



# NEWS Letter November 07

## EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are glad to inform you about the ratification of six new members during the AVSO General Assembly; you can read more about them and the GA in this issue. A warm welcome to all the new AVSO members! We are excited about a fruitful cooperation with you!

As well we recommended you to read carefully the new Council resolution on voluntary activities of young people, and the articles concerning the 5<sup>th</sup> December International Volunteer Day and Vinvolved, the England's new youth Volunteering Programme. This Newsletter is full of important information!!

From the Secretariat, we would like to thank to all of you who contributed to the Member's Corner and who sent us news about your activities and concerns regularly. If you haven't used this opportunity, we encourage you to send us any news items you wish us to include in our newsletter, which has an extensive audience! We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Enjoy the Newsletter!!!

The AVSO team

## AVSO-THIS MONTH.

**AVSO general Assembly was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007.**

The General Assembly reunited the AVSO members for two days. The GA was held during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007 in Brussels. A lot of new faces colleagues were present at the occasion, not only because the GA ratified six new member organisations, but also other new delegates have been appointed and it was the first time that Members of the Networks could join the meeting.

Agnes Uherezky presented the current situation of the organisation and the activities carried out during 2007. AVSO activities were largely approved by the Members. They reflected as well about the organisational development exercise that was initiated by the Secretariat and the Board with the help of our Advisory Committee Member Ariane Rodert. Ariane is responsible for the EU social policy work for Swedish platform of social NGOs. She is behind the first web-based volunteer matching service in Sweden – Volontärbyrå. She helped us to prepare different sessions that led us to the production of a new strategic Plan for AVSO for the period 2008 – 2011.

AVSO's director, Agnes Uherezky, stated what is clear from the events of last year and

the current trends that "AVSO is changing, AVSO is growing and AVSO is at the cross-road", we need to know where we are going in order to know how to get there. The organisation is acquiring maturity and this exercise was necessary in order to introduce new structures and tools to improve its governance, its communication flow, its procedures, etc. We need to improve the efficiency of the organisation to accommodate these changes and new developments.

The new members joining AVSO are: Praxis – Greece, NoBorders – The Netherlands, Arci Servizio Civile – Italy, Legambiente – Italy, Unis-Cité – France and CIU – Sweden. The new members bring a lot of new energy and enthusiasm to AVSO and also a lot of very valuable knowledge and experience that we can't wait to share and learn from during the next years.

During the second day, AVSO members worked on the priorities and activities for the next Year 2008 and the way forward in research, lobby, policies, training, etc. The GA final report and Strategic Plan will be sent to the AVSO representatives before the end of the year.

Definitively, 2007 was a successful and enriching year for the organisation and our Members. We are aiming to build on this success for 2008 and we hope to be able to welcome more new members in our next GA, next June 2008.

### **EP Interest group on volunteering**

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Marian Harkin and Gisela Kallenbach initiated an Interest Group on Volunteering aimed at other MEPs to discuss issues around volunteering. The last meeting was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November in Strasbourg and was enriched by presentations from Cecile LeClercq from DG Education and Culture on the Commission's role in fostering new initiatives on Volunteering and Agnes Uhereczky who explained the economic measurement of Volunteering and the UN Handbook - Johns Hopkins University Project. Different MEPs' offices and representatives of the civil society as well attended the meeting.

MEPs Marian Harkin and Gisela Kallenbach explained about the rationale behind this decision, they appreciated the increasing assistance to the meeting. Unfortunately, the attendance of their Interest Group is lower than expected. If we consider that around 100 million European citizens volunteer more or less regularly and this alone should convince members that MEPs cannot ignore the issue. Unfortunately, other events at the EP receive more attention from MEPs. Both of them expressed their interest in receiving a feedback from other offices regarding the support to the initiative.

AVSO has committed itself to the recruitment of more MEPs for this Interest Group. The rationale behind this reinforced lobbying work is that the European Parliament will have in any case to vote any decision proposed by the Commission regarding voluntary service and volunteerism, and if its members are not aware about the importance of the issue, it will be difficult to advance the European Agenda on Volunteering.

