



FERRARA
17 – 20 January 2008

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

	Thursday 17th January – Afternoon Session for partners only Venue: San Girolamo dei Gesuati, Via Madama 40/a
h. 17:00	Welcome and presentation of the participants
h. 17:30	Proposal of work plan for the three years of network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General introduction, meetings, materials to be produced and training needs • ICT Tools • Language issues • Strategy with Eastern Countries • The research • The ongoing evaluation
h. 18:30	Coffee break
h. 19:00	Open discussion: how we would like to have a European Senior Exchange Programme
h. 20:00	Dinner
	Friday 18th January – Morning Session for partners only Venue: San Girolamo dei Gesuati, Via Madama 40/a
h. 09:00	Update on European Commission working group on “Grundtvig assistantships and mobility for adult learners in the Lifelong Learning Programme”
h. 09:30	Elaboration of the presented work plan. Proposed workshops on <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The website and the database 2. Training and language materials to be developed 3. The research on the impact of the exchanges in the life of the volunteers 4. How to make volunteer exchanges accessible to all
h. 11:30	Coffee break
h. 12:00	Report of the workshops and adoption of the work plan
h. 14:00	Lunch
	Friday 18th January – Afternoon Public session for partners, guests open to the local citizens Venue: Palazzo Bonacossi, Via Cisterna del Follo, 5
h. 15:30	Welcome speeches from institutions and the Co-ordinator Municipality of Ferrara (Giovanna Cuccuru) Region Emilia Romagna (Cinzia Ioppi) LLP Italian National Agency (Daniela Ermini)

	Lunaria, our contribution to build a Europe for citizens (Giulio Marcon)
h. 16:15	<p>Keynotes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Transnational senior Volunteers Exchanges (Gertraud Daye – Seniorenbuero Graz) • Senior Volunteers exchanges as an educational tool (Agnes Uherezky – AVSO Brussels) • Senior exchanges: a chance for Intercultural learning and the fight against racism and xenophobia (Paolo Maddonni – Legambiente Roma)
h. 17:00	presentation to the public of the work plan elaborated by the network
h. 18:30	End of the session
h. 19:00	Dinner in Ferrara town center
<p>Saturday 19th January – Morning Session for partners and guests Venue: San Girolamo dei Gesuati, Via Madama 40/a</p>	
h. 09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An experience within Grundtvig from a senior volunteer (Maura Calasso – senior volunteer Lunaria) • Presentation of European <u>funding possibilities</u> within Grundtvig and time for questions. (Alexander Kurushev ESTYES)
h. 09:45	<p>Presentation of <u>experiences</u> performed with other European funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with the European Programme ENEA (Xenia Koutentaki - ANCE) • Experiences with the European Programme “Active Citizenship” (Paolo Maddonni – Legambiente) <p>Questions and discussion</p>
h. 10:30	Coffee break
h. 11:00	<p>Not only Europe! Presentation of <u>experiences</u> performed with Local Governments funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bilateral partnership between Rhineland Pfalz and German Speaking Community of Belgium. (Johanna Schroeder – German Speaking Community of Belgium) • Senior Exchange experiences in Rhineland Palatinat (Dietmar Eisenhammer – senior volunteer ISIS) <p>Questions and discussion</p>
h. 11:30	<p>Without institutions! Presentation of <u>experiences</u> performed without specifically addressed public funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience of a senior volunteer in a workcamp (Errida Contiero, senior volunteer, Lunaria) • Experience from a network for long term senior volunteer exchanges (Laura Casorio, Federazione Chiese Evangeliche in Italia)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organisation of a mixed-age workcamp (Lydia Staiger – IBG) <p>Questions and discussion</p>
h. 12:30	Discussion on the three different scenarios
h. 13:00	Lunch
h. 14:00	Excursion in Ferrara town center
<p>Saturday 19th January – Afternoon Session for partners and guests Venue: San Girolamo dei Gesuati, Via Madama 40/a</p>	
h. 16:30	<p>Proposed Workshops: organising and setting up exchanges...</p> <p>(...with Local governments support) Working on a possible good practice: partnership Hessen-Emilia Romagna on senior exchanges.</p> <p>(...with European Support) Funding possibilities for exchanges: sharing of ideas for common exchange projects.</p> <p>(...without specifically addressed public funding) Planning for the summer: building up a catalogue of potential hosting projects (in an experimental way, where volunteers pay for their travel costs and organisations for their hospitality).</p>
h. 18:00	Coffee break
h. 18:30	Reports from the groups
h. 19:30	Information on next meetings
h. 20:00	dinner
<p>Sunday 20th January – Morning Session for partners and guests Venue: San Girolamo dei Gesuati, Via Madama 40/a</p>	
h. 09:00	<p>Lessons to learn: the experience from a web-based youth network. (Robert Smit – no borders)</p> <p>Time for questions</p>
h. 09.30	Summary of the results, division of tasks and calendar of the project, administrative matters for the partners
h. 10:00	Evaluation Session
h. 10:30	Coffee break
h. 11:00	Time for bilateral relations and project setting up opportunity for informal meetings
h. 12:00	Lunch

REPORT OF THE MEETING

January, 17th Afternoon session

DAVIDE DI PIETRO

Roll call, Presentation of the participants

Present, representatives of 27 partners out of 29.

