



**EYV 2011 Alliance Working Group Meeting, 30 September – 1 October 2011 Brussels (Belgium),
FINAL REPORT
17 October 2011**



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Preparation:

The WG Co-chairs that were not Brussels based arrived on 29 September in the evening and met for a catch-up evening meal where they were also joined by some of the Brussels based co-chairs. The co-chairs that are also representatives on the EYV 2011 Alliance Steering Group had already arrive in Brussels on 28 September. The Co-chairs, and the EYV 2011 Alliance Project Manager, Gabriella Civico met for a preparatory meeting during the morning of 30 September. Gabriella presented to the group the conclusions and questions about P.A.V.E draft 2 that had been raised in the SG meeting the previous day. This served to provide a framework for the detailed analysis of P.A.V.E draft 2 that would take place during the WG meetings. This was followed by discussion and agreement on the methodology for the meeting and it was agreed that each group would agree and identify their top 20 recommendations from all those included in P.A.V.E draft 2 and would include proposed changes to the document using comment feature and not track changes.

Citizens' Prize Award Ceremony:

In a change to the usual schedule the WG co-chairs were joined by all the WG members and other invited guests at lunch time for a networking lunch at the meeting venue. The lunch was possible due to the support provided by Intel and was attended by 90 people from EYV 2011 Alliance member organisations and other partners and stakeholders.



The lunch was followed by the [award ceremony](#) for the 2010 European Parliament Citizens' Prize. The EYV 2011 Alliance had been nominated for the award by Marian Harkin MEP and she was also there to present it on behalf of EP President Jerzy Buzek. Due to the extra financial support offered by Intel in recognition of the award each EYV 2011 Alliance Steering Group member was presented with a framed certificate. This was in addition to the official elements of the Citizens' Prize itself consisting of a pin badge, a glass trophy and a certificate which were accepted on behalf of the EYV 2011 Alliance by Steering Group member Anita Prosser from the Conservation Volunteers Alliance.

In accepting the prize Ms Prosser thanked all those who had volunteered to develop the EYV 2011 Alliance work both in campaigning for EYV 2011 and in implementing the project work plan during 2010 and 2011. She gave special thanks to Executive Group and Steering Group members, especially to CEV for hosting the first meetings and later being the grant holder and hosting the secretariat. She also thanked the non-Brussels based members who had



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invested extra effort and expense in travelling to co-ordination meetings in Brussels (CVA, ENGAGE and Volonteurope). The appreciation of the work of the secretariat was also mentioned, as was the financial support from the European Commission, the Steering Group member organisations, Fundacion Telefonica, Bosch Stiftung and Intel.

She concluded the acceptance speech by thanking all the volunteers across Europe in whose name the year was called and recognising that EYV 2011 would not have been possible without the support of the European Parliament and especially Marian Harkin whose enthusiastic and genuine support for volunteers and volunteering only seems to grow as the year progresses.



Implementation:

The WG meetings began directly in their individual groups without a specific plenary session since the group had already been together for the networking lunch and the award ceremony.

The 6 separate WG meetings began with their individual welcome, introductions and apologies. The co-chairs gave an explanation of the process so far regarding P.A.V.E draft 2 and the purpose and objective of the meeting. They were asked to identify the 20 key recommendations, identify aspects of repetition and/or contradiction, see how to re-formulate negative statements, give comments on the introduction and the “EYV 2011 Believes” statements, consider the use of references and footnotes to non-Alliance documents and keeping them to a minimum and featuring them as examples to illustrate a point and not as concrete proposals.

The first day was rounded off with an outdoor sit down dinner for all the participants and invited guests in the hotel that some EYV 2011 Alliance SG members also joined.

The presence of external guests in two of the WGs the 6 groups meant that the groups had slightly different timetables and working rhythms. WG on Volunteering Infrastructure started their meeting by welcoming Patrícia Foito e Camisão, Senior Policy Officer at European State Lotteries and Toto Association EU Representation and WG on Quality volunteering had a session after lunch on the second day to develop their competencies in advocacy for quality volunteering. This workshop was kindly delivered at no charge by Tamsin Rose from WAGGGS.

