

## Strengthen collaboration and quality in voluntary work

**7th International SAMARITAN Forum under the motto “AVEC” – Active Volunteering for a European Civil Society**

The 7th International SAMARITAN Forum took place on 22 August 2013 in the new ASB representative office in Berlin. Focussing on the subject of voluntary work and the integration of the Forum in a series of events determined in terms of time, effect totally new dynamics within the partner associations, which is extremely conducive for developing the network.

While the first six Forums from 1999 to 2009 with the SAM.I. partners Denmark, Germany, Austria, South Tyrol and Italy were held under the motto “Save and Help” and offered mainly specialized information and advanced training in the sectors of first aid, rescue services and disaster control, the focus of this year’s Forum was on the subject of voluntary work. “After all, voluntary commitment is undergoing a change and must be seen in the European context”, comments Christian Reuter, ASB National Director and Secretary General of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL in Berlin.

### Driving force “AVEC”

“The exchange of experiences from practical project work is very important and significant for the success of future projects”, emphasised Knut Fleckenstein, President of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL and ASB Federal Chairman at the kickoff



SAM.I. Secretary General and ASB National Director Christian Reuter.

event in Berlin, thereby outlining the fundamental idea of the conference series “AVEC” (Active Volunteering for a European Civil Society), which is to be continued in a series of events throughout the coming two years.

“The work of volunteers in SAM.I. is the power and energy source of our performance, which sets us apart from commercial enterprises. For all decisionmakers and executives in the SAM.I. associations it is therefore an obligation to make sure that the work of volunteers is and remains attractive” said Dr. Friedhelm Bartels, former SAM.I. President, on the occasion of the 4th SAMARITAN Forum in Brixen, South Tyrol. In 2007, in his vision 2020, ASBÖ Federal Secretary and SAM.I. President Reinhard Hundsmüller demanded “...efficient

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### Editorial

Dear Samaritans,

2013 was a special year, not only because of the 125th Anniversary of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund but also with regard to the 7th SAMARITAN Forum on 22 August in Berlin, we can look back on many fantastic events. For the first time, volunteer projects of European Samaritan organisations received the SAMARITAN’s B.E.S.T. award.

We have also strengthened our collaboration with regard to our socio-economic interests and have positioned ourselves with the demand for a European non-profit law for the legal and financial strengthening of civil society organisations on EU level.

We can be particularly proud of a joint European flood water project as consequence of the flood water in the summer of this year as well as the establishment of the Samaritan Emergency Temporary Shelter with the aim of active aid for children, the elderly and people with disabilities in disaster situations.

Best regards

*Christian Reuter*  
Christian Reuter  
Secretary General



Barbara Siri, Vice President of the WK South Tyrol.



Lively discussion among participants of the workshop "Quality in voluntary work".



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structures and the creation of a joint value base, in particular also in the area of volunteerism, to be able to respond adequately to the demographic development and continuing globalisation."

The conference series picks up on these demands and offers the framework for treating the subject of voluntary work in SAM.I. in a concentrated and goal-achieving fashion and of giving important impulses for future work of Member organisations.

### First steps agreed

In addition to a panel discussion, where various volunteer projects were introduced, major results and agreements were achieved in profound workshops for three urgent subjects in the sector of volunteer work. The necessity of a different approach when winning volunteers corresponding to their age-dependent expectations and capabilities is emphasised by participants of the workshop "Quality in voluntary work." Joint activities are planned to include volunteers of all age groups, where re-thinking is the main point. The areas for voluntary

commitment need to be expanded and made more flexible, and in particular, the volunteers must be able to contribute their own ideas actively. The European year of voluntary work 2011 was also brought to mind where SAM.I., together with other members of SOLIAR, worked on the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E). The demands and recommendations or politics, society and voluntary organisations contained in this paper will also be increasingly followed in future.

The participants in the workshop "Civil society commitment in domestic care settings" see, in addition to a more intense support for caring relatives in future, the maintenance of the integrity of volunteer work in comparison to professional carers as a great challenge.

