



Update on the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV 2011)

This update includes:

- Information on all of the delivery partners engaged under the National Work Programme;
- Sharing learning and good practice;
- The EYV 2011 tour event;
- Flagship projects taking place in the UK;
- Useful links and contacts.

National work programme – Delivery Partners

The Office for Civil Society (OCS) identified national priorities for the European Year in England which reflected the European Commission's central objectives as well as the Government's Big Society Vision. Partner organisations were selected to deliver activities within England that relate to the priorities.

Volunteering in communities

The first priority related to encouraging the development of volunteering within communities. Issue focused themes were identified, which would focus during two spotlight months during the Year, and a partner organisation was identified for each theme. The themes and partners are:

March and April – v and Catch 22 are leading on activity on volunteering with **Children and Young People**;

May and June - Groundwork West Midlands are leading on activity in relation to the **Environment**;

July and August – Sports Coach UK are leading on activity in relation to **Sport**;

September and October - Arts and Business will lead on activity in relation to volunteering in **Culture and the Arts**; and,

November and December - Age UK will lead on activity in relation to volunteering in **Health and Social Care**, with a specific focus on volunteering and active aging.

Development of good practice

The remaining three priorities relate to the sharing and development of good practice in relation to specific volunteering issues. The leads for these three

priorities will work across the Year. The three priorities and lead organisations are:

Employer Supported Volunteering – Volunteering England

Effective Volunteer Management – Volunteer Centre Warrington

Opening the Door to Volunteering (to traditionally underrepresented groups) – Attend

A summary of each partner's activity will be available on the central EYV 2011 campaign website along with contact details for more information:
<http://europa.eu/volunteering/en/content/what-happening-england>.

Sharing Learning

In addition to the delivery partner roles Volunteering England is taking on a role to share learning emerging from partners' activity with the wider voluntary and community sector.

Objectives

- Supporting lead organisations to identify key learning points and facilitating the sharing of key learning points;
- Facilitating the sharing of key learning points across the voluntary and community sector; and
- Share learning across Europe

Volunteering England will be sharing learning through:

- A web page which will allow documents and materials produced throughout the Year to be viewed and accessed in one place (<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/European+Year+2011>);
- Local network contacts, including regional champions;
- Volunteering England's Good Practice Bank; and,
- Social media.

Regional champions

Greater London	Kerry Tweed	GLV
South East	Peter Turner	Volunteer Centre Milton Keynes
South West	Caroline Cook	South West Forum
East of England	Heather Allen	VC Dacorum
East Midlands	Al Bell	Community Matters
West Midlands	Ian Angus	BVSC
Yorks and Humber	Judy Robinson	Yorkshire and Humber Forum
North West	Tessa Willow	Mersey Volunteer Bureau
North East	Mel White	Chester-le-Street CVS

Facilitate opportunities for the learning from European Year of Volunteering projects to be shared in the regions

- help identify local and regional events and networks where learning from EYV 2011 can be promoted

- provide the Sharing Learning coordinator with ongoing details of local and regional EYV 2011 events so they can be included in a central EYV 2011 events calendar
- invite the Sharing Learning coordinator and other appropriate EYV 2011 project leads to appropriate meetings or events

Promote the European Year of Volunteering in the regions

- disseminate information about the Year in the region
- actively champion and promote EYV 2011 in the region
- ensure strong links with groups in the region, engaging their members in the EYV 2011

Provide an informal sounding board for Volunteering England's work on the European Year of Volunteering

- where relevant, provide advice and input to VE on the development of resources, helping ensure they are responsive to the needs of local organisations.

Events calendar:

www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/European+Year+2011/Events+calendar

The EYV 2011 Tour

A European tour is visiting every member state throughout 2011 to:

- promote the Year and its objectives;
- share inspirational stories relating to volunteering;
- provide a venue for debates on key topics; and,
- provide entertainment which promotes the value of volunteering.

The tour was due to visit London for a week in June. However, this has now been postponed until the end of October and beginning of November to allow additional time for planning and preparation. The Tour is due to take place in a central London venue and will provide organisations working with volunteers across the UK with an opportunity to promote their work, share good practice and learn from others.

Further information will be made available during the summer.

Flagship projects

The European Commission has identified three organisations within the UK that will receive funding for flagship volunteering projects to take place during 2011 as part of the central programme of work. The three organisations leading these projects in the UK are:

1. The Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA)
2. The Bristol Natural History Consortium
3. Community Service Volunteers (CSV)

A summary of each project will shortly be made available on the My Country section of the central EYV2011 campaign website

(<http://europa.eu/volunteering/en/mycountry/27>) along with contacts for more information.

Useful links and contacts

Volunteering England

(<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/European+Year+2011>)

Information on what is happening in England including events and downloadable resources:

EYV 2011 Alliance (www.eyv2011.eu)

The Alliance is a Europe wide group of voluntary and community sector networks. They are working together to support the implementation of activity around EYV 2011. You can visit their website to:

- Find out about the Alliance's work to develop a policy agenda for volunteering across Europe;
- Add volunteer time to their volunteer hours calculator (target 1,000,000 committed hours);
- Access and share example of good practice;
- Share your volunteers inspiring stories.

The official EYV 2011 campaign (<http://europa.eu/volunteering/>)

The website provides information on all aspects of the central campaign for the European Year.

- Calendar of events;
- Resources and information related to volunteering across Europe;
- A press pack;
- Campaign Toolbox where organisations can access material to enable them to utilise the year to support their work, including logo's; and.
- Information on activity in individual member states.

For queries regarding the national work programme in England email:

eyv2011@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk

For further information please contact Sam Mars at Volunteering England (Tel: 0207 529 8994; email: sam.mars@volunteering.org.uk).