

SHORT REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS 2001
THE ITALIAN CHAPTER

a view of the Year through the national Web site



Preface

The Report objectives

This Report attempts to highlight the Italian participation in activities of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001 as recommended by the United Nations through their guide document published by the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV). These activities have been highlighted through the Italian Web site (<http://aiv2001.live.it>), created at the end of the year 2000 through the initiative of Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV, in collaboration with Civitas.

Through this report, the value of volunteerism is reflected by evaluating the principle objectives for the IYV 2001, whose opening has been officially celebrated internationally on 5 December 2001, and their realisation through various activities by Italian Institutions Non Governmental Organisations and volunteer organisations.

Having no pretension to be exhaustive, the Report represents an interesting chance to translate into words and numbers, the images seen through the "small windows" of the Italian Web site.

Towards the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001

The IYV background

Voluntary service is defined in the IYV information document as “the contribution that individuals make as non-profit, non wage and non career action for the well being of their neighbour, community or society at large.” As mentioned in the IYV introductory document, the need for volunteer effort is greater today than ever, considering worsening global situations in environmental, health, education and even economic sectors of many parts of the world, especially in developing countries where poverty continues to increase at an alarming rate.

The values of voluntarism are summed in the words of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in his statement at the opening ceremony and launch of the International Year of Volunteers 2001 in New York on 28 November 2000:

“At the heart of volunteerism are the ideals of service and solidarity and the belief that together we can make the world better...Their (volunteers) motivation can be summed up in one word: sharing. They share their time. They share their skills and talents. Above all, they share human experience.”

While in the words of the former Italian President of the Republic Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, the functional objectives can be said to be effected when:

“far from the clamour of the press and without consideration of personal sacrifice, volunteers offer in many countries a daily, precious testimony of human solidarity. With their spontaneous works, they often provide for shortages of actions in states and in all the circumstances, however, they integrate it with intelligence and sensibility.”

Through the United Nations system, the idea of an International Year of Volunteers first emerged at a policy Forum of the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) in Japan in 1996 which passed the proposal to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Recommended by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for adoption, the IYV was proclaimed during the 52nd session of UN General Assembly on November 20, 1997 in their resolution 52/17.

The objectives of the IYV 2001 are provided in article 2 of the report of the ECOSOC in a resolution adopted by the General Assembly that:

“(the Assembly) invites Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental volunteer and non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations to collaborate and identify ways and means of enhancing the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteer service in the preparations for and observance of the year.”

The promoters of the Italian IYV Web site

Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV (The Federation of Christian inspired Non Governmental Organisations of International Voluntary Service)

Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV, together with 55 affiliated Non Governmental Organisations, have sent international volunteers with different professional skills in the developing countries to work in social, cultural and economic areas of humanitarian assistance, technical co-operation, promotion of human rights, democratisation and promotion of peace, within similar charisma to those of the United Nations and within the Italian government framework of international co-operation.

Forming up the largest Italian federation of Non Governmental Organisations, Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV has a large base of voluntary personnel in Italy (1.371) and 524 internal volunteers in the developing countries, involved in various social projects in the areas of health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, social animation, human rights, institutional support, co-operative, food aid and industry and commerce (here listed in order of intervention level).

The engagement in the IYV 2001

In the context of the International Year of Volunteers, Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV has not only been the promoter of the Italian IYV2001 Web site, but has realised other numerous activities strictly related to the objectives of the year which coincides with its main consolidated responsibilities.

The Federation carries out activities in the important areas of information and formation for development through publication of magazines and periodicals,



documentation centres, production of audio visuals, educational games, organisation of festivals and exhibitions, interventions in schools etc.

Towards fulfilling the four IYV objectives, Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV prepared as its consolidated tradition since 1994, an award this year dedicated to children of international volunteers. This is according to the call of increasing volunteer recognition as recommended in the UNV introduction document that:

“awards might be instituted for the best examples of individual, small group, local community and national NGO - and perhaps also international - volunteer action.”

Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV involved a large number of students from the SPICeS - the School of International Politics, Co-operation and Development in the team created to co-ordinate the Italian Web site. The school, promoted by the Federation since 1991, can be intended to be a response to the IYV call for increased facilitation of volunteer effort in the areas of training to encourage technical competence among other aspects important to the development of voluntarism. The voluntary team of students created to co-ordinate the IVY Web site has been an extraordinary experimentation of how *“the year of volunteers is in the hands of volunteers”*.

In the field of “facilitation”, during the year 2001 Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV signed an official agreement with the Civil Service National Office. Even thanks to this agreement, today young individuals can officially take national and even international civil service tasks in place of military service. For the next future (after 2007), when military service in Italy will no longer be obligatory, this initiative will represent an interesting new opportunity for young volunteers who want to live the experience of a short mission in the Developing Countries and it will provide a good ground for support for people involved in international volunteering.

CIVITAS

Partner with Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV in creating the Italian IYV Web site, Civitas is not an organisation, but a manifestation. It represents a meeting point for interaction between subjects in the areas of civil economy, volunteerism, and generally for operations typical of non profit organisations in all its manifestations which range from volunteerism to social co-operatives, the foundations of cultural associations and assistance, financial ethics to the non governmental organisations involved in international co-operation. Their contribution is in such a way to prospect a economy of solidarity to the society, especially towards providing concrete solutions.

Created in 1996 as a response to diverse solicitations and submissions in the European Economic Conference, Civitas has presented an intense cultural programme and a series of events since its inception.

The engagement in the IYV 2001

Civitas offered technical and professional resources that permitted to the Italian IYV web site to be created.

In occasion of the manifestation of Civitas 2001, under the IYV logo, meetings on the theme of voluntarism were organised and an Italian version of the presentation of the IYV was diffused to all participants.

<http://aiv2001.live.it>

The official Italian Web site for the International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001)

With the approval of the Department of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGCS), Volontari nel Mondo - FOCSIV in collaboration of Civitas activated an Italian Internet site on the International Year of Volunteers - Anno Internazionale dei Volontari (AIV2001). The Web site has been active since 5 December 2000 with the aim to be a useful source of information and exchange according to the four main objectives of IYV2001.

Other than highlighting the activities and initiatives of national and international volunteers, the operative objectives of AIV2001 includes:

- To point out the organisations involved in various levels in the promotion of IYV2001;
- To provide information on events and manifestations that are carried out during the entire course of the IYV2001 throughout Italy by updated calendar of events available in the Web site;
- To keep in contact persons interested and willing to be involved in the IYV2001 with organisations involved in their activities of interest;
- To present and give free access to documents, research and other materials and raising awareness campaign with the theme of volunteerism;
- To offer information of interest to the appointed Committee of Honour from the Department of Social Affairs concerning IYV2001;
- To point out links of interest to the national and international volunteers.

Also available in the Web site is a section of *News* that highlight the recent articles on events concerning the IYV2001 in Italy and the rest of the world.



It is based on the call by the United Nations that Italian IYV team took up the initiative of adopting the four IYV objectives of increased recognition, increased facilitation, networking and promotion based on which it has continued to undertake different activities together with other IYV partner organisations including the government sector.

The Italian IYV site emulates the IYV objective of networking by providing an opportunity for volunteers to interact and exchange information on activities in their areas of operation, obtain documents of research on themes of volunteerism, all towards creating a forum of exchange among the volunteers and the public in general. A National Association of “Returned International Volunteers Network” has also been formed for realisation of this objective.

Tied together to the objective of networking, promotion as another IYV objective is the main functional objective of the Italian IYV team Web site. The Web site functions as a forum for interaction between volunteers and the public whereby experiences shared and suggested ideas from research documents can help achieve better voluntary services, strengthened volunteer activity and overall success of volunteers in their work for social, economic development of the people they serve in respective parts of the world.

The Web site also publishes news articles about global events within the spirit of volunteerism, especially within the objectives of the IYV2001.

This is also in accordance with article six of the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly that the Assembly:

“calls for a concerted promotional and informational campaign on behalf of the year at the national, regional and international levels, with the strong participation of the mass media.”

Still in the area of promotion, to make the IYV2001 a success, the local team compiled an IYV information kit composed of text and computer graphics a guide to the IYV objectives for affiliated and other interested organisations.

