

VALUE

Guidelines for the production of National Reports

Background

A National Report should be produced for each country represented in the VALUE project. The aim of each report is to summarise the links between universities and the volunteering sector in the delivery of University Lifelong Learning (ULLL) to volunteers. ULLL includes non traditional learning and the recognition of knowledge, skills and experiences that adults can gain outside formal education. This learning – skills, knowledge, experiences and competencies can be gained through people’s volunteering activities in a wide range of community organisations and public bodies (the volunteering sector).

The National Report should explore how these two areas, ULLL and the volunteering sector, are being linked. This could, for example, be through university course credits or by the university formally accrediting the learning gained through volunteering. This does **not** include students who volunteer.

Reports should be a minimum of 2,000 words and a maximum of 3,000 words (not including references). They should be in **two** versions – one in your own language and one in English. The translation budget can be used for the associated translation work. However, please contact Carol Stewart at the University of Liverpool before undertaking the translation (c.stewart@liverpool.ac.uk or +44 151 794 3640).

In countries where there is more than one partner organisation, organisations should work together to produce **one** report for that country.

Content

Please use the following headings to structure the National Report and try to address as many of the bullet points as possible (it is ok if you cannot find information for some of them). Please try to give equal weighting to all sections.

If you have difficulty in finding relevant research, please contact the Project Coordinator Nick Ockenden. If you are confident that there is no or very little directly relevant research, please make this clear in the National Report.

1. Overview of volunteering – university interaction

- A brief description of volunteering within your country (e.g. amount taking place, activities, level of government support).
- A brief overview of the political and legislative context (e.g. support and interest from government, examples of relevant policies).
- A brief overview of the volunteering – university interaction / partnership in your country (e.g. the scale, scope and key features).
- A summary of the potential benefits of volunteering-university partnerships

2. Good practice examples and effectiveness of the interaction

- Specific good practice examples of volunteering – university interaction / partnership (including anything particularly interesting, innovative or successful).
- A summary of what has worked well about collaboration / partnerships and what has not worked so well.
- Identification of any principles which lead to the development of successful collaborative working between universities and volunteering organisations.
- Any challenges that have been experienced.
- *Please note, if there is no good practice to report, please include more information within section 3 (particularly the barriers).*

3. Barriers and opportunities for future development

- The barriers that could prevent or hold back further collaboration (this may be especially relevant where there is little or no such activity taking place).
- Opportunities for the development of more or more effective collaboration.
- Potential opportunities for future collaboration between volunteering and universities within your country, either: with new partners; or with new activities.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

- Summary of the main issues in volunteering – university collaboration within your country.
- Any initial conclusions.
- Recommendations and key areas for development.

5. Further information

- Any websites which are sources of further information.
- A list of relevant organisations / contacts
- The references for key documents and where they can be obtained.
- A glossary (or explanation) of any technical terminology – particularly where you are aware that ambiguity or confusion could arise.

Next steps

Please email your completed report to Nick Ockenden by **Friday 4th September** (nick.ockenden@volunteeringengland.org or +44 207 5208 931) or contact Nick with any questions.

You will also need to email a short update report of your progress by Wednesday 1st July.

Once the National Reports have been completed, they will be edited by the Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR). If necessary, further information may be requested from the partner organisations at this stage. All of the reports will be then made available on the VALUE website.