Apologies: Municipality of Roma (IT), Unarec (FR)

Presentation of the folder's materials

The whole meeting will be composed by two kinds of participants: the partners of the project and the guests. The sessions of Thursday afternoon and Friday morning are devoted to partners only.

Presentation of the agenda of the meeting

Participants are asked to choose the Friday morning workshop: the four of them are going to be introduced.

MAURIZIO MAZZONESCHI

[02_LYNX.pdf](#)

Introduces the workshop on the SEVEN network website and the ICT tools.

RORY DALY

[03_DALY.ppt](#)

introduces the workshop on the training and language material to develop. Among the other topics it will be tackled: the question of the language during the exchanges, the elaboration of a common vocabulary; the needs in language training, models of teaching, etc.

KARIN STIEHR

[04_STIEHR.ppt](#)

introduces the workshop about on research on the impact of the exchanges in the life of the volunteers. To be discussed: research issues, analysis of impact, methodology, tools.

ALEKSANDER KURUSHEV

[05_KURUSHEV.ppt](#)

introduces the workshop on accessibility of senior exchanges to all. Under discussion: target group taken in consideration, features, and expectations.

CHARLOTTE STRUEMPEL

[06_STRUEMPEL.ppt](#)

presents the ongoing evaluation: how to organize an efficient network activities evaluation - tools and steps.

General remark from the floor:

-In each workshop, we shouldn't forget a "market strategy" to "sell our product", something new, in terms of communication and dissemination of the idea of the exchanges.

Open discussion: how we would like to have a European Senior Exchange Programme

RORY DALY

Presentation of previous pilot projects, in order to plan future projects and find some of future funding.

2001 - 2003: Mobility 55: importance of advertise a new programme in order to involve people that are not already working with the coordinating organisation. The first idea was to create something similar to EVS but the long term program seems to add difficulties.

2003 – 2005: Still Active!: it was important for the hosting organisation where staff learned to interact with volunteers. learned the importance to have a suitable accommodation for Seniors. Volunteer: had a wonderful experience, though it was hard. The experience fulfilled my expectations since I was looking for something new. from this project some tools came out as materials useful for other organisations.

2004 – 2005, Teaming up: several experiences possible through the network.

Up to now several models were experimented (individual projects, couple of volunteers per placement, team of 5 volunteers, intergenerational projects).

General remarks on the past experiences:

- Who took part in the first project exchanging volunteers, learned the importance of preparation both for volunteers and hosting placements. focus on motivation of volunteers.
- During the Still Active project a lot of work was dedicated to set up a database of available projects.
- In many cases it was clear that language is an issue that needs to be dealt with.
- Experience from a volunteer: working time should be homogeneous between senior and junior volunteers. Bilateral learning opportunities (freshness from youth, wisdom-ness and organisation from senior – seniors are not teacher).
- The team work has many advantages and encourages many people to take part to the voluntary experience.
- Working in team is an issue for those not used to work in a group, the experience is not the right one for everybody.
- Experience where seniors live in the same accommodation but work in different tasks.
- All people are different, that means that all the models are right and wrong at the same time: it depends on who is participating in the program.
- Models could change also because of different source of funding.
- In order to have a more enriching experience is better to challenge volunteers to get to know new persons, and open their minds in order to have a stronger intercultural experience.
- A common accommodation for volunteers working in different placement was good idea to create new personal relationships.
- The hosting organisations offer a wide variety of opportunities for volunteers.
- We deal with individuals, and because of problems for organisations it might be better to set a program, advertise it, pay attention to the preparation of volunteers and hosting placements, in order to reduce the gap between expectations and reality. It is important there are so many good elements in the preparation session that could be used in the different ways during the experience. the role of mentor should be taken in account during the planning phase of the projects.
- AVSO has a specific work on “inclusion”, the key role is played by mentor (both sending and hosting mentor) there should be more opportunity for volunteer to identify a mentor. “Our experience is that where there is a good mentorship the drop out numbers are decreasing. guidelines on this topic are to be published in few weeks. “
- e-mail could be used to discuss new project ideas and developments.

January, 18th Morning session

DAVIDE DI PIETRO

Presentation of leaflets and materials already produced.

SEVEN received an invitation to join two different working groups from the European Commission Directorate General Education and Culture.

Starting from 2009 there will be a budget line on “Assistantships and mobility for adult learners in Lifelong learning programme”. SEVEN coordinator was invited to join the working group. Through web-discussion SEVEN will support the representative with inputs and suggestions.

Another working group is on the implementation of the Communication from the European Commission: “*Adult learning it is never too late to learn*”. The Communication will be circulated among the members of the network and discussed in advance.

The first meeting is scheduled in March.

SEVEN is a network that includes many experts on adult learning in a non – formal way.

On February 7th to 8th there will be the meeting of LLP coordinators within Grundtvig, Leonardo and Socrates. The meeting will offer opportunity to learn from other experience and many administrative doubts will be solved.

Working groups on:

1. ICT Tools
2. Language
3. Research
4. Inclusion

of disadvantaged Senior volunteers

Reports from the Working Groups

Group 1: ICT tools

proposals for a web site

- analysis of Goals.
- analysis of Target.
- proposals of the web site architecture (Info, partners, news, tools and materials).
- technology: open source.
- different access.
- graphic proposals.

