



European support for adult volunteering: The role of Grundtvig and other funding programmes

Workshop 3 - CONCLUSIONS



The different Grundtvig actions are a strong support for the development and increase of the volunteering sector.

Their learning orientation and dimension is strongly appreciated.

But SVP made volunteering much more visible.

- Directly aimed at the adult learner himself
- Also impact on both organisations involved
- Impact on the local community



There is not sufficient communication and promotion of the SVP programme. Increased communication and visibility activities should be encouraged. The project character should be strengthened. Potential new beneficiaries should be attracted by inspiring good practice examples.



In order to enhance the programme the commitment of the organizations should be emphasized.

The eligibility period of 2 years of cooperation between organisations is considered to be too long, specially when the number of volunteers is between 2 and 6. It is recommended to limit the eligibility period to 1 year.



Many beneficiaries say that 3 weeks is too long of a period.
Nevertheless, it is recommended to retain this period in order to
make volunteering a real valuable experience.



It is worth considering setting enlarging the number of exchanged volunteers by at least 6 volunteers for each partner, instead of maximum 6 volunteers.



The tasks of the volunteers are too general and not sufficiently precise in the application form. The number of working hours should be specified.



A European insurance scheme for the adult volunteers should be introduced, particularly for 75 plus.



In the current programme the SVP budget is based on real travel costs and a lump sum. Lack of funding for staff visits is considered a current barrier.

It is strongly recommended to introduce a total Lump sum budget approach.



Opening the age range to the whole adult community will result in enlarging the learning dimension and its potential results. The impact of the Action will be larger, will be as strong as EVS. Priority may be given to unemployed.

Bilateral LP is a possible alternative for SVP. Multilateral LP for volunteering:

- Difficult to handle; specially the language problems



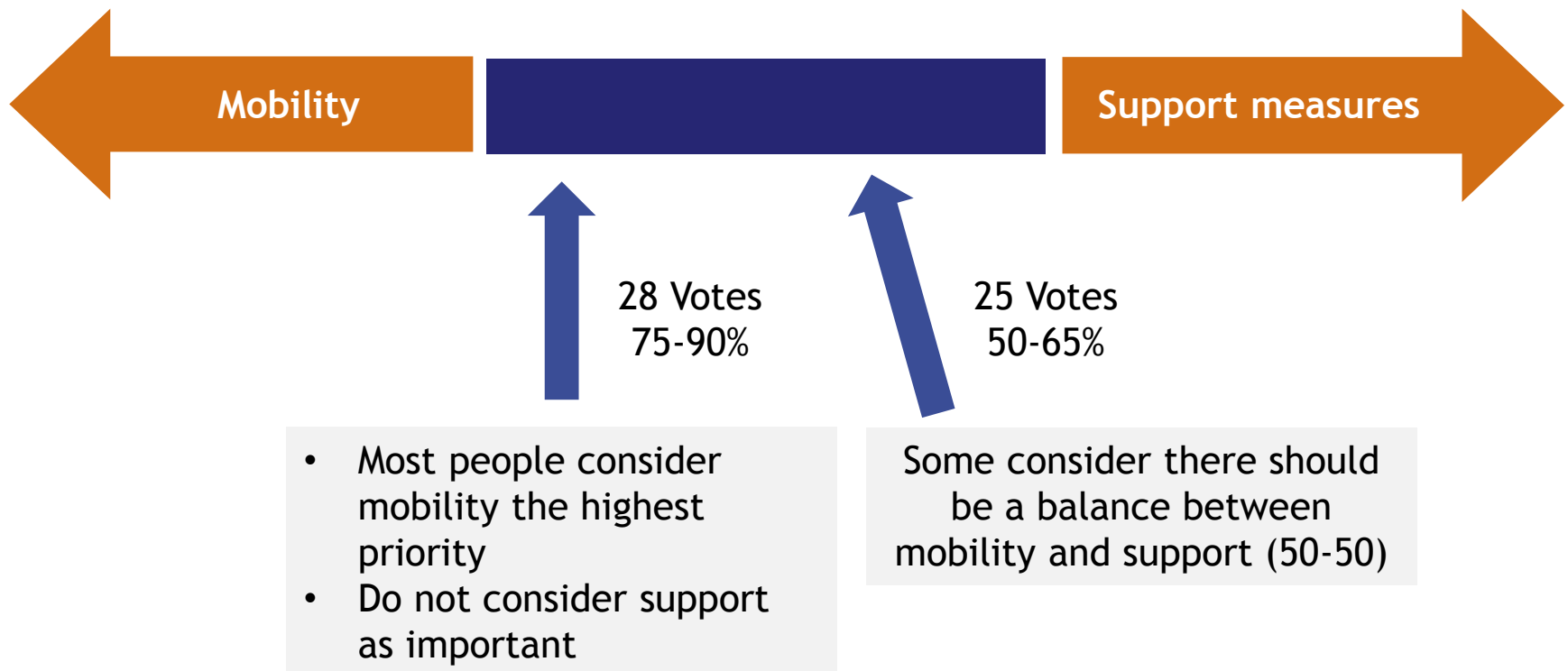
Adult Volunteers and organizing volunteering schemes are not always sufficiently aware about the learning dimension of volunteering.

A tool should be introduced to assess concrete learning outcomes of each volunteer. The Commission should make the necessary arrangements for this tool to be ready for the Call 2013. This document should be included as part of the contract between the NA and the beneficiary, similarly to other documents such as feed back questionnaires.

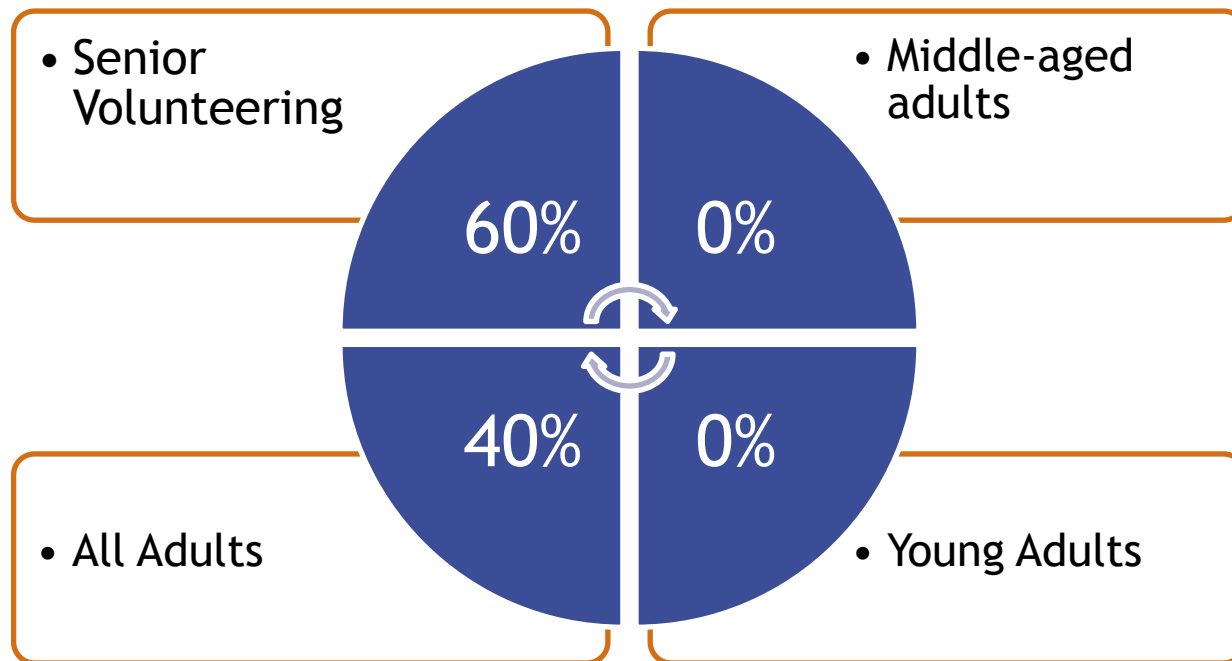


A platform with resources and cases of good practice for volunteering should be available. The learning outcomes should be recognized and made more visible.

