



**THE II YOUTH**

**CONVENTION ON**

**VOLUNTEERING**

**FINAL REPORT**

**7TH - 11TH SEPTEMBER 2011**



//Young Volunteers



# STAND UP!



**PETER MATJAŠIČ // PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM**

Welcome to the biggest event ever organised by the European Youth Forum: thousands of young volunteers peacefully occupying the Esplanade of the European Parliament to showcase, discuss and celebrate volunteering during 4 days in September 2011. Summarising more than a hundred activities, a big stakeholder conference,

trainings, art workshops and a free music festival with a total of 10.000 visitors is not an easy task. It shows that young volunteers stood up and made a loud call for Volunteer Rights!



# *‘It’s time to demonstrate the value and the power of volunteering’*

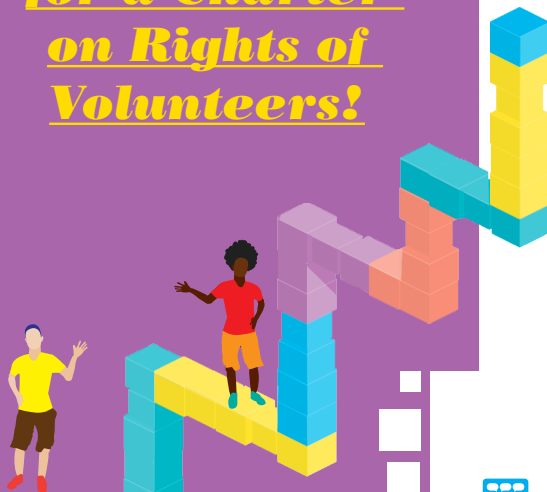
The impact of the Convention proves and showcases the impact and outreach of volunteers in youth organisations. For Europe. For society.

The event hosted by the European Parliament was a space for young volunteers and youth organisations to work together, to discuss with European decision-makers and to celebrate the commitment of young people from all over Europe to building a better Europe every day. It consisted of a wide range of activities, most notably the Stakeholder Conference on the Rights of Volunteers, the Volunteer Bridge dedicated to the EU-China Year of Youth, the Volunteers Village, hosting stands and activities of Member Organisations and other partners, the launch of the European Youth Forum Alumni Network and the YO! Fest, which celebrated 15 years of the European Youth Forum.

Part of the Convention was the Volunteer Bridge, one of the flagship events of the 2011 EU-China Year of Youth, organised by the European Youth Forum in partnership with the All-China Youth Federation, the European Commission and the European External Action Service and with the support of the Policy Dialogue Support Facility. A World Music Village Workshop, a Graffiti Workshop and the III China-Europe Symposium on Youth Work Development featured in this event. It provided an experience of volunteering and showcased the contribution of participatory youth organisations to the volunteering sector and to society.

Support to the draft Charter on the Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers was given by several important actors: Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Gianni Pittella and Isabelle Durant, Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament, Jean-Pierre Vandersteen, Director General for Communication of DG Communications (EC), Marian Harkin, MEP and Coordinator of the European Year of Volunteering.

**Enjoy the report and get in touch to join the Campaign for a Charter on Rights of Volunteers!**





# //INVESTING IN YOUNG VOLUNTEERS



A Convention of this size and with this impact requires a lot of resources, motivated volunteers but also money. For the catering, travel support, renting of all the equipment etc. Luckily the European Youth Forum could work together with several partners that believe in investing in youth and in young volunteers.

Several funders supported with money, others with support for travel and others with materials. Together they made sure that made the Convention possible. The European Youth Forum is very grateful for their support and the impact created.

The Convention could not have taken place without the support of the Belgian National Lottery who supported the Village and made it possible to host the volunteers and participants.

Interrail and Brussels Airlines helped with getting young volunteers to the Convention.

The YO! Fest was sponsored by Alfa Romeo, the Flemish Government and the French Speaking Government of Belgium.

The V-Bridge was supported by the European External Action Service and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

The Stakeholder Conference was kindly hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee.

Last but not least, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee were great hosts for the Convention, right at the heart of Europe!





