SPEAKERS PROFILE

**Roberto Molinaro**
*Councilor of Education, University, Research, Family, Association and Cooperation of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia*

Born the 9th of April of 1957 in Udine, he’s got a degree in Pedagogy and became Director of a National School. After being mayor of Colloredo di Monte Albano from 1980 to 2004, between 1981 and 1986 became a member of the Management Committee of the Local Health Office SL Nr. 6 of San Daniele and from 1985 to 1993 president of the Hills Community of Friuli. Regional Councillor since 1993, reappointed in 1998, for the eighth legislature is elected President of the Council Commission IV^\text{a}. He is interested in health, social services and institutional issues and local government. He is Chairman of the Regional Council Chamber Group in UDC VIII^\text{a} and IX^\text{a} regional legislature, political force which is now the regional representative. In the first part of the X^\text{a} regional legislature is Regional Minister for Education, Training and Culture, with responsibility for Family Policies.

**Dr Boštjan Žekš**
*Minister Responsible for Slovenians Abroad*

Boštjan Žekš, Full Member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, was born on 26 June 1940. He graduated in physics at the University of Ljubljana, where he also gained his MSc and PhD in physics. He did research at universities in Germany, the UK and France and was a professor of physics at the University of Recife in Brazil. He was first employed by the Jožef Stefan Institute, the University of Ljubljana and the University of Nova Gorica, where he was also Provost of the University. He regularly went on working visits to the UK, the USA, France, Japan, Malaysia etc. He was a member or president of several scientific and higher education bodies. He has been a member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) since 1987 and was its President between 2002 and 2008. He is a top researcher in physics with an extensive and internationally relevant bibliography. He co-authored two international publications (in English), one of which was also translated into Russian and Chinese. Together with a colleague he received the highest distinction for scientific research in Slovenia twice. During his stay abroad he frequently met Slovenian expatriates and discussed their problems. As the President of the SASA he often visited Slovenian societies and attended their events in the neighbouring countries and across the world.

**Maria Angela Fantin**
*President of the Volunteer Support Centre of Friuli Venezia Giulia*

For over twenty years she has been a volunteer involved in helping the terminally ill people. Since July 2010 she is president of the Volunteer Support Centre of Friuli Venezia Giulia. In 2009, she became coordinator for Friuli Venezia Giulia of the International Breast Health Foundation Onlus in London, for women affected by breast cancer, thanks also to the experience gained over the years on this issue and as President of the Provincial Committee of ANDOS Udine since 2006. After its birth in Trieste in 1967, this voluntary association, that works on behalf of women suffering from this terrible disease, has more than 90 locations across the country.

**Danilo Giovanni Festa**
*Director General for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs*

Former senior official of the Directorate General Communication – Communication Plans and Projects, Assessment and General Affairs of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Former senior official and member of the Collegium of the internal audit department of the Ministry of Communications.

Renzo Razzano

Presidente Spes – Lazio Volunteer Support Centre

President of Spes - regional volunteer support centre in Rome, member of the Executive Board of CSVnet - Italian National Federation of 74 Volunteer Support Centres with mandate for Europe and Mediterranean area, Vicepresident of CEV. Protagonist of the Italian voluntary movement since the early ’90s, leader of European networks and projects since 2003. Under his presidency, Spes has coordinated the research "Volunteering across Europe. Organisations, promotion, participation" producing country reports on volunteering for all EU countries in collaboration with national volunteer centres and managed the EC DG EMPL ENEA two year project based on exchanging 100 senior volunteers between Italy and East European countries.

Giorgio Volpe

National Secretary of MoVI – Movimento di Volontariato Italiano

Born on January 3, 1966, he has got trained as educator within the scout association Agesci. He continued its commitment as a volunteer in the association "Peace and Surroundings" in Milan, dealing with the promotion of peace and the spread of non-violence. Even after these experiences, after the technical studies (he graduated in Electronic Engineering at the Politecnico of Milan in 1989) he chose to devote himself to social work, first in education and then as a socio-cultural worker. He got also a diploma in this area from the Lombardy region. He is still professionally involved in educational and recreational projects for associations and other social realities. He moved to Friuli in 2000, where he committed as a volunteer in the International Center for Cooperation and Development (CeVI) in Udine. CeVI is an NGO active in the South of the World in international cooperation projects and, in Italy, in an effort to raise awareness and promote solidarity and an international perspective: the CEVI deals with training projects aimed in particular to the volunteers. Through CeVI he began to collaborate with the Italian Volunteer Movement (Movimento di Volontariato Italiano), which is member of CeVI, where he covered roles in the regional secretariat and, since 2006, in the National Committee, for which, as a volunteer, he is currently, National Secretary.

