

# VoCH – Volunteers for Cultural Heritage

## Newsletter no. 2, September 2009



**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/>

### Final Project Conference “Volunteers and Museums: A manual of good practice”, Prato (IT), 2 October 2009

The final conference “Volunteers and Museums: A manual of good practice” will be held in Prato, Italy, on 2 October 2009. This conference will explore how the work with volunteers in cultural institutions can be organised efficiently, with regard to management, training, and getting started. Good practice in volunteer-run museums will be presented and discussed, to foster the building of new alliances, among cultural institutions and volunteers, and 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.

#### Friday 2 October 2009 – Conference Programme

Venue: Palazzo Comunale, Piazza del Comune, Prato (Italy)

#### 10:00 Official welcomes

##### Introduction and general presentation of the VoCH project

*Filippo Guarini, Prato Textile Museum - Janja Rebolj, Slovenian Museums Association / Project Coordinator*

##### Section 1: Working with volunteers

*Chair: Kirsten Gibbs, European Museum Forum*

- Is your organisation ready for a volunteer programme?  
*Adele Finley, Manchester Museum*
- Working with volunteers: An introduction to good practice  
*Bridget Yates, AIM – Association Independent Museums, UK*
- Building new alliances  
*Izabella Csordás, Coordinator of the Volunteer Programme and of the Friends of the Museum of the Museum of Fine Arts Budapest*
- Training museum professionals to work with volunteers  
*Janja Rebolj, Slovenian Museums Association*

#### 13:00 Lunch

#### 14:00 Section 2: Volunteer-run museums

*Chair: Cristina da Milano, ECCOM – European Centre for Cultural Organisation and Management*

- Tuscan museums and volunteers: an overview  
*Claudio Rosati, Regione Toscana*
- Training for volunteers in volunteer-run museums  
*Evelyn Kaindl-Ranzinger, MUSIS*
- Do small volunteer-run museums still have a future?  
*Liesbeth Tonckens, museum adviser in the province Gelderland, The Netherlands*

#### 16:00 Coffee break

#### 16:30 Conclusions - Looking to the future

*Chair: Margherita Sani, IBC – Emilia Romagna – Massimo Negri, European Museum Forum*

Direct link to the full conference programme: <http://www.amitie.it/voch/index3.htm>.

For further information about the conference, please contact: Chiara Lastrucci [c.lastrucci@museodeltessuto.it](mailto:c.lastrucci@museodeltessuto.it).

## 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](mailto:kirsten.gibbs@virgin.net) or Cristina Da Milano [damilano@ecom.it](mailto: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](mailto:masani@regione.emilia-romagna.it) or Sibylle Moebius [smoebius@amitie.it](mailto:smoebius@amitie.it).



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