

Towards a European Year of Volunteering 2011

**Volunteering Interest Group
European Parliament,
13 February**

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CEV**

Towards a European Year of Volunteering 2011

- 1) **The alliance**
- 2) **The figures**
- 3) **The scope**
- 4) **The rationale**
- 5) **The momentum**
- 6) **The next steps**

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1) **The alliance**

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EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CENTRE



solidar



**JOHANNITER
INTERNATIONAL**



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2) The figures



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- **More than 100 Million Europeans volunteer**
- **3 out of 10 are active**
- **80% feel that volunteering is crucial in democratic life**
- **5% contribution to GDP of voluntary sector (equal to construction and finance industry)**
- **Volunteers mirror diversity of European societies: All nationalities, all backgrounds, all ages involved**

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3) The scope



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Volunteers...the agents of European values

- **Social cohesion, solidarity and social service delivery**
- **Active European citizenship**
- **Mutual understanding, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue**
- **Participation and involvement of young people**
- **Active ageing**
- **Life long learning opportunities**



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Volunteers...the agents of European values

- **Sports**



- **Integration of migrants**



- **Civil protection**

- **Humanitarian Aid and Development**

- **Environmental protection**



- **Regional development**

- **Corporate Social Responsibility**

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**...theirs are the hands that translate
these values and policies into action,
day after day.**

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4) **The rationale**

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7 out of 10 not involved facing barriers

Volunteering freely given, but not cost free: needs promotion, facilitation, support and networking between stakeholders



No comprehensive approach at EU level despite the scope of volunteering



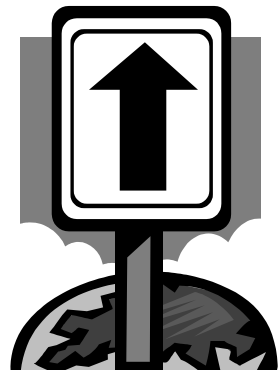
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- **Raise awareness and gain recognition of the value and impact of volunteering – especially in terms of building a European identity**

- **Celebrate volunteers and volunteer organisations**

- **Raise awareness among European on possibilities to volunteer and motivate them to get involved**

- **Work towards reduction of barriers and discrimination – including to ensure a right for all to participate to society through voluntary action**

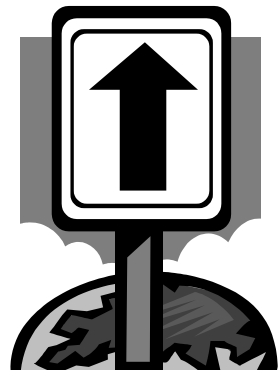


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- **Demonstrate and raise awareness of the need to have a volunteering infrastructure at all levels**

- **Work towards a European policy agenda**

- **Encourage Member States to exchange practice concerning volunteering policies and define common elements of an enabling environment for volunteering to flourish**



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5) **The momentum**

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- **CEV Manifesto for Volunteering in Europe March 2006**
- **European Economic and Social Committee Dec. 2006**
- **European Youth Ministers Nov. 2007**
- **European Committee of the Regions opinion on draft EP report (draft) November 2007**
- **European Parliament report on volunteering and regional policies (draft) January 2008**

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- International Year of the Volunteer 2001 and IVY + 10 in 2011

- Year of the Volunteer in the UK 2005



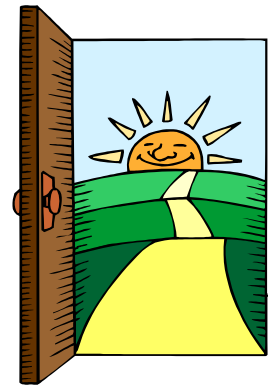
- 2006 Year of Volunteering in the Valencian Region



- European Year of Volunteering 2011

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6) The next steps



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- Letters of support from MEPs for call and position paper
 - Common declaration / resolution of interest group / EP?
 - Work towards national governments to champion the idea – special focus on current Presidencies (SI/FR) and Presidencies 2011 (HU/PL)
- ... And support the partners with their efforts to win support at the European Commission

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**Because volunteering makes
Europe strong...**