



EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CENTRE

CEV News

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CEV Activities

CEV General Assembly in Luxembourg attended by more than 150 participants



The second 2008 CEV General Assembly (GA) took place in Luxembourg from 6 to 8 November 2008 and focused on "Volunteering and Intercultural Dialogue". During the opening panel, the invited speakers, among whom were Suzzane Monkasa, president of the Council of African Communities in Europe and in Belgium, and Jacques Küntziger, Counsellor on volunteering within the Ministry of Family and Integration in Luxembourg explored and defined the meaning of Intercultural dialogue, followed by the interactive Dialogue Café discussion among the participants on the issue of volunteering and intercultural dialogue. In the afternoon session, some CEV members and other partner organisations presented good practices on volunteering and intercultural dialogue. The workshops dealt with themes such as anti-racism tools in sport; integration of refugees in the hosting communities; exchange of senior volunteers across Europe as a mean of intercultural dialogue; festival of migrants. For more details on the contributions, debates, results and outcomes of this GA, have a look at CEV website and to the final report, which is being prepared and will be published beginning of 2009.

At the statutory business meeting, the CEV members adopted a new membership fee regime, introducing new scales of payments. These new fees will ensure a bigger independence of CEV from European Commission funding. The new fees are published on the CEV [website](#)¹.

Many thanks to Agence du Bénévolat and their volunteers for their contribution to this GA and for the warm welcome in Luxembourg!

CEV New Vice-Presidents elected by the Board of Directors



During CEV Board of Directors meeting in Brussels on 25 and 26 September 2008, Susana Szabo, representing France Bénévolat, and Renzo Razzano, President of SPES (Volunteering Support Centre in the Lazio region - Italy) were elected Vice-Presidents of CEV. Susana and Renzo are elected as Vice-Presidents for the duration of this term of the Board. If you want to know more about Susana and Renzo, click [here](#)².

CEV at AAMEE conference in Bonn

As partner of the AAMEE project, Markus Held took part on behalf of CEV at the first European Conference on "Minority Ethnic and Migrant Elders across Europe - from Challenges to Opportunities", taking place in Bonn from 30 Sept - 02 Oct, 2008. He moderated a session "Political and social participation of migrant elders" with Thomas Mann, Member of the European Parliament and amongst other participants Zsofia Tornoczi from the Hungarian National Volunteer Centre who presented first results of the European project lead by CEV members "Think Future - Volunteer Together" on exchange projects for older volunteers. For more information on the conference, please click [here](#)³.

¹ http://www.cev.be/27-become_cev_member-EN.html

² http://www.cev.be/61-board_of_directors_-EN.html

³ <http://www.aamee.de/conference/index.php#f1>

CEV invited by Belgian High Council for Volunteering

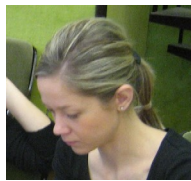
CEV director Markus Held was invited to speak on 9 October 08 to the High Council of Volunteering in Belgium, an institution created to advise the Belgian government in volunteering issues. The CEV member organisations play a major role in this Council and Eva Hambach, member of the CEV Board, is its Vice-President. This meeting was aimed at preparing grounds for the Belgian Presidency of the EU in 2010 and debating items we want the Presidency to move forward. And secondly, the High Council voiced its support for advocating with the Belgian government an adoption of the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

First Network Meeting of the VALUE Grundtvig Network

The Value [Volunteering and Lifelong Learning in Universities in Europe] Network is a [Grundtvig Thematic Network](#)⁴ that brings together Universities, and more specifically Lifelong Learning Centres within Universities and volunteer organisations. The first network meeting took place on the 14th of October in Manchester and it was meant to give a first insight into the practicalities of the project and the obligations that each partner has. CEV member organisations are well represented in this network: CSV.net (Italy); Provobis (Romania); C.A.R.D.O (Slovakia), are all partners of the project, while Volunteering England/Institute for Volunteering Research (UK) is one of the coordination organisation. More details on this network will be available soon at CEV website and a new VALUE website is about to be launched.



New CEV Intern from Slovakia



I come from Slovakia, but having lived and studied in the Czech Republic for six years, I consider myself more a Czechoslovak. I am a political scientist, but also graduated in European and cultural studies. What I certainly have in common with other CEV interns is the interest in volunteering and enthusiasm for youth related issues. What I enjoy on volunteering and on the work for CEV is the tremendous diversity and spark. Concerning my activities in the office, I will be in charge of volunteering research and completing Facts and Figures report on Slovakia. I will further be involved in a campaign for European Year of Volunteering 2011, and act as a facilitator and supporter of networking activities between CEV and the upcoming Czech EU presidency.

