

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Voluntary Activities



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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BELGIUM (Flemish Community), 2005

1 Statistics

1.1 Different types of voluntary activities that exist for young people

	Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
Exists?	Yes	No	No

1.2 Number of young people who engage in voluntary activities

Total Number	201,025 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	82,352 <i>persons</i>
Total Male	118,673 <i>persons</i>

1.3 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service

Total Number	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Male	0 <i>persons</i>

1.4 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary Service)

Total Number	1,225 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

1.5 Number of young people who engage in national voluntary civic service

Total Number	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Male	0 <i>persons</i>

1.5.1 Number of young people who carry out their service period abroad

Total Number	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Male	0 <i>persons</i>

1.5.2 Is the national voluntary civic service open to young people from outside the country?

~~Yes~~ No

1.5.3 If yes, number of young people from outside the country participating in your national voluntary civic service

Total Number	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	0 <i>persons</i>
Total Male	0 <i>persons</i>

1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

Official statistics on the number of volunteers in Flanders are not available, that is why we give an estimate based on 2 studies carried out by W.Smits of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Smits, W. (2004). Maatschappelijke participatie van jongeren. (Social participation of young people) Brussel: VUB, TOR-groep. Smits, W. (2004). Participatie en onbehagen. (Participation and uneasiness) Brussel: VUB, TOR-groep.

2 Range of voluntary activities

2.1 Voluntary activities engaged in by young people and approximate number of people involved

	Exists?	Number
a. Community activity	Yes	N/A
b. Participation/self-governance	Yes	N/A
c. Emergency response	Yes	N/A
d. Community peacekeeping	Yes	N/A
e. Social assistance	Yes	N/A
f. Personal assistance	Yes	N/A
g. Children and youth	Yes	N/A
h. Environment	Yes	N/A
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	Yes	N/A
j. Economic justice	Yes	N/A
k. Development aid	Yes	N/A
l. Humanitarian aid	Yes	N/A

	Exists?	Number
m. Religious volunteering	Yes	N/A
n. Education	Yes	N/A
o. Arts/culture	Yes	N/A
p. Sports	Yes	N/A
q. Recreation	Yes	N/A

Other voluntary activities

Voluntary activities for youngsters are of a very diverse nature not only as regards objectives but also as regards forms. The types of voluntary activities that are provided are primarily generated in the socio-cultural not-for-profit sector. Young volunteers are found mainly in youth work, and especially in youth movements. In addition, they are involved in various youth associations, sports associations, action groups, environmental movements, hobby clubs, welfare and health care, #Voluntary commitment of youngsters can also be related to temporary projects/events, e.g. the organisation of a festival.

3 Finance

3.1 Amount of finance that is annually available for voluntary activities and allocation of this finance

Total : # 1,078,000

Explanation

The following amounts are charged to the general expenditure budget of the Flemish Community (2005) : - Subsidy to the 'Vlaams Steunpunt Vrijwilligerswerk' (Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work) : # 99,000 - Subsidies to the Provincial Support Centres for Volunteer Work : # 148,000 -Subsidy to organised volunteer work in the framework of welfare and health care : # 781,000 - Subsidies to associations of volunteers for educational and awareness raising projects in the monuments and sites sector : # 50,000 These amounts are applicable to volunteer work in general and are not specifically applicable to young volunteers. Subsidies granted to youth (work) initiatives also indirectly support youth voluntary work . Indeed, youth work is par excellence the domain in which young people get involved voluntarily.

3.2 Sources of finance

The Flemish Government is the main financing source of volunteer work. In addition, there are a number of (semi)public and private organisations that support volunteer work/voluntary activities. One of the major sources is the Koning Boudewijnstichting (King Baudouin Foundation), an independent and pluralist foundation that aims at improving the living conditions of the population.

4 Main Actors

4.1 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people



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Voluntary Activities

Governmental actors

The Federal Public Service Social Security is responsible for all regulations on the legal status of volunteers (broader scope than just young people). Federal Public Service of Social Security, Directorate General of Social Policy Victor Hortaplein 40 bus 20, 1060 Brussel tel + 32 2.528 63 00 - fax + 32 2.528 69 68 dg-soc@minsoc.fed.be <http://socialsecurity.fgov.be/> The High Council for Volunteers (federal body) has the following tasks: collecting, systemizing and analysing information on volunteers/voluntary work; research into specific problems, counselling of or making propositions to the responsible Ministers with regard to volunteers/voluntary work (broader scope than just young people). High Council for Volunteers-Secretariat Victor Hortaplein 40 bus 20, 1060 Brussel tel +32 2 528.64.68 - fax: + 32 2 528.69.77

http://socialsecurity.fgov.be/NL/specifieke_info/vrijwilligers/hoge_raad/ Subsidizing voluntary activities and associations in the welfare and health care sector is laid down in Flemish Parliament Acts of the Flemish Community (wider target group than just young people). Ministry of the Flemish Community, Family and Social Welfare Administration, General Welfare Policy Division Markiesstraat 1, 1000 Brussel tel + 32 2 553 33 35 welzijnszorg@vlaanderen.be

