

August 2012

Dear Volonteuropa Members, Associates, Partners and Friends,



Welcome to the refreshed Volonteuropa Newsletter which we are hoping reaches you just before you head off for your summer holidays (otherwise, if you are already holidaying, it will await you upon your return).

We have been very busy since the re-launch of the Volonteuropa Network in the beginning of this year and we are grateful to everyone who has continued to support us. Our key activities focused on formalising the membership, implementing our work programme, as well as electing new members to the Volonteuropa Board.

We have also been allying our activities with those of our European partners, working on key priorities such as the campaign for the European Year of Citizens in 2013 (which we are delivering as members of the EYC 2013 Alliance of over 40 European civil society networks).

Our preparations for the 21st Annual Volonteuropa Conference and the 6th ACE Awards, are in full swing. The events are taking place 18-20 October 2012 in Florence, in partnership with our Italian member CESVOT. We are also in the process of writing a report on 'Ageing Well: the Contribution of Volunteering and Civic Engagement in Europe'. This report, which draws on best practices and expertise from Volonteuropa Members and Associates, as well as many partners we have in Europe, will be officially launched in Florence at our Annual Conference.

We have also been developing our online presence. You can visit our website, www.volonteuropa.org, to find out more about what we do, as well as register for the Conference in Florence and nominate outstanding volunteers, NGOs and corporates for an ACE Award.

You can now also find us - and "Like" us - on Facebook, www.facebook.com/Volonteuropa

The Volonteuropa Newsletter will serve as an opportunity to disseminate the latest news from our Members and Associates to Europe-wide audience of civil society organisations, policy-makers and other key stakeholders involved in the promotion of volunteering, active citizenship and social justice.

I hope you find this and the future editions interesting. We welcome your feedback.

I also look forward to seeing many of you in Florence in October.

Lucy de Groot, Volonteuropa President

Itinéraire International: Facilitating International Mobility and Social and Professional Insertion

Ahmed, 24, has just returned from his first experience abroad, a month-long trip to Pelhrimov, Czech Republic, where he facilitated activities at a social centre.



This experience enabled him to discover a country, its culture and its inhabitants, as well as take part in cross-cultural events with other volunteers and learn English. Ahmed is now looking toward his professional future and envisaging a career in the social sector. For the time being though, his plan is to return to education.

The European Voluntary Service is part of Itinéraire International's European Youth in Action Programme, which gives people between the ages of 18 and 30 the opportunity to volunteer abroad for any period between two weeks and a year. Participants receive room and board as well as a small stipend, and they are given linguistic and cultural guidance.



"Volunteering is something that you just have to do. For people who live here and who don't know what goes on elsewhere, it's a very positive experience."
-Ahmed, 24

For further information on Itinéraire International, please visit www.itineraire-international.org.

Fem 21 Project

The Fem 21 project is a partnership between the UK (HFVC, CaVSA and Notting Hill HT), Romania (Romanca Society) and France (Connection Roumanie). The project focuses on women's roles in Europe through culture, art, theatre, literature, poetry and music. It will look at women's contribution to society and also engage with men to educate them in these areas.

The project will also examine language and ways of communicating in each country, with the aim of eradicating prejudices by learning about cultural diversity, respect and mutual understanding.

Through workshops, exhibitions and the arts, the Fem 21 project aims to promote understanding between men and women, and reduce cultural isolation, ignorance and intolerance.

Having visited Romania in May 2012, the UK partners are expecting a delegation of the partnership from France and Romania in October 2012. The final visit to France will be in May 2013.

HFVC will keep Volonteurope members updated on its activities and is willing to share case studies with its membership.

For more information, please contact Marion Schumann at Marion@hfvc.org.uk.



Celebrating 50 years of making a difference

UK volunteering charity CSV is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with Volunteer Voices



Since 1962, CSV has supported three million people to volunteer, learn new skills and make a difference – to their communities and in their own lives. Volunteers of all ages, backgrounds and abilities have supported disabled people at university, helped older people live independently, mentored troubled young people, improved the local environment, and enabled young people to find work and reach their full potential.

