



Issue 5, December 2009

Dear Members,

Please find enclosed the last issue of the Qec ERAN Flash for this year in which our [feature article](#) takes a closer look at the European Year of Creativity and Innovation - 2009, an initiative launched by the European Commission under the lead of the Directorate General for Education and Culture, and in association with the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry.

Please also take note of our next [upcoming network event](#) which will take place in Prague in March next year. It will form part of a series of event that we are organising on the theme of urban dimension in the cohesion policy. We will be organising this event with the support from DG Regional Policy and the Director General, Dirk Ahner, has already confirmed his participation.

Finally, the QeC ERAN team wishes you all the best for the Christmas season and a very happy new year. As in previous years we will be organising our traditional [Winter Chill](#) on the **22 January 2009** and look forward to welcoming you to chill with us.

Haroon Saad

Director



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MEMBER NEWS

Feature Article

Creativity and Innovation: the 2009 European Year

Imagine. Create. Innovate.....

This is the slogan of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (EYCI). The initiative was launched by the European Commission under the lead of the Directorate General for Education and Culture, and in association with the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry. It represents Europe's ambition to boost its creative and innovative capacity in cross-cutting sectors, covering not only education and culture, but also enterprise, media, research, social and regional policy and rural development. The main objective of EYCI is to emphasise the importance of creativity and innovation as crucial factors in personal, social and economic development.

The media launch of the EYCI took place on 5th of December in the Berlaymont building in Brussels. It was followed by a

concert of the **Vienna Vegetable Orchestra**, performing only with instruments made solely of vegetables, as a novel example of creativity.

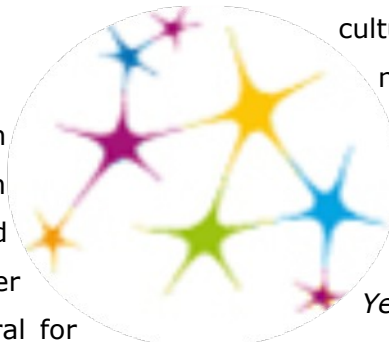
At the media launch the Commissioner responsible for education, training, culture and youth Ján Figel made the following statement:

"What I would like to see at the end of the Year is that the citizens of

Europe understand better that by promoting human talents and the human capacity to innovate, we can actively shape Europe for the better, to help it fully develop its potential, both economically and socially".

In order to respond to such a challenge the EYCI will promote education, good practice dissemination, and research and development stimulation.

The Ambassadors of the Year, who have been chosen for their prominent record as concerns creativity and innovation, will support the initiative in the more visible events, whenever and wherever possible. In addition, six public debates



will be organized in Brussels, covering key subjects like cultural diversity, the knowledge society, and sustainable development.

The official inauguration will take place in Prague on the 7th of January, in the presence of Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek. All Member States will be represented, among others by their specially-appointed national coordinators.

For more information on the European Year of Creativity and Innovation go to the [EU website](#)

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Network Developments

QeC-ERAN OPEN DAYS OFF - Caféstyle Debates and NON-VIP Reception

On 7 October 2008
QeC ERAN
organised "OPEN
DAYS OFF -
Caféstyle debates



and NON-VIP reception". The event ran parallel to OPEN DAYS, an annual event hosted by the European Commission and the EU Committee of the Regions. The aim of OPEN DAYS OFF was to break away from the institutionally determined debates of OPEN DAYS by creating a more interactive and informal way for participants to engage and discuss. OPEN DAYS OFF was held in the Brussels Arts Centre, Beursschouwburg, which provided a relaxed atmosphere.

Participants actively engaged in a series of rolling debates on issues high on the EU agenda. In the first round of debates Eivind Hoff of the Environments Foundation Bellona started the discussion on climate change, while MEP Jan Olbrycht discussed with participants whether the European Parliament is a representative body. In the second round Professor Harris Beider from the Institute of Community Cohesion looked at whether the Lisbon Strategy is creating greater exclusion and poverty. Urbact expert Peter Ramsden, together with Jan Olbrycht, and Elvira Sweet - Mayor of South East Amsterdam - initiated the debate on whether the mainstreaming of cohesion policy has



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weakened the "urban dimension", and what needs to be done in order to strengthen it in the next programming period.

The final debate was on the Irish no-vote, which threw the EU into a political crisis in June this year. Anthony Coughlan from the Irish National Platform argued that the Irish were right to say NO. Fergal O Regan, from the Institute of International and European Affairs, put forward arguments why the Irish should have voted in favour of the EU treaty.