We have developed a series of documents to help in this advocacy work, in case that you have regular contact with MEPs we will be happy to send you supporting documents to help us in recruiting more MEPs for the Interest Group.

### **New DOCUMENTS page on AVSO's Website**

When we launched the new AVSO website in 2006 (which by now has 200 visitors daily) we decided to keep the number of pages to a minimum in order to be able to up-date all the pages regularly and make it easier to navigate. However we now added a new page, where we will put documents of general interest concerning voluntary service. We will publish there previous editions of our newsletter, our policy contributions, like the statement to the July meeting of the European Parliament Interest Group on Volunteering.

Our members are encouraged to send us any documents, reports they would like to share with the voluntary service sector and colleagues. This month has been up-loaded between others, International Documents:

- UNV working papers
- Service Enquiry
- John Hopkins University "Measuring civil society and Volunteering"

[http://www.avso.org/voluntary/voluntary\\_documents.html](http://www.avso.org/voluntary/voluntary_documents.html)

### **Expert Group Consultation on Inclusion, UN, New York, 27-28 November**

The United Nations agencies UN DESA, UNDP and UNV organised a meeting of experts to examine methods for promoting participation, engagement, including volunteerism, and inclusion in national development initiatives. The meeting brought together experts from every continent, India, Brazil, Canada, South Africa, Middle-East and Europe, represented by Agnes Uherezky of AVSO. For AVSO it was a great opportunity to take part in this consultation, since social inclusion and voluntary service are at the heart of our activities. All experts were asked to bring case studies forward to support the claims that volunteerism can contribute to social inclusion, and what better example than the Roma – Gadge Dialogue Through Service (RGDTS project carried out by EDYN) to highlight how this is put in practice. The primary objectives of the workshop were to develop further a typology of participatory development that involves greater civic engagement and social inclusion; to examine in greater depth various approaches, with particular reference to volunteerism, Governments and the UN system can adopt; and to consider how such approaches can be evaluated to determine their effectiveness and impact. A report is being drawn up from this consultation and the recommendations will hopefully involve a UN recommendation towards governments.

To read more background information on this issue, go to [http://www.avso.org/voluntary/voluntary\\_documents.html](http://www.avso.org/voluntary/voluntary_documents.html)

### **MEMBER's CORNER**

**EDYN establishes new secretariat in Budapest. Anne Marie Boile Nielsen, President EDYN Board.**

At the Annual Conference of EDYN in Sigtuna from November 9.th- 12.th 2007 it was announced that an EDYN secretariat will be established in Budapest from December 2007. The board is ready to take the last steps in appointing an Executive Director in the organisation for start in the new office by the beginning of 2008.

EDYN plans sharing office space together with the Hungarian Diaconal Year, Önkéntes Diakoniai Év, in a rented flat, owned by the Diaconal Office of Hungarian Reformed Church in the North-eastern part of Budapest, on the address of Hungarian KRT 200, 1146 Budapest. The Network was established as a legal European body September 16.th. 2004 and ever since Daan Verbaan from the Dutch church related volunteer exchange organisation "Together" has been shaping the organisation as President of the board. At this Annual Conference Daan Verbaan stepped down. In his place a present board member, Anne Marie Boile Nielsen, coordinator of the Danish Diaconal Year, was elected as new President of EDYN board for 3 years to come. Finally Helga Salzmänn from Germany was elected for the vacant place in the EDYN Board also for 3 years. Helga Salzmänn is the retired leader of the Diaconal Year Program of the protestant church in Germany.

At the Annual Conference the subjects being most discussed were questions around the membership as well as issues, dealing with the new generation of the European Voluntary Service program, "Youth in Action". The 25 participants from 15 EDYN members were on the Annual Meeting discussing developments in volunteering in the different European countries, the new YOUTH in Action program of the European Union and the common project "Roma-Gadje Dialogue through Service".

