

VALUE Conference consolidated Feedback

S Szabo

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

For me the employability workshop which I chaired was most interesting, as it contained new elements on a subject matter that France Bénévolat and CEV continuously studying. Prof. John Annette's contribution opened new perspectives.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

On the long term, I think that national Volunteer centres should twin up with Universities, as the interaction resulting from joint projects is very interesting. Concretely, I shall propose to France Bénévolat to map out University colleges that have chairs and programmes interested in cooperating with Volunteer organizations. This has not yet been done systematically. At CEV level, I will suggest to launch a survey to see with what Universities, Colleges etc, are in touch, in view of creating a European momentum for such cooperation.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction.

I think it was quite successful as a first step, and it would deserve a steady follow up and sustained networking between participants and participant's own networks

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

**Tremendous added value! One can sense the energy of that country and its richness in terms of human resources and willingness to cooperate at an international level
The conference was a little too short from this point of view, and as we were not together in the evenings, I had not too many opportunities to network with Turkish organisations. Nonetheless, by being there, we gained an insight into the general atmosphere of the country, and that was very precious.**

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add? You can respond simply by replying to this email but if you would prefer to do so anonymously – please feel free to use post or fax.

R B Sova

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

I learned that the theme "older learners as volunteers" is a very important topic on the universities-learning-volunteering agenda, however it is still quite neglected (if this is the right word), under-recognised by the public. Reflection needs to be done on the obvious lack of interest for this theme, particularly in view of the next year's Active Ageing. The other thing I gained some new knowledge about what the issues are around "democratic citizenship" - I will use these for my potential academic work (teaching at the formal university) in future.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I cannot identify any specific activities, however I am sure that VALUE will inspire (or co-inspire) them in various forms.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

It was very successful. The conference's approach to the themes discussed was a cross-sectoral one, whereby it allowed the discussion about commonalities and differences between sectors. I think the World Cafe was one of the methodologies to this.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I personally found much added value of hosting the conference in Turkey (I learned some interesting things about intergenerational learning in Turkey in one of the discussions within the World Cafe, and the plenary about adult education in Turkey was very informative as well). Otherwise I cannot say much about networking and debate, because I do not speak Turkish and could not get properly involved.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

I would like to thank again for Value's kind invitation. Having invited speakers from different countries and professional backgrounds is a very good approach to networking - a true networking approach.

K Kosmrič

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

The content was surprisingly interesting. I liked that there were not many key-note speakers and that there more workshops and activity-based sessions rather than "lectures". Most valuable for me and most applying for my work was to learn how volunteering is connected and inserted into university curricular and extra-curricular activities in universities in Europe.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

We're trying to establish collaboration on a project with Leuphana University. This is planned as short term collaboration, but can turn into a long-term one if we're successful.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

This aspect was quite well covered, too. I appreciate especially meeting people and learning about practices of existing connections of Universities with volunteering (like Leuphana Uni, Matej Bel case in Slovakia, Ilkyar...)

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

Since most of the Turkish participants didn't speak English, it was hard to debate. I talked to a professor I met in Jonkoping already, but otherwise I established no new network connections with Turks in Turkey. I did so with some Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, German, and Italian participants.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

I really enjoyed Gabriela's workshop and Sue's world cafe. I'm looking forward to reading about the "outcomes" of world cafe, because it was a storm of ideas.

R Slager

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned?
How might you apply these to your work?

It is important to realize, that not only recognizing of prior learning but also to validate, makes the difference for many people. In my future work I will to emphasize "to be aware", "stimulate to recognize" and "how to validate".

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

We are investigating how to use our practice in a larger scale and do more with our experiences.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction.

Learning from other people with different cultural backgrounds, people who are your neighbours. That is really a huge success. With the UN on board it was more than being recognized. The Value conference is being validated.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

During the participation of the members did help me to understand more of the Turkish way of thinking about learning and volunteers. There is a lot to do and they know it.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

The world café and some of the outcomes are very inspiring and useful and I hope that the good work will continue. Thanks to you all.

From separate email:

The conference was incredible inspiring and I will thank you for letting me in.

The people, together with the subjects, make this conference a start for a new kind of thinking.

