



# SAMARITAN FORUM

## Event Concept

**„AVEC“- Active Volunteering for a European Civil Society**

**Kick-off event**

### **Venue**

ASB-Hauptstadtrepräsentanz Berlin  
Hiroshima Str. 24  
10785 Berlin-Tiergarten

### **Date & Time**

August 22, 2013  
11:00 to 17:30

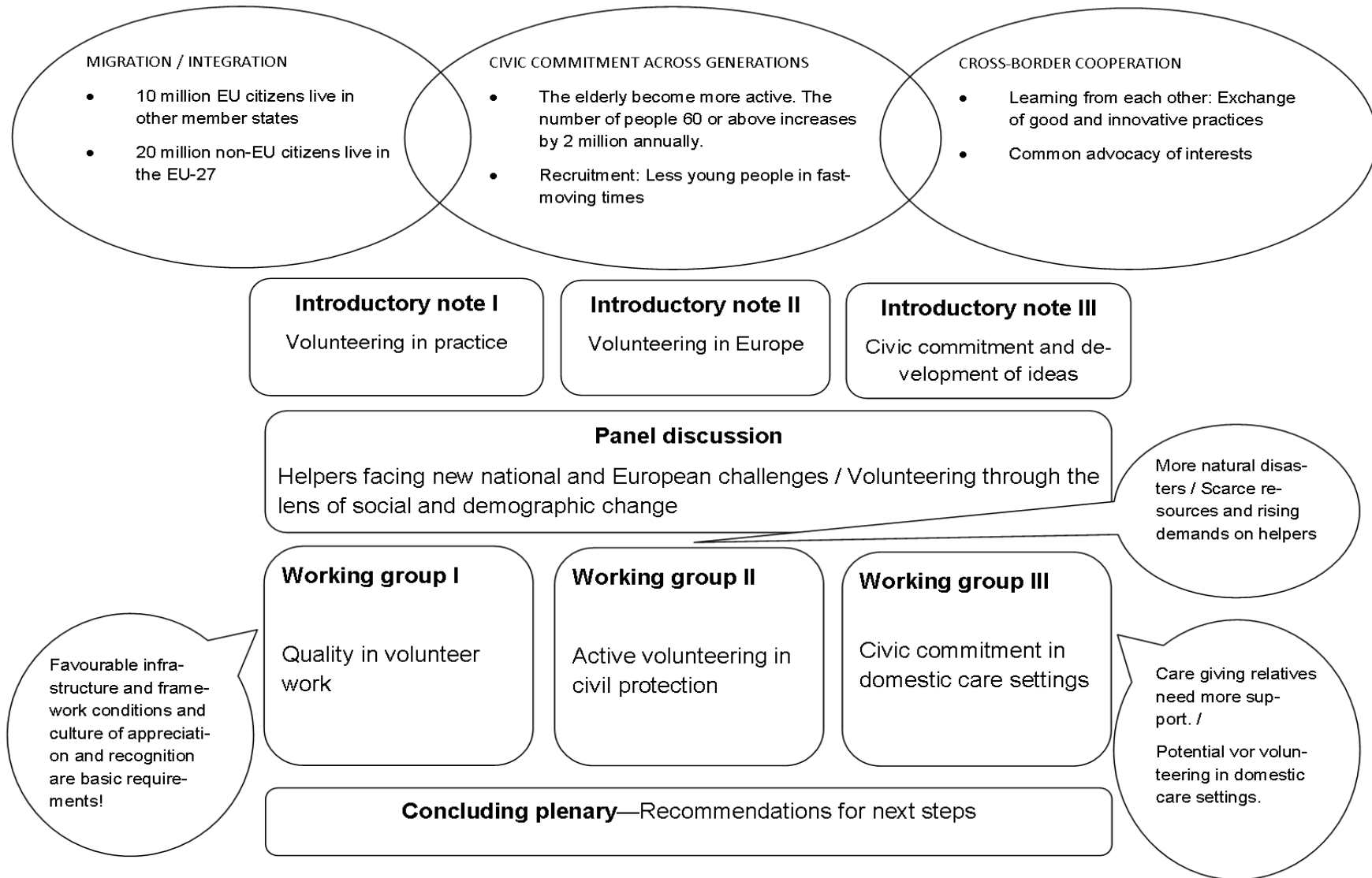
### **Topical focuses**

- Quality in Volunteering
- Active Volunteering in Civil Protection
- Civic commitment in domestic care settings

### **Contents of concept**

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## I. Graphical illustration of the concept



## II. Background

Voluntary commitment is the backbone of most of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL's (SAM.I.) member organisations.

