

Europe-wide research on volunteers in the cultural heritage sector
Legislative framework, organisational models, identification of good practice case studies

Design, development and delivery of training modules for volunteers and volunteer coordinators (including recruiting, motivating, coaching, managing, transferring knowledge and accrediting)

Activities and outcomes

Electronic version of the background research "Volunteers in Museums and Cultural Heritage: A European Overview" www.amitie.it/voch

Seven module training course for volunteers in Styria, Austria (September 2008-April 2009) www.musis.at

Training course for volunteer coordinators in Slovenia "Successfully transferred knowledge from museum professionals to volunteers" (Spring 2009), www2.pms-lj.si/SMS

Final publication "Volunteers in Museums and Cultural Heritage: Good Practice Guidelines. Good practice guidelines (in English, German, Italian, Slovenian) available from October 2009 (electronic version and on paper).

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Pre-project European Museum Forum Workshop "Volunteers in cultural heritage and museums: promoting active citizenship" - Bertinoro (Italy) 17-21 October 2007
www.ibr.regione.emilia-romagna.it/voch/voch.htm

18 January 2008 – Prato, Italy - VoCH conference: "I volontari nel museo. Esperienze in Europa e in Italia" (Volunteers in museums. Experiences in Europe and in Italy)
www.cultura.toscana.it/musei/index.shtml

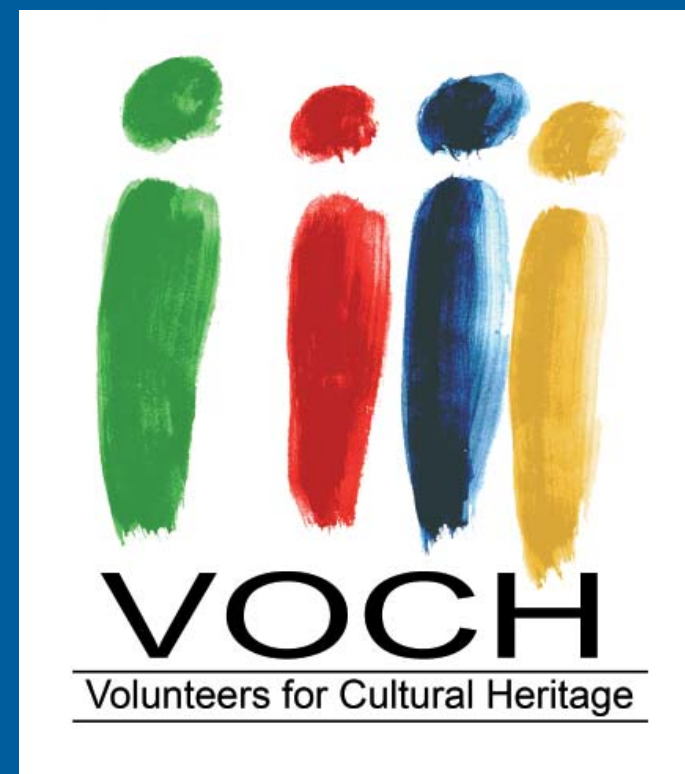
Dissemination

29 May 2008 – Information day "Museums, Training, Staff and Volunteers" within the EMAC Conference, Graz Austria, www.musis.at
www.musis.at/shop/shop.php?detail=1212571689

10 March 2009 / 7 April 2009 – Two conference days on the VoCH Project – Bologna, Italy
www.ibr.regione.emilia-romagna.it

9-13 June 2009 – Conference and training events "Volunteers in Cultural Heritage: Making the Most of Volunteers" Manchester, UK
www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/

2 October 2009 – Prato, Italy – Final conference of the VoCH Project
www.museodeltessuto.it/



1. November 2007
31. October 2009

www.amitie.it/voch/





Background

Cultural heritage is a strategic area for European Community policy-makers, supporting the integration of different European components through the recognition of the differences and similarities which characterise local and national cultures and traditions.

The conservation and valorisation of Europe's cultural assets require more resources – both financial and human – than the public sector can provide.

In some countries these roles are shared equally between the public and the private sector, often on a voluntary basis. This cooperation ensures that places, monuments, sites, and objects of cultural and historical value are passed on unharmed and, where possible, values are preserved and enhanced for future generations, contributing to the understanding of a shared past and the strengthening of ties among European citizens.



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Project

Volunteers for Cultural Heritage (VoCH) is funded by the European Commission as part of the Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Programme. The project starts out by acknowledging the increasing importance of the voluntary sector for preserving cultural heritage and running cultural institutions, such as museums.

It explores this phenomenon at European level, identifying different types of voluntary work and the areas of activity in which cultural volunteers are engaged, with the objective of designing training addressed both to volunteers themselves and to the people responsible for volunteer programmes within cultural organisations. The project takes place from November 2007 until October 2009.

This project takes the position that institutions involving volunteers must offer adequate training, not only to provide skills necessary to carry out what may be very specialised tasks, but also to contribute to the volunteers' growth as individuals, as members of a community, and as European citizens.

Partners

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