

EuroVolNet

The network for developing voluntary competence in sport organizations

Project Administrative Handbook

(draft prepared for EuroVolNet kick-off meeting)

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Project facts

Project period:	December 2010 – June 2012
Co-funded:	European Commission` DG for Education and Culture, under the 2010 Preparatory Action in the Field of Sport
Agreement no.:	EAC-2010-1304
Budget:	223 801 eur

1. Project Summary

EuroVolNet is a transnational project that fosters the exchange of best practices regarding legal, organizational and funding related aspects of voluntary activity in sport. The project partners will form a network of actors involved in the management and running of sport associations.

EuroVolNet will have a lasting impact on promoting volunteerism in Europe by facilitating new initiatives and gaining commitments of partner organizations and beyond for future development and actions promoting volunteerism. EuroVolNet will provide all European sport organizations (both project partners and extended activity beneficiaries) with learning opportunities and a valuable tool: the online voluntary services tutorial. The collection and documentation of innovative volunteer engagement, management and retention examples via project activities will provide content for and form the knowledge basis of the online tutorial.

2. EuroVolNet project Action

The Volunteering in the EU Final Report and White Paper on Sport both confirm the mutually beneficial relation between sport and volunteerism.

EuroVolNet will provide a necessary platform for improving the conditions of volunteerism in grass-root sport. The conditions to be elaborated include legal, fiscal, educational and political.

The **EuroVolNet** partner group is transnational and represents regions and countries with different models and varied levels of volunteer engagement. The project partners will form a sustained network of actors involved in the management and running of voluntary based sport associations.

2.1. Project Dimensions

This trans-national project uses the priorities of the White Paper on Sport as the basis of action. Project partners have varied experiences in engaging, managing and retaining volunteers at all levels in their organizations. This project will enable networking and sharing of best practices in a structured setting.

Best practices will center around the following dimensions:

- Definition of Volunteering
- Education and recognition of volunteering
- Legal Framework of Volunteering
- (Economical, social) Value of Volunteering
- Volunteering management
- New ways of funding

Project partners will be networked via project activities that encourage exchange of best practice and facilitation of action planning for future development. They have been designed to meet the identified needs of the partner organizations and to fit with project timeframe and financial conditions.

The project activities will be:

- Thematic seminars (2) – fully facilitated multilateral exchanges with specific thematic focus and expert input
- Workshop (1) – space for pragmatic development of plans of action i.e. volunteer services plan: from inception to culmination. To the project activities will be added the project documentation and dissemination efforts, which will be supplemented by the consultation efforts of ISCA vis-a-vis each project partner.

3. EuroVolNet Objectives

In accordance with the priorities of the call for proposals, **EuroVolNet** is a transnational project that fosters the exchange of best practices regarding legal, fiscal, educative and political aspects of voluntary activity in sport, faced notably by actors involved in the management and running of national level sport associations consisting of local sport structures.

The project is defined by its focus on

- a) the specifics of sport volunteering (acknowledging that voluntarism in other sectors may face similar challenges)
- b) Voluntarism in local level, grass-root sport organizations (and not e.g. on voluntary board members on national level or on one-off voluntary contributions for large sport events)
- c) action possibilities: Taking the frameworks that are already described in the *Volunteering in the EU report* as a starting point, the project will address what can actually be done by national level sport associations inside these frameworks. Though the project will also reach out to national and local governments to improve conditions and frameworks for sport volunteering, the ambition is to enhance action and trans-national learning within the existing frameworks.

Overall Objective is to establish a network that develops voluntary competence in sport organizations by fostering the exchange of best practices regarding aspects of voluntary activity in sport.

3.1. Specific objectives

The project`s key objectives and activities are based upon the findings of the Volunteering in the EU Final Report.

This project will:

1. Promote volunteerism with a starting point in sport organizations.
2. Engage national and regional sport organizations from Europe in networking and best practice exchange with a view to qualifying existing and developing new initiatives.
3. Collect, document and valorize examples of innovative volunteer engagement, management and retention.
4. Identify and disseminate best practices of collected and documented examples of innovative volunteer engagement, management and retention.
5. Preparation of future actions in promotion of volunteerism.