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The co-chairs met at the start of the second day to discuss and give feedback on the outcomes of the first day. The role and approach for the individual WG sections in P.A.V.E was clarified and it was agreed to propose to the SG a change of structure where the top headings were the stakeholder groups with references to each of the 4 Year objectives under group and also to include a section incorporating recommendations to all stakeholders.

A sit down lunch was provided on the second day in a change to the usual sandwich lunch provided in the previous meetings. This was appreciated by the participants and gave an opportunity for a full group gathering in the absence of any final plenary.

The groups returned to their meeting rooms after lunch to wrap up the meeting. There was no common closing plenary as it was felt more important to round off the meeting as individual WGs since in some cases due to lack of possibility to attend the meeting in Warsaw it was their last opportunity to be together as a group. The lack of possibility for all the WG members to be in Warsaw was related to the fact that many WG members are volunteers and that the commitment for Warsaw required 4 working days created a barrier to their participation.

The statistics concerning the participation at the WG meeting are provided as an annex to this report. The statistics include all participants coming from EYV 2011 Alliance Steering Group members whose costs are covered by the project grant thanks to the co-funding that they provided in advance, and participants coming from members of the wider Alliance who pay directly for their participation at the event. Since the focus of the meeting was specifically on providing input and recommendations for the final draft of P.A.V.E. not all the WGs produced individual reports for this meeting.



Annex 1. Participation Statistics, EYV 2011 Alliance Working Group Meeting 3 (WG Meeting 3)*

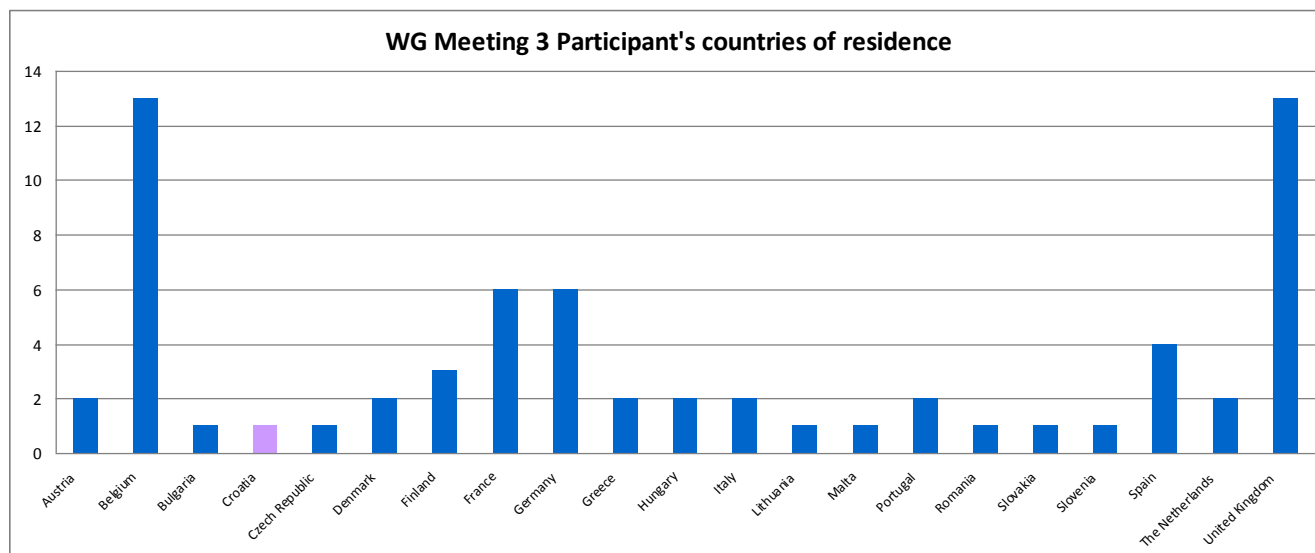
WG Meeting 3 Participant's status

■ Employed ■ Volunteer



Participant's status	
Employed	51%
Volunteer	49%

Participant's countries of residence	
Countries	Number of Participants
Austria	2
Belgium	13
Bulgaria	1
Croatia	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	2
Finland	3
France	6
Germany	6
Greece	2
Hungary	2
Italy	2
Lithuania	1
Malta	1
Portugal	2
Romania	1
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	4
The Netherlands	2
United Kingdom	13
Number of EU countries	20
Number of Non-EU countries	1
Total number of countries	21



