



EHO Celebrate volunteers in Novi Sad

On 29th September, Eurodiaconia members the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO) organized an event entitled “European Year of Volunteering -EHO Volunteer, Why Not?” in order to make a contribution to the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The celebration was organized with the aim of promoting volunteering as a way of community engagement. In Serbia volunteering is still underestimated and needs to be further developed and more widely accepted. So far only the civil society sector was involving volunteers in projects and tried to promote volunteering.

The idea was initiated by the EHO Diaconal project team since the Diaconal Centre engages numerous volunteers within diaconal groups founded in our church founders all over Vojvodina. Staff member Marija Parnicky from EHO said:

“We invited all our volunteers from various EHO’s projects to participate in the celebration and get to know more about many different EHO projects and other volunteers and about volunteering in EHO. This was also an opportunity to get familiar with EYV 2011 and Eurodiaconia initiatives in supporting volunteers all around Europe. It was a beautiful sunny day and the celebration took part in our backyard with a wooden gazebo which was almost full of volunteers of all categories and different age -from 15 years old up to 84 years.”

Marija Parnicky welcomed and greeted all participants and presented the EYV 2011 and the current activities being undertaken by Eurodiaconia. Afterwards, director Vladislav Iviciak spoke about the great contribution of voluntary work to EHO and its credibility. He stressed the fact that the organization wouldn’t be recognized and visible in civil society in Serbia without volunteers and their devoted work and commitment to EHO’s values.

At this event volunteers had an opportunity to tell their own stories and experience related to volunteering. All volunteers received the following gift: a white T-shirt with logos of EYV 2011, and EHO and their slogan-“**EHO Volunteer, Why Not?**” The volunteers were also awarded with the Certificate designed by Eurodiaconia.

Serbia has started to recognize the significance of volunteering through adoption of a new Law of volunteering in 2010.



Photo by Mr Ian Write



