

EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

Workshop What role for international volunteers in Humanitarian Aid and Development?

Written by Association Voluntary Service Organisations



The Hungarian EU Presidency in cooperation with AVSO (Association of Voluntary Service Organisations) organised the workshop discussion on "What role for international volunteers in Humanitarian Aid and Development" as a contribution to the 2011 European Year of Volunteering. The event examined the role of international volunteering in humanitarian crisis situations and in linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) as well as examining the potential of the European Humanitarian Volunteer Aid Corps (EVHAC).

Core questions addressed in the conference:

- What is the added value of international volunteers in disaster situations?
- How can young volunteers best contribute?
- What do volunteers learn in terms of awareness of development issues?
- What are the real outcomes of international volunteering projects?
- What is in it for Europe and the hosting country?
- What would be the best shape and form for the EVHAC initiative?

Background

This round table discussion took place during the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and under the auspices of the Hungarian EU Presidency.

During the European Year there was a lot of discussion already about Europeans volunteering in Europe. However, more consideration and focus should be given also about how and in what capacity Europeans give their time and skills outside of Europe, especially in other regions of the world, which suffer from poverty, disasters, and complex humanitarian crises.

This round table discussion was held one day after the next Council meeting on Humanitarian Aid and relief, and would like to provide an input into the Council Conclusions on the EVHAC initiative.

Meeting Venue: Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU, Rue de Trèves 92-98, 1040 Brussels

[See document](#)

EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

First European Employee Volunteering Awards 2011

Written by ENGAGE



First European Employee Volunteering Awards 2011: Businesses across Europe are recognised for improving the employability skills of people who face barriers to work.

On 17 March winners of the first European Employee Volunteering Awards 2011 were announced at an exclusive reception held at Business in the Community's (BITC) Responsible Business Convention 2011.

<http://www.responsiblebusinessevent.org/page.cfm/Link=6/t=m/goSection=3>

BITC developed the Awards scheme with 21 European partners from the CSR360 Global Partner Network in recognition of the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

Sue Adkins, International Director, BITC said: "Employment continues to be a central concern for the European Union, in particular the importance of addressing barriers to employment, experienced in more disadvantaged communities. Around 100 million Europeans engage in some form of voluntary activity - if they were a country they would be the biggest member state of the EU. BITC is delighted to be supporting the first European Employee Volunteering Awards and celebrate the wonderful contributions that these millions of volunteers make every day."

Over 250 entries from 22 countries across Europe were received:

The Final awards event took place in London, UK but the Awards were run in 22 countries across Europe:

Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Scotland, UK

The European Employee Volunteering Awards were co-funded by the European Commission and kindly supported by Alliance Boots, Hewlett Packard and Tata Consultancy Services.

The awards ceremony included a poster exhibition of the 60 national award winners and the launch of a Case Study report showcasing best practice from across Europe.

The Awards were presented by:

- Ornella Barra - Chief Executive, Pharmaceutical Division, Alliance Boots;
- Brendan Burns - Member of the European Economic and Social Committee;



EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

- Jane Hodgen, UK&I Human Resources, Tata Consultancy Services;
- Sue Bird - DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission and
- John MacDonald - Head of Task Force for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, European Commission.

Awards were given for the following 5 category winners:

- Large Company Winner: Koç Holding A.Ş. (Turkey)
- Small Company Winner: NORSYS (France)
- Innovation Winner: MITIE Group (United Kingdom)
- Newcomer Winner: Abbott (Ireland)
- Public Authorities Winner: Magistrate of the City of Wiesbaden, Office for Social Affairs (Germany)

Through rewarding company's Employee Volunteering Schemes, BITC hopes to increase the level of employee engagement, particularly during 2011, the European Year of the Volunteer and the UN Year of the Volunteer.