The debates were followed by a party where participants carried on the debates in smaller circles, networked and generally had fun. The event attracted over 200 participants from representational offices, EU institutions, journalists, NGOs and other organisations working in Brussels.

For more information about the event please visit our [website](#)

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Upcoming Events

"Monitoring the Urban Dimension in EU Cohesion Policy: EU 12 perspectives"

The next QeC-ERAN workshop will take place in Prague on 18 and 19 March 2009. The event will form part of a series of event that we are organising on the theme of the "urban dimension in EU Cohesion Policy". (See last meeting in Madrid, April 2008).

The European Commission has consistently emphasised the need to ensure that an "Urban Dimension" is mainstreamed within Operational Programmes. In the case of the EU 12 Member States, this "mainstreaming" in fact means that they are asked to use the "integrated approach", while never having been involved in the practice that generated the methodology.

Nevertheless it is clear that some EU 12 member states have sought to develop an urban dimension into their Operational Programmes and National Strategic Reference Frameworks and to encourage "integrated working".

The conference programme will address several crucial questions as concerns the urban dimension in cohesion funds and the programme will include speakers from DG Regio, the EP and Managing Authorities from Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland.

More information will be made available soon.

Executive Board meeting

The next Qec ERAN Executive Board meeting will take place in Brussels on the 22 of January. More information on the arrangements and documents for the meeting will be made available at the beginning of the newyear in the members section of our website.

Qec ERAN Winter chill

As in previous years, following the christmas holiday period, we are organising our traditional **Winter Chill**. It will take place on **22 January 2009**

at 18.00 and we are looking forward to welcoming you all to chill with us. More information regarding the event will be mailed out shortly.

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Other Upcoming Events

20 January , INFO Day on Citizens for Europe Programme , Brussels
22-23 January : Picum International Conference on " Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restriction ", Brussels
2-9 February : EU Sustainable Energy Week
9 -10 February 5th Annual Meeting of the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance - 'Building Strong Partnerships with the Private Sector for Better Jobs and Inclusion' , Vienna
16-17 February Regions For Economic Change - Networking for results , Brussels
21-22 April European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009 , Brussels
22-24 June : European Social Services Conference: " Quality and performance in Social Services in Europe ", Prague

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Current Project Update

Women, enterprise and employment in local development (WEED) – Urbact network

The WEED project brings together a group of cities working on the issue of "Women, Enterprise and Employment in Local Development".

The project has successfully completed the development phase. The partnership is now complete, with a total of 9 participants in the project.

The second steering group meeting took place in Brussels on the 22-23 of September. In this occasion the project lead expert Prof. Gill Scott presented the baseline study and the emerging thematic clusters based on the local mapping previously completed by partners. The budget, the work programme for phase two and the communication strategy were also

discussed. The European Commission made a positive evaluation of the proposal and the project is due to enter the second, development phase beginning 2009.

For more information please contact [Annachiara Pecchini](#) or visit the [project website](#)

ESIP

QeC-ERAN has recently presented a project proposal under the Europe for Citizens programme of the DG of Education and Culture. Its aim is to support activities for ESIP, and to acquire funding for its 2009 work programme in the form of an annual operating grant.



For more information please contact [Janneke Draaisma](#) or visit the [ESIP website](#)



Building Healthy Communities - Urbact

The application for the second phase (implementation phase) of the Building Healthy Communities network has been successful. The project leader city (Torino), together with the expert for the network, presented the network at the URBACT Annual Conference which took place in Montpellier, France on Nov 20 – December 2 and brought together all URBACT II partners. The first kick-off Steering Group meeting is scheduled to take place in January next year.



For more information please contact [Isabella Haaf](#) or visit the [project website](#)

Active A.G.E. – Urbact network



After the second Steering Group Meeting, which took place in Rome on 25-26 September 2008, the management team focused on the finalisation of the application form for the Active-AGE

Urbact II Thematic Network, which has been successful.

The kick-off meeting for the implementation phase is expected to be at the end of January/beginning of February 2009.

For more information please contact Lola Uña Cárdenas or visit the [project website](#)

INTI

The Third and the last peer Review Workshop focusing on intercultural dialogue and participation of migrants took place in Brussels from the 25th to the 27th of November.

On the first day we organised an informal visit to the Brussels Centre for Intercultural Action (www.cbai.be), in order to show the participants a local example of how the Intercultural Dialogue can be understood and implemented. It was interesting to notice how much intercultural workers from different European locations have in common.