EYV 2011 Alliance meets EU Commissioner Špidla



In the framework of the campaign for the European Year of Volunteering 2011, CEV and delegates from the Social Platform, solidar, the Scouts and the Youth Forum have been invited to meet Commissioner Špidla on 11 November 08. He pledge his full support to the campaign underlining the crucial value of volunteering in social policies, for which he is responsible. His Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs is planning to organize the European Years 2010 (Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion) and have plans for 2012 (Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity) – 2010 would fit neatly into these plans. He promised to raise the issue with his colleague Commissioner Figel', who is responsible for the volunteering portfolio – and whose invitation for a meeting we are still waiting for.

European Year of Volunteering 2011 Campaign – crucial phase!

As reported to our members before, we have entered the crucial phase of the European Year campaign. In order to make the Commission move on the issue, support of governments is

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/guide/fiches/grund7_en.html

indispensable. The ministers of Education, Culture and Youth will meet on the 20 and 21 November and can there issue a common call on the European Commission to declare the Year. The French Presidency has confirmed their official support for the Year 2011 that shall put the European Year of Volunteering 2011 on the informal agenda of the meeting. A very good opportunity for the representatives of your governments to speak out in favour of the Year and invite Commissioner Figel' to act swiftly now and launch the proposal still under his mandate. We would like to invite you to write to the delegate representing your country immediately – for the sample letter you might use refer to the emails that CEV secretariat has circulated among the members on the issue.

CEV at Europe for citizens Forum 2008

The 2008 Europe for Citizens Forum entitled “Participation for making a difference” took place on 13 and 14 November 2008 in Brussels. The principal goal was to examine how active participation can make a difference to the EU and general constructing and development of Europe. The Forum was inaugurated by top-level EU representatives, followed by the [Golden Stars award ceremony](#)⁵, which rewarded ten outstanding citizen-centred projects. CEV was represented at the Forum by Markus Held who was appointed rapporteur for a workshop on “European elections – what role for civil society?”. To find more about this event, click [here](#)⁶.

2nd Partners' meeting of the *Think Future, Volunteer Together!* Project in Bratislava



Kamila Czerwińska, CEV Project and Policy Officer participated in the 2nd partners meeting of the project *Think Future, Volunteer Together*. This meeting was hosted by C.A.R.D.O. in Bratislava (SK) on 13-14th November 2008. This European project, funded by the European Commission, is managed by SPES and involves 4 other CEV members - C.A.R.D.O. (SK), Slovenska Filantropija (SLO), ÖKA (HU) and Pro Vobis (RO) in 2 weeks long senior volunteers' exchanges. CEV acts as EU policy advisor partner. During the meeting partners discussed their experiences on the practical challenges related to organisation of exchanges after 1 year of the project. On the second day, partners participated in a public presentation of the project, where Slovak volunteers talked about their travels to Italy, Slovenia and Hungary. More information on the project is available at [CEV website](#)⁷. You can also contact any of the partners for further details on the exchanges.

CEV responds on exploratory opinion on EESC "European Civic Service"

The European Economic and Social Committee EESC has been asked by the current French Presidency of the EU to explore the feasibility of a European Civic Service similar to civic service schemes existing in Germany, Italy and other countries. CEV has been invited to a stakeholder meeting on 5 November to comment on the initiative. We have raised our concerns about the process chosen by the French Presidency: There has been no prior debate nor a needs assessment with volunteer organisations on a European Civic Service and we urged the EESC to recommend a fully-fleshed consultation procedure on this initiative in order to assess whether and how such a scheme should be implemented. We have offered our support for the next steps in this work – but insist that there be a meaningful civil dialogue – and agreement on the underlying concepts: Volunteering should not be mixed up with schemes such as alternative “civic” services that can be as replacement of (obligatory) military schemes.

⁵<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1188&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

⁶http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news557_en.htm

⁷http://www.cev.be/101-think_future_volunteer_together-EN.html

2009 CEV General Assemblies: Prague (2–4 April 2009) and Malmö



Mark the dates! The next CEV General Assembly will be hosted by [HESTIA National Volunteer Centre](#)⁸ in cooperation with [Metropolitan University Prague](#)⁹, and it will take place from 2nd to 4th April 2009 in Prague, Czech Republic, in the framework of the Czech Presidency to the EU. This General Assembly will be devoted to the topic of Corporate Social Responsibility and Employee Volunteering.



The second GA 2009 will be hosted by [Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete](#)¹⁰ in Malmö, Sweden. The exact dates will be confirmed early 2009.