N Ockenden and M Hill

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

The content worked well, with a good mix of plenary discussions and workshops. There was plenty of opportunity for discussion and interaction, and the world cafe worked extremely well. This conference gave me a much deeper understanding of service learning, namely through John Annette's presentation. Echo the points above and overall the conference content was excellent. One slight qualm - some of the sessions were more relevant to the core aims of the conference than others. Whilst this is to be expected in a conference on such a narrow topic I think some sessions strayed too far from the core aims e.g. long discussions around "what is volunteering?" or "what level of incentives are appropriate for volunteers?"

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

We now know of a network of European universities that we can potentially work with on future projects - the area of accrediting volunteering, for example, is a topical one that could be explored further. It has also provided useful contacts and case studies for the work of Volunteering England, one team of which focuses on volunteering in higher education institutions. The conference really helped to galvanise my commitment to the importance of linking volunteering and lifelong learning in the future. I have already made additional links with the University of the Third Age in the UK since the conference.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction
It increased the opportunity to learn from universities, developed my understanding of areas of work such as service learning, and provided the opportunity to meet new volunteer-involving organisations that we were not previously aware of.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

Physically and professionally connecting with the site of one of the partners was very valuable, as was having the Turkish university participants on the first day.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

The UNV paper was, while useful, slightly more of a disappointment in that it could have tied more strongly to the conference topic. Agreed – I think it was interesting but not necessarily relevant to the topic. Also the opening session which gave a perspective on ULLL in Turkey was interesting but didn't explicitly explore the link with volunteering. In terms of organisation the conference was excellent – the setting, facilities, catering and transport really were first rate. Information was very clear. Could there have been a world café type session at the beginning which really clearly set out the terms of debate and the aims of the conference. This could have helped develop a shared understanding and avoided getting off topic in the sessions. Thank you.

From Separate email:

I agree that the session went well. It was great having so many Turkish partners and there seemed to be lots of interest afterwards. Thanks to you both, it has been great working with you and hopefully I will get the chance to work with you again in the future.

D Bosioc

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

The conference has fully met my expectations. Believe the conference a wide range of approaches to how ULLL and volunteering potentiate each other, combining well conceptual, 'big picture' approaches in the plenary sessions with concrete case studies and examples of practice in the workshops.

My regret is not to have been able to attend more workshops, as several were taking place at a time.

In terms of plenary sessions, the most useful for me was the "Democracy, Citizenship and Lifelong Learning" by John Annette, which insightful on the citizenship-volunteering relation. This is very important in my current work in European volunteering policy. On a more practical level, I proposed to my organisation that a similar plenary session take place at an international symposium organised by CEV.

As for the workshops, the most useful for me was the model of validating skills acquired through volunteering in sport was a very good, hands-on example. "Recognizing the prior learning of sports volunteers for advanced career opportunities".

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

One of the main policy areas in the field of volunteering is recognition and I see there a great potential for synergy between universities and the volunteering sector. One the one hand for the recognition of the social and economic value of volunteering, through research. Oh the other hand, for the formal recognition of skills acquired through volunteering, particularly considering the priorities set in the Europe 2020 agenda, on the new skills for job, social capital, inclusive growth, social innovation.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction.

The most valuable element of the conference for me was the exchange and networking aspects. We found a lot of common ground between ULLL and volunteering and there is significant scope for future cooperation. That was the idea, no? 😊

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I consider it was important to have the conference hosted in a country candidate for accession to the Europe Union. Far too often "Europe" is limited to 27 states.

Speaking only on my behalf I wish there would have been more interaction with the Turkish delegates at the conference. Language was at times a barrier and the fact that many did not stay for the second day was an inconvenient in the networking.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

Was a pleasure to meet you and the rest of the partners. Too bad at such a late stage in the project.

Concrete proposals for VALUE exploitation for the meeting on 9 November in London being discussed with CEV management.

From Separate email:

Work has piled up while I was away last week, but it was surely worthwhile. The conference was good value (!) in terms of content and really well organised. I came back with some good new contacts and ideas in mind for future collaboration. I imagine we will explore at the exploitation meeting on 9 November in London.

A big thank you to both of you and the dream team you had helping you out. It was truly a pleasure getting to know you in the informal bit of the time in Ankara too.