Elena Montani

Representation of the European Commission in Italy

She graduated in 2001 in Pavia in Political Science / International Relations, has a Masters in European Politics at the Institut d’Etudes Européennes, Brussels in 2002 and also a PhD in Political Science. In 2004 he did an internship at the Office of the European Parliament in Milan, and was then transferred to Rome, where he worked as Project Manager for the Italian Council of the European Movement and as valuator of National Civil Service projects at the National Presidency. In 2006-2007 he worked in Nairobi for the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), as a Field Officer for Somalia, and now works at the European Commission Representation in Italy, where she is responsible of the Relations for the socio-economic within the political affairs area. Although her professional activity, she has a long volunteer activity in the European Federalist Movement and the European Union of Federalists.

Joachim Ott

Acting Head of Unit - Acting Head of Unit – Directorate-General for Communication, Citizens’ Policy Unit – European Commission.

Nowadays, he is the Acting Head of Unit – Directorate-General for Communication, Citizens’ Policy Unit – European Commission. In his capacity, he is in charge of coordinating, among other issues, the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and the EU funding programme “Europe for Citizens”.

Until 2008, he was Coordinator of the Roma Action Group – Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities – European Commission, in charge also for developing strategies to achieve better social integration of ethnic minorities and ensure their full participation in the labour market.

Before joining the European Commission he was Germany Coordinator of European Parliament affairs and head of office for a Member of the German Bundestag, Berlin.
Martijn Pakker

Director CEV – European Volunteer Centre

He is the Director of CEV – European Volunteer Centre.

Martijn joined CEV in May 2011. Of mixed Dutch/Costa Rican descent, Martijn has been working in Brussels for the past seven years. He has applied his background in Eastern European Studies to working with young volunteer networks across the European region, encouraging youth participation in governance structures and supporting peer education projects in HIV prevention. This is further complemented by experience in the EU NGO development advocacy sector and Public Relations and Communications. Additionally, Martijn has been a guest lecturer at the University of Liège at the Department of Development Studies and part of the Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. He is fluent in English, Dutch, Spanish and French.

Giovanna Roiatti

Consultant of the Volunteer Support Centre of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Graduated in Political Sciences in Bologna, trainer and consultant in the fields of evaluation and participatory planning, she delivers professional services related to organization and orientation to work. For the association Intramoenia (private non-profit organization that includes professional figures in the economic, psychological, educational informatics areas) she deals with external relations, and some aspects of planning and management.

Nives Ivelja

Director of the Association MI

In her work history she has got experience in various work settings: a governmental social institution, international agencies and local civil society organizations within the specific area of social inclusion, provision of social services and community development. Since 1992, she has been continuously working with war related issues – social services for refugees and displaced persons; reconciliation activities, community mobilisation and development in war affected deprived communities in areas of special state concern of the Republic of Croatia.

For the past fourteen years, she has been developing one of the most respected civil society organizations in Croatia – Association MI. Since 1996, she has held various roles; the founder, the president, managing board member and the expert in social, conflict resolution, civil society and community development programs. Since the year 2000, she has held the position of program manager and director.

Ivona Krstevska

Member of the Steering Board of South East European Youth Network SEEYN

Ms. Krstevska is having a second mandate as a member at the Steering Board of South East European Youth Network. Besides working for SEEYN, she is a Project Coordinator at the Youth Cultural Center – Bitola, Macedonia. She was included in the forming of the National Voluntary Service of Macedonia and the development of the local voluntary services. Although she is already a graduated psychologist, she is also finishing up her second degree of integrative psychotherapy. She has been working as a trainer for four years by providing non – formal education for youth (intercultural learning, conflict resolution, team building, and non-verbal communication). Ms. Krstevska is mainly focused on creating and implementing projects and activities that are raising the public awareness on the importance of the youth independence and the youth mobility in the Balkan countries.