More than 130.000 volunteers contribute at our total 17 regular and upcoming members.

A multitude of social services would not be possible without these voluntary contributions. Civil protection would not work without the exemplary commitment of thousands of voluntary helpers in the various disaster relief and emergency units.

Therefore, volunteer work is a distinguishing element of the work of SAM.I. and greatly contributes to society, on the respective national levels as well as in Europe.

The importance of increasing cross-border volunteering cooperations is not only relevant with regard to the expected shortage in resources or demographic and social changes in our ever closer-knit society.

Social inequalities and natural disasters increase and have effects that do not stop at borders, which makes international aid and rescue operations and the intensification of preventive measures a necessity. In addition, in our fast moving world with high mobility requirements for working people, volunteering finds itself increasingly pushed out of the public consciousness.

### **Volunteering & Demographics – Recruitment, Activation and Integration**

#### *Increasingly complex damage situations pose new challenges for helpers*

Voluntary structures are the backbone of civil protection. Because of scarce financial resources and an increasing number of damage situations pose new challenges for voluntary helpers in times of demographic change.

In case of natural disasters dimensions and consequences are rarely predictable. It is therefore of utmost importance to have sufficient personnel resources in the form of volunteers who are motivated, appropriately trained and can be deployed where and when needed. Also, civil protection organisations are increasingly faced with situations that require intercultural competences as well as foreign language skills. Multi-cultural teams can complement each other or act jointly to master such situations.

#### *Looking out on the young generation*

Recruiting new volunteers is another challenge all aid organisations face. People today tend to commit themselves more spontaneously or project-based, as the requirements for more flexibility in everyday life do not always allow a permanent and continuous commitment.

In addition, people have personal expectations when volunteering – for instance a sense of belonging, an increase in own qualifications, personal contacts, appreciation and not least to have a good time “experiencing things”.

The fact that there will be less and less young people in the coming years further complicates recruitment for aid organisations.

### *Integrating migrants*

While there are general efforts to motivate and activate the general populace across national borders, it is a special challenge to integrate underrepresented groups, for instance migrants or the elderly.

Each year, more than 2 million people immigrate into the EU from third countries. Due to this as well as due to inner-European mobility, the share of Europeans who are expatriates has increased significantly. In the 27 EU member states there are about 20 million non-EU citizens. 10 million EU citizens live in another member state but their home country.<sup>1</sup>

Civic commitment has an integrative character for the volunteers. Volunteering is active participation in civil society, therefore it furthers integration. Finally, volunteer work also allows the acquirement of knowledge and skills that open new perspectives and career paths.

Migrants often lack information about participatory opportunities and the local structures of civil protection and the care sector. Further difficulties are posed by lacking language skills or a different view on social and civic commitment for cultural reasons.<sup>2</sup>

### *Volunteering across generations*

The elderly are a group that strongly wants to and should be included in volunteer work. The factors time, qualification and a generally stronger awareness of shared responsibility are of utmost importance.

The number of people who are 60 years or older currently rises by about 2 million annually in the EU. That's twice the amount it was just three years ago. People in employment also age, as the share of elder employees rises compared to the share of younger people.<sup>3</sup>

In the future, there will be more and more people, who still have the better part of their lives before them when they retire and who wish to use that time well. The so called "young elderly of tomorrow" can and want to actively play a part in civil society. This, however, requires to cater to their interests and life situations and to offer them flexible ways of participation.

On the other hand, the elderly in groups concerned by social inequality also are a source of increasing demand for civic commitment - the population ages.

### *Care giving relatives and neighbourhood aid should be supported and strengthened*

In recent years, there have been more and more volunteers in the area of self- and neighbourhood aid and many elderly people in less wealthy families are being taken care of by their relatives. A representative study by the network EUROMCARE on care giving relatives showed interesting results. 59 % of care giving relatives are not employed, 15 % gave up their career. 67 % say that there's demand for additional support but more than half of respondents also say that they weren't provided with sufficient information.<sup>4</sup>

Some of SAM.I.'s member organisations also did an assessment, with the result that there is great demand for training in these areas, be it for professionals, volunteers or care giving relatives. The Samaritan organisations stress that relatives need more practical instructions

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<sup>1</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/documents/Tab/report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Günster, Klose, Schmacke. 2012. Versorgungs-Report / Schwerpunkt: Gesundheit im Alter. Stuttgart : Schattauer, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/documents/Tab/report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [www.uke.de/extern/eurofamcare.de](http://www.uke.de/extern/eurofamcare.de)

to properly take care of their elder family members, but the exchange with other care giving relatives should also be supported.

