



## European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps PILOT PROJECTS 2011/2012



### Facts & figures

- **Project Leader**  
Voluntary Service Overseas International (VSOI) UK
- **Project Start:** Spring 2012 (15 months total duration)
- **40 volunteers** deployed; start of deployments foreseen for the first half of 2012
- **Flexible duration of deployments** depending on placement and type of volunteers
- **More info on**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evhac\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/evhac_en.htm)

### THE PROJECT

The project is led by Voluntary Service Overseas International (VSOI) based in the UK and brings together Pro Vobis National Resource Centre for Volunteering Romania and VSO Netherlands. **The focus is on building capacity with local organisations through the development of a volunteer management training and accreditation for partner organisations. Volunteers will go through a 'Personal Development Plan' process and have opportunity to get university accreditation (ECTS) of their learning outcomes.**

Links to the main partners websites:

<http://www.vsointernational.org/>  
<http://www.vso.nl/>  
<http://www.provobis.ro/>

### THE VOLUNTEERS

- 40 volunteers
- Flexible duration of deployments depending on context and type of volunteers
- First deployments foreseen for the first half of 2012
- Target group: 'Volunteer Experts'
- Disaster preparedness and post conflict recovery placements

### Step 1

#### Development of Best Practice Standards for volunteer selection and volunteer management in humanitarian aid

- Draw on frameworks such as Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELHRA) competency framework
- Develop assessment tools for recruitment of volunteers, including a multilingual online assessment tools for website
- Develop together with sending and hosting organisations a Volunteer Management System for Humanitarian Aid focusing on quality in working with volunteers preparing organisations for involvement of volunteers; their recruitment; selection; orientation and training.

### Step 2

#### Development of training curricula for organisations and competence based training to the volunteers

- 2 trainings developed for organisations in Europe and for hosting organisations in the field based on 9 steps volunteer management process.

Trainings delivered:

- Pre-deployment:
  - 2-3 moderated online training on generic aspects of working overseas; introduction to the competency based 'Personal Development Passport' for European Humanitarian Volunteers' to reflect learning and development during their placement
  - 5 days face to face training (Netherlands)
- On-arrival in-country:
  - 1-week-in country training by VSO programme officer + external specialized trainers on specific humanitarian and security issues)
- During Placement
  - Continuous mentoring by 'ex-volunteer'
  - Continuous self-reflection of volunteers through 'Personal Development Passport'

### Step 3

#### Special Project Website Available in 5 languages

- Publication of placement offers
- Online intercultural assessment tool to assess whether volunteers meet selection standards
- Online learning tool used for 3-weeks-pre-departure moderated training
- Online Social Network tool: Linking current European Humanitarian Volunteers with each other and with former volunteers; later also other practitioners and experts to allow problem solving through sharing of experiences and expertise

### Step 4

#### Matching of 40 volunteers to placements – evaluation

- Volunteer placements developed by local partner organisations
- Volunteer selection through special multilingual project website, assessment tools of soft skills and hard skills needed for the available placements
- Placements content and duration as well as matching decisions made in close collaboration with local organisations
- External evaluation provided to feed into recommendations for future voluntary corps

### Step 5

#### Development of accreditation mechanism for the volunteers undergoing training in this programme

- In collaboration with universities to give credits for volunteers' experience
- Volunteers expected to receive 30 UK Higher Education credits at level 6 equivalent to 15 European credits under the European Credit Transfer System