



Nederlands Centrum

Vrijwilligerswerk

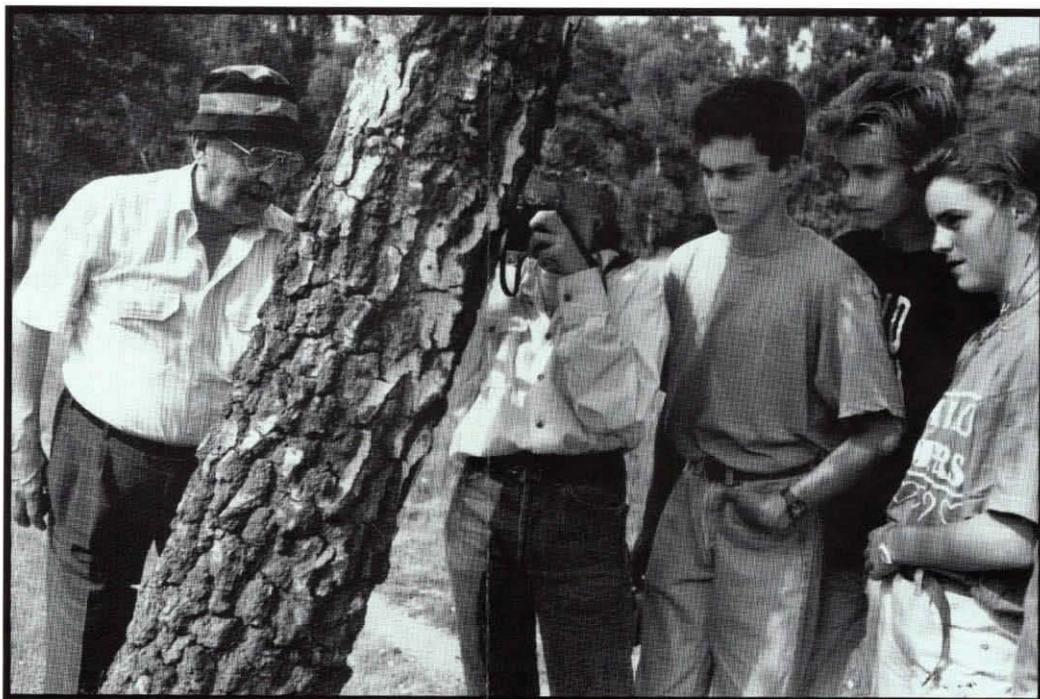
Research & Development

Publicity & Information

Education & Training

Promotion of Interests

Advice



for: Volunteers and

their organisations,

and volunteer bureaux

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THE NATIONAL CENTRE OF VOLUNTEER WORK

In the Netherlands there are some two million volunteers, 150 local volunteer bureaux and thousands of voluntary organisations. Despite their diversity, they have many characteristics and interests in common. The National Centre of Volunteer Work (NCV) combines their communality and provides them with ample opportunity to learn from each other.

The activities of the National Centre of Volunteer Work are aimed at volunteering in the Netherlands in the broadest sense. The members, the local volunteer bureaux and the national and regional voluntary organisations, take up a special position in this.

The local volunteer bureaux can be seen as agencies of the National Centre of Volunteer Work. They are engaged in setting up volunteer projects and giving advice to volunteers and voluntary organisations. They often incorporate a job vacancy department and together they try to match supply and demand on the volunteer market within their area. Moreover, advice is given about volunteering and social security or reimbursement of expenses, insurances etc.

National and local voluntary organisations, contrary to local volunteer bureaux, are sector organisations. They may aim their activities at one particular target group such as for instance organisations for the elderly, youngsters or women, or, at one particular sector such as the

care sector or organisations concerned with the environment.

The National Centre of Volunteer Work is the only national organisation which supports and further develops volunteering.

The centre is situated in Utrecht and employs some 25 staff members who all work on the 5 main tasks, namely:

Research & Development

The various developments in society today have their influence on volunteering. Thorough research into the meaning of these developments and the way in which they can be influenced is therefore important. The NCV carries out research in several branches in which a large number of volunteers are active. Sometimes it appears from this that there are problems in the branches researched. These could be problems concerning the recruitment of volunteers or the organisation of a certain group of volunteers. The NCV will then set up projects specifically to deal with those bottlenecks.

Publicity & Information

Volunteering still has to contend with certain prejudices. A lot of people for instance are under the impression, though totally unjust, that volunteers take the place of paid workers. Such prejudices will be challenged most

Publicity & Information

effectively by providing correct information. The NCV contributes to this by organising national publicity campaigns.

Through the NCV, voluntary organisations can use the teletext facility on workdays, to publish their news.

The only library specialised in literature and journals on volunteering is established in the building of the NCV in Utrecht. Three thousands titles and fifty professional journals provide information about all aspects of volunteering.

The NCV supports volunteers and voluntary organisations by way of leaflets, brochures and videos. These publications discuss among other things organisational problems, policy and a large number of issues regarding the legal status of the volunteer. The bi-monthly magazine "NCV News" provides background information and discusses new issues to do with volunteering.

Furthermore, to celebrate International Volunteer Day (7th December) the NCV organises different events each year. On this day, special attention is paid to volunteers and the valuable help they give to their local communities. As part of International Volunteer Day, volunteer projects and voluntary organisations can compete, once every two years, for the Marga Klompé award, presented to projects of specific interest.

Education & Training

Education & Training

The NCV encourages education and made-to-measure training for volunteers and their organisations.

At national level, a fund has been developed, the National Fund for the Advancement of Expertise of Volunteers, which makes available f650.000 each year to voluntary organisations for the benefit of training volunteers.

At local level, the NCV consultants support volunteering. For instance, by way of appropriate workshops for members about for example local council volunteer policy or publicity. Training courses from other organisations, which are specially geared towards volunteers, are listed in a yearly overview by the NCV.

Advice

Questions about volunteering which the local volunteer bureau or the regional and national voluntary organisations cannot answer? Then call the NCV. Many questions are dealt with in leaflets, brochures and videos which you can obtain from the centre. But, we do give personal advice too, for instance about cooperation between volunteers and professionals or about drawing up a list of agreements with volunteers. If we know organisations more knowledgeable about the subject than we are, we will direct you to them instead. For example a platform for

patients or an organisation for volunteers in the Third World. Furthermore, we take part in 'networking' by bringing together those voluntary organisations or volunteer bureaux of which one happens to dispose of the kind of knowledge or experience the other one is looking for. In this way, they learn from each others solutions.

Promotion of interests

Volunteers and voluntary organisations are an integral part of society. Developments on the labour market, the leisure market or with regard to legislation, therefore often have consequences for volunteering. Politicians, civil servants and other social sectors do not always pay enough attention to this. The NCV confronts them directly or via the media with the consequences of their policy intentions regarding volunteering. In order that the typical position of the volunteer will be recognised in all social sectors, ranging from business to politics. At local level the NVC, together with the local volunteer bureaux and the local voluntary organisations, pleads for a firm volunteer policy.

At international level, the NCV participates in the International Association for Volunteer Effort and the European Volunteer Centre.

For more information, contact:

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