Am taking the opportunity to briefly introduce Martijn, the new CEV director, with whom we have briefly discussed and go deeper on possibilities for continuing the collaboration, once the VALUE project ends.

M Hemmings

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

I thought the conference was interesting in identifying and linking the themes of the development of University lifelong learning education, volunteering and the development and importance of civil society and active citizenship. I thought at first that as the themes were diverse and the contributions approached the topic from different angles, especially given the mix of academic and practitioner contributors, and different national situations that this would not result in common action points or ideas. By the end of the conference I was very impressed by how contributors and the contributions brought together these themes. For me the linking thread was the way in which continuing education and University education provision can inform and develop volunteering and provide inputs that go beyond volunteer training, however important this is, to provide more fundamental insights on to how society works and how we can achieve action and help develop better civil society. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and lack of cynicism in the conference and this has given me hope and inspiration for the future. Since the conference I have been made redundant from my lecturing post but I will be seeking future employment or volunteering opportunities which allow me to develop; the ideas gained from the conference and apply these in developing volunteering, continuing learning and active community development.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I have been in contact with Mihai Lisetchi of AID-ONG, Romania. We gave both presentations which tackled the problems of providing University based management training to voluntary sector organisations and volunteer managers in our different national contexts. We were interested in collaborating in developing the sort of University based education for volunteers that I had been involved in at Lampeter in countries, such as Romania. Once I am more settled regarding my own employment and where I am living I hope to develop the liaison with Mihai, and potentially other VALUE members, in developing a programme for volunteers which does not mean different groups in different countries have to keep inventing the same wheel.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction
As stated above I felt the conference successfully acted as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction by bringing together academics, those involved in volunteering, practitioners and managers of voluntary organisations and others involved in this area in addressing a complex topic area and identifying common themes and ideas for action within this.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I had been surprised at the holding of the conference in Turkey, as I had no knowledge of the development of volunteering and university education in Turkey. I had also in the past, for political reasons, not wished to visit Turkey. I felt that the added value of the holding of the conference in Turkey was that it helped to dispel many of my uninformed views and gain a greater understanding of Turkey, its place in Europe and the development of Turkish Universities and volunteering organisations. On a personal level it was an interesting country to visit and I felt the involvement of the Turkish universities and organisations not only informed my views on the conference themes but also my view of the country and the development of civil society in Europe.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

I would only like to add my thanks to the organisers for inviting me to address and be involved in the conference. I hope my contribution was useful and helpful. I felt that the conference was very well organised and participants were well supported. The conference was stimulating and successful in linking the areas which it hoped to address and I hope that this will result in action and networking and promote and develops University lifelong learning, volunteering, civil action and citizenship.

From Separate email:

Thanks for inviting me to the conference in Ankara. I really enjoyed the experience and gained a lot from the conference. It was good to meet so many friendly and intelligent people.

D Zivkovic

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

Most valuable are experiences examples of cooperation among Universities and Volunteer organizations. This could be applied in our future cooperation with representatives of Universities.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I can only hope that there will be new professional activities. Collaborations are more possible because of the status of our country.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

Success is evident, and this kind of platform is the right way for this kind of interaction.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

Their experiences are specific and valuable. The debate was definitely enhanced by their presence and their perspective.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

From Separate email:

Thank you once again for very interesting and valuable experience.

A Brozmanová Gregorová

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

I was on many conferences before mostly on academic field, but it was really for me one of the best conferences I have ever attended. The program was really good prepared. I work at the University but also in Volunteer centre and for me it was interesting form both sides. Most valuable thing I learned was have to organize useful conference with good inputs and outputs and where I can find other possibilities for cooperation between voluntary organizations and academic field. In Slovakia we don't have any service learning programs on schools and I want to develop some in the future in our university. I knew this concept before the conference but I was really important for me that I had at the conference space for discussing some aspects of this concept.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

Service learning at universities in Europe / Research as a space for cooperation between universities and voluntary organizations / Learning through volunteering

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

In my opinion the conference created really good space for cross-sectoral interaction and cooperation.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I have never been in Turkey before, so it was also good experience for me. The conference was really good organized and participants from Turkish universities were in workshops, where I was, active and brought interesting views and comments.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

As I said, it was really pleasure for me to join the conference and met all people here. I hope, we will have possibility for cooperation.

