

## Equalitec awarded Best Practice Project Award at European conference

8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Portia's flagship project [Equalitec](#) was awarded "Best Practice Project Award" at the [Keeping on Track](#) conference, Prague, 4-5 June 2009.

Keeping On Track is a project funded by the European Commission's Education and Culture Directorate General. Its aim is to draw attention to European funded project outcomes focusing on matching the anticipation of skills and training provisions of older workers, migrants and women.

Equalitec was one of only six projects out of 300 pan-European projects to achieve the Award and was the only UK based winner. As well as receiving the award, Portia Director, Dr Elizabeth Pollitzer, presented findings from the Equalitec project as an example of best practice at the Keeping On Track final conference.

The Evaluators comments on Equalitec:

*"The project sought to address individual and organizational barriers faced by mothers returning to work after a career break. The main focus was on women's employment opportunities in the ITEC sector (Information, Technology, Electronics and Communication). The project also highlighted the fact that high education does not necessarily secure employability in the case of women returning from career breaks. Overall the project quality is excellent, with high quality products and solutions. Its effects have reached beyond the initial project goals of promoting lifelong learning, increasing workforce diversity in the ITEC sector and improving the employability of women returning to work after career break. The partnership was outstanding with more than 70 organisations participating. The products are specific and practically orientate and strong impacts have been documented both in terms of skills development and improved career prospects among women. The products could easily be transferred to other countries due to the relative homogeneity of the IT sector industry across countries."*

Portia were honoured to receive the award. The award is particularly timely as it coincides with an [EU Life Long Learning Programme](#) project that Portia is involved in, [EU Return](#): Innovative Training and Career Development for Women Returners Across Europe. EU Return will transfer proven innovative support and career development methodologies from the UK to partner countries, including the Equalitec methodology.

Further information

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Equalitec project website: [www.equalitec.org.uk](http://www.equalitec.org.uk)

EU Life Long Learning Programme website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78_en.htm)

EU Return website: [www.eu-return.org](http://www.eu-return.org)

Keeping On Track website: [www.keepingontrack.net](http://www.keepingontrack.net)

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