### **Quality in volunteer work – Fostering a culture of appreciation and enabling framework conditions**

How can we inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to take up volunteering? And how can we contribute to the compatibility of voluntary commitment and the volunteer's respective life situations? How can we optimize the European framework to make cross-border cooperations an even more effective tool to face our common challenges?

All involved stakeholders, starting with the volunteers themselves, volunteering organisations, companies as well as political entities have a responsibility in this, especially when it comes to the political dialogue with and between decision-makers. The most important topics in this context are a culture of appreciation and recognition, funding programmes, good infrastructure, a facilitative legal framework and national as well as European platforms to exchange best practices.

Concerning mobilisation, public institutions on the national or European level cannot practically acquire volunteers themselves. But they can collect good examples and make them available to a wider audience. They can offer a platform for idea exchange and are able to bring volunteering into the public spotlight.

Public entities are not only responsible for a better distribution of information, but also for the creation of favourable conditions: to ensure acceptance with employers, to highlight the civic added value of volunteering, to support volunteering through compensation for costs related to volunteer work, to name but a few points.

National and European institutions also have to do their part when it comes to scientific evaluation and strategic measures. Wherever volunteer work is made difficult by legislation, the legislative must act.

It is especially important to make sure that the originary character of volunteering is protected by European and national policies. Voluntary commitment must not be a substitute for professional social services.

In this context, the SAM.I. member organisations also demand to put the topics *ageing society and lack of skilled professionals* as well as *professional mobility* more prominently on their political agendas.

### **Conclusion and outlook**

In times of scarce resources, demographic and social change and an increasing number of natural disasters we need a stronger cohesion of civil society – across borders and across cultures. The advancement of voluntary commitment depends on cooperation across organisations, on their exchange of best practices and innovative ideas.

The aim of everyone involved, volunteering organisations as well as political decision makers on the national or European level, should be to drive forward a stronger intercultural and transnational cooperation of volunteers as well as professionals and raise awareness for it. A culture of appreciation and recognition for voluntary commitment has to be continuously fostered and measures to support civic commitment have to be taken. Binding and beneficial framework recommendations for the participation of volunteers have to be created.

The improvement of framework conditions and the optimisation of quality in volunteering infrastructure is an originary concern of SAM.I.. The network therefore politically contributed

to the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and implemented a Grundtvig project to exchange best practices in volunteering. The network intends to build upon this and most of all to increase institutional and international cooperation.

The member organisations face common challenges and want to pool their resources in thematically overlapping areas, to represent their interests with one voice and to learn from each other through the exchange of best practices across borders.

A special concern of SAM.I.'s members is the inclusion of people that are disadvantaged due to age, special needs or living situations.

The conference series AVEC – Active Volunteering for a European Civil Society – will put several of the challenges named above on the agenda, it will build upon previous successes and experiences and work out recommendations and demand-oriented project ideas.

### III. Draft Agenda

#### 11:00 Welcome and introduction

*Christian Reuter, SAM.I. General Secretary  
Gudrun Schattschneider, Head ASB Capital Office Berlin*

#### 11:15 Topical introductory notes

I. The significance of volunteering in Samaritan organisations

- Challenges and opportunities in volunteering

*Barbara Siri, Vice-President Landesrettungsverein Weisses Kreuz (unconfirmed)*

II. Volunteering in Europe

- Overarching topics of the European Years 2011-2013
- How to we keep and advance the political achievements in 2014 and beyond?

*Gabriella Civico, Head of CEV Brussels, Coordinator EYV Alliance 2011, Member of EYC Alliance 2013*

III. Civic commitment and development of ideas

- Citizen participation in European politics
- International exchange for good and innovative solutions

*Adeline Otto, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent, European research project on innovative employment and social policies for labour market resilience and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups.*

#### 12:00 Panel discussion

- Helpers facing new national and European challenges / Volunteering through the lens of social & demographic change

#### 13:00 Lunch break

#### 14:00 Workshops

- Working Group I – Quality in Volunteer work
- Working Group II – Active Volunteering in Civil Protection
- Working Group III – Civic commitment in domestic care settings

#### 16:15 Coffee break

#### 16:30 Plenary

- Presentation of results / outlook

#### 17:30 Break

#### 19:00 Evening programme

- Award ceremony for SAMARITAN's B.E.S.T. and SAMARITAN's B.E.S.T. local

## IV. Information on introductory notes, panel discussion and workshops

### Topical introductory notes

There will be three introductory notes of 15 minutes each.

