

# 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.

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)



## **NETHERLANDS, 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	N/I* <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/I* <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/I* <i>persons</i>

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

Total Number	N/I <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/I <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/I <i>persons</i>

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

Total Number	N/I <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/I <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/I <i>persons</i>

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

Total Number	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

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

Total Number	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <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	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

### 1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

Question 1.2: young people who engage in voluntary activities per year per age group: 15 - 19: 55 % 20 - 24: 65 %, 25 - 34: 59 % Source Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)

## 2 Range of voluntary activities

No answers available

## 3 Finance

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

**Total :** N/A

Explanation

In the Netherlands voluntary work is the responsibility of local governments. At national level there is only a supportive role. Accordingly it is not possible to provide financial information which applies to the country as a whole. However, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has a coordinating role in voluntary work policy and provides the following amounts in annual support: - Temporary incentive provision for voluntary work (2001 # 2004): EUR 7.5 million - training and education for volunteers: EUR 11.2 million - work development, innovation and research: EUR 5.0 million. - structural support for Dutch Youth Council as representative of bounded and non-bounded youth. The Ministry of Justice has a specific (but similarly temporary) provision for volunteers: allocation of approximately # 1 million per annum.

### 3.2 Sources of finance

Funds like: - Stichting Doen ([www.stichtingdoen.nl](http://www.stichtingdoen.nl)) - VSB ([www.vsbfonds.nl](http://www.vsbfonds.nl)).

## 4 Main Actors



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)



## 4.1 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

### Governmental actors

In the Netherlands, policy regarding voluntary work is the responsibility of the Directorate for Social Policy of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport ([www.postbus51.nl](http://www.postbus51.nl) / [www.minvws.nl](http://www.minvws.nl)). Insofar as policy relates specifically to voluntary work aimed at young people, it falls under the responsibility of that ministry's Directorate for Youth Policy. In the Netherlands, voluntary work is supported at local, provincial and national level by an infrastructure of support organizations which are not affiliated to any particular type of work or economic sector. At the local or regional level, this infrastructure consists of about 140 #Agencies for Voluntary Activities# ([www.vrijwilligerscentrale.nl](http://www.vrijwilligerscentrale.nl)), the function of which is primarily to mediate between supply and demand, and to promote voluntary work in general. Although these #Agencies for Voluntary Activities# target all volunteers, there is often specific attention for young people. A restricted number of national training and educational centres (e.g. Blooming: [www.blooming.nl](http://www.blooming.nl)) receive a subsidy from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in order to provide training to volunteers in such areas as administrative skills. This training also targets young people. This budget will be reallocated to local governments over a couple of years. There is also an increasing input of schools in voluntary services with their introduction programmes and intern scholarships.

### Non governmental actors

- 13 Centra Maatschappelijke Ontwikkeling CMO's in the provinces of the Netherlands. - about 140 #Agencies for Voluntary Activities# ([www.vrijwilligerscentrale.nl](http://www.vrijwilligerscentrale.nl)). - Central Pedagogic Institute - Netherlands Youth Institute ([www.nizw.nl](http://www.nizw.nl)) - Civiq ([www.civiq.nl](http://www.civiq.nl)) - NOV ([www.nov.nl](http://www.nov.nl)).

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

No answers available

## 6 Programmes

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

National: - The Community, Education & Sport Initiative. This is a temporary subsidy scheme aimed at strengthening the social role that communities and sport organizations have in dealing with young people at risk. It finances multi-annual programmes for local governments, based on co-financing. - Incentive Scheme Young Volunteers. This scheme for (long-term) voluntary activities of young people covers the period of 2004 # 2006. The scheme is aimed at voluntary organizations that work for and with young volunteers at local level, such as (national) youth organizations and sport clubs. - National Commission on voluntary work (2003-2005) - Temporary incentive regulation voluntary work (tijdelijke stimuleringsregeling 2003 t/m 2006) Regional: - The provinces Brabant, Utrecht and Gelderland have their own incentives policy by subsidy Centre for Civil Development (Centra Maatschappelijke Ontwikkeling, CMO) they stimulate voluntary



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)



activities.. Local: Almost all (bigger) municipalities finance support of centres that support voluntary activities.

## 7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

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

These types of service do not exist in the Netherlands. Only private initiatives exist.

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

There are no plans to create voluntary civic service in the Netherlands.

