

THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER MEASUREMENT PROJECT



PROGRESS TO DATE
PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION PHASE
JANUARY 2011 – APRIL 2012

The **European Volunteer Measurement Project** is a joint undertaking of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society Studies; SPES, the Volunteer Service Center for the Lazio Region; the European Volunteer Center (CEV); and a network of European volunteer promotion organizations to promote the implementation in Europe of the International Labour Organization's *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*. The Planning and Organisation Phase of the project was supported by a coalition that includes **ACRI, Forum Terzo Settore, Consulta Nazionale del Volontariato presso il Forum Terzo Settore, ConVol, Consulta Nazionale dei Comitati di Gestione** and **CSVnet**.

GOAL | Complete and publish the ILO *Manual*

- **The ILO *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work* was completed in March 2011 and copies posted on the ILO and EVMP websites.** The ILO has distributed copies of the *Manual* in electronic form to national statistical agencies around the world.
- **Translations into French, Spanish, Italian** (translated by SPES) **and Montenegrin** (translated by EVMP supporter ADP-Zid) are complete. The **Portuguese** translation is being prepared for 2012.

GOAL | Ensure VOLUNTEER LEADERS are made aware of the ILO *Manual* and secure their support in promoting its implementation

- **Established an EVMP website (evmp.eu), blog, and email account (volunteers@cev.be).** Prepared and posted Project Fact Sheets and Frequently Asked Questions documents for dissemination (English; also Spanish and Italian). Disseminated at European and national level public events and training sessions.
- **Organized 10 awareness-building and technical training events** across Europe, and participated in more than 10 additional events featuring the EVMP. **At least 500 individuals from civil society organisations and networks have been involved in these events.**
- **Secured 23 Declarations of Support** from organisations across Europe indicating a willingness to assist in mobilizing support for the *Manual* by local and EU-wide groups.
- **Published editorials and articles** on the importance of measuring volunteer work (Alliance Magazine, Sports and Citizenship Special Issue October 2011, Coyote Magazine and other mentions in VITA and VITA EUROPE magazines).

GOAL | Ensure NATIONAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES are made aware of the ILO *Manual*, provide them with training to implement it & secure their agreement to do so.

- **Statistics official in at least 22 countries** engaged by EVMP partners or National Focal Points.
- **Technical training workshops for statistics officials from 15 countries** co-hosted in **Warsaw** by the ILO, and the Polish Ministry of Labour (September 2011) and by local partner APD-Zid in **Podgorica** (January 2012).



- **Measuring the Amount, Character, and Role of Volunteering in Spain: Technical Workshop on the International Labour Organization *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*** on the with Spanish statisticians, researchers and volunteering sector leaders, taking place in Madrid (March 2012).
- **Implementation of the ILO *Manual*** achieved in Poland, Hungary, and Norway. Preliminary results from **Poland** published.
- **Commitments to implement** in Italy, Portugal, Montenegro, Moldova*, and Spain* (*pending funding availability).

GOAL | Move the European policy agenda forward

- Secured official recognition of ILO *Manual* and EVMP in several highly important policy declarations of the European authorities, including from the **European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union**, including:
 - **A Communication issued by the European Commission** on September 20, 2011, which encouraged “Research and data collection on volunteering ...at the national level” and specifically recommended “the use of the International Labour Organisation’s (ILO) *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work* and the United Nations *Handbook on Non-Profit Organizations*” in this context.
 - **A set of “Conclusions on the Role of Voluntary Activities in Social Policy,” issued by the Council of the European Union** on October 3, 2011, which invited Member States to “Consider encouraging production, publishing, and sharing of research tools/methodologies and results concerning voluntary activities and active citizenship, along with statistical data...” and called attention again to the “the ILO *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*” as a prime example of where to “look for statistical tools...to ensure comparable data.”
 - **Declaration released by European Economic and Social Committee Group III President Luca Jahier** which recommends “widely disseminating information on the economic impact of volunteering. As a first step, it is necessary to implement the European Volunteer Measurement Project which aims to harmonise the methodology for collecting data on volunteering” as a means of “raising awareness of the socio-economic contribution of the voluntary sector.”
 - The “**Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (PAVE)**” developed by the **European Year of Volunteering (EYV) 2011 Alliance**, which emphasizes that: “In order to provide a foundation for evidence-based policy making, improved data collection concerning the value and impact of volunteering in Europe is required.” And the “Declaration” issued by the National Coordinating Bodies for the European Year of Volunteering at the final EYV Conference, which calls for “provision of comparable data on volunteering.”
 - The **European Economic and Social Committee** stated in its **Opinion on the European Commission Communication** (March 2012) that “it is necessary to get agreement on and implement the use of the ILO *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work* as a way to harmonise the methodology for collecting data on volunteering in Member States.”
- **Support from Members of the EU Parliament (MEPs)**, including **Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Paul Murphy, Emer Costelloe, Gay Mitchell, Liam Aylward, Nessa Childers, Mairead McGuinness, Sean Kelly, Phil Prendergast, Patrizia Toia, Silvia Costa, Francesca Balzani, Marco Scurria** (Italy), **Sven Giegold** (Germany), **Mariya Nedelcheva** (Bulgaria), and **First Vice President Gianni Pitella** (Italy).
 - The Inter-Group on Volunteering of the European Parliament headed by MEP Harkin secured on-going support and advocated the **allocation of funding** to promote implementation of the ILO *Manual*.