They will give the participants an introduction to the following topics and serve as a stimulus for the panel discussion and debates.

- What are the challenges and opportunities the practical volunteer work of the Samaritan organisations is facing today?
- What has been achieved thus far through the volunteering organisations' political advocacy for volunteering infrastructure and recognition of volunteering on the European level? Which challenges remain?
- Which means of political influence do civil society organisations have and what is the significance of international cooperation in developing volunteering?

### I. The significance of volunteering in Samaritan organisations

Barbara Siri will give an overview of the diverse volunteer work that is being done in European Samaritan organisations. The talk will use volunteering at Weißes Kreuz as an example to document the challenges and opportunities that are relevant for all Samaritan organisations and topical areas.

### II. Volunteering in Europe

Gabriela Civico's talk will introduce the participants to the significance of volunteering in European policy and how the work of the last three „Alliances“ (2011 to 2013) has influenced EU regulations and initiatives. To have a practical example, the focus will be on the Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe.

### III. Civic commitment and development of ideas

Adeline Otto is going to talk about means the participant's organisations have at their disposal to contribute to shaping European policy. She will also demonstrate how international cooperation (exchange of good and innovative practices) and the resulting learning effects contribute to finding solutions and ways the organisations can implement them. This will be discussed along the specific question: Who has developed which strategies and projects for the inclusion of disadvantaged groups and how can they be transferred?

### Panel discussion

Representatives of the European Union, experts in volunteering on the political level as well as active volunteers have been invited to the discussion and will talk about

*Helpers facing new national and European challenges / Volunteering through the lens of social & demographic change*

The discussion will be *moderated* by Martin von Berswordt-Wallrabe.

Communications manager with focus on CSO communication and political advocacy

We have invited / asked for the participation of the following *guests*:

- Conny Reuter (Director of SOLIDAR)
- Erich Matthis (Managing Director, Head of Care Services ASB-Bad Windsheim)
- Felix Fellmer (Technical coordinator, Instructor Drinking Water Purification, FAST)
- Jens Vetter (ASJ Schleswig-Holstein)
- Johanna Grabowski (Project coordinator SAM In - Samariter Interkulturell)



- Ludwig Frölich (Chair of ASB Hessen, FAST)
- Ulli Braun (Deputy Chair ASB Rheinland-Pfalz, auditor quality management)
- Representatives of the European Commission (ECHO) and the Task Force European Year of Citizens

## **Working sessions**

After the panel discussion there will be working sessions on three topics. These will be chaired by one moderator and one co-moderator each.

The topics are as follows:

- Working Group I - Quality in volunteer work***
- Working Group II - Active Volunteering in Civil Protection***
- Working Group III - Civic commitment in domestic care settings***

The aim is to work out the challenges as well as approaches toward solutions in these deeper discussions.

The event should be viewed as a kick-off. Thus, at the end of each debate there should be first recommendations on the next steps on the level of practical project cooperation as well as on the level of political advocacy.

