

European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps PILOT PROJECTS 2011/2012



Facts & figures

- Project Leader
French Red Cross
- Project Start: September 2011 (15 months total duration)
- 21 volunteers deployed for 6 months as of May 2012
- More info on
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evhac_en.htm

THE PROJECT

The project consortium is coordinated by the French Red Cross and unites three national Red Cross Societies from Germany, Bulgaria and Austria as well as the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Red Crescent Societies as associate partner. The project follows the Red Cross approach to promote **'young people as actors of change'** and is based on the large experienced of the organisation in volunteering and humanitarian aid and treats volunteers in a highly professional way such as any Red Cross staff deployed currently.

Links to the main partners websites:

- <http://www.croix-rouge.fr/>
- <http://www.drk.de/>
- <http://www.redcross.bg/>
- <http://www.rotekreuz.at/>
- <http://www.ifrc.org/>

THE VOLUNTEERS

- 21 volunteers
- 6 months deployments starting in May 2012
- Placements will be defined on demand of National Red Cross Societies in possible the deployment countries with ECHO missions
- Target: Young qualified and inexperienced volunteers with ambition to work in humanitarian sector
- Pre or post disaster humanitarian aid operations

Step 1:

Identification and recruitment

- Job profiles developed with National Societies and IFRC
- Criteria for selection of volunteers: Approximately as of 25 years of age; relevant studies or professional experience; professional ambition to work in humanitarian sector
- National Red Cross Societies run recruitment campaign and select candidates according to job profiles and target group
- Final selection of volunteers will be based on identified demands expressed by Red Cross Societies in humanitarian aid zones

Step 3

Deployment of 21 volunteers, each 6 months, in pre or post disaster zones

- Database of possible hosting missions will be established based on IFRC standard requirements for security management
- Types of projects: 'Disaster Risk Reduction' projects; post emergency projects; organisational development projects in hosting National Red Cross Societies branches or youth departments of these
- Volunteers will be assigned in approval with 'sending' National Red Cross and 'hosting' Red Cross in the field
- Mentors and key advisors will be identified in the hosting National Red Cross to accompany the volunteers during their deployment; a separate 'stress management' reference person will monitor the development of the deployment of the volunteer via virtual contact
- Expatriation of volunteers as well as pre-expatriation check-up follows general professional Red Cross practice
- Volunteers will have the possibility for a virtual peer-exchange with each other during the time of deployment

Step 2

Training and preparation

- Development of specific training path based on IMPACT training developed by IFRC (*International Mobilization and Preparation for ACTION*) including modules on understanding international humanitarian aid; international humanitarian law; and understanding EU humanitarian aid operations
- Specialized training modules depending on university / professional background of volunteers and future deployment as field project officers or organisations support
- 2 times 5 days residential course in Modane (France) in the Red Cross training centre
- E-learning modules available for volunteers
- Visits of Geneva (Red Cross international headquarters and UN institutions) and Brussels (ECHO office and other relevant EU institutions)
- At end of second training session development of individual 'career tracks' for each volunteer

Step 4

Capitalisation

- Volunteers will provide experiences during period of mission online on a dedicated website and blog
- Evaluation of impact of the missions on the volunteer, the mentor, the hosting National Red Cross Society and the European sending Red Cross NS with special focus the volunteers' experience, lessons learned and skills developed with volunteers and mentors
- 3-day workshop after deployment to share experiences and recommendations for the future