They devote themselves to a clear demarcation of tasks for volunteers from the activities of full-time care-givers. With regard to a joint European policy, these subjects are to be discussed more intensely at Europe-relevant conferences or placed in the hands of corresponding committees.



f.l.t.r. Uli Braun, ASB Vice-Chairman of Rhineland-Palatinate, Quality Management-Auditor, Facilitator Martin v. Berswordt-Wallrabe, Erich Matthis, Managing Director of the ASB RV Bad Windsheim e.V., Felix Fellmer, Technical Manager and Lecturer Drinking Water Treatment FAST.

In the working group “Active voluntary commitment in civil defence and disaster relief” the subject was, among other things, concentration of resources and the deployment of volunteers in cross-border operations. With the two recently approved projects, the

joint SAM.I. flood water project and the SAMETS project (see contributions on page 6 and 7), the member associations have the opportunity of bringing in the basic approaches discussed in the workshop and to sustainably strengthen the operation-

al capability of their volunteers in a disaster situation.

All information about the event series, including records of results and a photo gallery can be found at [bit.ly/ForumAVECen](http://bit.ly/ForumAVECen). ■



The Conference was accompanied by drawings from Mike Klar. The Illustrator studied Visual Communication, focussing on Illustration and Graphic Arts at the Bauhaus University Weimar and the École d'Art et de Design Genève and has since been working as illustrator, live cartoonist and graphic designer. Since 2007 he has been a member of the artist group ILLUMAT. You can find the illustrations from Mike Klar for the Forum AVEC on the SAM.I.-Web site at <http://bit.ly/MikeKlar>



Markus Leimegger, one of the facilitators at the Workshop “Civil Protection”.

Photos: ASB/Hambibal

## First presentation of the SAM.I. Award “SAMARITANs B.E.S.T.”

**3,000 Euro prize money each for “Belt Samaritans” and “Become a part of us”.**

**Within the framework of the Forum 2013, the SAMARITANs B.E.S.T. international and the SAMARITANs B.E.S.T. local received an award for the first time. These are awards for extraordinary and exemplary local and international Samaritan Projects. The annual presentation of the awards is dedicated to special focuses. Following up on the conference series “AVEC- Active Volunteering for a European Civil Society” special volunteer projects were recognised in 2013.**

### “SAMARITANs B.E.S.T. international”

#### Danish-German cooperation in the Fehmarn-Belt-Region

The winner of the award, which includes prize money of 3,000 Euro was the EU Project “Beltsamariter” (Belt Samaritans) of the State Association Schleswig-Holstein and Dansk Folkehjælp (Danish Peoples Aid). Volunteers from the Fehmarn-Belt Region are deployed in both countries for the medical service and visiting service for the elderly and also engage themselves as multipliers for tolerance and social interaction. The project was launched on 1 April 2012. The interview with the two project managers published in SAMARITAN direct No. 51 gives a good overview of the project.

Special thanks goes to the Union Versicherungsdienst, which promised to support this year’s awards, as well as those for 2014 and 2015 with 3,000 Euro each. Andreas Sauer from the UNION Versicherungsdienst GmbH presented the symbolic cheque for 3,000 Euro to the Belt Samaritans Team.

**Volunteer commitment for young and old on second and third place** “Winner of the hearts”, according to project coordinator Michael Schnatz,

was the Grundtvig Project “Volunteering in European Non-Profit Organisations” conducted by seven SAM.I. Members, which achieved second place. Within the framework of “study visits” one each project was identified as “best practice” with regard to volunteer commitment in each of the seven partner countries.

Third place was achieved by the project “Volunteering Forever and at all Age” from ASBÖ, ASSR, LSA, LSB and SFOP which promotes

ASB won fourth place of the incentive award “Helfende Hand” (Helping Hand) in the category “Innovative Concepts” with the project “Beltsamariter” (Belt Samaritans). For five years now and with the incentive award “Helfende Hand”, the Federal Ministry of the Interior has been honouring ideas and concepts which rouse the interest of people for voluntary commitment in civil defence, as well as enterprises which give special support to their employees’ volunteer work. See [http://bit.ly/asb\\_Helfende\\_Hand](http://bit.ly/asb_Helfende_Hand). The next milestone within the project “Beltsamariter” will be a closed meeting on the subject of “Winning and committing volunteers” in Heiligenhafen. At the beginning of 2014, Danish participants will visit their colleagues on the German side. A focal point of the work next year will be the expansion of medical services.

