



Education and Culture DG

Grundtvig and Volunteering

Exploring new pathways for informal learning

Alan Smith
Grundtvig Coordinator &
Acting Head of Unit EAC – B3 Adult Education
European Commission

*Grundtvig European Conference on Adult Volunteering, Warsaw,
24 November 2011*

European Year of Volunteering 2011

- **Objectives**
 - Enabling environment for volunteering
 - Exchanging good practice
 - Recognition of volunteers
 - Underling the importance of volunteering and galvanising a new generation of volunteers
- **Key outcomes:**
 - Commission Communication on volunteering
 - Council Conclusions: role of voluntary activities in social policy
- **Important references to the learning dimension of volunteering**
- **Report by end of 2012: vital that learning emphasized**



Grundtvig and volunteering – a natural partnership waiting to happen

- **Strong social focus of Grundtvig**
 - Outreach to disadvantaged and marginalised groups
 - Citizenship, older people, inter
 - generational solidarity, environment
 - Social cohesion, inclusion of minorities
- Commitment to informal and non formal learning alongside formal adult education
- Broad spread of participating organisations embracing NGOs, community groups and cultural organisations such as museums alongside specialised adult education providers



Grundtvig – a truly European Programme

- Over **700 Grundtvig Cooperation** projects and networks with over **4000 organisations**
- **14 000 grants** to enable organisations to participate in Grundtvig Learning Partnerships
- **15 000 Mobility grants** for adult education staff
- Strong participation of over **30 European countries**

Foundations for a European community of adult learning



Since 2009 – new actions to boost mobility

- **New staff mobility actions**
 - Visits & Exchanges
 - Assistantships
- **Learner mobility**
 - Learner
 - intensive Learning Partnerships
 - Grundtvig Workshops
 - Senior Volunteering Projects (SVP)



Evaluating progress – Grundtvig studies and conferences

- **Tenth anniversary events**
- **Action**
 - specific conferences:
 - Learning Partnerships 2002-2009
 - Staff mobility 2003, 2005, 2009, 2012
- **Thematic conferences**
 - Prison education (2010)
 - Volunteering (Warsaw, Nov.2011)
 - Awareness – raising strategies (Feb.2012)
 - Active Ageing (Nov.2012)
- **Studies and analyses**



Grundtvig and volunteering – a growing community and spread of activities

- **All Grundtvig actions contribute:**
 - Around 60 centralised actions projects
 - Staff mobility focusing on volunteering
 - A major network as a resource for development: SEVEN
 - Senior Volunteering Projects
- **Compendium: Adult Volunteering**
 - Learning for Life



Senior Volunteering Projects

- **So far almost 200 projects**
- **Around 1500 volunteers mobile**
- **Strongly increasing applications 2009-10-11 (IE TR ES FR UK PT 2011)**
- **25 countries in 2011**
- **Various facets of volunteering:**
 - Training and management of volunteers
 - Recognition of skills acquired through volunteering
 - Senior volunteering – active citizenship and active ageing
- **Evaluation under way: Shane Beadle (GHK)**



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GHK Evaluation project - topics

- Reviewing the options chosen for the design of the SVPs (length, participants, time frame)
- Assessing the programme its objectives
- Identifying the learning outcomes achieved by SVPs by the volunteers and the organisations and other people participating
- Identifying what has worked well and why
- Identifying the legacy of the SVPs
- Assessing the future potential of the activity in volunteering programmes
- They are approaching this study by:
- Analysing the coordinator and partner organisation reports (final and progress)
- Analysing the individual participants' final evaluation forms
- Reading background documentation about the programme
- Interviewing a sample of National Agencies (10)
- Interviewing participants in a small number of case studies
- Talking to participants in the conference involved in the SVPs



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GHK Evaluation project - Timetable

- Data input and coding of 2009-11 projects' final reports and 2010-12 progress reports (started)
- Analysis of report (mid December to January)
- Face to face interviews with NAs and participants (now)
- Telephone interviews of NAs and participants (January-mid February)
- Draft report (end February)
- Presentation (late March)



GHK at the Warsaw conference

- During the conference, Shane Beadle will:
 - Listen in on Workshop 3 about the design of the Grundtvig volunteering programmes
 - Be available in breaks to talk to any representatives of organisations involved in SVPs
 - Arrange to speak to some of you for 30-45 minutes later today and during the session from 9 to 11.30 tomorrow (please let him now if you are willing/available)



Expectations from Warsaw conference

- Explore the learning dimension of volunteering
- Share the experience from good practice examples and develop further projects
- Develop ideas for the future on how the EU – and in particular its education programme – can better support volunteering



Towards the future

- Short term: improving the present Grundtvig programme:
 - SVP action
 - Other actions, notably centralised: what priorities?
- The European Agenda for Adult Learning
- Future EU Programme «Erasmus For All» post – 2013
- Other possible EU programmes
- European Year of Active Ageing 2012





http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/lip/grundtvig/index_en.html

- National Agencies (see links on above website)
- alan.smith@ec.europa.eu