For this issue Judit Lakatos from Ukraine, Gàt, a former Roma-volunteer and Alma Walum Amundsson, a volunteer from Sweden who worked in a Roma Village in the Ukraine reported very engaged to the assembly about their experiences. The Ecumenical Diaconal Year Network is expanding its activities in the area of full time volunteering of young people, among others a great new round of the volunteer program "Roma -Gadje" has just been approved by the European Commission. In this large scale program young volunteers in pairs (one Roma and one non Roma) are helping out in preschool and school activities in the Roma communities of Eastern Europe. EDYN is also gaining increasing experiences in the area of senior volunteering in these years. It was decided, that the next Annual Conference will take place in USA from October 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**ICP Partneriaeth - Call for participants: Seminar on disability access to EVS, Cardiff 12-15 February 2008**

AVSO member, **ICP Partneriaeth**, has been asked by the UK National Agency for EVS to facilitate a seminar on disability access to EVS early in 2008. The UK National Agency is

funding the seminar through their Training and Cooperation Plan. The event will be held in Cardiff, Wales 12-15 February 2008.

ICP are approaching this seminar from the point of view of promoting Disability Equality (rather than just disability "awareness") and an understanding of the social model of disability. As such, they will be drawing on best practice, speakers and trainers from organisations in Wales who have won a well-earned international reputation for representing disabled people.

The EVS trainers will be Andy and Ann Bevan from ICP Partneriaeth, who have a wealth of experience, having hosted, sent and trained EVS volunteers since 1997. They are particularly hoping to attract participants who:

- a) Have already hosted and sent disabled EVS volunteers and who want to expand the number and quality of such possibilities through contact-making
- b) Have experience of EVS hosting and sending and now want to become active in hosting and/or sending disabled volunteers

The UK NA will provide hotel accommodation and food. Travel costs should be applied for to the participant's National Agency. For further information at this stage please contact **Andy Bevan** ([icpwales@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:icpwales@ukonline.co.uk)).

**DISCOVER the new AVSO Members- in this issue ARCI SERVIZIO CIVILE and NOBORDERS FOUNDATION.**

In 2007, AVSO started its new member's recruitment campaign by launching a **call for membership on AVSO's Newsletter AVSO'S 27-The unity makes us stronger**. The campaign settled a very ambitious objective, namely to become 27 full members by the end of 2008. As a result of such campaign and of the increasing activities we had the pleasure to ratify during our to six new members , namely: Noborders based in The Netherlands, ARCI Servizio Civile based in Italy, PRAXIS based Greece, LEGAMBIENTE based in Italy and CIU based in Sweden, Unis-Cité based in France. Moreover, we were very glad that the historical membership of EIL in AVSO has been renewed by EIL Ireland and EIL Germany.

We propose to meet our new Members in this section in the next issues; we would like to present you this month ARCI Servizio Civile and Noborders Foundation.



**ARCI SERVIZIO CIVILE**

**ARCI SERVIZIO CIVILE** <http://www.arciserviziocivile.it/>

ASC was established on February 1996 and founded by 4 Italian national organisations (ARCI, Arciragazzi, Legambiente, Uisp). Auser is the 5<sup>th</sup> national member from 2001. ASC is composed by 81 ASC at local level (usually province) and by 13 ASC at regional level. Each local ASC has a different number of local members (normally no profit organisations on different fields of social activities). At the same time ASC has effective special

agreements with municipalities, hospitals, universities to represent and to be responsible to the National Office for Civic Service for their national civic service (NCS) projects. At December 2007 local members were 924 organisations. The areas of work are: human needs, cultural programs, social and environmental activities and projects on foreign countries.



**NOBORDERS** <http://www.noborders.nl/>

NoBorders has been established in 2003. They started as a volunteers sending organisation. Then, to reduce the time investment of the youth organisations working with volunteers they created two internet tools called:

- [www.myevs.net](http://www.myevs.net): this is the blog of EVS volunteers. On this site you can find many experiences, stories and photos of EVS volunteer in the World. You can read their stories, have a look at their pictures, and add comments.
- [www.youthnetworks.eu](http://www.youthnetworks.eu): the goal of YouthNetworks is to make youth work easier and more efficient. It is an online network based on the needs of international youth organisations. With Youth Networks, the sending and hosting organisations can search for Youth projects, search for (EVS) vacancies, apply online for (EVS) projects, participate in online brainstorming and Search for partners.