# THE RIGHTS OF THE VOLUNTEER

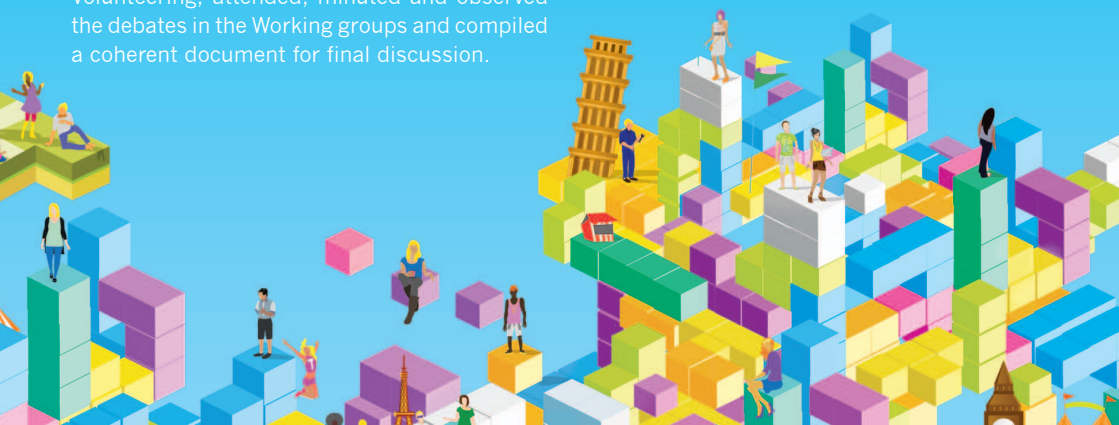
Recognising the value of volunteering, its contribution to the society, its cohesion and the skills volunteering provides to volunteers, the conference gathered stakeholders relevant in the field of volunteering at all different levels.

With 65 participants from about 40 different organisations and institutional partners from United Nations, Council of Europe and European Union, the Stakeholders Conference ensured that the voices of volunteers and their organisations are heard. All participants commonly developed a Declaration on the Rights of the Volunteer, recognising the need for a charter and the value of a rights based approach towards volunteering.

The Declaration was developed on the basis of the input gathered by 6 facilitated Working Groups in the framework of 3 thematic elements: The Relevance of Volunteering and a rights based approach towards Volunteering, Rights of Volunteers and Volunteering providers in Europe and on national level. 8 rapporteurs, experts of the Youth Forum working group on Volunteering, attended, minuted and observed the debates in the Working groups and compiled a coherent document for final discussion.

The final joint Declaration on the "Need of a rights-based approach towards Volunteering" was handed over to Ms. Isabelle Durant (Vice-President, European Parliament) and Mr. Jean-Pierre Vandersteen (Director General Communication, European Commission) at the Plenary of the Convention to by Peter Matjašič, President of the European Youth Forum, on behalf of all the young volunteers present.

High-level speakers to the conference included: Staffan Nilsson, President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Interest Group on Volunteering, Flavia Pansieri, UN Volunteers Executive Coordinator, Ulrich Bunjes, Deputy to the Director of Youth and Sport, Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe and John Macdonald, Head of Task Force for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 European Commission Directorate-General for Communication.



# CORE RIGHTS

## //ARTICLE 1

Every person who is doing a volunteering activity is entitled to get the status of a volunteer; no one shall be forced to be registered, but should be entitled to the basic rights.

## //ARTICLE 2

The volunteer is entitled to full protection of her/his human rights, when implementing the volunteering activity.

## //ARTICLE 3

Every person is entitled to equal access to volunteering opportunities and protection against all kind of discrimination such as age, gender, sexual identity, race, colour, language, disability, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status and shall not be discriminated against on bases of their background or conviction.

## //ARTICLE 4

No one shall be restricted by law to participate in a volunteering activity of their choice, considering that the volunteering activity is carried out in respect of Human Rights and contributes to the public good.

## //ARTICLE 5

All volunteers shall be informed about their rights and responsibilities.

## ARTICLE 6 //

Every volunteer has the right to social protection during the volunteering in form of health care and liability insurance.

## ARTICLE 7 //

Every volunteer has the right to reconcile her/his volunteering activity with her/his private and working life, and to require a certain amount of flexibility during the volunteering activity and is furthermore entitled to refuse task that would go against her/his beliefs and convictions.

## ARTICLE 8 //

Every volunteer has the right to volunteer outside of her/his country. Therefore, if needed, a visa free of charge must be obtainable through an open, accessible and transparent procedure which favours volunteer's mobility.

## ARTICLE 9 //

Every volunteer is entitled to the reimbursement of expenses occurring in relation to the voluntary activity, respecting the different levels of reimbursement resulting through the diversity of voluntary activities. These reimbursements shall be excluded from any form of taxation.





# VILLAGE

The place to be. Over 60 organisations, 46 Youth Forum member organisations and 21 local organisations and partners, joined us in showcasing what volunteers and their supporting organisations are capable of. We celebrated with them and over 3000 visitors per day volunteering, right at the heart of the European Parliament Esplanade, in the European Year of Volunteering. What else?