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CEV Members

First Volunteer of the Year Award launched in Malta



[Solidarity Overseas Services Malta](#)¹¹ (SOS Malta) launched the SOS Malta Award for Volunteering. The aim was to recognise the precious work of those who volunteer with not-for-profit organisations, charities and NGOs.

The winner, Astrid Vella, one of the founders of the environment NGO Flimkien Ghal Ambjent Ahjar, was awarded a trophy and was also invited to attend the grand final held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 5 December 2008, International Volunteer Day. Here, she will compete as Malta's nominee for the European Trophy of Voluntary Work, the winner of which will be announced by French President Nicolas Sarkozy. SOS Malta is currently producing a five-minute clip about her work to screen in Strasbourg as part of the selection process.

Malta Resource Centre¹² invited CEO of Volunteer Centres Ireland to train health NGOs on Volunteer Management

On 30 October, representatives from 12 health NGOs attended a training seminar entitled *'Capacity Building through Volunteering'* at St James Cavalier, Valletta (Malta). The training was lead by Dr. Yvonne McKenna, CEO of [Volunteer Centres Ireland](#)¹³, and focused on the principles of volunteer management including the cycle linked to recruiting, screening, training and retaining volunteers. The overall aim of the seminar was to further equip health NGOs with the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes linked to managing and retaining volunteers, who are vital resources in these organisations.



On 31 October, the staff at Mater Dei Hospital (MDH) that currently have volunteers in their department and also those who are about to introduce volunteers into their departments, attended an interactive lecture entitled *'Making the most of Volunteer Resources in a Hospital Setting'* by Dr. Yvonne McKenna. For more information, refer to the Malta Resource Centre [website](#)¹⁴.

⁸ www.hest.cz

⁹ www.mup.cz

¹⁰ http://www.cev.be/9-members_forum_for_frivilligt_socialt_arbete_75-EN.html

¹¹ [http://www.cev.be/9-members_solidarity_overseas_services_malta_\(sos_malta\)_11-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/9-members_solidarity_overseas_services_malta_(sos_malta)_11-EN.html)

¹² Malta Resource Centre for Civil Society NGOs is an initiative of [SOS Malta](#)

¹³ http://www.cev.be/9-members_volunteer_centres_ireland_44-EN.html

¹⁴ <http://www.mrc.org.mt/>

Project for National Strategy of Volunteering to be launched in Finland



In 2009 [Citizen Forum](#)¹⁵ - Finland, will start a project for a national strategy on volunteering (2008–2012) - "Can a good strategy be developed without those who it concerns?" The objective is to enable participation and grassroots cooperation across different voluntary sectors, through which a national strategy for volunteering will be developed. Accordingly, national and local network building will be promoted and information gathered. This development project takes place in a framework of European developments in the field, and is implemented together with 47 Finnish partners. For more information, click [here](#)¹⁶.

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Special Feature

The International Volunteer Day, 5th December: country events

Croatia



[Association for Civil Society Development SMART](#)¹⁷ will organise the 2008 International Volunteer Day campaign - "Volunteer yourself" from 24 November to 5 December, under the auspices of City of Rijeka and Primorsko-Goranska County.

The objective of the campaign is to celebrate the International Volunteer Day and to increase visibility of volunteering in the City of Rijeka and Primorsko-goranska County. The campaign will incorporate a comprehensive set of activities through various events presented in the following calendar.

24.11. 2008. Monday	Exhibition of the art works made for the contest for general design of the "Volunteer of the year" award, by the students of the Art Academy, University of Rijeka. Exhibition will be open from 24 November till 5 December
25.11. 2008. Tuesday	Volunteer action in the Institution for the child protection - painting the room with approximately 15 volunteers
26.11.2008. Wednesday	Presentation of the Publication "Where to volunteer? – Guide for volunteers through public health and social care institutions in Primorsko-goranska county"
27.11.2008. Thursday	Presentation of the action research results "Business sector perception of the corporative volunteering"
27.11.2008. Thursday	Educational workshop: "How to set up activities attractive for employee volunteering?"
02. 12.2008. Tuesday	Volunteer coffee bar: "Volunteer yourself through Volunteer Center"
3.12.2008. Wednesday	Round table: "Volunteers and public institutions – How is that done in the European Union?"
5.12.2008. Friday	The "Volunteer of the year" award that will be awarded to the 6 volunteers from City of Rijeka and Primorsko-goranska County