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

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

- The (probable) introduction of a social internship (maatschappelijke stage) in schools. - Since in the Netherlands, voluntary work is mostly allocated to the local level no standards have been developed, it is left to the responsibility of local governments. Recent developments are the development of quality management: the local governments facilitate the voluntary work and report to the government about the spending of the public resources. - Furthermore the organisation Civiq ([www.civiq.nl](http://www.civiq.nl)) has advised and advocated for the implementing of legislation concerning voluntary activities. The Government will now introduce the Social Support Act WMO (Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning).

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

**Increasing** Decreasing **Stable**

Explanation

The amount of volunteers is quite stable. The amount of hours the volunteers work weekly is decreasing. Therefore, per saldo there is a decrease of volunteers. The amount of youth volunteers decreases relatively more. Hence the grant scheme for young people through which an increase is being realised. However some youth (e.g. with another nationality / allochtonen) engage in voluntary work, but they don't see it that way. The same counts for also voluntary activities done within the educational environment.

### 8.3 Description of quality standards used in voluntary activities

- Civiq / KiMI is nationally responsible for the distribution of knowledge on voluntary activities. They



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)



also have a network of regional and local experts. Furthermore quality is promoted by mostly national organisations such as: - The National Youth Council offers training and courses ([www.jeugdraad.nl](http://www.jeugdraad.nl)) - National socio-cultural training course (Landelijke vormingstraining) - Advise institutes (e.g. VTA [www.vtagroep.nl](http://www.vtagroep.nl)) Identity organisation who train their youth members themselves like churches and scouting. EU Youth Programme, EVS ([www.programmajeugd.nl](http://www.programmajeugd.nl)) Xplore ([www.xplore.nl](http://www.xplore.nl))

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

- In 2001, a Commission was appointed with the task of promoting local volunteer policy. The Commission will seek to encourage local and provincial authorities to implement an innovative volunteer policy. An annual assessment of progress is to be made and a further evaluation will take place in the context of the Temporary Incentive Provision for Voluntary Work. The two studies are intended to assist in the reformulation of national policy for the period beyond 2004. - Civiq train the trainers.

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

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

- One means of doing so is through peer information - Local Governments who have youth participating in the development of the Social Support Act WMO (Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning). - Some institutes for higher education (universities and vocational trainings) want to reward voluntary activities with extra learning credits.

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

The work conditions Act has been changed. The tax free standard for voluntary work has changed. This tax free level is increased each year for all volunteers.

### **9.3 Existing obstacles**

One obstacle is that the pressure of study has increased in recent years. At the individual level, there is considerable competition between voluntary activities and other ways of filling one's free time. Friends, and earn money more important. Many organizations who work with young volunteers are not adequately equipped to address the requirements of this target group. The organizations do indeed wish to procure the services of young volunteers, but are often unwilling to amend their existing policy whereby the young people themselves do not feel comfortable within the organization. Moreover, the organizations are often not in a position to offer the type of activity which may be seen as relevant to the interests and experience of young people, or may not be sufficiently flexible.



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)



## 10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people

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

Information is provided at school (by means of guest teachers and various coursework folders) at the sports club and through associations. It is also available on the Internet (e.g. the websites of organizations such as the Youth Council and the Dutch organisation of voluntary work / Nederlandse organisatie vrijwilligerswerk, [www.nov.nl](http://www.nov.nl)), on television and through national campaigns (SIRE). Campaigns to promote voluntary work are conducted through the new media, postcard mailings, television and radio. At the national level there is an umbrella organization for voluntary work, CIVIQ, which seeks to support young people in this sphere. The support is often indirect and involves helping the voluntary organizations to render themselves more attractive and accessible to young people. CIVIQ develops methodologies in this respect and offers training courses, workshops, etc. Up from January 2007 CIVIQ will merge with certain departments of the Netherlands Institute for Care and Welfare (NIZW) and other organisations into the #state subsidized# Knowledge Institute for Social Support (KiMI, [www.kimi.nl](http://www.kimi.nl)). The website [www.go-europe.nl](http://www.go-europe.nl) provides information for youth by giving an overview of voluntary activities in other countries (EVS). 23 projects have been developed during the temporary incentive policy. These are almost focussed on the promotion of voluntary work. All these projects have their own website (e.g.: [www.mezzo.nl](http://www.mezzo.nl)). MAD (Make a Difference Day), the social internship, National Youth Council, NJOY, Civiq.

### 10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

- Make a Difference day (MAD). - National Compliment Day: #National and local awards for volunteer organisations# - 2005 Silverrail (in 2005 when the Dutch queen celebrated her jubileum).

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

Incorporation of young people at risk is a specific criteria in the grant scheme for voluntary work youth.

