

Programme	LIFELONG LEARNING
Subprogramme	GRUNDTVIG
Action Category	MOBILITY
Action	GRUNDTVIG Senior Volunteering Projects
Objectives and description of the action	<p>Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Projects support bilateral partnerships and exchanges of senior volunteers between local organisations located in two countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).</p> <p>The Lifelong Learning Programme aims to offer various kinds of educational opportunities to people of all ages, in order to facilitate formal, non-formal or informal learning. Volunteering is increasingly recognised as a very valuable informal learning experience, for people of all ages. In particular, it has been recognised as a way of offering new learning opportunities to senior citizens in Europe, promoting the process of active ageing and emphasising the contribution of seniors to our societies. Indeed, senior citizens are a rich source of wisdom and experience from which society should derive far greater benefit than has usually been the case in the past. This Action therefore offers a new form of mobility to European senior citizens and will allow them to learn, to share knowledge and experience in a European country other than their own.</p> <p>The term "volunteering" refers to all forms of voluntary activity, whether formal or informal. It is undertaken of a person's own free-will, choice and motivation, and is without concern for financial gain. It benefits the individual volunteer, communities and society as a whole. It is also a vehicle for individuals and associations to address human, social or environmental needs and concerns, and is often carried out in support of a non-profit organisation or community-based initiative. Thus voluntary activities add value to society, but do not replace professional, paid employees.</p> <p>This form of mobility also fosters collaboration between the organisations which will send and host volunteers. It should allow new types of organisations to join the Grundtvig programme, enrich their work, through the exchange of good practice, and create sustainable European collaboration between them.</p> <p>The Action pursues the following interlinked, equally important, objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enable senior citizens to volunteer in another European country for any kind of non-profit activity, as a form of informal (and mutual) learning activity (learning / sharing knowledge). 2. To create lasting cooperation between the host and sending organisations around a specific topic or target group, and thanks to the exchange of volunteers. <p>Expected outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the volunteers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) increase of personal, linguistic, social and intercultural skills and competences, 2) contribution to the development and implementation of non-profit activities, and beyond this, contribute to the community as an active citizen, 3) acquisition / development / transmission of specific task-related skills (the learning and competence development outcomes of the mobility period for the volunteers will be given appropriate recognition by the participating organisations, i.e. validation of informal learning); • For the sending and hosting organisations and the local communities in which the volunteers spend their mobility period abroad: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) exchange and mutual acquisition of experience, knowledge and good practice, 2) development of European collaboration around a particular theme, 3) intensified European outlook. <p>Bilateral and reciprocal cooperation:</p> <p>Projects should involve two organisations, i.e. one from each of the two LLP countries participating in the project. One of these countries must be an EU Member State. Each organisation will be expected to send 2-6 volunteers and to host 2-6 volunteers during the grant period. 2 volunteers are regarded as an absolute minimum. Organisations may send/receive more than 6 volunteers, but this will not lead to an increase in Grundtvig funding. Volunteers may move in a group or individually. If, after the two-year funding period is over, a further grant is awarded to the Project to continue the exchange, the individual volunteers involved must be different (each individual person can only participate as a volunteer once over a period of three years). Sending and hosting may take place at the same time but does not necessarily have to do so.</p> <p>Profile of volunteers:</p> <p>The action is open to all adult citizens aged 50 or above, subject to the conditions set out in the Specific Eligibility Criteria below. Particular emphasis will be given to encouraging the participation of volunteers from socially disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities, thereby helping to strengthen their integration in Europe and to combat racism and xenophobia. Equal participation of both genders should be encouraged.</p> <p>It is expected that in many cases volunteers will be experienced local volunteers, and this will enhance the exchange of experiences between the host and sending organisations. However, this is not compulsory, and volunteers may also be people wishing to volunteer for the first time.</p> <p>Profile of sending and hosting organisations and of the volunteering activity</p> <p>Any organisation may send and host volunteers, provided that it can show that it has the necessary capacity to do so in an effective manner. It should, however, be noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the activities in which the volunteers will be involved must be non-profit making and should provide real learning opportunities - whether formal, non-formal or (most usually) informal -

