



EUROPE FOR
CITIZENS

The project « Enhancing Volunteering actions and quality in Europe - EVOLAQ » has been funded by the European Union within the program <<Europe for citizens>>

9 events held in the EVOLAQ project from March 2016 to December 2017

EVOLAQ project involved 7 European countries (Sweden, Italy, Croatia, Germany, Austria, Latvia, Finland) with 9 organisations, both local public authorities (Norrköping, Skovde, Collecchio, Cervia, Dubrovnik and Daugavpils Municipalities, Landrat Enzkreis) and two associations (VSG and Liiveri), with around 500 direct participants in the project events, nearly 2000 stakeholders involved and 1000000 European citizens informed about the project activities through communication media.

Event 1

Participation: It allowed to get together 27 citizens: 2 from the city of Norrköping (**Sweden**), 1 from the city of Skovde (**Sweden**), 1 from the city of Dubrovnik (**Croatia**), 2 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 1 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 2 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 1 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 1 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 17 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Linz (VSG headquarter) from 1st to 3rd March 2016.**

Description : Coordination and preparation of project activities meeting

Representatives of the organisations involved in EVOLAQ discussed about the implementation of the project activities, about financial aspects and the coordination among the partners and between the project coordinator and the partnership, about the communication and dissemination strategy. An important aspect for the management of the project has been the decision to create a web site (www.evolaqproject.eu) in which it was possible to upload all the materials produced during the project phases.

Event 2

Participation: It allowed to get together 70 citizens: 41 from the city of Norrköping (**Sweden**), 3 from the city of Skovde (**Sweden**), 4 from the city of Dubrovnik (**Croatia**), 4 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 4 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 4 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 8 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 3 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 4 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Norrköping (Sweden) from 30th May to 2nd June 2016**

Description :Opening conference on the state of arts in the volunteering sector

The partners dedicated 4 working days to the presentation of the state of art in the volunteering sector in the European countries involved in EVOLAQ including legislation and regulation, good practices and experiences and how the volunteering sector works in the partnering countries.

European participants had the opportunity to follow presentations and lectures about participation in the civil society in the Swedish context. Particular attention was paid to the work in transnational groups on four topics related to volunteering:

- Relation local authorities-volunteering
- Recognition and image of volunteering
- How to increase participation and inclusion from young and elderly persons, migrants and persons with disabilities;
- Sectors of improvement of volunteering

One added value for this event was the participation of political representatives from all partnering countries with the aim to increase their knowledge about European projects and to exchange experiences on the role of public authorities in the volunteering sector.

The event was joined by representatives of all project target groups: representatives of volunteering associations and NGOs and members of local authorities both with civil servants and politicians.

Event 3

Participation: It allowed to get together 68 citizens: 4 from the city of Norrköping (**Sweden**), 3 from the city of Skovde (**Sweden**), 3 from the city of Dubrovnik (**Croatia**), 5 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 3 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 3 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 41 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 3 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 3 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Pforzheim- Enzkreis (Germany)** from **24/10/2016 to 27/10/2016**

Description: Transnational Thematic Seminary on volunteering for and with elderly and disabled people

Representatives of the partners discussed the theme of volunteering for and with elderly and disabled people through different methodologies: presentations in plenary session, workshops and work groups and study visits.

The introduction session was dedicated to the active civil society with the interaction between volunteering and participation. Particular attention was paid to the motivation of volunteers and in particular how motivation can be evoked, fostered and given steadiness.

Transnational workshops and discussion were dedicated to:

- Activities for and with seniors and the whole community
- Volunteering and refugees/migrants
- Networking in the volunteering
- Activities for and with disabled people
- Long term activities and how they can survive
- Offers, activities and agencies for and by elderly people

The project event was joined by all partners with the participation of representatives of elderly and disabled volunteering associations.

Event 4

Participation: It allowed to get together 61 citizens: 4 from the city of Norrköping (**Sweden**), 3 from the city of Skövde (**Sweden**), 30 from the city of Dubrovnik (**Croatia**), 4 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 3 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 3 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 7 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 3 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 4 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Dubrovnik (Croatia)** from **21/11/2016 to 24/11/2016**

Description : Transnational Thematic Seminar on young people and volunteering

Participants were invited to take part in meetings with different methodologies: plenary sessions with partners' presentations, work groups activities, study visits and role plays about the motivation and recruitment procedures of young people.

Particular attention was paid to the discussion on how to find new strategies to get more young people involved in the volunteering sector and how to keep them motivated. Work groups were dedicated to supporting sustainability of youth volunteering organizations, namely:

1. Training volunteers – push / pull balance
2. Managing volunteers: structure VS passion and how to find best balance
3. Volunteer management and coordination in changing society – are we fast and flexible enough?