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Winning project “Beltsamariter”: SAM.I.-President Knut Fleckenstein (right) presents the prize to the Danish-German Project Team.

dialogue between young people and the elderly in the different European countries.

Both projects are exemplary for the employment of volunteers and for the excellent collaboration of the partner organisations within the network.

### **SAMARITANs B.E.S.T. local**

#### **Worthy of being replicated: Successful volunteer campaign from the White Cross South Tyrol**

“Become a part of us” was awarded the “SAMARITANs B.E.S.T local” and received prize money of 3,000 Euro from the ASB Germany as a sign of recognition.

The volunteer campaign by the White Cross South Tyrol is a good example of the excellent design of volunteer management with a model and exemplary structure and organisation with associated campaign to win new volunteers.

#### **Varied Local Samaritan Projects**

Many fantastic projects were handed in for nomination for the SAMARITANs

B.E.S.T.local. Unfortunately, only one winner could receive an award. We would like to express our thanks all the more cordially for the numerous contributions and introduce the varied local initiatives here.

“The Golden Peg” from the Polish Samaritans integrates seniors actively in the planning and organisation within the framework of an annual cross-generation event in a retirement home run by SFOP. The ASBÖ “St Nicholas Procession” has been uniting volunteer work and social commitment for disadvantaged children and youths for 13 years in a very special way and is the only initiative of this kind in Austria. With the project “Become a rescuer now” of the ASB Berlin-Northwest, new volunteers are inspired, in particular for the qualified medical service at events.

“The special child” is an initiative of the Ukrainian Samaritans’ Association (SSU) in collaboration with the Münchener Verein “Brücke nach Kiev” (Munich Association Bridge

to Kiev) to support children suffering cerebral palsy. This facility is the only one of its kind in the Ukraine and is supported by the Kiev City Administration and donations.

#### **Awards as an element of quality management in voluntary work**

What hallmarks voluntary work? Which benefit do volunteer services have? How is voluntary commitment honoured? These are questions, which the SAM.I Member associations have been dealing with actively for a long time within the network, both on an intra-organisational and political level. The goal is to promote, in particular, volunteering and to improve the legal as well as the financial framework conditions for voluntary services. Awards for exceptional volunteer projects on national or international level are an important element for stimulating this process and keeping it alive, thereby contributing towards strengthening voluntary work within the network.

You can find links to all projects on the SAM.I. Website. ■



Smiling winners: The WK South Tyrol Team is thrilled about the local AWARD for its volunteer campaign.

### **Links**

#### **Award 2013**

<http://bit.ly/SAMIWARDen>

We will inform all SAM.I Members continuously about further voluntary projects under the heading of “Best practices” on the SAM.I. Website. In future, additional guidelines, studies and work materials of SAM.I Members are to be provided in addition.

<http://bit.ly/membersbestpractices>

# Employment of volunteers in cross-border disaster control

## Two complementary cooperation projects in disaster control

**2013 was once again characterised by flood incidents. Hundreds of voluntary helpers showed cross-border involvement in the SAM.I. Member associations. With the start of a joint flood project, SAM.I. can give this involvement a concrete framework. The promise of EU funds has also allowed the establishment of a long planned module – the Samaritan Emergency Temporary Shelter (SAMETS). Within the framework of these project cooperations, the partner organisations can provide special help for children, the elderly and people with disabilities in future cases of disaster.**

### Joint flood project

The worldwide rising number of disasters and their effect pose enormous challenges for the concerned countries and the organisations working in civil defence. The flood disaster 2013 is an example of the largest assistance intervention in the concerned countries and makes it clear, that the emergency and care services of the relief organisations are again facing new challenges in the light of increasingly border-crossing effects of disasters.

### “Learning from each other, defining joint standards and tying up resources”

Learning from each other is to be promoted in a special way through partner visits and exchange of best practices in the two-year project period. A major objective is to find out how and into which relief measures the Samaritan organisation is involved in the partner country in the case of flooding and how the operations are conducted.

To optimise national operations and for collaboration in the case of border-crossing flood operations, at least three common exercises are planned. Rescue workers from partner organisation will participate in the exercises,

this includes volunteers from the already existing FAST teams (First Assistance Samaritan Teams).