The second day was devoted to peer learning and exchange of good practice. After the intervention of two external experts on participation mechanisms for migrants and the importance of local festivities, the participants split into smaller groups in order to exchange their experiences and views. Two working groups separately discussed the issue of the right to vote for migrants, as well as the importance of their self-organisation and the practical implications of the concept of Intercultural Dialogue.

Given the fact that it was the final event of the project, the last day was devoted to the dissemination of the project's outcomes. During the morning public session we presented 8 local portals including basic information for migrants in several languages, and two thematic reports based on the previous Peer Review Workshops. The discussion about further cooperation has also been started.

For more information please contact [Karolina Rachwal](#) or visit the [project website](#)

MILE

Both the Second Presentation Workshop and the Third Steering Group Meeting of the MILE project took place in Brussels between the 12th and the 14th of November. Partners presented their local action plans and elaborated with the support of Qec-ERAN and external experts on the theme of active inclusion of migrants into labour market.

Jean-Loup Drubigny, Head of the Urbact Secretariat assisted the presentation session in order to follow up the development of this pilot project. He provided positive feedback and expressed his support to both financially and non-financially assist with the final project event in order to disseminate the results of the MILE project and to show it as an example of a successful pilot.

In the meantime the third thematic cycle focusing on the access of migrants to key services (health, housing and education) is being held in Timisoara (Romania) during the Third Peer Review Workshop between the 10th and 13th of December.

For more information please contact [Karolina Rachwal](#) or visit the [project website](#)

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EU NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS



News from the EU Institutions

Urban development ministers proposed a reference framework for sustainable cities

At an informal meeting in Marseilles (France), the EU-27 Ministers in charge of urban development agreed to take more concrete steps to implement the integrated approach in the field of urban development. One of these steps will be the use of a common reference framework. Ministers agreed mainly on two points:

- ▶They propose, working with local and regional authorities, to **implement integrated urban**

development policies in order to ensure greater coherence between urban functions (housing, social and economic activities, education and training, culture and leisure),

- ▶They decided to build **an open methodological reference framework for sustainable cities**. This framework could take the form of a questioning and analytical tool that could serve as a medium for debate and a joint search for converging pathways to progress. The preparation of this reference framework will require broad participation of all stakeholders and will be supported by a thesaurus of questions, a thesaurus of good practice and a thesaurus of indicators. Two working groups will be set up (one at the EU level, one at a city level) to prepare this framework that should be operational by the end of 2010.



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EU Council adopts EU-wide framework to combat racism and xenophobia

EU Council of Justice and Interior Ministers adopted on 28 November the so-called ['Framework Decision' on combating racism and xenophobia](#), seven years after it had first been presented by the European Commission.

The Framework Decision is considered as an important tool for sanctioning on the EU level racist and xenophobic crimes.

EU Member States will have two years to introduce severe and effective sanctions of at least between 1 and 3 years of imprisonment against those who intentionally publicly incite to violence or hatred by dissemination or distribution of tracts, pictures or other material, directed against persons defined by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin.

Similar sanctions will apply to those who publicly condone, deny or grossly trivialise crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes as defined in the statute of the International Criminal Court and crimes

defined by the Tribunal of Nüremberg.

Divided Parliament approves EU Blue Card system

Despite divisions among political groups, the European Parliament on 20 November backed the EU's 'Blue Card' scheme aimed at attracting high-skilled immigrants to Europe.

The report was carried by a clear majority of 388 to 56, thanks to a pact between the Parliament's "big two", the Socialist PES and centre-right EPP parties. However, the large number of abstentions (124), led by the European Liberals and Greens, indicated that significant divisions persist.

Though the Parliament's vote was only consultative, it is a significant step towards the creation of a European Blue Card system. It is expected that the Blue Card system will be voted upon in the European Council in early 2009.

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is concerned about the negative impact on low skilled immigrants and the failure to promote an integrated strategy



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for the social and economic integration of migrants.

[More information](#)

Barroso to ease access to EU migrant integration fund

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso on 27 November reassured local authorities that he would do his utmost to ensure that municipalities and regions can directly access the [EU integration fund for migrants](#), which has so far been administered by national authorities.

Speaking during a plenary session of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), Barroso said he would like to involve regions and municipalities more closely in measures relating to migration policy, as requested by a CoR opinion on a common immigration policy drafted by Werner Jostmeier (EPP/DE).

