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CHAPTER 5

Solidarity as an opportunity

This chapter is part of the Baleria Solidarity Manual. The Manual was created within the Erasmus+ Sport project BALERIA – Social Inclusion Programme for Educators, School Kids and Parents.

More useful materials:

W. www.baleria.eu/project/

FB. BaleriaProject

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Every day every person has the opportunity to have a solidarity gesture with another; however, there are some instances or situations in which it is more common to see examples of solidarity:

5.1. Non-profit organizations (NGOs)

They are associations with legal personality and that pursue a defined objective, usually related to the search for solutions to social problems that afflict a certain area or population. The main characteristic of these types of organizations is that, in their work, profit is not a goal. On the contrary, they usually operate through donations from third parties and voluntary work. Therefore, they naturally resort to the promotion of solidarity to add their will to their cause and to be able to carry out the projects that are proposed.

5.2. Fundraising

This refers to actions focused on fundraising or money to support a non-profit cause.

5.3. Humanitarian aid

It is a form of solidarity with populations that have suffered a humanitarian crisis that is governed by the principles of impartiality, neutrality, humanity and operational independence.

5.4. Reception of refugees

It refers to the solidarity action of a country, a community or a family, to welcome a person who must flee, for good reasons, from their country of origin. In accordance with international standards, they should enjoy the same rights as any legally resident alien.

5.5. Volunteering

It is a worldwide movement that involves the donation of time and / or talents of the people on a voluntary basis to attend a situation of particular need.

In recent years, it is common for companies to include a volunteer program in which their employees devote part of their time to helping in some social work defined internally or promoted by a third party (NGO, local government, community, etc.).

Simple ways to offer human solidarity, that costs a few, but gives a lot:

1. Help an old man cross the street.
2. Adopt a stray dog.
3. Help persons who crashed on the road.
4. Feed a beggar.
5. Donate medications, toys or clothing in a hospital or hostel.
6. Volunteer in an NGO or community.
7. Defend a fellow victim of the bullying .
8. Donate money to some social cause.
9. Listen to an older adult at home or in a nursing home.
10. Help education of a homeless child.
12. Collaborate with educational, cultural or other activities for children.
13. Help another load a heavy package.
14. Comfort a sad friend.
15. Share your meal with a partner.
16. Pay the bus ticket to one who may need it.

5.6. Events of collection of funds or goods

Although it could be considered equivalent to fundraising, it deserves separate chapter because it refers to specific events (dinners, concerts, fairs, exhibitions etc.), that seek to raise money or materials for a specific cause (see also Chapter 7 where such activities were implemented within Baleria project). They also appeal to the solidarity and sensitivity of people with the cause in question.

5.7. Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding works as the raising of capital for initiatives of collective interest through the aggregation of multiple sources of funding, usually individuals interested in the initiative and is another financial possibility to fundraise for solidarity cause. The term is often used to specifically describe actions on the Internet to raise money for artists, small and emerging projects, open source initiatives, philanthropy, among others. It's an effective way to fund the start or the feasibility of a project.

5.8. Local/National/European Funding

Search and apply for specific funding programs often promoted by local and / or national authorities, which usually aim for solidarity, social inclusion, urban and rural development, research and innovation and humanitarian aid. The EU itself has several different funding programmes that may be able to apply for, depending on the nature of the project.