Discussions and questions:

- The group preferred the white based graphic proposals.
- Different access: registered users have access to more menus, anonymous users will have access to part of the website, but all the general information will be available. Discussion is still open on the issues of registration for candidate volunteers or other organisations.
- Data base: will it be used by volunteers or voluntary organisations? the issues will be discussed more and more through the forum.
- Starting with a restricted numbers of users (administrators, core group, partners), and after a first evaluation enlarge the access.
- To have a match making data base requires a person who constantly monitor it.
- To be decided who will approve access of new users.
- Partner organisations acting as sending organisations will support volunteers to look for a suitable partners in a foreign country where needed.
- final proposals could be circulated among partners in order to be evaluated, deadline for new proposals end of February.
- to send the logo of partners organisations to be included in the new web-site

Group 2 LANGUAGE

- It is not task of the network to provide language training, but the network cares about the communication and language skills required to have a voluntary service experience on international level. The language issue is to avoid exclusion.
- Learning a language has different levels of elements when talking about short or long term voluntary service.
- There is the possibility to use volunteers and former volunteers as language facilitators
- it could be important to encourage people to learn the key words that might be useful for the experience
- language issue should be taken in account during research and evaluation
- there are several models of learning/teaching methods, but it could useful to share tools, (for example, 50 sentences, phrases or key words useful for the experience translated in all the language of partners organisations)
- referring to the language skills grading scheme provided by the Council of Europe

Group 3: RESEARCH

The research is intended to evaluate the mid and long term impact of the experience. three main areas: Background information, Aims and motivations, Framework of experience the working group made a proposal of questionnaire which will be finalised by the core group.

Design of a questionnaire for senior volunteers on the long-term impacts of their trans-national exchange experience

Decision on the content structure of the questionnaire; suggestion:

- Personal background
 - Learning impacts
 - Framework conditions fostering or hindering learning impacts
- 1. Personal background**
 - Socio-demographic characteristics
 - Exchange details
 - Aims and motivations
 - 2. Learning impacts of the exchange**
 - for the personal development
 - for the professional know-how
 - for the local community
 - for the European community
 - 3. Framework conditions fostering or hindering learning impacts**
 - for the personal development
 - for the professional know-how
 - for the local community
 - for the European community

Group 4: INCLUSION OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES VOLUNTEERS AND IN GENERAL

target group for inclusion:

- disabled
- social/economic disadvantage
- people from rural areas
- migrants
- people who live alone

How to target the group, who could be a partner

- association of retired professionals
- associations of civil citizens
- sport clubs
- associations of seniors
- community houses organising leisure activities
- national Agencies for European projects
- national and local institutions

Challenge to advertisement

- newspapers, bulletin, newsletter provided by local municipality or local associations
- radio
- internet: considering that Internet is not a common tool for everybody. Attention to the technological divide

Other open challenges:

- recruit new hosting placements
- how to finance future exchange

January, 18th afternoon session

PALAZZO BONACOSSI

Open session with the participation of the local authorities.

RITA TAGLIATI

Vice Mayor

Welcome contribution by the vice-mayor of the Municipality of Ferrara.

CINZIA IOPPI

Social Affairs – Regional Government Emilia Romagna

The network system is a fundamental model to develop local social policy in the Region Emilia Romagna. Reference to a proposal to create a Senior volunteers exchange programme with the twinned region Hessen that will be developed in the next days.

ERMINI DANIELA

Responsible for the Grundtvig programme at the National Agency for the Lifelong Learning Programme

Happy to acknowledge the existence of such a network. With the new programme we have lost the connection with all the project and network managed at central level: clearly these ones have a relevant role in the countries. Clarifications on some funding available at a decentralized level and managed by the National Agencies.

MARCON GIULIO – Lunaria, President

Some words on Lunaria and its activity in promoting volunteering. Our aim is to link our specific topic with the practical experience of voluntary service.

Our work is important to create a new European citizenship, and this work on the senior volunteering is a new and good contribution to create a social Europe .
This network will hopefully help the European Commission process of creating permanent programme.

GERTRAUD DAYÉ

Why Transnational senior Volunteers Exchanges

History:

When, towards the end of the last millennium, demographic change – then characterized as the greying of our societies – became a topic of interest not only for politicians, but also for the media, the main concern was: there will be more older persons – we, the citizens of this country, the society as a whole, will not be able to afford this. Thus, ageing was mainly seen as a burden – above all a financial burden. The debate in the media, and the focus of interest of politicians went in two directions

1 – there will be more very old persons relying on care – who is going to pay for this, to assume the task of care and nursing? and

2 – there will be more healthy older persons – could they not do some useful work instead of being on a constant holiday?

As I said – this is the kind of media debate that went on in the 90s of the last century. Consequently, in all European countries, and, in fact, all over the world, one big objective emerged:

People, when ageing, should remain healthy as long as possible, and they should be useful to society as a whole. This led to the concept of **Active Ageing**:

For the WHO Active Ageing primarily meant to lead an active life, filled with sports activities just as well as with intellectual challenges.

For the European Union Active Ageing very soon also meant: staying on the labour market until a later age, thus relieving the strain on the pension funds.

And for the older persons themselves?

For us who are ageing and wish to lead a meaningful life and, of course, delay the onset of age-related illness and dependency?