[More information](#)

Commission acts against six countries on gender equality legislation

The European Commission has started infringement procedures against six countries because the European Commission considers they have not fully [implemented EU law prohibiting discrimination in employment on the grounds of sex](#): Austria, Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary, Italy and Malta have two months to respond. If they fail to reply or if the response is unsatisfactory, the Commission can decide to take them to the European Court of Justice (ECJ).

According to the Commission, the main problems include definitions of direct and indirect discrimination; rights of women on maternity leave; and the functioning of equality bodies.

Commission's 2009 work programme published

The European Commission has published its [work programme for 2009](#), outlining its strategic and priority initiatives. For each initiative, the European Commission has issued a roadmap

containing the context and defining the problem, stating the objectives of EU initiatives, discussing policy options and making an initial assessment of further impact assessment work.

Some of the highlights include: a proposal for the post-Lisbon Agenda, a green paper on cross border mobility of young people, a communication on reducing health inequalities in the EU, proposals for the future Stockholm programme on Justice and Home Affairs, and a follow up of the European Migration Pact.

2nd European Quality of Life Survey: Income inequalities remain high in enlarged EU

Europeans are generally satisfied with their quality of life, though considerable inequalities persist, particularly in new Member States, according to the second European Quality of Life Survey published by Eurofound on 19 November.

The report also sounds a warning note, indicating that "the proportion of people who suffer multiple deprivations, i.e.

those who could not afford five or six of the basic necessities, is five times higher in the 12 new EU member states than in the [...] EU 15 countries".

Addressing this trend, Robert Anderson, Eurofound's head of unit responsible for living conditions and quality of life, said that while there were certain improvements for new Member States in specific quality of life indicators such as housing, the income inequalities highlighted in these countries remain, and may even have increased since 2003.

Anderson admitted that as the survey was carried out before the current financial crisis had fully erupted, there was a "time lag" between the findings and what Europeans may currently be experiencing.

Download the [European Quality of Life Survey 2007'](#)

Number of elderly workers on the rise in the EU

A European Commission report on demography presented on November 24 indicates that while the number of over-60s working in Europe is still short of the target set by the Lisbon Growth and Jobs Agenda, there has been a considerable increase during the first decade of the new millennium.

Figures for 2007 indicate that on the whole, 50% of men and 40% of women aged 60+ were in employment - slightly short of the Lisbon 2010 target of 50% but nevertheless a positive sign.

The conclusion, according to the report, is that the 1990s trend of early retirement has been reversed, and "ageing baby-boomers" have the "potential to make a major contribution to the economy through their participation in the labour force".

The report also noted that in terms of European family patterns, people are marrying later, divorce rates are continuing to increase and the number of marriages between different nationalities is becoming increasingly significant demographically.

Download the [Demography Report - Towards better societies for families and older people](#)

Immigration in the EU27 in 2006: 40% of immigrants who settled in the EU27 were citizens of EU27 Member States

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has issued a report on recent migration trends. According to the report, in 2006, about three million foreign immigrants settled in a country in the EU27.

These immigrants can be divided into two groups based on their citizenship: citizens of EU27 Member states (1.2 million persons) and non-EU27 citizens (1.8 million). EU27 citizens migrating to a Member State, of which they were not citizens, accounted for 40% of foreign immigrants.

The remaining 60% of foreign immigrants were almost equally divided between citizens of countries in Europe outside the EU27, Asia, America and Africa. In 2006, the largest foreign immigrant groups in the EU27 were



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citizens of Poland, Romania, Morocco, the United Kingdom, Ukraine and China and Germany.

[More information](#)

European Parliament ensures temporary workers gain equal rights

On 22 October, at its plenary session, the European Parliament adopted a Directive on Temporary Agency Work which enables temporary workers to be treated equally, from day one, with permanent staff in the same company.

However, in the UK, agency workers will only get the same pay and conditions as permanent staff after having been employed for a period of 12 weeks (this was the condition to adopt the Directive which has been blocked in the European Council since 2002).

The adoption of the Directive goes in the direction suggested by Harlem Désir MEP, reporter on the issue and the Employment and Social Affairs Committee that recommended, earlier this month, the approval of the Council's

Common Position on Temporary Work, without any amendments.

See: [the text adopted by the European Parliament](#)

European Commission launches the Citizens' Energy Forum

The [Citizens' Energy Forum](#) was recently launched jointly by EU Consumer and Energy Commissioners. This platform is designed to implement and enforce consumer rights on the energy market across the EU.

According to the European Commission, the aim of the forum is to address consumer problems and propose practical solutions. It will develop recommendations aimed at better implementation and enforcement of the rights of energy consumers, and better electricity and gas retail markets.