EuroVolNet will have a lasting impact on promoting volunteerism in Europe by facilitating new initiatives and gaining commitments of partner organizations and beyond for future development and actions promoting volunteerism.

EuroVolNet will provide all European sport organizations (both project partners and extended activity beneficiaries) with learning opportunities and a valuable tool: the online voluntary services tutorial. The collection and documentation of innovative volunteer engagement, management and retention examples via project activities will provide content for and from the knowledge basis of the online tutorial.

EuroVolNet outreach will be on European, National and Local levels. On European level, the project will facilitate dialogue between stakeholders in volunteer promotion to enable stronger cooperation for future

voluntary service offers, and a stronger external voice towards EU and political stakeholders for volunteerism in the grassroots sport sector. Stakeholders for this project include: CEV, EOC, EFCS, CSIT, TAFISA, ENGSO, and CESS. From related sectors, further stakeholders will be added.

On national and local levels, the project takes a starting point in national sport associations and targets their political leaders and organisational managers and volunteer managers, with a view to enhance learning, action and networking and cooperation on international level as well as with other sectors.

4. EuroVolNet activities

4.1. Kick-off meeting

The Kick-off meeting will officially launch EuroVolNet, where project partners together will discuss the project's vision and objectives and agree upon a specific action plan.

4.2. Seminar 1

This seminar will have three core focus areas: legal, fiscal and managerial aspects of voluntary based organisations. Extended topics will include legal risks and considerations, staffing analysis, policies, procedures, job descriptions, recruitment, screening, hiring, rewards and recognition. For inspirational, motivational and collaborative purposes, expert interventions will include presentations from outside the traditional sport sector.

4.3. Seminar 2

This seminar will have two core focus areas: educational and political needs, threats and opportunities for voluntary organisations. Extended topics will include orientation and training of new volunteers, continuing education, quality marks of volunteer training programmes, financial basis of voluntary sport activities, and fundraising by, through and with volunteers. For inspirational, motivational and collaborative purposes, expert intervention will include presentations from outside the traditional sport sector.

4.4. Workshop

The workshop will provide a time, space and facilitation for participant-led development of their own plans of action for improving existing or developing new Voluntary Services. The progressive content of the seminars in combination with professional workshop facilitation will provide the pre-conditions for participants to develop their own actions as well as to establish a sustained international network and international cooperation.

4.5. Online Voluntary Services Tutorial

The Voluntary Services Tutorial will be a leading resource of good practices which have been collected in the **EuroVolNet** project. The tutorial will be designed to provide inspiration and motivation to national association political leaders and volunteer services managers by aggregating the knowledge of the best practices in an easy accessible, cross-thematic way. The best practices of the EuroVolNet project will thus be documented in a grid of the project thematics, and in this way, users of the tutorial can have general methods within each theme presented, supplemented with best practices as further inspiration.

4.6. Consultation

On-going consultations (primarily by Skype Conferences and email) between ISCA and project partners will use project knowledge to inspire and develop their voluntary services and to allow bilateral match-making with other organisations with relevant experience.

4.7. Closing Conference

Project Closure will be implemented in partnership with the Danish Ministry of Culture during the Danish Presidency of the European Union. This will allow an adequate follow-up 10 years after the Aarhus Declaration on volunteering of the EU Sport Ministers (from 2002) and enable political visibility to the Political Recommendations of the project.

5. EuroVolNet Target group

The primary target group of **EuroVolNet** is managers, politicians and leaders of national and European level sport organisations, from project partners and beyond. As actors of change, they will reach out to other stakeholders and facilitate the improvement of conditions and possibilities for the ultimate target group: Volunteers in local level grass-root sport associations.