We know very well what we wish to do – and some of our ideas fall into the concepts of the WHO, or of the European Union:

We would like to continue our lives as active citizens, respected members of our societies, living in the middle of these societies and not on the margin, at risk of being considered useless elements in this society, just using up tax payers' money.

Many studies have shown that, in fact, people beyond retirement age are active and useful to society in many ways:

We all know how many persons aged 60 plus engage in work in the community, or in their own family, and we all have heard of the studies showing that life in the community, in the society, would break down if all the volunteers (and many of them are older volunteers) would stop working for a day.

Thus, working as a volunteer is, for an older person, something that is rather common – not doing any voluntary work at all – not in the community and not within the family context - would rather be the exception.

What we plan to promote here, with this project, and what we already intended to do in the preceding pilot projects, is to do something more, something going beyond the usual voluntary engagement:

First, we want to bring in the European dimension. We feel that building a common Europe is a goal that cannot be left to politicians alone, or to only the younger generations. Working together on a European level is an objective that is also at the heart of many persons aged 60 plus. And, second, we are convinced that an exchange of our knowledge, our experiences of a rather longer life, can be used in a meaningful way in the context of another country.

And, as I can also speak from my personal experience of having hosted older volunteers in the organisation I worked with during my professional life, I am absolutely convinced of the added value of the work carried out by a number of – in my case – Italian volunteers for the organisation. We all learn a lot from each other – the professionals and regular volunteers in the host organisations just as well as the older volunteers coming from another country. And we should not overlook the fun factor: people who enjoy what they do are leading healthier lives; their risk of getting a depression with all that this illness entails is considerably reduced. Further, people who have to adapt to another living situation, in another country with, possibly, another language and, almost certainly, another way of approaching the tasks of the day, will stay mentally more active – also a good precondition for satisfactory and healthy ageing.

And with these comments I come back to the beginning of my little contribution:

There are more and more people aged 60 plus and one of the means to avoid that these larger numbers of retired persons become a burden to society is the creation of opportunities for a meaningful life also in advanced age. One way can be the opportunity to work as a volunteer in another country. Thus, we, the active older citizens, can feel useful, experience the life in another country, and, at the same time, learn more about the situation in other parts of Europe. I would consider this a win-win situation for the older volunteers, for the host organisations and the countries they are located in, and for social cohesion in Europe.

AGNES UHERECZKY

Senior Volunteers exchanges as an educational tool.

7 Introductory ideas

- European demographic challenge – not only numbers – also ideas
- Older people are a resource
- New shapes and forms of volunteering – moving away from the “gift” idea
- International voluntary service is not for everyone
- A benefit to the volunteer, the hosting community and society
- US: “service learning” – non-formal education
- Volunteers are happier citizens

Impact of international voluntary service

On 3 levels:

- Volunteer
 - Hosting project, community
 - Sending community

- Society

- On human, social and economic capital
- Skills and competences acquired
- + health benefits

Service learning

You get what you programme for!

- Different programmes can have different learning objectives – it needs to be reinforced through the whole project cycle
- Achieving these learning objectives very much depends on the preparatory phase and the motivation of the volunteer

Learning...but what?

- Communication and expression, trust, self confidence, reinforced identity in an international context
- Building new relationships, friendships
- Intercultural competences, learning (IDI)
- Language skills – or the ability to make oneself understood
- More technical skills – project related
- Natural teachers

After the service

- Debriefing
- Channelling the enthusiasm and motivation
- Follow-up activities, former volunteer meetings, former volunteers involved in the new programme cycles
- Activists toolkits

What needs still to be done

- Reinforce discussion and reflection
- Structured monitoring and evaluation (most significant change)
- Establish quality criteria across programmes
- Impact assessment
- Promotion
- Recognition

PAOLO MADDONNI

Senior exchanges: a chance for Intercultural learning and the fight against racism and xenophobia

Workcamps and international voluntary projects are a unique instant where a concentrate of universe can be forced to live together. Of course participants are not in a sort of jail. Participants normally accept to have a reduction of privacy and imagine that some flexibility in personal habits is necessary for such an experience. On the other side, being abroad and far from the ordinary life can push people to see differently their own country. Who is quite hard in judging services, culture and compatriots when they are at home, once abroad and in the condition to compare and exchange ideas with other people often look to their home land with much favour and proud. At the same time we see more clearly the stereotypes and frequent images of the other countries. This situation often offers the opportunity to express loudly in more or less funny ways these stereotypes. Is there any Italian who never had at least once in his or her life been called "Mafioso"? But it's a joke! Or somebody from Australia could never avoid hearing the word "kangaroo" during his staying abroad? At this stage, stereotypes can be considered a sort of a first step of intercultural learning, because normally after the exchange of jokes there is also the time for going deeper and beyond the word "mafia", and perhaps for the first time we have the chance to ask to somebody directly if what the movie "Il Padrino- the Godfather" proposes is true or not. A glass of wine in the evening after a whole day spent together working side by side gives for sure the right light for a better understanding.

On the opposite, it can happen that the hidden racism, those attitudes and secret thoughts that we manage to cover with a clean image at home, in a camp can just explode. We have had such situation recently, last August 2007 in a camp in Southern Italy. We faced a double level of racist and xenophobic feelings. I report this episode, of course I don't blame any nationality in particular, but it's very interesting for discovering how important can be a voluntary experience, in particular for those who are no more in their youngest years.

