

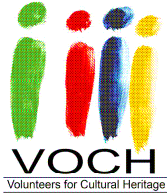
**Manchester, June 2009**

***The VoCH Project:  
Volunteering in the cultural field  
in Europe***

**Cristina Da Milano**

# Content

- **The VoCH project**
- **Europe-wide research on volunteering in the cultural heritage sector**



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# The VoCH Project

- **Lifelong Learning Programme – Grundtvig**
- **2007-2009**
- **4 Countries (Sl, It, Au, Uk)**

# Objectives

- **Acknowledgement of volunteering's role in the cultural field**
- **Analysis of the phenomenon**
- **Identification of strenghts and weaknesses, as well as new trends/issues**

# Tools

- **Europe-wide research**
- **Identification of good practices**
- **Development and delivery of training modules for volunteers and coordinators**
- **Development of guidelines for good practice when working with volunteers**
- **Dissemination of project outcomes**

## The Partners

- **Slovenian Museums Association (SL)**
- **Manchester Museum (UK)**
- **EMF (UK)**
- **Amitié (IT)**
- **Eccom (IT)**
- **IBC, Regione Emilia-Romagna (IT)**
- **Museo del Tessuto di Prato (IT)**
- **Musis (AU)**

## **The Europe-wide research**

- **To present a broad picture of volunteering in the cultural field**
- **To identify main trends/issues**
- **To identify volunteers' and professionals' needs**
- **To identify areas where more research is needed**

# The Europe-wide Research Methodology

- desk research
- visits to museums
- interviews with museum professionals and volunteers
- devising and sending out one of three questionnaires:
  - ✓ umbrella organizations
  - ✓ institutions/coordinators
  - ✓ volunteers themselves

# The Context

- **Volunteering in the EU;**
- **Volunteering in the cultural field:**
  - ✓ **International organisations;**
  - ✓ **The 4 Partner countries;**
  - ✓ **Other European countries**

## **Definition of Volunteering**

**An activity undertaken:**

- **Out of a person's free will, choice and motivation;**
- **Non remunerated;**
- **In an organized setting (within NGO's, volunteer centres, more or less organized groups, etc.);**
- **With the aim to benefit to someone other than the volunteer and to society at large**

*Manifesto for Volunteering in Europe, EVC 2006*

## Some quantitative data

- **In the UK 23 million people volunteer every year;**
- **In Poland in 2004 8,3% of the population volunteered;**
- **In Germany 36% of the population is involved in volunteering activities;**
- **33% of Irish adult population operates in the voluntary field.**

## **Role and perspectives in the EU**

- **It provides integration and social inclusion;**
- **It contributes to the implementation of EU policies;**
- **It stimulates active and responsible European citizenship;**
- **It is a source of reconciliation and reconstruction in divided societies;**

## **Role and perspectives in the EU**

- **It provides informal and non formal learning opportunities;**
- **It represents a significant activity regarding its economic value and its impact on the Gross Domestic Product in many European countries;**
- **It develops new services in a creative way.**

## European programmes/resources

- The European Volunteer Centre (EVC): umbrella association of 43 National and Regional Volunteer Centres across Europe;
- The European Voluntary Service (EVS): the largest single source of support for volunteering from the EU (Youth Programme 2007-2013).

## **Volunteering in the cultural field**

- **It is an important resource/a meaningful indicator of participation and awareness;**
- **It fosters personal and social development;**
- **It is affected by overall change of cultural organisations and competences;**
- **It is organised in many different forms.**

## International organizations

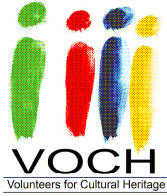
- **UNESCO (*Cultural heritage volunteers*)**
- **ICOM (*Code of ethics*)**
- **WFFM -World Federation of Friends of Museums (*Code of ethics*)**
- **EMF-European Museum Forum**

## **European countries: emerged needs**

- **Importance of infrastructures**
- **Need for planning/ongoing support within an organisation**
- **Internal advocacy**
- **Different motivations**
- **Acknowledgement of training**

# European countries: trends and issues

- **Diversification of workforce**
- **Volunteering as a route to employment**
- **Corporate volunteering**
- **On-line volunteering**

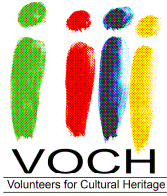


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# WEBSITE

[www.amitie.it/voch/index.html](http://www.amitie.it/voch/index.html)



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**Thank you for your attention**

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