

What can we get out of the VERSO Project?

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After three years of work, the [VERSO Project \(Volunteers for European Employment\)](#) comes to an end in 2014. The project concludes with a [Collection of Good Practices](#) and a series of [Political Recommendations](#) in order **to strengthen the policies on volunteering promotion** and, consequently, **to increase occupation and reduce unemployment**.

Volunteering enables the people it assists by providing them with tools and resources, knowledge and skills that support them in accessing the labour market. This implies that volunteering emerges as a kind of “**human bridge**” between people at **social risk** and the **labour market**. It is a relationship of mutual benefit, because the volunteer furthermore acquires the **social skills** to be applied in his task. This in turn increases his/her **chances to find a job** in the future.

This premise is the starting point for the Political Recommendations –**grouped in 4 areas**– that the governments should take into account. Here we introduce the most outstanding ones:

Measures to acknowledge and promote volunteering:

- To promote the values of volunteering among minors of age
- To promote activities that tend to make visible volunteering in order to generate a more active and participative citizenry
- To elaborate a governmental strategy on volunteering that reflects its values and philosophy
- To promote the acknowledgement of the volunteers' skills by the business world

Measures to support volunteering

- To provide economic and material support for organizations promoting volunteering for society
- To develop a system for the formal acknowledgement of the skills, know-how and learnings that volunteers acquire, agreed-upon by all administrations
- To assist enterprises in finding possible ways of collaboration with the Third Sector

Measures to promote volunteering:

- To promote networking among businesses and volunteering organizations
- To promote the incorporation of volunteering commitment in the high-school educational program
- To promote practices of organized volunteering at a local level as a means to ensure employment and to prevent social exclusion

Measures to advertise volunteering

- To broadcast campaigns to attract volunteers
- To promote online bulletins and websites specialized on volunteering
- To help enterprises to make their policies on Corporate Social Responsibility public

In conclusion, the VERSO Project encourages the public administration to carry out a **double action**: to bet for social policies on promotion and support of volunteering, together with policies on workforce integration that make occupation a reality.

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Resum:

On December 4th, during the closing day of the VERSO Project ([Volunteers for European Employment](#)), a list of recommendations on public policies was presented. These policies focused on the promotion of volunteering to enhance occupation opportunities.

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