

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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SWEDEN, 2006

1 Statistics

1.1 Different types of voluntary activities that exist for young people

	Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
Exists?	Yes	Yes	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 persons
Total Female	N/A persons
Total Male	N/A persons

1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

* Swedish official statistics (Statistics Sweden) includes age group 16 and over. Therefore it can not be presented here, since the EKC requires age group 15 # 25 or 13 # 30.

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/I
b. Participation/self-governance	Yes	N/I
c. Emergency response	No	N/I
d. Community peacekeeping	No	N/I
e. Social assistance	Yes	N/I
f. Personal assistance	Yes	N/I
g. Children and youth	Yes	N/I
h. Environment	Yes	N/I
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	Yes	N/I
j. Economic justice	No	N/I
k. Development aid	Yes	N/I
l. Humanitarian aid	Yes	N/I
m. Religious volunteering	Yes	N/I
n. Education	Yes	N/I
o. Arts/culture	Yes	N/I

	Exists?	Number
p. Sports	Yes	N/I
q. Recreation	Yes	N/I

Other voluntary activities

N/I

3 Finance

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

Total : 800000000#

Explanation

This figure includes all governmental funding of Swedish NGOs (2006). The direct support for Swedish youth NGOs is 24 000 000 EUR.

3.2 Sources of finance

Public sources: * Allmänna arvsfonden www.arvsfonden.se * CIU, Centrum för internationellt ungdomsutbyte www.ciu.org * Integrationsverket www.integrationsverket.se * Sida www.sida.se * Socialstyrelsen www.socialstyrelsen.se * Statens kulturråd www.kulturradet.se * Stiftelsen framtidens kultur www.framtidenskultur.se * Ungdomsstyrelsen www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se Private sources: * Folke Bernadottes Minnesfond www.folkebernadottesminnesfond.se * Idéer för livet www.skandia.se/ideer * Konung Gustaf V:s 90-årsfond www.gv90.a.se * Olof Palmes minnesfond www.palmefonden.se * Petrus och Augusta Hedlunds Stiftelse www.hedlundsstiftelse.se * Stiftelsen Karin och Ernst August Bångs Minne www.bangs-stiftelse.se * Stiftelsen Kronprinsessan Margaretas Minnesfond www.margaretas-minnesfond.org * Stiftelsen Lars Hiertas Minne user.tninet.se/~kkz878e/ * Stiftelsen Prins Gustav Adolf och prinsessan Sibyllas minnesfond www.gafonden.com

4 Main Actors

4.1 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

Governmental actors

Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality 103 33 Stockholm Tel + 46 8 405 10 00

<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/3781> The Ministry is responsible for the coordination of the Government's youth policy, issues affecting youth organisations and international cooperation in the youth field. The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs Box 17 801, 118 94 STOCKHOLM Tel +46 8 566 219 00, fax +46 8 566 219 98 e-mail info@ungdomsstyrelsen.se

<http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se> The National Board for Youth Affairs is the governmental authority responsible for the follow up of international, national and local youth policy. Its main tasks are: * working to produce and impart knowledge of young people's living conditions. *



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following up the objectives for the National Youth Policy set by the the Swedish Parliament and the Government. * supporting the municipalities in their Youth policy work. * distributing funds to and supporting method development within young people's leisure and associative activities and within international youth cooperation. The National Board of Health and Welfare 106 30 Stockholm Tel +46 8 555 530 00, fax +46 8 555 532 52 e-mail socialstyrelsen@sos.se

<http://www.sos.se/sosmenye.htm> The National Board of Health and Welfare is the governmental authority that follows voluntary work in the field of social care and distributes grants to organisations with social aims. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency # Sida Valhallavägen 199, 105 25 Stockholm Tel + 46 8 698 50 00, fax +46 8 20 88 64 E-mail sida@sida.se http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=121&language=en_US Sida is the governmental agency responsible for international development assistance projects. Sida contributes project grants to NGO activities in the third world and information activities in Sweden. The municipalities are the main providers of grants to voluntary activities at local level.