Anne and Kristine came from the Netherlands, sent both by a Dutch organisation to the same project. They didn't know each other before the camp and even met directly in Eboli, the town in Southern Italy where the project took place. Once there it was clear that both ladies were Dutch, but with different family origin: if Kristine is a typical Dutch or Northern European tall and blue-eyes madam, Anne is from Suriname in Latin America, or at least her parents born there: dark skin and black hair. The local people of Legambiente were happy by this combination. In particular Legambiente male members were interested in speaking with Anne about the famous black Dutch football players in Europe. Kristine was much less happy and showed her feelings openly. She didn't like to share her room with Anne. She didn't like to work together with her. They were always arguing about something. Anne seemed to be more at ease, but the same she preferred to share the minimum of her time with Kristine. One evening, not even at the middle of the two-week project, Anne and Kristine started a discussion about a stupid question of food and arrived quickly to a strong confrontation with no diplomacy:

"You and your people of Suriname have to be kind and grateful with us, because thanks to us, the Dutch, you are now no more savage of the forests; but you are still continuing to come to steal our jobs in the Netherlands. And it's not enough: I have also to meet people like you here, during my holiday!"

"I'm more Dutch than you, lazy old and rich woman! People like you are so racist to regret the time when you had slaves from Suriname serving you all the time. Without us, the Netherlands would be still under the sea water". Local people of Legambiente and the other senior and young volunteers could not do anything for stopping this exchange of attacks. For a couple of days Anne and Kristine just ignored each other, and the camp could continue with a lot of activities (working on the beach during the day, visits and excursions in the

CHARLOTTE STRUEMPEL

Summary of the work programme of the SEVEN-Network.

Elements of work plan

1. Network meetings
2. Website
3. Activities concerning language issues
4. Activities concerning accessibility
5. Research
6. Planning further projects
7. Evaluation

1. Network meetings

4 network meetings

Next one in February 2009

Aims:

- find organisations interested in similar themes
- create ideas for new projects
- bi-lateral exchanges
- collect useful material and information

2. The website

2.1. Goals

Promotion of voluntary service in Europe as an education and LLL tool for all

(focus on seniors)
Offer information about the project
Facilitate communication between partners
Provide access to media and documents
Post news that is useful and related to the project
Access to research questionnaire and management
Access to e-learning
Database for exchange opportunities

2.2 Contents

Project information
Network information
Partners
News
Reports and photos
Good practices
Communication and collaboration tools
Database
E-learning

2.3 Target groups

SEVEN partners
Potential sending and hosting organizations
(Potential) volunteers
Other interested institutions (university, research, social, political)
Anonymous users

users

2.4 Other issues

- Different areas of website accessible to different groups – users without registration, with registration, partners, core group, administrators
- Graphical interface will be designed to make the website accessible to older people

3. Languages

3.1. General issues

- Our task is not to teach people languages.
- Language is a powerful tool of communication and of exclusion.
- Issue on different levels in project: exchanges: older volunteers and organisations, website, research, meetings, across all eu-funded projects

3.2. What will we do?

- Gather together as many existing language training tools as possible for website (links)
- Key volunteer vocabulary on website
- European framework for self-assessment of language skills:
- to ensure match between org. and volunteers: training
- Minority languages:
- Exchange between regions with specific languages that are linked with a specific culture and politics (e.g. Gaelic, Catalan).

4. Accessibility – Inclusion

4.1 Who?

- People with disabilities
- People with a low-income
- People who live in rural areas
- People from ethnic minorities
- Isolated older people
- People who have no knowledge about volunteering

4.2 How to target these groups?

- Associations of retired professionals
- Voluntary fire brigades
- Sport clubs and hobby groups
- Special org. of older people
- Municipalities e.g. social workers,
- Community and neighborhood centres
- NGOs
- National LLL agencies.

4.3 Internet

- Potential older volunteers (especially in Eastern European Countries) will not have access to internet
- It will be important to look for other channels to convey information (also on language learning).

4.4 Further work

- Looking for funding opportunities

- Link to existing projects and work camps etc.
- Bi-lateral projects
- Contacting different organisations for placements
- Environmental projects and cultural projects,
- Using existing training manuals (e.g. still active)

5. Research

- 2008: Ex-post analysis of long-term impacts of previous pilot projects
- 2009 and 2010: Monitoring of short-term impacts of accompanying measures of the SEVEN network.
 - **What?**
What was long-term impact of senior volunteer exchange?
 - **Who?**
All volunteers that participated in previous programmes:
 - The European exchange programme for older volunteers“ (2001), „Mobility 55“ (2003), „Still active“ (2004), Teaming Up“ (2005), „Fifty-fifty“ (2006)
 - **How?**
Written questionnaire by email and on-line.
As standardized as possible.
Translation in all languages.

5.1 Background information

- 5.1.1 Socio-demographic data (e.g. gender, age, country)
- 5.1.2 Motivation
Many aspects – citation by older people (e.g. „is keeping me alive“, „help change the world“)
- 5.1.3 Details of exchange
When, where, how long, which area of volunteering

5.2 Impact of experience

Personal development, skills and competences
before experience / after the experience:
e.g. team work, IT literacy, level of independence, adaptability to new surroundings, language knowledge
Local community
e.g. initiating further follow-up activities, assisting new volunteers, presentations to the public.