6. EuroVolNet partners and their role in the project

6.1. Project partners and contact persons

Organization	Country	Contact person	e-mail
Sport et Citoyennete	France	Carole Ponchon	carole.ponchon@sportetcitoyennete.org
NIF (The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sport)	Norway	Anders Hof Sverre Aarsand	Anders.Hoff@idrettsforbundet.no sverre.aarsand@idrettsforbundet.no
University of Kent	UK	Sakis Pappous	sakis.pappous@googlemail.com a.pappous@kent.ac.uk
Community Games	Ireland	Fiachra O'Mathuna Conal Duffy	fiachra@communitygames.ie ceo@communitygames.ie conalduffy@eircom.net
UISP (Italian Sport for All Association)	Italy	Daniela Conti Carlo Balestri Salvatore Farina Francesca D' Ercole	d.conti@uisp.it internazionale@uisp.it f.dercole@uisp.it
DTB (German Gymnastics Federation)	Germany	Pia Pauly Herbert Hartmann	pia.pauly@dtb-online.de hartmann-bensheim@t-online.de
JOUD (Estonian Sports Association)	Estonia	Tarmo Volt Vahur Mäe	tarmo@joud.ee spordiliit@gmail.com
SOKOL (Czech Sokol Organization)	Czech Republic	Vladimir Dostal	vdostal@sokol.eu
UFOLEP (Union française des oeuvres laïques d'éducation physique) –	France	Laetitia Zapella	lzapella.lalique@ufolep-usep.fr
SALSC (Scottish Associations of Local Sports Councils)	Scotland	Jim Conn Oliver Barsby Millar Stoddart	jimconn@btinternet.com oliver@salsc.org.uk millarstoddart@hotmail.com
DGI (Danish Gymnastics and Sports Associations)	Denmark	Lars Mandrup Søren Riiskjær	Lars.Mandrup@dgi.dk soeren.riiskjaer@dgi.dk
CASPV (Czech Association Sport for All)	Czech Republik	Miroslav Zitko	zitko@caspv.cz
LTSA (Latvian Sport for All Association)	Latvia	Galina Gorbatekova	ltsa@riga.lv
NSA (Netherlands Sports Alliance)	Netherland	Leonie Hallers	l.hallers@sportalliantie.nl
SUS (Sports Union of Slovenia)	Slovenia	Rado Cvetek	Rado.cvetek@sportna-uniija.si
ISCA (International Sport and Culture Association)	Denmark	Saska Benedicic Tomat	sbt@isca-web.org

6.2. Partners obligations:

ISCA, International Sport and Culture Association:

- Project leader responsible for partner coordination, activity implementation, partner consultations and evaluation.
- Project leader responsible for the implementation of the activities found within EuroVolNet.
- Project leader responsible for coordination, planning, event programme development (speakers and session formats), event execution, best practice collection, results dissemination (online tutorial development) and follow-up.
- ISCA manages the activities and partnerships through its Secretariat staff located in Copenhagen.
- ISCA will produce a draft strategy with the help of the partners after EuroVolNet kick-off meeting which lays out the future activities based on "action plan" accepted during kick off meeting.
- ISCA will create a website portal for tangible examples that are scalable, replicable and proven to positively take a "transnational approach" in the volunteering
- ISCA is responsible for the project budget and for giving to partners all needed details during the project period.
- ISCA as project coordinator will define and adapt specifics of Project activities to meet the needs of the organisations.

Sport et Citoyenneté:

- is thematic expert interventions and European-wide dissemination partner.

University of Kent, SUS, NSA, DGI, DTB, Czech SOKOL, CASPV, Estonian Sports Association JOUD, LTSA, SALSC, UISP, NIF, Community Games, and UFOLEP

- are the developers and disseminators of Voluntary Services Action Plans, origin of best practices, and promoters and beneficiaries of the Voluntary Services Tutorial.