<http://www.vlaanderen.be/vrijwilligers> The Youth Work and Sports Division of the Flemish Community helps create youth work opportunities through the recognition and funding of youth(work)initiatives. Ministry of the Flemish Community, Culture Administration, Youth and Sports Division Markiesstraat 1, 1000 Brussel tel +32 2 553 41 30 - fax +32 2 553 41 17 jeugdenschap@vlaanderen.be <http://www.wvc.vlaanderen.be/jeugdbeleid/> The local and provincial authorities are making efforts to support youth work. Municipal and provincial youth services play a crucial role in the distribution of information and the support of initiatives launched by young people.

Non governmental actors

Most of the actors are focusing on volunteer work in general and not on young volunteers in particular. The King Baudouin Foundation has a number of publications on volunteer work and supports projects. It lends financial support to the website <http://www.vrijwilligerswerk.be/>, a partnership between the Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work, 5 provincial and 1 Brussels Support Centres. The site contains information and an online database on vacant posts for volunteers and associations. King Baudouin Foundation Brederodestraat 21, 1000 Brussel tel. +32 2 511 18 40 - fax +32 2 511 52 51 info@kbs-frb.be <http://www.kbs-frb.be> The Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work promotes, stimulates and supports voluntary activities by giving advice, information and training. The Centre watches over the interests of volunteer work, e.g. by monitoring policy developments. Also cross-sectoral networking is a key pillar. Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work Amerikalei 64, 2000 Antwerpen tel +32 3 218 59 01 info@vsvw.be www.vrijwilligersweb.be Five provincial support centres and one Brussels support centre co-ordinate voluntary activities in the Flemish provinces and Brussels. They manage a decentralized database, act as a mediator between organisations and candidate volunteers, get more people involved in volunteering and help organisations enhance the quality of their activities. There are also local support centres for volunteering. Contact details of the provincial and local support centres: <http://www.vrijwilligerswerk.be/informatie/informatie.php?id=3> Especially as regards young people, many organisations have a remit to set up, support and monitor volunteer



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work within youth work: the Flemish Youth Council, the Service Centre for Youth Policy, JINT (Co-ordination body for International Youth Work), nationally organised youth associations, NGOs in the field of development co-operation. For more information : <http://www.jeugdbeleid.be>

5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular

5.1 Legal status of volunteers

In 2005 a new federal bill concerning the rights of volunteers was accepted. This bill lays down rules for the volunteer work carried out on Belgian soil, as it does for volunteer work organised in Belgium but performed outside of Belgium. Accountability, insurance, fees/compensations for volunteers are legally defined, as well as the proportion between volunteer work and labour and social security.

5.2 Taxation/tax exemptions for volunteers and volunteer organisations

Volunteers can obtain a fixed allowance # free of tax - as compensation for costs incurred. The amount of expenses actually incurred does not have to be proved if the total amount of allowances received does not exceed # 27,37 per day; # 662,24 per trimester or # 1094,79 per year (indexed amounts for 2005). However, for allowances exceeding the above-mentioned amounts pieces of evidence have to be provided.

5.3 Existence of social protection of volunteers

The Act on the rights of volunteers (2005) contains provisions that refer to the legal status and social protection of volunteers. In principle, liability for damage to third parties by a volunteer lies with the organisation. If deceit, gross fault or recurrent minor faults are involved, the volunteer him/herself can be held accountable. An organisation working with volunteers is obliged to take out an insurance policy covering the civil liability for damage. For certain categories of volunteers, the organisation is also obliged to take out a personal accident injury insurance. People living on social security benefits (unemployment benefit, early retirement pension, pension, incapacity for work benefit, income support) are allowed to do volunteer work and keep their allowance if they fulfil certain requirements. Volunteers do not lose the right to receive family benefit.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

There is no difference between younger and older unemployed as far as the legal status of the volunteer is concerned. Unemployed people entitled to unemployment benefits are allowed to do volunteer work, provided that they report this in writing to the unemployment agency of the National Employment Office (RVA # Rijksdienst voor Arbeidsvoorziening). The request can only be rejected if the RVA is able to prove that the applicant wants to do volunteer work which is not officially defined, that the activity cannot be considered as voluntary due to its nature, volume or frequency;



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that the unemployed person becomes less available to the labour market due to volunteer work. The onus of proof lies with the RVA, which is an important achievement of the new law passed in 2005. Formerly, the onus of proof fell on the candidate volunteer him/herself.

