



European Intercultural Workplace comes to Sofia!

Sofia, Bulgaria, welcomed delegates from 10 European countries to a major European forum on dealing with issues caused by the presence of migrant workers from all parts of the world working throughout Europe. The conference was held at the Hotel Hemus, Sofia. Joining Bulgaria were the representatives from Ireland (the Project Coordinator), Finland, Sweden, Norway, UK, Germany, Greece, Italy, and Poland.

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Good practice across Europe

The forum received updated reports on the intercultural work environment across Europe.

These National Reports identify the challenges and opportunities of the increasingly intercultural European work environment. The finished reports investigate issues such as the history of immigration, areas where immigrants are most likely to be employed, the status of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as government, business and civic responses to these changes. Drawing together statistical data and existing research, each National Report provides a comprehensive picture of intercultural workplaces across all major sectors.

These National Reports also examine how the longer-term experience of managing intercultural workplace issues in certain partner countries can inform policies and practices in countries with less experience.

The National Reports will be available in print form and on the website, offering a resource of useful information for workers and employers about the steps that can be taken for an easier and more effective process of integration into the workplace.

The National Reports form the basis on which the EIW training materials and the trans-national sector-specific reports have been developed: see EIW Project National Reports .

Good practice in workplace sectors

Good practice in the intercultural workplace was presented by each national representative. Based on case studies and personal interviews in relevant areas of the public, private and educational sectors, the studies analyse workplace issues from the perspectives of management, employees and customers or clients.

The case studies will soon be available on the EIW website and the exemplars of good practice will be included in the *Diversity Matters* Training Manual.

Workplace sectors covered include

Clothing - Greece
Construction - Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Norway
Employment Office - Finland
Film, TV & Theatre School - Poland
Hospital Maintenance Staff - Finland
Hospitals and Health Care - Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, UK,
Management and Professional Training - Germany, Italy
Manufacturing - Poland
Municipality & Civic Society - Greece, Poland
Nursing Home - Norway
Police - Finland, Germany, UK (in preparation)
Refugee & Culture Centres - Finland, Greece
Restaurant & Hospitality Services - UK
Retailing - UK
Schools & Universities - Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, UK
Small Businesses - Italy
Tourism - Bulgaria
Transport - Bulgaria, Ireland, Norway
Vocational Training - Germany, Norway

Честита Баба Марта!

Award for Bulgaria at Helsinki 2006

Boian Savtchev of Sofia, a key member of the EIW Project, was proud to travel to Finland as a recipient of a Helsinki 2006 Award for Best Practice in Leonardo da Vinci Projects.

The recent project Linguapeace Europe was one of only ten chosen for the award from

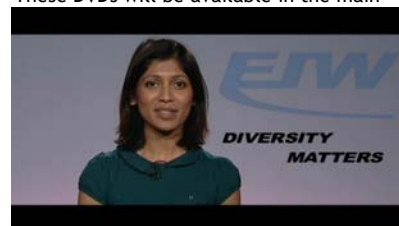


over two thousand projects which have taken place from 2000 - 2006, and as project coordinator he received the award to behalf of the 10-nation consortium which makes up Linguapeace Europe: see <http://www.linguapeace-europe.net> .

Boian's expertise in quality control and project management is gratefully acknowledged by the EIW Project members. "I was very pleased," said Boian "to receive this prestigious award from the EU just before Bulgaria joined - and to see my colleagues here on 1st March - our national holiday!"

Diversity Matters training materials DVD Presentation

Scriptwriter and film producer Adam Duncan (University of Westminster) showed drafts of the training materials *Diversity Matters* he is producing on DVD in conjunction with a specialist working group within the project. These DVDs will be available in the main



languages of the project countries, with the spoken dialogues subtitled as appropriate.

The 14 scenarios present the core issues in mini-dramas. The dramatisations appear to be set in no particular place yet are applicable to many situations anywhere.

Training Manual

The proposed printed Training Manual is more extensive than the DVD, and a draft design and concept for the *Diversity Matters* Training Manual was presented by Prof Jack Lonergan (University of Westminster).



It is designed for a wide range of users, including personnel officers, human resources development managers, and management training consultants.



The *Diversity Matters* Training Manual is also of great use to Trades Unions, other employee representative bodies, and individuals, all of whom may be confronted by issues arising from the intercultural workplace.

Diploma in Intercultural Dialogue



All the activities of the project are to be enhanced by further study and given academic recognition through the development of an International Diploma in

Intercultural Dialogue. The leaders in these developments are Prof Jens Allwood (University of Göteborg, Sweden) (pictured above) and Dr Aileen-Pearson-Evans (Dublin City University, Ireland), who is also the coordinator of the EIW project .

Intercultural Dancing

The happy coincidence of the Bulgarian National Holiday on 1st March and the approaching end of the forum meant that there was ample time for intercultural dancing. A night of Bulgarian folklore, with tambours, bagpipes and animal masks to accompany the energetic dancing was followed by the Norwegian dance, the Salsa. Norwegian? Well no, but in keeping with the project spirit, one of the Norwegian representatives is Argentinean, and everybody wants to dance with Pablo!



2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

With partners from the north, south, east and west of Europe, the EIW Project itself brings diverse people together, including those with long experience of immigration and managing intercultural workplaces and others from where these are relatively new phenomena. Our EIW project both exemplifies and encourages Intercultural Dialogue.

The year 2008 will be the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The aim of this EU initiative is to give a high profile to any sustained process of intercultural dialogue which should continue beyond 2008. Promoting intercultural dialogue among citizens and foreign workers enables all those living in the EU to improve their ability to deal with a complex cultural environment where different cultural identities, habits and beliefs coexist. Taking part in intercultural dialogue is an opportunity to contribute to and benefit from a diverse and dynamic society, not only in Europe but also in the world. The EIW Project shares with the EU the aims of raising awareness of the importance of respecting cultural diversity and common values in the European Union.

President of Ireland

The EIW project was set up in response to the unprecedented situation in Ireland, now experiencing immigration for the first time. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, (pictured above) has chosen the challenges of a multicultural society as the topic of her forthcoming talk to be given in the UK at the invitation of the British Council. The President - Uachtaráin na hÉireann in Irish - is talking in London on 14th March 2007, and the UK partner Prof Jack Lonergan will attend on behalf of the EIW project.



Dr Aileen Pearson-Evans (pictured below) commented "When we at DCU assembled the consortium across 10 countries we knew that this is a matter of great interest across all Ireland. The project will make a major contribution to training, based on shared European experience."



Intercultural Conference in Sweden

The central issues of this EIW partners meeting in Sofia and of the talk in London on 14th March 2007 will be discussed further as key themes at this year's Annual Conference of the ICC - European Language Network, held in Sweden on 23 - 25 March 2007.

The conference is of great professional interest, not least because the Treasurer of the ICC is our Bulgarian host, Boian Savtchev, and the President is UK coordinator Jack Lonergan. The *Diversity Matters* DVD will get a first public showing at *Language - a Key Competence for Europe*.

Register now at <http://icc-languages.eu>

Project Coordinator
Dublin City University (Ireland)



Partners

European Centre for Education and Training - ECET (Bulgaria)



Institute for Competence Building and Project Development (Germany)



Hellenic Regional Development Centre - HRDC (Greece)



The Adult Education College of Västra Nylands (Finland)



Conform - Management Training Collina Liguorini (Italy)



Diversity at Work (Norway)



Academy of Humanities & Economics in Łódź (Poland)



University of Göteborg (Sweden)



University of Westminster (United Kingdom)



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