



# *Asylum and Integration Theme*



# What is the National Thematic Network Asylum & Integration?

The National Thematic Network Asylum & Integration (NTN Asylum) is a project co-financed by the European Social Fund, the Swedish National Labour Market Board, the Swedish Integration Board and the Swedish Migration Board. By bringing together and putting the magnifying glass on examples of good practices and project experiences and results springing from the Community Initiative EQUAL, the European Refugee Fund and other relevant research and development activities, NTN Asylum's objective is to improve relevant systems and policies and to promote greater knowledge and awareness on issues of relevance to the reception and integration of asylum seekers and refugees. More information can be found on NTN Asylum's website:

**[www.temaasyl.se](http://www.temaasyl.se)**

EQUAL is a European Community Initiative whose purpose is to counter discrimination and exclusion on the labour market. Project activities under EQUAL's asylum theme aim to improve the situation of asylum seekers during the period they wait for a decision on their asylum application by putting in place more effective measures for social and vocational integration and re-integration.



## Cover

The mosaic is from the Moorish Palace in Alhambra in Spain. It was erected during a period of Europe's history – between ca 700 and 1400 A.D. – when Islam, Judaism and Christianity lived in peaceful co-existence – “*convivencia*”.

## Illustrations

The illustrations are from an exhibition by the European artist group *Significans* who also previously displayed their work at the NTN Asylum conference, entitled *Coming from afar*, held at the Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg, Sweden.

## NTN Asylum: Collecting knowledge, research, critical analysis and validating project results

### Foundation built on Development Partnerships and project experiences

The National Thematic Group Asylum & Integration under EQUAL (NTN Asylum) is built around a group of project actors, or so called Development Partnerships, that were first established in 2002. Continued co-operation within this group has generated a very fruitful exchange of experiences. Along the way, new Development Partnerships and projects have linked up to the group, most recently the AROS Asylum Development Partnership and four projects under EQUAL/the European Refugee Fund.

© maybe today - significant projects 2005



### Critical analysis and research

Since 2002, NTN Asylum has a steering committee and a secretariat. Initially, focus was primarily on gathering relevant knowledge, reviewing and analysing national and European asylum and refugee systems and policies, and validating project results. A number of research studies have been launched/completed by NTN Asylum which deals with different aspects of asylum seeker's conditions during their application processing period.

### Dissemination of experiences and information

In 2004 a number of dissemination and policy impact efforts were carried out, such as publication of a first *Asylum Theme brochure* and the collection, and presentation, of an overview in the field (*Oviss väntan – Waiting in uncertainty*) that was later published by the Swedish ESF Council. Additionally, a number of seminars and conferences were organised and NTN Asylum's website – [www.temaasyl.se](http://www.temaasyl.se) – was launched.

### Reference group for a broader perspective

Former EU Commissioner and Swedish immigration minister, Ms. Anita Gradin, is chairman of the reference group for NTN Asylum. The reference group was established in 2005. It includes broad representation from different areas of society and concerned groups, including asylum seekers, refugees, researchers, NGOs, and representatives of the cultural, media and political spheres. The reference group's objective is to:

- function as a critical reference to NTN Asylum's activities as regards orientation, strategy and policy;
- be an open forum where results of development efforts and research can be presented, reviewed, discussed and validated;
- contribute to dissemination of experiences and to impact on systems and policies;
- foster a wider perspective and discussion on asylum reception, what it means to be a refugee and on integration.

## System and policy change

During 2005-2006, dissemination and efforts to impact on policies have been given a greater emphasis. Examples of good practice have been presented in seminars and conferences and a new application and project round have been launched under EQUAL and the European Refugee Fund. NTN Asylum's website – [www.temaasyl.se](http://www.temaasyl.se) – with some 5,000 visitors per month, has in just a short time become an important forum for information and debate on asylum reception and related policy fields at national and even EU level. The website has grown and now includes a database for effective showcasing of all projects under the theme co-financed by the European Refugee Fund, the European Social Fund and other relevant EU programmes, as well as the inclusion of a special document database. NTN Asylum's electronic newsletter is distributed every month to more than 2,500 subscribers.

