



WORKSHOP 5 Public policies for the promotion of volunteering

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Promoting volunteering through networking.

1. Introduction and background.

Volunteering is a deeply entrenched activity in the Basque Country, is highly developed and is a plural movement that is alive and evolving constantly.

In the Basque government we have been developing policies to promote volunteering for over a decade, as the logical follow-up to the **approval of Law 17/1998, of 25th June, on Volunteering.**

It is relevant to point out the creation of the **Volunteering General Council** and the **Basque Volunteering Council** as a result of this law.

The **Basque Volunteering Council** (CVV in Spanish) is attached to the **Basque Ministry for Employment and Social Issues**, falling under the **Community and Family Policy Directorate**. It is a parity-based organ made up of thirteen representatives from volunteering organizations and other representatives from several public administrations.

This council is a place of gathering, assessment and consultation for aspects relating to volunteering, and its main objective is to **allow society and its solidarity policy organizations to take part in it.**

The policies for the promotion of volunteering and the concrete actions developed over these years have **stemmed from a joint collaboration between the public administrations, the organized civil society and volunteering agencies.** The Basque Volunteering Council has been the space where the strategic lines have taken shape and is, ultimately where many of these actions are designed and reviewed.

2. Key ideas to develop.

- a. The Basque government has strongly encouraged the generation of policies to promote volunteering through a **participatory dialogue** with **social organizations** during the stage at which these policies were being conceived of.



- b. The Basque government sees the promotion of volunteering as a crosscutting issue in other government **departments** and searches for dialogue and commitment in all of them, as well as the commitment from **Provincial and City councils**.
- c. **Volunteering organizations** want to be co-creators of the policies for the promotion of volunteering, together with the different public administrations, and based on our concrete experiences in accompanying volunteers. We can contribute the daily knowledge of the organizations, the challenges and the needs that specific volunteers detect and pose when developing their voluntary actions. We see this as the only way to build policies which effectively strengthen the construction of a more aware, participatory, critical, creative and solidarity-based citizenship.
- d. The role of **volunteering agencies** in the territories of the Basque Country is essential. They are specialized agencies with a long history both as regards reflecting on and establishing actions aiming to the construction of a participatory citizenship. Their working experience with volunteers and in offering assessment to volunteering organizations makes them strategic agents that are essential when designing any policies for the promotion of volunteering.
- e. The Basque government and the other public administrations, as well as volunteering organizations and volunteering agencies want to **promote all forms of volunteering which are arising in many different areas**: social exclusion, culture, sports, the environment, health... all of which are an expression of a citizenship which is more and more aware of the potential this has to offer and with a clear will to participate in construction of their village, city, their world.
- f. We are also promoting concrete actions during the year 2011 such as:
 - 1. Extending the II Basque Volunteering Plan 2011/2012: We discussed the possibility to draw up a II Basque Volunteering Plan, an idea which was finally rejected and it was decided to extend the II Basque Volunteering Plan for the next two years, since we understand that its strategic lines are still fully valid and that the present times does not call for large plans but rather having some efficient and plausible commitments which can bring together the wishes of all agents involved in its execution.
 - 2. **Preparing a campaign for the 2011 International Volunteering Day**. This is a general campaign for all territories complemented

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9, 10 i 11 de novembre de 2011



by specific actions to be developed by whichever territories want to participate.

3. Special actions to celebrate the **2011 European Volunteering Year** with three target groups: elderly people, university students and the general public.
4. Making the preparations to host the **2012 Spanish Volunteering Conference**.

3. External consultation references (links to other pages)

<http://www.gizartelan.ejgv.euskadi.net/r45-familias/es>

<http://www.bolunta.org/>

<http://www.gizalde.com/eusk/index.asp>

http://www.vitoria-gasteiz.org/we001/was/we001Action.do?aplicacion=wb021&tabla=contenido&idioma=es&uid=7fb95889_11a94f261b6_7fd8

<http://youtu.be/FscJNt17IQQ>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FscJNt17IQQ>

<http://www.voluntariado2011.es/>

Conclusion/proposal:

Any policy for the **promotion of volunteering** must be the result of an open, participative, creative and innovative dialogue among the organized civil society and the public administrations.

The **different laws and plans on volunteering are a tool**, not an end in themselves, which should serve to build a more solidarity-aware, participatory and conscientious citizenship.

In a world undergoing constant change, **the ways in which politics are done must also change** and, in this sense, volunteering, social platforms and organizations must play an active role in the management of the policies affecting the everyday lives of citizens.

In the 21st century, the **volunteering movement and the different volunteering organizations** are faced with the challenge of becoming a bridge, of coming together. When social coexistence and the welfare state seem to fall to pieces, volunteering and volunteering organizations must work towards creating the necessary conditions so that we can all live together in dignity and benefit from the diversity.