## 11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

### 11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'

There is no formal recognition for voluntary work. However, some schools and colleges award study points or exemption from certain course requirements to those students undertaking voluntary work, whether within the school setting or beyond. Some organizations award certificates to their volunteers, while there are also experiments involving portfolios. However, there is no national or regional system whereby the learning experiences gained through voluntary work are



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)





recorded. The possibility of creating such a system is currently being examined. Extracurricular certificates for drop-outs. Acknowledge learned competences network (Erkennen verworven competenties / EVC): [www.kenniscentrumevc.nl](http://www.kenniscentrumevc.nl). For this purpose also a project directorate was constituted of the ministries for Education and Social Affairs and employment.

### 11.2 Measures of societal recognition

The International Year of the Volunteer 2001 provided an enormous boost to voluntary work. The national Federation of Voluntary Organizations (NOV) organizes an annual awards ceremony, #The National Compliment#, at which an outstanding voluntary initiative is highlighted and is recognized by means of an award. In 2003, NOV/sVM opened a database of #best practices#, available through its website. Junior ribbon Amersfoort. Three compliments: for the municipality with the best policy, national compliment for a voluntary initiative that is most appealing, the NCRV broadcasting the best volunteer of the Netherlands. In many local governments there is some form of annually compliments for volunteers and organisations. Make ad Difference Day (MAD) is a yearly event that has been introduced in 2005 with specific attention for youth.

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

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

Most of the active organizations are members of a European network or umbrella organization, and therefore have partners in other countries. For example, CIVIQ, the Netherlands organization for voluntary work is a member of the #European Volunteer Centre#. At national level: - Dutch National Youth Council (member of the European Youth Forum) - NOV ([www.nov.nl](http://www.nov.nl)) - Jeugdalliantie (Youth Alliance): Jantje Beton improvement of the position of youth in society. - Centre for Civil Development (Centra Maatschappelijke Ontwikkeling / CMOŽs - CEV: Centrum for European Volunteering - IAVE: International Association of Volunteering; [www.volunteerinternational.org](http://www.volunteerinternational.org) - NIZW/ National Agency YOUTH programme: network of NA#s; [www.programmajeugd.nl](http://www.programmajeugd.nl)) At local level: some local organisations are members of European networks exchanging young volunteers in EVS (SVR Rotterdam, [www.svr-rotterdam.nl](http://www.svr-rotterdam.nl), Melkweg Amsterdam, [www.melkweg.nl](http://www.melkweg.nl), Richter Den Helder, ([www.richtereu.com](http://www.richtereu.com)).

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

NOV study days and website ([www.nov.nl](http://www.nov.nl))

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

- EVS, [www.richtereu.com](http://www.richtereu.com). - Xplore, [www.xplore.nl](http://www.xplore.nl). - Network of young volunteers; The umbrella organisation the National Youth Council has a network of member organisations, e.g. political youth organisations, youths and environment. There is also an exchange between local youth



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)





organisations about voluntary engagement of youth.

## **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)

There are barely collective volunteering (youth) projects in the Netherlands. However, the red Cross supports large events, like the yearly #Nijmeegse Vierdaagse# # a four-day walking event with thousands of participants.

Details of programme/project

N/I

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

N/I

## **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.)**

Most of the initiatives have been professionalized in the Netherlands. There is an increase of individual initiatives. Civilians offer direct help (e.g. to an orphanage in Rumania.)

Details of programme/project

N/I

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

There is an trend that holidays are combined with work (e.g. building a school). - Network youth in development aid (Netwerk jongeren in ontwikkelingssamenwerking): - Sending youth to developing countries(SIW): - International Building Order (International Bouworde / IBO) - Youth and Mission (Jongeren en Missie).

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

Xplore (Ministry of External Affairs) # [www.xplore.nl](http://www.xplore.nl).



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)



## 13 Studies & Surveys

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

- Verweij-Jonker: Een sociaal jaar voor jongeren in Nederland, Hans Boutellier, Majone Steketee, 2004. - Linda Bridges Clark: onderzoek rond motivatie van jongeren in vrijwillige inzet: eind 2006 - Hastings, België: Jongeren en vrijwilligers. - Magazine FIO: Onderzoek/ wetenschap in relatie tot vrijwillige inzet: Paper - Trendrapport Civiq - Arnova: International platform of researchers on the topic of voluntary activities, exchange of research programmes. Youth are barely a specific target group. - In September 2004 a special chair on voluntary work and civil society was introduced at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. Currently this chair is hold by prof. dr. Lucas C.P.M. Meijs.



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

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

