

## Sub-group Older Volunteers as Learners

Open VALUE Workshop

### Volunteering and ULLL – Exploring Themes: Older Volunteers as Learners

EUCEN Conference, Jönköping, Sweden  
Friday 6 November 2009

#### 1. The sub-group Older Volunteers as Learners

##### 1.1 Who are we and what are our tasks

**Members:** This sub-group brings together representatives of the volunteering sector and universities and looks at the theme of older volunteers as learners. The partners involved in this subgroup are:

C.A.R.D.O., SK; Pro Vobis National Volunteer Center, RO  
University of Hamburg, DE; University of Graz, AT

**Tasks:** The basic underlying assumption is that volunteering work goes along with learning experiences which could be the first step on a learning ladder. Therefore we are reviewing

- existing general provision of learning opportunities for older volunteers at universities and in the volunteering sector
- specific models of access for older volunteers as learners to University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) including systems of accreditation
- examples of collaboration of institutions in both sectors in developing/providing learning opportunities for older volunteers
- specific collaboration projects in more detail to learn from them as “case studies”
- barriers and potential for building cross-sectoral relationships and collaboration in the field of ULLL

**Resources to be expected:** Glossary of relevant terms, bibliography of specific articles/papers and websites that relate to the sub-group theme.

A report on the subgroup activities and findings will also be available.

##### 1.2 Discussions and investigations undertaken in year 1 - findings

**Manchester Meeting October 2008; 1<sup>st</sup> Sub-group meeting June, Bratislava**

**Institutional case studies (at institutional level) / research in our national and sectoral contexts**

#### 1. Brief profile of own institution incl. state of the art of cooperation with volunteer/university sector

- Mission, strategy, targets, tasks, organisational structure, staff, provision, etc.
- if applicable: learning opportunities for seniors and more specifically senior volunteers as learners; learning opportunities for staff in the volunteer sector managing older volunteers
- own experiences of collaboration between university/volunteer sector at institutional level and at the level of single older volunteers as learners

#### 2. Potential of the development of collaboration between universities and volunteering sector in the delivery of University Lifelong Learning

- seen from own institution
- potential content and models of cooperation

#### 3. Relevance for the VALUE Project

- How to feed these experiences and knowledge into VALUE

## **2. Issues and questions related to the theme of the workshop within the context of University – Volunteering interaction**

### **2.1 For “employability” and “older volunteers as learners”**

How can university experience of working with older learners contribute to the development of ULLL for the volunteering sector?

Are their cross-over issues between employability and older learners as volunteers? What might these be and how can the 2 sectors respond?

What are the roles of other stakeholders – e.g. employers, the state – in facilitating the development of ULLL to volunteers?

*(Questions taken from workshop announcement)*

### **2.2 Older volunteers as learners**

- Do older volunteers themselves see their volunteering as a learning opportunity? If yes, do volunteering organisations respond to that? Do universities respond to that? In what ways?
- Is there any evidence what older volunteers expect from ULLL? Access to ULLL and accreditation: Can the learning that arises from the experience of volunteering in the institutions represented be used to access and participate in University Continuing Education or Lifelong Learning, e.g. through APEL? And if yes, is it used?
- Are there any good practice examples of institutional collaboration (from close collaboration, e.g. providing courses – to less formal collaboration) between ULLL and the Volunteering Sector to provide learning opportunities for older volunteers as learners and what can we learn from them?

**Open invitation to workshop participants to contribute own experiences and resources**