

# 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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## **MALTA, 2006**

### **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	5,255 <i>persons</i>
Total Female	2,490 <i>persons</i>
Total Male	2,765 <i>persons</i>

#### **1.3 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

No civic service or voluntary service exist in Malta. The only type of voluntary work is that carried out by young people in voluntary activities.

## 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	13,026
b. Participation/self-governance	No	na
c. Emergency response	Yes	2,757
d. Community peacekeeping	No	na
e. Social assistance	Yes	1,606
f. Personal assistance	Yes	500
g. Children and youth	Yes	4,682
h. Environment	Yes	2,500
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	Yes	923
j. Economic justice	Yes	150
k. Development aid	Yes	150
l. Humanitarian aid	Yes	350
m. Religious volunteering	Yes	6,000
n. Education	Yes	5,500
o. Arts/culture	Yes	2,500

	Exists?	Number
<b>p. Sports</b>	Yes	6,000
<b>q. Recreation</b>	Yes	12,000

Other voluntary activities

Help lines and help desks, 300

### 3 Finance

No answers available

### 4 Main Actors

#### 4.1 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

Governmental actors

Youth Section Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment Contact Person: Mr. Adrian Tonna  
Great Siege Road Floriana - Malta (00356) 21227058 adrian.tonna@gov.mt www.youthnet.org.mt

Non governmental actors

National Youth Council 36, Old Mint Street Valletta info@knz.org.mt www.knz.org.mt tel: (00356) 21245375 In the Maltese National Youth Council's website a list of all non governmental actors are listed and duly updated.

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

#### 5.1 Legal status of volunteers

There is no specific legal status for volunteers in Malta

#### 5.2 Taxation/tax exemptions for volunteers and volunteer organisations

Subsidiary Legislation 123.56 Youth Centres (Exemption) Order (The income of a youth club or youth centre, which is organised and operated exclusively for pastoral purposes shall, upon the approval of the Minister of Finance, be exempt from tax, provided no part of its income is available for the personal benefit of any proprietor or member thereof. The provisions do not exempt such youth club or youth centre from the filling of income tax returns.)

#### 5.3 Existence of social protection of volunteers

There is no specific social protection of volunteers in Malta

#### 5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

No legal distinction is made whether the young person is employed or unemployed.



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## 6 Programmes

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

Nearly all youth organisations are structured on voluntary basis rather than employment, the volunteering is programmed within each organisation according to its specific needs. Currently discussions are held to legislate the work carried out by NGOs.

## 7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

No answers available

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

No answers available

## 9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

### 9.1 The facilitation of young people's voluntary engagement

Various youth organisations structure their activities and preparation meetings at times where young people are free to attend. To some extent some employers do facilitate their employees to participate in voluntary activities and grant them paid or unpaid special leave during special youth related national campaigns. Some employers concede to, employees irrespective of age, to engage in a year/period of voluntary service in a third world country.

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

There exist no specific legal or any other administrative measure that act as obstacle to young people in volunteering. At present discussions are underway to legislate towards the protection and standardisation of voluntary activities and organisation.

### 9.3 Existing obstacles

More than obstacles, the need is felt for legislative protection and direction so that all NGOs are regularised and carry out their voluntary work coherently.

## 10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people



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## **10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people**

Youth Section within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment. Mr. Adrian Tonna [www.youthnet.org.mt](http://www.youthnet.org.mt) The National Youth Council [www.knz.org.mt](http://www.knz.org.mt) The Diocesan Youth Commission [www.kdz.org.mt](http://www.kdz.org.mt) The National Students Council (KSU) [www.ksu.org.mt](http://www.ksu.org.mt)

## **10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities**

An annual youth event to promote youth initiatives is organised by the Youth Section within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment. A Biennial Fair promoting voluntary work is organised nationwide to support and encourage voluntary organisations. This fair is supported by the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity.

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

Various NGOs focusing mainly on young people with disadvantaged backgrounds carry out various campaigns and promote their cause through various mediums. The media at large often support such initiatives and back up any fund raising activities carried out in respect.

# **11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people**

## **11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'**

On a national level, once a year the Youth Section within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment hold a soiree during which voluntary activities carried out by young people are awarded. Apart from certifying the initiative and that it is always the Minister who presides such activity, the winner and runner-ups are given a financial assistance to support their cause. The selection is carried out by public nominees and an independent selection committee process all entries. Contact person for this initiative: Mr. Adrian Tonna - Youth Section - Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment

## **11.2 Measures of societal recognition**

Ten years ago the Youth Section started awarding identified and recognised voluntary and creative work carried out by youth organisations each year for the benefit of the society. Voluntary works carried out locally or in foreign countries are duly considered. Following selection criteria are respected:

- Preference is given to youth organisations that are primarily headed by young people.
- Consideration is given to the consistency shown in the aims and work carried out by the organisation during the year.
- The effectiveness of both the projects and work carried out of every organisation.
- The originality of projects is evaluated.

