



EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CENTRE

**2010 BUILDING A  
EUROPE FOR ALL**  
[www.endpoverty.eu](http://www.endpoverty.eu)



## CEV puts forward its messages for 2010

### **Recognise volunteering as a way of empowerment of the vulnerable groups**

The direct active engagement of individuals through voluntary activities should be recognised and promoted as a significant contribution to the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Socially excluded groups are not only recipients of voluntary actions, but also active participants in volunteering. There shall be particular efforts to further develop this potential and empower vulnerable groups to actively engage in their communities.

### **Create an enabling environment for volunteering**

In Europe, more than 100 million Europeans engage in voluntary activities. While 80% feel that voluntary activities are an important part of democratic life, 7 out of 10 Europeans do not volunteer. Stakeholders should feed into the efforts of creating an enabling environment for volunteering in order to make it accessible for all: The EU should develop a White Paper on Volunteering for a comprehensive policy agenda

to promote, recognize and facilitate voluntary engagement of all citizens all over Europe.

### **Identify barriers to active engagement of the most vulnerable groups**

Identify barriers to active involvement of citizens in volunteering, especially of marginalized and vulnerable groups: Research shows that the unemployed, people coming from minority ethnic groups and unskilled workers are underrepresented in the 'volunteering force' of Europe – while they could benefit hugely by their engagement.

### **Ensure synergies between EY 2010 and 2011 and possible 2012**

Ensure synergies and coordination between the Year 2010, the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship 2011 and possible European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012: Develop a policy agenda to promote volunteering in the field of the promotion of social inclusion and active ageing.

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**CEV**

*European Volunteer Center*  
Centre Européen du Volontariat

“ *the voice of volunteering in europe* ”

# The EY 2010 Coalition of Social NGOs call for

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## An awareness-raising campaign on the structural causes of poverty and social exclusion

Launch a high-profile awareness-raising campaign on the structural causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion as well as the causes and social impact of the current crisis. This campaign should highlight the growing gap between rich and poor and the role of the State in regulating the creation of wealth and redistributing its benefits towards the universal realisation of economic and social rights.

## Enhanced dialogue with people in poverty and anti poverty NGOs

People in poverty, and the organisations that support them, are essential parts of finding long-term solutions to poverty. EU and National Guidelines must be developed and implemented to foster their participation and active involvement in governance. Financial investment at all levels, local, national and European is needed to support the implementation of the guidelines and to ensure the resourced and active participation of anti poverty NGOs as equal partners in decision-making processes at all levels.

## A strong political legacy from 2010

**A new overarching social and sustainable EU strategy, based on fundamental rights**, which puts people and planet first and makes progress on eradicating poverty and inequality a pre-requisite in the development of all EU policies.

**A special European Council on Poverty and Social Exclusion**, with a declaration by Heads of States and Governments which asserts the fight against poverty and social exclusion as a key priority for the EU agenda. This declaration should lead to a revitalised EU Social Inclusion Strategy (as part of the Social Open Method of Coordination) which engages all stakeholders and ensures progress on agreed national and EU poverty targets. The declaration should commit to tangible steps forward on guaranteeing access for all to decent work and affordable, quality universal services – a decent home, affordable heating, education, health and long-term care, adequate minimum income, training and employment services....

**Real progress on the adequacy of Minimum Income Schemes**, so as to be capable of lifting every child, adult and older person out of poverty and delivering on their right to a dignified life. The agreement of a common EU definition of adequacy and of common methods to establish adequacy as well as regular updating in line with the cost of living, should inform an EU Framework Directive on Minimum Income which would mark a historic breakthrough in EU cooperation to achieve higher level social standards.

**A commitment to ending street homelessness**, building on the European Parliament's written declaration and the development of a European framework definition of homelessness to enable the gathering of comparable and reliable data and to provide annual updates on action taken and progress made in EU Member States towards ending homelessness.

## Funding to underpin EU Commitments to fight poverty and social exclusion

**An EU poverty programme:** a new programme should build on the social inclusion section of the existing EU programme (PROGRESS) and provide additional support for activities within Member States to enable national level stakeholders to engage with the EU strategies and to support exchange of knowledge and learning through national and local level 'demonstration projects' in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. This programme should allocate sufficient funds to support the participation of people experiencing poverty in policy making and for the capacity building of their organisations. New commitments to ensure that **EU Structural Funds deliver on the fight against poverty and social exclusion.**