

# European Year of Volunteering 2011

2009/0072(CNS) - 19/12/2012 - Follow-up document

In accordance with the Decision establishing the European Year of Volunteering 2011, this report offers an overview of the implementation, results and overall achievements of the European Year, building on the conclusions of an external evaluation of the European Year.

In 2011, a total budget of EUR 7.7 million supported activities at European level and in the 27 EU Member States. A separate budget of EUR 2.994 million for preparatory actions had been available in 2010 to develop an information and communication campaign for the EYV2011 and to set up the coordination structure bringing together the main stakeholders at European level.

The main **conclusions** of the report are as follows:

- The European Year of Volunteering has had a **positive impact on the world of volunteering**, both at European and at national level. The objectives and activities of the Year were relevant, and the targeted, results-oriented approach was successful in reaching the objectives in all Member States, even though the impact varied according to specific national situations.
- The European Year **created and catalysed changes in the volunteering environment** at European and national level and led to the adoption or modification of volunteering strategies and legislation in some Member States. For example, a specific legal framework was created for the first time in Slovakia, Slovenia and Lithuania during 2011. In Bulgaria, a law on volunteering was elaborated during 2011 and adopted in 2012. Poland adopted a new strategy on volunteering, Austria renewed its law on volunteering and Portugal prepared a new law to be adopted in 2012. The idea of a European Charter for Volunteering, built on a rights-based approach and initiated by the European Youth Forum, was discussed during 2011.
- The EYV **empowered organisers** to improve quality, and to focus attention on areas such as corporate volunteering and volunteering as a non-formal learning experience. It increased the recognition of volunteering through a wide range of initiatives and raised awareness of volunteering and its value to society through the media and the European communication campaign. The national activities had a valuable multiplier effect for these EU-level activities.
- The European Year contributed above all to the **development of networks and new initiatives**. It complemented existing activities and it highlighted the European dimension of volunteering.
- The EYV 2011 left a **legacy** in the continuation of activities and structures which were put in place during 2011 and in the adoption of good practices that will bring changes in the years to come.
- The EYV 2011 triggered the **adoption of five EU policy documents** dealing with volunteering in the European Union, i.e. a [Commission Communication](#), two sets of Council Conclusions, an Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee and a [Report of the European Parliament](#).
- The European Year of Active Ageing 2012 has ensured some **continuity** with EYV 2011 through some specific actions. Sustainability will be assured through synergies with the European Year of Citizens 2013. By organising a series of European years on themes related to citizenship focussing on different aspects (European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010, European Year of Volunteering 2011, European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity 2012 and European Year of Citizens 2013), the Commission has sought to contribute to the exploration of the concept of civic engagement in its different dimensions.