarity between Member States and promotes balance in the efforts they make in receiving asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons.

The ERF also supports Member States action to promote the social and economic integration of refugees. It provides practical support to help asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons take an informed decision to leave the territory of the Member States and return home, should they so wish.

Also, at the Commission's initiative, it finances pilot initiatives and exchanges between Member States-ERF-Community Actions.

Finally, as called for by the European Council at its meeting in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999, the ERF may also be used to finance emergency measures to provide temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of refugees.

ERF is now undergoing a mid-term review before going into its second phase, which will reflect the changing European circumstances and priorities. The Commission will be organising a major consultative conference on ERF in Brussels at the end of October 2003 as part of this review.

To read more on information on the ERF go to; http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_en.htm

You can find out about other current ERF- Community Action projects at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/refugee/doc/community_actions_2002_final_list.pdf

SHARE, a European Refugee Fund Project on Strengthening Refugee Participation in European Asylum Politics

The British Refugee Council (BRC) continues to be involved in a European Refugee Fund (ERF) Community Actions 2002 project called SHARE, "Strengthening Refugee Participation in European Asylum Politics and Programmes". This project will last until December 2003 and is being co-ordinated by European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), and other European partners. These partners include Asylkoordination from Austria, Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), Comision Espanola de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR) from Spain, and Overlegcentrum Integratie Van Vluchtelingen (OCIV) from Belgium.

The intention is to develop a capacity building programme that will provide refugee community

organisations (RCOs) with contacts and knowledge to enable them to make greater contributions to EU asylum debates. The project will also benefit refugee-assisting NGOs whose advice and policy work will be directly informed by refugees.

The project partners will provide three training modules on European issues for RCO's which will be implemented during September/October 2003. The modules will cover:

- raising awareness of EU policy making in the asylum and immigration field;
- accessing European funding and forming project partnerships;
- and, working at an EU wide level (either as an umbrella organisation or network).

ECRE will hold a pan-European consultative seminar in Brussels (12-14 November 2003) to which RCO representatives who have participated in the training modules will be invited. This will enable RCO's to obtain further training and will give them the opportunity to network, exchange information and learn from each other.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact Saba Khan at:

saba.khan@refugeecouncil.org.uk or Henry Martenson at hmartenson@ecre.org.

Information on EU Funding

The Brussels-based IDs network (Information Diffusion Europe Associations) aims to help not-for-profit organisations in EU aspects of their work by providing support for developing European projects, training and information, and for research and publications dissemination. They have listed all EU funding budget lines and programmes accessible to NGOs and the not-for-profit sector from the EU's 2003 budget. The list is available at <http://www.idseurope.org/en/new01.en.htm>.

ECAS (European Citizens Action Service) has issued the 9th edition of its **publication** 'A Guide to European Union Funding for NGOs' with updated information on enlargement, structural funds, and internal and external budget lines. To order the publication go to: http://www.ecas.org/nieuws_articel.asp?id=147

Directive on Laying down Minimum Standards for the Reception of Asylum Seekers in Member States

ECRE has recently issued an updated information note relating to the Directive as finally adopted, providing detailed analysis of some key provisions.

Bulletin: August 2003

The Directive came into force on 6 February 2003 and applies to 13 EU Member states [not Ireland and Denmark [OJ L 31/18,6.2.2003], and all 10 accession countries.

BRC shares ECRE's many outstanding concerns, some of which were originally identified in ECRE's comments on the Commission's Proposalⁱ. The adopted text of the Directive differs substantially from the draft proposed by the Commission, in particular as it reduces the rights of asylum seekers in relation to reception conditions proposed by the Commission and allows more scope for different interpretation of its provisions, in particular in relation to provisions on access to employment. As a result, it risks compromising the stated aim from Tampere of setting common minimum conditions of reception, therefore allowing Member States to pursue different national policies with little change.

ECRE's comments follow on three particularly relevant Articles:

Schooling and education of minors (Article 10)

ECRE welcomes the provision that education must be provided to minors applying for asylum or the children of asylum seekers. According to the Directive, this should be similar to - but not necessarily the same as - provisions for nationals and may be provided in accommodation centres. Education can be postponed for no more than three months from the date of application unless specific education is provided in order to facilitate access to the system - whereby the postponement can be for 1 year. Furthermore the Directive states that where the specific situation of the child makes access to the education system impossible, Member States may offer other arrangements.