6 Programmes

6.1 Programmes and plans on volunteering (national, regional, local)

In Flanders, there are no action plans at national, regional and local level focusing on volunteer work by young people in particular. However, Flemish authorities campaign for the promotion of volunteer work in Flanders in co-operation with the Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work and the Provincial Support Centres. In 2004, the campaign was directed towards the promotion of volunteer work by volunteers aged 50 and over. The not-for-profit organisation JINT is responsible in Flanders for the European Youth Programme # European volunteer work component : information and promotion, allocation of funds, evaluation. To this end JINT works together with the European Commission and agencies in 29 European Countries.

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

7.1 Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service

We cannot describe any relationship as there is no voluntary civic service and both the obligatory military service and civilian service have been abolished for many years now. We have civil protection though that acts in case of disasters, catastrophes and accidents. Civil protection is composed of a professional staff, completed with a large number of trained volunteers who have the rank of policeman.

7.2 Perspectives for the creation of a voluntary civic service in countries where it does not exist

Voluntary community service does not exist until now in Flanders. Only recently Minister De Decker (Federal Minister for development co-operation) proposed to create a 'service civil volontaire' (voluntary civic service). At present this is being studied. On 14 February 2003, the Flemish Government approved the text of the European Convention of 1 May 2000 on the promotion of a transnational long-term voluntary service for young people aimed at 18 to 25 year olds wishing to perform voluntary work abroad for a period of 3 to 12 months.

8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities



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8.1 Recent (this year) developments in the area of voluntary activities

One of the main accomplishments is the Act on the rights of volunteers (2005), as it provides volunteers with a proper legal position. In Flanders, it is being examined whether competencies acquired in youth work can be recognised and validated through an EVC-procedure (EVC= recognition of acquired competencies)

8.2 What are the trends concerning the range of voluntary activities?

Increasing ~~Decreasing~~ ~~Stable~~

Explanation

We can speak of a 'new kind of volunteer' who zaps and shops between different short-term initiatives. Voluntary commitment of people is often ad hoc and flexible, stimulates networking and becomes less predictable. A number of demographic developments and the creation of new organisational forms (e.g. self-organisations of immigrants) give birth to new forms of volunteer work. So we can conclude that the range of possible voluntary activities is broadened.

8.3 Description of quality standards used in voluntary activities

Flanders has no general quality standards for voluntary work. Quality standards depend on the sector involved. Nevertheless, there are indications that organisations are gradually giving more attention to the issue of dealing with volunteers. Most sectors (youth work, welfare, sports, tourism#) provide for example a form of training for volunteers that is linked to the quality requirements pertinent to the sector concerned.

8.4 Description of measures to improve the quality of voluntary activities for young people

Youth work is the domain par excellence in which many young people engage voluntarily. The Flemish Parliament Act of 14 February 2003 supporting and stimulating the municipal, intermunicipal and provincial youth policy and youth work policy and the Act of 29 March 2002 on Flemish youth policy very clearly state that training must be provided and emphasise the role which the Service Centre for Youth Policy (Steunpunt Jeugd) and the nationally organised youth associations have to play. For instance, special courses are set up. Course participants can gain a certificate of animator, head animator, instructor or head instructor at the end of such a course. In addition, there is a wide range of training initiatives. In November and December 2005 the Service Centre for Youth Policy organises a training on coaching and continuously motivating volunteers. Topics that will be discussed: capitalize on the motivation of volunteers, enhancing communication with and between volunteers, giving feedback and stimulating volunteers to a long-term commitment. Every three years, the municipalities have to draw up a youth(work)policy plan in which a chapter is devoted to the promotion and support of a managing framework. Moreover, the Act on Flemish volunteers defines that volunteer organisations (in the field of welfare and health care) have to provide training and education to volunteers. Also a note of agreements between the volunteer organisation and the volunteer has to be prepared.



