

CEV: Supporting lifelong learning through volunteering

**Grundtvig European Conference
on Adult Volunteering**

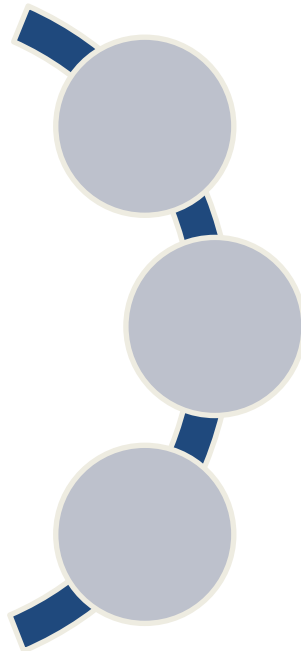


EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CENTRE



Why Volunteering Matters

Volunteers and their organisations are at the forefront of developing innovative actions to detect, voice and respond to needs arising in society



Volunteers are the **agents of European values** in promoting social cohesion and solidarity, and active civic participation

Volunteers contribute to **building a European identity** attaining a mutual understanding, intercultural and inter-generational dialogue

Volunteers **represent an economic factor** as voluntary sector contributes an estimated 5% to the GDP of our national economies



Why Volunteer?

Learn or develop a new skill

Be a part of your community

Motivation and sense of achievement

Increase employability

New interests and hobbies

New experiences



Learning through volunteering

Leadership

- Communication
- Social Skills
- Team building

BUT ALSO

- Technical skills
- Management & organizational skills
- Cultural and Generational sensitivity



Volunteering in Europe

- More than **100 million Europeans** engage in voluntary activities
- **3 out of 10 Europeans** claim to be active in a voluntary activity
- **80% of respondents** feel that voluntary activities are an important part of democratic life in Europe



About CEV

- Initiated in 1989; official registration in 1992;
- 89 national and regional volunteer centres in 34 countries;
- reaching out to some 17,000 organisations at local level;
- Headquarters in Brussels;





CEV's services

KNOWLEDGE
Centre

NETWORKING
Centre

POLICY
Centre

TRAINING
Centre



Grundtvig Supported Projects

Job-shadowing programme

- **VALUE (Volunteering and Lifelong Learning in Universities in Europe)**
- **MOVE (Mutual Skills and Competencies learned through volunteering)**
- ELLA – Ehrenamtliche fuer lebenslanges Lernen im Alter
- **LACE (Lifelong Learning and Active Ageing in Europe's Ageing Society)**



Recommendations

Raise awareness that volunteering is a learning environment;

- Develop tools and instruments for personal learning development of volunteers;
- Take into account different motivations of volunteers;
- Identify and assess knowledge, skills and competences which fits all volunteers;
- Create of a database of good practices as well as a handbook on do's and don'ts existed.