ECRE believes the needs of asylum-seeking children are best served through education in local schools, as this favours normal contacts with other children and best facilitates children's learning. It therefore regrets the provision that Member States can discharge their responsibilities by providing education in accommodation centres. We welcome the limit of no more than three months delay before entering the education system. Where properly implemented, the possibility of alternative provision based on an individual assessment of needs, whether for a limited period to facilitate access to mainstream education, or permanently for those with special needs, could lead to positive improvements in provision. However, ECRE is concerned that if not properly monitored this could lead to segregating asylum seeking children from mainstream educational facilities.

Employment (Article 11) and Vocational Training (Article 12)

Member States must determine the period of time after an application is made during which an applicant will not have access to the labour market, which will not exceed one year (if the delay is not attributable to the applicant). This access shall be subject to conditions laid down by the Member State, which may

include giving priority to EU nationals, nationals of States bound by the Agreement on the European Economic Area and legally resident third country nationals.

ECRE had argued that access to the labour market should be granted no later than after six months from applying for asylum, as that would prevent exclusion from the host society, promote self-sufficiency, and facilitate integration, or re-integration upon return. ECRE believes that the discretion that is provided by the Directive to individual Member States to place additional conditions on access to the labour market significantly undermines efforts to harmonise standards in this area and in the long-term the capacity of persons granted asylum to integrate. ECRE welcomes the condition that access to the labour market shall not be withdrawn during appeal procedures. However, it is disappointed that the Directive places no obligation on Member States to provide vocational training although they may do so regardless of whether an individual has access to the labour market (unless the training relates to an employment contract).

To read more detail about ECRE's position on access to the labour market for asylum seekers please click on to: <http://www.ecre.org/statements/labour.shtml>

New on ECRE Website

ECRE Publishes French translation of its updated Position on the Integration of Refugees on May 9 2003

ECRE in its Updated Position on the Integration of Refugees states that the successful integration of refugees is dependent on an inclusive and welcoming society. Governments and decision-makers should provide political leadership and set the tone in public debate on non-discrimination and equal opportunities. In particular, governments should identify and counteract the promotion of misinformation that is intended to incite fear and mistrust of refugees.

ECRE's Position on the Integration of Refugees in English was completed in February 2003, you can read this at:

<http://www.ecre.org/positions/integ02.pdf>

To read ECRE's Position on the Integration of Refugees in French click on to:

<http://www.ecre.org/positions/integfr02.shtml>

ECRE Publishes Two Translations in Russian

ECRE has published a translation into Russian of its **guidelines on the treatment of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees in Europe**. You can view

this document at:

<http://www.ecre.org/positions/afghanrus03.doc>

ECRE has also published into Russian a translation of its research paper on **the effects of limits on the freedom of movement of asylum seekers within the borders of European Union Member States.**

Read more about this at:

<http://www.ecre.org/research/fromrus.pdf>

ECRE Calls on the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council to Include Refugees in Plans for Long-Term Resident Status

ECRE strongly urges the Justice and Home Affairs Council not to exclude refugees from the scope of the draft Directive concerning the status of third-country national who are long-term residents. **You can read more about this at:**

<http://www.ecre.org/press/ltrmay03.shtml>

ECRE Releases Statement on Proposed New Approaches to Refugee Protection in Europe to be Discussed by the European Council

ECRE considers that a transfer of responsibility for refugee status determination outside the territory of EU Member States to third countries at the borders of Europe, or in the region of origin could risk being incompatible with the fundamental right to seek and enjoy asylum enshrined in Article 14, 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000). It may also seriously compromise a number of other fundamental rights for those fleeing persecution as included in the Refugee Convention and other international human rights treaties.

If you would like to read more please click on to:

<http://www.ecre.org/statements/Council%20March%202003.shtml>

European Commission Communication on Immigration

The Commission has issued a Communication on immigration, integration and employment. This Communication looks at different approaches to integration. It examines the economic and demographic challenges the challenge of integration and the need for a holistic approach. It includes a synthesis report on national integration policies. Much of this is relevant for refugees and echoes some of the proposals in the ECRE position on integration, but excludes asylum seekers from consideration.

You can read this Communication at:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2003/jun/com2003336_en.pdf

In relation to this the Commission has announced a new financial instrument for pilot projects to support the integration and employment of immigrants in the EU. The fund is for transnational projects and has €uro 12 million to spend over 3 years. The call for proposals is currently open and the deadline for applications is 29 August.

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2003/jun/com2003336_en.pdf

The Commission has also presented a Communication on the **development of a common policy on illegal immigration, smuggling and trafficking of human beings, external borders and the return of illegal residents**, to the Thessaloniki European Council.

The full document is at:

http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2003/com2003_0323en01.pdf

European Commission Concerned at Member States' Failure to Completely Implement New Anti-Discrimination Legislation

The European Commission has expressed concern that some Member States have so far failed to write the new Race Directive into national law.