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9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 The facilitation of young people's voluntary engagement

Research has shown that the following elements are important to young people's voluntary engagement : - Volunteer work should be in line with personal interests. - Unselfish commitment is no outmoded concept, but young people also aim for a win-win relationship that makes their volunteer work turn into an opportunity to enrich their personality. - Young people want to engage in concrete, feasible actions rather than to set themselves abstract or vague social goals. They want to make a clear-cut commitment. Volunteer work for young people is encouraged by the Act of 14 February 2003 supporting and stimulating the municipal, intermunicipal and provincial youth policy and youth work policy and the Act of 29 March 2002 on Flemish youth policy. These Acts put an emphasis on the promotion of youth work, experiential projects and international youth work.

9.2 Recent (this year) measures to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering

The Act on the rights of volunteers was voted on and passed in the House of Representatives on 19 May 2005 and is being transferred to the Senate. Accountability, insurance, fees for volunteers are now legally defined, as well as the proportion between volunteer work and labour and social security. Under certain conditions the province of West Flanders is offering a free insurance to volunteers, but this initiative doesn't resolve the structural problem of insurances of organisations.

9.3 Existing obstacles

- Regulations and administration (e.g. the organisation of a party or a camp) are complicated and untransparent, and that is why volunteers cannot see the wood for the trees anymore. - Due to the fact that training is not legally provided for in all sectors, volunteer work often is not treated with the esteem it deserves. Societal recognition is linked more than once to a high quality training. - The heavy demands placed on youngsters by education can be seen as an obstacle to their leisure time. Moreover, the available provision of volunteer work has to compete with various commercial leisure time activities. - The knowledge of youngsters about volunteer work is often limited. - It is not always clear how the interaction between volunteers and professionals can be concretised. Appreciation is often linked to the level of organisational culture, of interhuman relationships and the concrete set of tasks to accomplish. - Due to its nature, the provision works selectively as it is primarily situated within the welfare, leisure, socio-cultural sectors and assistance services. - Flemish youngsters going abroad for a longer period, are confronted with legal insecurity in the field of social protection. Despite a few exceptions, there is no specific and uniform regulatory framework for youngsters who participate in international activities abroad. This unclear situation is a serious obstacle to mobility, especially for less wealthy young people.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

Mouth to mouth publicity is the most powerful means to attract young people. In addition, promotion is done at the local level, in particular by the associations themselves, by means of flyers, posters, the holiday newspaper, the volunteer newspaper, the vicariate, signpost# The information is collected on the Internet at www.vrijwilligerswerk.be from which various links are made to a number of organisations and to informative sites on volunteer work (JINT, VIA,#). Initiatives that are specifically aimed at informing young people often also contain information on volunteer work. This concerns organisations such as the Youth Support Centre, the not-for-profit JINT , youth work organisations, Youth Information Point, # In addition, there are several sites that offer information on volunteer work : www.jeugdwerknet.be ; www.jips.be ; www.jongereninformatie.be ; www.jongerenplaneet.be

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

Promotion of volunteer work is one of the goals of the Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work. This is done by providing information and/or support to initiatives aimed at linking volunteer work to specific target groups, by co-operating in specific initiatives in which volunteers/volunteer work play a special part and by managing www.vrijwilligerswerk.be in view of an efficient use and maintenance of the database. Also the Provincial Support Centres and the Brussels 'Punt' have a major task in the promotion of volunteer work.

10.3 Initiatives to promote voluntary activities among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

Initiatives to promote voluntary commitment of young people are mainly launched within youth work. The youth policy of the Flemish Government provides a framework to valorise (cultural) diversity. A number of initiatives are aimed at promoting the participation of youngsters from 'disadvantaged backgrounds' in youth work; these initiatives may have a direct or indirect influence on voluntary commitment. The Youth Support Centre is an important actor in this. In the Act of 29 March 2002 on Flemish Youth Policy, funding possibilities for experiential youth work are provided. Two funded initiatives can be considered as a way of encouraging volunteer work. The not-for-profit organisation 'Kif Kif' started an intercultural web radio, which is run by an intercultural group of volunteers. The Immigrant Youth Work Platform is developing an educational provision tailored to staff with a view to strengthening youth work for young people with immigrant background. The P&V Foundation is strongly focusing on facilitating access to youth work for various target groups. Late 2004, the P&V Foundation started the "Better together? Young people for accessible youth work!" project. After a study day in December 2004, a youth forum is now being created for people between the age of 16 and 23, who have experience in youth work or other forms of group leisure activities. The intention is to take action and support projects that are directed towards an enhanced accessibility.



