



## FROM DAILY PRACTICE INTO THE EUROPEAN ARENA

The first steps have been taken! The first steps towards a large conference in the European Parliament, taking place on Thursday 20 September 2007. "The Alliance", possibly working together with other partners for this conference, wants to offer a huge platform from which best and bad practices and the large amount of collected experiences can be presented to an international audience.



Already for several years we have been putting energy into our European contacts. A large number of Members of the European Parliament and both Commissioners Frattini (Justice) and Spidla (Employment) turned out to be interested in our experiences and methods. From these meetings it became clearer and clearer to what extend policy makers want to know what

really happens in practice, to know what works and what does not. New policy is always the result of changing circumstances and experiences from former policies. When there is actual learning from practices on the working floor, chances increase that new policy will effectively be better policy.



Our host in Brussels is Ms. Hennis-Plaschaert, Member of the European Parliament for the liberal group ALDE, who will receive our participants. What more can you expect?

On the morning of the 20th of September about 275 closely involved participants will gather within the European Parliament, challenged by an exciting programme. Daily working experiences from different projects will be presented and placed into the larger theme of European migration. The 10 to 20 present Members of the European parliament will thus be able to renew their knowledge and ideas, which they can put to use for the development of improved policies. During an extensive lunch we create possibilities for the participants to exchange ideas in more detail and in a more intimate way with their country representatives in the European Parliament.

We want to achieve that the innovative Alliance-methods will gain a place beyond the borders of our single organisations into long-term visions. Regional cooperation is one of the bases of our success, but it cannot be that each region will have to start developing everything from zero each time a partnership is set up. We as transnational part-

ners as well as the policy-makers, from local or regional to the European level, can learn from each other. We are looking forward to make this challenge happen next year!

## FROM THE DAILY PRACTICE TO STRATEGIC POLICY AND FROM POLICY VISION TO SPECIFIED ACTIONS

I see the organisations in "The Alliance" as implementing organisations with a direct link to policy formulation and vision in the field of migration. As innovative organisations with both feet firm in the daily practice of working with refugees and migrants there is a permanent search for improvement, within the partner organisations, but also beyond the borders of the organisation. This is, to me, the biggest challenge in working for "The Alliance".

Let me introduce myself: my name is Jan Murk, I am 28 years old and I came to strengthen "The Alliance"-team since the 1st of September, aiming for the mainstreaming phase in general and specifically the planned large European conference in September 2007. Traveling between Brussels, Baexem, Saarbrücken and the different project sites I will have to provide "The Alliance" with a more permanent face in the Brussels' arena, I will collect the best and bad practices and the experiences of the partner DP's, translate them to the policy level and make the practical arrangements for the conference in the European Parliament.

After having worked for 3,5 years with great pleasure as political assistant for Member of the European Parliament Maria Martens, the European Parliament is home territory to me. What is new, and a welcome challenge,



is the link from daily practice to the very theoretical European level. Coming in with a real message and to make sure the message is heard by politicians and policy-makers. We mean to make a difference in the next phase, trying to help making better policy out of real experiences.

**JAN MURK**  
PROJECT COORDINATOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS  
HIT FOUNDATION



## “THE ALLIANCE” MEETS UK GREENS MEP

On Wednesday 25th of October “The Alliance”, represented by Dr. Hermann Schoenmeier and Jan Murk, went for Strasbourg to discuss the Brussels’ conference progress with several interested MEP’s. One of them is our committed co-host for the Green party, Mrs. Jean Lambert from London. As an MEP responsible for both employment and justice, and out of personal commitment, she has asylum matters close to the heart. She made clear that during her many visits to developing countries the direct link between development cooperation and immigration became increasingly evident to her.



As a very difficult example she mentioned the psychological and social consequences for immigrants returning to their home country. Besides the difficult economical situation and the danger they sometimes face, the cultural aspect of failing their families is completely underestimated in policy. Not having succeeded, she says, is the hardest part of reintegration in their home society.

Mrs. Lambert stated she hoped to have a discussion linked to development and combined with practical solutions for integration, return and re-integration next year. Only by combining the issues and regarding them as different faces of the same problem truly effective, human and realistic policy can be developed.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

If you want to learn more about the specifics of “The Alliance”, you’ll find all relevant information on our website:

[www.equal-the-alliance.net](http://www.equal-the-alliance.net)

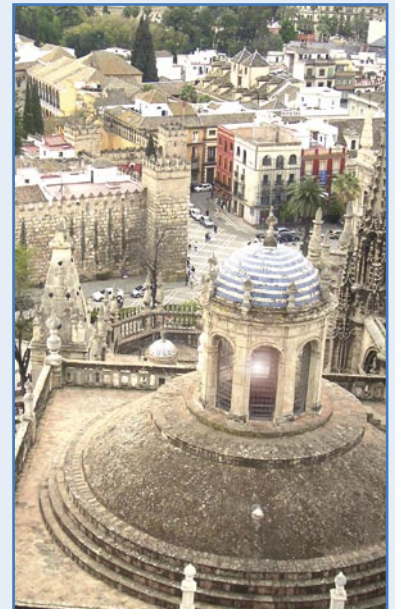
Some of the partners gained their experiences in transnational mainstreaming already at the end of the first round of EQUAL. The result was an international conference held in Maastricht in September 2004. The relevant results and the content are still available online:

[www.european-conference-maastricht.net](http://www.european-conference-maastricht.net)

## CONFERENCE NETWORK ABOUT TO ENLARGE

On 26 and 27 October Mattijs Maussen and Jan Murk traveled to Sevilla on behalf of “The Alliance” to speak with the CASA-network about the closing conference in Brussels next year. Subject of discussion was to proceed not only with the current Alliance partners from Germany, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, but also with the Spanish, Danish and Polish EQUAL-projects gathered in the transnational network CASA. At their transnational conference in the beautiful capital of the region Andalusia the three partners exchanged experiences on all levels. Part of the meeting was reserved for discussion with “The Alliance”.

In a very positive atmosphere views were exchanged and possibilities discussed for cooperation and common learning. Not only will the lessons we learn from each other be more valuable by the larger group of partners, our message will be stronger as well. During the next meeting in Brussels the network will follow-up the first steps



in working together and another DP interested in the message will already sit at the table, the Belgian project of “De Overmolen”. The message grows stronger as it grows more European.

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