



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

This update includes:

- The National Work Programme.
- Sharing learning and good practice.
- EYV 2011 events.
- 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.

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.

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

Children and Young People

March and April – led by v and Catch 22.

Aims:

- Recognition and celebration events for young volunteers
- Promoting Global Youth Service Day
- Promoting National Citizen Service programme opportunities
- Disseminating research and knowledge about youth volunteering
- Promoting a Star Pupil competition in schools across England for 11 – 16 year olds
- Hosting workshops with young people and a webinar to discuss the Future of Youth Volunteering
- Hosting regional capacity building workshops to help charities create compelling opportunities for employee volunteering
- Launching youth volunteering good practice resources on vinspired.com

Resources:

- Produced the Future of Youth Volunteering Report: <http://www.catch-22.org.uk/News/Detail/Future-of-youth-volunteering>

Environment

May and June – led by Groundwork West Midlands.

Aims:

Offered opportunities on new and existing projects where residents used environmental action to tackle social issues. A key area they focussed on is working jointly with social landlords, to help provide the tools and resources to offer more opportunities for residents to volunteer in local green spaces and in turn, increase the wider sense of community and ownership.

Resources:

- Case studies and details of social landlords project available: <http://www.neighbourhoodsgreen.org.uk/Volunteering>

Sport

July and August – led by Sports Coach UK.

Aims:

To identify, develop and promote guidelines for good practice to support the process by which new volunteers from outside sport can be matched to community sport volunteering opportunities and successfully integrated into those volunteer involving organisations.

Resources:

- Online toolkit planned for mid-October

Culture and the Arts

September and October – led by Arts and Business.

Aims:

A campaign to increase interest in cultural volunteering in England, offer large-scale volunteering opportunities within business, champion the value of such programmes with a wide range of organisations, and celebrate the value and importance of existing and new cultural volunteers.

Resources:

- Volunteering in the arts toolkit – planned for December

Health and Social Care

November and December – led by Age UK with a specific focus on volunteering and active aging.

Aims:

Two strands of activity, one to enable older people to volunteer and the second on delivering health and social care support to older people. This activity will help to prepare the way for the 2012 European Year of Active Aging and Intergenerational Solidarity in the UK.

Resources:

- Toolkit on engaging older volunteers
- Toolkit on volunteering roles in health and social care

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 are working across the Year.

Employer Supported Volunteering

Led by Volunteering England.

Aims:

Bringing together in one place information, resources and tools to support employers and volunteer-involving organisations in developing their ESV programmes and provide new guides to support all sectors.

Resources:

- Mapping ESV provision across all sectors for a resource hub planned for November
 - Case studies
 - Toolkits
 - Brokerage
- Shared platform
- New resources for VCs, employers and VIOs

Effective Volunteer Management

Led by Volunteer Centre Warrington.

Aims:

The project involves developing and evaluating four specific areas of work:

1. Evaluation of Talent Management, an approach adapted from the private sector, involving progression planning and empowerment of volunteers.
2. Developing new approaches to good practice in the management of volunteers engaged in short-term opportunities.
3. Supporting new ideas to enable volunteer-led organisations to deliver a good practice approach.
4. Incorporating technology to support and develop volunteer programmes.

Resources:

- Mapping volunteer manager's toolkits
- Case studies
- Guide to social media and managing volunteers

Opening the Door to Volunteering

Led by Attend.

Aims:

Mapping of current research and good practice in engaging with volunteers who are traditionally less likely to volunteer. The review explores research and good practice guides produced to date, but also incorporate action learning networks to identify current developments and pioneering practices. This involves face-to-face and on-line discussions.

Resources:

- Inclusive volunteering workshops
- Report on findings from research and analysis

The results of the literature review on the EYV 2011 'Opening Doors to Volunteering' programme can be found on the Attend website:

(<http://www.attend.org.uk/what-we-do/attend-academy/opening-doors-to-volunteering/opening-doors-to-volunteering.aspx>).

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 is 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	Eithne Rynne	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

Various events are happening around England. An events calendar is available on the Volunteering England website.

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

The EYV 2011 Tour

The tour will be in London from **28 October to 3 November**.

Aims:

The purpose of this event is to enable organisations working with volunteers or to support volunteering to:

- Raise awareness of the breadth and depth of volunteering in the UK and the European Year of Volunteering
- Share and celebrate success amongst the public and organisations working with volunteers
- Provide net-working opportunities for volunteer-involving organisations to enable sharing of good practice, formation of partnerships and generation of new ideas in relation to engaging and supporting volunteers
- Generate interest in volunteering from the public

Audience:

- Organisations working with volunteers
- Organisations that support volunteering

- Employers and staff from all sectors, both already involved in volunteering or interested in engaging with their communities through volunteering
- Members of the public interested in finding out about volunteering

What will the event look like?

The event will include the following zones:

- A ‘market place’ for:
 - organisations working with volunteers or in support of volunteering to promote their work to other organisations and the public; and,
 - the public and other organisations to meet inspirational volunteers.
- A meeting area where organisations can hold small conferences, speaking events, debates or workshops on relevant topics.
- A EU area (provided by the European Commission).

In London the ‘market place’ will be available to all organisations working with, or to support, volunteers to use throughout the week. The meeting area has been assigned themes on specific days during the week:

Date	Meeting area theme
28 Oct	Launch event – Celebrating Volunteering
29 Oct	Sport
30 Oct	The Environment
31 Oct	Children and Young People
1 Nov	Culture and the Arts
2 Nov	Health and Social Care
3 Nov	Opening the Door to Volunteering Employer Supported Volunteering and Volunteer Management

Attendance

The event is open to anyone who wants to attend.

Contributing to the event

If you feel you could contribute to the event such as promoting it through your networks and contacts, or providing resources that could be used during the week e.g. short films or promotional material please email eyv2011@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk.

Further information is available from the Cabinet Office website:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/european-year-volunteering-2011tour-event>

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 is 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.

Cabinet Office (<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>)

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).