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11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'

The five Provincial Support Centres, the Brussels Support Centre and the Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work are responsible for the co-ordination and support of volunteer work in Flanders. These Support Centres also strive for a broader social # and formal # recognition of volunteer work. Organisations working with volunteers usually provide a form of training, education or support for volunteers, either leading to the award of a certificate or not. Although such certification is not legally recognised, these initiatives give an indication of the basic quality. The recognition of acquired competencies (erkenning van verworven competenties - EVC), i.e. of knowledge, skills and attitudes is still at a very early stage in Flanders. The Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work had a project called 'Recognition of acquired competencies for management volunteers' in co-operation with SoCius, the Support Centre for Socio-cultural work. This project ended in December 2004. The Service Centre for Youth Policy is now exploring further possibilities of EVC: Youth work endorses the idea that management training (or part of it) could be integrated into a possible EVC scenario. This may mean that a basic portfolio for Flemish youth workers will be created.

11.2 Measures of societal recognition

The Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work aims at an increased societal recognition of volunteer work in Flanders, for instance by means of promoting the quality of volunteer work and defending the interests of volunteer workers. Annually, the week of the volunteer is organised. In 2005, the week of the volunteer was held in the week from 5 to 13 March. During this week, a study day on insuring volunteers, a volunteer fair and meeting days for volunteers were organised by various associations. One of the official Culture Awards of the Flemish Community is the Award for the Volunteer. This yearly prize is awarded to an organisation or a person who made him or herself especially useful in the past year. With this Award for the Volunteer the Flemish Community wants to underline the crucial role of volunteer work in cultural and social activism. This year the award went to the #Dag van de Jeugdbeweging# (Youth Movement Day). This is a joint initiative of the different youth movements. During this day they focus on the activities in youth movements which depend almost entirely on volunteers.

12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation

12.1 Networks who promote voluntary activities of young people

The not-for-profit organisation JINT is the co-ordination body for international youth work and the National Agency for the entire European 'Youth' Programme in Flanders. It is an important contact point for EVS (European Voluntary Service), for volunteers as well as for organisations. You can



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turn to the Agency for all information on EVS such as criteria, forms, social security, and also for advice and monitoring in all stages of your project. JINT also sets up training programmes for volunteers and participating organisations. 'Het Punt' in Brussels and the not-for-profit Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work are members of The European Volunteer Centre. CEV is an umbrella organisation of 27 national and regional volunteer centres throughout Europe. The key objectives of CEV are: give a clear voice to volunteer work in Europe, reinforce the infrastructure for volunteering in Europe, encourage volunteer work and make it more effective. The main goal of the Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work is to stimulate and support voluntary activities as well as to promote interests. The Flemish Support Centre watches over the interests of volunteer work, e.g. by monitoring policy developments. Also cross-sectoral networking is a key pillar.

12.2 Exchange of information, experience and good practices

The Flemish Support Centre for Volunteer Work, the Provincial Support Centres and the Brussels Support Centre 'Het Punt' are responsible for the exchange of information and experiences within volunteer work, e.g. by means of training and a joint website www.vrijwilligerswerk.be. With regard to the exchange and permanent dialogue between the different Communities in Belgium (the Flemish Community, the French Community, the German-speaking Community), the Prince Philip Foundation is major actor. The "Three+" programme supports exchanges, meetings and dialogue between citizen groups from the different Communities. It is aimed at non commercial associations and institutions, both public and private (with the exception of schools), e.g. socio-cultural associations, environmental organisations, youth organisations and volunteer work. Contact information: Prins Filipfonds, p.a. Koning Boudewijnstichting, Brederodestraat 21, 1000 Brussel. Tel: +32 2 549 61 91. Fax +32 2 512 31 18. info@prins-filipfonds.org www.prins-filipfonds.org.