From Separate email:

I want to thank you one more time for the invitation to the VALUE conference in Ankara. It was really good and kind experience for me and I hope we will have a possibility for next meeting and cooperation in the future.

M Mostarda

From Separate email:

I came back from Ankara very happy about the conference. I was glad to be invited. Thank you very much for everything you made. We'll certainly contact you again.

S Macchioni

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

The conference represented a very good occasion to get a better knowledge of the University Lifelong Learning world and to better understand the potential that the relationship ULLL and volunteering has. It represented as well a good opportunity for witnessing different methodologies and examples and for having exchange of opinions and views about ULLL and the relationship with volunteering and voluntary organisations. This better understanding will definitely serve to my organisation to improve our relationship between volunteering and universities and to start a reflection on how to foster the development in Italy of the ULLL. After this conference I have begun speaking with some colleagues about the outcomes and the inspiration that I have got by participating. Since we are a network of 73 volunteer support centres it happens that I am not aware of everything they do. But telling them how much inspired me this conference and proposing them to start a dialogue with Universities was the occasion for them to tell me different levels of collaboration they have already. Therefore, the great work that Ksenija did in the Citizenship group and the reflections we brought back home after having been in Ankara will for sure bring forward the work on this regard of our network.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I have got to know different approaches and realities of ULLL. Therefore, I have lot of good practices to spread to CSVnet and foster and support collaborations between universities and volunteer support centres.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

Universities and voluntary sector should interact and collaborate, but too often they are seen as two total different worlds and with dynamics that are and/or seem difficult to combine. Having such a platform gives an opportunity for continuous exchange and comparison and may bring new activities to those centres that have already started such a work, but it may be as well a very good inspiration and therefore initiator of ULLL developments in countries and realities where there is none.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

It seems that this network is not going to continue. I do really hope that there will be other means for getting this valuable experience alive, maybe through other multilateral or networking projects. It would be really a pity that connections and exchanges at EU level on ULLL will stop after the end of this project.

From Separate email:

Thank you very much again for the inspiring conference and debates.

R Duvekot

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

Good conference but not all items were so strong linked to the goals of VALUE. The possibilities of networking were most valuable to me. Also the contribution of the UN was very interesting, although the presentation itself was a bit tiresome and hard to follow.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

Short-term: credit-transfer between different volunteering organisations on the one hand and between volunteering and HE on the other hand. Long-term: a credit system data bank for sustainable links between the learning outcomes in volunteering and HE.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

Our already started focus on strengthening employability-chances of volunteers by offering them shortened learning programmes on the basis of APL is going to be continued. We are having a meeting in NL with Inholland. Sports and Scouting to unite our efforts.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

The active participation of the Turkish partners strengthened my belief that we mustn't wait much longer for getting Turkey into the EU. They can have such a strong contribution to us all.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

I was a bit disappointed for the low attendance in my workshop about the Dutch case; especially since we had problem-solving and perspective case studies to offer. I went to a workshop myself on the other hand with a large audience which hadn't however much more to offer than a cry for mercy since Cameron is doing so bad for volunteering and HE. But all in all we had a good conference.

T Matulayova

1 . Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

I often organize conferences, so therefore I am interested in the organization of programme conference - especially the second day was an engaging program. I appreciate the inclusion of World Café - This activity was very inspired, I will use it in my practice.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

Thanks to interesting presentation of Prof. Annette and discussions with other colleagues, I am inspired to establish an experimental service-learning at our faculty as a separate course.

3 .Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

During the conference it was thanks to participants a clear link between universities and NGOs (voluntary sector). I appreciate the constructive cooperation of the CEV and the University of Liverpool. Also our organization (Presov Voluntary Center) successfully collaborates with the university.

4 . What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organizations contribute to networking and debate?

Thanks to the presentation I had the opportunity to become familiar with the policy of lifelong learning in Turkey. I also evaluate as a positive the opportunity to personally visit the University in Ankara and discuss with colleagues from Turkey. I had no opportunity to learn more about the voluntary sector, since the program was not included any presentation or workshop. The present colleagues from Turkey, with whom I have informally discussed, did not represent a volunteer organization

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

Particularly I appreciate the excellent organization of the conference, effective communication before the conference. Thank you, that I had the opportunity to attend conference, meet interesting people, expand my knowledge and make new contacts. I am glad that I could see the results of a particular project within was created a functional network of organizations from different sectors.