5.3 Framework conditions

- Information and recruitment
 - Was the information clear
 - Where did you hear about the possibility
- Pre-departure training
 - Psychological, cultural, linguistic preparation
- The voluntary service:
 - Mentorship, accommodation etc.
- De-briefing, evaluation and follow-up

6. Planning further projects

E.g. Learning partnership on mentorship
Bi-lateral exchange
Will be object of meeting tomorrow

7. Evaluation

- Checklist to evaluate network meetings
- List of activities carried out by partners will be collected regularly
- Web statistics will be collected and evaluated
- On-line questionnaire to evaluate website
- Interviews with participants – starting second meeting
- Flexibly developing evaluation tools for further activities

January, 19th Saturday morning session

DAVIDE DI PIETRO

This day is more focused on the presentation of experiences of existing programmes and pilot projects, as well as the involvement of institution at local, regional, national and European level. The afternoon will be dedicated to plan future projects.

FIRST PART EUROPEAN FUNDING

Experiences within Grundtvig programme

MAURA CALASSO

15_CALASSO.ppt

Volunteer within “Mobility 55” supported by the Grundtvig programme

- motivation to take part in the project: a challenge to myself.
- preparation: at the beginning there was a little knowledge of the Country (Estonia) and daily life.
- difficulties: at the beginning: arrival (flight delay), language, mobility within the country, relationship with children (mentally disabled)
- very interesting experience, good way to establish personal relationship and friendship.
- value of the experience: possibility to have a follow up after coming back home: organised an exchange with a similar project in Rome.

ALEKSANDER KURUSHEV

Organiser as Estyes of a Learning Partnership project

The programme just started (October 2007); 3 organisations from 3 countries involved (Estonia, Germany, Italy).

- Volunteering is a strong tool for non formal education.
- Very important part of the programme is having a strong partnership with local national organisations and institutions (senior associations, local governments..).
- The experience is that a larger group of partners could help with the selection process.
- One of the partners is a coordinating organisation though it is not related to the Funding country.
- Project: in 2 years we have to have mobility, there are different lump-sums according to different countries. the lump sum does not need to be accounted in detail though it is recommended that organisation have their own accountability.
- Flexibility within the programme: it is possible to have amendments, and changes
- It is not possible to fund personal or associations' costs, but everything is directly related to the activity proposed by the project.
- Deadline: usually march 1st.

Discussion:

- volunteers' activities are generally oriented to the process, (solidarity to social projects) but they are not a full time activity. The focus is more on the volunteers rather than on the organizations. Possibilities are very open. the activity should be more focused on learning experiences and concept ideas than "working as volunteer".
- It is important not to make confusion between volunteering and learning.

Experience under ENEA (DG Employment and Social Affairs)

Provides funding for partnership that organise mobility for Senior Citizens (most of the projects were based on exchange of professionals). Big funding, high number of partners required, a lot of paperwork to apply for the Grant.

XENIA KOUTENTAKI

16_KOUTENTAKI.ppt

ANCE

- 3 organisations involved in development (not necessarily senior oriented), senior citizens became an important project's issue for several reasons.
- Proposed activities: working and professional dimensions, seminars and study visits.
- Strong competition among projects. The grant cover 80% of the expenses, deadline in June.
- Focus on seminars and trainings (computer courses, english language courses, dimension across generations).
- Some of the old people took part in the international exchanges.

outcome from project:

- Different teaching approach when learners are seniors.
- As the projects moved on its way, it grew up in terms of new partners, new ideas.
- The project aimed also to contribute to set new ideas and new activity addressed to Seniors.
- A new project came: Travel Agent.
- 4 officially established network which are trying to establish their own programme of international exchanges.

Discussion:

- ENEA could be a good tool to implement new ideas related to aim of this network
- Within the network there are many experiences, but there are many other experiences out of the network that might be interesting for our network

Experience under “Active Citizenship”

PAOLO MADDONNI

- Large variety of possible activities to be accepted to match the aim of the Programme.
- Many organisations involved through the organisations of work-camps.
- Deadline February 15th (usually once a year).
- Different possible actions: events and productions.
- Lump-sum system (for events) allows associations to plan their own events.
- Detailed financial report applies for “production”.

Discussion:

- Travel costs should be calculated within the daily lump-sum.
- Co-finance is not compulsory for events; 30% co-finance is required in the budget line of production of materials.
- Idea on possible new projects include three generations events.

SECOND PART Not only Europe! cooperation with local governments

JOHANNA SCHROEDER

17_SCHROEDER.ppt

- Cooperation between two local institutions, which are geographical neighbours.
- Official bound between the two Regions in 2005.
- Aims: promotion of active citizenship, networking, attention to volunteering.
- Fields of cooperation identified (security advising, palliative care, and memory of the past).

DIETMAR EISENHAMMER

18_EISENHAMMER.ppt

- Experience came after a short term of experience as senior volunteer.
- As follow up of international voluntary experience a senior association was created to make and create exchange in a small region between France and Germany with special attention to the dialogue across generation.

The experience grow involving organisations from different countries, but the idea was born under the cross boarder line (not only on European level)

THIRD PART Without Institutions! experiences without specifically addressed public funding

ERRIDA CONTIERO (volunteer in a work camp):

19_CONTIERO

- 8 volunteers from all over the world, aged between 15 and 61, work camp in Castle Morpeth.
- Project related to environment and preservation of memory.
- Volunteers could have a good balance between activities and leisure time.