### Popular seminar series...

Seven seminars were organised by NTN Asylum during 2004-2006 around the following themes: Work/integration, reception/waiting, voluntary and forced return, irregular migration, Swedish integration policy discourses, alternative ways to organise reception and self-organisation/empowerment by/of the target group. The seminars were attended by almost 700 participants from government agencies, NGOs, universities, colleges and the media.

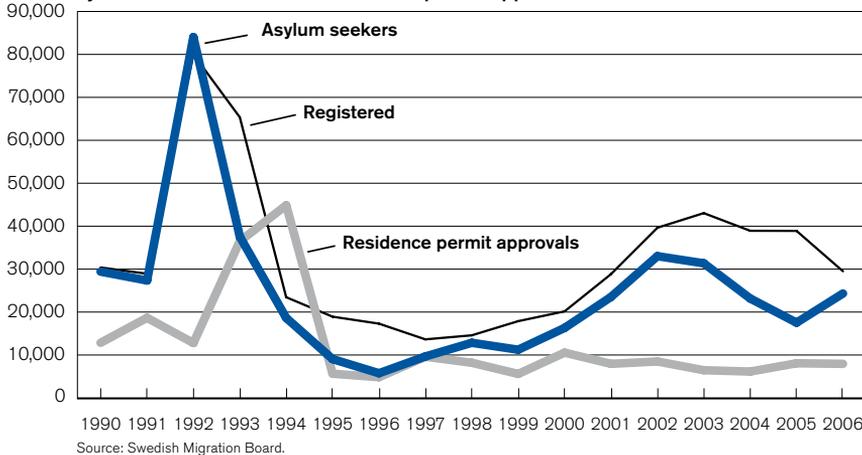
### ...and a successful conference

The first national and European conference on the asylum theme - *Coming from afar* - dealing with asylum and refugee reception in Sweden and Europe, was held in October 2005 in cooperation with the Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference embodied a broad and unique focus on showcasing good practices and positive results from EQUAL (from national and transnational partnerships) and from the European Refugee Fund. Other elements included presentations and analyses of systems and policies in the asylum and refugee area at national and EU level as well as a number of research seminars with participants from Sweden and other Member States. The conference was given an artistic backdrop through a co-operative effort with the European artist group *Significans*, the magazine *Karavan* and the Gothenburg City Theatre. For the European Refugee Fund the conference was a choice opportunity to launch their new programme period. For EQUAL it was also a good opportunity for new projects to publicise their



Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg

**Number of asylum seekers registered in the Swedish Migration Board's reception system and the number of residence permit approvals in Sweden 1990-2006**



pending activities while projects from the previous and first round were able to showcase their final results and good practices.

**Clear links to a common European framework for reception...**

Through Sweden's chairmanship of the European asylum thematic group under EQUAL (ETG Asylum), optimal communication between NTN Asylum and ETG Asylum has been achieved. ETG Asylum strives at EU level to influence systems and policies in the same way as the national groups/networks. Work with the *Common European asylum system* has moved into a new and crucial phase. As of February 6, 2005, there is a common European framework for Member States – Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 – laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers – which encompasses all activities within the area of NTN Asylum's, EQUAL's and the European Refugee Fund's operations. May 2007 will see the launch of a large European conference in Malmoe, Sweden within the frame of ETG Asylum and which will highlight Member States' implementation of the above mentioned reception directive.

**...and constructive proposals to national policymaking**

NTN Asylum has, on an annual basis, delivered proposals for national policymaking to the Swedish ESF Council and concerned Government ministries. The proposals have, among else, included improvements in vocational training and work opportunities for asylum seekers, health care and a more efficient division of responsibility for asylum reception. The proposals are linked to relevant articles of the EU reception directive and also, in some cases, to the EU's employment guidelines and recommendations.

**Further focus on introduction and integration of new arrivals**

Over the course of the remaining programme period, NTN Asylum will place greater focus on the issue of the introduction and integration of newly arriving refugees and migrants. A decision to put focus on related activities and allocate substantial budget

resources towards this new area has already been taken. A study will be carried out Swedish integration policy discourses. Furthermore, an extensive review and validation of introduction/integration oriented projects under the various EU programmes will be carried out in order to identify examples of good practice.