All project partners will

- assist in the overall delivery of the project and to meet the expected outcomes.
- cooperate with other project partners, stakeholders and associations.
- attend project kick-off meeting in Brussels or as otherwise agreed (expenses paid) with one participants (project coordinator).
- attend 2 project seminars during the project period or as otherwise agreed (expenses paid) with 2 representatives from Association.
- attend 1 project workshop or as otherwise agreed (expenses paid) with 2 representatives from Association.
- respect the financial constraints and budgets of the project and to keep careful record of expenditure .
- assist with the review of available information and evidence that can form the basis of future partnerships with the volunteering sector.
- review how the volunteering sector is currently positioned in Europe and on the national level.
- in cooperation with ISCA and other project partners and with independent experts to help to search for information on current and proposed policies and practices relating to the volunteering.
- help with the dissemination of project findings, through websites, press articles etc and including supporting the project activities and other dissemination events.
- All partners will make specified, bilateral implementation agreements with ISCA as project coordinator at project start-up. This agreement will be defined based on project partner's organisational interests.

7. EuroVolNet Expected Results

7.1. Promoting volunteerism with a starting point in sport organisations.

Result:

EuroVolNet activities have been instrumental in developing and expanding sport organizations competences in volunteer recruitment, management and retention.

11 new „voluntary services“ action plans.

7.2. Engage national and local sport organisations from Europe in networking and best practice exchange with a view to qualifying existing and developing new initiatives.

Result:

Project partners and extended project beneficiaries (respondents to open invitation) engagement at thematic seminars where best practice examples will be put forward for peer-to-peer debate and discussion.

17 European sport organizations participate in each of the 2 seminars, and evaluate their benefit to be “Positive” or “Very positive”.

Collect, document and valorise examples of innovative volunteer engagement, management and retention.

Result:

Seminar proceedings will be published and incorporated into the workshop as basis for 11 future action plans. All examples will further be published on the project web site and disseminated via email and newsletters (5 ex), reaching more than 120 national and international level organizations and more than 5000 individuals.

7.3. Identify, and valorise best practices of collected and documented examples of innovative volunteer engagement, management and retention.

Result:

Best Practises are disseminated and form the basis for the Volunteer Services Tutorial , launched as a public resource for European sport organizations and stakeholder associations.

7.4. Preparation of future actions in promotion of volunteerism.

Result:

Concrete partner recommendations for future actions to further strengthen competences in voluntary work. These recommendations will include content-specific proposals to European Commission programmes such as EU Sport Programme, LifeLongLearning, Youth in Action, and Citizenship.as well as to national level governments, responsible for the framework conditions of volunteering.

8. Evaluation / supervision during the project

The overall project responsible, ISCA Secretary General Jacob Schouenborg, will be responsible for partnership supervision as well as supervision of EuroVolNet activity implementation.

EuroVolNet will be evaluated against a set of specific criteria set in agreement with the partner representatives. EuroVolNet activities will also include activity specific evaluation forms for participants. This will allow for ongoing improvement of implementation for the project duration period.

The evaluation of EuroVolNet will confirm the achievements/results as described in point 7. and include a mid- term and final evaluation report.

9. Summary timetable for carrying out project activities

Time/month	Activity	Objective	Target group
January 2011	EuroVolNet kick off meeting	Objectives 1, 2	Project Partners representatives, partner politicians, external stakeholders, invited guests
April 2011	EuroVolNet Seminar 1 <i>Legal, fiscal and managerial aspects of voluntary based organisations.</i>	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4	Leaders, managers and advisors of European sport organisations and project partners
September 2011	EuroVolNet Seminar 2 <i>Educational and political needs, threats and opportunities for voluntary organisations.</i>	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4	Managers of European sport organisations and project partners
November 2011	Workshop: Developing an inception-to-culmination volunteer services package.	Objectives 4, 5	Managers and leaders of partner organizations
June 2011 – February 2012	Development and dissemination of Voluntary Services Action Plans, origin of best practices, and promoters and beneficiaries of the Voluntary Services Tutorial.	Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Project Partners representatives, partner politicians, external stakeholders, invited guests
May 2012	Project Closure and Launch of Voluntary Services Tutorial	Objectives 1, 4, 5	Managers and leaders of European sport and physical activity related organisations, Project partner professional representatives, partner politicians, external stakeholders, invited guests