The Village was animated and built by 80 Volunteers from all over Europe, creating the place to host well over 100 activities: workshops, infostands, networking activities, trainings. A special Volunteering edition of YO! Mag was launched and distributed to all visitors to the V-Village. On Thursday 8th the V-Village was officially and royally opened by HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium, who clearly enjoyed a tour of the



V-Village. She took really the time to talk to a few organisations and volunteers on their activities and motivations to be a volunteer.

On Friday 9th, all day the V-Village was an alive and bustling place, the participating member and local organisations and partners presented themselves and a selection of their projects both in- and outside the framework of the European Year of Volunteering.

Participants joined in the different workshops ranging from showcase of motivational tools for volunteers, active games, and environmental debates over info-sessions on the European Voluntary Service, sharing best practices in supporting volunteers, press and media trainings, leadership and teambuilding activities, recognition of volunteer skills discussions and sessions on the use of volunteering as a tool for integration and the accessibility of volunteering.

On Saturday 10th of September the workshops, activities and training sessions continued. The sun was out over the Esplanade and the spirits were high. This created the perfect setting for a wonderful closing ceremony of the whole Convention together with Pierre Mairese, MEP Marc Tarabella and Youth Forum President Peter Matjašič. Three lucky winners were chosen to join the closing-conference of the 2011 EU-China year of Volunteering in China in November and as a final gesture we presented Willy Decourty, the mayor of Ixelles with the official key to the Volunteer Village.

The V-Village even had its own cinema, the V-Cinema. Short films, documentaries and clips by volunteers and on volunteering.



# V-CINEMA

## Light on the Rights

**Directed by:** Luke Flegg for OBESSU

**Duration:** approx. 45 minutes

This documentary is a 10,000km journey through fifteen European countries, offering insights into school student activism and the fight for school student rights. From 9th September to 23rd October 2010 OBESSU, together with its member organisations and national school student unions, organised diverse activities (workshops, art performances, public debates etc.) to foster the proactive participation of school students in campaigning for their rights at national and European level. The Bus Tour project received financial support from the European Commission's "Europe for Citizens" programme.

## The Road to Understanding

**Directed by:** Sandra Santos for YEU

**Duration:** approx. 65 minutes

**Language:** English

A documentary shot in five different countries exploring the different situations youth face in Europe today concerning intercultural dialogue. The film outlines the journey a team of five educators and movies makers took for three weeks passing through Portugal, Cyprus, Turkey, Poland and Estonia.

## The Caucasus Triangle

**Directed by:** Letizia Gambini

**Duration:** approx. 25 minutes

A documentary on freedom of expression and democracy in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. What key role do youth have to play? Directed by Letizia Gambini and produced entirely by a team of volunteers, "The Caucasus Triangle" brings you the voice of young people who found a way to express themselves online. Leila, Ali, Ruslan, Gor and many others... are the faces of a new generation of hope trying to bring social and democratic change to their countries, as active volunteers in a 2.0 era.

## 'Interview': A Peek into the Life of Interns

**Directed by:** Vincenzo Onnembo for the European Youth Forum

**Duration:** approx. 10 minutes

**Language:** English

Interview is a short documentary made by the European Youth Forum that provides a rare glimpse into the lives of interns in Europe and explores the views of young people towards the internship system. 'Interview' introduces you to Brunel (23), Aleksandra (28) and Renasha (25) who each have their own story, but have faced similar challenges in getting the job that they want and launching their careers.



## The youNG

**Directed by:** Giuseppe Porcaro  
**Duration:** approx. 30 minutes  
**Language:** English

"The youNG" reviews this little known history of youth at the United Nations and explores different ways of approaching youth participation at the UN at present. In particular, the film gives an insider's perspective into UN youth delegates, collects opinions on youth issues from different key actors in the United Nations system and covers the meeting of UN SG Ban Ki Moon with the Youth Delegates at the UN General Assembly 2008. This documentary closes with a call to re-connect the institutional discourse on youth with the daily-challenges experienced by young people all over the world.

## Global Youth Advisory Panel of UNFPA

**Credits:** European Youth Forum, UNFPA  
**Duration:** approx. 30 minutes  
**Language:** English

Documentary about the Global Youth Advisory Panel (GYAP), which started in 2004. The Global Youth Advisory Panel of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is a mechanism allowing youth to participate in decision making processes in the UNFPA. The panel is an encouraging example of institutionalised youth participation in the UN, but also has its shortcomings.

