



DemoTic Interview with Mrs. Věra Jourová

Interview with the politicians

With a view to the recent European elections, Bohemia EU Planners - for the implementation of the project #Demotics2014 – has collected a series of interviews with Czech Politicians. All were submitted to the same set of questions, developed thanks to the format proposed by the CNV (Centro Nazionale per IL Volontariato) and CEV (Centro Europeo del Volontariato). Interviews were processed by Czech Pilot Group members. It is a new way of developing democratic participation in decision making processes, to shrink the gap between young people and politics.



Mrs. Věra Jourová is a politician, lawyer, convinced European and vice-president of ANO 2011 political movement. Since November 2013, she has been member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and, since January 2014, she has been the Minister of Regional Development. In 2014 she was selected as the European Union's Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality.

VOLUNTEERING MEASUREMENTS

Volunteering has definitely an impact on economy even though it is not always measurable by the economic models. The voluntary work has an influence on the development of a society, in addition it also helps a social inclusion, and generally it fills the gaps left by the state and the private sector among the needs of society. At the same time the volunteers improve their characters by activities, they also gain knowledge, new skills, and experiences, and thus they enhance their position on the labour market.

VOLUNTEERING AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In Czech Republic the aid from business sector for volunteering has been still developing. Private companies support their employees because they are aware of the mutual benefit – the employees have an opportunity to try something new outside the traditional environment in the company, and moreover they “assist” an institution or an individual that will appreciate the help. In Czech Republic there are already some sophisticated programs of volunteering support – for example the portal zapojimse.cz connecting business and NGOs. Employees interested in activities of any non-profit sector organisation can find the offers from NGOs here. What is more, the portal is not centralised only in the capital, but it also involves the other regions of the Czech Republic. We also have a tradition of so called the volunteering days announced for a certain day of a year when employees help the NGOs at the same time altogether.

RESEARCH VALUE

Volunteers can be seen as one of the indicators of civil society. They can provide information and neutral point of view on the internal situation especially in the field of social services. In the same time, the voluntary job for a NGO can help to understand the situation of socially excluded or endangered groups, like ethnic minorities, handicapped or seniors. Volunteering therefore contributes to the sense of responsibility for our surroundings, community and the society as such. The research in this area can focus on connection between the sectors – private, non-profit and public – through the volunteering work.

VOLUNTARY RESOURCES

The European Union offers the funds for NGOs to support the activities of non-profit sector. The Czech Republic, however, does not use the allocations properly. The problem is usually with the lack of awareness of the available programmes, and the quality of proposals. On the other hand, it is very difficult for the Czech non-profit sector to fulfil the strict conditions and to overcome the administrative burden. Those are the aspects that are covered by competent resorts, and the Czech government tries to open an access of the funds through organising trainings and providing relevant information.

PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Communication must be present between all the stakeholders and on all levels. This is essential for volunteering development.

TOWARDS THE VOLUNTEERING PARLIAMENTARY INTERGROUP

Personally I do not think that the special EPI for volunteering is necessary.

SKILLS, TRAINING, LEARNING, AND EUROPEAN PASSPORT

European professional card was created to simplify the process of qualification acknowledgement all around the Europe, and to make the free movement of professionals come true. I believe that it is convenient that it will contain a part about volunteering under the certain circumstances. Nevertheless, the volunteering activities enhance knowledge, skills and experiences of an individual, and they can extend his or her expertise.

EMPLOYMENT AND ANSWERS TO POVERTY

Unemployment of young people and diminishing poverty are the challenges that are present in all around the Europe. The unemployment rate is high and still there are sectors, like those with “an additional value” specialised in innovation and IT technologies with lack of qualified professionals. And one of the ways would definitely be erasing the gap between the needs of labour market and the scholar system for it should reflect the needs properly.

PROJECT DEMOCRATICALLY CORRECT CONSORTIUM

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