[Volunteer Centre Osijek](#)¹⁸ operates in the Slavonija and Baranja region, where two main activities will take place. One will be the organisation of the "Opened doors day" where several CSOs and social and health care institutions will open their doors for one day for high school pupils and their teachers. The CSOs and other institutions will present their volunteer programmes to them and launch a common dialogue regarding the possibilities for youth volunteering within the community. The other activity is the Annual Volunteer Award Ceremony. Every year since 2006, Volunteer Centre Osijek organises this Ceremony as a way

¹⁵ [http://www.cev.be/9-members_kansalaisareena_\(citizen_forum\)_3-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/9-members_kansalaisareena_(citizen_forum)_3-EN.html)

¹⁶ <http://www.kansalaisareena.fi/index.php?sivu=NationalStrategy>

¹⁷ [http://www.cev.be/9-members_association_of_civil_society_development_\(smart\)_78-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/9-members_association_of_civil_society_development_(smart)_78-EN.html)

¹⁸ http://www.cev.be/9-members_volunteer_centre_osijek_83-EN.html

to celebrate volunteers who help their community. Every year, six awards go to individuals who helped their community, to organisations who have developed innovative volunteer programs and for business sector for employee volunteering initiatives.

Czech Republic



dobrovolnické
centrum

On the 4 December 2008, the [Volunteer Centre Ústí nad Labem](#)¹⁹ and a group of volunteers from SČVK (corporation operating on the half of the territory of Czech Republic in water consumption) will help handicapped people on the „Open door day“ and opening of the Advent ecological garden event. Under this employee-volunteering scheme, the volunteers will help handicapped people to move around the facility area and visit the Christmas workshops. On the International Volunteer Day, the volunteer centre will launch an information campaign and open nomination for the Volunteer Award 2008.

Finland

On the 5 December, the [Citizen Forum](#)²⁰ together with 3 other organisations (the Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health, the Finnish Youth Cooperation – Alliance, and the Finnish Sports Federation) will hold a celebration for volunteering in the national Parliament. In the event, speeches by prominent figures in the field of volunteering will be presented. The Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health will also reward someone for his or her merits in citizen activity. During the volunteering week, the Citizen Forum will also, together with several other NGOs, organise a “live library” in the Helsinki central station. The idea is to have “live books” which people can borrow for a short loan. Live books are volunteers, and any member of public may borrow a volunteer for a short chat, to have a coffee with or anything they would like to do in 15 minutes or so. “Live books” will discuss volunteering with people who borrow them.



Moreover, the Citizen Forum, together with other partners active in the field of volunteering are going to meet with 3 ministers (education, culture, social & health) – the idea behind this meeting is to hand out to the ministers the Manifesto for volunteering in Europe as well as 5 national thesis on volunteering which were created in cooperation with several organisations. In the beginning of the volunteering week, municipal council representatives of the 7 largest cities in Finland will receive by mail the above-mentioned Manifesto and Thesis. Municipal elections were held in October, and the Citizen Forum wants to remind the new representatives of the role of volunteering in our society.

Germany



On the 5 December, the member centres of the [German Caritas Association of Volunteer Centers](#)²¹ (Brandenburg, Geldern, Günzburg, Heinsberg, Innsbruck (Austria), Mönchengladbach, Rüsselsheim, Straubing, Stuttgart, Willich and Anklam) will contribute to the International Volunteers' Day 2008 – they will honour volunteers, give information of their work and open the doors of the centres to the public. They will present possibilities for volunteers in projects in the region and in the town and will held photo exhibitions. The centres will create open space for conversation around different topics of volunteering, give rewards to their volunteers and invite them to a party.

Greece



[Citizen in Deed](#)²² has scheduled a number of events on and around the occasion of the 5 December: (1) a string of lectures will be delivered by members of Citizen in Deed Scientific Board; (2) fresh launch of the renewed and updated photographic exhibition ‘Click on Volunteerism’ in a central Athenian venue and open to the public - it features landmark moments as captured by early camera snapshots to present day activities, covering more than a century long course of Volunteering in Greece, highlighting the volunteer's priceless contribution.

¹⁹ http://www.cev.be/9-members_dobrovolnicke_centrum_dc_16-EN.html

²⁰ [http://www.cev.be/9-members_kansalaisareena_\(citizen_forum\)_3-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/9-members_kansalaisareena_(citizen_forum)_3-EN.html)

²¹ http://www.cev.be/9-members_deutscher_caritasverband_verbund_freiwilligen_zentren_19-EN.html

²² [http://www.cev.be/9-members_ergo_politon_\(citizen_in_deed\)_21-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/9-members_ergo_politon_(citizen_in_deed)_21-EN.html)

Portugal



Conselho Nacional Para a Promoção
do Voluntariado

The [National Council for the Promotion of Volunteering \(CNVP\)](#)²³ and the [Local Volunteering Bank of Tavira](#)²⁴ will participate in the celebrations organised by the [Foundation Eugénio de Almeida](#)²⁵ in Évora for the occasion of the



International Volunteer Day. The Foundation Eugénio de Almeida is very active on the field of volunteering at regional level – it manages the local volunteering bank and has set-up proximity – volunteering reference points. This gathering will be focus on the promotion of volunteering and will bring together volunteers active at local level within 7 medium-size towns.

Romania



PROVOBIS
CENTRUL NAȚIONAL DE VOLUNTARIAT

[Pro Vobis](#)²⁶ – The National Volunteer Center in Romania celebrates the International Volunteer Day by launching the second edition of the publication "Portrait of Volunteer". The publication gathers over 50 portraits of volunteers nominated by organisations all across the country. The "Portrait of Volunteer" publication aims to illustrate the diversity of volunteers and the diversity of their activities, helping the various stakeholders to better understand who are the volunteers, what are the volunteers doing and what is the impact of their involvement. The second edition of the publication will be available in Romanian and English and will be widely distributed among volunteer involving organisations and stakeholders in the country.

Slovakia



Four awarding ceremonies for volunteers are being organised at regional level, on the occasion of the International Day of Volunteers: in Bratislava on December 1 organised by [C.A.R.D.O.](#)²⁷, in Banská Bystrica region organised by the Volunteer Centre on December 4 and in the Prešov region organised by SAIA Prešov. In Bratislava "Volunteers of 2008" is an award for people who volunteer their time, free of charge, in order to help and support others in the community. The award ceremony will be held on December 1, 2008 in the Mirror Hall of the Primates' Palace in Bratislava. This event will take place under the auspices of the Bratislava Mayor. The award categories are: long-term voluntary support of an organisation, volunteer in social and health care services, volunteer for the environment, volunteer working with children and youth, foreign volunteer of the year, outstanding voluntary action of the year and Slovak volunteer abroad.

Spain



The Municipality of Madrid, through its [Foundation Volunteers for Madrid](#)²⁸ will celebrate the International Volunteer Day with a conference that will bring together volunteer involving organizations and business entities that are cooperating with the Foundation Volunteers for Madrid.

Sweden



[Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete](#)²⁹ will organise a movie night in cooperation with a cinema agency – a movie will be shown to the volunteers and free tickets will be send out to the volunteers that do not have the possibility to join event on that day.

²³ [http://www.cev.be/9-members_conselho_nacional_para_a_promoc%EF%BF%BDo_do_volontariado_\(cnvp\)_28-EN.html](http://www.cev.be/9-members_conselho_nacional_para_a_promoc%EF%BF%BDo_do_volontariado_(cnvp)_28-EN.html)

²⁴ http://www.cev.be/9-members_banco_de_voluntariado_da_camara_municipal_de_tavira_70-EN.html

²⁵ <http://fundacaoeugeniodealmeida.pt/banco-voluntariado/homepage.asp>

²⁶ http://www.cev.be/9-members_pro_vobis_centrul_national_de_voluntariat_30-EN.html

²⁷ http://www.cev.be/9-members_cardo_32-EN.html

²⁸ http://www.cev.be/9-members_fundacion_voluntarios_por_madrid_85-EN.html

²⁹ http://www.cev.be/9-members_forum_for_frivilligt_socialt_arbete_75-EN.html



[Volunteer Development Scotland](#)³⁰ will be holding AGM and Members networking event on 5 December at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The event will focus on 'A celebration of volunteering: Past, Present and Future' and how to start to celebrate 2009 as the 25th Jubilee year for Volunteer Development Scotland.

Keynote speakers will also be giving a picture of how they see volunteering in the past, present and future. The event will also consist of time to network with other members of Volunteer Development Scotland as well as specially invited guests of stakeholders, past staff and Board members.

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European Union News

European Parliament launched its TV channel

[EuroparlTV](#)³¹ was launched on the 17 September in order to "bring the Parliament closer to European citizens" and to combat the political disenchantment among citizens ahead of the European elections in June 2009.³² The aim of the EP channel is to close the gap between EU institutions and the citizens, who often struggle with a feeling that EU institutions are too distant from them. The programmes will be translated in more than 20 languages. To read more, click [here](#)³³.

Commission's consultations on the EU's youth policy, including volunteering – REMINDER!

As already mentioned in the previous edition of the CEV News, the European Commission has launched an online public consultation on how the EU's youth policy should develop in the future. This consultation will help the Commission to evaluate the achievements of European cooperation on youth policy since 2000, and it will lead the definition of fresh objectives for the next decade.

