



“MOBILITY – EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE”

Opportunity

The European Union provides funding to support the international formation and exchange of volunteers aged 50 years and above.

Council General has successfully applied for a grant of 300.000 EUR to develop and expand its international formation and exchange activities within the EU over the next three years.

This enables Council General to carry out related activities in the 22 member organisations in 19 EU member countries

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, England & Wales, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Tyrol, Spain.

Our project

European network for cross-border exchanges and study trips for elderly social volunteers, focussed on promoting volunteering and its capacity to mobilise the potential of older people as well as to foster active ageing.

Project duration: 12/2007 – 11/2010

Main project components

- Half yearly networking and formation meetings with representatives of all EU SSVP countries
 - A long weekend in spring and autumn of the years 2008-2010.
 - Envisioned date for 2008: November, Thursday 20th – Saturday 22nd
- Initiate a structured system of cross border exchanges
- Website and exchange manual

Practical issues



Contact person in each country

- Need to appoint one key contact in each country who will be our point of reference during the next three years and who assists in organising:
 - the participation of each country,
 - the selection of participants of the formation meetings,
 - the suggestion of participants to international exchanges / study trips.
- This person should attend the meeting planned for November 08.

Participants at half-yearly formation and best-practice exchange meetings

- One representative of each EU country per meeting.
 - Different participants at each meeting that have been briefed by contact person.
- To be chosen through the National Structure in collaboration with the contact person.
- Participants should if possible be at least a member of an Area Council and should
 - be interested in international cooperation and exchange
 - be experienced or interested in giving formations
 - speak/understand English or French.
- Upon their return the participants should:
 - Help establish and become an active part of the “Volunteer Exchange Network” and participate in the organisation of international exchanges.
 - Cascade the content of the formation to other volunteers through organising meetings, speaking at suitable meetings, reporting in newsletters and other publications, etc.

Criteria for European study trips and exchanges

- Should have a special focus to enable the participants to learn from each others work.
- Might strengthen already existing relations (e.g. twinning).



- Do not need to be national visits, but can also be carried out by Area Councils, Conferences and individuals with special interests.
- Need to be organised mainly by the participants (travelling and host country together).
- Are on average 3-4 days long for 3-5 participants - longer stays for individuals and shorter stays for larger groups can be arranged.
- A limited number of trips can receive modest travel and subsistence allowances.

Participants of the international study trips and exchanges

- Ideally at least one participant of each trip should have participated at one of the half-yearly formations.
- They can invite fellow Vincentians to join them.
- To close the circle of information at least one other participant from each trip who as not received prior training should participate at the half-yearly formations after having travelled or received a group.
- Not all participants of the half yearly meetings need to directly participate at exchanges.

Application procedures study trips and exchanges

- Volunteers interested in participating on an exchange need to apply to CGI.
- CGI asks for feedback from National Presidents and contact person.
- The Steering Committee of the project makes final decision.

Summary of procedures

- Nominate contact person in each country



- Participation at half yearly formation and best-practise exchange meetings
- Identify groups for exchange
- Groups file application
- CGI evaluates applications and helps to find suitable exchange partner if needed
- CGI informs involved countries
- Countries involved liaise about exchange's details
- Financial support request to CGI
- Trip
- Report to CGI

Contacts

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The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission"