



Museen und Sammlungen
in der Steiermark

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING CONFERENCE

European heritage in our hands Volunteering as mutual challenge and opportunity in civic society

- Voluntary work has many faces, but no clear Europe-wide definition.
- Voluntary work happens in an organised form, informal or completely on one's own initiative.
- Voluntary work is not remunerated, but still never free of costs.
- In some European states, voluntary work is already part of a functioning civic society and simultaneously an integral part of private life. In other systems of state, it is still a new, unfamiliar, but definitely a desirable artificial construct, which has to make its way into civic society.

European civic society ranges in this spectrum, following cultural traditions and specifically grown needs. The continuing current demographic, social and economic change requires consequences: not only geographical borders open. Formerly approved structures prove to be unsustainable in the future, new and seminal structures have to be developed, which pave the way for sustainable cultural development.

The **European Year of Volunteering 2011** has brought a wide circle of managers, visionaries and creative thinkers on the scene. The discussion of a **socially added value**, which has for a long time and in wide sections only been noticed and discussed from an **economic view**, offers good prospects. In spite of the ambivalence, the participation and responsibility of the voluntarily working civic society in general cultural events, in education and in the protection of cultural heritage, contributes to **building bridges**, to **master social challenges** and to **do inclusive development work**.

The focus of the event is also the goal of the thematic year, namely to raise the awareness for **voluntary work as an added value in European civic society**. At the same time, this form of cultural work has to be freed from its image as work for free which is taken for granted. As multipliers, the participants take responsibility for an open and broad approach to the topic. In particular, they convey the understanding for the mutual obligation and the manifold opportunities of voluntary work at the same time. This goal can be best achieved through a European network of good ideas and examples.



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Goals of the event:

- European knowledge-transfer in the field of volunteering
- exchange and discussion with representatives of other European countries
- encouraging the participants to apply innovative volunteer-strategies, learning of good-practice, initiating projects and cooperations for future development of volunteer-work
- development of transnationally useable as well as effective ideas and visions for European Civic Society
- extension of the present network, discussion about visualisation and opening of the network on a web-basis
- development of a web-based communication platform
- foundation of European-wide focus groups
- final written resolution about the outcomes of the conference addressed to relevant European bodies
 - results at the end of the "European Year of Volunteering for Cultural Heritage"
 - questions, which have to be answered, e.g. in European focus groups with different thematic foci, e.g. further training for voluntary workers

Target group:

- representatives of volunteer-organisations of European countries from all fields of cultural heritage – museums, preservation of monuments, folk culture, libraries etc. – especially from new EU countries
- representatives of volunteer-networks
- multipliers/employees in the field of cultural heritage
- museum advisers
- trainees
- representatives from politics and administration in relevant positions

Conference Contents:

Part 1: "Volunteering in Europe"

- 1.1 short introduction
- 1.2 status-quo and current projects
- 1.3 short statement about studies and surveys
- 1.4 references to sources, studies, statistics etc.

Part 2: "Volunteers as human resource – motivation, management and training"

- 2.1 presentation of different types of volunteer management und accompaniment
- 2.2 good practice in management and training of volunteers
- 2.3 good practice in recruiting and cooperation with civil society

Part 3: "Europe after the crisis and in structural change – new functionality and role of volunteering within civil society"

- 3.1 image and image change in public perception
- 3.2 good practice in volunteering in support of civic society
- 3.3 good practice in cooperation with the job market and volunteer organisations
- 3.4 good practice in the inclusion of cultural minorities and marginal groups in volunteer concepts
- 3.5 good practice in projects with elderly people

Part 4: "The European Year of volunteering in the field of cultural heritage – visions, objectives and follow-ups"

- 4.1 comparison of former visions and achieved goals based on examples
- 4.2 facing the challenges of demographic change
- 4.3 discussion and presentation of follow-ups
- 4.4 write a final paper/resolution for European decision makers
 - future duties, opportunities and limits of the volunteer civic society in the field of cultural heritage
 - contribution of the EU to the development of a framework to facilitate meaningful and efficient volunteer work in the field of cultural heritage

Part 5: Excursion to Southern-Styria and Slovenia

- 5.1 presentation of good-practice institutions and projects
- 5.2 discussions on location



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CALL FOR PAPERS

The organising team invites all interested people to contribute through short presentations, the presentation of good-practice examples, reports of one's experience or mini workshops. Presentations according to the "pecha-kucha" principle are very welcome too (<http://www.pecha-kucha.org/what>, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pecha_Kucha).

It is possible to use the following contents for your paper:

Part 1 – 1.3

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4 – 4.1 – 4.2 – 4.3

The following formats/working methods are welcome:

For Part 1:

- short frontal presentation or
 - pecha kucha
 - continuous presentation in the form of an interactive exhibition in the conference rooms, parallel to the programme

For Part 2 and 3:

- frontal or interactive presentations
- workshops, interactive and inclusive
- pecha kucha

For Part 4:

frontal or interactive presentations

4.4 is run in working groups for the development of visions and project ideas

Extent of a presentation:

pecha kucha: 20x20 sec – 6min40 sec

frontal presentations: max. 20 minutes

workshops: max. 30 minutes

working group 4.4: max. 90 minutes

The deadline for submitting short abstracts (500–800 characters) and proposals is **July 1st 2011.**



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Organisational matters:

- duration: three days
- Wed, 19-10-2011 until Fri, 21-10-2011
- conference language used: English
- place of event: Graz, Bildungshaus Mariatrost
- organising institution: MUSIS
- conference fee: EUR 300,-
- fee for meals and accommodation (average value) EUR 390,-
- a list with different categories of accommodation will be provided, but the accommodation has to be booked independently
- speakers and workshop leaders predominantly belong to the circle of participants

Financial support:

The conference has been included into the Grundtvig-database for personal mobility. Therefore, participants can apply for financial support concerning participation and travel costs.

For covering a great deal of the participation and travel costs, interested participants of EU-member countries may apply for a grant in their National Socrates Agency.

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=28920>

Please contact your national agency for further details and personal support:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm

Partnerships:

- cooperations with the Slovenian association of museums on the excursion day and during the organisation of the management topic
- regarding content possible cooperation with ICOM Austria for a final publication
- cooperation regarding content with the network of European museum organisations NEMO for the communication with European responsible parties
- cooperation with regional, national and international networks for the promotion and best coordination of the working programme



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Contact and Information:

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