These websites have grown the last years. In the year 2007 NoBorders has decided to dedicate all its time and energy to maintain and develop these websites in order to assist youth organisations working with volunteers. AVSO strongly recommend using both websites where you can improve the communication among the voluntary service field.

*The Member's Corner is a free space at AVSO Newsletter for all Members and their staff. You can post press releases: adverts for your activities, contributions, statements, reflections about the situation at your organisation or your country, etc. For contribution to the Member's corner, please contact Helena Ruiz Fabra at [helena@avso.org](mailto:helena@avso.org)*

## **NEWS FROM EUROPE**

**Highly Important: Council resolution on voluntary activities of young people!!!!  
Published on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007.**

This resolution is part of the efforts conducted by the European Commission in strengthening the support for voluntary activities by young people. This Resolution was adopted by the Council meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November in Brussels which gathered the representatives of governments of the Member States. Within the important features of the document, we can find: a request to the Member States to remove obstacles in their national framework so that volunteers are not discriminated against because of their mobility with respect to relevant social protection; agree on the reinforcement of cross-sectoral co-ordination between policy fields; ask to the Member States to identify by September 2008 those lines for voluntary activities of young people on which they intend to concentrate and define national strategies and concrete measures

for implementation. You can read the whole document at:

[http://register.consilium.europa.eu/servlet/driver?lang=EN&typ=Advanced&cmsid=639&f\\_COTE\\_DOCUMENT=14427%2F1%2F07&ff\\_COTE\\_DOSSIER\\_INST=&ff\\_TITRE=voluntary+activities+of+young+people&ff\\_FT\\_TEXT=&ff\\_SOUS\\_COTE\\_MATIERE=&dd\\_DATE\\_DOCUMENT=&dd\\_DATE\\_REUNION=&dd\\_FT\\_DATE=&fc=REGAISEN&srm=25&md=100&ssf=&rc=1&nr=1&page=Detail](http://register.consilium.europa.eu/servlet/driver?lang=EN&typ=Advanced&cmsid=639&f_COTE_DOCUMENT=14427%2F1%2F07&ff_COTE_DOSSIER_INST=&ff_TITRE=voluntary+activities+of+young+people&ff_FT_TEXT=&ff_SOUS_COTE_MATIERE=&dd_DATE_DOCUMENT=&dd_DATE_REUNION=&dd_FT_DATE=&fc=REGAISEN&srm=25&md=100&ssf=&rc=1&nr=1&page=Detail)

### Europe for Citizens Forum 2007 and Golden Stars Awards 2007 for active European Citizenship.

The 8<sup>th</sup> November took place in Brussels the Europe for Citizens Forum 2007 and Golden Stars Awards 2007 for active European Citizenship. The Conference gathered hundred of participants from civil society and local representatives. The programme reflected about "Active citizenship and intercultural dialogue: the role of Europe as a catalyst, the role of the programmes as a means" the plenary divided in two parallel workshops Europe for Citizens Programme: mobilising neighbourhoods" and "Europe for Citizens: a structured dialogue".

This year the Forum focused on Intercultural Dialogue for raising awareness about the next year 2008 dedicated at the same topic. A lot of best practices and projects presented has a strong intercultural profile and demonstrated how intercultural dialogue is part of the fundamental core of active European Citizenship.

The key speakers were an impressive selection of decision maker and representative of civil society: **Odile Quintin**, Director-General, DG Education and Culture and **Pierre Mairesse**, Director, Directorate D – Youth, Sport and Citizenship; **Xavier Troussard**, Head of Unit: Culture policy and intercultural dialogue; **Risto Raivio**, Deputy Head of Unit D4, DG EAC; **Marc Jorna**, in representation of the Active Citizenship Unit in EACEA; **Odile Chenal**, Deputy Director, European Culture Foundation; **Brenda King**, President of the SOC Section, European Economic and Social Committee and **Eike Stegen, Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste e. V.**

Eike was representing ASF and raised the issue of voluntary service as a tool for active citizenship, even when the European Level is more focused on youth policy and do not correspond to the active citizenship program. However, he presented a project of ASF implemented within the Active European Remembrance measure of the Active citizenship programme. This action aims to remember the breaches of those principles caused by Nazism and Stalinism in Europe.

