

SHARING WITH EUROPE GOOD PRACTICES FOR VOLUNTARY EMPLOYMENT



The Fourth International meeting on Project “Volunteers for European Employment” – VERSO was held from the 24th till 27th of February 2014 organized by Sofia Municipality at Sofia. In the meeting took part representatives of public authorities, institutes, universities and municipalities of 12 project partners from Bulgaria, Denmark, United Kingdom, Spain, Greece, Germany, Holland and Hungary.

VERSO concept focuses on the use of volunteering as a tool for non-formal education and social cohesion through the procurement of skills, experience and qualification to expand opportunities for future employment.

Volunteers are an integral part of the provision of public beneficial services, especially for people from vulnerable social groups. Particularly important to achieve complex and effective results in volunteering is support of the local authorities, government and NGOs.

In response to this challenge Mrs. Albena Atanasova - Direction “Social Activities and Integration of People with Disabilities” of Sofia Municipality and Mrs. Aneta Georgieva - councilor and member of the political board of the project took part in the meetings. The local authorities have focused on the social aspect of volunteering and underlined the importance of making it a matter of inner necessity in conscious social need and shared responsibility.

At the first day of the workshop the international partners shared best practices for successful integrated models of volunteering that motivate youth employment in Sofia –Home for children from 7-18 “P.Slavejkov” and initiatives of “Youth Entrepreneurships Marketplace”, “Business incubator for vulnerable groups”, “Young Banker”.

In the meeting were held consultative working sessions in which the participants exchanged experience and expertise based on European best practices in volunteering and discussed a number of practical issues related to opportunities for the implementation of voluntary platforms in different areas of public life, depending on the specific needs of the partner cities.

As a result of the work group will be developed and formulated important recommendations for use of European and national policies to promote volunteerism and to achieve sustainable progress in this sphere.

International conference was officially closed on 27th of February 2014 with held a briefing which was attended by councilors from the Sofia Municipal Council, Director of the "European Programmes and Projects" in Sofia Municipality, representatives of the political board by the partner cities and journalists.

The team of Sofia municipality would like to thank to all participants - project partners of VERSO for their active participation and contribution to the successful completion of the IV International Conference!

Project Volunteers for European Employment – VERSO

The project is co-funded by INTERREG IV C Programme of the European Union and includes a consortium of 12 partners from 8 countries: East Riding of Yorkshire Council (UK), Government of Catalonia (Spain), Region of Epirus (Greece), Municipalities of: Sofia (Bulgaria), Middelfart (Denmark), Netzwerk Lippe (Germany), Zalaegerszeg (Hungary), Coevorden (Holland) and University of Ioannina (Greece), Aarhus University (Denmark), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain) and Budapest Business School (Hungary).

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Financial / non-financial contribution of Sofia Municipality: 31578,33 Euro

Useful links: www.verso.au.dk





VERSO
VOLUNTEERS FOR EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT

