

Vienna, Austria

February 2005

www.globalhand.org

We live on a dysfunctional planet. Every day, in one part of the globe, people suffer because they lack the basics needed for life. In another, people don't know what to do with their surplus goods: the very items that could transform life for those in need.

Global Hand's goal is to provide a way for people with excess goods to find people who need them, on a global basis. It is a network bringing together:

- the corporate world, with its excess product
- gifts-in-kind operators
- organisations requesting shipments of humanitarian aid
- micro-enterprise development /small to medium enterprise organisations
- freight and logistics operators
- aid & trade groups

Global Hand Conference, Austria, February 2005:

There will be an opportunity to learn more about Global Hand at a conference in Austria in February 2005. The conference will provide a forum for interested parties to learn about Global Hand and explore opportunities to participate in the network. We will also look at ways that the services of Global Hand can be better tailored to respond to the challenges and opportunities specific to Central Europe.

The Global Hand Concept:

We will explain Global Hand: its goals and objectives, membership, services, etc, for those unfamiliar with it.

Regional Application of Global Hand:

We will be looking at ways that Global Hand can best meet needs faced by Central Europe.

Networking:

There is a great deal of synergy between people attending a conference of this nature. There will be no set meetings in the evenings in order to maximise opportunities to explore potential connectivity. In addition, delegates will be welcome to bring information about their own organisations in order to liaise most fully.

Micro/Small/Medium Enterprise:

This will be a major emphasis in our conference, looking at issues specific to the Central European situation and ways in which donated product can help facilitate job creation.

Standards:

We are very interested in discussing appropriate standards, and determining which humanitarian products and services are of benefit, and which of no benefit, in the Central European context.

Trouble Shooting:

Many challenges in this field can be discussed at such a venue, providing opportunities for discussion of common obstacles, mutual support and the sharing of one another's experience.

Partnering:

We want to target partnering options that will work best for operators in this field. We will seek to have these incorporated into the Global Hand website in order to maximise their effectiveness.

Events:

We will discuss what kinds of events best enable organisations to network: to have opportunity to meet and liaise with others in the field who can prove of mutual benefit to their goals and vision.

Future Directions:

Global Hand is moving towards assisting the humanitarian sector to find other much needed resources, including volunteers/labour, funding and services. The next iteration of the Global Hand site will be previewed.

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Global HAND
Humanitarian Aid Network for Distribution