

## **Workshop: „ Once a volunteer always a volunteer”**

Date, Time: Thursday, 31.03.2011, 10:30 – 12:30 and 14:15 – 16:15

**Trainer: MarijaSavić and Andreja Kumer, Volunteers' Centre of Vojvodina, Serbia**

### **Workshop content/theme**

Learning about volunteering, means and ways of volunteering and realising what volunteering is not.

### **Aims**

We started with icebreakers and in between all the activities suitable energisers were shown. A workshop about volunteering aimed primarily at better understanding of what volunteering is. Why volunteer, what is volunteering and what types of volunteering are there? We divided participants in mixed groups and they had to make a list of answers to certain questions. During the first part of the workshop the participants got the opportunity to get to know what voluntary work is and what it is not. Then we discussed (false) statements about volunteering in the whole group. Again in groups the participants had the opportunity to act in the forum theatre on what they thought typical volunteering in an organisation is (asylum, Red Cross, art festival, helping elderly, etc.).

### **Method(s)/Approach**

- Icebreakers and energisers: 1. tell me your name and make a move, 2. Simon says ..., 3. Penguins and pelicans.

Participants were divided into 3 groups and each group had to come up with a list of answers/ideas about volunteering, thus they brainstormed. They came up with ideas on what volunteering is, what kinds of volunteering we know and reasons for volunteering. A plenary discussion and an exchange of ideas followed. Then two opposite sides of the room were posted with a piece of paper on which said: I agree or I disagree and they had to sort themselves on the basis of their opinions about sentences we read out loud. A discussion followed. The last exercise involved a short forum theatre where one group had to play a day at a NGO/voluntary organisation and the other group had to change them or say what they would change.

### **Further tips, sources, resource material or links**

For forum theatre: <http://www.wgcd.org/action/Boal.html>

For voluntary NGO: <http://www.sciint.org/>, <http://www.caritas.org/>, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/71>

For Youth in Action and their long and short term voluntary programmes: EVS and youth exchanges: [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm)

### **Impressions, Outcomes of the workshop**

We managed to fulfil the tasks we have set. The participants took part in all the activities, teachers had a lot of comments and ideas about volunteering based on their experiences, which was good for broadening horizons for the pupils/students. In general everybody enjoyed the games and got involved in the discussions at least a bit.