In the occasion, the Golden Stars Awards were given to different examples of projects around Europe that encouraged active European citizenship.

You can have more information and consult the list of awards:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1359>

## **European Commission Launch the second European Development Days with focus on Climate Change.**

Different Stakeholders gathered in Lisbon last 7<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the impact of climate change in developing countries, as well to the link between climate change, poverty and migration. More information available at: [www.eudevdays.eu/](http://www.eudevdays.eu/)

## **EUROPE DIRECT received its 100.000<sup>th</sup> call-question!!!!**

Europe Direct is the Commission's information hotline which received its 100.000<sup>th</sup> question last November. The free phone 00800 6 7 8 9 10 11 was contacted by a Ms Sandrine Jean who needed to know, if Polish People still need a work permit in France. This is one of the typical questions that the hotline receives each day. The Staff can answer you by phone but it exists as well an email that it is able to reply your question by 3 working days. Moreover, in case that the questions required an expert, it exists a special service created for this regard. Opening hours are Mondays to Fridays from 9.00-18.30, outside this hours you can leave a message in the voicemail system. More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/europedirect/>

## **2007 European Year of Equal opportunities for all closed with an event in Lisbon, where was celebrated the achievements and the challenges still ahead.**

Thousands of activities have raised more attention to the right to live without discrimination and to promote equality. There has been a range of activities that goes from training programs; competition for schools, music festivals, studies, surveys, awards, etc. Most of the activities were funded thanks to the European Commission budget for the Year. By far, the major achievement has been the dialogue and cooperation among different stakeholders (governments and civil society and the setting up of new strategies at the National level.

Read the press release about the event:  
[http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1717&format=HTML&age\\_d=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1717&format=HTML&age_d=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

More information about the Year: <http://equality2007.europa.eu>

## **Social Platform- Annual Conference "Social NGOs getting ready for the post-Lisbon: From "Growth and Jobs" to "Sustainable and Social".**

The Social platform organized its Annual Conference last 26<sup>th</sup> November in Brussels. Different representatives of social NGOs, experts and decision makers discussed the social and demographic challenges that the EU will have to face in the near future, especially after 2010. The conference is aiming to compensate the lack of social cohesion in the EU strategies, which is dominated by the Lisbon Strategy. Next December, the Lisbon strategy will be relaunched, and social NGOs are looking forward to see the social reality to be introduced in the way ahead. As European Commission Secretary General, Catherine Day said at the Conference: "Europe should play a more prominent role in social affairs because of globalisation; but we believe that Europe needs to stay open, even if that

openness can cause painful adjustments". She added that "we need to put a major emphasis in investment on youth, gender equality and non discrimination" and stated that "an active solidarity is needed".

The social Platform has conducted a reflection and debate during the last year concerning the revision of the Lisbon Strategy and the post 2010. They will present a final document at the end of December 2007. However, if you are interested in read the preparatory document you can visit: [http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Demographic\\_change/2007%2011%20Social%20Platform%20Orientation%20paper%20on%20demographic%20and%20social%20changes.pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Demographic_change/2007%2011%20Social%20Platform%20Orientation%20paper%20on%20demographic%20and%20social%20changes.pdf)

### **78 Million EU citizens live in Poverty.**

MEPS debated last 16<sup>th</sup> November in ways to fight poverty and ensure that less people is socially excluded. One of the key messages was that the importance in the care facilities for young and old were underlined. Liberal Liz Lynne who produced a report on social reality stocktaking said that in some EU members the gap between rich and poor is increasing. More information: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story\\_page/008-11891-295-10-43-901-20071019STO11875-2007-22-10-2007/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-11891-295-10-43-901-20071019STO11875-2007-22-10-2007/default_en.htm)