The consultation seeks to answer questions about the main challenges or opportunities, which will have the most direct impact on young people. The questionnaire covers issues regarding education and informal learning, employment, discrimination, social integration and voluntary activities of young people. The results of the consultation will be taken on board by the European policymakers in order to prepare concrete measures to help young people integrate into society, find work, improve their general well-being and get involved in society as citizens. The consultation is available until 25th of November in all EU languages and is addressed both to individuals and organisations on the Youth [website](#)³⁴.

New website reveals EU funding beneficiaries

On the 2 October 2008, the European Commission launched a website with the details of the beneficiaries of EU funding. The "Financial Transparency System" forms part of a wider transparency initiative launched by Administration and Anti-Fraud Commissioner Siim Kallas in

³⁰ http://www.cev.be/9-members_volunteer_development_scotland_65-EN.html

³¹ <http://www.europartv.europa.eu/StartPage.aspx>

³² <http://www.euractiv.com/en/eu-elections/webtv-aims-bring-parliament-people-homes/article-175492>

³³ <http://www.euractiv.com/en/eu-elections/webtv-aims-bring-parliament-people-homes/article-175492>

³⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-policies/doc1220_en.htm

2005. To read the whole article, click [here](#)³⁵. For further information on this issue, click on the official portal [here](#).³⁶

Worst EU Lobbying Awards 2008

The general public is invited to vote for this year's '[worst EU lobbyists](#)'³⁷. Under this event, the awards will be given to those lobby groups and EU officials that in 2008 engaged in "the most deceptive lobbying" and "the most-biased decision-making"³⁸. The aim is to make public the non-official activities of lobbyists and their influence on European decision-making process. Voting will last until 30 November. The winners will be announced on 9 December at a ceremony in Brussels and then published online. Among different categories, this year a new one – “worst conflict of interest” – appeared. This category was introduced in order to "highlight the need for EU institutions to clean up their own activities" and introduce "stronger ethics rules".³⁹ To read more, click [here](#)⁴⁰.

2009 – Year of the Western Balkans

On 5 November 2008, the European Commission adopted its annual strategy paper for the EU's enlargement policy. At the same time, the Commission reviews the progress achieved in the EU candidate countries of western Balkans and Turkey. The western Balkan region is approaching the EU membership with Croatia being the leader. In case it fulfils all necessary criteria, Croatia could become full EU member by the end of 2009. The remaining candidate countries (Turkey and FYR of Macedonia) as well as some of the potential candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina) have made progress and are moving ahead, but further efforts are still needed. Serbia is slowly approaching the candidate status, which it could obtain by the end of 2009. For more information, click [here](#)⁴¹.

Conference on corporate social responsibility organised by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee

Conference on corporate social responsibility entitled “Partnership and transparency at the heart of European Corporate Social Responsibility”, organised jointly by European Commission, European Economic and Social Committee and French Economic, Social and Environmental Council took place on 30 October 2008 in Paris.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) was defined by the European Commission as a concept whereby "companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis".⁴² The aim of this conference was to highlight the determining role of partnership and transparency for European added value with regard to CSR. The concept of CSR is considered the manifestation of the principles of sustainable development at company level. To read more, click [here](#)⁴³.

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³⁵ <http://www.euractiv.com/en/pa/new-website-reveals-eu-funding-beneficiaries/article-175984>

³⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/grants/search/index_en.htm

³⁷ <http://www.worstlobby.eu/2008/>

³⁸ <http://www.euractiv.com/en/pa/public-choose-worst-eu-lobbyists/article-176546>

³⁹ <http://www.euractiv.com/en/pa/public-choose-worst-eu-lobbyists/article-176546>

⁴⁰ <http://www.euractiv.com/en/pa/public-choose-worst-eu-lobbyists/article-176546>

⁴¹ <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1638&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=it>

⁴² http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-10_2008/PFUE-30.10.2008/conference_sur_la_responsabilite_sociale_des_entreprises

⁴³ http://www.ue2008.fr/PFUE/lang/en/accueil/PFUE-10_2008/PFUE-30.10.2008/conference_sur_la_responsabilite_sociale_des_entreprises

Calls for proposals

Call for Proposals – aiming to support partnership projects with regional/local public bodies or with organisations active in the youth sector at European level

Deadline for applications: 1 December 2008



EACEA – the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency released the call for proposals aiming to support partnership projects with regional or local public bodies or with organisations active in the youth sector such as youth exchanges, youth initiatives or training and networking for youth workers at European level.