This kit, inspired by the IYV team kit published in the international IYV Web site, has been sent together with other IYV information materials to various organisations as suggested in the official guide document published in 1998 by the UNV in Bonn, Germany, with which the Italian team has worked very closely.

The objective of this initiative was to permit an easier communication for Italian people for what concerns the IYV 2001 and to permit a better understanding of the objectives of the Year, being expressed in the Italian language.

Who was there

The organisation involved

Many Italian organisation registered in The Italian IYV Web site accepting the objectives proclaimed by the Year and becoming active promoters. The list of organisation involved, so rapidly increasing during the year that a continuous updating of the Web site became necessary, is formed by nation and international volunteering agencies and acting in different fields.

A.B.C.S. Associazione Bertoni per la cooperazione e lo sviluppo dl terzo mondo
A.C.A.V. Associazione centro aiuti volontari
A.C.C.R.I. - Associazione di cooperazione cristiana internazionale
A.D.A. Associazione per i diritti degli anziani
A.D.P. - Amici dei popoli
A.D.Vo.S. FIDAS Basilicata - Associazione donatori sangue
A.E.S. - C.C.C. Ass. amici Stato Brasiliano Espirito Santo - Centro di collaborazione comunitaria
A.F.M.A.L. - F.B.F. - Associazione con i fatebenefratelli per i malati lontani
A.I.L. Ass. It. Laringectomizzati
A.I.S Seguimi ONLUS
A.L.M. - Associazione laicale missionaria
A.M.G. - Associazione "Mondo Giusto"
A.S.I. - Associazione sanitaria internazionale
A.S.P.Em. - Associazione solidarietà paesi emergenti
A.T.D. Quarto Mondo
A.V.A.Z. - Associazione volontari per lo sviluppo dei popoli
A.V.S.I. - Associazione volontari per il servizio internazionale
A.V.U.L.S.S. - Ass. per il volontariato nelle Unità Socio Sanitarie
ACTION International
Adolescent Association
AFSAI (ICYE Italy) - Organizzazione di volontariato
AGESCI - Associazione guide scout cattolici italiani
Ai.Bi Associazione amici dei bambini
AIB Associazione italiana biblioteche
AIFO - Associazione italiana amici di Raoul Follereau
Aiutateci a salvare i bambini
ALOE - Associazione missionaria
Amnesty International, Italy
Anlaidis Emilia Romagna
ANT - Associazione Nazionale Tumori
Arcata Toscana

Arci Nouva associazione
ARCI Roma
ARCIGAY Pisa
Associazione "Punto Giovani"
Associazione casa diritti sociali
Associazione Critone ONLUS
Associazione culture Amici di Cascina Linterno
Associazione Culture Chiuace in Tonatuih
Associazione di volontariato "Genitori Oggi" - ONLUS
Associazione di volontariato arte e cultura
Associazione il Gabbiano
Associazione L'Altra Città
Associazione Ligure Alfasici ALIAS
Associazione Mag2 Finance
Associazione Nazionale Centri Sociali Comitati Anziani e Corti ANCeSCAO
Associazione Nazionale Rete Volontari Rientrati
Associazione Nazionale Tecnici Sanitari di Radiologia Medica Volontari
Associazione Ordine Francescano Secolare di Lombardia
Associazione Orizzonti Mendes
Associazione Regionale dei club degli alcolisti in trattamento in Toscana (Arcata)
Associazione Roberto Ronchi
Associazione Shadow Archery Team
Associazione solidarietà internazionale
Associazione volontari "Il Cavallo Bianco"
Associazione Volontari Ospedalieri
Associazione volontari Protezione civile Cessano Moderno - ONLUS
ASSOCIVILE - ONLUS - Organizzazione di volontariato
AUSER - Organizzazione volontariato
B&S. Internazionale - Organizzazione di volontariato
Bureau of International Solidarity
C.E.F.A. - Comitato europeo per la formazione e l'agricoltura
C.E.L.I.M. Bergamo
C.E.L.I.M. Milano
CELIVO- Centro di servizi al volontariato della provincia di Genova
C.I.F. - Centro italiano femminile
C.I.F. Italia - Council of Fellowship Italia
C.I.P.S.I. - Coordinamento i Iniziative Popolari di Solidarietà Internazionale
C.I.S.Vol - Centro Interprovinciale Servizi Volontariato
C.I.S.V. - Comunità impegno servizio volontariato
C.L.M.C. - Comunità laici missionari cattolici
C.M.S.R. - Centro mondialità sviluppo reciproco
C.N.V. - Centro nazionale per il volontariato
C.O.E. - Centro orientamento educativo
C.O.M.I. - Cooperazione per il mondo in via di sviluppo
C.O.O.P.I. - Cooperazione internazionale
C.O.P.E. - Cooperazione paesi emergenti
C.O.S.V.
C.P.S. - Comunità promozione e sviluppo