### A window open to the public

An important objective for NTN Asylum is to “contribute towards knowledge building and influencing public and political opinion”. When it comes to asylum reception and integration issues, a broader spectrum in society is concerned than just civil servants and decision makers in government agencies, government ministries and NGOs. Interested

#### Origin of asylum applications lodged in Sweden 2006

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Iraq                  | 8,951 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 2,001 |
| Somalia               | 1,066 |
| Stateless             | 815   |
| Russian Fed.          | 755   |
| Bolivia               | 747   |
| Lebanon               | 679   |
| Bulgaria              | 639   |
| Eritrea               | 608   |
| Afghanistan           | 594   |
| Other countries       | 7,467 |

**Total 24,322**

Source: Swedish Migration Board.

#### Origin of asylum applications lodged in the EU 2006

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Iraq                  | 19,375 |
| Russian Fed.          | 13,721 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 13,662 |
| Afghanistan           | 7,612  |
| Turkey                | 7,427  |
| Iran                  | 7,065  |
| Pakistan              | 6,284  |
| Somalia               | 5,996  |
| Bangladesh            | 5,967  |
| China                 | 5,450  |
| Other countries       | 96,739 |

**Total 189,298**

Source: UNHCR

*“The notion of asylum is a remarkably constant feature of human history.*

*Throughout the ages and in every part of the world, societies with very different cultures and value systems have recognized that they have an obligation to provide safety and support to strangers in distress.”*

The State of the World's Refugees 2006. Human displacement in the new millennium. UNHCR, 2006

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members of the general public, the research community and representatives of the media are natural targets of NTN Asylum's various efforts. Establishing a meeting place for information, dialogue and disseminating knowledge is a high priority task.

Such a meeting place has now been created in NTN Asylum & integration's new premises in Stockholm.

## Points of departure

### Right to asylum

The right to asylum is laid down in the United Nation's Refugee Convention from 1951 and is well known. What is much less well known, however, are the socio-economic rights that asylum seekers have during the often extended period of waiting for a decision in the receiving country.

### Regulations for reception

The European Union has, by way of the Council directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers, for the first time created a common regulatory framework providing norms that are to be applied in all Member States during asylum seekers' waiting period.

The directive's 28 articles regulate Member States' obligations towards asylum seekers, including the right to work, access to education, health care, housing and other material conditions. Even if the norms are set low, the directive is still a very important indicator that asylum seekers must be granted certain rights by receiving countries during the waiting period.

#### **Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers**

(opening paragraphs)

...

**(5) This Directive respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental rights of the European Union. In particular, this Directive seeks to ensure full respect for human dignity and to promote the application of Articles 1 and 18 of the said Charter.**

....

(7) Minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers that will normally suffice to ensure them a dignified standard of living and comparable living conditions in all Member States should be laid down.

...

**(15)** It is in the very nature of minimum standards that Member States have the power to introduce or maintain more favourable provisions for third-country nationals and stateless persons who ask for international protection from a Member State.

...

#### *Article 11*

##### **Employment**

1. Member States shall determine a period of time, starting from the date on which an application for asylum was lodged, during which an applicant shall not have access to the labour market.

2. If a decision at first instance has not been taken within one year of the presentation of an application for asylum and this delay cannot be attributed to the applicant, Member States shall decide the conditions for granting access to the labour market for the applicant.

3. Access to the labour market shall not be withdrawn during appeals procedures, where an appeal against a negative decision in a regular procedure has suspensive effect, until such time as a negative decision on the appeal is notified.

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...

#### *Article 12*

##### **Vocational training**

Member States may allow asylum seekers access to vocational training irrespective of whether they have access to the labour market.

...

#### *Article 17*

##### **General principle**

1. Member States shall take into account the specific situation of vulnerable persons such as minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence...

...

#### *Article 20*

##### **Victims of torture and violence**

Member States shall ensure that, if necessary, persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious acts of violence receive the necessary treatment of damages caused by the aforementioned acts.

### Socio-economic rights

The waiting period must be used in a way that is fruitful for both the individual asylum seeker and society at large. The asylum seeker is granted access to those services which, in the words of the directive, guarantee a “dignified standard of living”. From society’s perspective, the waiting period shall be used to create the conditions for integration and future self-subsistence in the receiving country or, in the case of a negative decision, in their home country. The EQUAL programme and the European Refugee Fund have an important role to play in creating these conditions.