## Chinese Students within Europe

**Directors:** Davide Arosio, Alberto Gerosa for Think Young  
**Duration:** approx. 18 minutes  
**Language:** English

Nowadays, Chinese students are studying more and more in European universities. However, we know little about their experience and their feelings about studying so far away from their home country.

The goal here is to gain a better understanding of two different cultures and two different kinds of young people, as it is important to strengthen the stream of students between China and Europe, drawing young people's attention to Chinese students and increasing positive feelings between Chinese and European students.

## Chinese Young Volunteers

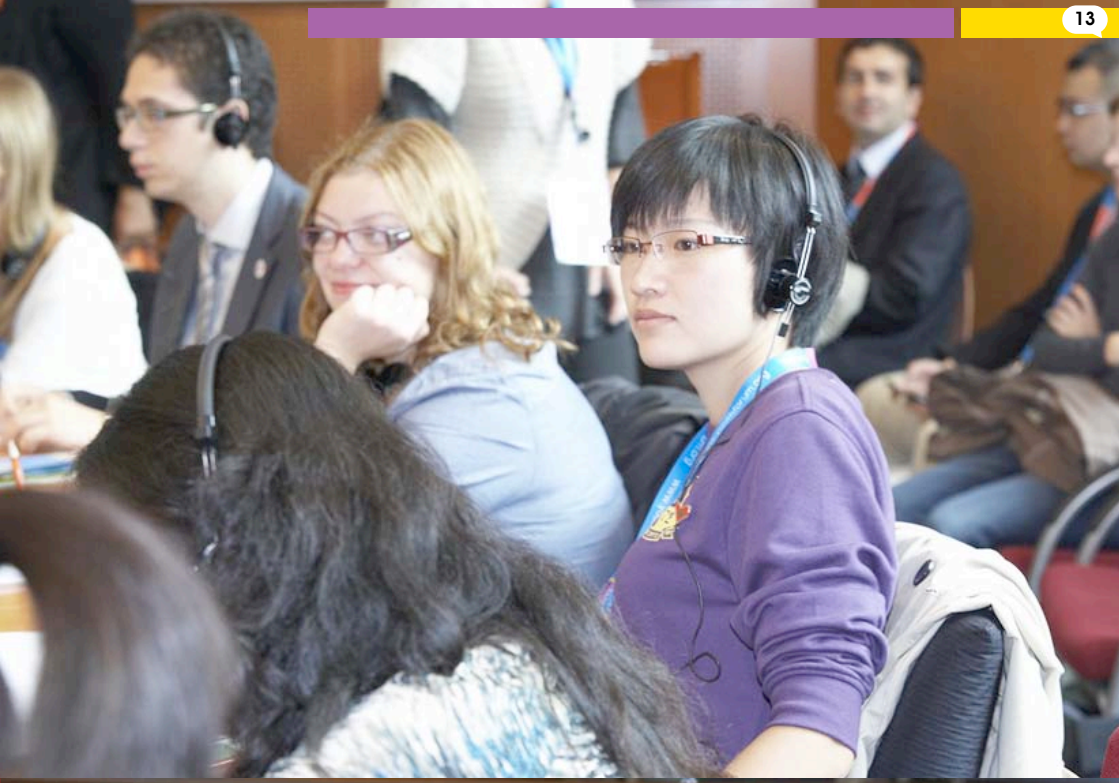
**Duration:** approx. 15 minutes

This exciting documentary from the Chinese Young Volunteers Association in 7 parts looks at voluntary service in action. The film includes overseas projects, games and activities, large events, emergency and disaster relief and other projects.



