

Thematic Networking in EQUAL Round 2

MPG Meeting 28 February 2006

Introduction

- Issue based approach in Round 2
- 4 Networks established based on NSS assessment of project activity:
 - Inclusive workplace – Accommodating Equality and Diversity
 - Accommodating Equality and Diversity in Integrated Service Provision
 - Lifelong Learning
 - Entrepreneurship

Engagement with projects

- Introduction to thematic networking at co-ordinators meeting 7 October 2005.
- First formal thematic networking meeting 1 December 2005 – identify priority issues within each network.
- Next meeting planned 23 March 2006 – develop action plans for activity of individual networks.
- Supported by external inputs.

Integrated Service Provision

- Focus: supply side of labour market; integrated service provision for those experiencing discrimination in the labour market
- Priority issue: promoting good practices in achieving effective interagency co-ordination

Lifelong Learning

- Focus: innovations in approaches and delivery of education and training.
- Priority issue: supporting and financing participation in further education and training at third level.

Entrepreneurship

- Focus: Accessing and developing entrepreneurial opportunities for non-traditional entrepreneurs.
- Priority issue: under discussion (e.g. access to finance, CEBs and their interaction with atypical entrepreneurs, anomalies in BTWE)

Common issues

- Common issues identified across 4 networks appropriate for programme level response:
 - Promote practice of non-traditional approaches and methodologies – competency based rather than skills based e.g. mentoring, blended learning, mediation, job coaching.

Results and outcomes

- Practice based product (5 in total?)
- Inform delivery of policy agreed in next round of funding
- Support mainstream intent of programme at national level