### Drop in the number of asylum seekers...

The number of persons seeking asylum in Sweden has dropped over the past few years; from 33,000 in 2003 to 17,000 in 2006. The Swedish Migration Board predicts that over the coming few years the annual number will be approximately between 30,000–40,000. Seen over a longer period, however, then there have been decidedly more asylum seekers coming to Sweden in the new millennium than in the mid 1990s. The number of those actually granted asylum, on the other hand, has successively dropped over recent years, especially in the share of *Convention refugees*.

#### Asylum application decisions in 2006

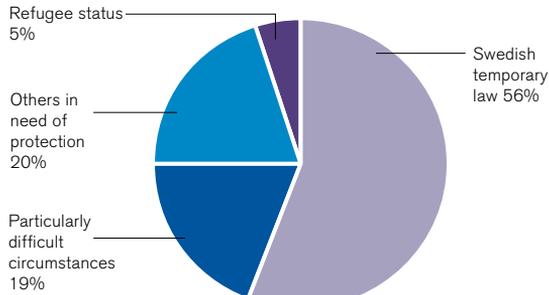
Swedish Migration Board decisions

| Citizenship           | Total decisions | Approved*    | Total % approved | Denied       | Dublin cases | Retracted/ no longer relevant | Others**     |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Iraq                  | 5,285           | 4,238        | 80%              | 426          | 462          | 225                           | 396          |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 1,958           | 457          | 23%              | 1 000        | 531          | 254                           | 247          |
| Russia                | 1,007           | 390          | 39%              | 351          | 163          | 191                           | 75           |
| Somalia               | 981             | 782          | 80%              | 108          | 51           | 45                            | 46           |
| Bulgaria              | 736             | 6            | 1%               | 583          | 30           | 132                           | 15           |
| Stateless             | 695             | 272          | 39%              | 285          | 81           | 76                            | 62           |
| Bolivia               | 602             | 17           | 3%               | 513          | –            | 64                            | 8            |
| Uzbekistan            | 419             | 310          | 74%              | 42           | 33           | 36                            | 31           |
| Mongolia              | 368             | 12           | 3%               | 268          | 83           | 30                            | 58           |
| Afghanistan           | 365             | 120          | 33%              | 172          | 84           | 16                            | 57           |
| Other                 | 6,422           | 1,336        | 21%              | 3,229        | 749          | 1,346                         | 511          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>18,838</b>   | <b>7,940</b> | <b>42%</b>       | <b>6,977</b> | <b>2,267</b> | <b>2,415</b>                  | <b>1,506</b> |

\* Permanent and temporary residency.  
 \*\* Submissions to appeal court etc.  
 Source: Swedish Migration Board.

#### Permanent residency approvals by type of decision

Refugees, in need of protection and particularly difficult circumstances



Source: Swedish Migration Board. Total: 19,037

### ...but a long wait remains

The number of persons seeking asylum in Sweden will, following a decline over the past few years, rise sharply in 2007. There was a slight rise even in 2006. According to the Swedish Migration Board, the share of asylum applications that are approved has risen. No figures or prognoses, however, are available in the Migration Board's latest operations prognosis as to how long asylum seekers need to wait for a decision.

### Renewed asylum application processing...

Changes have taken place with regards to the organisational and procedural order for assessing asylum applications. These include the introduction of a new process and organisational structure and the adoption of the *Temporary Law* which de facto gave a relatively large number of asylum seekers who had previously had their applications denied the opportunity to have their asylum application reassessed. While the consequences of this new organisational and procedural order are still difficult to ascertain, it is expected that the waiting period will be shortened.

### ... and asylum reception

As regards asylum reception, a number of incidents took place in recent years which revealed serious problems in the Swedish Migration Board's reception system and which received much attention in the media and political sphere. The former government announced, at the time, their intention to appoint a commission to review asylum reception. The new government will fulfil this intention, as noted in its Budget Bill for 2007. NTN Asylum welcomes these initiatives and refers to its report on organisational separation between asylum reception and asylum evaluation which NTN Asylum's reference group submitted in spring 2006 to the then Minister of Migration.



