



# EQUASS Newsflash

Welcome to the new issue of the EQUASS Newsflash! This publication is an initiative of the European Quality in Social Services to provide you with regular updates regarding the most recent developments and achievements of the EQUASS System.

## New EQUASS License Holders

The EQUASS License Holders are responsible for marketing and promoting the EQUASS concept on quality and for operating the EQUASS Assurance Certification programme. Two new organisations were recently appointed EQUASS LLH, in Slovenia and Lithuania.

### Research and Development department of URI (Slovenia)



University Rehabilitation Institute  
Republic of Slovenia

The Research and Development department of the University Rehabilitation Institute in Ljubljana has a leading role in promoting quality in the Vocational Rehabilitation Sector in Slovenia. Its role is recognised and financially supported by the Slovenian Ministry of Social Affairs. The University Rehabilitation Institute in Ljubljana has signed an EQUASS Licence Holder Agreement in November 2010. The core documents for EQUASS Assurance have been translated in the Slovenian language and made available via the EQUASS in Practice project website. The first Vocational Rehabilitation Service providers already expressed their intention to start the implementation of EQUASS Assurance.



### VRC in Lithuania

The Valakupiai Rehabilitation Centre (VRC) in Vilnius signed an Agreement in November 2010. VRC, a public organisation funded under the Ministry of Social Affairs, has a leading role in promoting quality in the Vocational Rehabilitation sector in Lithuania. VRC had a meeting with all vocational rehabilitation providers in Lithuania where they were informed about EQUASS Assurance and the future role of VRC. The core documents for EQUASS Assurance have been translated into the national Lithuanian language and made available via the EQUASS in Practice site: [www.equassinpractice.epr.eu](http://www.equassinpractice.epr.eu)

### Upcoming EQUASS events

- **20 January 2011:** Information seminar for Veneto Investimenti Sociali VIS srl in Verona (Italy)
- **17-18 February 2011:** EQUASS Assurance consultancy training in Tallinn (Estonia) ESFproject
- **21-22 March 2011:** EQUASS – Quality standard at EU level. Course at the Rea-Akademie in Ratzeburg (Germany)
- **30-31 March 2011:** EQUASS Assurance auditor training in Tallinn (Estonia) ESF project
- **1 April 2011:** Induction programme for Local Licence Holder in Tallinn (Estonia) ESF project
- **17 May 2011:** Meeting of the EQUASS Awarding Committee

## EQUASS external contributions: Vlewa and Caritas EU Office

### EQUASS at Velva meeting



On 14 December 2010 the Flemish European liaison agency (Vlewa) held a thematic meeting entitled "To a European Quality Framework for Social Services of General Interest?" in Brussels. The seminar presented the Voluntary European Platform for SSGI (VEQF). This Framework was adopted by the Social Protection Committee and supported by 8 European Projects funded by the Progress programme.

Guus van Beek presented the Common Quality Framework for SSGI (CQF for SSGI) and the EQUASS certification programme as an instrument for implementing the VEQF and the CQF for SSGI. The participants' discussions revolved around the expected impact of these initiatives on the Flemish policy and services.



### EQUASS at Caritas EU Office

The German Caritas Association's EU Office in Brussels organised its annual

conference for their German contact persons on the 23 November 2010. One of the important themes for this conference was 'Quality in Social Services'. Guus van Beek, as chairman of the CEN Workshop and project manager of the PROMETHEUS project, was invited to present the Common Quality Framework for Social Services of general Interest and the EQUASS Certification Programme as instrument for implementing the CQF for SSGI.



## News from the EQUASS Awarding Committee



### Committee welcomes new member

On 3rd November 2010 the EQUASS Awarding Committee appointed Mr. Dirk Jarré as a new member. During the Prometheus project Mr. Jarré participated in the EQUASS Awarding Committee as an observer on behalf of EURAG, the **European Federation of Older Persons**. Mr. Jarré is a lecturer at the JOANNEUM University of Applied Science in Graz (Austria) and Vice-president of the European Platform for Social NGOs. Mr. Jarré actively contributed towards the development of the Common Quality Framework in the CEN Workshop and as a keynote speaker on Ethics and Rights at the final conference of the Prometheus project.

### Appointment of new auditors

The EQUASS Awarding Committee appointed the following auditors:

- ☆ Manuel Correire, Portugal
- ☆ Barbara Schulz, Germany
- ☆ Winfried Henke, Germany
- ☆ Raheem Esmail, Germany
- ☆ Ivo Domingues, Portugal
- ☆ Raquel Araújo, Portugal
- ☆ Ana Gamelas, Portugal
- ☆ Aspasia Fatsiadoe, Greece

### EQUASS Assurance and Excellence in 2012

At his last meeting, the Awarding Committee decided that the EQUASS Certification programme should be based on the Common Quality Framework for Social Services of General Interest (CQF for SSGI) and the Voluntary

European Quality Framework for Social Services (VEQF). The EQUASS Principles and criteria (including the key-performance indicators) will therefore be extended and adapted.

All stakeholders, licence holders, consultants, auditors, awarded organisation etc will be informed about the changes in the beginning of 2011. The updated documentation will be available before the summer so all stakeholders can prepare themselves on the upcoming changes.

The updated EQUASS 2012 will be operational from 1 January 2012. This means that all applicants that apply after 1 January 2012 must meet the updated criteria.

## EQUASS Assurance and Excellence certified organisations 2010

Congratulations to all the organisations who received an EQUASS Assurance or Excellence recognition in 2010, and to all the EQUASS Local Licence Holders who have worked in certifying organisations in their respective countries!



### New EQUASS Assurance Certified Organisations

Sanpro, Origod, Kvaleberg Industry, Grue service, Stadtröda Rehabilitation Center, Dorthe Marie Hjemmet, Satellitten, ASSOL, Asilo Nido Comunale di Belluno, Grep, The Casa Ioana Association, Mølla Kompetansesenter, ATS Gjøvik, KARE, Norpolen Industrier, Nordnes Verksteder, Sølve, Hapro, Astero, Gamle Oslo Tre og Teksil (GOTT), Stas, ALADI - Associação Lavrense de Apoio ao Diminuído Intelectual, ATF Oslo KF, Tromsø ASVO, Eskoleia, KIM-senteret, Rana Produkter, Hasvo, Nordtro, APPC - Associação do Porto de Paralisia Cerebral, Mitra, Helgeland Industrier, Meland Arbeidssenter