Non governmental actors

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations # LSU Gammelgårdsvägen 38-42 112 64 Stockholm Tel +46 8 672 6670, fax +46 8 672 6690 E-mail info@lsu.se www.lsu.se The LSU is a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations. It aims at constituting a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations and providing a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation. The National Forum for Voluntary Social Work Hantverkargatan 3F 112 21 Stockholm Tel 0046 8 651 07 21, fax 0046 8 652 51 14 www.socialforum.se The National Forum for Voluntary Social Work is an umbrella organisation for voluntary social work in Sweden. It has 32 member organisations. The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange - CIU Ludvigsbergsgatan 22 118 23 Stockholm Tel 0046 8 440 87 80, fax 0046 8 20 35 30 E-mail info@ciu.se CIU is a non-governmental organisation with 30 member organizations active in the field of international youth exchange, voluntary work, etc. CIU organizes youth exchanges, support young people wanting to get involved in voluntary activities and develop methods within the area. Forum Syd Box 15407 104 65 Stockholm Tel +46 8 506 370 00, fax +46 8 506 370 99 e-mail forum.syd@forumsyd.org <http://www.forumsyd.org> Forum Syd, the Swedish NGO centre for Development Cooperation, is an umbrella organisation for more than 200 non-governmental organisations in the field of international voluntary work. The Swedish Sports Confederation Idrottens Hus 114 73 STOCKHOLM Tel +46 8 699 60 00, fax +46 8 699 62 00 e-mail riksidrottsforbundet@rf.se <http://www.rf.se/t3.asp?p=17080> The Swedish Sports Confederation is the umbrella organisation of the Swedish sports movement.

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

5.1 Legal status of volunteers

There is no particular legislation regarding volunteers. Neither are they assimilated to other categories.



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5.2 Taxation/tax exemptions for volunteers and volunteer organisations

Taxation of volunteers is an area that is not specifically defined in Swedish fiscal legislation. The Swedish National Tax Board has however decided that benefits and pocket money received by volunteers participating in the European Voluntary Service should be exempted from tax. Swedish volunteer organisations would normally be covered by the tax laws establishing tax exemptions and other privileges for non-profit organisations. There are both exemptions of income, payroll and wealth taxes and also regarding inheritance and gift taxes.

5.3 Existence of social protection of volunteers

There is no specific protection by volunteers due to the lack of legislation regarding this group and the lack of assimilation to other categories with defined status in the social care, health care or pension system.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

There is no specific legislation covering volunteers. Neither is this group assimilated to other categories with defined status in the unemployment insurance system.

6 Programmes

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

Voluntary work has a long tradition in Sweden, especially within leisure and sports associations. Voluntary work in conventional public welfare services is much less common. The Swedish youth organisations offer the main opportunity for young people to take part in voluntary activities. In 2006 the youth NGOs received 24 000 000 EUR in direct support from the government. The number of young people participating in voluntary service programmes is rather small compared to the number involved in ordinary voluntary work in the youth organisations. Still there are around 25 different voluntary service programmes involving around 1 800 participants every year. Examples are the Swedish Church/Ecumenical Diaconal Year Network, The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange - CIU, IKU/ICYE and European Voluntary Service.

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

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

N/A

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

N/A



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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

During 2006 the Committee of inquiry for issues related to non-governmental organisations launched a number of initiatives to highlight the situation of Swedish NGOs. A report will be issued during 2007. The Ministry of Education, Research and Culture received 2006 a report by the research unit at Ersta Sköndal University College on the situation of voluntary service programmes in Sweden. The report presented a survey of Swedish organisations working with voluntary service programmes and listed a number of areas where further action might be needed. The situation regarding the formal status of full time volunteers in Sweden is to a large extent influenced by the fact that this is a rather new idea that up till now has involved only a small number of young people. The Government is now considering how to proceed with these matters.

