



## **CEJI Flash**

**Issue 1 – January 2007**

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### **Message from the Director**

Happy New Year 2007, and welcome to the first issue of CEJI Flash! Our New Year's resolution is to communicate with our partners and friends more effectively, and one of the key tools will be this monthly newsletter. Any feedback or suggestions on how this could better meet your needs will be gratefully received at [communication@ceji.org](mailto:communication@ceji.org). We are also currently re-designing the CEJI website to make it more user-friendly and relevant to our work, and expect to launch it at the beginning of March. Watch this space for further announcements!

2006 was a special year for CEJI. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the European Peer Training Organisation (EPTO), which we are proud to see has developed into an independent NGO – although links between CEJI and EPTO nevertheless remain strong. 2006 also marked the first year in which CEJI employed a full-time Policy Officer, Gidon van Emden, who has been following political developments related to our mission. More details on our achievements in 2006 and our plans for the coming year can be found below.

The New Year sadly sees CEJI bidding farewell to two staff members: Carine Douenias is leaving us after almost ten years, and our European Volunteer, Ania Solomiak, will be returning to Lithuania after a year of living in Belgium. We are loathed to see them go, but wish them the best of luck in the future.

We also welcome a number of new staff members – Communications Officer Katy Nicholson and Dialogue Co-ordinator Ruth Friedman – and extend greetings to Italian doctoral student Stella Cogliervina, who will be with CEJI for the next three months conducting a comparative analysis of religious discrimination law across the EU.

On a final staff note, CEJI's Executive Board has decided to offer me the position of Director, which I have accepted with pleasure. I very much look forward to working with you all in this new capacity.

Best wishes for the coming year from myself and from the rest of the CEJI team,  
Robin Sclafani – Director, CEJI



*"I wake up each morning determined to change the world and also to have one hell of a good time. Sometimes that makes planning the day a little difficult" - E. B. White*

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## **CEJI Launches Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training**

In October 2006 CEJI launched a European Adult Education programme on Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination. The product of cooperation between partners from six European countries with CEJI as the lead partner, the training is supported by the Grundtvig Programme of the European Commission and the Ford Foundation.

Open to people of all senses of religious and non-religious belonging, the programme aims to address diversity and discrimination issues related to religion, including subject-specific modules on anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Using highly interactive and participatory methods that have proven effective in dealing with general prejudice and discrimination, it seeks to provide adult educators with tools for situations where religious diversity and discrimination are a concern.

The first training session took place in October 2006 in Derby, UK. Future courses will take place from 18 – 23 March 2007 in Bulgaria, and from 27 May – 1 June 2007 in Italy. For further details contact [training@ceji.org](mailto:training@ceji.org).

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## **EPTO Launches Gender & Homophobia Module**

The European Peer Training Organisation (EPTO) is looking for participants for its FRUITCAKES peer training programme. The result of combined efforts of four organisations – EPTO, Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH), NANE Women's Rights Association and Kommunikation und Bildung (KomBi) – and supported by the European Commission's YOUTH Programme and the European Youth Foundation, the programme aims to empower young people to become activists against gender-based discrimination and homophobia within their youth organisations and schools.

The pilot FRUITCAKES training session will take place in Budapest from 18 to 24 March 2007. It is open to participants from Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Spain who are between 18



and 25 years old, able to work in English and active in youth work. Application details and forms can be downloaded from [www.epto.org](http://www.epto.org). The deadline for applications is 2 February 2007.

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## European Jewish-Muslim Dialogue

In late 2005 CEJI launched a project aimed at promoting dialogue and cooperation between Jewish and Muslim communities in Europe. Co-funded by the Ford Foundation and the European Commission, the project aims to both stimulate and encourage new initiatives at a local level and provide a European platform to showcase their results.

The project saw some significant developments in 2006, with the production of national mapping reports outlining the various partnerships and dialogue initiatives present today in Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The project's focus for the first months of 2007 will be a European conference on Jewish-Muslim dialogue scheduled to take place in Brussels from 15 – 17 April 2007. For more details contact [ruth.friedman@ceji.org](mailto:ruth.friedman@ceji.org).

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## Advocacy

During 2006, CEJI's Policy Officer Gidon van Emden met with Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission, as well as with other key players in the field of anti-discrimination work and education, to promote its mission and viewpoints at a European level. During the year, CEJI also strengthened its contact with the OSCE, and spoke at various conferences on intercultural understanding and on diversity education.

In 2007, CEJI will continue to advocate for the strengthening of anti-racism initiatives throughout the European Union, and to campaign for diversity issues in EU member states. We appreciate the support of our partners and friends on all levels: local, national, and EU-wide. You will be able to follow our developments through our newsletters, and we hope we can count on you and your agencies for support! For more details contact [gidon.vanemden@ceji.org](mailto:gidon.vanemden@ceji.org).



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## Shiurim

On December 18, the 5th night of Channuka, CEJI organised a candle lighting and reception. Accompanied by the Jazz Comets, the participants sung together and enjoyed each other's company in an informal atmosphere.

CEJI's monthly Shiurim lunch meetings will continue in 2007 as in 2006, with the next Shiur taking place on Monday 5 February. For more information, and to sign up for the Shiurim email list, please contact [gidon.vanemden@ceji.org](mailto:gidon.vanemden@ceji.org).

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**CEJI is an international non-profit organisation set up in 1991 which aims to provide experiences, projects and ideas in the field of basic rights, education, training and social integration, in order to contribute to a democratic, responsible and caring Europe and to facilitate the involvement of Jewish communities in this process.**