# II YOUTH CONVENTION ON VOLUNTEERING SNAPSHOTS







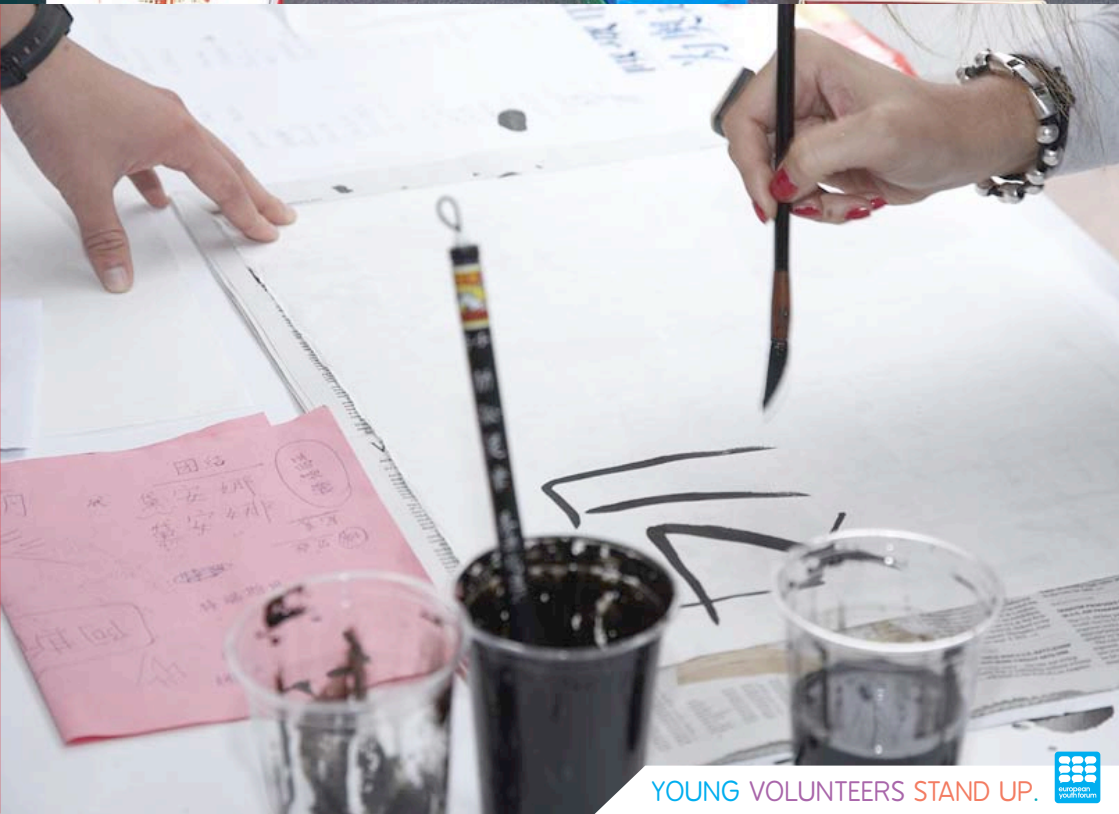




































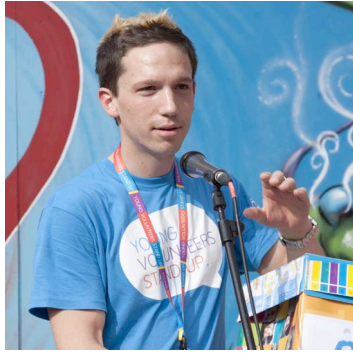




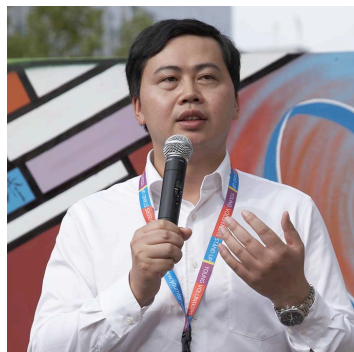




















# FYEEST



**T**hree days of concerts, street theatre, multicultural performances, a concert on the European Parliament balcony and many other innovative, engaging experiences: all this to celebrate volunteers all over Europe! All this as YO! Fest.

Belgian and international artists, as well as the young musicians from the EU-China World Music Village, took turns on the stage, in front of more than seven thousand people.

The mix was explosive: La Chiva Gantiva (BE), General Bazar (BE) and Ojos de Brujos (ES) fired up Thursday night with their rhythm, while Friday was the turn of Ziggy (BE) and Lunar Rays (BE), both winners of JMI Imagine.



# FOR YOUTH RIGHTS.

The Vertical Stage animated the evening of Brussels' Place Luxembourg on Friday, turning the balcony of the European Parliament in a real stage for Motel Connection (IT), Compact Disk Dummies (BE) and an exclusive DJ set of Al Doyle from Hot Chip (UK).

The official after party took place at Antitapas, the craziest party in Brussels, all to thank all our participants and volunteers once more.



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS STAND UP.



# EU-CHINA VOLUNTEER BRIDGE

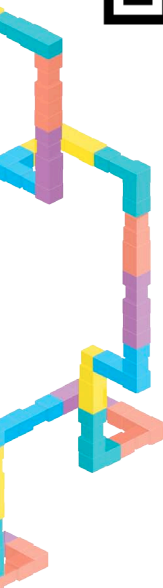
// V- BRIDGE



A volunteer bridge to connect three hundred European and Chinese volunteers, provide them with a shared volunteering experience and showcase the contribution of participatory youth organisations to the volunteering sector and society.

