



## **2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty & Social Exclusion in the UK**

As part of 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty & Social Exclusion, the UK will have a variety of activities and events with the aim of raising awareness of the causes, prevalence and consequences of poverty and social exclusion, by allocating funds to activities within communities around the country.

The UK has received grants totalling over £430,000, and this will be co-funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, to participate with a broad range of actors who have a role to play in developing and delivering solutions to tackle poverty and social exclusion, including business and trade unions, voluntary and community organisations, social enterprises, and people experiencing poverty.

### **Regional Projects**

*The London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium* will run a series of events, including 'Spark in the Park' (an exhibition of anti-poverty activities involving workers, volunteers and people experiencing poverty), to showcase successful on-the-ground practice and to engage with those experiencing poverty. Participants will be encouraged to voice their experiences and life stories.

*The Poverty Alliance project* will seek to raise awareness of the reality of poverty in Scotland from the perspective of those who experience it. They are commissioning three 10 minute documentary films where filmmakers will work with existing groups from around Scotland to create short documentaries based on the following themes: Young People and Poverty; Adults and Poverty; Older People and Poverty.

*One East Midlands* will host a series of local festivals where people experiencing poverty can voice, share and record their experiences. There will be follow-up meetings to address emerging themes and report-backs at subsequent grassroots meetings. A poverty convention will enable the sharing of records and outcomes with policy-makers and practitioners.

### **Thematic Projects**

*Save the Children* will run 'Inspiring Change' which is a support programme for grassroots and community organisations working with children in the 10 most deprived areas of UK. Support is



offered to young people to run change projects to the benefit of their communities, whilst learning new skills. Over 300 children and young people experiencing poverty and social exclusion will be directly involved in the activities which will benefit both themselves and at least 3,000 others through their actions.

*The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation* will run a campaign called 'Supporting Life's Journeys' which aims to highlight the power of mentoring and befriending in helping people to escape poverty, exclusion and isolation. The reach for this programme is over 7,000 people, most of which will be those affected directly by poverty, while 600 will be directly involved in developing and delivering the campaign.

These are just some of the diverse and engaging events that will take place around the UK during the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty & Social Exclusion. The campaign aims to provide a framework for Member States to help them implement their own actions to deal with poverty and social exclusion and ultimately find lasting solutions.