The topic of voluntary action has gained momentum in Europe over the past years. The European Year of Volunteering 2011 is the latest peek in the growing public awareness that our societies are better of with active citizens. The coming months will see manifold projects, activities and awareness raising campaigns to further promote, facilitate and develop voluntary action all over the continent and beyond.

This seems like a perfect moment for us to hold our breath and to ask ourselves: Quo vadis volunteering? Where are we and where should the journey go? What are the current trends in our sector and what is our vision for the future?

Many new features and new developments characterise the voluntary sector with the new information technologies playing an ever rising role in our daily lives; an increasing commercialisation of international voluntary service placements; the appearance of business players in the non-profit world of volunteering; with changing patterns of engagement by volunteers; and with our societies facing an economic and financial crises that may lead to unprecedented transformations to our societies and to the way the state perceives the unpaid contribution of citizens to economy and society. These and other developments have led our sector to ask questions such as: Where are the boundaries of volunteering? What are its inviolable core concepts and principles that we need to defend? What are opportunities and threats of further unleashing the potential of voluntary action to make our societies the places we want to live in? How do we shape tomorrow’s volunteering and how do we empower volunteers to shape tomorrow’s society?

Our conference will, thus, strive to achieve the following objectives:
1. To provide an overview of the current trends in volunteering;
2. To facilitate a space for debate on controversies that have developed over time;
3. To identify the core concepts and inviolable values of volunteering we adhere to and that we want to safeguard;
4. To develop a vision for the decades to come of how volunteering will continue to serve as a central cornerstone in all European countries.

CEV Symposium

The future of volunteering: concepts, trends, visions

4th – 6th May 2011
Sokos Hotel Viru
Tallinn | Estonia
Tuesday, May 3rd 2011

19.30  Informal dinner (at participants’ own expenses)
21.00  European Culture Capital Tallinn 2011 events

Wednesday, 4th May 2011

09.00  12.30  CEV General Assembly (CEV members only)
12.30 – 13.30 Lunch
13.30 – 14.00 Registration
14.00 – 14.15 Opening Ceremony of the conference
14.15 – 15.45 Opening Panel: Setting the scene and presenting some core trends
15.45 – 16.15 Coffee break
16.15 – 18.15 Current trends in volunteering – where are the lines?
18.15 – 18.30 Closing of day!
18.30  Reception
20.30  European Culture Capital Tallinn 2011 events

Thursday, 5th May 2011

09.30 – 10.45  Innovative practice workshops 1st round:
  Davide Mussina  Itze Grisdale  Brippodigals.lv (Latvia)
  The role of a virtual database in the promotion and development of voluntary work
  Else Boss & Sandra Kamerbeek  Movisie (Netherlands)
  Perspective on changes in civil society and consequences for volunteering and support organisations
  Tsvetelina Modeva & NM Women and Mothers against Violence (Bulgaria)
  Methods for the enlargement of the volunteers’ network among students and minority ethnic groups
  Franco Vaninni  Istituto Italiano della Donazione (Italy)
  Towards a Fundraising Certificate for associations
  Frank Schuller  Federal Agency for Technical Relief – THW (Germany)
  E-learning training courses on quality volunteer management

10.45 – 11.15  Coffee break

11.15 – 12.30  Debates session: parallel debates on the following topics:
  Debate 1: new forms of volunteering
  Volunteering versus activism: Is volunteering a conservative activity or one that transforms society?
  Volunteercism and ‘fees’ for international volunteering placements – a commercialisation of volunteering and new forms of ‘colonialism’ or new trends to follow?
  Online Volunteering and the use of social networks: New forms of engagement or new forms of division?
  Falko Mohrs  European Youth Forum
  Luc Lapointe  Connexion Internationnales (Canada)
  Malcolm Quigley  VSO Ireland
  Anita Kelley  ATTAC (Finland)
  Chair: Gordana Forcic  CEV President

12.30 – 13.45  Lunch

13.45 – 15.00  Innovative practice workshops 2nd round:
  Anneli Ohvril  Let’s do it (Estonia)
  Žilinskas Zidus  S-plus (Belgium)
  Casper Bo Danø  Frivilligcentre og Selvhjælp Denmark (Denmark)
  Ionut S这款游戏  Istituto Italiano della Donazione (Italy)
  Jo Peeters  Steunpunt Scouting Nederland (Netherlands)
  Chair: András F. Tóth  CEV President (Chair)

15.00 – 15.15  Coffee Break

15.15 – 17.30  Vision workshops

17.30 – 18.00  Reflective debate and closing of the CEV symposium (Chair: Eva Hambach  CEV President)

19.00  Informal dinner (at participants’ own expenses)

Friday, 6th May 2011

09.00 – 10.00  Training session and kick-off meeting of the European Volunteer Measurement project, led by
  Joens Hopkins University (open to organisations interested in becoming project partners)

10.00 – 12.00  Visits to local volunteering projects