The available actions are the following: action 1.1: Youth exchanges; action 1.2: Youth initiatives; action 4.3: Training and Networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations. Special attention should be paid to Action 4.3 due to the planned conference with local authorities. The activities under this action are listed at page 85 of the Programme Guide. Since "Networking" is not eligible with the present call, the only other two options may be "Seminar" or "Partnership-Building Activity". For more information on this call, click [here](#)⁴⁴.

Call for proposals 2009 for European environmental NGOs

Deadline for applications: 1 December 2008

European non-governmental organisations primarily active in environmental protection field are welcomed to submit proposals to operating grants under the LIFE+ Regulation. Proposals will be assessed in relation to the priority areas: climate change, nature and biodiversity, environment and health, natural resources and waste and horizontal or cross-cutting issues.

Organisations that wish to apply for funding under this programme must be non-profit making and independent environmental non-governmental organisations. They must also be active at a European level (have activities and members in at least three EU Member States). The funded actions must be carried out in one of the 27 Member States. The period of eligibility of expenditure may start on 1 December 2009. For more information on this call, click [here](#)⁴⁵.

Become a volunteer for Universiade Belgrade 2009



From 1 to 12 July 2009 Belgrade/Serbia will be hosting the 25th Summer Universiade – this is the second biggest international sports competition, right after the Olympic games. The Summer Universiade is going to be the largest sporting event organised in Serbia. Here are some the figures related to this event: 9 000 athletes from over 170 countries; 15 sport disciplines; 35 competition venues; new athletes' village; 10 000 volunteers.

If you are ambitious, hardworking and interested in first-hand experience of a large sports competition, if you have knowledge or want to build it - become a volunteer during Belgrade Universiade 2009. Find your place in one of many departments, meet students and delegates from all over the World, make new friendships and contacts for the future, seize your opportunities, learn and experience something new and get the FISU certificate as the official member of Belgrade Universiade 2009! For more information on Belgrade Universiade and volunteering opportunities please visit [one](#) or [another](#) of the official websites⁴⁶, alternatively, you may contact Natasa Jankovic at natasa.jankovic@ub2009.org



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⁴⁴ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2008/call46/index_en.htm

⁴⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/finansup_09.htm

⁴⁶ www.ub2009.org and www.volimdavolontiram.com

Other News

The Biggest Scotland's Employee Volunteering Scheme

On 8 October 2008, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Company in Scotland prepared the biggest one-day volunteering project undertaken by a single company in Scotland involving more than 600 employees. The event is part of the firm's 'All Scotland Day', which aims to give employees the chance to learn more about the company's vision for the future. Frank Blin, executive chairman, Scotland for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP said: "We have a very active corporate responsibility programme, with over 60% of our employees now involved in voluntary work, and want to try and make a genuine difference to some of these really worthwhile organisations. We would like our people to enjoy and be motivated by this event and put something back into the communities we serve. Over time it is my hope that PricewaterhouseCoopers makes an enduring impact."⁴⁷ To read more, click [here](#)⁴⁸.

Discovering talent – Developing skills: the contribution of volunteering, UK

The report published by "V", the youth volunteering organisation in the UK draws on evidence to show how volunteering in community projects can help young people develop self-confidence, communication and team work skills. The report also shows how volunteering can help engage young people who are not in education, employment or training and provide a route back into formal learning or employment. However, the survey shows that while 87% of employers agree volunteering is 'a valuable activity that could have a positive effect on career progression', 43% of human resources departments say it is irrelevant whether a candidate has volunteered. To access the press release, click [here](#)⁴⁹.

New UNV website – UN Online Volunteering Service

onlinevolunteering.org The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) launched recently a new website and Online Volunteering service. The Online Volunteering service connects volunteers with organisations working for sustainable human development. Volunteers that are eager to contribute to making a difference to development offer their skills online to help organisations addressing development challenges. To learn more, click [here](#)⁵⁰.

Social NGOs to the EU: three proposals to address the human impact of the financial crisis

As the EU attempts to avert a financial storm with a drastic rescue package for the banking sector, social NGOs called on EU leaders on 15 November 2008 not to lose sight of the potentially severe social impact of the crisis. The Social Platform outlined three proposals for the EU to address these issues: (1) tighten financial regulation; (2) guarantee that public money is used properly; (3) sign a social progress declaration.