As part of the celebrations, CSV is launching Volunteer Voices in partnership with the BBC Action Network. The charity is asking CSV volunteers and learners from the past to share their stories to encourage more people to volunteer in the future.

Carole Morris, 57, was made redundant after 21 years of working for a logistics company. She now volunteers with CSV helping young children with their literacy. "56 is not a great age to be made redundant. I already knew about CSV and thought I could volunteer until I found a job. I started volunteering for two mornings a week and absolutely loved it. I never thought it would bring so much enjoyment. I am now a trained Teacher's Assistant. I never imagined a career working in a school but it's definitely for me," she said.

Lucy de Groot, Chief Executive of CSV, said: "I have immense respect for the millions of people who have given their time and energy to their communities with little thought of personal reward over the past 50 years. CSV exists for its volunteers and learners, and I'm very proud of the contribution that they have made to our society. Everyone at CSV is passionate about ensuring we continue to break down the barriers to volunteering and supporting people make a difference for the next 50 years."

"This year, she continued, we will be supporting 150,000 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to build stronger, inclusive communities to create a safer, equal society. Our 50th anniversary is an important milestone to celebrate the contribution of volunteers and to encourage others to volunteer their time too."

For further information, please contact Francesca Toma at ftoma@csv.org.uk.

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

For more information, please contact Perdita Wingerter at wingerter@gemeinsam-in-europa.de.

An International Challenge

By her own admission, Lauren Roberts has always enjoyed a challenge, and since joining Victim Support (VS) as a volunteer two years ago, she has been supporting victims of serious crimes such as sexual violence and domestic abuse. So when the opportunity arose for her to spend four months travelling around the world, it was perhaps no surprise that she wanted to be more than just another tourist. "I wanted to make a difference, to do something worthwhile," said Lauren.

The chance to do something worthwhile arose in South Africa, thanks mainly to Lauren's volunteering role with VS in Harlow. "I went to a lot of places, including India, Nepal, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand, and then I spent the last month in South Africa. So I wondered whether VS had any similar organisations in South Africa that I could work or volunteer for while I was there," said Lauren. Lauren contacted VS's Head of Volunteering, Chris Wade, who put Lauren in touch with the Foundation for Victims of Crime in South Africa.

"The Foundation is much smaller than VS, and a lot of its work involves tracing victims," explained Lauren. When an offender is released from jail, the Foundation tries to trace the victim in order to offer them support. Lauren delivered two-day training sessions each week with their volunteers and spent a day a week going out with them to meet and support victims. "It was a lot to pack into two days, but I managed to train three groups over the three weeks, around 35 volunteers altogether," said Lauren.

"When I went out to see victims, very few spoke English, they nearly all spoke Zulu or Afrikaans, so the people I was with had to translate for me. The language barrier, and the fact that we were visiting as a group, made it more of a challenge. It meant I couldn't offer support in the same way as I would here, listening and talking to a victim on a one-to-one basis. So it was a struggle, but it was definitely worth it," said Lauren.

For more information on Victim Support, please visit www.victimsupport.org.uk.



HFVC's Euro Zone

Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteers Centre (HFVC), in partnership with Volonteurope members in France, Italy and Germany, has been successful in winning two years' worth of funding from Grundtvig for The Common Box project. The four partners will be looking at volunteering services and good practice, and sharing good practices, visiting each other and learning from each other. The project will culminate in a final conference and a handbook/toolkit.

It was through Volonteurope that this partnership was developed: the idea of forming a partnership between the four European states began at the Volonteurope Conference in Sarajevo in 2009 and was developed and strengthened over the course of the following two Volonteurope conferences.

HFVC will ensure that Volonteurope's membership is kept updated on its activities and, hopefully, future case studies. In addition, it is happy to give advice to any other members wanting to form similar partnerships and apply for funding.

For more information, please contact Marion Schumann at Marion@hfvc.org.uk.

