



European Year of Citizens 2013

www.europa.eu/citizens-2013

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

YOURopa Project – what does it mean to be an active European citizen?

Twenty years since the introduction of European citizenship the EU celebrates its achievements, highlighting the benefits for European citizens, and is promoting discussion on shaping its future. CSV in cooperation with Austrian organisation E.N.T.E.R. contributed to this campaign through the YOURopa project looking at the various forms that active European citizenship takes.

The YOURopa Conference brought together almost 100 representatives of NGOs and public sector institutions from 19 European countries to focus on the opportunities that European Citizenship provides to the citizens of the European Union with an emphasis on volunteering, human rights, active engagement and learning skills.

Oonagh Aitken, Director of Social Action, Volunteering, Policy & Fundraising at CSV, said: "The YOURopa Conference is an important European Year of Citizens event as it demonstrates that everyone has the right to be an active citizen and contribute to their community. For over half a century CSV has been committed to promoting opportunities in which every person can actively participate to build strong and inclusive communities."

During the discussions Darren Hughes (Electoral Reform Society, UK) highlighted that national governments tend to take credit for the positive achievements of the EU and blame it for the matters that can be unpopular in their country. Therefore "we need to take measures that will also build feelings of belonging to the European Union among its citizens" Hughes said.

Transnational projects play a vital role in bringing the European citizens closer to the European institutions and reinforce an exchange of knowledge and experience among the European organisations. Thirty good practice examples from across Europe supported by a range of EU programmes were presented during the conference. "Working on projects with partners from the other EU countries has broadened my horizons and definitely increased my feeling of being European" Barbara Coulson, participant at the conference, said.

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Notes to editors

CSV is the UK's leading volunteering and learning charity contributing to the creation of a society where everyone can participate to build strong and inclusive communities. Volunteering with CSV enables people of all ages and backgrounds to reap the benefits of putting something back. In partnership with other organisations across the UK and Europe, CSV helps people come together to build stronger communities through better services and more fulfilling lives. CSV holds the secretariat of The Network of National Volunteer-Involving Agencies, connecting over 50 not-for-profit organisations, from National Trust to CRUK and the RNIB.

CSV also hosts the secretariat of Volonteuropa which firmly connects volunteering across Europe, helping to promote the values and principals of volunteering to millions of people.

www.csv.org.uk

www.volonteuropa.eu

www.europa.eu/citizens-2013

The European Network for Transfer and Exploitation of EU Project Results (**E.N.T.E.R.**) is a non-profit association officially registered in Austria. The network connects its members to support the EU strategies through dissemination and exploitation of results of the EU funded projects, provide EU project coordinators, spread information on development and results of EU project community and supports partner finding for the European projects.

www.enter-network.eu

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