

RESEARCH GONE UNAPPRECIATED

AFTER SIX YEARS OF EQUAL – AN IMPETUS TO
RESEARCH

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EQUAL 2001 - 2007

- SOCIO-VOCATIONAL INTEGRATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS
- 99 DPs, 10 NTNs, ETG asylum
- 3 MAIN AREAS OF INTERVENTION:
 - ADVICE, EDUCATION, TRAINING
 - EMPLOYMENT
 - CAPACITY BUILDING
 - TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION
- ETG ASYLUM:
 - PEER REVIEWS
 - SERIES OF EXCHANGE EVENTS
 - 2 EUROPEAN CONFERENCES

EQUAL 2001 – 2007

POLICY BACKGROUND

- CEAS – COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM
1999/2010
- RECEPTION DIRECTIVE 2003/2005
- GREEN PAPER JUNE 2007
- EQUAL RESPONSE SEPT 2007

- EES – EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY
- SOCIAL AGENDA – *A SOCIAL EUROPE*
- LISSABON STRATEGY
- FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS – ESF/EQUAL, ERF

EQUAL 2001 – 2007

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- RECEPTION DIRECTIVE – *MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RECEPTION CONDITIONS*
- 14 OF 28 ARTICLES RELEVANT FOR EQUAL
- HOUSING/ACCOMODATION
- HEALTH PROVISIONS
- ACCESS TO LABOUR MARKET
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- VULNERABLE GROUPS
- CAPACITY BUILDING RECEPTION SYSTEM

- *EVALUATION OF TRANSPOSITION/IMPLEMENTATION*

- DIRECTIVE – A SPRINGBOARD TO MANY MS TO ORGANISE AS RECEPTION (*ITALY, NMS*)

EQUAL

ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- COHERENT PROCESS RECEPTION – INTRODUCTION – INTEGRATION
- INTEGRATION STARTS DAY 1
- DIFFERENCES MS/NMS
- AS HEALTH SITUATION/HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS
- BASIC INFORMATION
- TRAINING
- EMPLOYMENT

- AS RECEPTION & INTEGRATION ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA (*GERMANY*)
- GREEN PAPER - EQUAL ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Green Paper on CEAS

- the second stage

- Consultation process for a road map
- Improve all the aspects of the asylum process
- Avoid secondary movements – harmonised reception conditions
- Access to labour market
- Material reception conditions
- Uniform status for refugees and subsidiary protection (welfare provisions etc)
- Vulnerable groups – special needs

Green Paper on CEAS

- the second stage

- Integration – access to work, recognition/validation/skills audit
- European support office – cooperation
- More even distribution of AS/responsability and burden sharing
- Improve funding/use of ERF – information sharing mechanism
- External dimension – third countries
- Resettlement
- Mixed flows – external border control

Green paper on CEAS - responses

- Public hearing:
 - Detention
 - ***Harmonisation of reception conditions***
 - ***Vulnerable groups***
 - Cooperation – *European office*
 - Mechanisms for burden sharing
 - Resettlement
 - Mixed flows
- REVISION OF DIRECTIVE 2008