Samaritan organisations with the necessary know-how and special expertise in the sector of disaster relief, but without appropriate equipment, will receive corresponding material, depending on requirement, for national or border-crossing operations. The goal is to provide the SAM.I. Organisations with technology and personnel

and to train them, so that they can respond faster and more efficiently to flood disasters.

In addition to operational questions, the aspect of prevention is another important component of the project. The population in flood endangered regions will be prepared for dangers with the help of information material and social media activities.

Joint training and advanced training modules will also be established beyond the project period.

After all, the collaboration with state institutions and decision-makers is to be strengthened to improve the communication of all actors in the case of flood disasters.

The results of the project will be presented within the scope of an interna-



Voluntary helpers of the ASSR bring food for the victims of the flood disaster 2013 in Slovakia.

tional Final Conference at the end of 2015.

### “SAMETS” – Social Affair Management in Emergency Temporary Shelter

Within the scope of a two-year project five member organisations of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL, the ASBÖ (Austria), the WK (Italy, South Tyrol), ANPAS (Italy), ASSR (Slovakia) and the ASB (Germany) are conceptualising a model according to EU directives which can be used Europe-wide and which is intended for so-called emergency and makeshift shelters in the case of disasters. The project cooperation, which was started on 1 December 2013, was approved by the EU at the end of November.

The SAMETS project is mainly aimed at caring for children, the elderly and people with disabilities in disaster situations. Their evacuation and accommodation places special demands on helpers and equipment. With the aim of developing a SAM.I. module which can be used throughout Europe, the project participants are working out standards and guidelines for appropriate care for the above stated groups in the case of disasters and are also responding to the demographic change in Europe in the context of disaster relief.

The focus of project measures is also directed at improving the skills of volunteers and experts during disaster operations. A particular focus is on social and multi-ethnic aspects. This

### EU Instruments for disaster control

The EU framework for today's disaster control is comprised of two legal acts from 2007, the EU procedure for disaster control, which fundamentally acts as operative framework, and the EU financing instrument for disaster control, which makes up the financial framework for collaboration.

These two legal acts were used as a basis to establish a Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) within the European Commission. The MIC simplifies the request for disaster relief by concerned states vis-à-vis and between the member states. Information about the Monitoring and Information Centre can be found at [http://bit.ly/EU\\_MIC](http://bit.ly/EU_MIC)

is intended to raise the skills of volunteers for working in a multi-cultural environment during disasters. ■

## Volunteers of the SAM.I. Member organisations during the flood disaster in the Philippines

**Typhoon Haiyan led to massive destruction on the Philippines. Whole villages and cities were destroyed. According to the United Nations, 11.3 million people are affected. More than 670,000 people are left homeless on the Visayas Archipelago. Volunteers from SAM.I Member organisations ASBÖ Austria, ASSR Slovakia, Dansk Folkehjælp and ASBD Germany were in the disaster zone immediately after the disaster and coordinated their activities.**

First aid measures included, in particular, medical care including wound care and treatment of infectious diseases as well as the setting up of emergency shelters. In addition to immediate relief measures, the SAM.I. teams provide the affected population with sustainable assistance by setting up wells and sanitary facilities and treatment of drinking water.

On 8 December 2013 the Medic Team 2 of the Arbeiter-Samariter Bund Austria concluded its opera-

tions in the Cebu Region. As lead organisation, the ASBÖ, together with the German NGO LandsAid Germany, had taken over a field hospital from the Israel military to conduct emergency medical care for the affected population. Volunteers from the SAM.I. partner association ASSR Slovakia also participated.

Since the start of the relief operation on 14 November 2013, the 20 members of the team looked after 1,870 patients and worked 5,634 hours on site.

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The medical assistant Nina Grasser and a young patient. Many mothers and their children are treated in the field hospital.



Photo: Dansk Folkehjælp

Dansk Folkehjælp: 20 years experience in setting up emergency housing also helps the victims of the disaster on the Philippines.

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Dansk Folkehjælp Denmark provided the homeless people with urgently needed emergency housing. Here, the Danish Peoples Aid can fall back on 20 years of experience, including during the relief operations after the natural disasters in Sri Lanka and Haiti.

