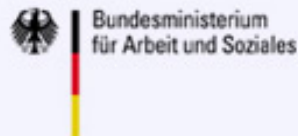


Mainstreaming Message

SEPA in EQUAL II



Structure of this presentation

This presentation contains
two groups of statements:

- **Statements on flight & migration**
- **Mainstreaming objectives and recommendations**

*Flight & migration
statements*

Reasons for flight & migration

- Migration, which **can only be controlled to a certain extent**, is triggered by the **huge differences** in social, political and economic conditions around the world.
- **Violence, exploitation and persecution** cause people to flee to other countries..
- Political persuction enjoys **special legal protection**.
- Owing to restricitve immigration regulations, **this legitimate claim for asylum by refugees** is often used by other individuals.

Refugees and Human Rights – Administrative Authorities

- Migration and flight constitute substantial social elements. Their control is a **major concern of policy making**.
- The EU assures **the same rights to citizens within the EU**. As far as individuals from non-member states are concerned, this legitimate claim is **restricted** temporarily or on the long term.
- Restrictive immigration regulations result in **discrimination by the state** and migrants resorting to illegal activities.
- Only political persecution enjoys **special protection by the law** while other reasons for fleeing one's country are not recognised.
- EQUAL has put state-sponsored discrimination against asylum-seekers and migrants in their efforts to **access training and the labour market** to the test.

Using potentials

- The extent of **direct** and **indirect discrimination** against asylum seekers and migrants is alarming.
- The asylum **system for refugees with its administrative practices** as well as the **limited integration opportunities** for migrants do not allow these groups to develop their potentials adequately but rather lead them partially to **depend on the social services** on a **permanent basis**.
- The numerous **counselling** and **training projects** have highlighted approaches as to how existing potentials can be maintained, strengthened or further developed for the welfare of those concerned, the host country or the country of origin.

Political Analysis of EQUAL

- The EQUAL programme enabled **measures for integrating** asylum seekers (including language courses for job preparation) to be developed and tested for the first time.
- **The following factors are now decisive:**
 - on the one hand, examining if these approaches can be transferred to the standard systems at a **technical level**
 - and on the other hand, creating the pre-requisites for this type of transfer at a **political level**.
- In particular, care should be taken to ensure that **European guidelines** are incorporated into **national legislation** and national implementation programmes.

First Assessment of the EQUAL programme

- The work with the target group of asylum seekers revealed **weaknesses in the structure** of the EQUAL programme.
- EQUAL cannot overrule general national regulations temporarily or amend these permanently. Only the **mainstreaming process** can attempt to do this.
- Since EQUAL is geared to the conditions **within the EU**, it can only work towards making improvements on the inside but not towards **reducing the factors which cause migration**.

Second Assessment of the EQUAL programme

- A European migration and asylum policy should fulfil three conditions:
 1. improving the admission requirements for asylum seekers
 2. enhancing integration opportunities for recognised refugees
 3. linking the return of rejected asylum seekers with measures to combat the factors which cause migration.
- Since the EQUAL programme is geared towards one area (DG Employment) as well as conditions within the EU, it was not possible to combine the **empowerment** of asylum seekers in a relevant way with the **return of rejected asylum seekers to their native countries for reasons of development policy**.
- **Integrated procedure** combining advisory and support services for returnees in the host country with advisory and support services in the country of origin could only be implemented in **exceptional cases**.

*Mainstreaming –
aims and recommendations*

Psychological & social-pedagogic counselling & support measures

- Attempts must be made to combat the **enforced inactivity** of asylum seekers and refugees and the adverse effect this has on **their ability to act at social and economic level**.
- General education and vocational training measures for asylum seekers and refugees should make allowances for these groups' special situation by providing **concomitant psychological and social-pedagogic counselling measures** as well as other accompanying measures.

Learning the language of the host country - German

- Making German language courses in **standard national programmes accessible** to asylum seekers and tolerated refugees:
 - Taking the special characteristics of refugees into account
 - Teaching methods oriented towards the target group (e.g. adolescents, women, the illiterate).
- Maintaining language courses specifically for adult, adolescent and child refugees in the **Central Accommodation Centre for Refugees (LAST)**.
- Special German language support classes for pupils in co-ordination with schools during and/or after standard lessons.

Support for general education

- **Compulsory education** for all children and adolescents regardless of residence status.
- **Standard out-of-school support measures** encompassing language, education and advisory services for children and adolescents who live as asylum seekers or migrants in the host country and are in general education or attend a special or vocational school.
- Special offers for educational support of **unaccompanied minors**
- Dispensing with reservations against the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, which maintain that adolescent asylum seekers are declared as 'of responsible age' which has adverse effects on their accommodation and schooling suitable for young people of their age.

Support for pre-vocational and vocational training

- The right of asylum seekers and refugees to education and job training by **amending the regulations on residence status**.
- An individual's ability to support himself/herself financially should be promoted by **vocational training** and an opportunity to gain **professional experience**.
- **Modular offers** of vocational training, which make allowances for the special situation of asylum seekers and refugees should be made available as standard or supplementary programmes.
- **Equal opportunities for women** in achieving their professional goals and support measures which take account of their circumstances in terms of family and employment.
- Further development of **special job descriptions**.
- Implementing procedures to **determine skills** in order to record abilities and qualifications and if possible, acknowledge these. The special situation of the target group should be taking into account in this case.

Support for Returning to the Country of Origin

- One pre-requisite for returning to the country of origin is **the ability to earn one's living**.
- The host country alone cannot achieve this. Advisory services and training measures in the host country have to be combined with **support measures in the country of origin** (Case Chain Management – CCM). Policy makers should create the pre-requisites for implementing CCM approaches.

A Compelling Issue – Organising Cross-Programmes

- Returning rejected asylum seekers is an objective for many EU member states. However large numbers of returnees put **additional stress** on the **countries of origin** and do not coincide with their national development priorities.
- A **sustainable and socially-compatible programme of return** should lead to host countries accepting an appropriate amount of responsibility as well as of the reintegration costs.
- In a globalised world, this responsibility requires that **reintegration** and **development policy** are effectively linked, resulting in a cross-sectoral organisation of programmes in European funding policies.

Improving the Situation of Asylum Seekers and Tolerated Refugees

- Adapting the **criteria for granting asylum** to the changes in political conditions (e.g. not only political persecution as a reason for seeking asylum).
- Easing or abolishing the **regulations on deterrents** (e.g. benefits in kind, collective accommodation, residence permits).
- Breaking down the legal restrictions on **access to the labour market** (e.g. the priority clause for employment agencies).
- Examining the treatment of rejected asylum seekers under the **aspects of development policy**.