10. EuroVolNet materials

- EuroVolNet activity invitations (project period)
- EuroVolNet Project description (December 2010)
- EuroVolNet logo (February 2011)
- EuroVolNet Project administration handbook (January 2011)
- EuroVolNet brochure (February 2011)
- EuroVolNet website (March 2011 and updated throughout the project period)
- EuroVolNet and ISCA newsletters (5x in project period)
- EuroVolNet magazine (February 2012)

11. Budget summary

Expenditure	euros	Revenue	euros
A.1) costs of the staff assigned to the project	102.510	B.1) expected direct revenue from the action or work programme	44.761
A.2) travel and subsistence costs for the staff assigned to the project	24.000	B.2) own funding	
A.3) equipment		B.3) other sources of financing	
A.4) costs of consumables and supplies		B.4) grant requested to the European Commission	179.040
A.5) subcontracting	9.740		
A.6) other direct costs	72.910		
A.7) indirect costs / overheads ¹⁷	14.641		
Total	223.801	Total	223.801

11.1. Guidelines for financial management

For Project Partners and Experts/representatives that have been individually invited (contact ISCA if you are in doubt), the following guidelines apply:

Travel (to/from EuroVolNet activities)

Participants are requested to use the EGONS Travel Agency to book their flights.

No flight (travel) costs will have to be covered by participants.

Procedure:

Please contact the travel agency by email nl@egons.dk stating your full name, travel route (from-to) and the dates (and perhaps time of day) that you would like to travel. The agency will then send you one or more options (within the available budget) that you can choose. After your approval, the travel agency will issue your tickets and send them to you by email.

You may also call the Travel Agency by phone: +45 58 50 58 80.

If you like, you can of course use one of the many available travel search engines (for instance www.dohop.com or www.skyscanner.com) to check for suitable options before contacting the agency. ISCA and the travel agency are obliged to find the cheapest flights available, so we cannot guarantee that you will be able to travel on a specific flight or a specific flight time. We also encourage you to book your tickets well in advance in order to obtain the lowest price. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

If you decide not to use EGONS Travel agency due to special reasons (for ex. to travel by train, bus, car) travel arrangement can be done by Project partner Association. The reimbursement will be done to Project partners Association after the event based on the original travel tickets, invoices and reimbursement form. Find ISCA Reimbursement form as Annex I below.

Accommodation and meals

For EuroVolNet Events organized by ISCA, accommodation and meals will be provided and paid by ISCA.

Other costs

There is no reimbursement for Partner Associations staff time spent in EuroVolNet. However, other costs related to the project may be eligible for reimbursement, and you are welcome to contact ISCA with inquiries in this regard.

Annex I

ISCA Reimbursement form

Version valid from 1 January 2011

Description of cost :
(participant(s), name of event etc.)

Amount and currency :

ISCA account number :
(to be filled in by ISCA /JS)

Receiver Name :
(exact name of account owner)

Name of Bank :

Address of Bank :
(bank branch of the account holder,
not main office of the bank)

Country of Bank :

IBAN :

Swift Number :
(also called BIC)

Whenever possible, please fill in the form on a computer rather than in hand.

(E-version of the form will be sent to all partners)

12. Description of project partners

Sport et Citoyennete, France

Sport et Cooyennete is the first European Think Tank in the field of sport. It is a Forum for new thinking and lobbying which aims at putting forward the core values of sport in society, in the realm of politics, economics and media issues.

NIF (The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sport)

NIF is an umbrella organization which organizes all national sports federations in Norway. NIF has app. 2.1 million memberships and consists of 55 national federations, 19 regional confederations, app. 366 sports councils and 11,936 clubs. The General Assembly of NIF is the supreme governing body of organized sport, and is held every fourth year.

University of Kent, UK

The Centre for Sports Studies is a fast-growing department based on the University of Kent's Medway Campus. University aims to be one of Britain's premier academic sports departments. They offer a range of specialist facilities and opportunities for our students in order to provide a first-class experience.

Community Games, Ireland

Community Games is an independent voluntary organization providing opportunities for children and young people to grow and develop in a positive and healthy way while experiencing a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. It is non-political and non-sectarian operating at four levels - Area, County, Provincial and National. They have some 200,000 participants and over 10,000 volunteers in the 32 counties.

