



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

DIRECTORATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Ljubljana, 19 December 2014



Invitation

Regional Workshop on EU Aid Volunteers Initiative 26 January 2015, Ljubljana

Seeking to effectively address the numerous natural and man-made disasters around the world, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO) has launched the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative. 18,400 volunteers are expected to take part in the programme, which will run from 2014 to 2020, contributing to humanitarian efforts and helping people in the crises. The certification of organisations and the call for proposals for capacity building and technical assistance will be launched in January 2015, which will allow for trained volunteers to be deployed to humanitarian projects in the second half of the year.

With a view to a successfully implementing the initiative, consolidating the capacities of non-governmental humanitarian sector and strengthening our common endeavours regarding humanitarian disasters, I would like to invite you, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, to participate in the **Regional Workshop on EU Aid Volunteers Initiative, which will take place in Ljubljana on 26 January 2015**. The workshop will be held on the occasion of Slovenian Development Days, which will run between 22 and 26 January 2015.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and humanitarian NGOs from Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council will meet with an expert from DG ECHO to discuss the following topics:

- EU Aid Volunteers Initiative in general and lessons learned from pilot projects;
- Upcoming call for proposals for capacity building and technical assistance;
- Eligibility criteria for certified organisations; and
- Capacity building opportunities.

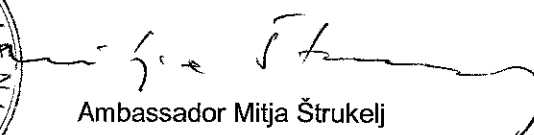
The workshop will also present an opportunity to exchange views and experiences from pilot projects, search for future partnerships and liaise with ECHO.

This one-day event, including an informal morning consultation and an after-noon session with DG ECHO, will be held in English. The agenda will allow participants to arrive and depart on the same day. A detailed programme will follow in January 2015.

Please confirm your participation at razvoj.mzz@gov.si by 20 January 2015 at the latest.

Sincerely,




Ambassador Mitja Štrukelj
Director General