



**EUROPEAN NETWORK ON FORWARD POLICIES  
AND ACTIONS FOR SENIORS IN EUROPE**

**Active role of Seniors in the volunteering at local  
level**

Pforzheim, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010

1

**WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SENIORS STOPPED  
TO DO VOLUNTEERING?**

**In families...**

- Many parents would not be able to take care of their children during work time
- Many elderly people who need home care would not have assistance
- Many disabled people, mainly on week ends or holiday periods would be alone

2

**In the society....**  
in the health sector

- it would be difficult to find people who drive critically ill to the hospital → the emergency transport is managed by voluntary associations



- we would have less financial resources for prevention, precocity diagnosis and assistance
- some assistance activities for ill people would be lost (i.e. assistance at lunch/dinner time)

3

**IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR...**

- Assistance for migrant people
- Help to prisoners and to the their families
- Help in centers for prevention and assistance to women who are victims of violence
- Assistance to disabled people
- Assistance to elderly people
- Assistance to economically and socially disadvantaged people

4

## Other activities held by seniors

- Control and surveillance in schools and to help children in passing pedestrian crossings
- Assistance in the management of culture activities
- Assistance in environment protection activities
  
- Active role in citizens representative committees



5

## SOCIAL SYSTEM AS COMMUNITY WELFARE

Innovation both at legislation and quality level

- Support to **home care**
- **The local system as a relationship network** where it is possible to create interactions and synergies
- participation of the **civil society** in the planning and management of social services



*Laws for the promotion of participative citizenship and for an integrated management of social services*



6

## PARTICIPATIVE WELFARE: FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WELFARE TO A RESPONSIBLE WELFARE

NOT ONLY production of welfare services provided by associations integrating the public system



BUT valorization of civil society actors as key resources to guarantee the well functioning of the total social framework

7

## THE PARTICIPATIVE WELFARE FORESEES AN INTEGRATION AMONG DIFFERENT ACTORS IN LOCAL POLICIES AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

### At regional level

Regional conference for volunteering  
Regional 3 years plan for volunteering in the social sector

### At local level

Social and health conference with different actors  
(public/associations/cooperatives)

**Social and Health policies plan for areas**  
Planning, Management, Budget and Resources

8



## SOME PROJECTS HELD IN OUR TERRITORIES

### PROJECT: TOGETHER, WE CAN

IT STARTED THANKS A GROUP OF PARENTS TOGETHER WITH VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATIONS

TARGET: DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE

ACTIVITIES: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN GROUPS IN ORDER TO LET THEM INTERACT THROUGH SPORT, CREATION OF EVENTS, TRAINING ON ICT, CULTURAL EVENTS



#### SYNERGIE

- **Private:** a private company which has offered a building and the equipments for activities
- **a Social Cooperative** who provides educative staff and trainers
- **Coordinating role** provides by two social agency as Pedemontana sociale is



#### MORE INFORMATION...

- Transfers for activities are provided by the municipalities
- Volunteering associations managed the project
- Active participation of parents and families in the activities



#### FINANCING

The project is financed by a regional fund in order to support mainly the costs of trainers

### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES PROJECT



#### Project phases

- Creation of the project as the result of the interaction among the public sector and volunteering associations and social cooperatives
- Approval and financing of the project inside the local planning for social projects



## IMPLEMENTATION



- Volunteering associations have been involved



Public sector has the role to support associations and to let them work actively

- Agreement among the different actors to implement activities
- Social services get involved in the coordination and evaluation phase



## PROJECTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS



- A volunteering association coordinates a group of experts in order to help migrant people providing:
- Legal assistance
- Help in finding job
- Assistance for economic support

14

VOLUNTEERING INSIDE THE COMMUNITY WELFARE ACTS THROUGH **AGREEMENTS** AMONG THE PUBLIC SECTORS AND ASSOCIATIONS WHICH DEFINE

- Objectives and activities
- Targets
- Implementation tools
- Coordination of the activities
- Evaluation
- Financing tools for the project management

15

## SURVEY WHAT DO VOLUNTEERS THINK ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES?

Interviews held in the 5  
municipalities of the Pedemontana  
Sociale Agency  
April 2010



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF VOLUNTEERS STOPPED THEIR ACTIVITIES?



NOW WE CAN BE SURE ABOUT THEIR WILL TO BE A VOLUNTEER...

They want to continue to help people and the only problem in doing that is bad health conditions



18

1<sup>ST</sup> QUESTION  
HOW MUCH ARE THEY ACTIVE?

ACTIVITIES IN ASSOCIATION

- MANY PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN MORE THAN ONE

FAMILIES ACTIVITIES

- THEY HAVE BOTH AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORT AND IN VOLUNTEERING

2<sup>ND</sup> QUESTION:  
WHICH IS THE HELP THAT YOU PROVIDE TO THE SOCIETY WITH YOUR VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITY, IN YOUR OPINION?

Most frequent answers:

- *I can contribute to help and support other people*
- *I can see a elderly happier*
- *I can help disadvantaged people*
- *I can help people to keep them active and healthy*
- *I can improve people way of living*
- *I can help people to meet each other*

20

## CONSEQUENCES

- Volunteers have an **individual** perspective of their role inside the society but they feel to be part of a group
- Volunteers do not think about the **importance** of their “job” for they society
- Volunteers think that the most important aspect of their activity is to help people and **to create strong personal relations** with seniors

21

## 3RD QUESTION: WHAT DOES “BEING VOLUNTEER” MEAN?

- *I am proud and honored to help people*
- *I can use my free time in an active and helpful way*
- *I can do something with a high moral value*
- *I can belong to a group*



Answers given mainly by volunteers who work in associations which assist people affected by particular diseases

22

*“... I have lost a bit of my ability to hear and to see.*

*During conferences, I can't hear and see very well the presentations held.*

*But now I can think more than when I was 20.*

*My body can do whatever it wants.*

*I am not my body; I am my brain and thoughts”.*



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Daniela Orlando,  
[d.orlando@pedemontanasociale.pr.it](mailto:d.orlando@pedemontanasociale.pr.it)  
Rosanna Coruzzi,  
[r.coruzzi@pedemontanasociale.pr.it](mailto:r.coruzzi@pedemontanasociale.pr.it)