A financial token is awarded to the first and runner-up organisation that amount to Euros 2,460



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

### **12.1 Networks who promote voluntary activities of young people**

There are three major networks systems related to voluntary activities of young people, and often they engage in various levels (international, EU, national and local). These are: The Youth Section within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment. - All youth organisations are enlisted and thus receive/share information of activities organised. - Support financially activities organised. - issue a monthly e-newsletter - recognise on a national level activities and organisations held locally - promote and sustain the youth empowerment programmes in various localities across the islands. The National Youth Council. - represent the youth organisations - advocate and promote synergy and networking - share expertise and hold seminars - attend international meetings and promote collaboration - support local initiatives - implement the National Youth Policy The YOUTH Programme. - facilitate exchanges through contacts and funding - promote good practices Also confer: [www.geocities.com/inizjamed/ngosinmalta.htm](http://www.geocities.com/inizjamed/ngosinmalta.htm)

### **12.2 Exchange of information, experience and good practices**

Youth organisations in collaboration with one another often take up the initiative to hold activities together and invite one another to participate in voluntary initiatives undertaken. These consolidate and reinforce networking and promote good practices. Practically most youth organisations hold on an annual basis two major activities, one being fund raising often for philanthropic reasons, and a general meeting which serve as an evaluation of the work carried out in the previous 12 months and planning for the coming year. Various topics are focused upon, and often speakers from other youth organisations are invited to contribute. Various Youth workers and the Youth empowerment programmes are also offering their expertise and support in respect.

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

Maltese youth organisations are very positive and open to new ventures and initiatives. Thus the possibility of finding partners is very much in favour. Various transnational exchanges have already been held with very fruitful and encouraging results. For specific contacts of organisations kindly visit the following sites: The Youth National Council [www.knz.org.mt](http://www.knz.org.mt) The Youth Section within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment [www.youthnet.org.mt](http://www.youthnet.org.mt) The YOUTH programme (Malta) [www.youthmalta.org](http://www.youthmalta.org)

### **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)**



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### Description of projects (including future projects)

Yes, some Maltese youth organisations take up the challenge and embark in collective volunteering projects locally. The activities often are philanthropic fund raising based, but not exclusively. Most activities are sports based. A classical example is the annual volley ball tournament held by the Kerygma Movement breaking records of both hours of playing and sums collected. This is held in August and has become over the years a national event. Other youth organisations hold similar activities and their success augurs very well for future projects organised in respect.

### Details of programme/project

Visit: [www.zakmalta.org](http://www.zakmalta.org) [www.youthnet.org.mt](http://www.youthnet.org.mt) [www.kerygma.org.mt](http://www.kerygma.org.mt)  
[www.geocities.com/inizjamed/ngosinmalta.htm](http://www.geocities.com/inizjamed/ngosinmalta.htm)

## **12.4.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects**

The reply was affirmative when youth organisations were asked whether they would involve international volunteers in their projects. Some had already done so, and this proved to be a positive experience to both the individual and hosting organisation.

## **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.)**

Yes, various youth organisations and institutions take up the challenge and render, in particular during the summer time, international voluntary service in other EU countries and other countries around the world. To mention just a few places where these voluntary work is carried out: Napoli, Palermo, Albania, Peru, many African countries, Brazil, India. These are often humanitarian aid activities, focusing primarily on children and young people. The Red Cross do carry out human/natural disaster voluntary service (for example they were very actively involved in the Tsunami disaster).

### Details of programme/project

visit the following sites: [www.keryma.org.mt](http://www.keryma.org.mt) [www.kdz.org.mt](http://www.kdz.org.mt) [www.youthnet.org.mt](http://www.youthnet.org.mt)  
[www.geocities.com/inizjamed/ngosinmalta.htm](http://www.geocities.com/inizjamed/ngosinmalta.htm)

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

[www.redcross.org.mt](http://www.redcross.org.mt) [www.appogg.gov.mt](http://www.appogg.gov.mt) [www.maltamigration.com/about/mec5.shtml](http://www.maltamigration.com/about/mec5.shtml)

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



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In major disasters (such as the Tsunami disaster and earthquakes in various countries), the government/state administration was very actively involved, providing all the necessary support and backing to NGOs to facilitate their mission.

## 13 Studies & Surveys

### 13.1 Recent surveys or research on the topic of voluntary activities

Youth Participation in Voluntary Organisations in Malta (2001), by Mr. Anthony M. Abela. Printed format. Voluntary Work - Caring Organisations Directory (2004), by Caring Organisation Support. Printed format. Social Welfare-Oriented NGOs a statistical profile (2004), National Statistics Office. [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)



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