12.3 Exchange for young volunteers: at all levels (transnational, national, regional, between communities)

In Flanders, young volunteers can apply to a broad range of organisations for international exchanges and short-term or long-term projects : AFS, ATD vierde wereld, Balkanactie, Bouworde, Damiaanactie, JNM (youth association for nature and environmental protection), Natuur 2000, Tierra, Toc H, VIA, WEP, Broederlijk Delen, Jeugddienst Don Bosco, Jint (the EVS programme). The projects focus on social, ecological and/or educational issues. Most projects are oriented towards youngsters from the age of 18. An overview of the above-mentioned organisations can be found at Contact information: Jint vzw Grétrystraat 26, 1000 Brussel. Tel: +32 2 209 07 20. Fax +32 2 209 07 49. jint@jint.be www.jint.be

12.4 Collective volunteering projects

12.4.1 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

Description of projects (including future projects)



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- Bouworde vzw - Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie en -Milieubescherming (JNM) - ATD Vierde Wereld België - Natuur 2000

Details of programme/project

The not-for-profit organisation 'Bouworde' organises camps in Flanders in which each time some ten volunteers can participate. These mainly take place in the summer months (July, August and September). More information on the different projects can be found at www.bouworde.be. JNM is an organisation for and by young people between the ages of 8 and 25 who take an interest in nature and the environment. During the summer holidays they organise different types of camps for youngsters from 16 to 25, including nature study, work, work study and environmental camps. More information at <http://www.jnm.be/kampen/> "ATD Vierde wereld België" organises summer holiday camps and works on a shared future in Brussels and the Walloon Region. More information on dates and venue at http://www.atd-quartmonde.org/europe/be/be_nl/index.html Natuur 2000 schedules a nature camp at Oelegem from 8 to 12 August 2005 for 14 to 25 year-olds. <http://www.natuur2000.be>

12.4.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects

Different organisations can be referred to as host organisation. They receive international volunteers.

12.5 International solidarity volunteer service

12.5.1 International solidarity voluntary service in the EU and the world (e.g. in human/natural disaster situations, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development assistance, capacity-building etc.)

- AFS Intercultural Programs (American Field Service) - ATD Fourth World (Aide à toute détresse) - Balkanactie - Bouworde - Damiaanactie - JNM (youth association for nature and environmental protection) - Natuur 2000 - Tierra - VIA (international volunteering) - WEP(World Education Program) - Broederlijk Delen - Jeugddienst Don Bosco.

Details of programme/project

For more details: AFS Interculturele Programma's H. Consciencestraat 52 2800 Mechelen +32 15 795010 www.afsvlaanderen.be ATD vierde wereld V. Jacobsstraat 12 1040 Brussel +32 2 6479225 Balkanactie Uitbreidingstraat 498 2600 Antwerpen +32 3 2341120 www.balkanactie.be Bouworde Tiensesteenweg 157 3010 Leuven +32 16 259144 www.bouworde.be Damiaanactie Leopold II laan 263 1081 Brussel +32 2 4225913 www.damiaanactie.be JNM Kortrijksepoortstraat 192 9000 Gent +32 9 2234781 www.jnm.be Natuur 2000 Bervoetstraat 33 2000 Antwerpen. +32 3 2312604 www.natuur2000.be Tierra Heidebergstraat 311 3010 Leuven +32 16 255616 www.tierra.be VIA Draakstraat 37 2018 Antwerpen +32 3 2359419 www.viavzw.be WEP Jetselaan, 26 1081 Brussel +32 2 5345336 www.gowep.be/nl/ Broederlijk Delen Huidevettersstraat 165 1000 Brussel +32 2 5025700 www.broederlijkdelen.be Jeugddienst Don Bosco. Don Boscolaand 15 3050 Oud-Heverlee. +32 16 479115. www.jeugddienstdonbosco.be



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12.5.2 Major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

- AFS Interculturele programma's (American Field Service) - JINT (coordinating body for international youth work) - VIA (international volunteering) - WEP (World Education Program) - Bouworde - Damiaanactie - Tierra - Broederlijk Delen - Jeugddienst Don Bosco

12.5.3 The degree of involvement of the government/state institutions in supporting international solidarity service in non-EU countries

The Flemish Community set up the not-for-profit JINT as a co-ordinating body for international youth work. With a view to "promote the active participation of the Flemish Community in the field of international youth exchanges and international youth policy" the Flemish Government opted for a strategic alliance with the youth work sector. In practice, the emphasis is on the European programmes under the impulse of the European dynamics in the field of international youth mobility. From their establishment, they adopted the fundamental principle to take a broad view of the world.

13 Studies & Surveys

13.1 Recent surveys or research on the topic of voluntary activities

In the following studies, voluntary work is one of the researched topics : - Smits, W. (2004). Maatschappelijke participatie van jongeren. (Social participation of young people) Brussel: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, TOR-groep. - Smits, W. (2004). Participatie en onbehagen. (Participation and uneasiness) Brussel: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, TOR-groep. Also in the annual survey of the Planning and Statistics Administration of the Flemish Community, 'volunteer work' is one of the themes that is regularly questioned.



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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