

EuroVolNet

The network for developing voluntary competence in sport organizations

Project leader

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Project facts

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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 Republic	Miroslav Zitko	zitko@caspv.cz
LTSA (Latvian Sport for All Association)	Latvia	Galina Gorbatekova	ltsa@riga.lv
NSA (Netherlands Sports Alliance)	Netherlands	Leonie Hallers	l.hallers@sportalliantie.nl
SUS (Sports Union of Slovenia)	Slovenia	Rado Cvetek	Rado.cvetek@sportna-unija.si
ISCA (International Sport and Culture Association)	Denmark	Saska Benedicic Tomat	sbt@isca-web.org

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