UISP (Italian Sport for All Association), Italy

UISP - Unione Italiana Sport Per tutti - is a „sport for all“ association dedicated to extending the right to practice sport to everyone. „Sport for all“ is connected with health, life quality, education and social relations, which is why UISP thinks that it deserves acknowledgement and public tutelage. „Sport for all“ interprets a new right of citizenship, as it belongs to "life policies", and „sport for all“ values go beyond results and competitiveness, which is typical for performance sport.

DTB (German Gymnastics Federation), Germany

DTB is one of the oldest, largest and modern sport organisations in Germany. It was founded in 1848 and has more than 5million members in 20.000 clubs. DTB provides activities which deal with current demands for sport and exercise of different target groups.

JOUD (Estonian Sports Association), Estonia

Eestimaa Spordiliit Joud (EMSL Joud for short) is a beneficent non-profit voluntary organization working in the public interests and directing its efforts at sports movement and providing better conditions for sports activities. Our English name is the Estonian Sports Association Joud. The aim of the Association is to contribute to the provision of necessary conditions for the development of sports movement and healthy way of life, promoting Association`s joint activities for the benefit of its members, taking into consideration principles of good sports practice and traditions.

SOKOL (Czech Sokol Organization), Czech Republic

SOKOL is a volunteer driven sports organization that organizes sport and exercise for all. In addition to top-performance activities, SOKOL includes those who do not seek to maximum athletic performance, but to train for fitness, health, joy, pleasure, enjoyment. SOKOL operates programs and facilities throughout the country and have over 275.000 individual members.

UFOLEP (Union française des oeuvres laïques d'éducation physique), France

UFOLEP has 400,000 multi-sport members and offers more than one hundred sports activities within its regional and departmental committees. There are 10 000 associations organized in the territories which offer competitive and non-competitive activities. We target a broad social mix of young, old and families UFOLEP is a federation recognized by the Ministry of Health and Sports and is a member of the CNOSF.

SALSC (Scottish Associations of Local Sports Councils), Scotland

SALSC is a „not-for-profit“ national organization supporting our member Local Sports Councils to deliver quality local sport and physical activity opportunities to their local communities. With a membership of over 50 Local Sports Councils from all over Scotland, in total representing almost 10,000 sports clubs, SALSC is a truly Scottish association. We work in partnership with key bodies such as SportScotland and the Scottish Government to develop sport and volunteering in sport at the local, grass roots level to ensure everyone in Scotland has access to quality opportunities to get physically active.

DGI (Danish Gymnastics and Sports Associations), Denmark

As one of Denmark.s three national sports associations Danish Gymnastics and Sports Associations (DGI) is an important cultural factor. DGI numbers around 5,000 local associations or clubs . with over 1.3million members. Each local association is a member of one of 16 regional associations which together form DGI nation-wide. DGI is active in promoting sport among the sectors of Danish population including youth, seniors, disadvantaged populations, or in other words “sport for all”.

CASPV (Czech Association Sport for All), Czech Republic

Czech Association Sport for All is a voluntary based association which aims to offer physical activity that allows members to live in good health, socialize and relax. CASPV is a leading sport association in Czech Republic. CASPV offers many physical activities: general gymnastics, recreational sports, aerobics, rhythmic gymnastics, yoga, health physical education, psychomotor, exercise and outdoor activities, dancing, step, exercise pre-school children, parents exercise with children, a traditional Chinese exercise, and other experimental activities. CASPV has over 400.000 members.

LTSA (Latvian Trade Sport Association), Latvia

Latvian Sports for All Association (founded in 1991) is a contemporary public organization whose competence is to promote physical activities among the people of Latvia and improve general health and wellbeing. Latvian Sports for All Association organizes and takes active part in events the aim of which is the general instructions for a healthy lifestyle. It organizes popular sports events, such as amateur games, open-air activities involving Nordic Walking, running etc., championships in different kinds of sports and festivals for families and children.