C.R.F. - Organizzazione di volontariato
C.S.V. - Longarone (BL)
C.U.A.M.M. - Collegio universitario Aspiranti e medici missionari
C.V.C.S. - Centro volontari cooperazione per lo sviluppo
C.V.M. - Comunità Volontari per il Mondo
Casa Diritti Sociali
CB Radioclub 1BSD
CBM Italia
Ce.Ri.Pro.S. - Centro ricerche e promozione sociale
Centro comunitario agape
Centro culturale San Fedele
Centro di servizio per il volontariato Forum Solidarietà
Centro informagiovani
Centro servizi per il volontario del Lazio (CESV Lazio)
Centro servizi per il volontario di Cassino (CESV Cassino)
Centro servizi per il volontario di Como (CESV Como)
Centro servizi per il volontario di Genova (CESV Genova)
Children - Fondo per l'infanzia - ONLUS
Children with aids charity
Circolo ACLI "Bolognina"
Cittadinanzattiva - Organizzazione di Volontariato
CIVITAS
CO.S.INT. - ONLUS - Corpi sanitari internazionali
Comitato di Salvaguardia del Parco delle Cave
Comitato per il Telefono Azzuro
Comunità San Egidio
Comune di Milano
CONVOL - Conferenza Permanente dei Presidenti delle Associazioni e Federazioni Nazionali di Volontariato
Coordinamento Nazionale degli Operatori per la salute nelle Carceri Italiane - ONLUS
Croce Verde Baggio
CVG - Organizzazione di volontariato
DAR VOCE - Organizzazione di volontariato
Emergency
Enfap - UIL Emilia Romagna
Equamente
EsseGiElle - Solidarietà giustizia libertà - cooperazione internazionale
EuroAssociAzione per la cura e la prevenzione delle patologie endocrine ipofisiodiabetiche
F.I.V.O.L. - Federazione italiana volontariato
Famiglie insieme
Federazione delle Famiglie per la pace e l'Unità nel Mondo
Filemone
FIR-CB SER - Federazione Italiana Ricetrasmisione CB - Servizio Emergenza Radio
FON.TOV. - Fondazione "Giuseppe Tovini"
Fondazione Italiana per il volontariato
Fondazione Zancan
FONSIPEC - Fondazione SIPEC

G.M.A. - Gruppo missionari Asmara
G.V.C. - Gruppo di volontariato civile - Bologna
Geofilos - Organizzazione di volontariato
GESC - Gruppo Ecologico Studenti Comaschi
Global volunteers
Goriziagiovane
Gruppo Abele
Gruppo Fratres Cassibile Donatori Sangue
Gruppo Intercomunale del pronto soccorso "Nico Soccorso"
Gruppo volontari di protezione civile "Città di Foligno"
HOFPAN N.G.O. for the poor and the needed
Humana people to people Italia - ONLUS
I martinitt
I.B.O. - Associazione italiana soci costruttori
I.C.S. - Consorzio Italiano di Solidarietà
I.C.U. - Istituto per la cooperazione universitaria
Il missionario
Il prato fiorito: Associazione di volontariato a favore dei disabili
Istituto Alti Studi Internazionali di Reggio Emilia
Istituto Sacra Famiglia
Italia Nostra-Bascoincittà
L.V.I.A. CN Associazione internazionale volontari laici
La cometa - Organizzazione di volontariato
LABOR MUNDI - Volontariato internazionale Rogazionista
L'Arca - Associazione di solidarietà sociale
Legambiente
Lunaria
M.A.I.S. - ONLUS - Movimento per l'autosviluppo internazionale nella solidarietà
M.L.A.L. - Movimento laici America Latina
M.L.F.M. - Movimento per la lotta contro la fame nel mondo
M.M.I. - Medicus mundi Italia
M.O.C.I. - Movimento per la collaborazione internazionale
Macondo
Mani Tese
Mastro Geppetto - ONLUS
MEDICUS MUNDI
Mi.Se.F. - Missionari senza frontiere - Fondazione "Mimmo Lotti"
Missioni Cappuccine
Movimemnto per la Vita
Movimento di Volontariato Italiano
Movimento Focolari-Economia di Comunione
Natal
No Profit Band onlus
Nuova Acropoli - ONLUS
O.I.P.A. - Organizzazione internazionale protezione animali
O.P.A.M. Opera di promozione dell'alfabetizzazione del mondo
O.S.V. I. C. - Organismo sardo di volontariato internazionale cristiano