The Portuguese League Against Cancer is a private non-profit organisation which works on health education and cancer prevention campaigns. It operates the National Breast Cancer Screening Programme and continues to collaborate on and develop projects at the international level. Here are a few of its recent happenings:

- The South Branch of the Portuguese League Against Cancer has received an honorary diploma from the Assembly of the Republic for its support of cancer patients since 1941.
- The first Education Department for Health and Cancer Prevention was established.
- Two Terry Fox 2012 scholarships of €30 000 were awarded to finance scientific projects in the field of oncology.
- The Portuguese League Against Cancer is dedicating 2012 to the prevention of colorectal cancer with a national campaign.
- The Portuguese League Against Cancer campaigned to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and of the dangers of sun exposure.

For more information, please visit www.ligacontracancro.pt.

HESTIA, in partnership with the Volunteer Centre Ústí nad Labem, the National Institute of Children and Youth, and Plan B, has published a new report "Voluntarily Across the Border". The report, written by Josef Boček and Ondřej Lochman, draws on the organisations' experience working on the Czech flagship project "Volunteering for All" and is intended as a practical guide to organising cross-border volunteer projects. Click [here](#) to read the report.

Sue Ryder's prisoner volunteering programme received £207,722 from the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme

Palliative care provider Sue Ryder will expand its award-winning prisoner volunteer programme to help more former offenders break the cycle of offending through meaningful work in the voluntary sector.

The charity's England-wide prisoner volunteer programme, which has already helped hundreds of people into formal job-specific training opportunities, received £207,722 from the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme in July. The prisoner volunteer programme works with offenders and ex-offenders to help them become responsible, engaged members of the community.

Serving prisoners are matched to volunteer roles lasting three to six months to take up placements in Sue Ryder shops, care centres and offices. This enables offenders to give something back to the community while gaining vital skills for work and improving their confidence and self-esteem. Individuals will take on positions of trust and responsibility such as stocktaking and customer service with opportunities for training up to management level.

Phil Glover, 32, started volunteering at the Sue Ryder charity shop in Loughborough in October 2010 as part of his rehabilitation following a three year sentence. He was offered a job with Sue Ryder as an electrical P.A.T. tester and van driver on his release. He said, "I think that schemes like the prisoner volunteer programme are really important for prisoners. It allows prisoners to gradually adjust again to the quick pace of life outside prison."



Sam Turner, Trust Fundraiser at Sue Ryder said, "We are all really thrilled with this grant, as it means we will be able to realise our ambition of expanding and developing our work with offenders. We've already seen how working in our shops, offices and care centres provides priceless work experience and the chance to give something back to the community. Now we will be able to

offer much better all-round support, as well as helping people more than ever before."

The PNE Group: providing professional development and business solutions to the voluntary sector

Based in Newcastle and Gateshead, the PNE Group is a social enterprise that provides professional development and business solutions to SMEs, entrepreneurs and the voluntary sector both in the UK and internationally. PNE's purpose is to support individuals and organisations to create positive economic and social value, primarily through the development of people and enterprise.

VOLMANEL is a European project which aims to deliver online learning for third sector managers who are responsible for the management and retention of volunteers. With funding from the Leonardo Da Vinci programme, the project will be delivered by partners from UK (PNE), Austria (ENTER), Spain (FFE), Lithuania (SIC), Italy (VSSP) and Poland (RCW), and is led by PNE in the UK.

The project will research the needs of volunteer managers across Europe and pilot PNE's 'Managing Volunteers' course which is endorsed by the Institute of Leadership and Management and delivered through PNE's own online learning portal, [globe](#).



For further information, please contact Tracey Moore at tracey.moore@pne.org.

The fastest way to promote training to the UK voluntary sector

According to recent academic studies, the UK voluntary sector is spending an estimated £2.9 billion on training each year. In response, a leading online course directory has been modernised to enable the nation's training providers to access more of this market. The new [voluntaryskills.com](#) website, managed by PNE, provides a comprehensive list of training and qualifications for the sector.

Tracey Moore, Development Manager at the PNE Group, said "In the current climate it is more important than ever that the sector maintains and develops the skills and qualifications of its staff and volunteers in order to be as effective, competitive and resilient as possible. The aim of [voluntaryskills.com](#) is to provide a one-stop-shop for all training and development needs that voluntary organisations might have".

Training providers wishing to access a free 12-month Silver membership package to promote their courses on the new website should visit www.voluntaryskills.com/register.

For more information on the PNE Group, please visit www.pne.org.

