

# VoSoTros – ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 Cooperation on innovation and exchanges of good practices/ Adults Education



Erasmus+



volunteering creates  
social transformations

The fragmentation of society, individualism, the rise of racism and social inequalities call for educational responses that foster social cohesion, individual commitment and access to education for all. Voluntary commitment in its collective dimension helps to meet this imperative of social cohesion. This commitment needs to be fully recognized by public authorities, and accompanied by trained professionals.

Today we are witnessing a change in the public concerned by volunteering, and a change in the nature of projects. Projects are increasingly focused on the social dimension, **supervised by socio-cultural or social volunteers.**

In the partner countries, many initiatives focus mainly on volunteers, to enhance their experience, appreciate their skills and accompany them in their life paths. If the evaluation of this experience cannot be limited to a measure of impacts on the individuals, professionals have very **few tools** for a more global evaluation and lack arguments to promote an inclusive approach to volunteering.

Within our structures, professionals and volunteers working with vulnerable groups need increased skills in partnership development, communication, evaluation, practice assessment, and the **production of tools to formalise the effects of the volunteering experience and report on the benefits of voluntary action.**

Within the framework of the VoSoTros project (VOLunteering creates SOcial TRansformations), **8 European associations from France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Romania, Poland and Slovakia** are making their field of action available and pooling their skills, issues and methodologies to meet these needs.

We would like to study and illustrate what volunteering is transforming in our territories, among our publics (minorities, people in precarious situations, exiled people, socially excluded people) and in our organisations, in order to argue its capacity to strengthen the **links between people and between structures** (social inclusion, social cohesion, citizenship).

The aim is to **promote the experience of volunteering as a vehicle for social inclusion and integration.**

The objectives of this exchange of practices project are to :

- ✓ To discover the social context and the public welcomed in each partner's home by giving the floor to each associated partner.
- ✓ To identify the effects produced by the volunteer projects with regard to the expected results.

- ✓ To enable supervisors to distance themselves from their practices.
- ✓ Formalize a set of specifications for an evaluation process for social volunteering projects.

The activities planned over two years are

- 1) **6 study visits** in 6 partner countries in order to discover the context, the partners involved in the projects involving volunteers, and the methods used by each. Two people from each organisation are planned for each visit (16 in total). They are project officers and field professionals, educators, youth workers, facilitators, mediators).
- 2) **2 forums for the exchange of practices** on evaluation methodologies in order to strengthen the partners' skills, bringing together the 16 participants, accompanied by a member of the steering committee of each association (24 people in total).

The expected results are :

- ◆ a formalization of the training contents necessary for the evaluation process,
- ◆ a typology of the changes brought about by the implementation of volunteer projects, making it possible to establish evaluation criteria and training proposals for the staff of the structures,
- ◆ a list of proposals encouraging organizations to carry out and disseminate the evaluation of volunteering and the transformations it generates in their environment
- ◆ an argument to present volunteering as a vector for social inclusion.

The project will thus allow a **better understanding of volunteering, its effects on the territory, and a reinforcement of the skills of the professionals supervising it.**

**As a result, there will be a greater awareness of the status of volunteer, a better reception and support of the people welcomed, in a process of responding to their needs and their socialisation.**

By bringing together different actors (institutions, educational structures, volunteers and beneficiaries of social actions) around a common work, the project aims to create a dynamic of

local actors and to promote the recognition of volunteering in the field of social intervention.

This will ultimately lay the foundations for a strategic partnership to develop and share innovative practices and strengthen the links between the European partners.

## Deliverables of VoSoTros's project :

### DIAGNOSTICS ELEMENTS

→ **Volunteering Activities**

Context, thematics, actors  
(publics and persons engaged)

→ **Needs**

Trainings, networking, lisibility

### ANALYSIS ELEMENTS

→ **Contributions of Volunteering**

social dimension of citizenship and  
economic dimension, specificity of non  
formal education and popular education ?  
For the persons (encadrant.es et  
bénéficiaires)  
For the structures  
For the territories

### Argument on the recognition of volunteering in the social field

→ *To policy makers and future local  
partners.*

### Terms of reference for an evaluation process to validate the hypotheses on the contribution of volunteering

(Specificity of Non Formal Education ?)  
→ *To the stakeholders of the future  
strategic partnership: decision-makers and  
institutions.*

**Expected results:** A territorial dynamic / A recognition of public policies / A development and improvement of reception activities

## PARTNERS



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