The Forum brings together national consumer organisations, industry, national regulators, and government authorities to work on key issues such as switching energy suppliers, user-friendly billing, smart metering or protecting

vulnerable groups.

“Private pensions have growing role, but must address society's needs” says new EU report

A new study released by the European Commission last week confirms the trend towards more private pension provision in the EU but highlights the need for inclusive coverage and adequate pension levels.

The study identifies large variations in coverage and contribution levels between EU countries, reflecting the diversity of schemes in place. The analysis aims to help EU countries learn from different national experiences under the 'open method of coordination' – the EU's system of common objectives, reporting and exchange of best practice.

See: - The EU report: [“Privately managed funded pension provision and their contribution to adequate and sustainable pensions”](#)

- [The Commission press release](#)

Markets alone cannot ensure housing for all, UN expert says

On 23 October, Raquel Rolnik, the new United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing issued a statement in New York, declaring that markets alone cannot ensure housing for all.

“The belief that markets will provide adequate housing for all has failed. The current crisis is a stark reminder of this reality. A home is not a commodity – four walls and a roof. It is a place to live in security, peace and dignity, and a right for every human being. ”

In her statement, she goes on to say that *“excessive focus on homeownership as the one and single solution to ensure access to housing is part of the problem”* and warns that homelessness threatens not only the most marginalised or the most poor, but increasingly *“those who work but cannot afford market prices and are forced to live in inadequate housing. Homelessness, or living in inadequate housing conditions, can cause not only material deprivation but also the loss of enjoyment of a wide range of other human rights, whether*



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civil and political or economic, social and cultural."

[See here for full statement](#)

European consumer Debt Network calls for European Action Day on Financial Inclusion and for the right to a bank account

While banks have been very inventive in introducing complex financial products that contributed to the current economic crises, the majority of them are still failing to provide the most basic banking services to some millions of citizens across Europe.

The [European Consumer Debt Network](#) (ECDN), an alliance of about 40 debt advice organisations, consumer agencies and researchers from across Europe, therefore calls for launching a European action day on financial inclusion on 31st of October.

According to the ECDN, having access to basic banking services is a precondition for being able to fully participate in the economic and social life. Exclusion from banking services usually has severe

consequences, such as difficulties in finding a job, problems in finding proper housing or high extra costs for paying bills.

See [ECDN press release](#)

Social Platform calls for a structured civil dialogue with the Parliament

Following the last Citizens' Agora in June, the European Parliament is deciding whether to continue this experiment and how to structure dialogue with NGOs. The decision will be taken mid-November but evaluation is taking place now.

Social Platform, of which EAPN is a member, has written a letter expressing a strong support for the renewal of a structured form of dialogue between Members of the European Parliament and civil society at large.

In the letter, Social Platform also evaluates the Citizens' Agora against the principles of an effective civil dialogue that were defined in its reference paper '[Shaping an effective civil dialogue at national and European levels](#)'.



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[Read the Social Platform letter](#)

[Download this issue](#)

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New FEANTSA magazine on the right to housing is out!

The Autumn 2008 edition of Homeless in Europe, FEANTSA's tri-annual magazine, is now available online! The theme of this issue is "The Right to Housing: The Way Forward".

Access to adequate housing can be considered as being a precondition for the exercise of most other fundamental human rights. Having a secure, adequate and affordable place to live is essential to the achievement of a decent standard of living and to the fulfilment of human life beyond simple survival.

This bumper edition looks at the issue of the right to housing from a number of perspectives and gives practical information on the legal frameworks which promote the right to housing, explains the Council of Europe Collective Complaint mechanism, presents national case studies from Scotland, Finland, France and Spain and provides details on Housing Rights Watch.

Publications

Employment in Europe 2008: What's new?

On 18th November the European Commission published its 20th report on Employment in Europe. The report mainly focuses on the effects of the free movement of workers after the enlargement of the EU and on the first phase of temporary measures in the new Member States.

The Commission highlights the positive impact immigrants have had on growth and employment. It stresses that the flow of labour has been limited and that labour migration is mainly temporary and plays a role of adjustment. Flows should reduce with the economic crisis. In conclusion the Commission encourages Member States to lift restrictions to the free movement of workers from the new Member States.

[Download](#)



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Equality in Action: Spotlight on the various elements of the EU new "social package"

This edition of the European Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs newsletter is designed to help readers access the various elements of the new social package, which was published by the European Commission on 2 July 2008.

