

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



EU Immigration portal

The EU Immigration Portal serves as a first point of entry to reliable, practical and up-to-date information on immigration issues. It provides useful basic information written in user-friendly language, and gives rapid and direct access to relevant external websites for further details. The Portal is live as of November 2011 and can be accessed here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/>



Human rights education at Holocaust memorial sites across the European Union: An overview of practices

Most European Union (EU) Member States have memorial sites and museums that both preserve the memory of the Holocaust and encourage visitors, in particular young people, to reflect on current human rights issues. In this handbook, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) provides examples of the various ways in which memorial sites link the history of the Holocaust to human rights, ensuring that the past resonates in the present and its lessons are brought to bear on difficult contemporary issues against its backdrop.

The report offers a sampling of educational programmes at selected historical sites and museums that either address human rights directly or approach, in a more general way, the dignity of human life and the equality of all human beings.

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2011-Holocaust-education-overview-practices_EN.pdf



Corporate Social Responsibility: a new definition, a new agenda for action

The European Commission has published a new policy on corporate social responsibility. By taking steps to better meet their social responsibility, enterprises can help themselves and help society as a whole. The European Commission's new strategy on corporate social responsibility (CSR) aims to create conditions favorable to sustainable growth and employment generation in the medium and long term.

More about corporate social responsibility read here:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/_getdocument.cfm?doc_id=7010

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers

The European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers is an initiative of the Council of Europe in cooperation with experts and partners. It provides youth leaders and youth workers in Europe, volunteers or professionals, with a tool, which can help them identify, assess and describe their competencies based on European quality standards.

In using this portfolio, youth leaders and youth workers will not only contribute to the recognition of their experience and skills but also to efforts to increase the recognition of youth work and non-formal education and learning.

The portfolio is available here:

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Source/Resources/Portfolio/Portfolio_en.pdf



More than 107 Asylum Seekers in Belgium Hotels

Belgium is rapidly processing the asylum cases for refugees still domiciled in hotels, one year after arriving in the country.

There are now 107 asylum seekers lodged in Belgian hotels, all of whom are unaccompanied minors, down from nearly a thousand earlier in the year. The objective of the Belgian Government is to have no asylum seekers in this form of accommodation at the year's end.

A more rapid processing of asylum applications will be established - applicants will receive a response within 15 days. Appeals will no longer be suspended and the burden of proof will be reversed, the onus being on the plaintiff to prove that he needs the protection of Belgium, and not vice versa.