* Draft statistics based on registration

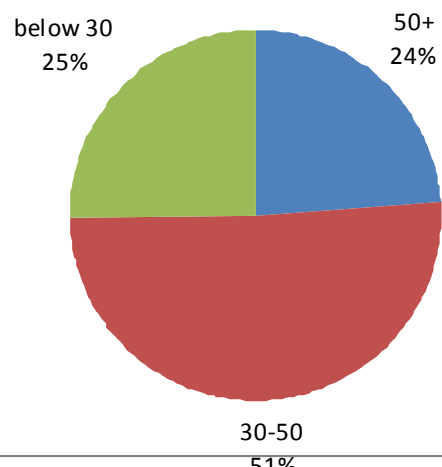
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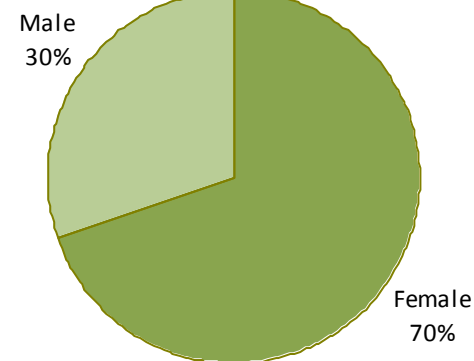
Age of participants		
50+ years old	Between 30-50 years old	below 30 years old
16 participants	34 participants	17 participants