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

~~Increasing~~ ~~Decreasing~~ Stable

Explanation

Traditionally, voluntary work in Sweden has been carried out by members of an NGO and within the framework of the NGO. Most voluntary work has taken place within leisure and sports associations. Voluntary work in conventional public welfare services has been much less common. During recent years new forms of voluntary activities has developed. One of the most interesting examples is Volontärbyrå (the office for voluntary work) <http://www.volontarbyran.org> where potential volunteers can search for tasks (such as helping pupils with homework, visiting elderly people and assisting refugees) introduced by a large number of NGOs and other organisations. These tasks are often clearly defined and limited in time, and attract many persons wishing to contribute to society but not by committing themselves to a specific NGO.

8.3 Description of quality standards used in voluntary activities

The National Forum for Voluntary Social Work has developed a policy for voluntary social work. The policy is accompanied by educational material, reports, etc. that aims at establishing a common basis for governmental organisations, municipalities, NGOs and others involved in voluntary work in this field.

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

There is an ongoing process in the Swedish youth organisations focusing on the development of voluntary youth work, involving training, evaluation, funding, etc. This quality development process takes place within each organisation and is also a part of their joint work in LSU, the National



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Council of Swedish Youth Organisations. During 2006 the youth organisations received 24 000 000 EUR in governmental support, allowing them to develop their activities according to their own priorities. Quality development is as well an important part of the organisations and programmes working with full time volunteers, such as European Voluntary Service and the Swedish Church.

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 The facilitation of young people's voluntary engagement

The voluntary engagement of young people has until now mainly taken place within the framework of the youth organisations. The government's main efforts to facilitate voluntary engagement has therefore focused on the situation of NGOs; providing generous financial support for their activities, establishing a fiscal framework taking account of the specific nature of NGOs, developing a policy for NGOs in a dialogue with the NGOs themselves, etc.

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

The Ministry of Education, Research and Culture received 2006 a report by the research unit at Ersta Sköndal University College on the situation of voluntary service programmes in Sweden. The report presented a survey of Swedish organisations working with voluntary service programmes and listed a number of areas where further action might be needed to remove obstacles. The situation regarding the formal status of full time volunteers in Sweden is to a large extent influenced by the fact that this is a rather new idea that up till now has involved only a small number of young people. The Government is now considering how to proceed with these matters.

9.3 Existing obstacles

There are obstacles in fields such as legal situation, taxation, social protection, etc. The obstacles are to a large extent related to the fact that there is no specific legislation regarding this group, neither is it assimilated to other categories with defined status in the social care, health care or pension system or the unemployment insurance system.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

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voluntary social work in Sweden. It has 32 member organisations. The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange - CIU Ludvigsbergsgatan 22 118 23 Stockholm Tel 0046 8 440 87 80 Fax 0046 8 20 35 30 E-mail: info@ciu.se CIU is a non-governmental organisation with 30 member organizations active in the field of international youth exchange, voluntary work, etc. Forum Syd Box 15407 104 65 Stockholm Tel +46 8 506 370 00 fax +46 8 506 370 99 e-mail forum.syd@forumsyd.org <http://www.forumsyd.org> Forum Syd, the Swedish NGO centre for Development Cooperation, is an umbrella organisation for more than 200 non-governmental organisations in the field of international voluntary work. The Swedish Sports Confederation Idrottens Hus 114 73 STOCKHOLM Tel +46 8 699 60 00, fax +46 8 699 62 00 e-mail riksidrottsforbundet@rf.se <http://www.rf.se/t3.asp?p=17080> The Swedish Sports Confederation is the umbrella organisation of the Swedish sports movement. The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs Box 17 801 118 94 STOCKHOLM Tel +46 8 566 219 00, fax +46 8 566 219 98 e-mail info@ungdomsstyrelsen.se <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se> One of the tasks of the National Board for Youth Affairs is to distribute funds to and support method development within young people's leisure and associative activities and within international youth cooperation. It is also the National Agency for the European programme Active Youth that includes European Voluntary Service.

