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UEFA EURO 2008™ – Volunteer application phase launched

Zurich – Recruitment of the 5,000 volunteers for UEFA EURO 2008™ has begun. The application phase for volunteers was launched at today's kick-off event in Zurich (and Linz). Anyone wishing to work as a voluntary helper at UEFA EURO 2008™ can apply via www.euro2008.com. "The volunteer programme offers a unique chance to be part of the third largest sports event in the world. We are sure that many people will not want to pass up this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and will apply," said Martin Kallen, Chief Operating Officer of Euro 2008 SA.

Each of the two main host cities, Vienna and Basle, will require 1,000 volunteers during UEFA EURO 2008™, while 500 will be needed in each of the other six cities. The volunteers will support the 320 or so full-time Euro 2008 SA employees during the event in 14 different sectors. "The volunteers are some of the most important ambassadors of UEFA EURO 2008™. With their knowledge, enthusiasm, willingness to help and friendliness, they will help to form the impression that visitors from home and abroad will take home with them from UEFA EURO 2008™," commented Christian Mutschler, Switzerland's tournament director for Euro 2008 SA and the man with overall responsibility for the volunteer programme in both host countries.

Voluntary work is valuable experience

In line with the event slogan, "Expect emotions", UEFA EURO 2008™ volunteers will have the chance to gather positive experiences and make new friends. An insight into what goes on behind the scenes at a major event and being part of the largest sports event ever staged in Austria and Switzerland will be a unique experience for every volunteer. At the end of the tournament, the volunteers will receive an official UEFA EURO 2008™ certificate confirming their involvement. They will also be allowed to keep their own personal volunteer outfit supplied by adidas.

Applications only possible via www.euro2008.com

Anyone who wishes to work as a volunteer for the tournament organisers can only apply via the website www.euro2008.com. The application phases last from 27 July until mid-November 2007 and from 3 December 2007 until the end of February 2008. One of the purposes of the second phase will be to recruit volunteers with specific knowledge of the languages of the participating countries. In order to be eligible, candidates must meet a few basic conditions. A volunteer must be at least 18 years old on 1 June 2008 and be able to speak English as well as German or French (for Geneva) or English and the language of a country that qualifies for the final round. The applicant's personality is important. Therefore, recruitment will depend not only on professional qualifications, but also on motivation, reliability, team spirit and a high level of identification with the event. Experience of voluntary work is not a requirement, but certainly an advantage.



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Final selection by April 2008

Everyone who is shortlisted will be invited for interview. The final selections will be made by April 2008. Volunteers who will be working at the final round draw in Lucerne on 2 December will be chosen by November 2007.

Specific training programme

Before they are deployed, the volunteers will be prepared for their duties as part of a specific training programme. Volunteer training will take place in the host cities from the end of April 2008 and will comprise two main parts: firstly, general information about the tournament and the role of volunteers, and secondly, job-specific training. Around one-third of the volunteers will be required a few weeks before the tournament begins. The length of time for which volunteers will be needed varies, especially as matches will be played over a longer period in some cities than in others.

Every host city will have a volunteer centre

All eight host cities will have a so-called volunteer centre, which will serve as the venue for training sessions and the distribution of volunteer outfits in the run-up to the tournament. These will also be the volunteers' "home", where they can prepare for their duties, enjoy additional activities together, eat and drink or relax when off-duty.

"The volunteers are the life and soul of a major event. Not only that, but they will be the face of UEFA EURO 2008™. And I am sure that they will be a friendly, joyful and likeable face," said Ralph Zloczower, president of the Swiss Football Association, who worked as a volunteer himself during the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland.

The UEFA EURO 2008™ volunteer programme in Switzerland will be supported by UBS, national supporter of the tournament. In addition Hyundai and KIA will provide specific driver training in both host countries for the 900 volunteer drivers who will be recruited to drive the official car fleet.

Photo download

Pictures of the kick-off event in Zurich can be downloaded free of charge at

<ftp://publicftp.uefa.com/>

Username: MediaEuro2008

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