Event 5

Participation: It allowed to get together 44 citizens : 2 from the city of Norrköping (**Sweden**), 2 from the city of Skövde (**Sweden**), 2 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 1 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 33 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 2 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 1 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 1 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Daugavpils (Latvia) from 14/3/2017 to 16/3/2013**

Description: local valorization meeting

The event was aimed to let the representatives of the project's stakeholders know the good practices presented by the host municipality directly " on the field . "

Considering the special cultural background of the Daugavpils City, the meeting was focused on volunteering activities in a multicultural environment of a multinational society. A good amount of time was dedicated to the discussion in small groups with local participants about - volunteering activities in multicultural society, - Daugavpils City experience in involving volunteers in social activities, and the role of Volunteering movement in Implementing of Cultural Activities.

Event 6

Participation: it allowed to get together 46 citizens : 1 from the city of Norrkoping (**Sweden**), 2 from the city of Skovde (**Sweden**), 2 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 1 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 1 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 3 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 35 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 1 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Ilmajoki/Seinajoki (Finland) from 11/4/2017 to 13/4/2017**

Description: local valorization meeting

The event was aimed to let the representatives of the project's stakeholders know the good practices presented by the host municipality directly " on the field". The meeting was mainly focused on two themes: the volunteering actions and networking in the rural area of Liiveri association and the involvement and engagement of young people in voluntary actions. These two topics were approached thanks to discussion with local volunteers with different methodologies such as presentations, visits, transnational group discussions.

Event 7

Participation: it allowed to get together 80 citizens : 3 from the city of Norrkoping (**Sweden**), 4 from the city of Skovde (**Sweden**), 63 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 2 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 2 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 4 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 2 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 2 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Collecchio (Italy) from 11/5/2017 to 14/5/2017**

Description: Volunteering Festival

The event was aimed to networking international participants who are active in the volunteering sector with local volunteers in Collecchio through meetings, exhibitions and special events.

The first moment of discussion was about the project keywords with the comparison of different experiences:

- Motivation to be a volunteer and to continue being a volunteer
- Training of volunteers
- Valorisation of the volunteers
- Coordination and communication with volunteers

The Festival entered in its key moment with the presentation and networking with 13 most active associations in the Collecchio/Parma area with opportunity to exchange experiences, thoughts, projects, similar and different approaches.

After the first meeting held in Norrköping, political representatives of the partnering countries participated in the meeting with the opportunity to have dedicated sessions on the role of local authorities in the volunteering sector and how to have a balanced supervision and coordination without damaging the associations' independence.

Event 8

Participation: it allowed to get together 45 citizens: 6 from the city of Norrköping (**Sweden**), 30 from the city of Skövde (**Sweden**), 1 from the city of Dubrovnik (**Croatia**), 3 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 1 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 1 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 1 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 1 from Liiveri (**Finland**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Skövde (Sweden) from 19/09/2017 to 21/09/2017**

Description: local valorization meeting

The event was aimed to let the representatives of the project's stakeholders know the good practices presented by the host municipality directly "on the field". The focus of the meeting was on the cooperation between civil society and municipal services in particular with the presentation of services created for the volunteering sector by the Municipality of Skövde such as the "Volunteering Square". Shall this be mentioned special? Wasn't the main theme

Participants took part in two transnational work groups on:

- Migrants as volunteers: how to attract migrants and motivated them to be volunteers
- Cooperation and balance between the passion of volunteers and the needed structure of professional working in the public authorities.

Event 9

Participation: it allowed to get together 46 citizens : 2 from the city of Norrköping (**Sweden**), 1 from the city of Dubrovnik (**Croatia**), 4 from the city of Collecchio (**Italy**), 30 from the city of Cervia (**Italy**), 2 from the city of Daugavpils (**Latvia**), 2 from Enzkreis (**Germany**), 2 from Liiveri (**Finland**) and 3 from VSG (**Austria**).

Place/Date: the event took place in **Cervia (Italy) from 11/12/2017 to 13/12/2017**

Description :Final meeting and follow up

- Participants took part in a plenary session in which were presented the results of the projects with the perspective of the impacts of the Evolaq project at local level. Participants were called to discuss in small transnational groups to define on the basis of all information acquired during the project's events, the results of the local stakeholders meetings and the presentations held by partners, about:
 - The best practices which best present the project and to be inserted in the final publication
 - The guidelines of the volunteering in Europe
 - Possible follow-up of the project. On this point, different proposals came out to be presented under the programme Erasmus+ or Europe for citizens.