

VoW - Volunteering for a sustainable World!

Increasing volunteering skills for global sustainability through experience in the Fair Trade sector

2021-1-IT02-KA220-ADU-000033711 – Cooperation Partnership in higher education
Project Number KA220-ADU-000033711

Main features of the project

The project "VoW - Volunteering for a sustainable world!" focuses on volunteering as one of the main actors for the development of our society towards a sustainable economy. Volunteering is considered a fundamental resource for many organizations involved in the Third Sector.

The project VoW is co-funded under the Erasmus+ programme – Adult Education.

Key background elements are:

- the experience of Fair Trade sector organisations on volunteering
- the evidence of an increasing attention to sustainability issues
- international relations and development cooperation
- key competences development

The project addresses the vast sensitive area that is volunteering, thanks to the experience of the participating Fair Trade organisations, improving its ability to be a co-protagonist of actions that contribute to spreading values, choices and behaviours that can influence a new approach to sustainable economy.

Project objectives:

- foster **growth of skills** in the world of volunteering on issues of sustainable economy
- increase **opportunities for active participation** of European citizens in activism paths,
- improve skills in the **recruitment, training and valorisation of volunteers**

Expected results

R1) CODE of competences and recruitment models for sustainable economy volunteers. This is the result of extensive and innovative research in this field, to define and organise the skills of the volunteer (including knowledge of the sustainable economy), and to structure a subsequent model of recruitment and reception: from the definition of the needs and expectations of the citizen who wants to get involved, to the creation of targeted and motivating information tools.

R2) GUIDELINES for the training of sustainable economy volunteers and their trainers: Creation of a new global training plan for volunteers in the main roles and parallel guidelines for the training of volunteer trainers.

R3) The sustainable volunteer: TOOLKIT for organisations and volunteers on skills and development pathways for the sustainable economy.

Project partners: Altromercato Impresa Sociale (Italy), Oxfam Intermon (Spain), Oxfam Magasins du Monde (Belgium), CSVNet (Italy), EFA – Equipe Formatori Associati (Italy), RSM - Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University (Netherlands), E.N.T.E.R. (Austria).

Duration: 32 months (01.02.2022 – 30.09.2024)

7 partners from 5 EU countries

State of the art

The project started at the beginning of March 2022, and in the months since the project partnership has carried out many activities, started to compare the different volunteering models of Fair Trade partners and other third sector organisations, under the direction of RSM. We also discussed the different roles of volunteers, and consequently, the skills needed to fulfill them. Through questionnaires and focus groups with volunteers, we analysed in detail the expectations of volunteers and the management models implemented by the organisations. We also brought together the reception, recruitment and recognition processes in a single model. This important work has led us to achieve the first result: the CODE of skills and recruitment models for sustainable economy volunteers, which you can find here: www.vow-project.eu/result-1

The CODE is the result of extensive research in this field, to define and organise the volunteers' skills (which includes insights into the knowledge of the sustainable economy), and to structure a subsequent recruitment and reception model: the definition of needs and the expectations of citizens who want to engage in the creation of selective and motivational information tools.

In March 2023 we started working towards the next expected results of the project, for which we have designed **3 learning modules for trainers of trainers and trainers of volunteers**.

Learning Module	Units
MODULE 1: GUIDE TO VOLUNTEER'S JOURNEY	Recruitment
	Welcoming
	Recognition
MODULE 2: ORGANISING VOLUNTEERS	Managing Volunteers
	The Fair Trade shop
	Communication
MODULE 3: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY	Fair Trade
	Sustainable Development Goals

Each partner contributed with their work on one or more units that make up the three learning modules which will be tested in the coming months by trainers and volunteers, to then be released in an online training platform accessible to all interested parties.

Hoping that you will find the first results of this work interesting, we would also like to invite you to follow us online:

Website: www.vow-project.eu

Instagram: www.instagram.com/vowprojecteu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VoWprojectEU

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	
	Altromercato www.altromercato.it
	CSVnet https://csvnet.it
	Erasmus University Rotterdam www.rsm.nl
	E.N.T.E.R. www.enter-network.eu
	Oxfam Intermón www.oxfamintermon.org
	Oxfam Magasins du Monde https://oxfammagasinsdumonde.be
	Equipe di Formatori Associati www.efonline.it