EUROPEAN POLICY FORUM

MINIMUM STANDARDS AND BEYOND

-THE CONTRIBUTION OF EQUAL TO A DIGNIFIED STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

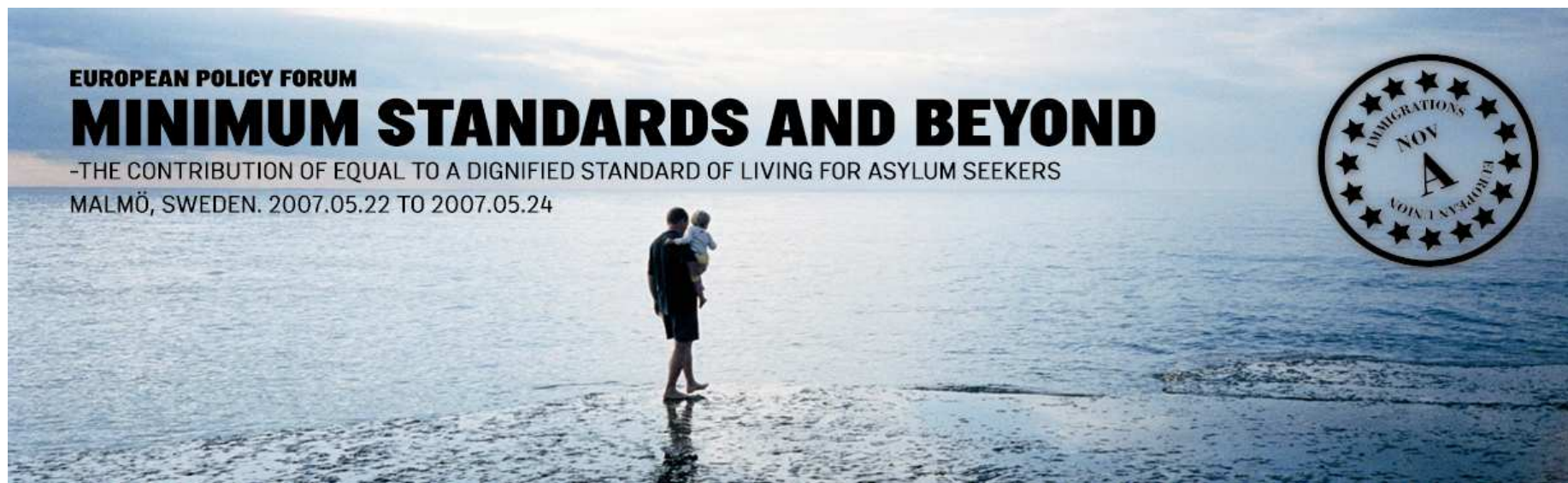
MALMÖ, SWEDEN. 2007.05.22 TO 2007.05.24



Recommendations in the area of Advice, Education and Training

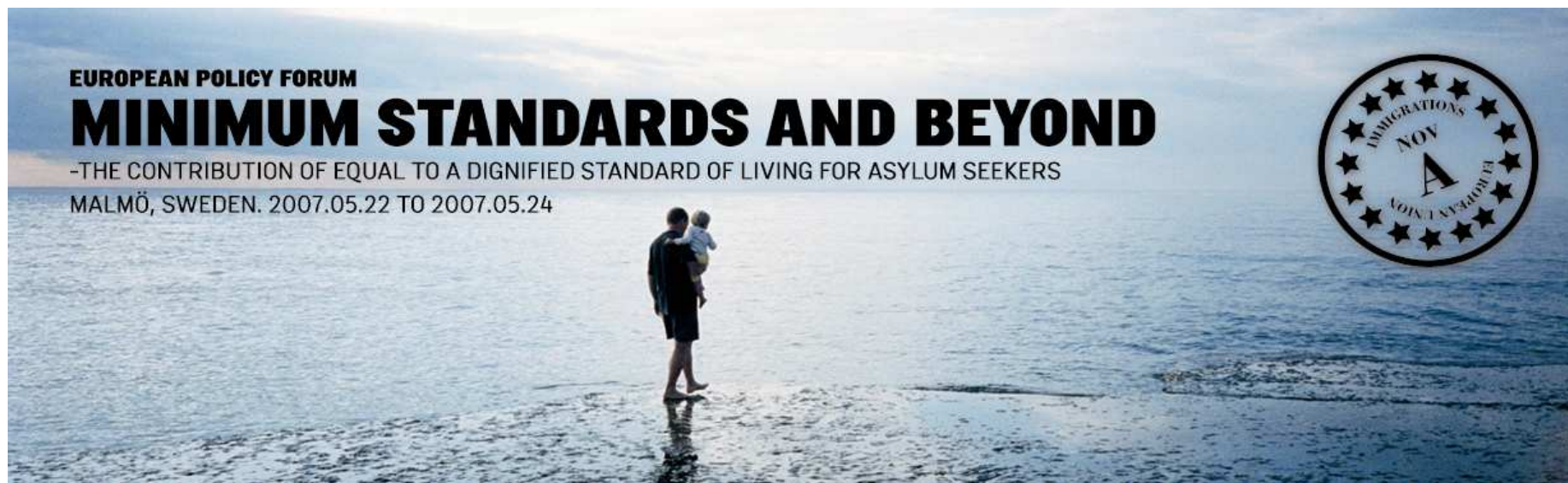
1. Upon arrival, asylum seekers should have the right to and be informed about: (1) skills audit process, (2) Access to language training and (3) Access to vocational training incorporating a practical component. The needs of disadvantaged groups of asylum seekers should be taken into account.

2. Asylum seekers must have the possibility to have their professional and academic skills recognised. Vocational training should preferably be provided in mainstream programmes with nationals.



Recommendations in the area of Employment and Employer Relations

- 1. Employer organisations and trade unions should become involved in opening the labour market for the creation of new jobs based on diversity, and influence policy makers to revise reception conditions.**
- 2. Article 11 should be amended. Asylum seekers should have direct access to employment unless Member States can prove that this will substantially disturb their labour markets. Issues of social inclusion are to be taken into account.**



Recommendations in the area of Capacity Building

1. Article 24 should be amended. Member States should give clear guidance on the necessary qualifications for support staff. The empowerment of asylum seekers should be an essential part of all activities targeted at asylum seekers (e.g. setting up an advisory group of asylum seekers).
2. The instruments for dissemination and policy impact used & developed in the EQUAL Initiative should be further developed, adapted and transferred to the new ESF programme.

RESEARCH?

- AS RECEPTION/INTEGRATION - *KNOWLEDGE GAPS*
- EQUAL – *INCLUDE RESEARCH!*
- *HOW?*
- RESEARCH – MAPPING EXERCISE, SURVEYS
- EVALUATION – PROJECT FOLLOW UP – MONITORING
– FORMATIVE RESEARCH
- SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- VARIETY OF NATIONAL CONTEXTS
- QUESTIONNAIRE - 12 DPS:
 - ❖ MAPPING OF AS BACKGROUNDS AND SERVICE PROVISIONS
 - ❖ NEEDS ANALYSIS
 - ❖ EVALUATION OF RESULTS – MONITORING OF PROCESSES
 - ❖ CYPRUS
- "THE INGRAINED ART OF SURVIVAL" – TRANSFER/USE OF
COMPETENCE OF AS

CYPRUS

- SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AS
- LEVEL OF WELFARE AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION
- APPLICATION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS OF AS
- INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK / IMPLEMENTATION IN PRACTICE

RESEARCH QUESTIONS/FIELDS

- **SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS** – NATIONAL/EU/INTERNATIONAL LAW – HUMAN RIGHTS
- **BORDERS OF THE WELFARE STATE ("SOCIAL EUROPE")** – WHAT IS (POLITICALLY) FEASIBLE, REALISTIC, AFFORDABLE?
- **COSTS AND BENEFITS** – COSTS OF NON INTERVENTIONS?

- **"WAITING"** – CONCEPT, IMPACT ON HEALTH, INTEGRATION ETC

- **EMPLOYMENT** – INFORMAL SECTOR, SURVIVAL STRATEGIES
- **ETHNIC NETWORKS** – INFORMATION, INTRODUCTION, SUB-CULTURES/PARALLEL COMMUNITIES/SYSTEMS OR RESOURCE FOR INTEGRATION?
- **EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY**
- **COMPETENCE TRANSFER AND USE IN HOST COUNTRY**

- **MIXED FLOWS** - HUMAN SMUGGLING, IMPACT ON ASYLUM SYSTEMS PUBLIC/POLITICAL AWARENESS
- **RETURN** – PROGRAMMES, EFFECTS, FOLLOW-UP, POLITICAL MESSAGES/SIGNALS/SYMBOLIC VALUE

NTN SWEDEN

- **FROM RECEPTION TO INTEGRATION?** Refugee introduction as an organisational field
- **WHILE WE ARE WAITING.** Uncertainty and empowerment among asylum seekers in Sweden
- **A WAITING UNDER INFLUENCE.** A pilot study
- **THE ROLE OF SUPPORT SYSTEMS AVAILABLE TO ERITREAN ASYLUM SEEKERS.** A pilot study
- **BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR.** Experiences and strategies while waiting for asylum
- **TALKING ABOUT INTEGRATION.** Discourses, alliances and theories on labour market integration in Sweden