Gender of participants	
Female	70%
Male	30%

Age of WG Meeting 3 participants



Gender of WG Meeting 3 participants



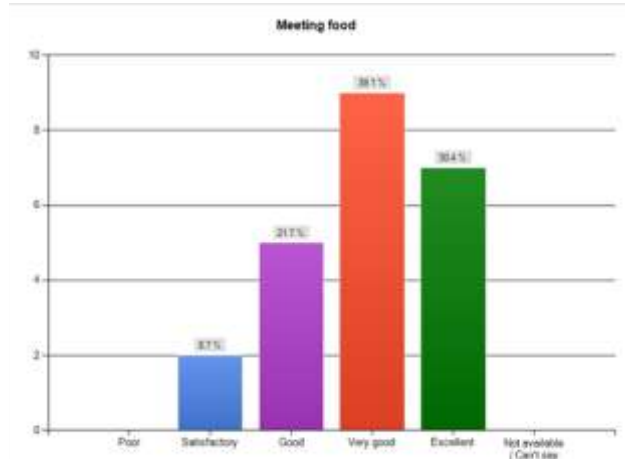
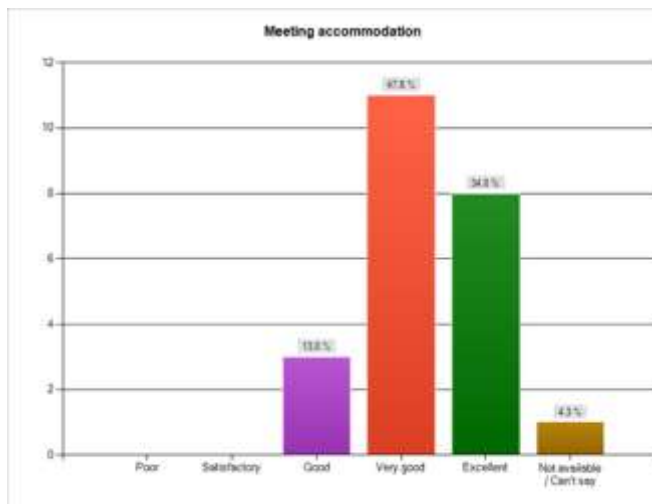
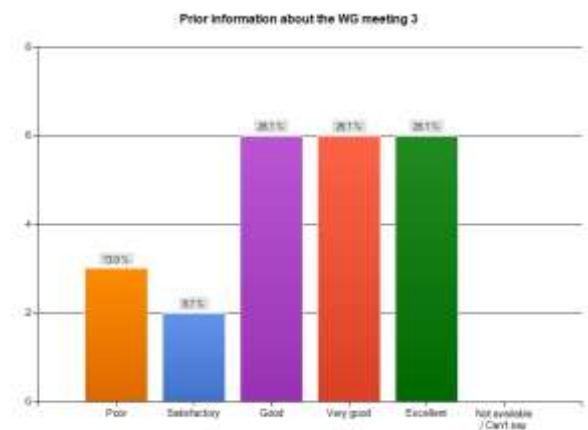
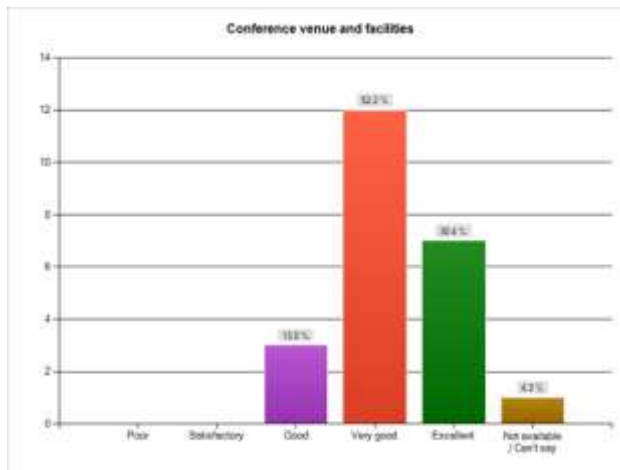
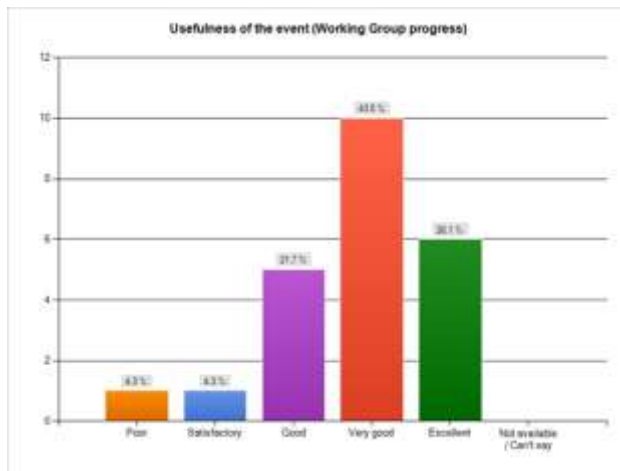
Number of EYV 2011 Alliance members participating :

17 European networks active in volunteering

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Annex 2. Evaluation Reports WG Meeting 3



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COMMENTS:

1. "Steering Committee should have made sure the PAVE 2 was circulated timely to all WG members through Secretariat, instead of this task being left up to each board/committee member."
2. "Thank you, good job!"
3. "We got the report (P.A.V.E) very late, which didn't give much time to read and absorb before the event"
4. "There was no communication at all, apart from having received P.A.V.E a day prior to the meeting, as to the agenda and what we were meant to do in the course of the meeting."
5. "I wish I knew in advance that we were going to finish earlier on October 1st, I would have organised my travel another way and have us saved a night at the hotel."
6. "The opportunity to have an external presenter was really interesting. The person gave us great ideas. Thanks"

Working Group individual reports (if applicable)

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legalframework@eyv2011.eu

infrastructure@eyv2011.eu

recognition@eyv2011.eu

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employeevolunteering@eyv2011.eu

4th Meeting Report – Legal Framework WG

30th September – 1st October 2011, Brussels

Participants:

Pavel Trantina – Co-chair
Niels Cristian Levin Hansen – Co-chair
Cindy Ippel
Elke Toppelmann
Eva Hambach
Maria Paschou
Ferenc Turcsik
Bernhard Schneider
Magdalena Kurz (European Youth Forum – invited as a guest)