In the framework of the 2011 EU-China Year of Youth, the European Year of Volunteering and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10), the European Youth Forum, in close cooperation with the All China Youth Federation, the European Commission, including the European External Action Service, and with the support of the Policy Dialogue Support Facility, promoted an EU-China Policy Dialogue on youth volunteering, in the frame of the II Youth Convention on Volunteering.

The EU-China Policy Dialogue on Volunteering included the Third China-Europe Symposium on Youth Work Development, a World Music Village and a Graffiti Workshop. Around twenty five volunteers supported the implementation of these activities, facilitating the cultural and social exchange between participants.







## World Music Village – in cooperation with Jeunesses Musicales International

The World Music Village was a challenging experiment in intercultural cooperation between different cultures. In many ways it was a one of a kind and a once in a lifetime opportunity where European and Chinese artists from different musical backgrounds were united by a common goal: to produce a piece of artistic work together, in the form of a concert.

A concert during the YO! Fest on the European Parliament Esplanade was as emotional as exciting to see and hear. You don't get to hear a Macedonian shepherd's tune along with a popular Chinese song too often and one hardly has the occasion to witness more than twenty musicians from two different worlds coming together and sharing such a positive and sincere message.





## Third China-Europe Symposium on Youth Work Development



The Symposium gathered thirty young leaders from Europe and China to discuss the value of young volunteers in leading sustainable youth organisations with an impact in their communities.

During the event, participants had the opportunity to discuss the key issues of the youth work in China and Europe: the meaning of volunteering and its impact. The programme combined plenary sessions and debate sessions, using non-formal education methodologies aimed at an active participation of the youth representatives.

Volunteering is... passion - altruism - inspiration - freedom of choice - sharing - right to participate - devotion and engagement - friends - empowerment - positive change - inclusion - development - responsibility - harmony - bridging cultures and communities.





# Graffiti Workshop – in cooperation with Truly Design



Art that bring cultures closer: the Graffiti Workshop at the Convention was attended by eighteen participants, seven European and eleven Chinese, who worked together to produce a graffiti exposed in the middle of the V-Village.

The painting phase allowed participants to test various graffiti tools, from paint rollers to spray paint stencilling. All efforts were accompanied by a good dose of fun and dialogue. After having finished the paintings, the tagging fever started: tags on sweaters, name tags and even hats!

The murals were the real stars: many stopped to take photographs in front of the panels, which were very visible to anyone visiting the V-Village





## // 15th ANNIVERSARY

# 15 YEARS OLD, AND STILL VOLUNTEERING



For the European Youth Forum, 2011 will not only be remembered as the year of the II Youth Convention on Volunteering, but also as the fifteenth anniversary of the platform. Fifteen years together, as a stronger voice for young people in Europe. On this occasion, we invited alumni and friends to share the great and good of the Forum from days gone by! With this, the Youth Forum took the opportunity to launch an Alumni Network that now functions to tie together the knowledge and debates from Europe's youth over the past fifteen years.

The launch of the Alumni network also saw the publications of the very first Youth Forum's Anthology, entitled "Raw materials for a history of the European Youth Forum". With a total now of thirty years since the birth of the Youth Forum of the European Communities, fifty since the establishment of the first European Platform of National Youth Councils and sixty years since the launch of the first pan European Youth Campaign, it was time to bring together an Anthology that aims to codify this great history. In this, the Anthology takes the first steps towards filling the knowledge gaps on the political contribution of young people to the European Project.

For those who were new to the world of European youth organisations, the II Youth Convention also offered a historical crash course in the form of our fifteenth anniversary exhibition. The exposition, which sat throughout the V-Village took members of the public from a post WWII Europe, right through to the present day, highlighting all the important youth policy landmarks along the way! The exhibition was realised in conjunction with young Belgian designers from the Ecole de Recherche Graphique, who created pieces for the exposition under the brief of 'Youth Rights Through Art'.







# // NUMBERS

## PARTICIPANTS



Total number of people:

**10,000**



Number of Chinese participants

(including interpreters): **101**



Number of **young musicians** from

China and Europe: **26**



Number of **Inter-rail** tickets issued:

**132**



Furthest distance travelled by train to get to the Convention:

**3,509 km**

Number of **Inter-rail** tickets used: 114



Number of beds in

youth hostels booked: **1,524**

## VOLUNTEERS



Number of volunteers:

**167**



Number of different countries from where the volunteers were from:

**22**



Number of volunteers from Hungary: **11**



Number of volunteers from Georgia: **4**



Number of volunteers for the EU-China Bridge:

**51**

## STAFF



Total number of staff:

