

VOLUNTEERING IN THE CULTURAL SECTOR IN EUROPE

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is a non profit association based in Rome
which carries out studies and researches
in the cultural field

Volunteering in the Cultural Sector – the framework

- Active citizenship (EU Programme “Europe for Citizens”)
- Lifelong learning (EU Programme “LLP” and “Erasmus+”)
- Audience development/engagement (EU programme “Culture” and “Creative Europe”)

Content of the presentation

- The VoCH project
- Europe-wide research on volunteering in the cultural heritage sector
- The Handbook of 2009
- A comparison with a Report of 2013

The VoCH project - Objectives

- Acknowledgement of the role of volunteering in the cultural field
- Through a Europe-wide research:
 - Analysis of the phenomenon
 - Identification of strenghts/weaknesses, as well as new trends/issues
 - Training courses for volunteers and museum professionals (Austria, Slovenia, Italy)
- Publication of an Handbook

The VoCH project - Tools

- Europe-wide research
- Identification of good practices
- Development and delivery of training modules for volunteers and coordinators
- Development of guidelines for good practice when working with volunteers
- Dissemination of project outcomes

Europe-wide research - Goals

- To present a broad picture of volunteering in the cultural field
- To identify main trends/issues
- To identify volunteers' and professionals' needs
- To identify areas where more research is needed

Europe-wide research - Methodology

- Desk research
- Visits to museums
- Interviews with museum professionals and volunteers
- Devising and sending out one of three questionnaires:
 - Umbrella organizations
 - Institutions/coordinators
 - Volunteers themselves

Volunteering in the EU – Definition of volunteering

An activity undertaken:

- Out of a person's free will, choice and motivation
- Non remunerated
- In an organized setting (NGO's, volunteer centres, organized groups, etc.)
- With the aim to benefit to someone other than the volunteer and to society at large.

Manifesto for Volunteering in Europe, EVC 2006

- Volunteering in the EU
- Volunteering in the cultural field
 - International organizations
 - The 3 partner countries
 - Other European countries

Volunteering in the Cultural Sector – International Organizations

- UNESCO (*Cultural heritage volunteers*)
- ICOM (*Code of ethics*)
- WFFM-World Federation of Friends of Museums (*Code of ethics*)
- EMF-European Museum Forum

“Volunteers in Museums and cultural Heritage”

Edited by C. Da Milano, K. Gibbs and M. Sani,
2009

http://online.ibr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/I/libri/pdf/VOCH_Inglese.pdf

The Handbook - Objectives

- To present an overview of volunteering with regard to cultural heritage
- To identify current trends
- To develop targeted training to address areas of need
- To provide a useful tool for those who work as/with volunteers

- European contexts for cultural volunteering:
 - Volunteering for cultural heritage in Europe
 - The situation in the partner countries
 - Framing the project in a European context

- Working with Volunteers in Museums and Cultural Heritage:
 - Trends in Heritage Volunteering
 - Different European experiences in Museums and cultural Institutions:
 - Recruitment
 - Training
 - Diversification
 - Accreditation

The Handbook – Trends in Heritage Volunteering

- Importance of infrastructures;
- Need for planning/ongoing support within an organisation;
- Internal advocacy;
- Diversification of workforce;
- Acknowledgement of training;
- Volunteering as a route to employment.

“Creativity, Lifelong Learning and the Ageing Population”

Edited by M. Sani and H. Zipsane

2013

<http://nckultur.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Creativity-lifelong-learning-and-the-ageing-population.pdf>

Volunteering in the Cultural Sector – main findings

General Features

- It is an important resource/a meaningful indicator of participation and awareness
- It fosters personal and social development
- It provides integration and social inclusion
- It stimulates active and responsible citizenship

Specific Features

- It is affected by overall change of cultural organisations and competences
- It is organised in many different forms
- It provides informal and non formal learning opportunities with specific reference also to disciplinary topics

Specific Features

- Conflicts arise when in the same place work professional staff and volunteers
- The way volunteers are organized is important:
 - Association which organizes them
 - Cultural institution which organizes them

- **Economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability**
- **Individual and social sustainability**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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