

Autumn exchange ended successfully

From 18th to 20th October the candidates of the ENARO fall exchange came back to Brussels for the debriefing. After two weeks of hard work and travelling Cathy Verschoor, the project leader of the Hub looks back at a successful exchange.



“We have learned a lot from the spring exchange and the first 'Hub' exercise. This time the candidates went to the host countries much better prepared. The materials were ready in time, and everyone took his time to read the documents and country-profiles. Although some of the candidates had a very short period of preparation, everyone was very motivated and worked hard”.

ENARO has been organizing the exchanges for several years. This year, the Hub made it possible to take the exchanges to a higher level. The Hub wants to make it possible for data, acquired from the exchanges, to turn into knowledge, making it useful for a wider range of people working in the field of reception.

"For the fall exchange the candidates also worked on the country-profiles, which give an overview about the reception in several countries. These country-files could be updated regularly through the exchanges. The reports of the exchanges will be published on the website www.enaro.eu/thehub. Rosa Hossain, researcher of MASC, Kent University (the partner in the Hub) will work on the data of the exchanges and give an analysis. At the closing conference of ENARO the first results of the Hub as well as the new way of going about the exchanges will be presented."

During the exchange the focus was again on general reception issues and vulnerable groups. Also some new countries were involved in the exchanges this year, such as Malta, Cyprus, and the Soderkoping network. “The first visit to Moldova was interesting. The candidates stayed and worked in one centre and were impressed by what had been achieved in a relatively short time. They felt there was a great need for knowledge and exchange with the colleagues and hopefully they will be able to participate in the next exchange."

During the debriefing there was a lot of discussion. All candidates presented their host country. Best practices regarding vulnerable groups were discussed in smaller workshops. Countries that have a reasonable professionalized reception organization can have another way of dealing with items, than countries that are just starting to professionalize. "For example, access to employment or independent living (whether or not 'forced' by the economical situation of the country or lack of provisions) may prevent asylum seekers to become passive or traumatized by the long stay in reception centres, as is the case in many 'more developed' asylum-systems.

” The project the Hub will come to an end in spring 2008. After the positive outcome of the

exchanges this year, what will be the future?

“The Hub is just a start, to make knowledge available to a wide range of people. For the future there is a lot of potential. We will work on a database in order to make knowledge transfer more accessible. Also we can consider other types of exchange: for example training colleagues in other countries, involving other agencies to be present at the briefing etc.”

“During the debriefing Dafydd Pugh, European Policy Officer, KCC* did an exercise with us. In groups we talked about how many people were involved in producing something as small as a cookie. After that we compared it with building our own organisations and reception systems and how the Hub could add to that. This exercise gave us the inspiration to look at the process we are in.”

* Dafydd Pugh organised the 9th European conference on reception where 'the HUB' was born.

"Briefing in Brussels, October 2007"

"For the second time ENARO exchange candidates met in Brussel for a briefing under the HUB project. The briefing was graciously hosted by FEDASIL. This time the exchange consisted of 25 candidates. New to the exchange program was a candidate from Cyprus, a potential ENARO member. For the first time the exchange program also included visits to Malta and Moldavia. Unfortunately UK and Ireland were not able to send any candidates but they were able to receive.



The briefing started with a kick off in the Radisson Sas Hotel in Brussel on Sunday evening, where all the candidates got to know each other and shared expectations. The next morning, after a stroll to the FEDASIL office, the program started with an introduction to the HUB project. Dr Charles Watters from Kent University, gave a talk about best practices and methods of research. He introduced the group to the concepts of etic (using outside criteria) and emic (from within) approaches; the use of semi-structured interviews such as the interview guide that is prepared for the project; observer effects; multi level approaches; issues of good practice and the writing down of results. Sander Kramer, from the University of Utrecht, talked about his research done in collaboration with COA about safety for women in reception centres which was a good example of an emic approach, and challenged the group to compare the profiles of women he sketched with their own experiences. Rosa Hossain explained the legislative background of the minimum standards for reception. In the afternoon the group worked in two sessions on putting to practice the

research methods and identifying and discussing best practice examples.

After a day of hard work and exploring the sights of Brussels by night, all candidates were eager to travel to their host countries. 'I wish I could visit them all', said one candidate. We are looking forward to hear all the experiences on October 18th when everybody returns to Brussels for the debriefing."

Preparations for next HUB briefing 7-9 October 2007

The preparations for the next HUB briefing are well underway. Some of the documents used for the spring exchange have been revised. You find the all the new documents on the website.

For the hosting countries:

- Topics for the next exchange are the same as before 'basic reception conditions' and 'vulnerable groups', please have a look at the interview guide for the topics and adjust the program accordingly, if possible, for the participants to do their research.
- We have included 'basic country profiles' in the reporting template. Please have this information available for the participants to put in their reports.

For the participants:

- Please fill out the practitioners questionnaire and mail it to Rosa Hossain (R.Hossain@kent.ac.uk) at least one week before the briefing.
- To help you with your research in your host country we have compiled an 'interview' guide (formely named 'the toolkit') and a reporting template, please familiarise yourself with its content so you can ask all your questions during the briefing.
- Of course you may learn more about the country that you are about to visit by reading previous exchange reports on the ENARO site and visiting the website of your host!
<http://www.enaro.eu/exchange-programme.html>

We hope to see you soon in Brussels!

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Briefing Exchange candidates in Brussels

On June 3rd the candidates of the spring-exchange of ENARO came to Brussels to prepare their visits to the host countries under the so called ' Hub' project (link the Hub website).

The group received a briefing at the University of Kent-campus in Brussels, under the guidance of Dr. Charles Watters & Ms. Rosa Hossein. During 2007 staff of this university is involved in the Hub and the ENARO exchange programme.

On June 5th all the candidates travelled to the host-countries to put what they have learned into practice. In total 24 candidates participated in the exchange programme, out of which two candidates from Malta, participating for the first time, and three special guests from the Soderkoping Process project: representatives from Moldavia, Ukraine and Belarus. June 15th everybody was back in Brussels for the debriefing, before returning home. Find out more about the Hub and the briefing and debriefing programme on the new HUB-website.