"Europe is beginning to feel the social impact of the banking crisis, and EU leaders need to act now to stop this happening," said Conny Reuter, President of the Social Platform. "The EU has

⁴⁷ http://www.allmediascotland.com/media_releases/3412/supersized_volunteering_-_scotland%92s_biggest_corporate_volunteering_event_gets_underway

⁴⁸ http://www.allmediascotland.com/media_releases/3412/supersized_volunteering_-_scotland%92s_biggest_corporate_volunteering_event_gets_underway

⁴⁹ [http://www.politics.co.uk/opinion-formers/press-releases/v-value-volunteering-untap-hidden-talents-nation%E2%80%99s-youth-says-report-\\$1239990\\$1220517.htm](http://www.politics.co.uk/opinion-formers/press-releases/v-value-volunteering-untap-hidden-talents-nation%E2%80%99s-youth-says-report-$1239990$1220517.htm)

⁵⁰ <http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/index.html>

demonstrated that it can show leadership to save its banks; it should now ensure that people living in Europe are properly protected when the dust settles.” To read the whole press release, click [here](#)⁵¹.

The 2008 magazine of the International Planned Parenthood Federation fully dedicated to volunteering

The 2008 edition of *Choices* – the [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) (IPPF)⁵² is “fully dedicated to volunteerism, recognising the importance of volunteers for IPPF 's work, the development of its strategies and therefore its future” says Vicky Claeys, IPPF EN Regional Director. CEV has contributed to this publication with an article entitled “Volunteering in Europe – how to make the invisible visible” as well as SPES, the Lazio Volunteer Support Centre (Italy) with an item on “Why encouraging Senior Volunteer”. To access the Choice Magazine, click [here](#)⁵³.

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Events

Upcoming 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians Stated support for the proposed ILO *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*

As reported in CEV News September/October, the *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work* is scheduled for consideration at the International Conference of Labour Statisticians that the ILO is convening in Geneva beginning **24 November 2008** to set the course for official labour force statistics for the next five years. CEV wrote to its members in September to ask for their help in mustering enough support among the labour statisticians attending this meeting to secure the approval of this idea of integrating the measurement of volunteer work into regular labour force surveys. If your organisation still did not contact the national statisticians participating in this event, please do it as soon as possible – the meeting will take place in less than a week. If you require any assistance, please contact Megan Haddock at Megan.Haddock@jhu.edu or the CEV secretariat at kamila@cev.be. For more information on the campaign refer to Johns Hopkins University [website](#)⁵⁴.

European Social NGOs meeting with Croatian civil society

The Social Platform organises a study visit in Croatia with a conference entitled “The role of civil society in the Accession process to the European Union” in Zagreb on 24 and 25 November 2008. Ten European networks of NGOs active in different social policy fields will be present to debate with Croatian civil society organisations about how civil society participates in the accession process, discuss its social dimension, get a better understanding of the social realities and civil dialogue in Croatia and develop cooperation between Croatian NGOs and European networks. For further details on the conference and registration form, please contact **immediately** Ariella de Genaro at Ariella.degennaro@socialplatform.org.

⁵¹ <http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp?news=19183>

⁵² <http://www.ippfwhr.org/>

⁵³ http://www.ippfen.org/NR/rdonlyres/C2DCD4EA-C3E5-49B4-B94B-19CB209D2726/0/Final_ippfChoices2008_V22.pdf

⁵⁴ <http://www.jhu.edu/~ccss/volunteering/index.html>

Cities Forum: “Sustainability and Solidarity in our Cities”

The event Cities Forum is in the framework of French Presidency will be focus on sustainability and solidarity in the cities. The event is also interconnected with the adoption of [Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities](#)⁵⁵ in May last year, according to which the member states sought to give urban development a greater role in the EU policies.

Cities Forum will take place on 2 and 3 December 2008 at Montpellier, France. Within this event, 11 workshops will be organised. The discussions will involve local authorities, member states and European institutions. For more details on this event (programme, venue and registration), please visit the official [website](#)⁵⁶.

Social Platform conference on Civil Dialogue – How can we shape the Europe we want?

Social Platform – the largest platform of social NGOs in Europe – has organised a conference entitled “Civil Dialogue: how can we shape the Europe we want?” on 9–10 December in Brussels. The deadline for registrations is 20 November 2008.

The conference is free of charge, open to all and translated in French/English. It aims to assess the current structures and processes of civil dialogue at European level and agree upon concrete recommendations on how to improve these structures and processes. Based on the conference and further discussions with its members, Social Platform will issue a common position with concrete recommendations on how to move civil dialogue forward, and will start a campaign on this in 2009. To register for the conference, do not hesitate to contact ariella.degennaro@socialplatform.org. To see programme of the conference, click [here](#)⁵⁷.

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⁵⁵ http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download_docs/Mai/0524-AN/075DokumentLeipzigCharta.pdf

⁵⁶ <http://www.villes2008.fr>

⁵⁷ http://www.cev.be/data/File/Civil%20Dialogue%20Conference_Programme_Dec08.pdf