G Stoger

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

Since my previous experience with volunteer activities was limited to the museum work, there was a lot of new information for me in the conference. Especially to hear about the amount and impact of voluntary work in different countries. The most interesting debate was for me the world café and the question: how to value and recognize the work of volunteers (who should be able to afford working without getting an economic equivalent) and make sure that it is not just exploiting unpaid work, which is justified by the argument that (unemployed) people get a benefit from doing something useful and by staying integrated in society through their engagement. I found most useful the UN definition of voluntary work.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

Invitations to further conferences, no long term project so far. But contacts that I keep in mind for possible partnership in case of future project development.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

I was not aware of the different sectors when discussing with people. Perhaps this can be taken as a good sign, platform allowed a common language and to avoid "insider" speech.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

Great idea to give the opportunity to get acquainted with such an interesting country and encounter with another European/Non-EU culture! Turkish input showed that we have more in common than perhaps expected and also inspiring differences.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

Thanks for the huge effort, excellent organisation, friendly atmosphere, beautiful venue and the opportunity to be there!

I Barbalata

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

The conference was very intensive and fruitful; the 2 days were very well exploited. The workshops content has covered all the items related to the conference subject. I've learned a lot, both from the presentations and from the discussions within the working groups; most valuable lessons learned are related to employability, methods for recognition for volunteers, and the international perspective of the volunteering, co-operation with universities. I will strengthen the collaboration with the national platform of volunteering centres in Romania in order to contribute to elaboration the methodology for competencies recognition for volunteers.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I didn't established concrete activities or project to be developed in partnership, but there are premises to be partner in other related projects.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

I do think the conference was success-full due to many reasons, such as: bringing together universities, NGO's, other entities interested in volunteering/ bringing together both theorists and patricians / bringing together countries with less experience and the best experience in volunteering and LLL

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I consider it was very good to have this conference in METU / Turkey and I really hope that the issue was a challenge for professors in order to raise awareness for the issue of volunteering. I come from a country (Romania) where volunteering is not so much valued, so that I really appreciate the idea of bringing "new subjects" to the public agenda and I will be glad to have these debates in Romania. The participation of representatives of Turkish Universities was quite high, especially in the first day of the conference; as for the volunteering organizations, it seems there were not so many participants from this sector. From my point of view, the networking of Turkish Universities with other European universities or volunteering centres will contribute in a very large extent to promoting and sustaining the collaboration between national entities interested in volunteering in Turkey. So that, participation of Turkish Universities in VALUE network could be considered an important added value both for the VALUE project (new ideas, different culture, other perspective) and to the national collaboration for future volunteering (Universities can benefit from this network in order to become a more visible stakeholder for the issue of volunteering in Turkey).

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

Many thanks for the invitation!

M Lisetchi

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

The importance and benefit of the continuous education process. I hope that we will build together with some of the participants on the idea of an European Masters Study on NGOs

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I just send the invitation to couple of the Ankara participants to join us for a panel we will propose for a conference in September 2011 "Challenge Social Innovation: Innovating innovation by research – 100 years after Schumpeter" (www.techgate.at)

<... if you are interested in social innovation and management, you are invited to join us for a special panel which we will suggest to the organizers of the conference mentioned below (an unique opportunity to build consortia for the next Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities call for projects in FP7). >

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction

I don't know about the success, but for sure, the conference opened (at least for me) a new perspective on how NGO training fits into the continuous education concept.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

Nice initiative having the conference in Turkey. Concerning the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate, out of the plenary presentations, at least for the workshops I attended; it is not much to be reported.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

I am very, very sorry I didn't have the opportunity to join the project from the very beginning. Anyway the end was very, very enjoyable! :) Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to learn something new and to meet "Valuable" people! :)