	<p>for the volunteers. The volunteers should not only observe but also participate actively in the partners' activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the sending and hosting organisations that are the project partners are expected to build a lasting cooperation around a specific theme / activity / target group, through the exchange of volunteers. They should therefore have similar or complementary profiles. For the same reason, the volunteers should be sent by and hosted in the organisations which are the partners in the project. <p>Duration of the activity: The volunteering activity in the other country is carried out in one continuous period of 3-8 weeks (i.e. minimum 21 days, which can include travel), not including the necessary preparation and debriefing phases. 3 weeks are an absolute minimum. The volunteering period may extend beyond 8 weeks, but this will not lead to an increase in the Grundtvig funding. Both the volunteering activities as such and the preparatory and debriefing activities, should be clearly described in the application.</p> <p>Further information Additional information and documentary resources for project partner organisations and volunteers are available on the National Agency's website and on the LLP / Grundtvig website on ec.europa.eu.</p>
Who can benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adult citizens aged 50 and above, subject to the conditions set out in the Specific Eligibility Criteria below. See also "Profile of volunteers" above. • Hosting and sending organisations can be any legal entity, provided they offer non-profit making tasks to the volunteers and place this exchange of volunteers within the framework of a European cooperation process.
Who can apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting and sending organisations: any organisation, as long as it is a legal entity and the volunteering activities are non-profit making. • Volunteers: adult citizens aged 50 or above, whether or not they are already involved in adult education, can apply to the organisations participating in a Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Project to become a volunteer, subject to the conditions set out in the Specific Eligibility Criteria below.
PRIORITIES	Please verify with the relevant National Agency whether national priorities apply. There are no European-level priorities for GRUNDTVIG Senior Volunteering Projects.
HOW TO APPLY	Decentralised, application to be sent to the relevant National Agency for the applicant Please consult the relevant Agency website for further information.
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Selection Procedure:	NA1
Application Deadline(s):	30 March 2012
Duration	
Minimum Duration:	2 years
Maximum Duration:	2 years
Comment on Duration:	Volunteering activities: 3-8 weeks. All activities must take place between 1/8/2012 and 31/7/2014
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS	
Please consult Part I of this Guide, Chapter 4 Financial Provisions for more information.	
Applicable Grant Table(s):	Table 1a & Table 3b
Maximum Grant €:	
Comment on Funding:	<p>Funding for Senior Volunteering Projects is provided in the form of a lump-sum grant to each of the two organisations participating in the Project concerned. The level of the grant is based on pre-defined flat rate amounts which depend on the number of volunteers the applicant organisation envisages sending and receiving, the duration of the mobility periods, and the countries involved. It is designed to help cover both the travel and subsistence costs of the volunteers and the costs incurred by the organisations involved in the Project.</p> <p>The "Other costs" relating to the individual volunteers participating in the projects are covered in section 4.D of the Guide, Part I.</p> <p>Please consult the NA for special rules on additional funds in the case of people with special needs.</p>
EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES	
Please consult Part I of this Guide, chapter WHAT IS THE LIFECYCLE OF A PROJECT for further information about the evaluation and selection procedures	
Eligibility Criteria	
General eligibility rules:	
The general eligibility criteria for applications in the LLP Programme are outlined in Part I of this Guide, Chapter 3.	
Participating countries: please refer to Part I of this Guide, section "Which countries participate in the Programme?"	

Specific eligibility rules:	<p>Applications must be submitted by bodies which are legal entities. The Project partnership must consist of 2 organisations, each located in a different country participating in the LLP, at least one of which must be an EU Member State. Individual adults participating in a Project as volunteers must be aged 50 or above at the start of their volunteering period and be either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a national of a country participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme; - a national of other countries enrolled in regular courses in schools, institutions of higher education or vocational training, or in adult learning organisations in a participating country, or employed or living in a participating country, under the conditions fixed by each of the participating countries, taking into account the nature of the programme (please refer to relevant National Agency website). <p>Please verify with the relevant National Agency whether additional national requirements apply.</p>
Minimum number of Countries:	2
Minimum number of Partners:	2
Comment on participants:	See above
Award criteria	<p>1. Quality of the project: The application contains a clear presentation of the participating (sending and hosting) organisations, the volunteers or the guidelines for volunteers' selection, the volunteering activities and their learning value. The cooperation between the partners includes activities and plans beyond the exchange of volunteers. Volunteers from a disadvantaged background will be included.</p> <p>2. Quality of the Project Partnership: The participating organisations are appropriate for the topic on which the Project will be working. There is an appropriate balance between partners in terms of their involvement in the activities to be carried out. Appropriate measures have been planned to ensure effective communication and cooperation, and the sustainability of the cooperation where possible.</p> <p>3. Impact and European added value: The impact and benefits of European cooperation on the participating institutions and the participating volunteers are clear and well defined, and the methodology for evaluating the impact and benefits is clear. The project is integrated into the activities of the participating institutions/organisations. The application shows that the participating organisations will work in close cooperation and achieve results which would not be attained at a purely national level.</p> <p>4. Quality of the work programme: The work programme is appropriate for achieving the objectives of the Senior Volunteering Project in question. The tasks are clearly defined and distributed among the partners in such a way that the results can be achieved within the time-frame envisaged. Both partners are actively involved.</p> <p>5. Dissemination and exploitation of results: The planned activities for dissemination and exploitation of results are relevant and well defined. They involve all the participating organisations and volunteers and, if possible, the wider community.</p>
CONTRACTING PROCEDURES	
Probable sending date of notification of the results of the selection process	June
Probable sending date of agreement to the beneficiaries	June
Probable starting date of the action	August