

The Volunteer Day motivates women and men to participate voluntarily in different events and project. On that day, volunteers get the opportunity to actively shape their environment and to participate in social life.

Originally coming from the USA, the Volunteer Day was organized in Germany in 2001 for the first time.

The Volunteers Day:

- is an important approach to improve civic engagement and local on-site collaboration;
- may pave the way to improve and strengthen social solidarity among the generations;
- is a possibility to reduce the emigration of young people towards other places;
- is an easy method to draw attention to and promote the variety of possibilities civic engagement in the immediate vicinity;
- may further improve the long-lasting engagement of interested citizens in voluntary work.

Volunteer Days are meaningful and appropriate to the current societies. It motivates to support different people and/or social projects. However, it is not only about having time well spent but also about having fun and to get to know new people.

Volunteer Days are characterized by:

- being timely reasonable;
- its modern concept: "Making a difference on one day" approaches the "contemporary volunteer";
- being non-binding. This does apply for that day, allowing people to switch the projects on the Volunteer Day, as well as afterwards;
- serving to build new networks with different target groups;
- being compatible with work and school life, as these days take place on weekends;
- giving an excellent opportunity for groups to get engaged in a communal project or projects (i.e. families, group of friends, group of colleagues);
- creating a positive attention and a great feedback for civic engagement in society;
- making the diversity of civic engagement visible to the people;
- possibly motivating people to engage in volunteer work afterwards as well;
- the participation of associations, organizations and institutions as well as many volunteers;
- organizations being able to implement great project ideas within one day.
Simultaneously, they get an impression on how volunteer work may function outside of its settled and usually organized habits.