Outcomes



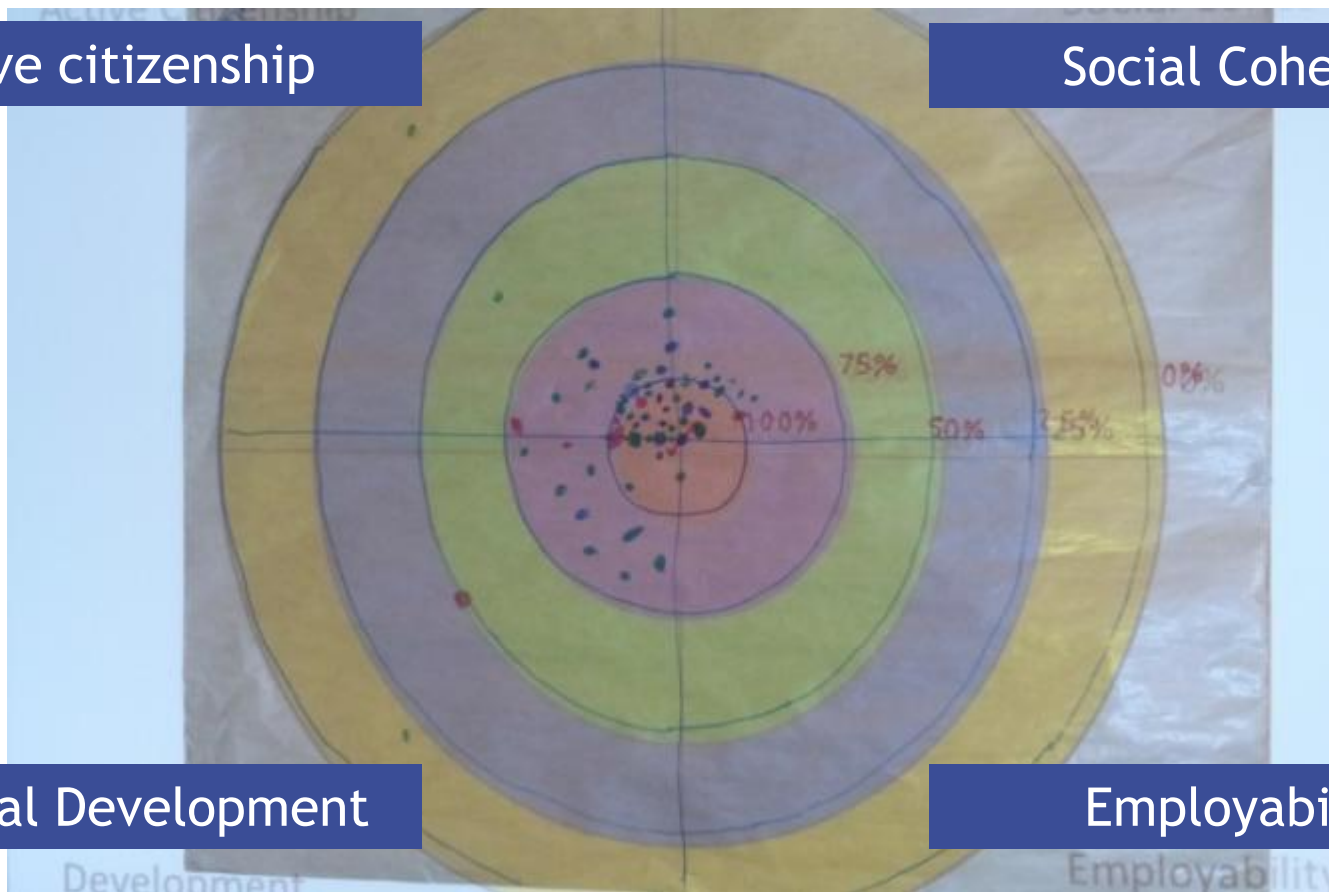
Where should the focus be?



Motivation Wheel

Active citizenship

Social Cohesion



Personal Development

Employability



“LIVE AS IF YOU WERE TO DIE
TOMORROW, LEARN AS IF YOU WERE
GOING TO LIVE FOREVER”

Mahatma Gandhi