Welcome to the first UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteer Newsletter of the New Year!

This is an exciting time for us as we gear up for the start of the recruitment process for the UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteers Programme. In the following months volunteering will be present all around because 2011 is the European Year of Volunteering and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers of the United Nations.

In this issue, another volunteer from past tournaments gives you the insider’s perspective on the Volunteers Programme.

We hope that these experiences will motivate you to become part of this extraordinary event!

For our part we promise to do our best to provide you with a volunteering experience that will benefit many areas of your life for a long time to come!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2011!

"Forever in my mind!"


I had the pleasure of being part of the UEFA Volunteers Team in Klagenfurt (Austria) during UEFA EURO 2008™ as an ICT-Support volunteer.

I started in mid-May 2008 to help in the preparation phase and worked till late June. We built the large areas of the IT infrastructure in the stadium, and all branch offices. Our job was varied and exciting. The working days and time schedules were adjusted to our availability.

The entire tournament was well-organised. I got to know many people from all over the world. We created a large community and lived the spirit of UEFA EURO 2008™. As an Austrian I enjoyed being a member of this multicultural team. We worked hard, had fun, spent all our spare time together and became good friends. The volunteer cultural events and many other exciting activities promoted our community structure and helped us to form strong connections with each other. The Carinthian capital Klagenfurt, a small city at the beautiful Wörthersee, surrounded by gentle hills, was the best location for this great sports spectacle.

As the next championship finals are a short time away, I would encourage everyone to become a UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteer.

I had the time of my life during UEFA EURO 2008™ and I will keep all the impressions, experiences and emotions forever in mind! I strongly encourage you to do the same as it is really worth it!
Volunteers Centre Spot

What is ICT-Support all about?
During UEFA EURO 2012™, thousands of journalists and photographers report on the tournament via the TV, internet, radio, e-mail and telephone. ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Team provides, implements and manages all the information, communication and telecommunication solutions for UEFA and its subsidiaries. During UEFA EURO 2012™ the ICT Team will mainly support all IT solutions in place. ICT Support Volunteers will be in charge of providing basic IT support to the UEFA/Local Organising Committee Team and the end-users in various locations. Their tasks will include dealing with connection hardware/software and resolving basic issues with hardware/software.

Why volunteer during UEFA EURO 2012™?
Volunteer activities are undertaken without financial gain or payment. However, UEFA EURO 2012™ volunteers will enjoy many benefits. Participation in the UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteers Programme will give you a chance to live an unforgettable and valuable experience. You will be able to participate in the organisation of a great sports event, acquire new experiences, and meet people from all around the world. It will also be a great chance to enhance your CV and use your professional skills and knowledge. You may find a volunteering role in which you lose yourself completely!

The best time for Volunteers!
The European Union has declared the year 2011 the European Year of Volunteering. (More information can be found at EYV2011 Alliance website). We will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers. It is also an ideal time to say ‘You Can!’ to those who have never tried volunteering. Multiple events will allow you to taste volunteering and gain experience before applying to UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteers Programme. Take the opportunity – volunteer and make a difference!

How will volunteers be prepared?
Each UEFA EURO 2012™ volunteer will be trained by the UEFA EURO 2012™ Team. Training sessions begin in Spring 2012. They will include:
- information sessions on the tournament, host countries and cities, participating national teams and general volunteer skills and requirements
- functional training on specific operational areas and function-specific know-how,
- special training for certain groups of volunteers.
Training documents will be available on-line (in the e-learning tool and volunteer portal).

Did you know that…?
- ...the largest football stadium in the world (capacity: 220,000 people) is The Great Strahov Stadium in Prague (Czech Republic)? Although it is no longer in use for sport events, it is still a training centre for the Sparta Prague football club and is used to host pop concerts.
- ...the greatest distance between host cities is from Donetsk to Gdansk? The two cities are separated by a distance of 1,850 km.
Dribbling towards UEFA EURO 2012™

Slavek & Slavko – here they come!

