

**Working successful with volunteers 2007 - 2009**  
**Verein MP3 and Slow Food Wachau +**

Our project is the idea of Robert Paget and some friends. There was no organisation behind them and so all the people working voluntarily, in their spare time and without getting paid. From the beginning most of the work has been on few shoulders, driven by the enthusiasm of Robert Paget and Harald Pesendorfer. With the Grundtvig II we could bring in some more energy and motivation, with Verein MP3 we tried to bring in new people and target groups for the work. The first steps finding volunteers were not so difficult, as we asked friends and also our families worked with us. Our plan involving our clients, jobless people, failed, as we could not motivate them, engaging in some voluntary work. The best method for the recruiting was using verbal propaganda, just talk to a lot of people, telling them our ideas and make them curious. The people liked to go into the vineyards, planting trees and herbs, enjoying being together with other nice people, doing some good work for a fine vision. Robert went to schools, spoke with farmers and did a lot of networking. Training was not that big thing, but was necessary for the work in the vineyards. We concentrate more in information about Slow Food and the background of it. Not so easy was the planning of the work, deploy the volunteers at the right time and for the right work. As we have to consider the nature with the seasons and the weather, sometimes it was hard to plan in time. Also there is a break in winter, so we have to motivate the volunteers in spring, coming back to the project. We have a newsletter for the volunteers, had some very nice events and good ideas for next year. In our work the direct personal contact was the most effective one. In the two years of the project we were able to motivate more people, outside of our community, to work with us. The communication was a very important thing, as here were our weak parts. An organisation have to be in contact with their volunteers as much as possible. The events were our best offer, to motivate our volunteers, also the breaks and the picnics after the work. The “training” in the vineyards about herbs and plants was interesting for the workers. For the future we plan to send every member a little present before Christmas, a product of our work like Tea or Pesti.