Anica Mikuš Kos

President of Slovenska Filantropija (Slovenia)

Anica Mikuš Kos is a pediatrician and child psychologist. When refugees from the Balkan conflict came to Slovenia, she has provided assistance to refugee children from conflict zones in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo, Ingushetia, Georgia, and Iraq. After completing her secondary education, she studied medicine, specializing in pediatrics and psychiatry. She spent her professional career as a child psychiatrist and held positions as Head of the Department of Child Psychiatry at the Ljubljana University Pediatric Clinic and Researcher at the Institute of
Philosophy and Sociology at Ljubljana University. For the last 16 years of her professional career, she served as Director of the Ljubljana Counseling Center for Children, Adolescents and Parents.

Thanks to her belief in the capacities of refugees and teachers, thousands of children finished school and received psychosocial assistance. She also organized a wide range of training courses and seminars to empower refugee teachers to work and has helped them overcome their own traumas and losses. Hundreds of volunteers have been organized to work with children and their parents. This network built with her help has been of vital importance to many war refugees.

Dr. Mikus Kos’s experience as a child during war time has taught her the importance of kindness and compassion in a child’s environment. The main goal of her programs is to provide children with positive experiences that will counteract the negative experiences of war by activating and empowering children’s social networks. She believes that the role of teachers, volunteers and primary health care workers that come into contact with children and their parents are central in providing children with exposure to positive human relationships.

She is the author of an educational model of voluntary work by young people in the service of people in distress, in a concept of civic and ethical education (for solidarity and action). In order to help children in areas facing military threats she has designed a programme for teachers the core of which are the knowledge and skills necessary to offer effective psychosocial help.

Andrea Waxenegger

University of Graz, President EUCEN (European Network of University Centres for Life Long Learning).

Dr. Waxenegger has been Director of the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Graz since 2000. She has a background in adult education and has been working since 1989 in the field of university continuing education in research and development, management, organisational and programme development, and consulting, also at European level. She is currently a member of the Steering Committee of AUCEN-Austrian University Continuing Education and Staff Development Network and is a delegate to and a former member of the Steering Committee of EUCEN-European University Continuing Education Network. Dr. Waxenegger is Seconded National Expert of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research to the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning Advisory Board, and National Expert to the Lifelong Learning Advisory Board of the Ministry. She is a member of and the coordinator of the Expert Group Learning in Later Life in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection. Dr. Waxenegger is local project manager in several EU-projects and was the coordinator of the Project ADD LIFE on intergenerational learning in HE.

Antonella Valmorbida

Direttore ALDA – Associazione delle Agenzie della Democrazia Locale

Antonella Valmorbida has been Director of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies since 1999. She is in charge of the management and the policy implementation of a large European Association with more than 150 European members and other 100 partners (local governments and civil society) active in South and Eastern Europe and in whole Europe to promote local democracy, human rights and local economic development. The core of the ALDA network is implemented through the activities of 11 Agencies on the field. ALDA is also active in Southern Caucasus and Belarus with new pilot projects. Antonella Valmorbida has a master in Political Sciences with a specialization in International Politics in Milan (Italy). She continued her studies with different specialized courses in EU matters, Decentralized cooperation and Human Rights Instruments at the national and local level. She lectures at the University of Padova on decentralised cooperation.

Luca Jahier

President Group III of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

President of the ACLI National Council, he was appointed to lead the Group III of the EESC in November 2010. For two and a half years he took care of the interests of various socio-professional categories, including small and medium-sized businesses, associations, NGOs, cooperatives, social enterprises and consumers. He was president of Focsiv (Federation international voluntary service Christian bodies, from 1994 to 1999), responsible for European and International ACLI (from 2000 to 2008), Secretary of Retinopera (from 2002 to 2007). Since 2008 he chairs the National Council of Christian Associations of Italian workers. He is member of the EESC, in
Europe, since 2002, author of numerous opinions on the European Social Agenda, the European Alliance for families, cooperation and social economy. He was one of the promoters of the European Forum on Immigration and Integration, established two years ago by the EESC and the European Commission to involve civil society in the European legislative processes relating to legal immigration into the EU.