NSA (Netherlands Sports Alliance), Netherlands

The NSA is a value-oriented sports organization that focuses on the development, renewal and the implementation of a sustainable recreational sports and exercise culture in the Netherlands. Everyone can participate, regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, religion and validity. Athletes are free to choose where, with whom and how they want to experience sports and physical activity. Individuals and groups organize themselves into communities that are sustainable and derive their identity from shared values and norms.

NSA respects the communities and their identity and want the groups to help athletes make choices for a lifetime and active lifestyle.

SUS (Sports Union of Slovenia), Slovenia

Vision of Sport Union of Slovenia is to become an acknowledged, independent and competitive sport organization on the field of sport for all in Slovenian and international sport area, which:

- Entirely and with quality supports its members and offers them the program of support activities
- Develops new sports programs and approaches
- Enforces and promotes sports as a key element of quality lifestyle, and is
- Socially responsible national sport organization in the field of sport for all.

13. Background

European Year of Volunteering 2011

Volunteer! Make a difference!

<http://europa.eu/volunteering/en/home2>

In the European Union, almost 100 million citizens of all ages invest their time, talents and money to make a positive contribution to their community by volunteering in civil society organizations, youth clubs, hospitals, schools, in sport clubs, etc. For the European Commission, volunteering is an active expression of civic participation which strengthens common European values such as solidarity and social cohesion. Volunteering also provides important learning opportunities, because involvement in voluntary activities can provide people with new skills and competences that can even improve their employability. This is especially important at this time of economic crisis. Volunteering plays an important role in sectors as varied and diverse as education, youth, culture, sport, environment, health, social care, consumer protection, humanitarian aid, development policy, research, equal opportunities and external relations.

Find more here: http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/focus/focus840_en.htm



Sport and Volunteering

The organization, administration and implementation of sporting activities in Europe are traditionally based on voluntary engagement. Voluntary work in sport, mainly carried out through clubs, is of significant value in social, economic and democratic terms.

Find more here: http://ec.europa.eu/sport/what-we-do/doc33_en.htm

2010 Preparatory action in the field of sport Promoting volunteering in sport

Volunteering in sport constitutes a specific characteristic of the organization of sport in Europe. In most Member States, sport organizations heavily rely on voluntary activity for the management of their activities and in order to be able to offer access to sport to the general public.

Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union calls on the EU to take account of structures based on voluntary activity when promotion European sporting issues. Voluntary activity in the sport sector strengthens social cohesion and inclusion and promotes democracy and active citizenship.

There is also an implicit economic value: without volunteers sport activities would come at a much higher cost making sport less accessible, and many of the social activities and learning opportunities related to sport would simply disappear.

According to an EU Study on Volunteering carried out in 2009 in the 27 Member States to get an overview on the volunteering landscape, there are many challenges related to volunteering in sport, such as the lack of specific legal frameworks and national strategies or programs, ensuring sustainable funding, unclear tax regimes, gender imbalance, lack of recognition and training, retaining volunteers for long-term projects as well as difficulties in matching volunteers with appropriate projects.

According to this study, efficient and well-structured volunteering infrastructures, such as networks and platforms supporting voluntary activity, centers to provide information, training and coordination services for organizations, as well as brokerage services between volunteers and organizations, can improve the environment for volunteering.

Find more here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/eyv2011/doc/Volunteering%20in%20the%20EU%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Find "your" **National report on Volunteering** here:

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news1015_en.htm



The **EYV Alliance** is an open, informal group of a growing number of European networks active in volunteering and will use EYV 2011 to say:

"THANK YOU": Celebrating and recognising the efforts and contribution of volunteers and volunteering organisations.

"YOU CAN": Empowering, promoting and facilitating new people to volunteer.

Since 2007 the EYV 2011 Alliance members have committed to working together on the promotion, lobbying, organisation and implementation of the EYV 2011. They are currently 33 European networks gathering over 2000 direct member and partner organisations all over Europe and beyond, reaching out to hundreds of thousands of volunteers.

Find more here: <http://www.eyv2011.eu/about-the-alliance>

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