K Fonovic

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

I understood better how little professionals very good in their own field and very forward thinking (both from volunteering and from university side) little know about the other sector: how it works, what its language is, priorities, modes of conduct. How many potential holes there are on the pavement of especially first approach, how easily it can be ruined or left alone, how much potential for fruitful collaboration is too easily lost because we have little capacity to manage diversity and imagine actions new and different from what is "usual". The role play game in the workshop of Alzbeta Brozmanova Gregorova made me think a lot about this. Together with the fact that different people "new" to Value were at the conference. And made me think that maybe we should work specifically on this, preparing and coaching responsible people on how to approach and interact the representatives of the other sector. Both ways.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I very much liked Andrea Waxenegger definition of "research led development projects". I would like to think of new training modules and schemes prepared and run together by voluntary sector and universities.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction **Powerful. Maybe we should think of keeping up the brand? For new projects take care to signal something like "kicked off by Value" sign? Or maybe EUCEN and CEV could somehow jointly "adopt" future developments?**

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

The presentation on LLL in Turkey was rich in insight. And METU is splendid as venue. It was I think a very good "publicity" to Turkey for future partnerships. I had though virtually none interaction with Turkish colleagues, which is a pity.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?
It all went fine - thanks Liverpool!

M Kołodziejczyk

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

VALUE conference in Ankara was an interesting experience for me. The workshops in which I took part were the highest rated events for me. They were very well and enthusiastically attended. I have known many professional educators and I learned inspiring good practices, which I am able to use in my work. I took the first time in the World Café. It was also a lively and enthusiastic workshop and there were many participants who were ready to identify new activities and new ways of cooperation between universities and volunteering organisations. Public Library in Ursus as the institution cooperating with famous Polish university in Warsaw, Krakow, Łódź and Lublin will disseminate the results of VALUE project and the best practices in the cooperation between universities and volunteering sector and I personally will encourage the educators and university teachers to take the aspect of volunteering into account.

6. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

I cannot identify any new professional activities now although I have entirely discussed the possibilities of further cooperation with German and Turkish partners.

7. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction
In my opinion the content of the conference encouraged a new thinking on the cooperation between the universities and volunteering sector. After the 3 year project the conference was another step, which proved the necessity for improved communication between two sectors.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I have learned from the feedback (talking with many participants) that coming to the Capital of Turkey and the possibility of face to face meetings with Turkish people and the representatives of Turkish institutions constituted one of the main reason, why people attended that conference, looking for networking opportunities.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

The management group as the organisers took also into account the face to face meetings when programming many workshops and allowing extended breaks. In my opinion it appeared to be very useful. Individual meetings and talks were particularly noticeable because the venue of the conference provided plenty of private meeting space.

S Moissidis

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

The most inspiring presentations to me were the plenary sessions by Donna Keher and John Annette as well as the discussions in my session and the world cafe. I struck me how the definitions of volunteering and LLL/ULLL still vary between the countries and regions in Europe. For our work at the university we should maybe rethink the “wording” (service learning/volunteering or else) and positioning of our offers/study models.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

Project on the recognition of informally or non-formally acquired competencies.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction
I found the interaction between the sectors very helpful, fruitful and especially during the world cafe it was very productive and creative to find solutions for existing problems.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I believe the hosting in Turkey and the participation of Turkish ULLL representatives was very good for all participants, European and Turkish. It created a better understanding for the situation and challenges, many Turkish universities are facing (concerning the implementation of ULLL and related activities) and surely served as a great opportunity for networking and further projects for many.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

R Hughes

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

As I am not directly involved in either the voluntary sector or the university lifelong learning programmes I had no pre-formed ideas and no specific knowledge of how the sectors are currently run. Therefore I feel I learned a lot from all of the sessions that I went to. The interactive participation in Alzbeta Gregorova's allowed more debate than the other sessions and also because everyone was involved I think that we all saw the difficulties that you are faced with when starting any collaboration especially with voluntary organisations and universities. I found John Annette's plenary to be of great interest not just because of his content but also his enthusiasm for all he was talking about. I think the world cafe worked well and everyone seemed to enjoy it and get involved in the social activity of it all.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sector interaction.
I think that the diversity of the organisations that were represented by the participants that attended the conference made for a good opportunity of cross-sector interaction.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I think that the metu conference centre was a perfect setting for the conference and the organisational side was made much easier by the excellent facilities. I had very little interaction with the Turkish delegates, language was a big barrier.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add? You can respond simply by replying to this email but if you would prefer to do so anonymously – please feel free to use post or fax.
I think that the world cafe would have run smoother if there had been slightly more organisation of the small things prior to the session, i.e. certain number of people at each table and the correct number of pens for the number of participants. However it still worked well and was more democratic the way it was.