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## Projects that leave footprints

### **A new Development Partnership under EQUAL**

A new EQUAL Development Partnership has been established in Sweden under the asylum theme: UP AROS-Asylum in Uppsala and Västerås. The previous Development Partnerships have all come to an end in 2005 though they continue with certain dissemination activities and minor projects as part of NTN Asylum. In bordering thematic areas there are projects focusing on the introduction and integration of newly arriving migrants. In the whole of the EU there are 62 Development Partnerships under the asylum theme.

### **...but many projects financed by the European Refugee Fund**

The European Refugee Fund (ERF) has co-financed over 150 projects in Sweden alone, many of them linked to the asylum theme. There are also many interesting transnational/cross-border ERF projects, or *Community Actions*. The Swedish and Spanish Red Cross have co-operated in putting together material and presenting recommendations as to the voluntary/involuntary return of asylum seekers at a large European Conference on the subject in 2006.

## EQUAL

The objective of EQUAL, an EU Community Initiative financed by the European Social Fund and running from 2001 to 2007, is to counter discrimination and exclusion on the labour market. EQUAL projects are carried out within the frame of Development Partnerships, constellations of actors from different sectors in society who come together to co-operate to solve jointly identified problems/challenges. National level Development Partnerships co-operate with similar Partnerships in other Member States. One theme under EQUAL is the situation of asylum seekers while they are waiting for a decision on their asylum application and which measures are required in the reception system in order to facilitate future integration, in case of a positive decision, or re-integration in case of a negative decision.

## European Refugee Fund

The European Refugee Fund (ERF) is an EU Programme which gives support to projects aiming at developing Member States' asylum seeker and refugee reception systems, integration measures and initiatives in connection with voluntary return to their home countries. The ERF plays an important role in the implementation of the Common European asylum policy and system, as it was laid down by the Member States at the Council meeting in Tampere, Finland in 1999 and the Hague, Netherlands, in 2004. The Swedish Migration Board is responsible for the implementation of the ERF in Sweden.

## **AROS-ASYLUM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

The AROS Development Partnership has as its objective to reach out to all asylum seekers in own housing (children, adults, the sick, the healthy) and to develop activities for all which are linked together in a comprehensive way for both asylum seekers and relevant bodies. Activities focus on asylum seekers quality of living and on aspects of health, housing, parentalship, education, employment and leisure time. A unique survey of all previous and current asylum seekers in the Uppsala and Västerås counties is being carried out in collaboration with the Ethnological Institute at Uppsala University.

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Website: www.uparos.se

## **SKILLS AUDIT AND MERIT PORTFOLIO**

The ReKOMP Development Partnership has developed a tailored skills audit and validation instrument for asylum seekers. Similar instruments have been developed by its partners in other Member States under their collaboration named *Aspire*. These instruments are presented in a handbook and as a CD-rom. ReKOMP's instrument is being further developed in a sub-project under NTN Asylum.

Project name: Vocation mapping and merit portfolio  
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## **BREAKING THE CODE - CIVIC EDUCATION FOR YOUNG MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

More and more Member States are stressing the necessity of providing citizenship training, or civic education, to newly arrived migrants. A number of Development Partnerships under EQUAL (under the asylum theme as well as other themes) have developed a concept for respectfully conveying to newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers civic education and a better understanding of specific European values. The Arrival Gothenburg (Ankomst Göteborg) Development Partnership provides education on the EU to asylum seekers, something which has proved popular. The ReKOMP Development Partnership in Uppsala has developed an ambitious programme – Breaking the code – for young migrants and asylum seekers participating in standard introduction courses for immigrants. Mother tongue language teachers are responsible for central elements of the education programme, thus ensuring a culture contrast perspective. The education plan encompasses society's basic values within the frame of issues such as family, law and order, gender equality and mental and physical health. The programme is now being further developed under NTN-Asylum.

Project name: Civic education for young migrants and asylum seekers  
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More information: [www.temaasyl.se](http://www.temaasyl.se)

## Research for knowledge and development

### **FOLLOW-UP OF FORMER PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (DP) ARRIVAL GOTHENBURG**

Göteborgs Initiativet has between 2002 and 2005 been operating the DP Arrival Gothenburg, where daily activities for asylum-seekers were offered, with the focus on the social- and vocational re-integration/integration. The overall purpose was to make the time of waiting for asylum meaningful for the participants, to increase their participation in the Swedish society and to improve their health situation.

