

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



European Year of Volunteering 2011



Regional and local authorities in action during the European Year of Volunteering 2011

FORUM OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Brussels, 26 January 2011

Preliminary Programme



PRESENTATION

Volunteering has an important impact on the way regional and local authorities organise certain services and, as such, it has great potential for the social, economic and territorial cohesion of Europe. At the EU level, every fifth adult is engaged in voluntary work and the economic value of volunteering is estimated to reach 3% of GDP in some of the member states. Key EU policy areas in relation to volunteering include: active citizenship, education and training, employment and social policy, youth, sport, environment and external relations and international development.

By designating 2011 as the 'European Year of Volunteering', the EU aims to increase the recognition and popularity of volunteering across Europe and to encourage the exchange of best practice between its member states, regional and local authorities and civil society organisations. In support of these goals, the Committee of the Regions Forum on 26 January 2011, will launch a collection of best local practice in volunteering in order to feed into the European Commission's conference on volunteering in Athens in October 2011.

The Forum brings together experts and practitioners from different regions and cities to discuss the objectives set out for the European Year of Volunteering:

- How to create an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering in the EU?
- How to empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering?
- What could be done to recognise achievements gained in volunteering activities?
- What can local and regional authorities do to raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering?

The Opening Session will focus on the topic of voluntary engagement at local level and its significance in the wider European context. It will be followed by two specialised workshops: The first workshop concentrates on the theme of sport and citizenship, reflecting on how to improve volunteering infrastructure at local and EU level. The second workshop focuses on the relationship between local social services and voluntary organisations and on the possibilities for fostering cooperation locally and at EU level. The Closing Session will summarise findings and conclusions and suggest further activities for the year.

Find out more and register at the event at www.cor.europa.eu/EYV2011



Forum: Regional and local authorities in action during the European Year of Volunteering 2011

26 January 2011, Committee of the Regions, Brussels

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

10:00 – 10:45

Registration (Jacques Delors building, ground floor)

11:00 – 13:00

Opening Session (Meeting room JDE 62)

Keynote speeches:

Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions

Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and youth (tbc)

Panel debate:

Voluntary engagement at local level and its significance in the wider European context

Moderator: Jacki Davies, Managing Director, Meade Davis Communications

Declan McDonnell, Member of the CoR, Mayor of Galway, Member of the West Regional Authority, Ireland (rapporteur on the European Year 2011)

Eva Hambach, President of the European Volunteer Centre (tbc)

Local representative of a voluntary organisation, Hungary (tbc)

Marco Scurria, Member of the European Parliament, coordinator of the Culture committee at the EP

Valentino Castellani, President of the organizing committee of the olympic winter games in Turin 2006

13:00 - 14:30

Networking lunch (Atrium 6th floor)

14:30 – 16:15

Parallel workshops

Workshop 1:

Voluntary organisations in the field of sports: How to improve at local and EU level?

Moderator: Anton Rombouts, Member of the CoR, Mayor of the City of 's Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands (tbc)

• Mapping the issue:

Gregory Paulger, European Commission, DG Education and Culture, Directorate for Youth and Sport

• Three local project presentations:

Volunteer management at the World Cup 2007

Etienne Thobois, Director, Keneo, France

Volunteer management and infrastructure development
Steve Ince, Sport Volunteer Development Manager, Volunteering England, United Kingdom

The status and training of volunteers – European perspectives

Mogens Kirkeby, President, International Sport and Culture Association, Denmark

Volunteering in sport - the Italian experience

Roberto Pella, Member of the CoR, Member of the Council of Valdengo, Italy

• Comment:

Cecile Mathou, Senior Consultant and Research manager of the Study "Volunteering in the EU", GHK

Workshop 2:

Local social services and voluntary organisations: How to foster cooperation locally and at EU level?

Moderator: Monika Helbig, Member of the CoR, State Secretary, Berlin (tbc)

• Mapping the issue:

John MacDonald, European Commission, Head of Task force for the European Year of Volunteering

Laurent Sens, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

• Three project presentations:

Volunteering project in La Rioja, Spain: Racimos de Humanidad

Sagrario Loza Sierra, Regional Ministry of Social Services of La Rioja Regional Government, Spain

Implementing the European Year of Volunteering at the local level

Zuzana Brzobohata, Member of the European Parliament, South Moravia, Czech Republic (tbc)

Volunteering in Lodz – Case study: Helping the terminally ill Regional Office of the Łódź Region in Brussels

Krzysztof Lechowicz, Director of the Department of Social Services of the City of Łódź Office

• Comment:

Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR

16:30 – 17:00

Closing Session (Meeting room JDE 62)

Reports from workshops and conclusions:

Anton Rombouts and **Monika Helbig**, Committee of the Regions

Final remarks:

Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament, Co-President of the European Parliament Volunteering Interest Group

This event is organised in cooperation with:



Education and Culture DG

**Sport and
Citizenship**
Sport serving society



**Sport et
Citoyenneté**
Le Sport au service de la société

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