

Achieving more together: active citizens in rural Bavaria promote new ways of volunteering

The NGO Gemeinsam leben und lernen in Europa e. V. (GLL) is a private non-profit network organisation in the region of Eastern Bavaria with its head office in Passau.

The grassroots organisation was founded in 2008 with the aim of establishing a sustainable network and a neutral platform for innovative social activities. It is open to everyone: the core driving force is active citizens, but local communities, districts, social organisations, private companies, and decision makers have also become members.



Intercultural training

The overall objective of GLL is to create equal opportunities for everyone, promote mutual understanding and encourage people to learn from each other. To this end, GLL is acting as a neutral platform, raising public awareness of social and educational issues and initiating new activities and projects aiming to:

- fight discrimination and racism as well as promote tolerance and diversity
- promote and support voluntary commitment
- encourage social and professional integration
- realise the European idea among citizens



Project management training for older volunteers

Though these may sound like lofty ambitions, Perdita Wingerter, Founder and Volunteer Manager of GLL, insists that GLL is doing a lot of practical work: "For example, to promote active citizenship and volunteering, our volunteers run an online volunteer platform, offer counselling and training for potential volunteers, and organise information campaigns or networking events on volunteering."



Promoting volunteer positions

GLL facilitates a wide variety of volunteer initiatives, such as intercultural training for children, an international women's club, film festivals, a mobile film competition for youth, an inclusive music project for young people, and an intergenerational ICT project. Additionally, GLL successfully links its local activities with partners across Europe. "So 'Living and learning together within Europe' is not only the name of our organisation, but its calling," says Wingerter.



Boys Day – volunteering in kindergarten and nursing homes

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