**101**



Number of injured staff: **2**

## CATERING



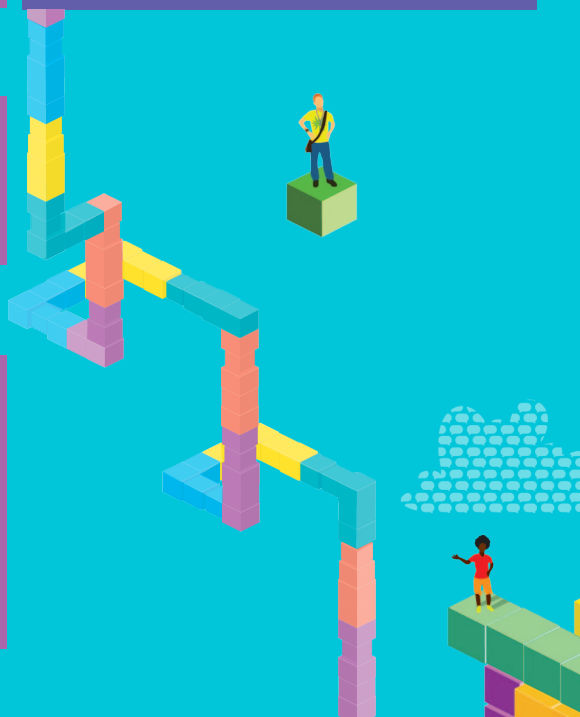
Number of lunch and dinner tickets distributed:

**3,200+**



Number of hours needed to group lunch and dinner tickets correctly:

**26 hours**



## V-VILLAGE

## MATERIALS



Number of available screwdrivers: **1**



Number of scissors and cutters: **9**



Number of scissors and cutters after day 1: **0**



Number of spray cans used to paint the graffiti wall: **30**

## TOILETS



Number toilets: **22**



Number of toilets broken: **1**



Number of days between the event and getting the **official permission** to organise it: **11**



Number of tents: **72**



Number of tents lost due to the **stormy weather**: **4**

Number of casualties: **0**



Number of fire extinguishers: **27**

Number of fire extinguishers used: **0**

Number of **25 kg** weights for tents: **290**

Number of **50 kg** weights for tents: **32**

Number of **100 kg** weights for tents: **15**

Number of **400 kg** weights for tents: **90**



Office tables: **140**



Bar tables: **50**



Chairs: **135**



Benches: **130**



Picnic tables: **40**



Laptops: **27**



LCD screens: **14**



Total area (approx.): **14,220 m<sup>2</sup>**



Area covered by tents: **1,610 m<sup>2</sup>**



# YOUNG VOLUNTEERS STAND UP.

Understanding what it is to give time

Charter and Rights of volunteers.

**Celebrate**  
being an active citizen.

Appreciating time spent together.

**Taking initiative**  
to build projects

**Creativity** enjoying successes.

Enjoying making a difference.

**Celebrate**  
being an active citizen.

**Leading change**  
others to create

Give meaningful contributions to change surroundings.

Fighting for **Youth rights.**

Working together, regardless of differences.

Creating a **culture** of respect.

**Taking action** to fight injustices.

Participating in political life.

Working to create a more equal society.

**Helping** to build a community.

**Building** a better future together.



**FOR YOUTH RIGHTS**



In the framework of:



European Year of Volunteering 2011



2011 中欧青年交流年  
EU-China Year of Youth



International Year of Volunteers  
10th Anniversary  
2011

Hosted by:



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



European Economic  
and Social Committee

With the kind support of:



National Lottery  
creating chances together



InterRail



Education and Culture DG



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

In cooperation with:



Professional tools for Live & Studio



brussels  
airlines

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



1983 - 2011 - 2012



DE BOER



dunter.  
Creative. Digital. Thinkers.



VERTICAL  
STAGE  
SESSION



MTJ  
ENERGY MACHINE.



