



Cette 'Newsletter' est également disponible en français  
Diesen 'Newsletter' gibt es auch in einer deutschen Version

## Reports on the first peer review meeting held in Sweden

The synthesis report of the peer review meeting held in Stockholm on 22 and 23 April on Local Development Agreements as a Tool to Stop Segregation in Vulnerable Metropolitan Areas will soon be available. This report, which summarises the background papers, comments and discussions with regard to adaptability and transferability, completes the set of documentation on this peer review.

[http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b\\_1\\_en.html](http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b_1_en.html)

## Peer review meeting on the Street Homelessness Eradication Strategy in England

On 5 and 6 May, a peer review meeting on Street Homelessness Eradication Strategies took place in London with the participation of official representatives and experts from Denmark, Finland, France, Luxemburg, Norway, Romania and Sweden. Representatives from the European Public Social Platform (EPSP) and the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) also took part in the lively debates on the experiences of the Rough Sleepers Unit (RSU). Over the last five years, this small team has dramatically reduced the number of people sleeping in the streets of England's cities. The unit has also succeeded in practically eliminating the temporary housing of families with children in bed and breakfast hotels.

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on behalf of  
**European Commission**  
**DG Employment and Social Affairs**



The RSU has an assertive approach to its beneficiaries: rather than trying to make life on the streets less uncomfortable, and thus implicitly encouraging its persistence, the multidisciplinary outreach teams try hard to persuade rough sleepers to come inside, first into temporary hostels, and then into permanent accommodation. Following settlement, tenancy sustentation teams help people to manage their living conditions in permanent housing, so that they do not lapse back into homelessness.

The peer review underlined the need to keep a balance between universal entitlements and targeting services at those most in need, as well as the benefits of partnerships between public authorities and NGOs on the one side, and co-operation between central and local government on the other. The debate also showed the need to develop a more harmonised set of homelessness indicators at European level.

[http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b\\_2\\_en.html](http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b_2_en.html)

## Shadow peer review on Homelessness

The peer review on the Rough Sleepers Unit has inspired the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) to carry out a 'shadow' peer review alongside the official Peer Review Programme. The report can be found on the FEANTSA website.

<http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=6>

## Peer review meeting on 'Clearing' in Austria

A peer review meeting took place at the Austrian Ministry of Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection on 7 and 8 June 2004. The review focused on assistance to young people with special needs in their transition from school to working life through the 'Clearing' service. This service, organised throughout Austria at the provincial level, has the job of formulating the most suitable package of measures for integrating members of the target group into employment, on an individual basis. The package is developed in co-operation with the young people themselves, but the involvement of their parents, teachers and other related actors is also considered important. Therefore, special attention was given during the peer review to the issue of targeting the beneficiaries as well as the need for institutional co-operation.

Although the concept of disabled school children is very broad in Austria, including children with physical and mental handicaps as well as those suffering social-emotional problems, and is therefore different from that used in many other Member States, the representatives and experts from Estonia, France, Greece, Lithuania, Italy, Norway and the European Disability Forum who participated found very interesting elements in the 'Clearing' service that could possibly be adapted to their own circumstances.

[http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b\\_4\\_en.html](http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b_4_en.html)



## Peer review meeting on Experiments in Social Activation in the Netherlands

The fourth of eight peer reviews on social inclusion policies planned for 2004 took place on 15 and 16 June in the Hague, the Netherlands. The participating peer review countries, Bulgaria, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Spain, and the representatives of the European Anti-Poverty Network and Eurocities, considered experiments in the field of social activation of social assistance beneficiaries. They comprise programmes directed at the most deprived people in society who encounter the most serious problems in social reintegration. To facilitate this goal, the Dutch government created some flexibility in its Social Assistance Act, for example by exempting those most in need from job-search obligations and enabling local authorities to introduce special activation schemes for them.

The assessment focused on three aspects of transferability. Under the heading of client-orientation, the group was interested in how problems are diagnosed and objectives set. There was general agreement that extending human capabilities is a crucial element of social activation. The capability approach refers to activities aiming at the empowerment of clients. It has substantial effects on the participants' resources: physical and mental health; social capital (social contacts, feeling of participation and citizenship; human capital (learning-by-doing, education, training); cultural capital; and in conjunction with other capabilities, employability. On evaluation, some of the group felt it was important to have better indicators and tools for measuring the impact of social activation, given that the number of people obtaining work is not the only criterion and measuring the increase of human capabilities is also key.

The sub-contracting of private companies (non-commercial and commercial) for reintegration activities in some towns raised much debate. The programme reports high satisfaction rates among its clients, and peer countries considered several elements, including the government support centre, as interesting items for transferability. On the other hand, they questioned how far such a programme could be implemented in countries with highly decentralised social policy systems. They also wondered whether the social activation approach as embodied in this programme would be appropriate in countries with high unemployment rates.

[http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b\\_3\\_en.html](http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b_3_en.html)

## Joint Memoranda on Social Inclusion and Commission Staff Working Paper

On 31 July, the 10 Member States that joined the EU on 1 May 2004 have also presented their NAPs/Incl. These are based on the Joint Inclusion Memoranda (JIMs), which the countries prepared with the European Commission prior to accession, with the aim of getting ready for full participation in the Open Method of Co-ordination on social inclusion as soon as they joined. The Commission Staff Working Paper is a synthesis of the Joint Memoranda on Social Inclusion.

The respective JIMs as well as the Commission Staff Working Paper can be downloaded from the European Commission's web page:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/soc-prot/soc-incl/jim\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-prot/soc-incl/jim_en.html)

The NAPs/Incl. can be downloaded from:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/news/2001/jun/napsincl2001\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2001/jun/napsincl2001_en.html)



## Peer Review Programme Autumn 2004

The programme of peer review meetings for Autumn 2004 is::

Expected Date	Host Country	Topic	Peer Countries
23-24 September	Finland	Regional mobilisation of all competent actors and authorities to further social solidarity	Austria · Belgium · Germany · Greece · Latvia · Malta · United Kingdom
8-9 November	France	New migrants' integration	Czech Republic · Cyprus · Germany · Ireland · Portugal · Sweden
18-19 November	Ireland	Preventing and tackling over-indebtedness	Denmark · Germany · Hungary · Luxembourg · Netherlands · Slovakia · Slovenia · United Kingdom
13-14 December	Germany	Reconciliation of work and family life	Austria · Cyprus · Estonia · Hungary · Malta · Slovakia

Abstracts and additional information are available on the Peer Review Programme website:

[http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b\\_en.html](http://www.pr-soc-incl.net/b_en.html)



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## Comments and feed-back

We would greatly appreciate receiving your comments and reactions to this Newsletter as well as to the programme's website. Messages can be sent via email:

[forum@pr-soc-incl.net](mailto:forum@pr-soc-incl.net)

## Contributions

We also invite you to send us peer review-related articles and information on events and publications, which could eventually be included in forthcoming Newsletters of the Peer Review Programme. Publication of contributions will be considered in liaison with the responsible staff of the European Commission's Action Programme on Social Inclusion. Please send proposed contributions to:

[newsletter@pr-soc-incl.net](mailto:newsletter@pr-soc-incl.net)

## Subscription to the Newsletter

Wide dissemination of the activities and results of the Peer Review Programme in the Field of Social Inclusion is among its major objectives. Please do not hesitate to forward this Newsletter to people and organisations to whom the programme might be of interest.

If you want to receive the Newsletter directly and you are not yet on the mailing list, please send an email to:

[newsletter@pr-soc-incl.net](mailto:newsletter@pr-soc-incl.net)

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