

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Transnational Conference

Making a Difference in the European Union

FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2005

**THE RESOURCE CENTRE
356 Holloway Road
London
N7 6PA**



LASI is a project that has received funding from the European Commission within the frame of the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion 2002 - 2006

Introduction

This unique one day event will bring together all Partners from the LASI [Local Authorities and Social Inclusion] programme with representatives from the local, national and European levels with key roles in promoting the local authority contribution to social inclusion.

Through presentations and workshops the conference will examine the key learning which has taken place through the LASI programme and explore the opportunities for widening the opportunities for transnational exchange of experience to promote the local authority contribution to social inclusion within and across national boundaries.

Themes/objectives

- To highlight the role of local authorities and their partners in promoting social inclusion, and identifying what they need to enable them to do more.
- To promote and disseminate the learning from LASI and launch the Peer Review Toolkit which will provide a methodology for local authorities across the EU to benchmark and review their contribution to social inclusion.
- To use UK experience to showcase the value of Peer Reviews for exchanging good practice on social inclusion in local government
- To promote the role of Local Authorities in the NAP/incl process and debate their role in forming and monitoring social inclusion policy

Speakers include [tbc]

- UK - Keynote Speaker
- Sweden - Government Minister
- UK- DWP [Department for Work and Pensions] and UK Local Government Association [LGA] representatives.
- UK – Local Government Mayor
- Ireland – Combat Poverty Agency [CPA] Director
- Social Inclusion practitioners – UK, Ireland, Lithuania, Spain and Sweden

The Morning Programme – Understanding Social Inclusion

- 09.30 - 10.00 Registration and coffee
- 10.00 - 10.15 Welcome and introduction
Chair: Professor Mike Geddes, Local Government Centre, University of Warwick UK
- 10.15 - 10.30 Combating Social Exclusion – ‘the hot issues’
Key note speaker – UK
- 10.30 - 11.00 The NAPs/Incl 2006 – the challenges for national/local government
DWP and LGA speakers
- 11.00 - 11.45 **The contribution of local authorities to social inclusion. ‘Making a difference’ – experience from LASI.**
Short case studies from 3 countries, highlighting the role of mainstream services, the role of elected representatives, and involving and engaging all social partners.
- 11.45 - 12.45 Transnational group discussions on the above to address ‘*what more LAs can do to make a difference*’.
- 12.45 - 14.00 Lunch.

The Afternoon Programme – Collaborating for Social Inclusion

- 14.00 - 14.15 Welcome and introduction - summary of group discussions.
Chair: Helen Johnston, Director, Combat Poverty Agency Ireland
- 14.15 - 14.30 The LASI Peer Reviews – an overview
*Mike Geddes, LASI Project Director
Clare Batty, LASI Project Manager*
- 14.30 - 15.30 **Learning from One Another – strengthening networks**
Transnational workshop sessions to explore opportunities for greater collaboration
- Exchanging good practice at local level. Applying the UK peer review experience.
 - Exploring how local authorities can use transnational experience to improve partnership working with NGOs and other partners.
- 15.30 - 15.50 **Final panel discussion of issues raised during the day and conference conclusions**
All Speakers
- 15.50 - 16.00 **Closing remarks**
DWP/LGA