O.V.C.I. - "La nostra famiglia" - Organismo di volontariato per la cooperazione internazionale
Osservatorio sui minori - Organizzazione di volontariato
OVERSEAS - Organizzazione per lo sviluppo globale di comunità in Paesi in via di sviluppo
P.A. Società volontaria di soccorso ANPAS Livorno
Park - Europe Srl
Patapunfete
PGS - Polisportive Giovanili Salesiane - Piemonte
PRO.DO.CS. - Progetto Domani: cultura e solidarietà
PRO.MOND. - Progetto Mondialità
Progetto Aiutiamo
Protezione civile Gallarate
R.T.M. - Reggio Terzo Mondo
Radio Club città di Lucca
Reggio Terzo Mondo
Rete Radié Resch
S.C.I. - Servizio Civile Internazionale
S.V.G. - Servizio volontariato Giovanile - Caserta
S.V.I. - Servizio volontario internazionale
Sinergie
SOGIT Lignano - Organizzazione di volontariato
SPHERA-onlus
Telefono Amico
U.C.S.E.I. - Ufficio centrale studenti esteri in Italia
U.M.M.I. - Unione medico missionaria italiana
U.N.I.S.E.R.
U.V.I.S.P. Assisi - Unione volontariato internazionale per lo sviluppo e la pace
Unione Italiana per la lotta contro la Distrofia Muscolare
V.I.D.E.S. - Volontariato Internazionale Donna Educazione Sviluppo
V.I.S. - Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo
V.I.S.B.A. - Volontari internazionali scuola Beato Angelico
V.I.S.P.E. - Volontari italiani per la solidarietà ai paesi emergenti
Viaggi e Miraggi ONLUS
VITA non profit group
Volomondo
Volontari Associati per I musei Italiani
Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV
Volontariato oggi
VPS - Volontari Per lo Sviluppo
Youth action for peace - Italia - Organizzazione di volontariato

The events

A variety of stiles

Various organisations who form part of the IYV partner organisations organised different kinds of activities to promote the IYV 2001. The choice of these associations and NGOs was to mobilise and to involve a more and more extensive audience: for this reason more than 80 different kinds of initiatives have been organised and 500.000 people have spent their time and effort, inside the structures to make sure everything work well.

The organisations involved participated at different level in the promotion of the Year; in the following list of events, participant have been informed about the IYV and often the IYV logo appeared on invitations, advertisements and gadgets .

Events of different kinds promoted during the IYV 2001:

- Work camps,
- Awareness and publicity campaigns,
- Missionary activity exhibitions,
- Audio-visual productions,
- Street markets,
- Documentation centres,
- Conferences,
- Meetings,
- Seminars,
- Manifestations,
- Intervention in schools - (a national association dealing with voluntary service with the aged people celebrated with a gold medal award the pupils in schools who did the best theme about aged people)
- Art work projects for the aged and the youth,
- Information and communication centres,
- Blood donations,