After about nine weeks of operations, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) completed its medical relief work for the typhoon victims on the Philippines on Monday, 6 January 2014. A total of three teams, consisting of 32 volunteers and full-time ASB employees, provided basic medical aid

in a field hospital in Palo/Tacloban Region. During the total operations period, more than 4,200 treatments were carried out, including in particular the treatment of acute wounds and amputations as well as infectious diseases of the skin and respiratory system.

The ASB work for reconstruction is characterised by disaster relief.

You can find current information on the SAM.I. Website [www.samaritan-international.eu](http://www.samaritan-international.eu) and on the sites of the corresponding partner organisations. ■



Photo: ASBÖ Österreich

The honorary Samaritan Ingrid Jedlicka, graduate nurse, assisting with the care for a premature baby.



Photo: ASSR

Being able to laugh again – thanks to the good care offered by the ASSR.

## Increased collaboration with civil society organisations in the Balkans

### SAM.I. advisory board confirms new members at a meeting in Berlin

At the SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL board meeting on 21 August in Berlin, the member associations were particularly well represented, after all one of the points was the acceptance of three new members. The “Association of Students and Youth with Disabilities (ASYD) from Skopje, Macedonia, was accepted as new, associate member.

New, full members welcomed into the SAM.I: network were the two associations “Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC) from Serbia (Portrait in SAMARITAN direct Issue No. 51) as well as “Žene sa Une (ZSU)“ from Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the new members, SAM.I can once again integrate associations in the network which engage themselves

for the development of democratic structures and the strengthening of civil society in the Balkan Region.



The association Žene Sa Une – women from Una, was founded in 1992 during the Bosnian war. With its work, the association supports social fringe groups, in particular women and children. Their goal is to achieve more equal opportunity with regard to social, economic, democratic and cultural interests and a better participation in the labour market.

### Networking on national and international level

A particular concern of Žene sa Une is the networking of women's organisations on the Balkan, but also the establishment of cross-border networks between local authorities, civil society and social partners. Sustainably effective structures for improving the quality of life, social cohesion, development of civil society and establishment of voluntary work are to be set up. The foundation of an umbrella association is envisaged long-term.

### A chain of complementary assistance work

The working sectors of Žene sa Une complement each other and offer those seeking help a chain of effective support measures.

Žene sa Une has been maintaining a women's refuge since 2005 which was

visited by 230 women and children in the last year alone. These were all victims of domestic violence, abuse and human trafficking. In the meantime, some of these women and children have found permanent accommodation there. In addition to accommodation, the facility offers psychological, medical and financial support and is sponsored by the authorities on local and international level.

Victims of domestic violence and other endangered persons receive legal advice and legal aid at the Centre for free legal advice, a central element of the assistance. More than 600 cases were dealt with in 2012 in the sectors of domestic violence, health, social security, employee rights, protection of children's rights and law of inheritance.

The individual facilities and work areas originated in part from projects which were financed by the EU or on national level and were carried out by Žene sa Une. In addition to the original tasks, the development and implementation of an effective HIV prevention program was an important project in the health sector.

Above and beyond its focal activities, Žene sa Une supports different institutions with projects and acquisi-

### Collaboration with SAM.I.

The more than 18 years work and experience in social projects and the long-term cooperation with the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund in the aid for disadvantaged persons in South-Eastern Europe make Žene sa Une a valuable SAM.I.-Partner. The association was therefore accepted as full member of SAM.I. in August 2013 upon application and by resolution of the advisory board.

tion of funds, among others a day care facility for disabled children as well as different women's associations.

### Volunteers win with the Local Volunteer Service

Without the involvement of volunteers, the currently eleven permanent staff could not deal with the many tasks of the association. The local Volunteer Service LVS coordinates the winning and deployment of voluntary helpers and was able to commit 120 volunteers and 150 sponsors for the work of Žene sa Une since its foundation in June 2011. The LVS tasks cover the development of a volunteer program in collaboration with public institutions and NGOs, acquisition of volunteers, organisation and execution of the training, all the way to supervision, monitoring and evaluation of current programs.

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Poor families receive supplies of donated food.