Göteborgs Initiativet is now carrying out a follow-up study with former participants of Arrival Gothenburg and a control group, which did not take part in the activities of the DP. The study will find out if there are any qualitative or quantitative differences in how they have viewed their time of waiting and how they perceive their integration in the Swedish society, and if the activities of Arrival enhanced and facilitated the former participants' integration into the Swedish society. This will be done by conducting several deep interviews and follow-ups on the informants' present life situation. A report will be published in December, 2007.

Project name: Follow-up of former participants in the DP Arrival Gothenburg  
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The projects *Centre for asylum seekers* and *International health advisors* build on the results of two previously implemented projects under the European Refugee Fund and EQUAL. In both cases there were finished products (models and concepts) that were well suited, after adaptation, to be used in building up a new system for reception and integration of asylum seekers and newly arrived migrants. This is in line with NTN-Asylum's previous priority thematic areas.

These activities will now be disseminated in the form of a comprehensive product and services package. The objective is to develop new ways to take advantage of the project results, including needs analysis and implementation strategies that ensure that the project experiences are mainstreamed.

## **CENTRE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS**

The centre for asylum seekers is based on a previous and successful project under the European Refugee Fund. The aim is now to materialize the concept of a one-stop-shop for asylum seekers which brings together government agencies and organisations under one roof to provide Swedish language training, information, social support and health care. The concept will be offered to municipal and regional administrations in the form of a comprehensive product and services package, including a needs analysis and cost-benefit analysis.

Project name: Early co-operation during asylum period  
– Centre for asylum seekers  
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## **INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ADVISORS**

In order to improve the health status of asylum seekers and to improve the functioning of the health care system, the ReKOMP Development Partnership has developed the concept of *health communicators/advisors*. These advisors, who are knowledgeable in not only health care and how the health care system works, but also speak the language(s) of the asylum seekers and understand their cultural background, function as an effective link between the Swedish health care system and asylum seekers. Even other health promotion measures have been developed. This has resulted in a substantial overall drop in health care costs for asylum seekers. The southernmost region of Sweden – Skåne – has recently established a number of positions as health communicators for asylum seekers. Good health is an important condition for social and vocational integration/re-integration of asylum seekers.

Project name: International health advisors  
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The *significans* artist group's installation at the Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg, Sweden

A number of research studies are being carried out within the frame of NTN Asylum. These studies aim to provide a more sound basis for continued work in mapping, analysing and developing asylum and refugee reception systems and policies. The studies will also serve as a reference for the efforts of various Development Partnerships and projects. Knowledge building through research is an important objective under the asylum theme, as noted in programme documents and project objectives.

Three research studies have been completed: Reception's integration – from asylum reception to settlement, *While we are waiting* and *Waiting under influence*. The first mentioned focuses on co-operation between the reception system's various actors while the two latter focuses on the consequences for the asylum seekers of them having to wait and how asylum seekers try to cope to deal with the situation. Ongoing and planned research studies include, among else, a comparative analysis of the different systems – formal, informal and target group driven – for asylum seeker reception as well as the previously mentioned integration policy discourse analysis.

## What has been done so far...

NTN Asylum and the various Development Partnerships and projects under the asylum theme have made headway in promoting methods, proposals and recommendations, including the following.

- International health communicators is now an established qualified vocational training at university level for refugees and asylum seekers.
- The Arrival Gothenburg Development Partnership with its 5 element method (time, trust, clarity, accessibility and hope) created a new strategic spirit in working with asylum seekers which better helps them achieve meaning in their lives and improve their opportunities to actively participate in work and education.
- Responsibility for the reception of unaccompanied minors applying for asylum is being transferred in 2006 from the Swedish Migration Board to the municipalities, a development which NTN Asylum has been recommending for some time, among else in its *2004 Proposals for national policy*.

- The Government has decided to carry out a review of the Swedish Migration Board's remit, asylum reception and the *Law on the reception of asylum seekers*, another development which NTN Asylum has been strongly recommending for a number of years in the wake of critical reviews of the current reception system. One of the political parties represented in Swedish Parliament (and in the new Government from 2006) has adopted an asylum policy programme on reception and in which almost all of NTN Asylum's previously put forward proposals and recommendations have been incorporated.