- Photographic exhibitions,
- Courses on development education,
- Parish groups formation,
- Celebration of the World's Day Against Misery,
- Seminars on reform of the law governing international co-operation,
- Informative internet sites,
- Italian language courses,
- Social - cultural interventions,
- Data bank translations and interventions,
- Welfare services for minors and the aged,
- Notification services,
- Immigrant receiving and welfare,
- Establishment of self managed of third age centres (for the aged),
- Education for development and information centres and courses,
- Equal opportunity and solidarity commercial street markets in various parts in Italy,
- Educational seminars for teachers,
- Artistic expositions on different social economic and cultural themes,
- Itinerant exhibitions,
- African cinema festival,
- Financial Ethics' day,
- "The Others refer to Us" an exhibition,
- "Oltreconfine (without border)" - solidarity festival,
- Transportation services for associations and volunteers participating at the peace march in Perugia - Assisi,
- World Social Forum for solidarity awareness campaign for social economic and civil sectors,
- Campaigns in various Italian communities against child abuse ,
- Physical assistance in alluvial catastrophe stricken areas in Calabria,
- Volunteer lives - communication week on volunteerism in collaboration with Vita Non Profit Magazine and the commercial wing of Milan,
- International seminars, workshops,
- Theatrical and cinematographical performances,
- Street sports,

- Benefactor lotteries,
- Market for Indian craft products,
- Benefactor fishing activities,
- Pharmacists co-operative for the sick,
- Co-operation with hospitals and institutions for various auxiliary healthcare activities,
- Photo exhibition on actions and initiatives of diverse organisations of volunteerism,
- Street market in aid of orphan projects in Romania,
- Cinema and discussions,
- Rock concerts with the group 'Senso Unico',
- Solidarity projects in the Balkan regions,
- Mobilisation on human rights,
- Minors at risk - a series of summer and holiday programmes of educational nature,
- Transport for the disabled,
- Environmental care and civil protection,
- A course on tropical medicine,
- Social cultural exchange programmes,
- Local community group support activities,
- Voluntary projects in Europe and in developing countries,
- Gala and lottery activities in aid of specific projects,
- Poetry recital concourses,
- Orientation, integration and other social economic services for immigrants,
- Collection of used materials for recycling and environmental health,
- Formation activities,
- Information and education for development and co-operation,
- Interventions in projects in developing countries; - in education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, social animation, human rights, institutional assistance, co-operative and food assistance sectors,
- Residential courses on formation for International volunteers,
- Magazine and documentaries on different social cultural activities,
- Interaction forums between local and international volunteers for experience exchange and better volunteer social projects' performance.

Besides to this variety of stiles, some of the events and initiatives realised during the IYV 2001 were particularly linked to the objectives of the Year and deserve to be highlighted among the ones promoted thought the Italian IYV Web site:

- "Oggi vado volontario (Today I'm going to become a volunteer)" - a meeting for students of the superior schools, with round tables on the theme "Volunteer questions for the institutions (Grosseto)";
- "il rapporto biennale sul volontariato in Italia (the biannual Report of Italian voluntarism)" - a presentation of the Report made by the Ministry of Welfare (Bari);
- "2001: il futuro del volontariato (the future of volunteerism)" - a debate with eminent speakers organised to celebrate the IYV 2001;
- "Io parlo, tu parli (I speak, you speak)" - a special course with the aim to communicate solidarity and voluntarism;
- "la Giornata Mondiale del Volontariato 2000 (the International Day of Volunteers)" - national celebration and opening ceremony of the IYV (Rome);
- "Conferenza internazionale sulla Protezione Civile ed il volontariato (the World conference on civil protection and volunteerism) - a reflection on the role of volunteers during natural disasters (Caserta);
- "la tre giorni del volontariato (three days for volunteering)" - a 3 days celebration with meetings and round tables, organised by the Italian Department of Social Affairs (today part of the Ministry of Welfare) (Turin);
- "Drops on a hot stone"- a multimedia project organised to celebrate the IVD sponsored by Benetton (Rome);
- "Volontari Internazionali (international volunteers)" - the presentation of a book dedicated to all Italian international volunteers, realised thanks to the collaboration between Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);
- "Dire, fare, baciare (Say, do, kiss)" - a huge volunteer and solidarity manifestations that involved young, aged people, associations, volunteers.
- "la Giornata Mondiale del Volontariato 2001 (the International Day of Volunteers)" - a national celebration for the official closing of the IYV with the "Oscar of Volunteering" offered in this occasion to the sons of international volunteers, representing a living sign of peace and exchange between the different culture of the world (Rome).