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

The NGOs are themselves the main actors when it comes to promoting voluntary activities in Sweden. Being dependent on the contribution of thousands of volunteers they are constantly trying to reach new potential volunteers that would like to be involved in their work. The methods of promoting voluntary activities vary from organisation to organisation. A number of NGOs and municipalities organised activities during the UN International volunteer day 5 December, focusing on the positive contribution to society by volunteers in Sweden.

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

Swedish NGOs involve young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in a broad spectre of activities. The methods of these organisations vary, depending on their field of work and which group of disadvantaged young people they work with. Some of the organisations working with voluntary service programmes have developed strategies for reaching disadvantaged youth in particular. Examples are The Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange # CIU (working with youth centres/dialogue with parents), Service Civil International Sweden # IAL (working towards employment offices) and the Swedish National Agency for European Voluntary Service (working with sending/hosting organisations with specific competencies in this field).

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'

The Government has appointed a national commission on validation in order to develop the



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processes of quality and methods for validation. As a part of this work, the National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations # LSU was commissioned to develop models and methods for recognition of competences acquired by non-formal and informal learning. During 2006 the Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange # CIU developed a method for the recognition of international competences; ELD (experience, learning, description). The organisation has now initiated a pilot project for testing the method.

<http://www.ciu.se/in-english/what-skills-are-learned-by-international-experience/> The National Board for Youth Affairs is actively involved in the European Commission's work to develop a YOUTH-pass and to develop a youth dimension in EURO-pass.

11.2 Measures of societal recognition

A number of NGOs and municipalities organised activities during the UN International volunteer day 5 December, focusing on the positive contribution to society by volunteers in Sweden.

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

12.1 Networks who promote voluntary activities of young people

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12.2 Exchange of information, experience and good practices

There is a continuous process of exchanging information, experience and good practices within the umbrella organisations/networks mentioned above. The process focuses on themes of special



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interest to the members but also on themes of a more general character, such as the situation of NGOs in Sweden.

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

Most Swedish organisations involved in the exchange of volunteers receive international volunteers from their international network of cooperating organisations. Volunteers wanting to go to Sweden would therefore normally need to start with contacting the national branch in their own country. The Swedish branch of Service Civil International # IAL # is an example of an organisation that could be contacted directly. <http://ial.se/texter/english.php> The European Voluntary Service requires that a potential volunteer establish contact with a sending organisation and a hosting organisation before submitting an application to the National Agency in her/his own country. A list of National Agencies can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/program/natage_en.html#natagen

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)

Such projects are normally organised by NGOs, occasionally with financial support from national, regional or local government but with no further coordinated national involvement meaning that there is no national overview over projects of this kind.

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.)

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency # Sida is the governmental agency responsible for international development assistance projects. Sida contributes project grants to NGO activities in the third world and information activities in

Sweden. http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=121&language=en_US Forum Syd, the Swedish



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NGO centre for Development Cooperation, provides a list over member organisations involved in international solidarity work. Some of these organisations are involved in voluntary service.

<http://www.forumsyd.org/>

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

Forum Syd, the Swedish NGO centre for Development Cooperation, is an umbrella organisation for more than 200 non-governmental organisations in the field of international solidarity.

<http://www.forumsyd.org/>

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

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency # Sida supports several projects run by Swedish NGOs in cooperation with partner organisations in non-EU countries. Some of these projects includes voluntary service possibilities for young people.

http://www.sida.se/sida/jsp/sida.jsp?d=121&language=en_US

13 Studies & Surveys

13.1 Recent surveys or research on the topic of voluntary activities

The reaserch unit at Ersta Sköndal University College produced during 2006 a report on the situation of voluntary service programmes in Sweden. The report presented a survey of Swedish organisations working with voluntary service programmes and listed a number of areas where further action might be needed to remove obstacles. <http://www.esh.se/?id=1&L=1>