NTN Asylum's conference "Coming from afar" at the Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg, Sweden was a unique manifestation for a better asylum reception. It gathered 200 participants from Sweden and across the EU's Member States. The conference allowed practitioners, researchers and politicians the opportunity to come in contact with good practice examples from projects under EQUAL and the European Refugee Fund. Conclusions and recommendations from the conference are documented in NTN Asylum's *2005/2006 Proposals for national policy*.

## ...but much remains

- NTN Asylum has in its annual report - *Proposals for national policy* - to the Swedish ESF Council and the Swedish Government - made, among others, the following proposals.

- The Government's review of asylum seeker reception should take up the issue of an organisational differentiation between responsibility for handling the asylum application per se on the one hand and reception on the other.

- Asylum seekers should be offered access to a tailored selection of skills audit, validation and vocational training. Asylum seekers who have already started vocational training with a focus on re-integration should, in case they are eventually denied asylum or voluntarily choose to return, be allowed to complete their training first.

- A more profound mapping, analysis and follow-up of asylum seekers at work on the ordinary labour market as well as in the informal economic sector should be undertaken as a first step towards designing relevant measures.

- An immediate review of current legislation should be carried out for the purpose of giving asylum seekers who appeal a negative decision from the lower instance continued right to work (to not require a work permit). The definition of waiting time should include the whole waiting period, i.e. before initial decision as well as the appeals process.

## NTN Asylum changes name to NTN Asylum & Integration

### Greater emphasis on integration

NTN Asylum will expand its focus for the remaining programme period by engaging in analysis, dissemination and policy impact under the theme of integration not only in connection with asylum seekers but now also in connection with migration in general. In accordance with the Government's joint *Agreement on developing introduction for refugees*

and other new arrivals (*Överenskommelse om utveckling av introduktion för flyktingar och andra nyanlända*), the asylum period will be treated as part of a coherent process aiming at integration/re-integration.

The broader focus will include two in part new target groups - refugees and other newly arriving migrants - and thereby new Development Partnerships and projects, as well as new fields of knowledge, research and policy. Integration policy will be examined from a discursive analysis perspective in order to establish a basis for identifying and validating project results.

Discursive analysis entails a critical review of integration policy norms, terminology, theories, political rhetoric etc. that can be found in studies, policy documents, political manifests, research reports, programme documents, project applications, projects and programme evaluations and government agency directives. Another important task for NTN Asylum and Integration will be to introduce the *common European integration policy* and confront it with the national perspective.

### **A window, open to the public**

An important objective for NTN Asylum is to “contribute towards knowledge building and influencing public and political opinion”. When it comes to asylum reception and integration issues, a broader spectrum in society is concerned than just civil servants and decision makers in government agencies, organisations and government ministries. Interested members of the general public, the research community and representatives of the media are given targets of NTN Asylum’s various efforts. To establish a meeting place for information, dialogue and disseminating knowledge, is a high priority task.

Such a meeting place has now been created in NTN Asylum & integration’s new premises in Stockholm.

The *significans* artist group’s installation at the Museum of World Culture in Gothenburg, Sweden



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DP name: Arrival Gothenburg (Ankomst Göteborg)  
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**Read more...**

**All information on NTN Asylum  
can be found on our website:  
[www.temaasyl.se](http://www.temaasyl.se)**

Including:

- News on asylum and refugee policy
- Critical reviews and analyses of systems and policies
- Research and development
- Information on the Common European Asylum System
- Project experiences and examples of good practice



## *Fleeing*

Fleeing,  
what a great reception  
on the way –

Wrapped  
in the wind's shawl  
feet in the prayer of sand  
which can never say amen  
compelled  
from fin to wing  
and further –

The sick butterfly  
will soon learn again of the sea –  
This stone  
with the fly's inscription  
gave itself into my hand –

I hold instead of a homeland  
the metamorphoses of the world –

NELLY SACHS

Translation: Ruth and Matthew Mead

The author and poet Nelly Sachs arrived to Sweden as a Jewish refugee from Germany in 1940. One of the persons who helped Nelly Sachs and her mother to flee from Nazi-Germany was the Swedish author and Nobel Prize Laureate Selma Lagerlöf. Nelly Sachs received the Nobel Prize in 1966.

## NTN ASYLUM AND INTEGRATION – A WINDOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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*Stödjer nya idéer om  
ett öppnare arbetsliv*