This will be warranted by first giving an overview of

- *The status quo on both levels.*

Then, the participants will talk about

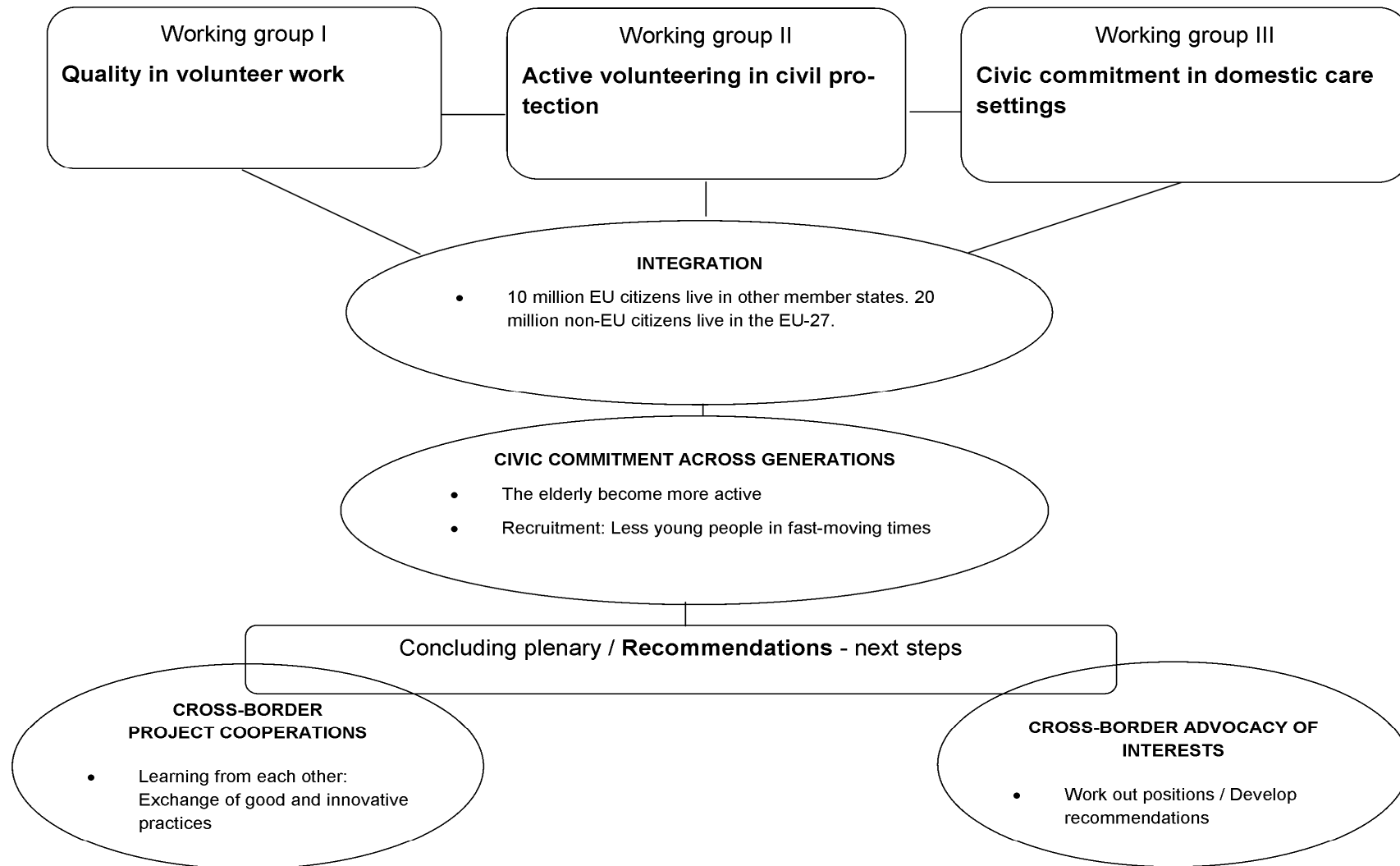
- *Their existing national challenges and*
- *Their interests when considering future cooperations.*
- *After working out the common ground, the group will develop*
- *Recommendations for next steps*

and will distribute responsibilities and tasks among the partners.

The moderators will support and steer the debate. All three debates will, in the scope of their respective topical areas, touch on the overlapping topics *Supporting cross-generation commitment* and *Inclusion and Quality*.

These results will be presented as the future tasks of SAM.I. at the concluding plenary session.

## Graphical representation of the working groups



### ***Working Group I – Quality in volunteer work***

*Moderator:* Laura Bulmane (LSA / Latvia)

*Co-Moderator:* Michael Schnatz (ASB / Germany)

#### *Basis for discussion*

- P.A.V.E. / The European Year Alliances 2011 bis 2013 – what has been achieved?
  - Input of participants on the implementation on the national level
- Motivation and challenges in volunteering
  - Input of participants about their current national situations
- Create perspectives – foster civic commitment
  - Input of participants about common aims and options

### ***Working Group II – Active volunteering in civil protection***

*Moderator:* Aurelio Dugoni (ANPAS)

*Co-Moderator:* Markus Leimegger (WK)

#### *Basis for discussion*

- Challenges for aid organisations in civil protection
  - Input of participants about their current national situations
- The European Union's priorities in civil protection
  - Input of participants on effects of EU regulation on the work of their aid organisations
- Common standards and training modules
  - Input of participants on challenges and options

### ***Working Group III – Civic commitment in domestic care settings***

*Moderator:* Gordan Velev (IDC, Serbia)

*Co-Moderators:* Christine Ecker (ASB Austria) / Barbara Zychowska (SFOP, Poland)