- Learning opportunity: to visit surroundings, get deeper in the hosting local community.
- As a senior it was my first experience in a team, I was concerned about being among so many young people. The experience was we were all peer,
- learned good working skills, team work, sharing experiences and cultures through daily life

LYDIA STAIGER

20_STAIGER.ppt

- IBG specialized in international youth work camps, where language is usually English, and volunteers are asked to cover their travel costs.
- different projects' area: Environment, culture, social, etc..
- International dimension to develop partnerships with local communities, intercultural learning.
- Intercultural dimension not only during voluntary activities but during the entire staying.
- Often work-camps are located in rural areas.
- Very often leaving conditions are challenging for seniors as services provided are basic
- Outcomes of experience after 3 year of experience involving seniors.
- More attention to health issues.
- More detailed information about the project.

Discussion:

- Seniors usually are charged a fee to take part in the project.
- It is a modern idea to have work-camps with different generations.
- Lodging needs are different for young and seniors volunteers, but very often the idea of accommodation should be similar and fair for all participants.

LAURA CASORIO

- Experience as coordinator of hosting placements created on the idea of voluntary service toward weak categories in the social field.
- Voluntary service is still one of the core ideas of each project and is one of the tools to reach and implement the project's mission.
- Volunteers serves on long term basis (more than 3 months up to 10-12) part-time/full time activities, on tasks they decide and agree on bilateral way with the placement.
- Practical arrangements: hosting placements cover board and lodging and insurance through local funding as well as internal training, volunteers cover their travel costs and a small fee, a coordinating organisation facilitate meetings among volunteers and mid-term evaluation.
- Open challenges: visa/resident permit connected to legal status of volunteer; specific funding for training and preparation (very few example in Europe today); to be completed.

CARMEN STADELHOEFER

- www.zawiw.de a training course organised by Ulm university on senior education and voluntary work.
- Virtual learning, as well as class session.
- Deadline January 31st to apply for.

Discussion and Proposals

- To use SEVEN new website to offer a selection of possibilities which might be suitable for seniors
- There is the need to avoid to present initiatives addressed to seniors, but in order to be more inclusive
- Projects without public funding might be used to experiment other models.

- On long term it would be nice to have in SEVEN website a section where volunteers themselves will give suggestion on possible cheap travel solution (a kind of tourist office for Senior)
- It might be useful to know if there are special provision for seniors in countries that might be shared within the network
- It might be useful to share information about ongoing projects,

Next meeting: 12th - 15th February, 2009, similar pattern of this meeting (partner meeting and open session). municipality of Lleida will host the meeting.

Municipality of Lleida is delighted to having had the possibility to join the activity of the network. the commitment of this municipality in senior projects is quite young, but it is growing. the representative welcomes the opportunity to host the next meeting in 2009

January, 19th Saturday afternoon session

Working groups

Report meeting bilateral partnership

Di Pietro (Lunaria) welcomes participants and he says he is happy to host this meeting in the framework of the SEVEN network

Stiehr (ISIS) introduces the content of the proposed bilateral partnership between municipalities of Hessen and Emilia Romagna. She explains the document that is annexed to the report.

5 stages

1st this very meeting

2nd construction in every reality groups of 3 5 volunteers that would work as 'explorers'

3rd phase of exchange in the summer of these volunteers in order to identify voluntary service activities to be done

4th drafting of a catalogue that summarise the results of the visits

5th end 2008 in Hessen meeting for evaluating the first phase.

Landhessen is very interested in this project as this project was prepared with the social affairs department: Landhessen is willing to take on charge the insurance, language courses, there will be internet site for all the potential volunteers, host the volunteers from Region Emilia Romagna, prepare the programme, financial means for organisational. These are our proposals: question for the Region Emilia Romagna. They have to ask their responsible persons.

Cioppi (ER) makes a summary: in April 2006 there was a meeting in Ferrara and it was launched the idea to make exchanges of senior volunteers. It was also present ISIS and a representative of landhessen. Afterwards Mr. Bergamaschi, responsible for social affairs contacted Augusta Rabuiti and Mr. Capodaglio from international relations to propose him this integrated path. Capodaglio showed interest and started the hypothesis to cover some hosting expenses with the budget of the social affairs. About the explorers this should be a mixed group done by representatives of institutions and volunteers.

Stiehr (ISIS): thanks for the update: now we want to ask the single municipalities about their opinion. Now we need to understand who want to work with who else.

Ioppi (ER) we thought to start with municipalities and provinces that already have an official twinning. The interest of the Region is there, if the region can have control on the coordination. We need to understand who are the best volunteers and we might use the funds of social fund this is why we need to make a co-ordination.

Franchini (Mun Modena): is it possible to start new cooperation also for those towns that do not have a twinning agreement?

Stiehr (ISIS): important question: we have to follow the two different ways. We need to acknowledge who has already a twinning

Rabuiti (Mun Ferrara): we have cooperation with Landhessen and in specific with Giessen. Lately the mayor of Giessen visited our town and he expressed a strong interest in sustaining exchanges between Ferrara and Giessen in the area of senior voluntary services and we have Mr. **Steinz (Stadt Giessen)** confirms.