In the opening address of the Italian Presidency conference on 'Fighting Discrimination: From theory to Practice on Monday 21st July, Anna Diamantopoulou Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner said "I am dismayed that Member States have failed to integrate the Race Equality Directive into national law. Let us not forget that this Directive was agreed unanimously by the Council three years ago"ⁱⁱⁱ

'The Race Directive' states that there should be no discrimination in employment and training on grounds of racial or ethnic origin; and in 'non-employment' areas such as education, access to social security and cultural benefits, provision of goods and services.

The Directive provides a common definition of discrimination, a shift in the burden of proof, so the perpetrator has to prove that s/he did not discriminate, the defence of rights that allow relevant organisations to support individual victims of racism during their court case. Finally it demands that specialised bodies be set up, that support the implementation of the Directive, inform the public, monitor the implementation and to support victims of racism.

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The date for transposition of the Race Directive into national law was 19th July 2003. Under the rules for implementing the legislation, Member States must inform the Commission on how they have integrated the Directives into national law. On the eve of the deadline, not a single notification was sent to the Commission on the complete transposition of the Racial Equality Directiveⁱⁱⁱ

Despite this, in the EU there has been a varied response by the governments to the anti-discrimination legislation. Some governments (such as Belgium) have moved quickly to implement the provisions of the Race Directive. Others such as the UK are adjusting legislation to meet the requirements of the Directive^{iv}. France and Denmark have transposed the Directive partially; the Netherlands and Portugal are working on their official draft legislation,^v However, little has been done by seven countries these include Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain^{vi} some of whom began with weak legal regimes

For more information about how the various governments respond to the anti-discrimination legislation, click on to the ENAR general view on the transposition of the Race Directive at:

<http://www.enar-eu.org/en/brnews/docs/Implementation%20update%20July%202003.pdf>

Anti-Discrimination Campaign to Boost Awareness of New EU Anti-Discrimination Rules

According to a new Eurobarometer survey on attitudes towards discrimination, one in three people do not know their rights should they be discriminated against. To raise further awareness about rights and equality matters, Anna Diamantopoulou launched a 5-year EU-wide information campaign to combat discrimination called 'For Diversity – Against Discrimination'.

This EU wide information campaign aims to raise awareness of new EU rules on combating discrimination on the grounds of ethnic or racial origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. The campaign also focuses on promoting diversity in the workplace, with trade unions and employers as a key target group.

The campaign website, newly launched on 16th June 2003 www.stop-discrimination.info provides up-to-date information about the new legislation as well as the background and current activities within the campaign. It also contains press releases and events, as well as the possibility to request further information on specific areas, if required.

Read more about 'For Diversity – Against Discrimination' in the Employment and Social Affairs Journal, click on to:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2003/jun/antidiscrim_en.html
[I/news/2003/jun/antidiscrim_en.html](http://www.stop-discrimination.info/fileadmin/pdfs/Eurobarometer.pdf)

You will be able to access the Eurobarometer Survey at: <http://www.stop-discrimination.info/fileadmin/pdfs/Eurobarometer.pdf>

A New Report on EU Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy

The European Commission has released a report on measures to combat discrimination. The report sets out in clear and accessible language what the EU is doing this year to stamp out discrimination on the grounds of ethnic and racial origin, race and religion, disability, age and sexual orientation. It examines the new European laws coming into force this year and gives an overview of the EU's Euro 100 million Community Action Programme to combat Discrimination, which is funding a range of activities and projects across the Union – including the information campaigns. It also highlights practical examples of the kind of action underway in different EU countries to reduce discrimination and to give people equal chances and opportunities.

To read this report click on to: http://www.stop-discrimination.info/fileadmin/pdfs/Discrimination_EN.pdf

The Impact of European Far Right Political Parties Whose Policies are Mostly Shaped by an Anti-Immigration Agenda

In its latest review of the far-right and anti-immigrant electoral parties in Europe, the Institute of Race Relations reveals that new political parties are emerging whose policies are mostly shaped by an anti-immigration agenda. Furthermore, the institute notes that extreme- Right immigration and law and order policies are being incorporated into the agenda of mainstream centre-Right parties.

- In Austria the Freedom Party, an extreme right political party has become a part of the coalition government.
- In Belgium the Vlaams Blok is now the fifth largest party in Belgium. This is the most significant gain for the European far-right since the success of Jean-Marie Le Pen who gain 18 per cent of the vote in the 2002 French elections.
- In Spain Platform for Catalonia made unexpected gains in May nationwide and regional and municipal elections^{vii}

If you would like to read more about this, you can click onto:

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2003/july/ak000011.html>

New Young Europeans Exhibition Moves to Helsinki

The New Young Europeans project is an innovative project that examines the concept of new European identities and young people.

