

VoCH – Volunteers for Cultural Heritage

Newsletter no. 1, December 2008



Volunteers for Cultural Heritage is a European project, funded by the European Commission in Brussels as part of the Grundtvig lifelong learning programme. The project takes place from November 2007 until October 2009.

VoCH recognises the increasing importance of the voluntary sector for preserving cultural heritage and running cultural institutions, such as museum, and is exploring 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.

URL: <http://www.amitie.it/voch/>

What do we want to achieve?

Project activities and outputs will include

- Europe-wide research on volunteers in the cultural heritage sector now online see: <http://www.amitie.it/voch/index4.htm>
- Identification of good practice case studies
- Design, development and delivery of short training modules both for volunteers and coordinators
- Development and publishing of guidelines for good practice when working with volunteers
- Dissemination of project outcomes through conferences and information days

Event “Volunteering for the Future: new approaches and new ideas”, Manchester, UK, 9-13 June 2009

The conference “Volunteering for the Future: new approaches and new ideas” will be held in Manchester, UK, from 9-13 June 2009. This conference will explore the future role of volunteers in cultural institutions. It aims to explore the current trends that, in a perspective of active citizenship and inclusivity demand that institutions consider innovative and emerging practice as a means to engage with non-traditional volunteers, vocational and skills development and cross sector partnerships.

The conference is advertised as a course on the Comenius-Grundtvig database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/search.cfm>.

The course code is: UK-2009-915-001.

To access it directly: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=15477>.

It is possible for participants from European countries other than the UK to apply to their National Agency to receive full funding to take part in the event. The grant would cover the accommodation, subsistence and travel costs (which you should calculate individually) for a maximum of 1500 Euro. **There is no course fee.**

If you are interested in participating, you should:

- a) Have a look at the Comenius - Grundtvig database for a more detailed description of the course.
- b) Write to the organiser (Adele Finley, The Manchester Museum) enclosing a short CV and asking for an invitation letter: adele.finley@manchester.ac.uk by 9 January 2009 at the latest.
- c) Contact your National Agency and download the application form from their website. To contact your National Agency, please look for the address on: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/national_en.html.
- d) Fill in the application form, enclose the invitation letter and send both to your Socrates National Agency by 16 January 2009.
- e) Let the organisers know that you have applied and inform them about the expected waiting time before you receive a reply from your National Agency. Once again, please write an e-mail to Adele Finley: adele.finley@manchester.ac.uk.

Deadlines: **9 January 2009** to apply to Adele Finley, The Manchester Museum, for the invitation letter
 16 January 2009 to apply to your National Agency for the grant

Project Partners

Slovenian Museums Association, Ljubljana, Slovenia (Project leader)

Istituto Beni Culturali della Regione Emilia-Romagna, Bologna, Italy

Museo del Tessuto di Prato, Italy

ECCOM, European Centre for Cultural Organisation and Management, Rome, Italy

Amitié, Bologna, Italy

MUSIS, Association for supporting museums and private collections in Styria, Graz, Austria

Manchester Museum, Manchester, UK

EMF European Museum Forum Trust, Bristol, UK

To find out more or to share information with the project

If your museum or heritage site works with volunteers and you would like to share a case study, please email Kirsten Gibbs kirsten.gibbs@virgin.net or Cristina Da Milano damilano@ecom.it.

If you would like us to keep you informed about the project, please email your details to Margherita Sani masani@regione.emilia-romagna.it or Sibylle Moebius smoebius@amitie.it.



"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."