

While Europe is a prospering continent and while the Europe 2020 Strategy aims to turn the EU into an “inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion”, poverty and social exclusion remain an undeniable reality in most European countries: 80 million Europeans live below the poverty line, and many face serious obstacles in accessing employment, education, housing, social and financial services *; 73% of Europeans feel that poverty in their country is widespread *; and 15% of Europeans feel excluded of society *. The reality of poverty and social exclusion as well as their impact on individuals are multifaceted and go far beyond a lack of financial resources: The inability to secure adequate education and training; an impact on physical and mental health; a reduced ability to get access to community networks and activities; the loss of social contacts; the exclusion from decision-making processes; a loss of self-confidence and a feeling of powerlessness and distress are some of the effects we need to fight against in order to allow all members of our societies a dignified lives.

What is the role volunteering plays in the fight against poverty and social exclusion? Is volunteering inclusive itself and is its empowering potential used to the full? What recommendations can we formulate for more and better voluntary action in combating poverty and social exclusion, as well as for a better recognition of the role of volunteers in this area?

This second CEV Symposium 2010 will be organised in Brussels in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the EU, and will bring together over 200 professionals from the volunteering sector as well as decision-makers, experts in the field of the fight against poverty and social exclusion, volunteers and people experiencing poverty, to showcase the empowering potential of volunteering in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. We will present good practice examples from all over Europe and debate a common conference statement, our ‘Brussels Declaration’, to develop and agree on steps we can take to better harness the voluntary sector in the common effort towards the eradication of poverty and social exclusion in our societies. The event will be CEV’s contribution to ensuring a legacy for the European Year of the fight against poverty and social exclusion 2010 – and to the kick-off for the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

CEV, the European Volunteer Centre, is the European network of over 80 national, regional and local volunteer centres and volunteer development agencies in 32 countries reaching out to over 17,000 associations at the local level. As a voice for volunteering in Europe, CEV receives an operating grant of the European Commission under its Europe for Citizens programme. This Symposium is co-organised with CEV’s four Belgian member organizations Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk, Het Punt Brussel, Plate-forme francophone du volontariat and Association pour le volontariat.

* Special Eurobarometer 321 / Wave 72.1, 2010. ‘Poverty and Social Exclusion’, February 2010.

CEV Symposium

“VOLUNTEERING AS A MEANS OF EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION – A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN YEARS 2010 AND 2011”

6th – 8th December 2010

Maison des Associations Internationales
Brussels | Belgium



2010
European Year
for Combating
Poverty and
Social Exclusion



This event is co-funded by the European Commission
In the framework of the “Europe for Citizens Programme”



Day 1 | Monday 6th December 2010

- 08.30 – 08.45 Registration of CEV members
(Permanent Representation of the European Commission to Belgium)
- 09.00 – 12.00 CEV General Assembly
- 12.00 – 13.00 *Lunch break*
- 13.00 – 14.00 Registration
(Maison des Associations Internationales – MAI)

14.00 – 14.30 Opening ceremony of the conference

- **Eva Hambach**, CEV President
- **Kris Peeters**, Minister President of Flanders Region
- **John Macdonald**, Leader of the European Commission Taskforce on the EYV 2011

14.30 – 16.00 Opening panel – Volunteering as a means to combat poverty and social exclusion

Keynote speech: **Carmen Mathijssen**, Programme Coordinator at Cera, Belgium

- **Fintan Farrell**, Director of European Anti-Poverty Network
- **Karima Delli**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Tom Flood**, CEO of BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), UK
- **Magda De Meyer**, Coordinator of the Poverty cell of the Secretary of State for Social Integration and Combating Poverty, Belgian EU Presidency

Chair: Markus Held, CEV Director

16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 17.45 Dialogue Café: exploring different dimensions of the role of volunteering in the fight against poverty and social exclusion

17.45 – 18.15 Presentation of the draft common conference statement 'the Brussels Declaration' on the role of volunteering in the fight against poverty and social exclusion

- **Eva Hambach**, CEV President
- **Silvia Costa**, Member of the European Parliament

20.30 Reception and Walking Dinner at ATOMIUM



Day 2 | Tuesday 7th December 2010

09.00 – 09.15 Screening of "Endless Counting", video clip of the European Year 2010

09.15 – 10.45 A spotlight on good practices

5 workshops presenting successful projects and best practices in the field of volunteering and the fight against poverty and social exclusion

Laura Tennina & Gianvito Pappalepore, CSV L'Aquila (Italy)

Volunteering for the social reconstruction of the local community in L'Aquila (Italy) after the 2009 earthquake

Anne-Sophie Van der Bracht, Jongerenwerking Foyer (Belgium)

"BIS Award project": involving socially excluded young people in volunteering

Anja Ehlers, University of Oldenburg, & **Wolfgang Nötzold**, ZWAR central office

Social inclusion of elderly through volunteering

Angel Sola & Yolanda Rueda, Fundación Cibervoluntarios (Spain)

Cybervolunteering: Citizens' empowerment through ICTs (information and communication technologies)

Jan Röben, CESES

The role of Senior Volunteer Associations in the worldwide fight against poverty

10.45 – 11.15 *Coffee break*

11.15 – 12.45 A spotlight on good practices

5 workshops presenting successful projects and best practices in the field of volunteering and the fight against poverty and social exclusion

Nick Ockenden, Institute for Volunteering Research (UK)

Lifelong Learning as a means of empowerment and social inclusion – the VALUE project as an example

Violeta Vajda, Voluntary Service Overseas (UK) & **Margaret Mliwa**, Kenya Ministry of Youth and Sports (Kenya)

The role of international partnerships in volunteering for development; examples from Kenya, China and the Balkans

Eugen Baldas, Deutscher Caritasverband (Germany)

Volunteering for better communities, building platforms for citizens – a project model from Caritas Germany

Alžbeta Mračková, C.A.R.D.O. (Slovakia)

"One to one volunteering" for seniors and disabled people in "socially-excluded" environments

Karolien Schepens, Belgian Anti Poverty Network (Belgium)

How we fight against poverty (out of our own poverty-experience) - volunteering as a tool for empowerment

12.45 – 13.45 *Lunch break*

13.45 – 14.00 Introduction to the working groups on the common conference statement

14.00 – 16.00 Working Groups on the common conference statement: the 'Brussels Declaration'

In parallel sessions, participants discuss the different themes of the draft Brussels Declaration and formulate recommendations for each theme

16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 17.30 Presentation of conclusions and recommendations from the working groups and open debate / editing of the 'Brussels Declaration'

17.30 – 18.30 Closing session: Presentation and vote on the final 'Brussels Declaration';

Response: France Lebon, Vice Director General for Youth and Lifelong Learning of the Belgian French Community

Day 3 | Wednesday 8th December 2010

10.00 – 12.30 Visit to the EYV 2011 Tour Tent in Brussels