Through a series of photographic exhibitions in several major European cities such as Brussels, Cardiff, Helsinki, Edinburgh, Cork and London, the project communicates the dreams and aspirations of all young European citizens regardless of their legal status. Young people are interviewed and Carl Cordonnier, the exhibition photographer, takes photographs of them. Individual extracts and testimonies taken from the interviews support these photographs. As the project moves from city to city new testimonies and photos are added from each city, so the exhibition continues to develop and grow.

Seminars are also held around each exhibition. The discussion is focussed on the issues around asylum and immigration that each city experiences. A forum for discussion allows asylum seekers, refugees, non-refugees, politicians and policy makers the opportunity to communicate. They are able to examine how future decisions on European asylum matters can be influenced using the experience of the young people whose lives will be affected by these decisions.

During the month of August the New Young Europeans Project will launch its website. Here you will be able to find images and texts from the exhibitions as well as articles, links and further information on asylum laws for young people.

An exhibition opened on 30th July 2003, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki and will remain for up to a month.

Some responses to the exhibition held in April in Cardiff

"Should be compulsory reading for certain politicians and newspaper editors"

Jean Lambert, MEP London

"An excellent initiative, beautifully set up, which is unfortunately- more necessary than ever!"

Diederik Kramers, UNHCR Brussels

New Young Europeans is a project managed by the British Council in Brussels. For further information about this project, please contact: nye@britishcouncil.be or click on to www.britishcouncil.org/belgium

Publications

'Roma Rights, Quarterly Journal of the European Roma Rights Centre, Anti-Discrimination Law, Numbers 1 and 2 2003'

This informative journal contains essays by a number of observers and experts in Eastern and Western Europe that detail the current state of efforts to bring about new or amended anti-discrimination laws in various countries. The journal questions whether governments can establish frameworks through which Romani victims of racial discrimination can receive due remedy in European countries.

'Spreading the Burden, A Review of Policies to Disperse Asylum Seekers and Refugees'

Written by Vaughan Robinson, Roger Anderson and Sako Musterd and published by The Policy Press in England, July 2003.

This topical book is a valuable case study of how society deals with 'outsider groups' and space. It provides an intensive comparative analysis of European state policies relating to the dispersal of asylum seekers and refugees. It outlines the express rationale for dispersal policies and reviews how such policies have been implemented in the UK Netherlands and Sweden. The latter part of this study challenges the notion of dispersal and states that it is an outcome of a time of moral panic on asylum seeking. In light of this it considers alternative interpretations of dispersal and challenges what it seeks to achieve.

UK Home Office Research Study 259 – 'An assessment of the impact of asylum policies in Europe 1990-2000'

Based on a survey of research, electronic literature, fieldwork in selected European countries and statistical data, this study reviews the impact of asylum policies on the numbers and patterns of applications to EU states for the period of 1990 – 2000. More detailed analysis is provided for five country case studies namely, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, Sweden and Italy. This analysis represents a range of experiences, geographical locations, flows of asylum seekers and policy responses.

This report is divided into two parts, you can read part one of this study at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors259.pdf>

Part two of this study is available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr1703.pdf>

Alternatively, you can read the Executive Summary of this report called **Findings 168 - An Assessment of the Impact of Asylum Policies in Europe 1990-2000** at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/r168.pdf>

UK Home Office Report 28/03 – 'Integration: Mapping the Field Volume 1'

compiled by the University of Oxford by Stephen Castles, Maja Korac, Ellie Vasta, Steven Vertovec
This study is a report of the 'Integration: Mapping the Field' Project, that surveyed British research on immigrants and refugees between 1996-2001, that was conducted by experts within the academic and NGO sectors. The study includes the evaluation of extensive searches of literature and current research alongside interviews with numerous experts in both sectors. This report outlines conceptual and methodological issues, significant gaps of knowledge and views on future development in policy and research. You can read this report at:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr2803.doc>

On-line UK Home Office Report 29/03 'Integration: Mapping the Field Volume II - Distilling Policy Lessons from the "Mapping the Field" Exercise'

This report is an examination of a selection of studies from volume one and provides a more through review of the selection of the work. This report is an in depth reference document that is useful for informing policy and future research. To read volume 2 click onto:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr2903.pdf>

Five New Country Reports Examining Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance in Armenia, Iceland, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Spain compiled European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe (ECRI).

