

8th European Roundtable on Poverty and Social Exclusion

On the 15 – 16 October the Swedish Presidency of the European Union hosted the 8th roundtable conference on poverty and social exclusion in Stockholm. The Roundtable acts as a forum for Member States, EU institutions and NGOs to meet and discuss policies to combat poverty and social exclusion, and this year's theme was 'Social Inclusion in Times of Recession – New Challenges for the Active Inclusion Strategy.' Officials from DWP attended the conference, along with several representatives from UK NGOs including Katherine Duffy (EAPN) and Ray Phillips (LVSTC).

Current Economic Conditions & Social Impacts

The starting point for discussions was the current economic conditions across the EU, and the social impacts of the recession. Workshops focussed on the design and implementation of coordinated policies to promote social inclusion, and initiatives to counter exclusion amongst particularly vulnerable groups. Permeating discussions were a number of cross-cutting themes, including how the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) can be further strengthened as a tool to support the development of effective policies and initiatives. Delegates participated in a series of site visits, including to the Swedish Parliament for a presentation on the challenges faced by the Swedish welfare system, and to Basta, a client-run social enterprise for people who have experienced social exclusion due to drug use.

Links between the Roundtable and EY2010

The closing plenary aimed to 'make the links' between the Roundtable and the 2010 European Year. This session was addressed by Commissioner Spidla, the Belgian Secretary of State for Social Integration, and Jean Lambert MEP. All speakers affirmed their commitment to the objectives of EY2010, and conclusions from the conference will feed-in to Member States' plans for EY2010 and ongoing discussions on the new EU strategy for growth and employment.

EY2010 Logo

If you are arranging an event that is not funded as part of our programmes but wish to use the logo, you can download a 'Request to use the EY2010 Logo' form from our website.

We will consider all requests fairly and respond within 5 working days.

Inside this issue

- 8th European Roundtable on Poverty & SE 1
- Current News 1
- Events 2

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Current News

Calls for Proposals

We have received 55 proposals following the issue of the Calls for Proposals in August (the deadline for submission was 15 October 2009).

The proposals break down as follows:

Regional Activity	30
Thematic Programmes	23
Technical Assistance	2

There is a good spread of proposals. Each of the priority areas are covered by the Thematic Programme proposals and all but one region is specifically covered by the Regional Activities proposals. There are, however, a few proposals for regional activities which do not specify a particular region or where the proposer has asked us to consider for several regions, so all regions will host European Year activity.

Please contact the NIB immediately if you have submitted a proposal but have not received a confirmation receipt within 5 days of either postage or courier dispatch to ourselves.

The proposals have been examined for completeness and will be submitted to the panel of evaluators on Friday 23 October. They will apply a scoring system as itemised in Issue 2 of 'Eyes on EY2010'. Once the evaluators have examined the proposals and scored them, the documents will be subjected to a Panel Review led by the NIB chair Hugh Allen. Successful proposals will be announced in mid December.

Next issue

The next issue of this newsletter will be published on **6th November**. If you wish to submit articles or details of events, please submit by **noon on 4 November** via email.

Events

Inside Government's Second Annual Social Exclusion Conference: Tackling Social Exclusion in the Economic Downturn: The Way Forward: Thursday 22 October 2009: QEII Conference Centre, Westminster

Overview

The Government has made it a priority to tackle worklessness and reduce the long-term risk of unemployment. On 13 January, the Prime Minister launched the New Opportunities White Paper, which sets out the Government's plans for building fair chances for everyone to succeed in the new economy. It sets out the Government's agenda for capturing the jobs of the future and investing in families, communities and citizens throughout their lives to help them get on and ahead. In addition to the economic downturn, inequality in the use and application of digital technologies is a new driver of social exclusion in the 21st century, which risks accelerating existing social divided and creating new ones. However, with the launch of its Action Plan, 24 October 2008 and the announcement of a Digital Champion the Government has shown its commitment to tackle social exclusion through digital inclusion. Digital technologies pervade every aspect of modern society. However these opportunities are not enjoyed by the whole of the UK population - for example, 17 million people in the UK still do not use computers and the Internet and there is a strong correlation between digital exclusion and social exclusion.

For this agenda to move forward and to see clear outcomes the importance of joint-up services and partnership working cannot be overstated.

(Source: www.insidegovernment.co.uk)

The event was chaired by: Rt. Hon. Hilary Armstrong MP, Former Minister for the Cabinet Office and Social Exclusion. We will be providing further details of the speakers and presentations over the coming weeks.

Upcoming Events

October 2009

- **29 October** – European Commission's conference 'Poverty between reality and perceptions: the communication challenge, Brussels.' For further information, see European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/>

November 2009

- **6 November – 'We're stronger together – A celebration of the GenderWorks project'**: Oxfam are running a series of roadshows in November to mark the end of GenderWorks the first of which is at The Victorian Bar, Tron Theatre, 63 Trongate, G1 5HB, Glasgow between 11.00 – 15.00. A chance for women to come together and celebrate their achievements – to book your free place in Glasgow e-mail Jmoir@oxfam.org.uk.
- **19 November – 'No Going Back – Empowering Single Parents out of Poverty'** Single Parent Action Network conference at 34 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London. Confirmed speakers include:
 - Yvette Cooper MP** – Secretary of State, Dept for Works & Pensions
 - Caroline Kelham** – Head of Child Poverty Unit, Dept for Works & Pensions
 For further information tel 0117 951 4231, fax 0117 935 5208 or e-mail lsobel@spanuk.org.uk
- **24 & 25 November – 'Rights, Indicators and Outcomes: Measuring the Well-being of Children and Young People in Wales'**. 2 day conference at the Christchurch Centre in Newport, South Wales. Confirmed speakers include
 - Dr. Brian Gibbons AM** – Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (with a lead on poverty).
 - Jane Hutt AM** – Minister for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning (with a lead on Children & Young people).
 - Richard Thurston & Dr Beverley Morgan** – Office of the Chief Social Research Officer, Welsh Assembly Government.
 - Catriona Williams** – Chief Executive Children In Wales (and President of Eurochild)
 - Tracey Lee** – Managing Director, Newport City Council
 For further information: please contact Ms Sarah Thomas: email sarah.thomas@childreninwales.org.uk
- **30 November - European Cities Against Child Poverty – Final Conference & Policy Workshop.** 09:30 to 16:00, Glaziers Hall, London Bridge: The European Cities Against Child Poverty network will meet for the final time on Tuesday 1 December. Representatives of local and regional governments and front-line organisations are invited to attend to meet delegates from other European cities and the European Commission. For further information on the network, please visit www.againstchildpoverty.com.

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