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SHAKE YOUR MIND



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THE EUROPEAN MAGAZINE

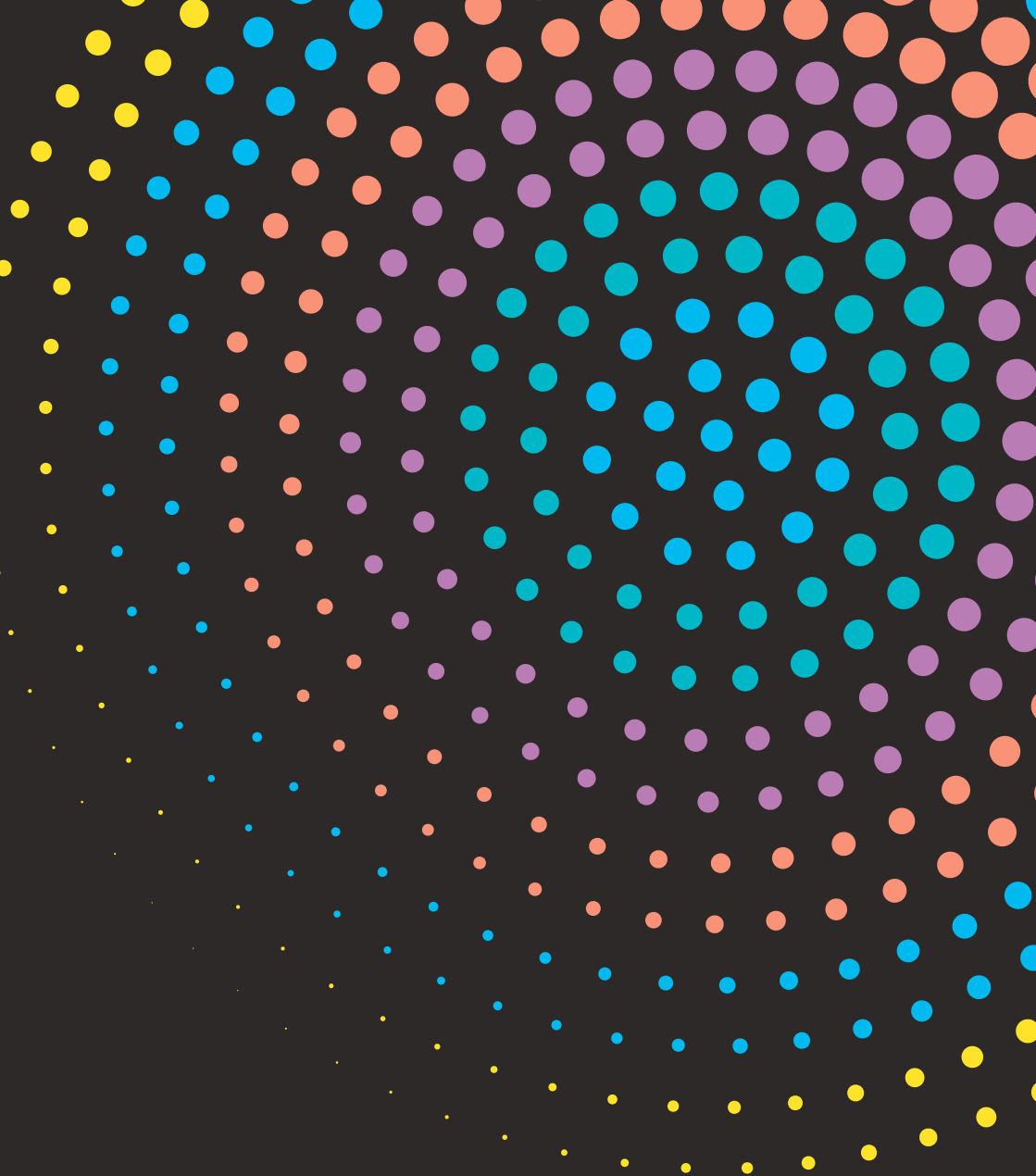
Co-Organised by the European Youth Forum's Member Organisations :

ACTIVE, AEGEE, ALLIANSI, CDRM, CJE, CNAJEP, CNJ, CNJC CNTM, CRIJ, CYC, DBYN, DEMYC, ECOSY, ECYC, EDS, EFAY, EFIL, EEE-YFU, ENGSO YOUTH, ESN, ESYN, EYCE, EYP, FIMCAP, FNG, FYEG, IFLRY, IUSY, JEF, JMI, KNZ, MMH, MIJARC, MSS, NCYOG, OBESSU, RADA, SCI, TEJO, WAGGGS, WOSM, YEPP, YEU.

Co-Organised by the European Youth Forum's Member Organisations :

ADYNE, ALL CHINA YOUTH FEDERATION, ALL CHINA VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION, ASMAE, ASO, BIJ, CBB, CHINESE YOUTH FEDERATION OF EUROPE, CHIRO, COJ, ECAS, EDF, EURODESK, EURO-MED, EYV 2011 ALLIANCE, FCJMP, GSB, HET WERKT!, JA-YE, JEUNES CDH, CDH, JES, JINT, JOETZ, MOTZ, OECD, RELIE-F, RESEAU SOLIDARCITE, RIO+20, SERVICE CITOYEN, SGV-BRUSSEL, SVI, THINK YOUNG, TERNYPE, UNRIC, UNV, YM+

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european  
youth forum