Ferrara is also twinned with Lerida and there are three representatives and we are happy that they are in SEVEN network. My proposal is to think to a project including volunteers from Ferrara, Giessen and Lerida with a view to submit a town twinning project. I would like the opinion from colleagues of Giessen and Lerida.

Steinz (Stadt Giessen) they like the idea and they have nothing against and see very well the idea of enlarging the partnership to Lerida.

Cane' (ER): also Prague has a partnership with Ferrara and could be another partner

Compans (Mun. Lleida) they want to develop international voluntary service and we consider this project as a priority the development of this project so they welcome the proposal.

Stiehr (ISIS) now we talk about the other realities like the county of Kassel and the Province of Cesena Forli

Report meeting “Planning for Summer; building up a catalogue of potential hosting projects” in a experimental way

short round of presentation

several experiences represented: senior volunteers, associations with work-camps, senior associations,

- in many western European countries social institution receive public funding for their activities,
- different way of organising activities in sending or hosting countries
- is board and lodging costs equivalent to cost of the work of volunteers?
- there are some country specific: many different models:
 - free board and lodging, free work volunteer pay travels
 - a contribution to board and lodging and less working hour/not heavy tasks
- local community is organising activities for senior volunteers for cultural and intercultural learning
- work through voluntary service should/should not valued in terms of money
- work camps is a socialisation tool for volunteers
- work camps are open to everybody though tasks for volunteers are designed according needs
- without having public money “everything is possible since there are no restrictions out of the one decided by law and associations' philosophy
- often volunteers pay a fee to the “sending organisation” which has a kind of agreement with the hosting when it becomes the sending in a different exchange
- it is important that senior volunteers will meet other seniors in hosting local community (though it is not compulsory having several senior volunteers)
- very often senior are not interested to have exclusive senior voluntary service experience

Standards:

- for short term it is not compulsory providing a single accommodation, but should clearly known before taking the decision of taking part to the proposed activity
- a fee should be asked once the decision to attend the activity
- volunteers might be asked to pay their travel costs
- work camp give possibility to whoever participate to experience a kind of group activity
- clear indications if there is an existing partnership and instruction on the selection process
- sending organisation should provide volunteers access to all the information available
- organisation should inform about possible scholarship available for those in need

A Catalogue of opportunities should provide:

- Indication on accommodation, facilities.
- Starting and ending date of activity, country and town of activities.
- A preliminary description of the projects.
 - More information will be available after volunteer decided to join the activity.
- A preliminary description of tasks
 - more information will be available after volunteer decide to join the activity.
- Indication of language used
 - though in some cases having many languages without one being the official language is difficult
- Giving indication of a contact person to ask question and clarification.
- It should be the philosophy of the project to have activity proposed open to seniors (selection should be made on the basis of activities).

www.alliance-network.eu provides contacts and catalogue of possibilities

Solidarité Jeunesse provides longer term work camps (from 1 month any length up to 6 months).

SEVEN new website might have indications and links to organisations and networks which offer volunteering opportunities.

Promotion of the idea of possibilities and opportunities provided to 50+ volunteers.

Report meeting on European projects

Project ideas

Minority languages

Intergenerational projects

Travel agent project -

Placements of long-term volunteer opportunities (Christine)

Neighbourhood centres learning partnerships

Older people to monitor MAA- implementation

Leslie: intergenerational visits –

Including older volunteers in more structured/strategic way

Not only senior work camps.

Danube network project for older learners.

Qualification of senior consultants in intergenerational work to exchange concepts with other.

Generation camps (grandparents and grandchildren (e.g. IT).

Learning partnerships with Austria – social services buy from NGOs and private providers – study visits.

Lifelong learning.

Older generation developing ideas – influencing and shaping policy – active citizenship.

Intergenerational project that is running – collecting memories– exchange with other countries (Italy).

Main themes

Intergenerational exchanges.

Building on current projects.

How projects fit into shaping policy.

Life-long learning in general.

Specific ideas – Intergenerational exchange

Easiest is exchange with three generations – have to be pragmatic – fixed rules (like age of children) cannot always be kept up – family camps – at least 12 people.

Small groups exchanging in different countries – memory – history project: how was xxx – time witness work.

Three generation vs. Two generation project -children do not have as much chance to live with grand parents.

Rapid changes in society – three generations – three different approaches to life and to volunteering.

Students learning English exchange letters, stories, school book.

Government policies

Study visit to other countries – looking at social service provision for older people – alternative services for older volunteer – older volunteers helping with social service.

Increased funding life-long learning – awareness of MIPA.

Projects that have already taken place

Seeds – projects have already involved older volunteers, but not in a systematic way yet – looking more closely at specific conditions – increasing quality of the projects – learning partnerships – single mobilities with older volunteers. Social services in Iceland – volunteers from vulnerable groups

Life-long learning general

Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs – stress on learning 60+

People who are not used to learning □ learning experiences (vulnerable groups)

What else could we do to make exchanges more appealing to those that have not engaged so far?

Volunteers do not realize many times the importance of what they are doing.

Formal qualifications for volunteers

UK: Acquiring formal qualifications for volunteers

January, 20th morning session

ROBERT SMIT (No Border)

Robert presents the Dutch site <http://www.noborders.nl> and other web 2.0 experiences on the promotion of Youth Mobility Programmes.

DAVIDE DI PIETRO

Summary of the results of the 3 days meeting, the division of tasks and calendar of the project.