The Case Study Report demonstrates the value of corporate volunteering and how at these uncertain economic times, businesses can play a crucial role in enabling people back into work.

http://www.bitc.org.uk/global/european_volunteering_awards/index.html

Related links

For more information contact: Tessa Kipping, CSR360 Global Partner Network Manager at tessa.kipping@bitc.org.uk or on +44 (0)20 7566 6642

For more information about the European Employee Volunteering Awards please visit:

http://www.bitc.org.uk/global/european_volunteering_awards/index.html

For more information about removing barriers to work please visit:

http://www.bitc.org.uk/community/employability/work_inclusion.html

For more information about setting up employee volunteering programmes please visit:

http://www.bitc.org.uk/community/employee_volunteering/

For more information about setting up employee volunteering programmes internationally please visit: <http://engagetoolkit.bitc.org.uk/>

[See document](#)

EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

EYV 2011 Alliance Working Group Meeting 1

Written by EYV 2011 Alliance



Working towards the objective of the EYV 2011 Alliance European Policy Agenda on Volunteering the 6 working groups met in Brussels on 18th and 19th March 2011. The working groups established by the EYV 2011 Alliance involved more than 100 experts, many of them volunteers themselves:

- WG1 Quality of Volunteering
- WG2 Legal Framework of Volunteering
- WG3 Volunteering Infrastructure
- WG4 Recognising Volunteering
- WG5 Value of Volunteering
- WG6 Employee Volunteering

All stakeholders were invited to [read the report](#) from the meeting, contribute to the debate and give input. [View the photos.](#)

[See document](#)



Plataforma de Voluntariat Social de la Comunitat Valenciana: Quality Reference day - 15th March 2011

Written by CEV - European Volunteer Center



CEV member organisation PVSCV - La Plataforma de Voluntariat Social de la Comunitat Valenciana aims to develop an enabling environment for active citizenship, based on a legal and ethic framework formed by a Volunteering Law and a Volunteering Ethic Code. PVSCV aims to encourage quality volunteering by promoting the exchange of best practices between its members; to this aim it has created a Quality Referential in order to assess the quality of volunteering projects. In this context, PVSCV organised a Quality Reference Day on 15th March, comprising of a ceremony providing quality certificates and a round table on good practices in terms of quality volunteering. For more information about this event, please contact [platavol\[at\]platavoluntariado.org](mailto:platavol[at]platavoluntariado.org)

EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

Austria Celebrates the European Year of Volunteering EYV 2011

Written by The World Organization of the Scout Movement - WOSM / The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - WAGGGS



Europe Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts
Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses
Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts



A delegation of 15 Scouts and Guides of Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreichs (PPÖ, the National Scout Organisation in Austria) was present when more than 600 representatives of Austrian NGOs came together at Salzburg Palace. They gathered to celebrate the official start of the European Year of Volunteering and met with H.E. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria, and members of the federal and provincial governments.

In his address, the President emphasized the vital role of volunteer commitment for local communities and the Austrian society in general. More than 3 million Austrians (more than a third of the population) invested much of their spare time to the benefit of the country and its inhabitants.

Other speakers, including H.E. Gabi Burgstaller, Governor of the province of Salzburg, and Thomas Geierspichler, Paralympic Gold Medallist and EYV 2011 Ambassador, underlined the important contributions of volunteers in all areas of society and welcomed the opportunity of the EYV 2011 to showcase the different aspects of the valuable and 'timeless' work of volunteers to a wider audience, both in Austria and throughout Europe and the world.

Briefly commenting the event, Lisa Höllbacher, member of PPÖ's Youth Council, said that Guides and Scouts in Austria played their part in promoting the valuable volunteer work both within the organisation and outside. She hoped that the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and related activities would encourage even more citizens in Austria and other countries to engage as volunteers on local, national and international levels. She also recalled that social skill building and empowerment of children and young people were integral part of the educational programme of the Scout and Guide movements and contributed to the development of local society and the living environment.

EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

Volunteering in Youth NGOs: Citizens in action

Written by The World Organization of the Scout Movement – WOSM



The Volunteering Event held in Istanbul, Turkey from 24 to 29 March 2011, under the heading "Volunteering in Youth NGOs: Citizens in action", gathered 44 participants and Planning team members from 21 associations from 19 countries to share about their activities on volunteering, get new ideas working together and possibly start partnership projects.



The event has been a very valuable opportunity to: share information about the state of volunteering in the different participating national Scout associations and countries, to update on the developments and achievements of the 2011 European Year of Volunteering and to inform about European opportunities and resources related to volunteering and young people.

Participants had the opportunity to analyse way volunteers are managed in their organisations with the aim to ensure that there is the supportive environment that will maximise their experience in volunteering. Specific time and focus have also been dedicated to present and discuss the importance to have an external relations approach to better to profile volunteering and its recognition.

Having participants from countries from all around Europe surely gave to the event a genuine European atmosphere. Their different experience and background offered a good example of the variety and richness of approaches of NSOs in Europe on the theme of volunteering.

During the event several European projects, opportunities and resources have been presented, offering the participants the possibility to get to know better how the topic of volunteering is tackled in Europe and specifically by certain European institutions/platforms/NGOs.

The participants had also the opportunity to present national and local volunteer projects in the view of an exchange of experiences and best practices, allowing the other participants to get to know better each other's backgrounds.

More about the event is available from <http://volunteering.scoutshub.org/>

EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

New Dutch with Humanitas, The Netherlands

Written by EYV 2011 Alliance

solidar

A volunteer from Humanitas, in the Netherlands, supporting a "new Dutch" to get acquainted with Dutch language and society



Volunteering: a tool for inclusion? European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Magazine, 2011

Written by European Anti Poverty Network – EAPN



Volunteering: a tool for inclusion? Magazine of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). Special issue on the 2011 European Year of Volunteering, March 2011. NO. 134 | 2011

Contents:

- 2011 European Year on Volunteering - A space for anti-poverty organizations to engage
- Volunteering and the Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion - towards an EAPN Position
- Portugal: Being a volunteer versus promoting volunteering
- The UK Government: Big Society and Volunteering
- Volunteering in Bulgaria - the Need for a Modern Vision
- Poland, willing to move on towards a strategic approach on volunteering
- The recognition of volunteering time as in-kind contribution in Structural Funds
- The 100 million Europeans volunteering deserve recognition
- Eurodiaconia: the multifaceted value of volunteering

[See document 1](#) [See document 2](#)

WOSM European Region Volunteers in action

Written by The World Organization of the Scout Movement – WOSM



European Region organised the "Volunteering in Youth NGOs: Citizens in action" event in Istanbul in Turkey from 24 to 29 March 2011. With 44 participants from 19 countries, the event provided national associations a space for discussing and sharing experiences on volunteering, as well as opportunities for partnerships.



EYV 2011 Alliance Yearbook –March 2011

WAGGGS Young Women's World Forum 2011: "together we can change our world"

Written by The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - WAGGGS



Europe Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts



Over 150 young women from across the world met in WAGGGS' four World Centres in the UK, Switzerland, India and Mexico in March. They were taking part in WAGGGS' Young Women's World Forum 2011 (YWWF 2011) - part of the global centenary celebrations of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting taking place between 2010 and 2012. The focus is the WAGGGS' Global Action Theme, girls worldwide say "together we can change our world" which focuses on the ways in which Girl Guides and Girl Scouts can speak out and take action to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through a number of voluntary activities.

<http://www.wagggsworld.org/en/YWWF2011>

President Nilsson expresses support to the 2011 Alliance

Written by EYV 2011 Alliance



In March 2011 the 30 participants representing 22 EYV 2011 Alliance member organisations were welcomed to the EESC by President Nilsson who expressed his willingness to support civil society especially in the framework of EYV 2011 and reminded the group of his manifesto commitments to actively work on the Year.

http://www.eyv2011.eu/images/stories/eyv2011alliance_meetingreport_march2011.pdf

[See document](#)