

## **Good discussions and workshops during Closing Conference**

**From 28 – 30 November the ENARO Closing Conference was held in Cervena Nad Vltavou in the Czech Republic.**

**The Steering committee of ENARO had his autumn meeting.**

**In the meantime, the candidates of spring- and autumn exchanges came together to look back on their visits.**

### **Improvement of the exchanges**

The exchanges of 2007 were organised by 'the Hub' project team. This project made it possible to organise the exchanges in a more professional way. The exchanges focussed on general reception conditions and vulnerable groups. Before going to their host countries, the candidates received a briefing with instructions on research methods. In a debriefing session, the data from their exchanges were collected to be analysed by the researchers of the University.

The Hub is a cooperation between the Dutch agency for the reception of asylum seekers (COA) and the University of Kent. Other partners are ENARO, Fedasil and Kent County Council. COA is managing the project, financed by the ARGO fund of the EU.

During the closing conference, the candidates looked back at their exchange and gave recommendations for the further development of the program. Conclusions were that the outcome and quality of the exchanges had improved. The Hub made a start with a different way of sharing good practices and knowledge and making data accessible. An announcement was made of the HUB dissemination conference on 'Sharing reception challenges' to be held in Malta on 5, 6 and 7 March 2008.

New plans were made to continue the development of the exchange program. The intention is to focus on one specific topic for each exchange and to include policymakers in the findings at the debriefing. COA, in partnership with ENARO, Fedasil and OIWAS (Malta) submitted a new proposal under the ERF fund on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Extending the network**

The steering committee talked about extending the network. Representatives of Romania and Slovakia gave presentations about the reception in their countries. They will join the network next year. The ENARO network wants to expand from the current 13 members to about 30 members in the next few years, to become a good representative of the reception organisations in Europe.



## *The HUB*

Conference on  
**'Sharing reception practices'**

**5, 6, 7 March 2008**  
**in Malta**