### **AGORA the Civil Society takes over the European Parliament.**

A revolutionary concept between the direct and representative democracy appears these days at the EP. More than 400 representatives from across Europe gathered at the European Parliament in order to discuss about the future course of the European Union. The Agora was set up last year after the no votes of the Netherlands and France. The opportunities and challenges of the new Reform Treaty formed the basis of the two plenary debates and workshops held. One of the conclusion pointed the need to make Europe seems more human. More information: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/parliament/public/staticDisplay.do?id=66&language=EN>

### **MISCELLANEOUS BRIEFING**

#### **Second edition of service Enquiry!! Civic service and volunteering in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The second edition of *Service Enquiry*, published in September 2007, focuses on service policies and programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. For the time being the book is only available in Spanish, version in English will come early 2008. Through the different chapter and thanks to the contribution of more than 20 authors, the book draw a range of perspectives on the role of volunteering and service in building democratic societies in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Among the issues: volunteering as a force for social justice, redistribution and democracy; The emergence of a 'new' form of volunteering that supports social, political and economic transformation in Latin American society; The role

of policy and legislation in the promotion of volunteering and service; Implementing volunteering and service programs through partnerships; How voluntary service can foster youth development and youth participation in society. More Information and editions available at <http://www.service-enquiry.org.za/index.asp>

### **5 December - International Volunteer Day**

The United Nations Volunteers launched a website in order to offer opportunities for individuals and organisations to share their videos, photo's, events, materials, ideas and suggestion about the Day. IVD is an opportunity to recognise the contribution of volunteers worldwide.

Ban-Ki Moon UN Secretary-General, send a message concerning IVD, last 29<sup>th</sup> November. He argued that the challenges facing our world are vast and complex. "Volunteers play an indispensable role in these efforts. Yet, the remarkable contribution of voluntary action around the world is not sufficiently recognized". IVD is in opinion of UN secretary General, the necessary tool for recognize this efforts. Ban-Ki Moon underlined that "Volunteerism is a feature of all cultures and societies. It is a fundamental source of community strength, resilience, solidarity and social cohesion. It can help effect positive social change by fostering inclusive societies that respect diversity, equality and the participation of all. Such contributions are vital to the three pillars of the United Nations' work – promoting peace and security, advancing development, and protecting human rights and human dignity".

Ad de Raad, executive coordinator UNV, stated the support to IVD in the same occasion. In his opinion, IVD days has been "characterised by increasing diversity and creativity". They have ranged for different rallies, parades, projects, adoption of national legislation, etc. Ad the Raad argued that from IYV 2001 "there has been growing recognition of the power of volunteerism to build social capital and cohesion and contribute to human development. Many countries have established and refined policies and legal frameworks to encourage volunteerism and to harness the contribution of volunteers towards specific development objectives. This is a welcome trend, which facilitates participation by, encouraging and inspiring people to volunteer for development, particularly in their own communities. It is also helping to build capacity in people and in institutions that support development, in civil society, in the public and private sectors and in the UN system". He thanked "millions of women and men, including the thousands of UNV volunteers, who continue to volunteer their skills and talents on a daily basis."

More Information about IVD: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/int-l-volunteer-day.html>

Full text of Ban-Ki Moon and Ad de Raad speeches:

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/int-l-volunteer-day/ivd-2007-news/page/1.html>

### **ENLARGE YOUR VISION – Competition for European young journalist.**

The Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement in cooperation with the European Youth Press association launched today a pan-European competition for young journalists

from all over Europe. The objective of the competition is to encourage young journalists to reflect and express their views on the European Union's enlargement policy. If you are aged between 17-27 and you are from one of the EU Members States or the candidates or potential candidates to become Member (Balkans and Turkey) you can participate till the next 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The winners will travel through the Balkans. You can find more information in the website:

<http://www.eujournalist-award.eu/>

**UNESCO launches a tool to put social science research at the service of public policy making.**

UNESCO is launching a new tool to support policy-making based on research results from international social and human sciences. Designed and managed by the MOST programs (Management of Social Transformation Programme) will host firstly a collection of documents produced by UNESCO Forum for Higher Education, Research and Knowledge and will be gradually enriched by research from other centres and specially through the network of the UNESCO Chairs in social and human sciences.