A. Agenda of the meeting

(1) 14.00 - 15.00 Plenary with Networking Award Ceremony
(2) Introduction
(3) 15.00 – 18.30 Presentation and discussion of European Youth Forum’s Draft European Charter of the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers by Magdalena Kurz
(4) 09.30 – 16.30 Discussion of DRAFT 2 – Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe P.A.V.E by EYV2011. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- priorities- general comments- specific remarks on 2nd Draft of P.A.V.E.- proposal of Section 3

B. Presentation and discussion of the Draft European Charter of the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers, suggested by the European Youth Forum, by Magdalena Kurz

Magdalena Kurz gave a short introduction to the present draft of the proposal for a European Charter of the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers, drafted by the European Youth Forum’s (YJF), and explained the process of its creation and consultations.

Central to the draft Charter was a Rights Based Approach to volunteering calling for a legal framework to ensure quality, protection and equal access for everyone. Especially in countries with no or only limited tradition for volunteering.

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The WG welcomed the draft Charter as a valuable contribution to promoting volunteering and commended the YJF for its initiative. In addition the WG had a number of comments and questions:

- Some found, that the rights based approach together with the very explicit nature parts of the Charter could be counterproductive to the idea. A legal right to funding for any volunteer work or an individual right to participation in every volunteer activity he or she might want to do was questioned.
- When referring to volunteer providers it could be considered to limit this to civil society organisations.
- There could be a potential conflict between the Charter and the human rights charter. This should be investigated further.
- It was pointed out that the volunteer and the volunteer provider in many instances was the same.
- Only encompassing rights and responsibilities for the volunteer and the volunteer provider could encourage a member state to implement the Charter by law and then ignoring its own responsibility for supporting volunteering with funding etc.

Following the presentation and discussion of the draft charter the WG revisited its Policy recommendations developed on the May meeting. One recommendation was to encourage EU to adopt a European Charter on the rights of a volunteer and the proposal was to either explicit propose the charter drafted by the YFJ or to propose “a charter” with reference to which subjects should be covered.

The WG decided to adopt the later approach, since the Charter drafted by the YFJ was only a draft without final version. A reference to the YFJ draft as an example would be included in the WG recommendation.

C. Discussion of DRAFT 2 – Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe P.A.V.E by EYV2011.

First the WG has discussed the priorities. Everyone had to choose 15 own priorities, these were later put together by Bernhard. The final list is included in the Annex 1.

Then the WG gathered general comments about the Draft 2:

- It is more general than version 1 – a space in sections to be more specific?
- Some of our proposals were either removed or changed or put into a footnote
- It is rather a “phone book” overkilling the reader with the amount of suggestions, not very focused - prioritisation is needed – only the priorities should be mentioned in the Section 1

- It should mention other documents – EC Communication, Council conclusions
- Some proposals sometimes go against overall aims – such as call for more regulation
- Too much focus on quality – it gives an impression that today’s volunteering is not of good quality (“Too much quality kills volunteering”)
- Heavy promotion of employee volunteering, which promotes only the “paid” volunteering during the working hours – we have serious concerns that this is not “volunteering without concern for financial gain”. We want to highlight the dimension of employer supported unpaid volunteering outside of company schemes (based on a free choice of an employee in their free-time)
- More background information is needed in the introduction - need for description of challenges
- Give examples
- Re-cluster, get rid of repetitions for different levels
- Add more references to other documents
- Give examples of sensitive policy areas (care sector, etc...)

The majority of time was spent by going through the whole document and making comments to specific parts. They are included in a separate document. The major issues raised were:

- The way how WG 2 proposals were re-drafted or put into a footnote,
- Too much focus on quality
- Too much focus on and very narrow interpretation of employee volunteering.

Last 15 minutes were devoted to the presentation of suggested changes to the content of Section 3, prepared by Pavel. The general feeling was positive, however more time is needed for everyone to go through and suggest possible changes. Also examples of best practices are needed. The time is until the end of the next week.

(4th Meeting Report – WG Legal Framework Drafted by : Niels-Christian and Pavel)