

## Suggestions for second phase of collaboration for VALUE members

The participating organisations have reported on their respective national volunteering systems and lifelong learning activities. The following projects would take advantage of the network and exploit the knowledge accumulated:

1. The first step would be to make a benchmark study of the different volunteering programs. This project would look at volunteering models in the EU to establish, for example, standards and quality criteria, success factors, learning outcomes for volunteers, results for organisations. What do the programs have in common and where do they differ? What sectors organise volunteering (state, private, religious...) What areas of work are they active in? Finally what qualities are essential and central to sustainable volunteering programs? The research would involve a systematic comparison of best practices by country, after initially setting up a mapping system and establishing relevant points for comparison.
2. A further project would be to identify learning outcomes for volunteers using data on volunteering from across the EU/participating countries. The research would involve looking at the actual programs to compare what kind of training is provided before volunteers start working, including how training is organised (formal and informal modalities) and who provides it. The aim would be to identify what learning outcomes are required of volunteers and to formulate a competency profile for “the optimal volunteer”, e.g. motivational factors, intellectual skills, key personal qualities, specific qualities for different fields of volunteering. This information would then form the basis for a third collaboration for the VALUE participants.
3. On the basis of such a competency profile, it should be possible to offer volunteers recognition of prior learning towards higher education study, a practice which could act as an incentive, attracting and rewarding volunteers from amongst the student population. Universities need accreditation procedures and regulations for recognising prior learning. Research should compare different EU university lifelong learning policies to see where and how advanced placement/credit for prior learning is currently offered for learning in voluntary work.
4. A fourth step would be to look at the developments in each country to compare the methods used to attract and motivate new volunteers. Germany is currently a very interesting case for study. In July 2011, Germany sees an end to compulsory military service (since 1956) and the alternative social service option (since 1983) which was required of all young males. Over 30 % of young males chose to provide social or other services instead of military service. This dramatic change will lead to a sudden manpower gap in community service which society must find a way to fill.

Sabine Remdisch  
Leuphana University

**value**  
VOLUNTEERING & LIFELONG LEARNING  
IN UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE  
**EXPLOITATION MEETING**  
Wed 9 November 2011, London

**A brief description of the project / collaboration I would like to develop**

The active participation in the VALUE project has been inspiring and fruitful. For the first time – sharing this experience with my colleagues at the Center and with other experts in the field – we looked more closely at the volunteering sector at national level and in addition learned from volunteering sector colleagues from other countries and at European level. VALUE succeeded in bringing experts from the two sectors together, learning from and about each other and also producing concrete documentation of this process (national reports, sub-group reports, website, etc.). As a provider of learning opportunities we, i.e. the Center for Continuing Education, are requested to reflect how this learning experience at European level can have an impact at institutional level, above all at programme level. The VALUE project (among other sources) inspired us to explore possibilities for new provision in learning in later life focusing on issues related to volunteering. We already have been offering the programme “Vita activa – Bridging generations through learning” for adults of all age groups, especially older learners who are not only interested in learning about current topics of and latest developments in scientific/academic research but also looking into new possibilities of societal engagement such as volunteering. The programmes 2009/10 and 2010/11 included lectures and workshops where the subject of volunteering as a potential and valuable activity, also in later life, was explicitly addressed.

**Focus**

Further work at European level in developing concrete learning and personal development opportunities at university level for volunteers, in collaboration with the volunteering sector and under consultation of researchers and the experts of the public sector

**Activities**

- Share experiences of the developmental work at institutional level within the project partnership and beyond
- Site visits looking at best practice examples abroad
- Design guidelines for developing similar learning opportunities

**Outputs**

- At institutional level new learning opportunities for volunteers
- Guidelines for those wanting to develop similar activities

**The kind of partnership I would like to build**

- universities
- volunteer organisations
- researchers from both sectors researching the learning perspective
- experts from public policy from both sectors

**Potential funding source**

- EU
- national funding sources

Andrea Waxenegger, University of Graz, Center for Continuing Education  
August 2011

## **Volunteering - the core of Lifelong Learning Communities**

The project enables to share the experience and knowledge through the volunteering practices of different educational and cultural institutions, organizations such as universities, schools, public libraries, ngo. The activities within framework of the project include:

- ◆ workshops on training volunteers,
- ◆ tutoring the leaders of volunteering of institutions participating in the project,
- ◆ exchanging volunteers among partner countries for developing their skills and getting experience in different communities and institutions
- ◆ creating the methods of developing volunteering activities suitable to the needs of the local society and possibilities of the organization.
- ◆ recording and publication of the best practices (dvd and book)
- ◆ publication of useful methods created in the project

**We think that the best way for developing our project would be LLP Grundtvig network.**

**Piotr Janowski (BPU, Warsaw)**

*Extract from email:*

- I have been working for quite some time on formulating a framework for 'linkages volunteering and HE by competence-circulation'. I'd be happy to work it out and present it at the November-meeting.
- We were already thinking of the idea of a future project in which credit-transfer between (option 1) volunteering organisations and (option 2) between volunteering organisations and HEIs is based on valuing learning outcomes in each others learning systems: HEIs with their NQFs and volunteering organisations with their non-formal standards.

Ruud Duvekot  
InHolland University

Extract fro Email - CEV:

a) The European Volunteer Measurement Project (EVMP): launched as a collaboration between the European Volunteer Centre (CEV), Centro di Servizio per il Volontario del Lazio (SPES), and the authors of the ILO Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work, the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies (CCSS), currently looking for supporters in all European countries.

The aim of this project is to disseminate this Manual and promote its implementation throughout Europe to help ensure effective management of volunteering by providing better information.

More information: [http://www.cev.be/113-economic\\_value\\_of\\_volunteering-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/113-economic_value_of_volunteering-EN.html) and [www.evmp.eu](http://www.evmp.eu)

Current funding only for pilot phase, more funding sought through the European Commission Directorate General Research and Innovation

b) EY2012-European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations: CEV is part of the EY2012 Coalition, which partners the European Commission, in the implementation of activities for the year. EY2012 is to be a chance for all of us to reflect on how Europeans are living longer, staying healthier and to realise the opportunities that represents, promoting intergenerational solidarity by moving the focus from ageing being perceived merely as a threat for individuals and societies and a burden on younger, working people. The year aims at raising awareness, spreading good practice and encouraging policymakers and stakeholders at all levels to facilitate active ageing. Active ageing is a lot about giving older people the chance to participate fully in society and that be achieved inter alia by enabling them to actively contribute through volunteer work.

CEV is calling on partners to join efforts in implementing activities that foster senior volunteering or intergenerational solidarity through volunteering.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/ey2012.jsp?langId=en>

Funding: European Commission, EU member states specific programmes, if any, and self-funded.

c) European Quality Volunteering Label: One of the recommendations CEV has made for a lasting legacy of EYV2011 is that policy in the field focuses on fostering Quality Volunteering in Europe. In order to achieve that, CEV considers it is key that European Standards for Quality Volunteering are defined and would like to propose the development of the same in partnership with organisations from a number of 'pilot countries' to agree upon.

At this stage it is a project idea which CEV is planning to develop and, end of 2011/beginning of 2012 seek funding for.

Daniela Bosioc, CEV

### *Extract from Word Cafe Notes*

According to the members of one of the discussing group the most important theme, covered by VALUE are older learners because everybody is getting older. Moreover the European Commission designed 2012 as the "European Year for Active Ageing". Active ageing includes creating more opportunities for older people to continue to contribute to society, for example through volunteering. The participants of the discussion suggested to take into consideration the theme of older people when preparing the next common project.

Malgorzata Kolodziejczyk, BPU