

Volunteering

is for everyone

IMProVE
Inclusive Methods in Professional
Volunteering in Europe



Friday 18 September 2020, 10:00-12:00 CET

Online seminar

Volunteering should be inclusive, meaning everyone should be able to volunteer. So many organisations want to involve volunteers who have specific needs, but don't know how.

In our international IMProVE (Inclusive Methods in Professional Volunteering in Europe) Erasmus+ project, a team of German, Portuguese, Austrian and Czech colleagues mapped and tested the involvement of volunteers with specific learning needs. Our main target group were people with learning difficulties, but our methods can be also used to engage long-term unemployed or, for example, migrants and refugees with limited language skills.

In our work, we focused on EASY LANGUAGE: how to train volunteers with special needs in simple language and how to coordinate their activities. In addition, our own attitudes and values, and the willingness to overcome challenges, were crucial for the implementation of our inclusive volunteering project.

In this interactive online session, led by Perdita Wingerter, Executive Director of the volunteer-led organisation Gemeinsam leben & lernen in Europa (member of Volonteuropa), and her European colleagues, you will learn about our good practices and EASY LANGUAGE. You can share your own experiences and hopefully will be inspired to launch your own inclusive volunteer program in your organization.

Be prepared to participate actively in these 2 hours! Tools like Kahoot! Quizzes, Mentimeter and Padlet will be used to give you the opportunity to contribute as much as possible.

Register to attend

<https://forms.gle/rqSYqK1meAv75vQDA>

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About the presenter

Perdita Wingerter from Germany is the founder and CEO of the NGO Gemeinsam leben & lernen in Europa. She is the driving force behind this project and has been advocating the issue of inclusive volunteering for four years now. She is active in volunteering for nearly 40 years and has implemented many projects and initiatives to make volunteering more successful and accessible for everyone.

Perdita Wingerter will be supported by Raquel Pereira, the Technical Director of the Occupational Activities Centre of the Portuguese organisation Cercioeiras, and Aaron Reitbauer, project coordinator of Inclusive Education Austria and Digital inclusive Education.

Piotr Sadowski, Secretary General of Volonteuropa, will support the online seminar.

About the project partners

We are two volunteer organisations from Czech Republic and Germany, and two professional organisations, working directly with people with disabilities from Austria and Portugal. The coordinator, the volunteer centre Dobrovolnické centrum, z.s. from Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic, has worked in the region of Ústí nad Labem since 1999. Their mission is to promote and support the idea of volunteering, and to encourage citizens to participate in volunteering activities. They organise recruiting, training and further education of volunteers. They give lectures on volunteering and implement our own volunteer programmes involving volunteers into services provided directly to clients who are in need of care, for example, children and young people, senior citizens, unemployed people. The organisation will be represented by its Founder and Director Lenka Cerna, who is also the President of the Czech National Volunteer Organisation.

The main emphasis of the volunteer-led NGO Gemeinsam leben & lernen in Europa from Passau, Germany, is to promote volunteering and to increase a sustainable commitment to society. They initiate cooperation, activities and volunteering projects among different individuals, organisations and communities, who are all working to eliminate discrimination and inequality, wherever it appears. The organization will be represented by its Founder and Managing Director Perdita Wingerter.

The Portuguese organisation CERCIOEIRAS from Oeiras (Cooperative Education and Rehabilitation of Citizens with Disabilities) is an organisation of excellence and reference in constructing an inclusive society. Their mission is to include, educating, rehabilitating and taking care of clients with disabilities and their families, through all periods of life. They have the experience of developing volunteering actions with their clients, in different fields of interest for them. The organisation will be represented by Raquel Pereira, Technical Director of the Occupational Activities Centre.

Atempo from Graz, Austria, is a non-profit association with the mission of equality of treatment of all people in our community. Atempo offers various training and learning facilities for people with learning difficulties and disabilities in Graz, and several services for assisting members of this target group to get jobs on the first labour market. Furthermore, Atempo offers services and products which obtain its certain quality out of the fact that people with learning difficulties and disabilities are involved in the production and delivery. The department "Capito" produces information products which are "easy to read" or "easy to understand", and barrier-free, in terms of technical accessibility. The organisation will be represented by Aaron Reitbauer, Project Coordinator of Inclusive Education Austria and their EU-projects on inclusive digital education.