O Unluhisarcikli

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

I am working as an academic member at a university for 10 years. I have collaborated with voluntary organisations from time to time during this time. But this has been the first time that I have spent time together with many representatives of voluntary organisations. It struck me that the voluntary organisations have a strong network and have efforts to collaborate with the universities. I did not know to what extent the voluntary organisations were ready to collaborate with the universities. Now I know that a lot could be done in cooperation.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (e.g. collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

This is difficult for me to identify, but I am sure collaborations and ideas for projects developed.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction.
The Conference brought together many representatives from universities, lifelong-learning centres and voluntary organisations. So all the interest groups had the opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas and share.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

As I am from Turkey, I cannot answer this question.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

I enjoyed the workshops, especially the big final workshop around the tables. We had opportunity to swap each table and exchange ideas on different aspects.

From Separate email:

Thank you again for organising such a rich and insightful conference.

M Kouwenburg

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

I learned that there is more to Volunteering and Valuing volunteering. Especially nice to get the perspective of the "normal" volunteer versus Volunteer Organisations and Universities. Really good to know that there are Institutes that facilitate and manage Volunteers locally, regionally or even nationally.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

Short term, finish our pilot in Sports en Education (both Rien's and Ruud's project). Trying to connect to the national Volunteering organisation in the Netherlands. Maybe we can join forces in the empowerment of the Dutch volunteers. And enhance my network Education wise. My project comparison international qualifications van benefit from it. I will definitely try to raise awareness in my federation on the year of the volunteer 2011.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction
It is really good to hear that all 3 groups want the same: Empowerment of volunteers. This can help us building bridges between Volunteers, Volunteer agencies and Universities.

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

I haven't interacted with the Turkish universities much, but the volunteering organisations brought more perspective to my view on Volunteering and managing volunteers worldwide

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of the Value Network Event. I've made a few valuable network friends who can help me further in my project. Especially on how to Value the competences of Volunteers in comparison with Education by university or Sport Federation. The key is valuing their competences and rewarding it with (a partly) qualification on a competence based level.

A Waxenegger

1. Please comment on the conference content. What are the most valuable things you learned? How might you apply these to your work?

Content of the conference was very good. Most valuable things: Insight into the education infrastructure in Turkey and the situation in the volunteering sector there / the international

perspective on volunteering (as for example presented by Donna Keher) / the strong connection to citizenship as described by Professor John Annette (opening new perspectives for me as an expert in education) / these new perspectives will be reflected in my work at institutional, national, European and international level.

2. Can you identify any new professional activities (eg collaborations or projects) that might develop out of the conference? (These could be short or long-term)

The conference papers and discussions showed that the lifelong learning and the volunteering sectors have a lot in common (the basic approach to empowering people; similar problems such as lack of awareness and funding; etc.) in their work towards social change. Potential and concrete action for collaboration still need more intensive exploration. New professional activities: invitation to present a paper at the conference of the Italian volunteering organisations in Gorizia in October 2011.

3. Please comment on the success of the Value Conference as a platform for cross-sectoral interaction
Conference was a very good platform for cross-sectoral interaction. This is a result of the way the conference was planned – a good mix of plenary sessions and workshops, as well as the world café; different and varied formats proved very stimulating. Social events even more important for bringing together participants from two different sectors; well done!

4. What thoughts do you have on the added value of hosting the conference in Turkey? How did the participation of Turkish universities and volunteering organisations contribute to networking and debate?

Excellent idea to hold the conference in Turkey. Those working in education at European level know too little about Turkey and the Turkish education sector. Good that representatives of the Turkish education and volunteering sectors were present. Result that all are much better informed about the Turkish education and volunteering sectors.

5. Have you any other comments/observations that you would like to add?

Conference was very well organised. Prerequisite for productive collaboration and a pleasant working atmosphere.