Group from Bosnia and Croatia in the garden of the ASB Federal Association in Cologne.

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A further component of the relief chain is the Department for Project Implementation, which is responsible for the whole project management, from investigating project and preparation of project applications all the way to participation in public national tenders.

### Delegation from Bosnia and Croatia visits Cologne

During a study tour mid-November the delegation from

Bosnia and Croatia, which also included the new member Žene sa Une, had the opportunity of getting to know several ASB social institutions and other institutions, including the Catholic Children's Day Care Centre St. Karl Boromäus, the soon-to-be-opened ASB retirement home Zollstockhöfe or the Theresa-von-Avila House of the IN VIA organisation for needy girls and young women. On the part of the ASB Federal office, the manager of the department Social Services, Ms. Osing, gave the participants an overview of the work of the ASB in the sector of social services in Germany. In addition to areas such as aged, child and youth care, as well as mobile care services, she introduced concrete examples of networked activities of individual ASB structures. Ms. Osing will conduct an

advanced seminar in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia upon invitation from the delegation.

The study tour took place within the framework of the project "Support of the civil society organisation to improve social cohesion in the border region between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina", which is being implemented by Žene sa Une (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and UNA (Croatia) in collaboration with the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund and ženska grupa Donji Lapac and is financed within the framework of an IPA program (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) of the EU for cross-border collaboration.

### Zene sa Une and ASB Germany plan aid project for homeless in Bosnia

The program of the delegation included a visit to "GULLIVER", a survival station for homeless people. "GULLIVER" is the first facility of its kind in Germany, which offers the homeless a variety of sanitation facilities, health services, as well as cultural events, in addition to accommodation and meals. "I am thrilled that poor people, who are in difficulties, are treated as guests here. This is an excellent example of how to handle endangered persons," commented one of the delegation participants.

To meet the great problem of homelessness in Bosnia, the Bosnian association wants to involve itself in the sector of homelessness in future, and within the framework of a one-year project, set up a homeless centre in Bihac, together with the ASB. This is to provide accommodation, meals and health service for the mainly male homeless. The project also covers the training of helpers, who are to instruct the visitors to the accommodation, among other things, in simple activities. ■



Delegation members in front of the Cologne Homeless Centre "GULLIVER".

### WOMEN FROM UNA – BIHAC

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## Young first aiders will meet in Italy from 7 to 10 August 2014

### SAMARITAN Contest 2014

As in the past years, including in Merano, Vienna and Riga, many young first aiders from the SAM.I. Member organisations will meet in August this year to put their first aid skills to the test. The by now fifth International First Aid Youth Contest

is organised by the SAM.I. Member ANPASS with the support of the WK South Tyrol at a very special venue: Adria, an old Etruscan city with a 20,000 strong population, in the province Rovio in Venetia. Highlight of the contest is the practical competition

part in the 60 km distant Venice with a First Aid course right through the city. In addition to the attraction of Venice, organiser ANPAS has come up with other special effects. The Contest falls into a very special period: SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL celebrates its 20th birthday on 11 August.

You will find information on the Contest 2014 on the SAM.I. Website at [http:// bit.ly/SAMIContesten](http://bit.ly/SAMIContesten). ■

## Heroes without superpowers

The SAMI.I. Member associations are extremely creative when it comes to events to recognise volunteer involvement but also for winning volunteers and voluntary first aiders.

With the message “Help needs Helpers” which can be seen right throughout Vienna since the beginning of November, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Austria communicates its appreciation of the voluntary helpers. “We need helpers, otherwise there can be no help, no matter whether in the care, health or social area. And this campaign gets precisely this message across” states Dkfm. Dr. Siegfried Sellitsch, President of the Samariterbund Vienna.

<http://bit.ly/HilfebrauchtHelfer>

To allay the fears of first aiders within the framework of the event and to undertake life-saving measures was also the aim of the event undertaken by the White Cross South Tyrol. Mid-October 2013, more than 4,000 South Tyroleans visited the 106 First Aid stands of the White Cross South Tyrol in different South Tyrolean Communities and took up the opportunity of practising life-saving immediate measures under the instructions of White Cross helpers. The WK event “Saving Lives with a few moves of your hand” took place within the framework of the general government sensitisation campaign “VIVA.”