One of the pillars of ECRI's work programme is its country-by-country approach. ECRI analyses the situation on racism and intolerance in each of the member States of the Council of Europe and makes suggestions and proposals as to how to tackle the problems identified. You can access these new reports in English at:
http://www.coe.int/T/E/human_rights/Ecri/

You can also access these reports in French at:
http://www.coe.int/T/F/Droits_de_l'Homme/Ecri/

Annual Report on ECRI's Activities Covering the Period from 1st January to 31st December 2002.

This annual report outlines ECRI's activities during the last six months of the year 2002. It focus's on the three main areas of ECRE's programme, its country-by-country approach, work on general themes; and relations with civil society. From these activities the report highlights any new trends and reflects on the way in which ECRI will continue to work in the future. To read this report please click on to:

http://www.coe.int/T/E/human_rights/Ecri/

Activities of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) Annual Report 2002

This report presents an account of EUMC's activities in the year 2002. In particular, it reports on EUMC's progress with RAXEN, its relations with the EU institutions and the development of a new electronic archive and database, that provides information on combating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and is an integrated part of the EUMC website.

You can order a copy of the report from the EUMC website at: <http://eumc.eu.int/eumc/index.php>

'Europa Newsletter'. The European Commission has recently launched a new newsletter that is issued fortnightly. It features information on new developments on the Europa website and promotes forthcoming European Union events. To view the newsletter click on to:
http://www.europa.eu.int/newsletter/current/index_en.htm.

Recent Events

100 Best Workplaces in the European Union 2003

Earlier in 2003 the European Commission organized a competition that aimed to identify the "100 best workplaces in the EU". The idea was to reward workplaces that demonstrated exceptional achievement in the areas of gender, equality, lifelong learning and the effective promotion of diversity issues.

The Commission created 3 new prizes to award organisations that were considered to be the best workplaces in the 3 categories of awards:
Gender Equality; won by Schering (Germany)
Lifelong Learning; won by Hannes Snellman (Finland)
Diversity in the workplace: won by Intel (Ireland).

The list of 100 best workplaces and the awards made can be seen on: www.eu100best.org/index.html

Let us know if you know whether any of these 100 companies have employed refugees and may have any lessons they can share with us?
Contact saba khan at saba.khan@refugee.org.uk

Upcoming Events

European Conference on the New EU Directive on Minimum Standards for Asylum Seekers, from Policy to Action to be hosted in Italy by the

Bulletin: August 2003

Italian Red Cross at Lido de Jesolo (Venice), on 24 – 25 October 2003. This conference is supported by the European Refugee Fund, and is an ERF Community Action project organised by the Red Cross/EU Office-Brussels and PERCO [the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees Asylum Seekers and Migrants network].

There will be an open debate on the implications of the Reception Directive at a national level for asylum seekers themselves, the member states, and organisations that are involved in the coordination of the reception process. The purpose of the conference is to support the institutions of the EU and its members states in the process of implementing the new EU Directive. This will be achieved by bringing together relevant political stakeholders with reception experts, practitioners working with humanitarian organisations, NGOs including refugee community organisations, and by providing operational guidance, with regard to the practical implementation of the Directive.

A full report will be produced in English and French

For further information please contact Sophie Parra d'Andert: sophie.dandert@redcross-eu.net or look on <http://www.redcross-eu.net/sw4.asp>

Please inform us of any similar activities / events that are happening in your own country. Send the information to:
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- ⁱ Comments from the European Council on Refugees and Exiles on the Proposal for a Council Directive laying down minimum standards on the reception of asylum seekers in Member States. September 2001.
- ⁱⁱ Commission Concerned at Member States Failure to Implement New Racial Equality Rules. IP/03/1047, Brussels, 18 July 2003. http://www.stop-discrimination.info/fileadmin/pdfs/030718pm_eng.pdf
- ⁱⁱⁱ Commission Concerned at Member States Failure to Implement New Racial Equality Rules. IP/03/1047, Brussels, 18 July 2003. http://www.stop-discrimination.info/fileadmin/pdfs/030718pm_eng.pdf
- ^{iv} Roma Rights, Quarterly Journal of the European Roma Rights Center, Anti-Discrimination Law, Numbers 1 and 2, Budapest Hungary, May 2003, pg. 6
- ^v ECRAN Weekly Update, 'ENAR "Name and Shame" Public Hearing Lacks Chairs' 10 July.
- ^{vi} ECRAN Weekly Update, 'ENAR "Name and Shame" Public Hearing Lacks Chairs' 10 July.
- ^{vii} Fekete Liz. Institute of Race Relations News Service, Update: far-Right political parties in Europe