General conclusions

On the overall, the International year of Volunteers 2001 has been considered a success according to reports from the IYV international team from the closing ceremony held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

“Without the help of 10 million volunteers, UNICEF and its partners would not have been able to immunise 550 million children against polio”

is only one of the examples presented by the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan during his statement the 5th of December 2001, underlining, during the closing ceremony of the Year, the crucial role of volunteers all around the world.

For what concerns Italy, some general considerations, in order to describe how the International Year of Volunteers (IYV 2001) was felt and lived might be useful.

Difficulties and limitations

Without any doubt, one of the biggest limitation that the IYV 2001 had to suffer at the national level, could be identified in the lack of co-ordination, that is naturally considered as the task of the IYV National Committee. The attention to the Year from the Institution was sometimes discontinuous, showing the lack of a specific plan to share with the national volunteer organisations. In spite of this, many different reality linked to the experience of voluntarism engaged themselves to promote the Year, co-operating in the realisation of its objectives.

A network who wins the differences

It can safely be said that, through the site, a large number of organisation and people interested created a special link between themselves. With their efforts, this organisations established a network to strengthen their joint operations in the third sector that is expected to be carried on in the future. The impressive aspect

concerning the fact that the organisation involved were really different for dimension, competence, general objective and mission, spiritual inspiration, background, geographical origin, field of action. Some of them operate nationally, other are engaged in international voluntarism and co-operation. The objectives of the Year, however, were shared by everyone and represent the "glue" that held this net together.

The press, the networks, the Italian IYV Web site had the chance to promote networking around the theme of volunteering, both at a national and international level.

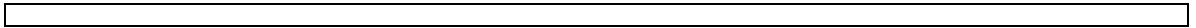
Thinking globally, acting locally

Impressing is the importance given to the IYV to small organisation engaged. What made the IYV popular in Italy is this strong link with local institution and realities dealing with volunteering. Squares, streets and small meeting centres have represented a real "home" for volunteers, despite the huge congress centres. Small organisations carried inventive and freshness to the Year celebrations and have represented a real amplifier of the IYV message door by door.

What remains: the concrete results

Thought the Italian IYV web site and through the huge amount of contacts taken with the different organisation involved, the translation in numbers of the results obtained is possible only considering it as a partial percentage and not something exact and definitive.

210 organisation involved registered in the Italian Web site
80 different kinds of manifestation and event promoted in the context of the IYV
1.173.270 people involved in organising the events and in participating to them
14.544 people who have visited the Italian Web site on 2001
(at least) 1.187000 people reached



A step further

The future we expect

The Executive Co-ordinator of the United Nations Volunteers, Sharon Capeling - Alakija in her message "The End of the beginning" on the occasion of the International Volunteer day, praised volunteers on national and international levels for their support to recognise and promote volunteering using what she referred to as aggressive and effective publicity campaigns to bring the message to the highest levels of society.

Her message expressed important achievements of the international Year of Volunteers 2001 based on which volunteerism can thrive:

"Through your (volunteers') efforts this past year, numerous national governments, the council of Europe, the inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations have passed resolutions and enacted legislation that will support volunteering at national and international levels in the years ahead."

The UNV Executive Co-ordinator advised that the success of the historic year was a good foundation for more development in the sector where more than 19,000 volunteers organisations and individuals have registered as members through the IYV Web site. She promised on the behalf of the UNV that the United Nations will support volunteers action in all its form in future.

The impression that remains after this Year probably can make people think that "something more could have been done", but the IYV has to be considered as a stepping stone for everyone consider important to promote, facilitate, recognise volunteering and volunteers.

The hope is that, even if the Year is passed, the link and networks created in that occasion will continue to go on.

Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV, answering to this call and sharing the conviction that "it's just the end of the beginning", is going to present in Italy a national campaign on International Volunteering that will continue all the year long, bringing to the people the experience of volunteers. At this issue, the Federation will consecrate the Year 2002.

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