#### *Basis for discussion*

- Need of support for care giving relatives
  - Input of participants about their current national situations
- Volunteering in domestic care settings
  - Input of participants on the expansion and possible advancement of complementary volunteer activities

## V. Information on participation and framework programme

### Conference participation for AVEC project partners and SAM.I. members

At the beginning of February, the SAM.I. General Secretariat, together with 12 member organisations, has applied for a project grant in the Europe for Citizens programme. This was the initial conception of the 7<sup>th</sup> SAMARITAN FORUM, which is planned to continue as a conference series “AVEC – Active Volunteering for a European Civil Society” with a kick-off conference in Berlin on August 22.

In the context of the project, **400 participant days will be distributed among a total of four events in different countries.**

The kick-off and final conferences are scheduled to be one day events, the workshops in between are two days each.

**Kick-off conference:** August 22, 2013, Berlin  
100 participants / 70 int. & 30 national participants

**Workshop 1:** November 8 to November 10, 2013, Riga  
50 participants

**Workshop 2:** April 12 to April 14, 2014, Bratislava  
50 participants

**Final conference:** September 8, 2014, Krakow  
100 participants

The number of participants per organisation varies depending on size and information provided by the organisations themselves. Those project partners who also host one of the four events have a higher number of participants to accommodate local participants (15 or more local participants at each meeting). This concerns ASB Germany, ASSR Slovakia, SFOP Poland and LSA Latvia.

The distribution of the participant days among persons is within each project partner's own responsibility. They should, however, send at least 3-5 participants to each meeting, as to warrant appropriate input on each topical focus by every participating Samaritan organization.

It is generally possible to send more participants than designated in the table. Should you wish to do so, please contact the General Secretariat.

The implementation, time and place of all follow-up meetings are dependent on a third-party grant. In any case the kick-off on August 22 in Berlin will take place.

Registration for the conference is done via an online form:

[http://bit.ly/avec\\_registration](http://bit.ly/avec_registration)

## Participating partners, SAM.I. members and networks

<b>Project partners – SAM.I. members</b>	<b>Short name/ Country</b>
Associazione Nazionale Pubbliche Assistenze	ANPAS Italy
Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland	ASB Germany
Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Österreichs	ASBÖ Austria
Asociácia Samritánov Slovenskej Republiky	ASSR Slovakia
Emergency Response and Rescue Corps	ERRC Malta
Lietuvos Samarieiu Bendrija	LSB Lithuania
Initiative for Development and Cooperation	IDC Serbia
Samarytańska Federacja Organizacji Pozarządowych	SFOP Poland
Országos Szamaritánus Társaság Svövetsége	USB Hungary
Latvijas Samariesu apvieniba	LSA Latvia
Landesrettungsverein Weißes Kreuz onlus	WK South Tyrol

<b>Non-project partners - SAM.I. members</b>	<b>Short name/ Country</b>
Dansk Folkehjaelp	DKFH / Denmark
Spilka Samaritian Ukraini	CCY / Ukraine
Fédération des Secouristes Français - Croix Blanche	CB / France
Asociace Samaritánú České Republiky	ASCR / Czech Republic
Žene Sa Une	BIHAĆ / Bosnia
<b>Non-project partners – Other networks</b>	
SOLIDAR	Brussels
Humanitas	Netherlands
The UK volunteering and learning charity	CSV / UK
European network for volunteering and active citizenship	Volunteurope / UK
European Volunteer Centre	CEV / Brussels

## Framework programme

### *I. Award ceremony*



In the evening after the conference the newly established awards SAMARITAN's *B.E.S.T.* (Borderless Extraordinary Samaritan Team) and SAMARITAN's *B.E.S.T. local* will be awarded for the first time.

The awards will decorate extraordinary projects of SAM.I. member organisations - international cooperations as well as a local best practice.

The celebration of the winners will take place as we are festively concluding the conference with dinner for all participants.

### *II. Graphical documentation of the conference*



**Mike Klar** will be making live illustrations of the Forum. He has a degree in visual communication with a focus on illustration and graphics and studied at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and École d'art et de Design Genève and works as illustrator, live drawer and graphics designer.

### *III. Flashmob*



Before the conference we, together with ASB Berlin, are planning a human chain. It is supposed to be as colorful and diverse as possible to set the mood for international cooperation in the context of the conference. We also intend to have a positive public relations effect, to raise awareness for volunteering beyond direct participants in our debates.