- Vice President of the European Parliament **Gianni Pitella (Italy)**, confirmed his support for a robust implementation effort in a [news release](#) issued in January 2012. “I hope that these measurement practices become mandatory for Member States’ statistical systems, in order to make it possible to draft reports on the status of volunteering in Europe every 5 years, starting as early as 2013. I urge the European Commission to define the methodology of the *ILO Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work* as a basic standard and as mandatory to recognize the voluntary work hours in European co-financed projects.”
 - **Patrizia Toia (Italy)** hosted a [Public Roundtable on Measuring the Value of Volunteering at the Parliament](#) early in February 2012 with the objective of getting MEPs and other EU stakeholders interested in the measurement of volunteering and letting them know how to support it at the national and European level.
 - At the initiative of MEP **Marian Harkin**, a letter signed by 10 other Irish MEPs, **Jim Higgins, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Paul Murphy, Emer Costelloe, Gay Mitchell, Liam Aylward, Nessa Childers, Mairead McGuinness, Sean Kelly, Phil Prendergast**, was sent to the **Central Statistics Office of Ireland calling for the implementation of the ILO Manual**
- **European Commission Task Force for 2011 European Year of Volunteering recognized the implementation of the ILO Manual** as a concrete lasting legacy of EYV2011 and an essential precondition for evidence based policy making.
- **Opened dialogue** with statistics officials at the national level and officials in the European Commission Directorate-General Employment Social Affairs and Inclusion, the Directorate-General for Research, the ILO European Office in Brussels, and the Task Force on the European Year 2012 of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations and secured their willingness to remain engaged with the EVMP.

GOAL | Encourage the use of the *ILO Manual* methodology in small scale measurement activities

As a complementary action to the mainstream objective of inserting the measurement of volunteering on the basis of the *ILO Manual* in the national statistical systems, EVMP partners are promoting, monitoring, and providing technical orientation and support for small scale implementation efforts and tests of the measurement methodology provided by the *ILO Manual*. The methodology can be usefully applied to projects, federations or single organisations involving volunteer reports or to territorial communities. These small-scale efforts can also serve as tests to inform the work at the national level especially with regard to translation into local languages and coding.

Such actions enhance the awareness of the *Manual* as a concrete and ready instrument, help build the culture of measurement, contribute to the comparability of small-scale data across Europe, and provide methodological tests and outputs that build pressure for implementation by statistical offices.

Such small scale implementations include:

- Portuguese National Federation of Catholic Scouts, questionnaire on volunteer involvement;
- CARDO National Volunteer Centre of Slovakia, research on volunteering in Slovakia supported in the framework of EYV;
- Fondazione Volontariato e Partecipazione (Lucca, Italy) add-on to the national level research and test of the *ILO Manual* module in Italian on CATI and CAWI;
- Federació Catalana de Voluntariat Social (Cataluña, Spain) intends to use the ILO methodology in the volunteering surveying within their membership.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies published a report on a survey on the economic and social value of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers, based on methodology aligned with the *ILO Manual* in January 2011.

CIVIL SOCIETY AWARENESS BUILDING AND TRAINING SESSIONS

- **Budapest, Hungary.** ILO Manual featured at the 1st EU-Level Thematic Conference for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (January 2011).
- **Tallinn, Estonia.** Nearly 60 volunteer leaders representing 23 countries attended this kickoff training session (May 2011).
- **Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.** 22 participants took part as part of an international seminar organized by the South East European Youth Network (SEEYN) (June 2011).
- **Brussels, Belgium.** A training workshop for representatives from 8 European network organizations that are members of the European Year of Volunteering Alliance (July 2011).
- **Warsaw, Poland.** Volunteer leaders and statisticians from 7 countries participated in a training workshop organized for statistical officials, co-hosted by the ILO and the Polish Ministry of Labour (September 2011).
- **Berlin, Germany.** National Focal Points met in Berlin with JHU, Spes, and CEV personnel to report on their progress and to discuss strategy going forward (October 2011).
- **Rome, Italy.** Spes organized a workshop for Italian volunteer promotion organizations and statistical officials at which the ILO *Manual* was endorsed and plans set for cooperation with ISTAT to ensure its implementation in Italy (October 2011).
- **Paris, France.** France Benvolat featured EVMP in a national gathering (October 2011).
- **Podgorica, Montenegro.** Local Partner APD-Zid organized a workshop for statisticians and volunteer leaders from 10 Southeast European countries (January 2012).
- **Copenhagen, Denmark.** EuroVolNet project of national federations of sports for all organized a training workshop for 28 participants from 16 countries during the Sportvision2012 conference (March 2012).
- **Madrid, Spain.** EVMP and the Spanish Platform for Volunteering co-hosted a workshop for Spanish volunteering leaders and statistics officials in connection with a national service and volunteering conference (March 2012).
- **Rome, Italy.** Wrap up conference and technical seminar for statisticians (April 2012).
- **Bruxelles, Belgium.** European Youth Forum General Assembly – Workshop on volunteer measurement for member organisations representatives (April 2012).

EVMP PARTNERS PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF CONFERENCES PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE THE ILO MANUAL

A partial list includes:

- Dr. Salamon gave the keynote address at the European Economic and Social Committee Keynote Address, September 2011.
- Youth Convention on Volunteering, Brussels, September 2011.
- UNV Global Conference on Volunteering, Budapest, September 2011.
- International research conference on volunteering, hosted by MOVISIE and Erasmus University Rotterdam, Amsterdam, October, 2011.
- Conference: “European heritage in our hands Volunteering as mutual challenge and opportunity in civic society”, Austria, October 2011.
- European Social Action Network conference, Brussels, November 2011.
- EU seminar on unpaid work and volunteering in the context of active ageing, Brussels, November 2011.
- State Conference on Volunteering, Galicia, November 2011.
- European Year of Volunteering closing conference, Warsaw, December 2011.
- European Parliament Roundtable on the Measurement of Volunteering, Brussels, February 2011.