On 16 November 2010, the UEFA EURO 2012™ mascots were revealed at a special ceremony at the Polish Theatre in Warsaw. After the launch, the twin mascots embarked on a tour of Poland and Ukraine to introduce themselves to the public. In Poland the mascots were warmly welcomed by each city. During their tour they met with children at schools and hospitals, visited the UEFA EURO 2012™ stadiums and took part in city tours. The twins also participated in children’s sports competitions in Wroclaw, were present at a friendly match between Poland and the Ivory Coast in Poznan, and met with players of Lechia Gdansk.

The Ukrainian public also had many opportunities to welcome Slavek and Slavko. In Lviv the twins visited an orphanage and distributed gifts to the children while in Donetsk they played football with the President of the city and the Tournament Director! They also visited a coal mine and opened a match between two Ukrainian teams in Kharkiv. Finally, in the capital city the mascots danced at the Kyiv Open 2010 – a traditional athletic dance competition – and also opened the New Year circus marathon.

Friends of UEFA EURO 2012™

On 10 December 2010, three new Friends of UEFA EURO 2012™ were nominated by the city of Gdansk. Leszek Możdżer (a renowned jazz musician and composer), Leszek Blanik (a two-time Olympic medallist) and Dariusz Michalczewski (Polish boxer and former heavyweight champion) joined the unique group. You can also get to know the winners of the children’s drawing contest in Poland here. All the winners became official Friends of UEFA EURO 2012™.

On 17 November four lucky winners of the children’s drawing competition in Ukraine were given the opportunity to attended, as honourable guests, a friendly match between the Swiss and Ukrainian national teams in Geneva. The children travelled with the Ukrainian team to Switzerland, visited the UEFA headquarters and met the UEFA EURO 2012™ mascots. They also took part in the team press conference and attended the pre-match training session at the Stade de Genève.

Scoring opportunities

10 January 2011: 2010 FIFA Ballon d’Or award

7-29 January 2011: AFC Asian Cup in Doha, Qatar. More information on the tournament can be found here.
Exclusive

Włodzimierz Lubański, Poland’s all-time top scorer

I had the opportunity to participate in four football World Cups. During each of them I saw people wearing yellow, orange or red vests. They were the volunteers who helped fans and journalists find the way to the stadium’s parking and their seats at the tribune. The volunteers’ participation in sports events is not very visible, but it is essential for the tournament to proceed smoothly. Volunteers are people of good will, who can say after the event that they were really part of it. They can leave with a positive sense of pride and satisfaction. I encourage all football supporters to volunteer for the official UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteers Programme. It will be an opportunity to actively participate in the great football experience.

Oleksiy Mykhaylychenko, Olympic Games champion, European Championship runner-up

Sports make you goal-oriented, better than any other kind of activity. This discipline stays with you even if your life plans change. Sport volunteering opens the door to the exciting world of professional sport and event management. It shows you the whole emotional palette of a big football event and it trains you to achieve your goals, regardless of the troubles that you face.

I am sure that our volunteers will show visitors real Ukrainian hospitality and will help them get the right impression of Ukraine. I am convinced that they’re going to make our national dream come true.

Extra time

Celebrating International Volunteer Day in Warsaw

To mark the occasion of International Volunteers Day the UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteer Team in Poland prepared a V-Day Meeting in Warsaw. Two former volunteers from the UEFA EURO 2008™ and FIFA World Cup 2010™ presented their experiences during these tournaments. Participants found out more about the UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteer Programme and took part in a challenging quiz on the subject. For the more artistically inclined, the meeting was an opportunity to create posters promoting volunteering. The picture shows the winning poster that says ‘I love volunteering’. We all do!

Links

UEFA EURO 2012™ Volunteer page

Contact us!
Questions? Comments? Stories about your sports volunteering experience? Ideas? Write to us! volunteers@euro2012.com

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