[bit.ly/wkVIVA](http://bit.ly/wkVIVA)

“Heroes without superpowers” is the motto the Members of SAMI.I. wish to use to start a joint first aid campaign with regard to the SAMARITAN

Contest. The goal of this campaign is to draw attention to the significance of the first aid training and to appeal to a stronger integration of the resuscitating immediate measures in school lessons. ■



“Saving lives with a few moves of your hand” – First Aid Campaign of the WK.

Photo: WK Südtirol

## Collaboration in social economy

### Info from Brussels

The economic relevance of social and health services was underestimated for a long time and the sector of social economy not considered, in particular in the national accounts. It is a fact that the number of civil society organisations, which commit themselves

to the social and societal requirements is increasing worldwide. Although they often fulfil state duties, welfare organisations are often treated as commercial enterprises and do not receive sufficient or no legal or financial support. Even in member states with traditional coop-

eration models between state agencies and welfare associations such as, e.g. in Germany, Austria and Italy, there is a trend towards financial cuts. As a result of lacking reforms or changes to social legislature, market-oriented mecha-

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nisms have found increasing access to providing social services.

In addition to their social added value, welfare associations also create jobs. In 2009, more than 2315 million people worked in the health and social sector of the EU 27. This sector is an important employer, whose significance in the framework of the demographic change will most likely continue to grow. In particular employers in the sector of health services are, in the course of an ageing society, not only affected by an increased service demand, but due to the decrease in birth rate also by an increasing labour shortage. In Germany, for example, charitable organisations employ more than a third of all workers in the health sector. In the area of social services it is even more than 60%. (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions 2011, Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey)

On EU level, there are various starting points for the harmonisation of social policy.

The Commission has declared its intention to contribute towards favourable framework conditions for the development of social enterprise and social economy in general. However, at the same time, decision-makers in the member states and on EU level, tend towards applying the classic market principles: An example of this is the recurring intention of amendment with

regard to the EU procurement award rules, according to which social organisations and private enterprise are treated according to the EU primary law.

### **SAM.I. recommends a Europe-wide “Charity Law”**

Against the background of the previous explanations, SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL demands that quality and sustainability of these services must not fall victim to these current developments in favour of an obligation vis-à-vis the respective cheapest bidder.

Their charitable services of general interest should be recognised in a special form, be legally protected and supported financially on national and European level. SAM.I. correspondingly recommends the passing of a “Charity Law” – a pan-European directive with fundamental guidelines which recognise the particularities of the charitable enterprises.

### **INNOVEST-SAM.I. recently introduced the collaboration for the establishment of a complementary financing model to strengthen social enterprises**

In most cases, financial instruments for the social economy are still restricted to the national level. In some cases there are not even special instruments for the social economy or existing financial instruments do not correspond to the needs of social enterprises.

The knowledge about financing mechanisms, their utilisation, alone and in

### **Training of the European Volunteer Centre for EU support programs in the sector of volunteer work**

A seminar from the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) offers information in the area of voluntary work for EU support programs and scholarships for volunteer organisations. The CEV training with the title: “Financing of voluntary work by the new EU programs” will take place from 27 to 28 March in Brussels. Registration at <http://cev.be/brussels-2014/>. Seats are limited.

combination, is often limited. This applies to the national finance landscape of social enterprises, however, is also valid with regard to Europe. The cause of this is often due to the fact that the creation of the initiative happened ad hoc due to social needs and concerns.

For these reasons, the SAM.I. Members are striving to identify new starting points for social investments in all partner countries, to support young enterprises with setting up capacities and the development of an efficient mix of adjusted or new financial sources within the scope of a cooperation model.

The financial instrument takes public and private financing options into consideration, including donations, foundation capital, financing of operative activities, subsidies and loans.

The project is accompanied on an advisory capacity by the Bank für Sozialwirtschaft and the ASB Foundation Future. ■

## **SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL**

is a European association of charitable Non-Governmental Organisations from 15 countries. Sustained by numerous members and supported by volunteers, these organisations cooperate in the sectors of social services, first aid training, humanitarian aid in foreign countries, emergency rescue and ambulance services.

## **Impressum**

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