Reference Centre on Volunteering | Centro de Voluntariado
Centre d'information sur le volontariat | مركز معلومات عن التطوع

E-news on volunteering

#2. May 2005

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New structure of the Reference Centre on Volunteering

From Friday 22 April, the Reference Centre on Volunteering will be available online to all users of FedNet.

The Reference Centre was formally set up at the General Assembly of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2003, and has been available online since November 2004 to members of the Western European Network for the Development of Volunteering (WENDOV). On Friday we go live to all members of the Red Cross, with a new look and fresh content.

The structure of the site includes the following sections:

1. About us: In this section, we introduce the Reference Centre on Volunteering. You'll find an introduction to what the Centre does, a guide to the team, a brief introduction to WENDOV (the Western European Network for the Development of Volunteering) and their contact details.
2. News: This section brings you news on volunteering throughout the Red Cross.
3. Events: In this section we will inform you about volunteering events throughout the Red Cross.
4. The Newsletter: In this section you can subscribe online, or take a look at the most recent issues. In addition, relevant content from the newsletter can be found on the News and Events sections of the site.
5. Library: The Reference Centre Library on Volunteering will eventually bring together online all the Red Cross's most important documents on volunteering. Federation strategy, National Society policy, research, evaluation and toolkits can all be found in our library.
6. Discussion Forum: The Discussion Forum will allow volunteer managers from all over the Red Cross to meet, network, ask questions and debate. The main discussion forums are:
    a. Volunteering issues: The main discussion group, where Red Cross people can meet, ask questions and talk about volunteering issues.
    b. WENDOV: This discussion group provides an opportunity for the WENDOV members and others to meet online and discuss the WENDOV project.
    c. About the Reference Centre: This discussion group is for those with an interest in the Reference Centre itself.

All these services can be found on FedNet, at https://fednet.ifrc.org/. If you are not yet signed up for FedNet, click on "*Sign Me Up*". Otherwise, click on "*Activities*", then "*Organizational Development*" and finally "*Reference Centre on Volunteering*" to view our site. The site is currently available in both Spanish and English.

More info:
FedNet: http://fednet.ifrc.org

Recommended documents in the Library of the Reference Centre
We recommend the following new documents from the Reference Centre Library on Volunteering:

Strategy section:

Plan de voluntariado y participación [Volunteering and Participation Plan]
2004, Spanish Red Cross, 61 pp. in Spanish.
1.04mb (PDF file).
Spanish Red Cross Volunteering and Participation Plan, setting out a strategy on volunteering designed to promote the participation of volunteers, their organisation, management and co-ordination within the National Society.

Management section:

Good Practice Guide for Leaders and Managers of Volunteers in the British Red Cross
2005, British Red Cross, 114 pp. in English
Comprehensive guide to managing volunteers, covering areas such as recruitment, induction, motivation, leadership and evaluation.

Volunteer management cycle
2004, IFRC, 36 pp. in English and Spanish
Authoritative Federation guide to managing volunteers at every stage in the volunteer cycle, from their recruitment to the ending of their contract.

To access these documents: You can find all these documents in the *Library* section of the Reference Centre.

More info:
FedNet: http://fednet.ifrc.org ; fednet@ifrc.org

Forthcoming events:

FACE/05

FACE/05 (First Aid Convention in Europe) is a meeting of active Red Cross/Red Crescent first-aiders from all over Europe, in the Slovakian town of Svidník. The main event is a competition, testing emergency First Aid skills and allowing for open exchange and debate about first-aid techniques, especially over how current guidelines should be put into practice.

Each participating National Society is represented by a team of 6 volunteers. The programme of the FACE includes an excursion around the region's cultural and historical sights, a welcoming party, and a visit to the European Convention that will take place the 2 of July. Currently 27 European National Societies are signed up.

More info:
FACE/05 website: www.face2005.org

Fiaccolata/05. Torchlight procession from Solferino to Castiglione (Italy)

The event began in May 1992 in Italy as a meeting point for Red Cross and Red Crescent members. It is a torch procession on the road which joins Solferino with Castiglione, thereby joining spiritually these two places of such historical and fundamental importance for the Movement. Today, many years later, an ever growing number of people from all over the world come to participate. The energy created by gathering together under the same flag, by believing in the same Emblem, gives us the energy to be able to stay and continue our humanitarian gesture towards those in need. The activities of the Fiaccolata begin June 18th and finish June 26th.

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More info:
Fiaccolata/05 website: www.micr.it/fiaccolata/2005

Follow-up of the next WENDOV meeting in Berlin

As you know, the next WENDOV meeting will be held by the German Red Cross and will take place from May 18th to May 21st in Berlin. The participants have to send their confirmation of attendance form by Friday 29th April 2005.

More info:
German Red Cross: Eckhard Ottee (Head of Volunteer Department).
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Co-chair of WENDOV: Philip Rosser prosser@redcross.org.uk
Reference Centre on Volunteering: http://fednet.ifrc.org

United Nations volunteers program

The United Nations Volunteers programme has embarked on a global survey to collect information from around the world on the progress made since the International Year of Volunteers in 2001. The progress is being documented in terms of implementing the recommendations on volunteerism contained in the UN General Assembly resolutions adopted at that time.

These recommendations are on a range of subjects, from the role of the media and the private sector, to research and legislation, from the contribution of youth and ICT to the celebration of the International Volunteer Day (IVD). The full list can be found in the two UN resolutions Res/56/38 and Res/57/106.

A paper based on the results of the survey will be submitted to the 60th session of the UN General Assembly later this year. Steps wll be taken by the General Assembly to support and promote volunteerism in the years ahead. Questionnaires have been sent to governments, civil society organizations, the UN system, parliamentarians and other principal stakeholders.

More info:
www.worldvolunteerweb.org
Online questionnaire

IAVE news

IAVE (International Association for the Volunteer Effort), will organize the 2006 World Volunteer Conference in India. This Conference will be held in New Delhi September 23-27, 2006, and will focus on Volunteering in Multicultural Societies.

In addition, IAVE has set up an electoral process where IAVE members will have the opportunity to participate in elections for representatives to the board of directors from every region in 2005.

More info: www.iave.org

Website of the month: www.worldvolunteerweb.org

The WorldVolunteerWeb.org supports the volunteer community by providing a global one-stop-shop for information, resources, and organizations linked to volunteerism. It aims to represent the diversity of volunteerism in all of its cultural forms, bringing global ideals to local voluntary actions. It mobilizes individuals, organizations and networks to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), a set of time-bound targets to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.

This website offers interesting resources for volunteers managers. Its library has a very diverse fount of documents in English, French, Spanish and Arab. We recommend the following:

a. Virtual volunteers: Current status and future prospects
b. Toolkit: Promoting your organization.
c. Toolkit: Producing your own print media.
d. Overview for effective writing.
e. Toolkit for relating to the media.
f. The cost of a volunteer: What it takes to provide a quality volunteer experience.

More info:

www.worldvolunteerweb.org

To come:

In the next number of E-news on volunteering we will be writing about other volunteering projects in Europe. If you want to include an interesting initiative from your National Society, please contact us (fch@cruzroja.es).

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