**ENGAGE TOOLKIT.**

Last June a group of companies launched the ENGAGE toolkit, a guide to internalise employee engagement for companies and NGOs. The Toolkit display a discussion on the business case for Employee Community Engagement demonstrating the benefits of working with community partners and advice in how to internationalise employee community engagement. It's included a checklist when designing the programme and numerous case studies of successful examples.

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/#story1>

**Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary- General published an article in which he reflects about the relationship of volunteers and volunteering to social activism, in the occasion of the International Forum on Volunteer Cooperation (IVCO) 2007.**

The importance of the issue in Naidoo words are "it is critical for our collective work to strengthen citizen participation that we understand, more precisely, how volunteers currently contribute to social activism and the potential to realise even greater volunteer contributions to social change". Moreover, CIVICUS hopes to foster a broad-based dialogue throughout civil society on the similarities and synergies between volunteering and activism. CIVICUS together with UNV and IAVE are currently planning a publication exploring these issues of volunteer management and outreach to volunteer focused and volunteer involving organizations. For read the article click:

<http://www.civicus.org/new/content/deskofthesecretarygeneral83.htm>

**Vinvolved: England's new national youth volunteering programme was officially presented in London last 19<sup>th</sup> November.**

From April 2008, million young people between 16 and 26 will be able to act as volunteers

and change their communities through Vinvolved. It will include:

\* Youth Action Teams - a network of youth ambassadors to champion volunteering at a local level and inspire their peers to volunteer.

\* Vinvolved teams - a network of youth experts on the ground who will encourage more community organisations to open their doors to young volunteers.

\*Vinvolved projects - a diverse range of innovative projects that tap into young people's passions, cares and concerns.

\* Vpassport - a personal online tool for young people to record their volunteering experiences and skills gained.

\* National and local annual awards celebrations to recognise young volunteers' achievements, starting in 2009

You can read all the statements in this occasion by Ed Miliband, the Cabinet Minister responsible for volunteering; Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector and Gordon Brown, Prime Minister in the website:  
[http://www.wearev.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=152&Itemid=1](http://www.wearev.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=152&Itemid=1)

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND TENDERS**

**Open call for tenders - Reference No EACEA/2007/17.** Study on indicators on ICT in education. Deadline: **7<sup>th</sup> January 2008**. The Agency wishes to conclude a service contract for a study regarding indicators on ICT in education. More Information:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/procurement\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/procurement_en.htm)

**Citizenship - Connecting people throughout Europe.** The deadlines for submission of applications under the new program "Europe for Citizens" for funding request from 2008 on are scheduled as follows:

- Civil society projects. Deadline for submission **15<sup>th</sup> February 2008**. For activities taken place between the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

- Action 4- Active European Remembrance projects, deadline for submission the **30<sup>th</sup> April 2008** for projects between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

More Information: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/funding\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/funding_en.htm)

### **European Youth Foundation.**

**Category B.** In this category the European Youth Foundation (EYF) may support, for example: specialised publications (such as training manuals); newsletters or magazines produced by international youth organisations or networks; information campaigns; exhibitions and the production of audio-visual materials etc; the development of web sites or the production of CD-Roms; the production of posters, badges and stickers; research projects on youth-related issues. In the same category, the EYF can also grant study visits enabling youth organisations and networks to make new contacts in Europe and thus extend partnerships and develop co-operation. Priority will be given to projects using new

information technologies and those with an innovative nature. The next deadline for applications is: **1<sup>st</sup> April 2008** for activities taking place between 1 January and 30 June 2009.

**Category C and C bis** 2008 administrative grant applications. (Notice that only youth NGOs having received an EYF grant for 2008 are eligible to apply for an administrative grant) Deadline is **1<sup>st</sup> February 2008**.

**Category A.** It is an international youth meeting, which can take the form of a seminar, conference, workshop, camp, festival, etc. The next deadline for applications is **1st April 2008** for activities taking place between the 1st January and the 30th June 2009.

<http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/>

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