This far-reaching legislative package comprises several documents, including a proposed Directive and a Commission Communication on anti-discrimination. 'Equality in Action' guides readers through these various elements, providing clear explanations, reactions to the package and links to relevant information and contact points.

[Download](#)

Partnerships for more family-friendly living and working conditions: how to get access to funding opportunities

This European Commission brochure aims to raise awareness on how funding

opportunities offered by the European Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund, can be used to set up local partnerships and projects which support families.

Presenting the structures and procedures of the Structural Funds, it targets regional and local policy-makers, social partners and civil society representatives interested in developing projects for more family-friendly conditions.

[Download](#)

Migrant women in the European labour force: Current situation and future prospects

This European Commission publication presents an overview of the situation of women migrants in the EU labour market. It indicates key features of women migrants' participation in the EU labour force revealed by this analysis, raises issues and challenges related to women migrants' integration to work in Europe and investigates lessons from some existing programmes and policies with the potential to address the

integration of women migrants into labour markets.

Through the present analysis, and assessment of selected policies and programmes, this study also highlights a need to better integrate the gender dimension into relevant immigration policies, and the migration dimension into gender policies. [Download](#)

New website launched

MigrationAndDevelopment.net, a website providing a forum through which field experiences, good-practice examples and advocacy work can be shared, was launched by the International Catholic Migration Committee (ICMC) and Misereor (German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development).

Through the website ICMC and Misereor aim to promote increased capacity building and leadership among civil society, improve empowerment and protection of migrants and their families, and strengthen rights-based conceptual thinking among policy-makers on contemporary migration and development challenges.

MIPEX briefing: What future for immigrant families in Europe?

The Migration Policy Group (MPG) launches the first of its MIPEX Policy Impact Assessments: "What future for immigrant families in Europe - the high road back to Tampere or the low road on from Vichy?"

It uses the MIPEX to re-tell the history of the family reunion directive. It forecasts how proposed modifications would bring the EU closer to, or further from, its vision of promoting integration and how each initiative would concretely raise or lower integration standards in national legislation in 25 Member States.

[Download](#)

Poverty Across Europe: The Latest Evidence Using the EU-SILC Dataset

The rate of poverty varies between 10% and 23% in the countries of the European Union. Low levels of poverty characterize the Scandinavian countries, the so-called Corporatist countries (Austria, Germany), and the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia among

the former Socialist countries. In contrast, the risk of poverty tends to be relatively high in the Mediterranean and the Baltic states.

The October Policy Brief of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research discusses the sensitivity of these estimates to the measures used and explores the underlying patterns across the vulnerable groups and the likely causes of poverty in these countries.

[Download the policy brief](#)

Manual for gender mainstreaming: Employment, social inclusion and social protection policies

This European Commission manual on gender mainstreaming provides an easy-to-grasp explanation of what gender mainstreaming is, and practical, hands-on advice to policy-makers on how to implement it in employment, and social inclusion and social protection policies.

It is intended to contribute to the visibility of gender equality issues, and is aimed at all stakeholders in gender

equality, especially those working on employment, social inclusion and social protection policies in the Member States.

[Download](#)

Income inequality and poverty rising in most OECD countries

The gap between rich and poor has grown in more than three-quarters of the countries members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) over the past two decades, according to a new OECD report.

OECD's Growing Unequal? finds that the economic growth of recent decades has benefited the rich more than the poor. In some countries, such as Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway and the United States, the gap also increased between the rich and the middle-class.

Countries with a wide distribution of income tend to have more widespread income poverty. Also, social mobility is lower in countries with high inequality, such as Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, and higher in the

Nordic countries where income is distributed more evenly.

[Download the report](#)

What is the cost to UK society of allowing child poverty to continue?

Child poverty not only has great human costs for the families and children affected, but also imposes a large cost on taxpayers and reduces the UK's economic potential. New research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) estimates that child poverty costs £25 billion each year in costs to the Exchequer and reduced GDP.

[Download the summary report](#)

EPC report on the impact of the European Immigration Pact

The European Policy Centre (EPC) has published the report of its Policy Dialogue on "The impact of the Immigration Pact: what future for amnesties in Europe?" which took place on 7 October 2008.

The EU's new Immigration Pact is designed to reflect and respond to Europe's "new realities", but there are concerns about its impact on the key question of how to deal with "irregular" migrants, speakers agreed at the Policy Dialogue. There are also concerns that Member States may view it as a way to regain "ownership" of their immigration policies.

[Download the report](#)



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