

## UPDATED PROGRAMME ONLINE

The programme will be continuously updated on our website:

[europa.eu.int/comm/equal](http://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](http://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](mailto: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



[europa.eu.int/comm/equal](http://europa.eu.int/comm/equal)

# 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 31<sup>ST</sup>:** 19.00 RECEPTION AND OPENING OF EXHIBITION

**APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>:** 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  
Federal Commissioner for Migration,  
Refugees and Integration (Germany)*

**Odile Quintin**  
*Director-General for  
Employment and Social Affairs,  
European Commission*

**Claude Moraes**  
*Member of the  
European Parliament*

**Peer Baneke**  
*General Secretary, European  
Council on Refugees and Exiles*

**Andrew Geddes**  
*Professor of European Politics  
at the University of Liverpool*

**Friso Roscam-Abbing**  
*DG Justice and Home Affairs,  
European Commission*

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